



Dancers command stage

A GISS dance review. **PAGE B2**

Christmas stories

The season from children's perspectives. **PAGES B5-B12**



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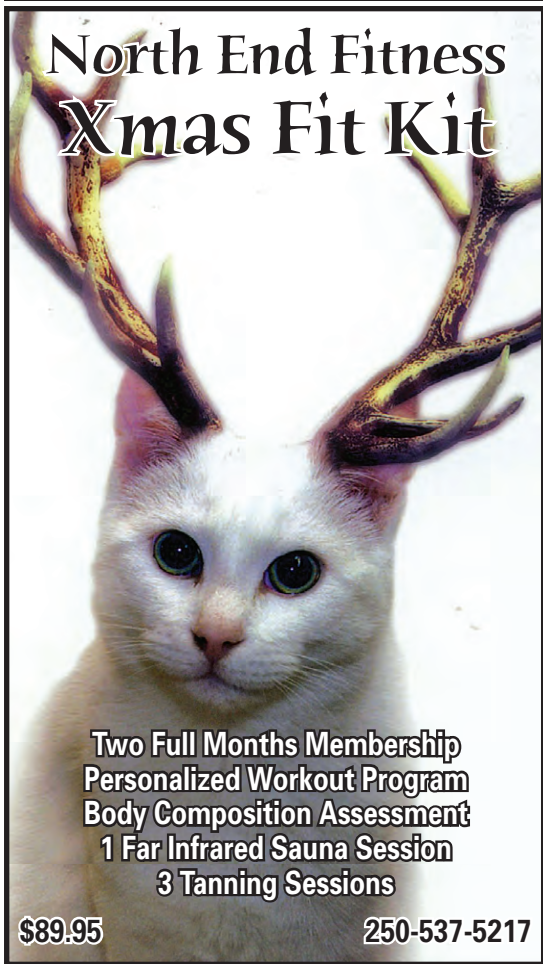
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NEWSBEAT

FLOAT PLANE SAFETY

Aviation advocate speaks out after Saturna Island tragedy

Safety advice resurfaces in wake of crash

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Transport Canada's failure to act on recommendations to improve the safety of float plane travellers may have played a role in the deaths of the six passengers aboard the Sear flight that crashed near Saturna Island on

Nov. 29, according to a Vancouver Island aviation safety activist.

Kirsten Stevens began researching aviation safety following the death of her husband in a 2005 float plane accident near Quadra Island.

Since the crash, she's read through hundreds of documents, attempted to raise the issue in the media whenever possible and formed SafeSkies, an organization devoted to the promotion of airline safety.

It's a job she'd have preferred not to take on, but given the startling facts she's uncovered, she's not prepared to give up now.

"I learned a lot of really scary things," she said.

Among her findings are numerous recommendations made by Transportation Safety Board investigators in reports published between 1993 and 2006 that have yet to be acted upon.

Recommendations include getting pilots to brief passengers on underwater egress measures and requiring more training for float plane pilots.

Given the "continuing vulnerability of the occupants of seaplanes in accidents on the water to drowning" and that roughly 80 per cent

of all seaplane accidents occur during take-off or landings, the TSB further recommended that all occupants of seaplanes "wear a personal flotation device during the standing, taxiing, take-off, and approach and landing phases of flight."

The recommendation was made in the TSB's Safety Study of Survivability in Seaplane Accidents: Report Number SA9401.

Not only were these recommendations not acted upon, but Stevens said, many float plane operators had no idea the recommendations were ever made.

She was only able to access the information herself as a result of a Freedom of Information request filed in the wake of her husband's death.

Stevens said she's alarmed by the lack of transparency when it comes to accessing information and researched collected by Transport Canada and the TSB.

A spokesperson for Transport Canada said the federal government takes the issue of float plane safety very seriously and makes every effort to cooperate with the Transportation Safety Board.

Despite the TSB's recommendations,

"I think that if the public pressure stays on, things can be different."

KIRSTEN STEVENS
Safety activist

however, float plane safety reviews conducted in 2006 and 2008 "did not identify any specific solutions that could be clearly shown to improve float plane safety," said Mélanie Quesnel, a spokesperson for Transport Canada, in an email message.

"The challenge for float planes is to find the right balance between safety and practicality as changes on one type of aircraft do not necessarily improve the safety of another type of aircraft," she said.

"The current design standards for the aircraft do not specifically address passenger escape since the majority of float planes are land aircraft that have floats installed after their basic certification."

The topic of making PFDs mandatory during take-offs and

landings, she added, can prove problematic given the confined quarters and conditions of a typical crash.

Personal flotation devices are not considered practical because a float plane will "automatically flip over when it hits the water," she said.

"A flotation device would limit a passenger's ability to exit the aircraft as the wearer would float towards the surface of the aircraft instead of swimming towards the bottom to locate the way out."

Given that the investigation into the Nov. 29 Sear crash is ongoing, Stevens said she can't say for certain whether recommendations would have saved the lives of any of the six people who died in the crash.

As was the case in the crash that killed her husband, many incidents receive little media attention and often aren't even thoroughly investigated by the TSB.

"It's nice to finally see some attention on this, though it's unfortunate that it's only a result of more deaths," she said. "I think that if the public pressure stays on, things can be different. Hopefully this time something will come out of it."

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Green Drinks

Tonight, Tuesday, Dec. 22
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ISLANDS TRUST

Near miss with bulk carrier prompts shipping review

Staff to examine Trust's options

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A North Pender Island trustee is leading the effort to determine how the Islands Trust can minimize the threat posed by cargo ships in the waters surrounding the Gulf Islands.

Trustee Derek Masselink said last month's grounding of a freighter on Conconi Reef in Navy Channel is the latest in a series of incidents that has encouraged him to take a stand.

"We dodged a bullet and that never really got the attention it should have," he said.

Masselink said the transferring of gypsum in Plumper Sound and the alleged dragging of anchors along the seabed have proven consistent problems that have gone largely unaddressed.

"My concern is that we are seeing traffic increasing and these issues are becoming more prevalent," he said.

"There are concerns that [some crews] are not following protocols," he said.

As a government body governing land use, the waters of the Salish Sea fall outside of the Islands Trust's jurisdiction. In any event, Masselink believes that it's up to the Trust to force the provincial and federal governments to take notice of the issue before it's too late.

"Given the grounding, I don't think we have a choice," he said. "We need to make an issue about this so something gets done."

During their quarterly Trust Council meeting on Salt Spring Island earlier this month, trustees voted in favour of getting staff to prepare a report on the subject of how the Trust can handle the tanker issue more effectively.

Masselink sees the report as an essential first step, even if the Trust might have other pressing land-based initiatives.

"There's a concern about us stepping into areas and concerns about costs since we've got a lot of things to do and a lot of balls in the air," he said.

"I realize it's going to be difficult, but we have a responsibility to see that this situation is addressed to our satisfaction.

"We don't want an oil spill."

Mayne Island trustee Jeanine Dodds witnessed last month's Hebei Lion incident from her home near Navy Channel.

High winds caused the 241-metre (794-foot) bulk carrier



PHOTO COURTESY BELLAVANCE WELDING LTD.

An All Seas Enterprises dive crew checks the hull of the Hebei Lion, which went aground in high winds on Conconi Reef on the evening of Nov. 18. Fortunately, the vessel was empty at the time, but the incident has raised concern about shipping activities in the waters of the Gulf Islands. Divers were transported to the site by Bellavance Welding Ltd.'s Moving Experience barge and Greg Bellavance.

Hebei Lion to start dragging its anchor and wash up on the reef just after 10 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Though the carrier was not loaded, a spokesperson from the Washington State Department of Ecology said damage to the carrier's fuel tanks "could have oiled the islands on both sides of the border."

Dodds looks forward to seeing what the Islands Trust's staff comes up with as a result of the trustees' request.

She said moving the problem out of her backyard by eliminating freighters from the Trust area doesn't really address the root problem of improving safety protocols.

"This is a busy waterway and has been traditionally full of shipping," she said.

"We should be concerned with the safety practices they are supposed to follow."

News briefs

RCMP search for tire slasher

Salt Spring RCMP officers continue to investigate two tire-slashing rampages that took place in downtown Ganges parking lots.

Eight tires on three vehicles were slashed sometime between 7 p.m. Thursday evening and 9 a.m. the following morning in a parking lot on Rainbow Road across from the elementary school.

Officers were called to the scene of a similar incident in the parking lot in front of Thrifty Foods on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Officers attending the scene discovered a vehicle with all four of its tires slashed.

Individuals with any information related to either incident are asked to contact the Salt Spring Island RCMP at 250-537-5555 or call Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-8477.

In other RCMP news: A Salt Spring Island man has been released on bail after being charged with the trafficking of cocaine.

Conditions of 19-year-old Trevor Cottrell's bail forbid him from entering Centennial Park or Gasoline Alley. He must abide by a curfew between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

and is not allowed to carry a cell phone or electronic devices.

Cover art and stories

This year's winner of the Driftwood cover art contest for Gulf Islands Secondary School art students is Ali Jones.

Driftwood staff were particularly impressed by the originality of Jones' artwork of birds at a feeder under Christmas lights.

Jones receives a \$50 prize from the Driftwood.

Artwork by finalists Anika Kitka, Matt Beaver, Katie

Melen and Freddie Dailly is also printed on Pages B1 and B10.

Each year GISS art teacher Sandra Locke has her students create a cover design for the paper's Christmas edition, which also includes Driftwood Christmas story contest winners. See Page B5 for a list of first- and second-place story winners, whose stories are printed in this issue, along with honourable mentions in each of six age categories.

For the third component of the Driftwood's school-related Christmas contests, the Grade 4-5 class of Stella Weinert and Marie Mullen

was drawn from nine classes across Salt Spring that saw all students write a story for the contest. Those included three classes from Fulford Elementary, three from Salt Spring Centre School, two from Salt Spring Elementary and one from GISS. Weinert and Mullen's class receives a \$100 cheque from the Driftwood for a charity of their choice.

IMF hosts AGM

The Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation will hold its annual general meeting on Dec. 31 at 10

a.m. at 2201 - 115 Fulford-Ganges Road.

On the agenda are the approval and acceptance of financial statements for the year ended Aug. 31 and the election of Robert McGinn, Eric Booth, Donn Tarris, Michael Contardi and Jesse Gebhard as the society's directors for a one-year term.

The monetary foundation is the organization behind the colourful and quirky local currency known as the Salt Spring Dollar (\$\$). For more information about the \$\$ and the AGM, visit the foundation's website at www.saltspingdollars.com.



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TIME	HEIGHT	TIME	HEIGHT
	m		ft
DEC 23	01:59 1.4	27	04:09 2.8
WE	09:54 3.4	SU	05:10 2.8
	17:22 1.9		11:21 3.3
	21:26 2.1		19:39 0.7
24	02:29 1.7	28	04:40 3.1
TH	10:15 3.4	MO	06:55 3.0
	17:57 1.6		11:50 3.3
	23:58 2.2		20:17 0.4
25	02:58 2.1	29	05:13 3.3
FR	10:37 3.3	TU	08:18 3.2
	18:30 1.3		12:30 3.4
			20:58 0.2
26	10:58 3.3		
SA	19:03 1.0		

NEWSBEAT

TRANSPORTATION

Fading road lines drive concerns

MOT assessing its options

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Ministry of Transportation's district manager and his colleagues are looking to solve the perennial problem of fading road lines once and for all. "We need to find a better way," said Bob Webb. "This is a systematic problem across the [southern Vancouver Island] district."

Be it through letters to the editor or coffee shop banter, the state of road markings on Salt Spring Island has proven a traditional topic as winter progresses.

For many, it's a way to pass the time until the start of the spring pothole count whereas, for others, a lack of markings poses a significant threat to the safety of drivers and pedestrians.

Residents point to roads across the island but highlight specific problem spots along

Vesuvius Bay and Fulford-Ganges roads.

"All the way down to the Fulford ferry, every corner that you turn they're obliterated," said Mel Sumner.

Another problem spot is in front of the fire hall right in the heart of downtown Ganges.

"A puzzled driver going north, vainly searching for guidance on that corner might not notice a pedestrian stepping out on the barely visible crosswalk nearby," said Wendy Hilliard in a letter to the editor published this week. "Ganges is generally bereft of any indication on the road surface that would guide drivers."

When contacted for an interview, Hilliard emphasized that the problem is especially bad for visitors who may not be familiar with the subtleties of Salt Spring's roads.

Back at MOT, managers like Webb have grown accustomed to the flurry of complaints from people wanting answers.

The root of the problem, he

said, is the use of heavy metal snowplow blades on newly painted lines.

One single swipe of a blade, he said, reduces the markings' reflectivity by as much as 75 per cent.

The more snow there is to clear, the less visible the lines become. People tend to notice the problem at this time of year on account of the dark, wet and foggy conditions and wet roads, Webb said.

After determining that the company contracted to care for road lines on the island was using the correct concentration of paint and exceeding "reflectivity requirements" by 10 per cent, Webb and representatives from Mainroad Pavement Markings have begun to focus on reducing the impact of shovel blades on the road.

Starting this year, blades will be equipped with small titanium "shoes," a step that is hoped to extend the lifespan of the lines.

According to Webb, spend-

"Ganges is generally bereft of any indication on the road surface that would guide drivers."

WENDY HILLIARD
Concerned islander

ing what limited government funding is available on repainting lines makes little sense if the problem's root isn't addressed.

Webb said it is uncertain if road crews will be back on the island to repaint lines in 2010 given that funding has not been finalized.

"Repainting is not the best use of our money," he said. "These shoes might be the answer."

POLICING ISSUES

RCMP staffing proposal stirs concern

Mayne, Galiano islands could lose on-island officers

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mayne Island residents refuse to remain silent about a plan that could see the island lose its permanent RCMP staff member.

Both Mayne and Galiano islands each have one full-time resident police officer. The outer Gulf Islands detachment's two other members are based on North Pender Island.

New regulations

enacted by Transport Canada and the Canadian Labour Code will prohibit RCMP officers from serving alone in any community.

According to Randy Wilson, the RCMP's Chief Superintendent of the Vancouver Island district, changes are a result of several fatal incidents over the past decades that involved officers acting on their own without access to backup.

During a Dec. 5 public meeting on Mayne Island, more than 60 people spoke out against the RCMP's proposal to base all detachment members

on North Pender, said Dave Maude, president of the Mayne Island Residents and Ratepayers Association.

"Gulf Islanders have diverse points of view, but 100 per cent of the people at the meeting were absolutely opposed to the changes," he said.

"Maybe if you're sitting in Ottawa it seems like a good idea, but from an emergency response point of view this is unacceptable."

Though the island is a relatively safe place, Maude and other islanders worry about what might happen if the nearest police officer is on North Pender Island, as far as 60 minutes away.

"If you know there's no enforcement, you know you're going to push the boundaries, and we want to

remain a quiet and civilized community," he said.

Staffing changes would be in effect throughout the year, even during the island's busy summer tourist season.

Instead of no staff, residents on Mayne Island would like the RCMP to consider basing three officers on the island. A third officer is needed to ensure there are always two officers available to work at a given time.

Maude has gathered 800 signatures on a petition calling for Ottawa to increase funding to the detachment, he's been in touch with MP Gary Lunn, MLA Murray Coell and plans to continue speaking up on the topic.

Maude's group has struck a committee to

keep the issue front and centre for as long as it takes to get some positive results.

Support for the outer islands detachment staffing encouraged trustees meeting at the Dec. 8-10 Trust Council session on Salt Spring to take action on the issue.

The Trust's Executive Committee is drafting a letter that will be sent to the federal government.

For Jeanine Dodds, a Mayne Island trustee, losing the island's RCMP officer would be a significant blow to the island.

"[The officer and his or her family] are an important part of our community and we would miss them," Dodds said. "I know from my community that we would definitely like to have the status quo stay."

SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEM

Riders Guide

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

2 Fulford Harbour
Monday - Saturday

(A)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(E)	(E)	(K)	(J)	(I)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford Inn	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Park 'N' Ride, Fulford Inn	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre
M-F 7:10	7:16	7:23	7:27	7:30	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:54	8:00
9:10	9:16	9:23	9:27	9:30	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.

3 Vesuvius
Monday - Saturday

(A)	(F)	(G)	(G)	(F)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
M-F 6:30	6:37	6:45	6:57	7:03	7:10
8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:03	9:10
12:10	12:17	12:25	12:40	12:46	12:53
3:30	3:37	3:45	3:57	4:03	4:10
4:30	4:37	4:45	4:57	5:03	5:10
6:05c	6:19	6:25c	-	-	-

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.
c - Combined route: Trip routes from Ganges via 1 Ganges Local & continues as 3 Vesuvius.

5 Fernwood
Monday - Saturday

(A)	(M)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. L.V. Fernwood Dock	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
10:30	10:43	11:00
2:30	2:43	3:00
6:05c	6:38	6:53

c - Combined route: Trip routes from Ganges via 1 Ganges Local & 3 Vesuvius.

4 Long Harbour
Monday - Saturday

(A)	(L)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. L.V. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
M-F 1:15	1:25	1:35
SAT 1:50	2:00	2:10
M-S 3:00	3:10	3:20

M-F Trip operates Monday to Friday only.
SAT Trip operates Saturday only.
M-S Trip operates Monday to Saturday.

1 Ganges Local
Monday - Saturday

(A)	(D)	(H)	(C)	(A)
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Meadowbrook	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brinkworthy Place	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
8:05	8:08	8:11	8:15	8:22
10:05	10:08	10:11	10:15	10:22
12:55	12:58	1:01	1:05	1:12
2:10	2:13	2:16	2:20	2:27
4:05	4:08	4:11	4:15	4:22
6:05	6:08	6:11	6:15c	-

c - Combined route: Continues as 3 Vesuvius & 5 Fernwood. Drop off only at Brinkworthy Place.

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IN MINT SHAPE!

NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

HELPING HANDS:

Working at the annual Christmas hamper drive at the Farmers Institute were, from left: Martin McGrath, Gloria McEachern, Jordon Haenen and Vivienne Morrison. Some 50 volunteers worked for two days to pack and deliver the hampers to island people in need.

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ISLANDERS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Locals join global climate movement

Harsh weather no match for climate action protest

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit failed to deliver the change many had wanted, but a group of islanders believes the meeting provided the climate change movement with new energy and purpose.

"The negotiations are over and we know the outcome was not what we hoped for, but the movement is just beginning," said Marion Pape of Salt Spring.

"Ordinary people are com-

ing together and talking about the issues that concern them, whether it be chronic water shortages, major loss of species, habitat and ecosystem diversity, aboriginal people in the north losing their traditional way of life due to climate change, threats to human health and others."

Salt Spring residents showed up in force to attend the Islanders for Climate Justice's latest action on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Participants braved torrential rains to hang banners off an overpass along the Pat Bay Highway near MP Gary Lunn's constituency office in Sidney.

The protesters joined activists around the globe in climate change actions held over

the course of the two-week Copenhagen summit. Last week's action follows a sit-in at Lunn's office on Dec. 2.

The Dec. 16 event was the second initiative organized by the Islanders for Climate Justice group this month.

"The intent was to urge the Canadian government to negotiate a fair, ambitious and binding global warming treaty at Copenhagen and to highlight Canada's unaccountable, weak and shameful position on climate change," Pape said, adding that the government's inaction is to blame for Canada receiving the Fossil of the Year award at Copenhagen.

"Canada has been singled out among all nations of the world, by a group of hundreds

of environmental and social justice organizations across the globe, as the worst offender in climate policy and negotiating position."

Pape urges islanders to look at their own lifestyles and homes to find solutions and inspire others.

"While government and industry promote climate confusion, people are starting their journey with a positive vision of their own future actions," she said.

"We need to be advocating and initiating these alternative solutions at the same time as protesting industrial action that is endangering our planet. That's exactly what Islanders for Climate Justice is trying to do."

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REAL ESTATE

Home sale pilot project aims to increase energy efficiency and share info

Salt Spring and Oak Bay involved until May 2010

Salt Spring is participating in a pilot project that will see people selling their homes here receive a discounted home energy efficiency assessment if they agree to disclose the results to potential buyers.

The provincial government, in partnership with BC Hydro, Terasen Gas, municipal governments and the real estate community, is undertaking the project called Time of Sale Energy Labelling.

"Undertaking energy efficiency upgrades, will in the long term, reduce utility bills for the homeowner," said Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell in a press release issued Monday. "It provides jobs in the local economy as well as increasing the value of our homes."

Through the program, sellers can get a home energy efficiency assessment for \$75 off the regular cost of \$150. The assessment details the options for improving the efficiency of the home and the incentives available to do so. Incentives are available through the federal government's ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes program and the Home Renovation Tax Credit, both accessible to sellers and buyers.

The Time of Sale Labelling pilot projects allows potential home buyers to easily compare the ener-

gy efficiencies of various homes based on the homes' EnerGuide for Houses Rating, which will be posted on the MLS listings of participating homes. The rating is calculated through the home energy efficiency assessment and takes into account windows, doors, insulation, heating and air leakage, and calculates how the home uses energy as a system.

"This pilot is going to help sellers communicate the energy efficiency potential of their homes and help buyers find the right home for them," said Tony Joe, past president of the Victoria Real Estate Board. "Energy efficiency is important to buyers in this market. Findings from a recent survey conducted by the BC Real Estate Association suggest the majority of British Columbians would be willing to pay more for an energy efficient home."

The provincial government says it "remains committed to supporting energy efficiency and conservation in British Columbia, to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent and acquiring 50 per cent of BC Hydro's incremental resource needs through conservation by 2020."

The pilot project will last until May 2010 and also includes the Oak Bay area.

Some environmental groups would like to see the release of energy ratings at time of sale made a mandatory practice.

BOXING DAY SALE

50% OFF STOREWIDE

DECEMBER 26 and 27 - 10AM-5PM

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Aeroplan Points Ganges Village 250.537.5551



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POWER & SAIL SQUADRON**

BOATING COURSE



Canada's Premier Recreational Boating Program

**In-depth Boat Operation and Safety Training
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**Includes mandatory Pleasure Craft
Operator Card**

**Course starts on Tuesday, January 12th
and runs for 13 weeks (each Tuesday)**

Cost

\$255.00 which includes all course materials,
exam and first year membership with Canadian
Power & Sail Squadrons

Time

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Location

Gulf Islands Secondary School, 112 Rainbow Road

**Limited spaces available. Call Lynn Clark at
250-537-5377 by January 8th to register**

NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

EMERGENCY WISHES: Representatives from Salt Spring's emergency services providers — BC Ambulance Service, Salt Spring Fire Rescue, Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue and the Salt Spring RCMP — gather for a photo arranged so they could wish the community a safe and happy holiday season.

**BOXING DAY
SALE**

**Saturday, December 26
10 am - 4 pm
Everything in the store**

- Hand made Jewellery • Artwork
- International Collections
- Inuit Carvings and more

75% off

**Closed Jan. 1-5
to prepare for Garage Sale**



250-537-9896 Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm.

PARKS & REC NEWS

**Special schedule in place
at pool over the holidays**

Irrigation and gate other changes

BY KEES RUURS
PARC MANAGER

Though things slow down a bit for all of us at this time of year, it still seems appropriate that PARC continues its efforts to keep the community informed both as regards recent past happenings and future plans.

**Christmas comes to
Rainbow Road pool**

Over the Christmas holidays the swimming pool will operate under a special schedule.

This is being done to accommodate special offerings such as Red Cross lessons, Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross programs, as well as an Assistant Water Safety Instructor's course.

For details on the extra classes and the swim schedule, please call 250-537-1402. And don't forget, the pool will be closed after 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 and it will remain closed both on Christmas and on Boxing Day.

Other pool happenings

Earlier this fall an irrigation system was installed in the flower beds in front of the pool.

This will allow PARC to beautify the beds next spring. Before then, several flowering trees will be planted as a start on the landscaping plan for the Rainbow Road park.

Also, a gate is currently being installed on the entrance road leading to the pool parking lot. Please be aware of this construction when you enter the parking lot.

**Centennial Park
boardwalk repairs**

In early January some repairs will be made to the boardwalk at Centennial Park. The repairs will involve the replacement of some braces underneath the boardwalk. Fortunately, the public's use of the park and even of the boardwalk itself should not in any way be hindered by this necessary upgrade.

**The strategic plan
initiative**

On Nov. 23 an open house was conducted to obtain public input on our consultant's report as regards the nature and scope of a possible PARC strategic plan. The report can be found on the CRD/PARC website. We urge all interested islanders to examine that report and to provide their own feedback by Jan. 15, 2010. Later in January the Parks and Recreation Commission will discuss both the consultant's report and the responses it generated. It will then begin work on the strategic plan that will provide a focus for PARC's efforts over the next decade.

**Hiking trails and new
"rights of way"**

PARC is seeking the public's assistance regarding possible locations for new trails. If you are a property owner and people are already using your property for hiking/walking purposes, then the PARC office would definitely like to hear from you. You might consider entering into a "Statutory Right of Ways agreement" with PARC, actually with the CRD.

Such an agreement frees the property owner from liability that might otherwise arise out of the public's use of private property. As well, it relieves that owner of any responsibility for maintaining that trail in a safe manner. Several property owners on the island already have entered into such agreements and, consequently, several new trail connections have been created.

The Baker Road - Harrison Road trail connection is one such example as is a new trail connection, still to be developed, between West Eagle Drive and the Channel Ridge trail system.

Office closure

The Parks and Recreation office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's.

It will re-open on Monday, Jan. 4. Both the members of the commission and all of its staff wish you and yours a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WINTER GOODS: Kerry Lee sells her produce at the Christmas market in Centennial Park.

BC FERRIES

Ferry schedules change for travel during holidays

Passengers should be aware of Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 changes

As usual at this time of year, some ferry schedules are altered slightly so that BC Ferries staff can spend time with their families on Christmas and New Year's days.

People travelling between Vesuvius and Crofton on either Dec. 25 or Jan. 1 are advised that service begins with the 10 a.m. sailing from Vesuvius Bay and the 11:10 a.m. sailing from Crofton, and ends with the 6 p.m. sailing from Vesuvius and the 6:30 p.m. one from Crofton.

In other words, the 7, 8 and 9 a.m. and 8:40 and 9:40 p.m. sailings are cancelled from Vesuvius, and the 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. and the 7, 8:10, 9:10 and 10:05 p.m. sailings are

cancelled from the Crofton side.

Between Fulford and Swartz Bay, the only change is cancellation of the 6:15 a.m. run from Fulford and the 7 a.m. sailing from Swartz Bay on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

For southern Gulf Islands travellers, the Queen of Cumberland's first sailing of the morning is cancelled on those same two days, with service for Galiano and Mayne Island commencing from Swartz Bay at 8:35 a.m., not the usual 5:35 a.m.

The Mayne Queen's 5:10 a.m. sailings are also cancelled from Swartz Bay serving Saturna, Mayne and Pender on both days.

The Long Harbour to Tsawwassen schedule remains the same, however.

For updated ferry information, phone 1-888-BCFERRY or visit www.bcferries.com.

FERRIES

Ferries offers new service

mobile.bcferries.com

Ferry travellers with mobile devices can now stay afloat on shifting ferry waters with a new service from BC Ferries.

Popular website features such as traffic conditions at major terminals, service notices — including predicted sailing delays — vessel tracking maps and terminal webcams can now be downloaded to web-enabled mobile devices through mobile.bcferries.com.

"With the growing reliance on portable communication devices, the new mobile capability makes BC Ferries' internet services more accessible to customers. Anyone using a handheld device with web connectivity can visit mobile.bcferries.com and see up-to-the-minute ferry travel information designed for easy viewing on the small screen."

Ferries says it's the latest in a series of website enhancements, upgrades and solutions aimed at making travel planning with BC Ferries easier than ever.

ISLANDS TRUST

Former trustee publishes Trust history

Book tackles 35 years in six acts

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fans of Peter Lamb's monthly Driftwood columns detailing the Islands Trust's 35-year history will be thrilled to learn that the former local Trust committee member has compiled his work in a newly released book.

"Finding that people have actually been reading them is gratifying and has encouraged me to consolidate them into this booklet," Lamb writes in his introduction.

Speaking during the town hall session of the quarterly Trust Council meeting on Salt Spring Dec. 9, Lamb said he set out to write The Islands Trust Story "to raise public awareness about the Trust and its purpose."

"We are so engaged in the day-to-day that we tend to forget about the Trust's history," said Lamb, who served as a trustee from 2005 to 2008.

The 30-page illustrated booklet recounts the Trust's progression in six acts.

Illustrations and graphs not included with the Driftwood

submissions make the book a worthy read for even the most loyal readers of Lamb's articles.

"You are invited to step back in time and witness the evolution of a unique form of local government in British Columbia," reads the start of Act One. "The curtain rises in the late 1960s before the Islands Trust was conceived."

The book traces the Trust efforts to "preserve and protect" the islands within its jurisdiction as population and development pressures have steadily increased.

Since 1976, the combined population of the Trust's 12 districts has risen from 9,500 to more than 25,000.

Over this same time period, Lamb points out, provincial government funding of the Trust has gone from 100 per cent to less than three per cent.

Based on his belief that the Trust is as relevant today as it has ever been and that polls show that a majority of British Columbians support the Trust's mandate, Lamb encouraged current trustees to lobby the government for increased funding.

"The Islands Trust Act, and the institution which it established, represents a promise made by the provincial government to islanders, and to the people of British Columbia generally, that the islands would be protected for all time from over-development and inappropriate development," Lamb con-

cludes.

"With continued support and stronger authority, it can become a model for preserving and protecting the health and well-being of the earth on which we all depend."

The Islands Trust Story will be available at the Salt Spring Islands Trust office and local bookstores.

Advertising Deadlines

Deadlines for the Driftwood - Wednesday December 30th

Display deadline: Monday, December 28th, 8:30am
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 28th, 4pm
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, December 29th, 10am

Classifieds may be placed on-line at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Please note the Driftwood Office will be closed:

Thursday December 24th, Friday December 25th & Friday January 1st.

Regular Deadlines will apply for the Driftwood of Wednesday January 7th.

The Driftwood Weekender will not be published:

Friday, December 25th & Friday, January 1st

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TIA STEELE

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LIQUOR STORE • BAR & BISTRO

Save 10%
when 6 or more are purchased
wine • liquor • liqueur

Give the gift of
SALT SPRING BLACKBERRY PORT in your stockings this year!



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BOXING DAY & SUNDAY 9 AM-11PM**



**BAR: OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY 12-6
OPEN BOXING DAY 11AM-10 PM
for SHOW & TELL**

**Prizes for the funniest gifts received!
Escape the relatives and join your friends for a seasonal pint!**

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250-537-9463 STORE | 250-537-9485 BAR**

Opinion



GOLD - Photo Essay, Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island / GOLD - Special Publication, AQUA - Gulf Islands Living
 GOLD - Feature Photo Award, under 25,000, Derrick Lundy / GOLD - Ad Design Award, Under 25,000, "Pegasus Gallery"
 GOLD - Ad Design Award, Under 25,000, Collaborative "Cardino's" / SILVER - Best All-Round Newspaper, Category C
2009 BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards
 GOLD - Best All-Round Newspaper, 4,000-6,499 circ.
 GOLD - Best Editorial Page, 4,000-6,499 circ. / GOLD - Best Front Page, 4,000-6,499 circ.
 SILVER - Best Local Cartoon, Circ up to 9,999, Dennis Parker
 SILVER - Best Ad Design, 4,000-12,499 circ. "Pegasus Gallery"
 BRONZE - Best Special Section, Circ. 4,000 - 12,999, AQUA
 BRONZE - Best Feature Photo, Circ. 4,000 - 12,999, Derrick Lundy
2009 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Award



EDITORIAL

Bring back the lines

With the winter solstice having passed on Monday, we can all look forward to the return of the light.

Contributing to the darkness on Salt Spring Island so far this year is the rapidly fading yellow lines normally seen down the middle of most roads in B.C.

At present in some spots on this island, there is virtually no way to confidently locate the middle of the road, particularly on our most well-travelled routes.

As islander Mel Sumner points out, the spot in front of the Ganges fire hall is a classic one. It can already be a tad bit confusing when it comes to deciphering the traffic flow in that spot, but with distinct bright-yellow lines removed from the formula, where to go becomes a real guessing game.

When rain, fog and oncoming vehicle lights are thrown into the mix, people are pretty much driving blind. We have no way of knowing if any accidents so far this winter are a result of drivers being confused about their vehicle's location on the roadway, but we'd be surprised if it doesn't become a factor at some point.

Bob Webb, the Ministry of Transportation's district manager, attributes what he calls a region-wide problem to a different type of paint that scrapes off too easily under snowplow blades. Webb says MOT is investigating whether adding titanium "shoes" to its contractors' snowplow blades will reduce impact on the lines.

It's surprising to hear from Webb that this is a concern across the southern Vancouver Island district, since driving on clearly-lined roads off of Salt Spring Island is what makes us aware of the stark difference. However, maybe those areas have received a fresher dose of paint.

Webb's suggestion that Salt Spring's roads may not receive line painting in 2010 is outrageous and unacceptable. We understand his rationale that it doesn't make sense to repaint without assurance that snowplowing won't remove the paint, but one way or another the problem needs to be fixed.

If the lack of visible road lines is of concern to local emergency service providers, we encourage them to make their feelings known to the MOT. We also urge concerned islanders to contact MLA Murray Coell for assistance.

This is a basic transportation safety issue that must be addressed as soon as possible.



Is it still the best place on Earth?

BY TOM FLETCHER

In my tireless search for the most significant events of 2009, I was tracking down a rumour that the B.C. government is taking advantage of the Olympic hoopla to quietly retire its slogan, "The Best Place On Earth."

The timing seemed right. From the day this marketing masterstroke was hatched, people have found it un-Canadian in its arrogance. Keep your wine, South of France. Cute little rainforest, Brazil. Go walkabout, Australian outback. Nice ruins, ancient Greece.

Folks here often associate this boast with a certain white-haired fellow who has been down to California too many times, hanging out with the modest governor of that great state. Once he goes, this "best" business must surely follow.

In the legislature, the NDP version, while statistically suspect, was dominant: "Best Place in Canada for Child Poverty." There were other versions during this lean, mean election year: best place for job losses, best in mill closures, best for gang shootings, you get the idea.

Then, I found what looked like the smoking gun. A low-key B.C. government news release came out about a French-language website for the Olympics. Down at the end, it mentioned that across all tourism websites, the province would be marketed through this key event with the old reliable "Super, Natural British Columbia."

I thumbed my BlackBerry and asked to speak to the King of Kamloops, Kevin Krueger, the current Minister of Tourism, Culture and Arts Cutbacks.

Sorry, I was told. Minister Krueger isn't available to speak to you. That's odd, I saw him coming into the legislature just a few hours earlier with what appeared to be an armload of Christmas shopping. And of course Foghorn Krueger isn't known for a reluctance to make himself heard.

VIEWPOINT

A senior official will speak to you, I was told. Background only.

Here's the lowdown. If you haven't seen The Best Place On Earth in any ads lately, it's mainly because the government slashed its advertising budget to the bone right after the election.

If you haven't seen Super, Natural B.C. in any ads lately, it's because most of those advertising budgets are toast too. And to the extent they still exist, those ads would super-naturally appear outside B.C.

One thing that didn't get cut in the B.C. Liberals' fall budget was a few million to market the province during and after the Olympics. The privatization-happy B.C. Liberals did an unexpected reversal as part of their late-breaking deficit budget, dumping the independent Tourism BC organization and bringing the marketing function back in-house at this crucial time.

So what about that arrogant slogan? Assuming the B.C. Liberals go back to a campaign of feel-good ads for voters' consumption, say, leading up to the next election, will we still be the BPOE?

The answer, as far as I can determine, is yes. BPOE isn't going anywhere. This slogan is not to be confused with the Golden Decade, as in Five Great Goals for a Golden Decade, which by my reckoning will end in 2011. In case you forgot, the Golden Decade began in 2001, when the white-haired guy got elected and the Dark Decade, or Dismal Decade if you prefer, came to an end.

(In honour of the HST, the opposition has renamed the Golden Decade the Decade of Deception.)

What all this means is that the carbon tax will keep going up. It means Greater Victoria's maze of ineffectual local governments will have to spend billions on a sewage treatment system they don't really need.

It means the white-haired guy is sticking around. *The writer is legislative reporter and columnist for Black Press and BCLocalnews.com.*

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Were you surprised by the outcome in Copenhagen?

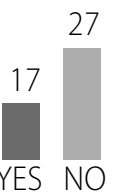
Yes No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before

Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does your vehicle have winter tires?



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
 Phone: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
 Email: driftwood@gulfislands.net Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday

Yearly Subscription Rates:

In the Gulf Islands \$49.88* Elsewhere in Canada \$84.00*
 Six months elsewhere in Canada \$58.30* Outside Canada \$179.00
 * Includes GST

This newspaper acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward its mailing costs. Publications Mail Registration No. 08149 International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782



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Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council



IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I'm like a little mouse gnawing at the gate of art history."

MONA FERTIG, MOTHER TONGUE PUBLISHING

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What kind of Salt Spring treat would you leave for Santa on Christmas Eve?



DONNA BUCHAN

Some of the wonderful arts and crafts produced here on the island.



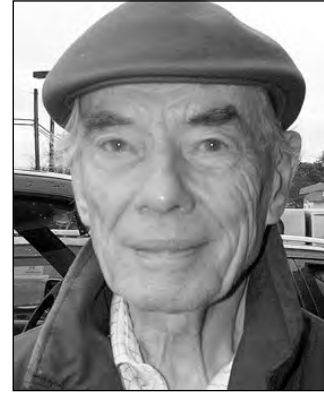
ISABELLE MA

Green eggs come to mind.



MARGARET PETERS

How about some island wine?



MIKE WEBB

A donation to the Salt Spring Foundation made in Santa Claus' name.



AIDAN HAIGH

I think I'd leave him some crackers, some Salt Spring cheese and a granola bar recipe.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Read and reply to letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab.

Reading to kids

I am writing this letter in response to Kim Hunter's letter, "Let children be children," in the Dec. 9 Driftwood.

Although I agree with Ms. Hunter that young children should be engaged in active play and that screen time should be limited, I believe that reading to young children is vitally important. Children need to be told stories and to play with language, but they also should be read stories.

The educational evidence is clear. Here are just a few references:

"Research shows children have a better chance of becoming fully literate adults if reading is encour-

aged in the home." (Literacy BC)

Simple things like reading and telling stories to a child at 18 months are powerful stimuli for brain development in the early years (Early Years Study Final Report: Reversing the Real Brain Drain, Government of Ontario, 1999).

Reading to children more than once a day has a substantial positive impact on their future academic skills. In addition, research indicates children with early exposure to books and reading are better at performing mathematical tasks (National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997).

Children aged two to three who are read to several times a day do substan-

tially better in kindergarten at ages four and five than youngsters who are read to only a few times a week or less (National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997).

Some experts say that for 80 per cent of children, simple immersion in reading and books will lead to independent reading by school age (How to Make Your Child a Reader for Life, Paul Kropp, Random House Canada, 2000).

As a professional educator, I have witnessed first hand how beneficial early reading experiences are for school children.

As a mother of toddlers, I have experienced the joy that reading with your children brings. Don't deny yourself or your children

the gift of reading. Read with your babies and continue to read with your children as they grow older. It is good for their brains and their hearts.

SHELLY JOHNSON,
PRINCIPAL, FULFORD
ELEMENTARY

Where's the paint?

Can anyone tell me where the white and yellow lines went?

I mean the ones on the road by the fire hall intersection. A puzzled driver going north, vainly searching for guidance on that corner, might not notice a pedestrian stepping out on the (barely visible) crosswalk nearby.

Ganges is generally bereft of any indication on the

road surface that would guide drivers.

The same applies to many island roads, especially on dangerous corners. The dark and fog are here.

Dear Ministry of Transportation, what has to happen before you take notice and bring out the paint?

WENDY HILLIARD,
MEYER ROAD

Good news

The Copenhagen International Treaty on Climate Change is dead. That's good news for everyone concerned about national sovereignty and carbon-credit scams.

The "non-binding" agreement (compromise) is now being called the Copenhagen Accord, which raises the most important question — what happens to all

those carbon credits in 2012 when Kyoto expires?

President Obama ran into a brick wall with China, but he put a good face on things by declaring the "accord" a victory and went back to Washington.

The senate bill on Copenhagen hasn't been agreed to yet, and that great soap opera on healthcare isn't settled yet either.

Isn't it interesting that Hillary Clinton proposed \$100 billion to help the world reduce carbon emissions. It is exactly the same amount that George Soros proposed!

Some Santa Claus, some Christmas!
PETER RAMSEY,
GANGES

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

The ultimate predicament: which line-up?

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood." In such a way does American poet Robert Frost describe the dilemma of a traveller who must make a choice between two alternative paths in the poem called The Road Not Taken.

I've experienced that same dilemma myself, except it has mainly happened while standing in line at a checkout counter at the local grocery store. I'm sure this scenario will sound familiar to you.

You're five or six deep in a line-up and prospects don't look good for you getting out of the store any time before the expiry date on your yogurt. The couple checking their groceries through the till right now is arguing over whether Whiskas or Friskies is a better cat food deal.

Next in line is that little old lady with her green cloth shopping bags at the ready. She is rummaging through her suitcase-sized handbag to find about \$80 in loose change she counted up before leaving the house. You can already hear her mumbling to herself, "I know there's another 95 cents in here somewhere."

Just when all seems lost, another cashier appears out of nowhere, one till over, and proclaims the magic words, "Can I help someone over here, please?"

It's your lucky day (or so you think). You move quickly, but not fast enough. Still, the only person who beats you into the new line-up has only three items on the conveyor belt. You feel you'll be out the store and on your way back home in no time.

What you don't know is that the new clerk does not have much cashiering experi-

ence because he has spent the last 18 months in the deli department. He was recently transferred after losing various sections of four different fingers to the ham-slicing machine.

However, the first two items are easily scanned and you're feeling hopeful.

Then comes the cellophane-wrapped half grapefruit. No matter how many times the clerk scans the white label on the item, the monitor screen shows \$49.95 for a two-kilo round of Gorgonzola cheese. Perhaps all the bandages covering his fingers are interfering with the scanning mechanism. When you hear the dreaded yet inevitable words "price check" over the store loudspeaker, you lose all patience.

You wheel your buggy back out of the queue, take most of the groceries out of the cart and pile them on a rack near the washroom (where you hope nobody will see you), and head over to the "Express" checkout with the 15 shopping items you consider absolutely essential.

You find out very quickly that "15" is a very subjective number. The only person ahead of you has her cart chock-a-block full of dozens of groceries. When questioned about the quantity of different items in her possession, she declares that she considers all vegetables should count as only one item. The same goes for all canned goods. In her mind, her full cart contains only seven items.

She defiantly stares down the clerk and



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

is allowed by the flustered employee to continue to check her groceries through. She pulls out her debit card and is just about to swipe it when she remembers she has about a dozen lotto 649 tickets she wants to check just in case she won the \$15 million last week. "And by the way,"

she growls, "can you pick out two of those red lottos, three of the green ones and a Gold Rush. And make sure that they're winners. And you might as well throw in a couple of packs of Lucky Strike filter tips, but see if you can find something a little less stale than the ones you picked out last week."

Her PIN number finally does get approved after her 17th swipe, but long before then you've abandoned your prospective purchases and checked yourself out of the store. You head across the parking lot for a large pizza, hoping you can make it last for a whole week.

The supermarket is not the only place where you are faced with this kind of predicament. You can easily experience the same kind of frustration in liquor stores and gas stations.

Nothing, however, can match the dejected feeling you get when you make the wrong choice at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. You're in line behind three commercial transport trucks at one of the toll booths when the red "OPEN" light comes on at a nearby booth. You have only a few minutes before the cut-off time when boarding passes will no longer be sold. You jerk your

steering wheel hard to the right and just miss cutting in front of that family of tourists from Alberta.

You sit and fume while the driver asks the toll booth attendant about B&Bs, good places to eat and whether you can drink the water. Your blood begins to boil as a map is passed into the booth and the attendant begins to draw arrows on it. You feel your heart palpating as you watch the attendant try to explain the concept of sales tax to the Albertans.

Meanwhile, you watch as all three transport semis pass easily through the toll booth you just abandoned. They are followed by a Japanese tour bus and an old multi-coloured, hand-painted VW minibus filled with a gaggle of dreadlocked deadheads who are pounding away on their drums. You stare helplessly while great plumes of smoke come billowing out the side windows of the minibus as it makes its way down to the loading lanes. A few minutes later, your eyes moisten at the sight of the ferry pulling away without you. The Albertans are standing out on the deck taking photos of the cars left in the terminal.

Robert Frost ends his poem with the lines, "I took the one less traveled by / and that has made all the difference." Damn right it made all the difference. You could have been on that ferry.

Nobody asked me, but I wish all you readers out there in Driftwood land a most joyous and healthy holiday season and best wishes for the new year. And good luck in those Boxing Day line-ups!

thyme2001@hotmail.com

OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
'TIS THE SEASON:
 Girl Guides Anna Rithaler, left, and Diane Lehmann sell Christmas trees at Windsor Ply-wood on Salt Spring.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

Disgusted

This letter is for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

I was just listening to the CBC National with complete dismay. My government is actually considering lowering emission standards for the tar sands project.

I can't believe you'd even consider such an atrocity on our planet. All of the scientists are telling you we are in grave peril and yet you stick your head in the oil sands.

I am embarrassed to call myself a Canadian at this moment. In all my 58 years, I've never felt like this. I have always been proud of what my country represents and does in the world to promote peace and

well being for others. No more.

You need to step down Mr. Harper and go live in Alberta. I'm not fond of the other political parties in this country, but I will vote for anybody else but you.

You have had so many opportunities to turn this around. You voted to give all this money away and could have called for alternative energy projects, but no — you bailed out the car companies — do we have to lose our polar bears before you will listen? Do my great grandchildren have to know a world where there is no place for animals other than cats and dogs?

Do I sound angry? You bet I am, and thoroughly disgusted. I hope the other countries of this world shame you into action.

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,
 SALT SPRING

Trust: be a grinch, not Santa

As a Salt Spring part-timer I have found the Driftwood, particularly the editorials and letters to the editor, an excellent way to stay abreast of local issues and community sentiment.

As we spend more time on "the rock" I hope to get more active in community issues, but a Dec. 16 article, "Trust debates 5% tax hike and new head office staffer," really hit my hot button. The request to increase the budget by \$75,000, plus benefits and other costs, for a senior administrative person to handle work presently done by existing staff, presumably at an acceptable level, is hard to understand. Come on, we are still in a recession and it is time for restraint, not frivolous new expenditures.

Over the years in my corporate, political, own business and personal life there have been tough economic times when discretionary spending has had to be deferred and tough measures implemented. I'm sure many readers

can relate. Should this principle not apply to the fiscal affairs of the Islands Trust?

Quote: "Dwindling revenues forced trustees at the quarterly Trust Council session on Salt Spring last week to consider a five per cent tax increase . . ." Further, "The increase is needed to make up for a \$277,000 budget shortfall, largely the result of a \$50,000 decline in application revenue . . ."

Read less staff time as well! Other Trust revenue shortfalls were also identified. In business or personal circumstances, revenue shortfalls generally require belt-tightening and cost-control as the first consideration. Imagine going to your employer and saying you needed a five per cent raise to cover your personal shortfall!

Ms. Decario, a Galiano trustee, had it right when she said, "I cannot support the hiring of a corporate secretary." She is a refreshing voice of reason.

Ms. Linda Adams, the Trust's CAO, argues the proposed corporate secretary position is needed to " . . . increase efficiency at the corporate office."

Historically, new staff costs once added becomes a part of the tax base for future compounded tax increases. A corporate secretary is not good value for already stretched taxpayer dollars.

I find the opinion of Ms. Adams coupled with the comment from Bowen Island trustee Nerys Poole, "If you've got to sell five per cent, what's six per cent," frankly not expressing prudent fiscal management. Ms. Poole, the taxpayer pool is running dry; Ms. Adams, it's time to be a cost control grinch, not Santa!

WAYNE MCINTYRE,
 BROADWELL ROAD

Natural concerns

I am responding to Ross King's Dec. 16 In Response piece "Majority may be leading us to wrong decisions."

Of course climate change is natural. Everything is natural. The temperature goes up and down. The Arctic ice contracts and expands. Sea levels rise and fall. Carbon dioxide levels in the air and sea fluctuate widely. It is all nature's way. Even human beings' wish to have babies that survive and flourish is entirely natural.

It may be natural, but what is entirely unusual is (1) that cycles which have taken tens and hundreds of thousands of years to occur before are today happening in a mere couple of hundred years, and (2) a hundred thousand or even just 10,000 years ago there were not close to seven billion people on Earth, a large proportion of whom are living in places where the effects of climate change are acutely felt — people who desperately want to survive and want their children to survive.

The "hysteria" to curb at least the anthropogenic causes of global warming had better not wait for the scientists to figure out exactly what percentage that may be of the total picture, and meanwhile we'd all better be figuring out how we and our fellow human beings and all the other life forms we depend upon are going to survive the environmental changes that are already happening — whatever their cause may be. Is that not a natural concern?

MARY TOYNBEE,
 SALT SPRING

No checks, balances

I read with great interest your Dec. 16 article "Group wants enforcement funds . . . weak Trust support erodes public trust."

My neighbours and I have had significant direct experience with the Islands Trust enforcement policies and their staff for approximately 18 years and I could probably be counted as one of the parties Tony Law and the Trust continues to

hear from. As per your article, I believe there is no doubt bylaw enforcement in the Islands Trust has been underfunded and there is less doubt that many bylaws have been written and continue to be written, as to be unenforceable or selectively enforced.

But there is a greater core issue that your article has not covered. That is the complete lack of accountability enjoyed by the Islands Trust and CRD bylaw enforcement staff.

Unlike elected representatives or private sector workers, the employees of the Trust and CRD enjoy employment histories and records that are unavailable to the public who pay their wages.

The public is just expected to accept that these people are honest and qualified. But as far as I have been able to ascertain, it is quite possible for staff who are likewise unaccountable to hire cronies or incompetents.

Another large "catch 22" that history confirms is that there is no fact that enforcement staff from the Islands Trust cannot counter by alleging they have a legal opinion (that you paid for), which you are not allowed to see. Contradictory legal opinions and facts hold no weight.

The Ombudsman is a toothless tiger that only makes recommendations. Aside from ponying up a lot of money to launch a series of legal cases, which the Trust CRD staff will vigorously defend with your tax dollars, there seems to be no system of checks and balances to protect the public interest.

I think the only solution is that political pressure has to be brought to bear on our elected representatives to ensure our interests are being protected.

The problem of the accountability of elected officials would be the subject for another letter.

TOM PICKETT,
 LEE ROAD



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Short cuts to cooking for one or two © 2009 with Sarah Lynn
The history of chips and dip begins with the need to create easily prepared foods. In all parts of the world, particularly the Mediterranean and the Far East, dipping chips, Bread or other finger foods is an integral part of their ethnic cuisines and food traditions.



Shopping list:

- Cream Cheese
- Mayonnaise
- Cheddar Cheese
- 1 can Crabmeat
- Lemon Juice
- Garlic
- Dill
- Paprika
- Cracked Black Pepper
- Cayenne Pepper
- Green Onion
- Sliced bread or crackers

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a medium bowl, mix **1 package softened cream cheese, 2 tablespoons mayonnaise, 1 cup grated cheddar cheese, 1 can crabmeat, 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 clove minced garlic, 1 tablespoon dill, dash paprika, cracked black pepper,** and a **dash of cayenne pepper.** Transfer to a small baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven 15 minutes, or until golden brown and bubbly. Garnish with sliced **green onions.** Serve hot with sliced bread or crackers

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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

Caught Dreaming

What is the meaning of the word love?

A lot of different emotions, a lot of different feelings wrapped up in four letters.

Love for me is eternal and obvious. When I'm in love people see me as being honest.

Love for me means many wonderful things. Seeing peace in dreams is one of those things.

RYAN TIGHE,
SALT SPRING

Continental drift

The Dec. 16 In Response piece "Going back . . . 15 million years" by John Heddle offers up a mid-Miocene comparison with the present to predict that our descendants will be snorkelling to their favourite Ganges emporium.

However, mid-Miocene sea levels that were 25 to 40 metres higher than present can be explained primarily by continental drift as opposed to Heddle's greenhouse gas scenario.

During the mid-Miocene an ice-free Antarctica became sufficiently separated from the Australian sub-continent to initiate the circumpolar southern ocean current conveyor,

which subsequently converted those pregnant seas into the Antarctic polar ice cap we know today.

Continental drift probably pulled a similar scenario vis-a-vis the Arctic some 3.5 million years ago when the South and North American continents were joined, thereby setting up the Gulf Stream ocean current conveyor leading to some 30 cycles of continental glaciation in the northern hemisphere.

Anthropogenic warming will surely lead to climate engineering so that our descendants will need neither snorkels nor snowshoes.

DON HUMPHRYS,
RETIRED CHEMIST,
SALT SPRING



RANTS and Roses

Rants

I'm sorry that my "happily filled/vacancy" sign was stolen from Monivea B&B. Please, if anyone sees or knows of its whereabouts, call me at 250-537-5856. I'm also sorry that my lights keep getting stolen.

Roses

Christmas roses to Sandra Smith, Annette Magled, The Nordine family, Hazenboom Construction, Bay Hale, D. Gent, Sheralin Cook, Tania Aguila, Sue Kernaghan and Richard Elwell, the Quiring family, Candace Sikorski, Shari Hambrook, Sharon Coopman, Country Grocer and Mouat's for the wonderful donations made towards the Fernwood School Christmas Raffle. The Fernwood School PAC

We wish to express our gratitude to everyone who supported the Pass-It-On Boys mentoring project. What a great feeling when community members unite to promote healthy initiatives to benefit youth. You volunteers know that feeling. Thank you, from the Pass-It-On Boys.

Forty-five overflowing school bags of thornless roses to all our generous donors in support of the Salt Spring Centre School's annual Winterfest raffle: Erin Porter for a two-night stay in Tofino, Gecko Green Living, Salt Spring Coffee, Lans Hands Pottery, Chikitsa Shala Wellness Centre, Salt Spring Books, Tree House Café, Cedar Mountain Studios, West of the Moon, Nordic Natural Woollens, Windflower Moon, Fables Cottage, Sarah Jane Giddy for a Sshimmy Energy Healing Session, Miki Kikuchi for organic whole foods, Upala Products by Kaia, Kristin Boyd for a Bowen Therapy Session and Ross Atkinson for a handmade wooden ferry boat. Thank you!

A big rose to all the great people who helped me collect school supplies to bring to El Salvador. Andrea Sanchez

A warm rose from the south to our wonderful friend Lou, who helped us take off on our vacation. Mil gracias, Tania and Jose

Toasty-warm roses to the men outside Salt Spring Community Services last Monday night who pushed my car uphill through the snow. I pulled into the parking lot, narrowly escaping the ditch. You ran down and pushed my car to safety. You were waiting in the cold for a hot meal, yet you fretted about me not having a proper coat to walk home in. I was overwhelmed by your kindness as I walked back to my cozy home, leaving all of you standing

outside in the dark. Amy Geddes

Snowflake-coloured roses to the Falconshead Grill for another great celebration. To Tia and Bill for the awesome service. But especially to Jesse B. for having such a fabulous crew and coming in on your day off. We will be back. Sherrie, Ralph and Gary Blake

A giant rose for Jim Raddysh who stepped in at the last minute to fill Winterfest with laughter and cheer! We all really appreciate your gracious attitude. Salt Spring Centre School families

We know we live in a very generous community, but there is one business that particularly stands out this year for the GISS Shop. They have supplied us with materials for free and tools at discounted prices. It is this kind of generosity that sets an example for our students and lets them know that what they do in the shop is valued. Many thanks go out to Mark and the staff at Slegg Lumber for their unfailing generosity, from the staff and students in the GISS Shop. Ronn Edmonds, Jim Watkins, Chip Chipman, Tracey Braiden

Armfuls of grammatically correct roses to all our volunteers at Salt Spring Literacy. Literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social development. Educational and employment opportunities depend on literacy and Salt Spring Literacy depends on its amazing volunteers! Extra hard-working roses to the beautiful Nova who ran the centre so fabulously this year!

A thousand red roses for everyone involved in my rescue in September, especially the Burnaby family. I know it's a bit late, but I am eternally grateful. Thank you all so much. I owe you my life. Ella Bronstein (the girl who fell off the cliff)

Roses for the rest of my life to Laura and Catherine — a year later and my story is getting better every day. (You two rock so hard there are no words for it!)

Many blessings and bunches of roses fall on our secret Santa. Thank you (whoever you are) for dropping off a basket of Christmas crackers, jams, wool socks and meats to Phoenix school. My boys and I greatly appreciate you and our gifts. The act of charity really warmed my heart and will warm our little tootsies too. Angela, Josiah and Isaiah

Thirty-five golden roses to Pat Reichert and Arthur Black for the joy they brought to our conservation fundraiser. Islands Trust

Armfuls of Christmas roses to my wonderful dedicated Meals on Wheels drivers. Day in, day out they deliver hot meals in our community with a kind word and a smile and truly do embody what community spirit is. Their dedication and service is the strength behind the Meals on Wheels program here on Salt Spring. Roses to you all for choosing to volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Catherine

Mollie Lacy and her family would like to send big bunches of roses to the first responders, ambulance and the public who assisted when she had a bad fall in Ganges on Thursday. The spirit of Salt Spring was really overwhelming. Thank you.

Bunches of Christmas roses to the ladies who retrieved my purse from the curbside in Ganges and handed it in to Pemberton Holmes — thank you all for alerting me. JW

Heart-shaped red rose buds from the heart to my Pump Primers for doing it with heart for their heart. Long stretched stemmed roses to everyone who came and stretched with me at the Ganges Yoga Studio and to Celeste, a single red rose of gratitude for creating such a sacred space. A signature rare rose to friends who daily acknowledge simple and honest friendship. A clean crisp rose of appreciation to Sue for cleaning the church.

Warm cinnamon-smelling roses to Jana and her great staff at the bake shop, a respite in a busy day. A Tartan wreath of roses to all the Scottish country dancers for a great year of dancing! A rose of fine detail to Diana for getting to the core of what matters via Pilates and finally, roses to the Driftwood for printing the "roses section" and giving so many people the opportunity to say thank you for simple things in their lives. Catherine Bennett

A giant shimmering bouquet of red Christmas roses to the wonderful men who retrieved my keys from inside my locked car on the Sunday night ferry. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. Kathy & Dakota

Malas and mantras and jewels of the lotus to everyone who has blessed me so profoundly in the years of sharing yoga together. In peace, Celeste

A big bouquet of milky white roses to Country Grocer and a bouquet of gluten-free roses to Laughing Daughters Bakery for their generous support of the hot lunch program at Salt Spring Island Middle School. From the SIMS PAC

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Seasons Greetings

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★MOUNTAIN DEW

4⁵⁰⁰ FOR
2 Litre Bottle + Dep

ASSORTED VARIETIES
LAY'S POTATO CHIPS

2⁵⁰⁰ FOR
235 Gram Bag

ASSORTED VARIETIES
SUN-RYPE 100% JUICE

2⁵⁰⁰ FOR
1.36 Litre Bottle +Dep

★COUNTRY CREAM ★DENALI ★NSA
ISLAND FARMS ICE CREAM

4⁹⁹
1.65 Litre Tub

ASSORTED EXCEPT 100% JUICE
OCEAN SPRAY COCKTAIL

3⁴⁹
1.89 Litre Bottle +Dep

READY TO SERVE
HOMESTYLE PUMPKIN PIE

3⁴⁹
600 Gram Each

TRADITIONAL
ISLAND FARMS EGG NOG

2⁷⁰⁰ FOR
2 Litre Carton

OPINION

An afternoon at the library

BY PETER LEVITT

I have always loved libraries. I love their silence, their desks and chairs. I love the smell of the books — new and old together — confirming that there is a lineage of human questioning, dreaming, promising, leading, that is available to anyone who enters the library's realm.

I love libraries because I've fallen in love in them, and when it didn't work out, I went to their safe silence and solitude to get over my broken heart. I love them for keeping me warm in New York City when I was a poor young writer (as opposed to the poor older writer I became), but I never left poorer for my visit. I love libraries because in the midst of a time where greed and consumption and climbing over someone else's back to get ahead is the order of the day, learning is still so highly valued that libraries are free.

I think libraries are one of our species' greatest inventions because no matter how small or humble the structure, no matter where a library may be found, even in an alley, a human being can enter and within minutes travel anywhere, find out anything, begin or learn to dream. I love libraries because within their walls students such as I remain have access to one of the great gifts of education: the ability to learn how to learn.

I mentioned that libraries may even be found in alleys. There's a little personal history to that comment I'd like to go into. I grew up in a working-class neighbourhood of The Bronx in New York City. Our library was situated not in an alley, but over one—a bowling alley. That's where they put it. While sitting in the silent sanctuary of learning and knowledge of our library, one often felt that it must be time to eat because the entire belly of the building would start to rumble. And this happened regularly after school because while some of us went to the library to study, others went to bowl. And then, on alternate days, the bowlers would study and the studiers bowl. Though, for sure, there were diehard studiers and diehard bowlers. Who knows if any of us turned out well?

I remember one blistering summer day when I was eight I decided I wanted to be a car mechanic. Given how many broken down cars there were in my neighbourhood, it looked like a job with a future. I decided a good way to deal with the heat was to go to the library, where they had a big fan, and see what I could learn about car mechanics. I told my mother I was going to the library, an excuse that only in my teenage years I came to really treasure, and when she asked me if I was looking for anything in particular, beaming with pride I answered, "Yes. I'm going to be an automotive engineer." Don't ask me where I got that phrase. Truth is, it felt like chomping on a big wad of bubblegum just to say it. My mother laughed quietly and asked me if I knew what that was — an automotive engineer. I admitted that I wasn't sure, but I thought it might have something to do with putting gas in cars or fixing them and I was very interested in that. And, besides, I told her, I'm going to the library to find out.

When I got to the library I quickly went over to the card catalogue for subjects, pulled out the A drawer from its wooden casing, and began leafing through the cards in the vicinity of Au. Right there, near the beginning of the section, I saw a word I had never seen before, but was sure it must have something to do with automotive engineering. The word was AUDUBON. And because all the

letters were capitalized I was certain this really must be some very important part of automotive engineering.

It was not difficult to know our small library well and so I went right over to the area where the Audubon books would be found. They turned out to be oversized books, kept on the bottom shelves, and as I sat down on the floor and lifted the first one out, placed it on my small lap so that its large cover hung over my legs like wings, and opened up the pages of this big, big book, I could not believe my eyes. On page after page were not cars, not autos or jalopies, but copies of paintings of the most wonderful, colourful, beautiful, never-before-seen-by-my-eyes birds. "These are birds!" I told myself.

In The Bronx we only had sparrows and pigeons, and the pigeons were often referred to as "rats with wings." But these were real birds. They flew in places far beyond the brick tenements and housing projects of my world. They flourished in places I had never thought about before. And Mr. John James Audubon, the book told me, who died as long ago as 1851, had painted these birds for a child just like me to see.

I sat there entranced by these

I love libraries because

within their walls students

such as I remain have access

to one of the great gifts of

education: the ability to

learn how to learn.

paintings, my career as an automotive engineer or car mechanic quickly dissipating like the aroma of gasoline. Downstairs in the bowling alley, undoubtedly, the stomach of the entire world was rumbling, but I did not hear it and did not move for quite some time. I had suddenly developed a new hunger that has lasted a lifetime and is somewhat responsible for my move to and love of our island. It grew in me right there where I sat on the cool linoleum floor of our neighborhood library on that godawful, miraculous, blistering Bronx summer day in 1954 when Willie Mays was astounding the world with his baseball brilliance and I was introduced, through a book in the library, and despite the grinding wheels of the nearby elevated subway train, to the beauty of the natural world.

When I went home, arms filled with my newfound bounty, my mother asked me, with a loving glint in her eye, if I had found what I was looking for.

"Yes!" I shouted. I could hardly contain my joy.

"Are you going to be an automotive engineer?" she asked me, still loving her unpredictable boy.

"Oh, no," I said. I gathered up all my courage and tried to enunciate a word I had discovered in my browsing through the text and paintings of Audubon's books. "I'm going to be an or-nith-ologist!"

And, who's to say? The lives of poets being what they are, it still may come true.

The writer is a poet and Zen Buddhist teacher.

OPINION

Giant Book Sale: a huge success

BY LYNNE JOHNSON

Thank you Salt Spring for helping Salt Spring Island Community Education triple what we made last year! Your donations totalled over \$13,000! Never having raised this much money before, it will take the board some time to decide how to put it to good use in furthering community education offerings for the people of Salt Spring.

Thank you to all the people who lined up on the Saturday morning of the Nov. 14 sale in the cold. Thank you for continuing to fill the hall on Saturday and Sunday, and to those who came back a second or third time. Thank you to our neighbours who travelled from Parksville, Nanaimo, Victoria and Sidney.

A big thank you to all who filled the boxes at our three financial institutions; dropped off books at our drop-off days at Country Grocer and the Farmers' Institute; came to my house with your cars loaded with books and called to ask for pick-up service.

Thank you to Mitch Howard, for building such beautiful, sturdy boxes and to Windsor Plywood for giving us a discount toward the supplies. Thank you to Island Savings, CIBC and the Bank of Montreal for allowing us to place our boxes there, and calling when they began to overflow (sometimes several times a week).

Thank you to Peter McCully at the Driftwood for once again

giving us a discount on our advertising as an event sponsor; to Gail Sjuberg for writing such terrific articles and for volunteering as a member of our awesome book sale committee; to Derrick Lundy for taking the fabulous photo that was on the cover of the Nov. 13 Weekender, and documenting "the big move" and the sale itself.

We had an energetic, hard-working and dedicated team of women who volunteered from April through November to make this event possible. Our monthly meetings were productive, decisions were made effortlessly and we actually had fun! Everyone pitched in sorting and moving books, and worked tirelessly through the sale.

So, who are these amazing women? Gail Sjuberg from the Driftwood was responsible for marketing. Her ongoing articles leading up to the sale were terrific and helped give readers a sense of what was going on "behind the scenes."

Judy Clark was responsible for the venue and organized where all the books would go once they reached the Farmers' Institute. Her wry sense of humour helped spur us on during those rare moments of utter exhaustion!

Michelle Kay was responsible for volunteers. But that was the easy part. Being younger than the rest of us, having a teenage son and a truck, she became indispensable! During the sale she kept

the volunteers busy and kept everyone's spirits high with her wonderful laughter and smiles!

Jennifer Quick had the biggest job of all. She was responsible for the books — over 13,000 books! She did pickups from the financial institutions and from people who were unable to deliver them to us.

She also taught "The Art of Book Packing" to those sorting books — very important for books being stored!

Jennifer and I did the bulk of the sorting on large tables in my basement. We spent many hours looking at every single book and deciding in which category it belonged. This process was sometimes aided by a nice bottle of wine.

Randy Severn of 5 Star Moving came to our rescue, along with 15 volunteers, and moved over 500 boxes out of my basement and into the Farmers' Institute in only one and a half hours! A "big" thank you to all!

Barry at the Farmers' Institute was a huge help and support. He estimated that 400-500 people came through the doors in the first 90 minutes of the sale! He thankfully fixed the heat after a plastic bag blew into one of the ducts. He helped take down the tables after the sale and waited patiently while we tried to figure out what we were going to do with the leftover books. Thank you, Barry.

So what happened to all the

leftover books? Some were moldy or damaged beyond repair. Laurie Hedger kindly offered to take these away, and we thank you. Some went to the recycling depot, and we thank Peter Grant for that. That left maybe 2,000 books. Dawn Luker of et cetera agreed to take them, and Jan Steinman offered his "Veggie Vango" truck for that purpose. Thank you, Dawn, and thank you to Jan, Isy, Judy, Michelle, Jennifer and Joanne for helping with this final move after we thought we were all done.

Two more important thank-yous: to the board of Community Education for their dedication and help, and in particular to Judi Francis who originated the book sale, and who graciously mentored me last year. I have built on her success.

There remains one big problem. My husband wants his basement back, and I can't really blame him. Hence we have nowhere to sort and store the books over the coming year. We need at least 800 square feet of warm, dry space, with easy access for cars and trucks, from May till November. For free. References provided. Please call Community Ed (250-537-0037) or email us at info@communityed.org if you have or know of such a space.

The writer is chair of Salt Spring Island Community Education and of the book sale committee.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Thank you to all our customers for your support over the past year. We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season.
~Doug & Diana

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE

10am - 4pm



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What do you want for Christmas?

BY DAVID SUZUKI WITH FAISAL MOOLA

In much of the Western world, the December festive season has become little more than a celebration of excess and conspicuous consumption. We run around in malls like maniacs as we count the "shopping days" till Christmas, searching for the perfect gifts for everyone we know. We stop briefly to gorge ourselves on turkey and pie, and on the day after Christmas, we rush back to the malls to see what kind of deals we can get.

Now, there's nothing wrong with offering gifts to friends and family, and there's certainly nothing wrong with celebrating those connections with wonderful feasts. Although I'm not a Christian, I love the rituals and family time that come with the holiday season. But it's gotten out of hand. It may be good for the economy, but is it good for our mental health — and is it good for the environment?

What's really important as we celebrate this time of year when longer nights give way to longer days? I had a chance to think about some of these things this month as I prepared to give what has been called my "Legacy Lecture" in Vancouver and to accept a "Right Livelihood" award in Sweden.

In writing them, I reflected on the values I have learned during my 73 years on Earth. It reaffirmed my belief that our most important need as social animals is love. Everything else flows from this — our commitment to protect the environment so that our own lives and those of our children and grandchildren will be healthier; our recognition that we are all connected to each other and to the natural world through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat; and our belief that all the world's people have a right to

justice and freedom.

Whether it's for holy days or the winter solstice — or both — this time of year offers the chance to reflect and to be with people we love. For many people, the solstice symbolizes renewal and rebirth. We should take advantage of this by using the time wisely. And maybe the wisest use of our time is not to run around shopping and stressing, but rather just to spend time with our loved ones and to consider what we can do for this Earth that gives us so much.

To start, we can make the holiday season itself greener. Gift-giving is a tradition with tremendous symbolic value, but rather than giving each other gadgets and gewgaws that end up in the landfill in less than

a year, we should put some thought into gifts that are meaningful, and that are preferably made locally and made to last — unless the gift is food or drink, of course, even though some of the Christmas cake I've seen seems like it could last forever! How about recycling something that we've already used, like a good book? You could also consider gifts offered by conservation groups or other nonprofit organizations that help advance worthy causes, or give a donation in the gift recipient's name.

To me, one of our most important rituals is giving gifts to others who are not as well off as us, either at home or in poorer countries.

Gift wrap and cards also have an impact on the environment. If you must wrap your gifts, save a tree and use recycled paper, gift wrap from previous years, or even newspaper.

I'm sure we can all think of ways to make this season a celebration not just of family and friends but of the wonderful Earth that is our home. Have a happy holiday.



David Suzuki

SCIENCE MATTERS

COMING SOON!

Contractor's DIRECTORY WHO'S WHO IN CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION



2ND ANNUAL - A special supplement containing listings, advertisements and complementary editorial for Island contractors. You'll get lots of exposure in this directory - in print and on-line, when you purchase an ad - you will receive a free listing. The Contractor's Directory will also be on-line - connected to both Driftwood Websites.

Our Directory is online!

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION CONTACT:



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rmackinnon@gulfislands.net



Kimberly Young
kyoung@gulfislands.net



Sharon Glynn
sglynn@gulfislands.net



Karen Hepp
khepp@gulfislands.net

DEADLINE: JANUARY 14 | PUBLICATION: JANUARY 27



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1-877-379-2768

RAINBOW POOL Pool overflows: course options

Something for everyone

Island swimmers have plenty to look forward to when the Rainbow Road Pool re-opens for business on Sunday, Dec. 27.

For those of you who are keen to swim off the extra Christmas calories, there's no better opportunity than Sunday's toonie swim from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Staff at the pool have scheduled a variety of programs and lessons designed to meet the needs of swimmers of ages and abilities as the year winds down.

It's just in time to get a head start on all those New Year's resolutions. What better way to finish off the year than with a Red Cross Swim Lesson? The eight-session course runs from Monday, Dec. 27 to Wednesday, Dec. 30.

An Assistant Water Safety Instructor course runs from Dec. 27 to Dec. 30. The course will give aspiring swim instructors the basic theory they need to take the plunge. Students must be 15 years old or older and the cost for the program is \$250.

Swimmers between the ages of 11 and 13 can dive into 2010 by taking their Bronze Star course. Classes are on Jan. 2, 3, 10 and 11. Potential candidates must be able to swim at least 200 metres (eight lengths of the pool). The course offers strong swimmers the chance to improve their skills by teaching important rescue skills. The fee for the course is \$150.

The more advanced Bronze Medallion and Cross class is offered on Jan. 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31.

For \$255, students can take the first strokes toward becoming qualified lifeguards. Candidates must be at least 13 years old and have strong swimming skills.

For more information about these and other upcoming programs at the Rainbow Road Pool, call 250-537-1402.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Santa hands Jet Jackson back to his dad, Billy Jackson, after visiting with the youngster during a special event at Rainbow Road Pool on Sunday afternoon.

BC Ferries Current Schedule
 CROSSING TIME: 35 MINS
 CHECK WWW.BCFERRIES.CA FOR LATEST SCHEDULES
FULFORD - SWARTZ BAY
CURRENT SCHEDULE
 September 27, 2009 - June 29, 2010

LEAVE FULFORD HARBOUR	LEAVE SWARTZ BAY
6:15 am except Dec. 25, Jan. 1	7:00 am except Sun & Dec. 25, Jan. 1
7:50 am except Sun	9:00 am
9:50 am	11:00 am
11:50 am	1:00 pm
1:50 pm	3:00 pm
3:50 pm	5:00 pm
5:50 pm	7:00 pm
7:50 pm	9:00 pm

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JOHNCAMERON.CA

johncameron.ca
saltspringphotos.com

SIMS BASKETBALL

Grade 8 girls team dominates Prevoost

All players add to points total

Intense practise by the Salt Spring Island Middle School Grade 8 girls basketball team paid off last week in a decisive victory over Prevoost Middle School.

"The girls were eager to play another game after their narrow

defeat by one point to Chemainus the week before," notes a game report.

The 10 girls' hard work and preparation for their first away game of the year was rewarded.

"The SIMS girls erupted onto the court and dominated the entire game with tight passes and vast improvement in ball handling skills in just over a week."

The girls, coached by SIMS teacher Mike Miles, won 66-7 with Nadeen Whitcutt and Hannah James scoring in double digits.

A real team effort saw all players, including Zorah Wiltzen, Jasmine Cooper, Maggie Birch, Rowyn George, Megan Brooke, Georgina Byron, Cassidy Fraser and Shyla Lloyd scoring to contribute to the win.

Photos are available for purchase @ our on-line photostore **gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

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 STK# 67547A \$18,995



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 STK# 33997C \$15,995



2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE
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2007 CHEVROLET OPTRA 5
 STK#98882A \$10,995



2007 GMC SIERRA 1500 4X4
 STK#440A \$27,995



2007 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500HD DURAMAX
 STK#73303A \$37,995



2006 GMC SIERRA 1500 4X4
 STK#99210K \$21,995



2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
 STK#72538A \$15,995



2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
 STK#82193B \$17,995



DAN EASTON CRAIG HINDLE STEVE AYDON JOE GRAHAM JERRY DEOL ROB EASTMAN MORGAN HARRISON DAVE PEARS ANGELA KETCH RED BELLIS GREG POWERS KIM MacLEAN ROSS MCCAULEY ERIKA WEBB



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Driftwood

Published WEDNESDAYS

Display deadline: **Monday 4 pm**
Word ad deadline: **Tuesday 10 am**

Driftwood WEEKENDER

Published FRIDAYS

Display deadline:
Wednesday 10 am
Word ad deadline:
Wednesday 4 pm



WHAT IT COSTS

3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS
\$12.95 - additional lines 92¢ ea
All ads are posted to BCClassified.com

EMPLOYMENT ADS
3 line rate \$14.96 - additional
lines 1.25¢ ea

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BCJobNetwork.com and
BCClassified.com

DISPLAY ADS
\$10.92 per col. inch

YOUR AD ON-LINE

All ads booked in the Driftwood
Classifieds appear on-line at
www.bcclassified.com

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www.bcjobnetwork.com

Auto ads also listed on line at
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Over 20,000 on-line ads updated daily



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Lexi Grundy
Aug. 30, 1992 - Dec. 24, 2008
We miss you so much
Love from your friends on SSI

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARDS OF THANKS

THANKS TO Salt Spring Coffee and a huge thanks to Banks Thomas for helping me raise \$1400 to build wells in Ethiopia. Molly Patterson.

CHRISTMAS CORNER

RIDING LESSONS FOR CHRISTMAS
\$40/LESSON
\$30/LESSON (if book 10)

TED SCOTT
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

Jessica Dollheiser and Tyler Dakin
Are pleased to announce the arrival of:



Maximilian

Robert James Dakin

Born November 24th, 2009
Weighing 8lbs 3oz

To the absolute delight of:

Grandparents: Axel, Susi, Richard and Karen
Great-Grandmothers: Johanna, Valerie and Stella
Aunt Melissa and Uncles Jessen and Remy

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS CORNER

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas season
Remember Lorraine Dods Moth



PLEASE DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE

Make 2010 a happy, healthy & prosperous new year.
Rita Dods

COMING EVENTS

20% off
GAMES, JIGSAW PUZZLES, ART SETS, CRAFT SETS, KLUTZ
with your Residents Card

Salt Spring Books
104 McPhillips Avenue

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Zav RT (aka Jamie RT)
HOLIDAY CD SPECIAL
1 \$15, 2 \$25, 3 \$35.
Available at Acoustic Planet Music

FOR A complete calendar of coming events check the Driftwood Community Calendar, in our office in the Upper Ganges Centre, 328 Lower Ganges Road, or on our website at www.gulfislands.net. Use the calendar for event planning and to make sure your date doesn't conflict with someone else's.

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Call Bruce's Kitchen for all your take home Christmas needs. Book now for our New Year's Eve Chef's Table.
BRUCES KITCHEN
250-931-3399

SEEDS FOR Malawi gift items can now be purchased at the SOLID exchange, 125 McPhillips, Wed. - Sun., 10:30 - 2:30.

DEATHS

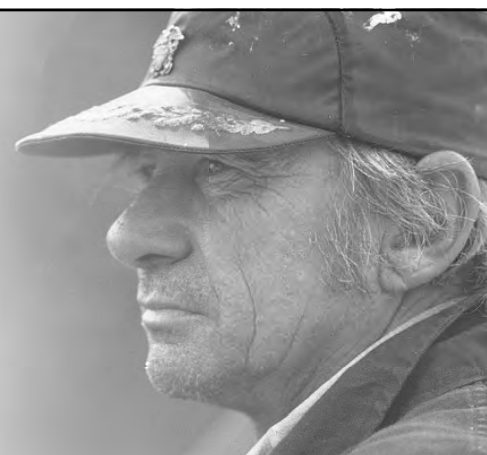
FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS



FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS



INGRAM - Dallas Clayton

October 28, 1925 - November 17, 2009

Our family is mourning the loss of a very special and greatly loved man. Dal passed away peacefully at his favourite place on earth, his seaside home on Salt Spring Island, surrounded by those he loved. As with all challenges set before him over the years, he faced the final one with a brave heart and fighting spirit. Dal leaves the love of his life for 64 years, wife Joan and beloved family, daughter Heather and son-in-law Jim Wild, daughter Sonia, son Chris and daughter-in-law Jacquie, daughter Linda and son-in-law Tom Unger, cherished grandchildren Kristin and Kyra Wild, Vanessa and Wyatt Unger, Allison Ingram and infant great-grandson, Dallas Ingram. Dal is survived by sisters Gail Moss (Roy), Valerie Sreaton (John); sisters-in-law Darryl Ingram, Dorothy Ingram; nieces, nephews and lastly, his faithful golden retriever, Goldie. Born in Vancouver of Norwegian and Scottish/Irish ancestry, Dal spent his early years in Alberni and later in Steveston. A gifted athlete, he excelled at everything from basketball to cycling but was best known as a champion high-jumper. At age 18 he enlisted with the RCAF where his exceptional night vision was first recognized along with his remarkable marksmanship. Dal's dream was to be a pilot but the war ended and he returned to the coast. In 1946 he met Joan (née Sileck) and in 1948 they married and began their life together. Dal spent the next 50 years in the fishing industry, working the treacherous coastal waters from the 49th parallel to Alaska, and great distances beyond the west coast of Vancouver Island. His vessel, the "Heather Isle" was the last commercial wooden seiner to be built at Matsumoto Shipyards in North Vancouver. A seaworthy vessel that travelled the coast year-round, it was considered one of the most photographed and painted boats on the coast. Dal designed and pioneered drum seining and the self-pursing winch, early indicators of his creative abilities that would continue to fascinate us over the years. His knowledge of BC's coast was immense and well-respected in the industry and he was honoured with a Certificate of Service as a Fishing Master for a vessel over 25 tons. But, more than anything, we are most proud of the lives he saved at sea and for always bringing the crew safely home. A man's man, courageous, generous and kind, we will miss his fabulous sense of humour and unique way of putting his own spin on things, turning the most mundane event into something exciting and fun. Dal's love for his family was unconditional and we are all better people for being under his mighty wing. We wish to sincerely thank Dr. Robert Crichton, Dr. David Stuart, the palliative care nurses, the Salt Spring Island ambulance crews, and Lady Minto Hospital for the extraordinary care given to Dal, and the sensitive support extended to our family while we cared for him at home. We have been deeply touched by the landslide of cards, gifts and phone calls since Dal's passing, a true reflection of a life well-lived. The family is honouring his request that no service or memorial be held. On the evening of his passing, Jim and Chris fired his shotguns from the deck, a truly fitting salute to our beloved captain.

*Heading home for Christmas
Tree lashed to the mast
Brave the sea and bring the catch
Our Captain, home at last*

*But then the sea was silenced
As golden moonbeams fell
To light the passage one more time
Oh Captain, fare-thee-well.*

Sonia
We love you Dad



Post your comments on-line
@ gulfislandsdriftwood.com

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

GULF ISLANDS OPTICAL has great stocking stuffers: Clic readers (as seen on CSI), cleaning cloth and cleaner packs featuring dogs, cats & classical portraits. Designer reading glasses, chains, cords, key rings and cases. Gift Certificates available. Seasons Greetings from Richard & Wendy.

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

SWING DANCE Class, 6 nights 7-9pm starting Wed. Jan. 6 at Mahon Hall. Morley 250-537-4898 or email: mgallery@telus.net

**GIFT GUIDE
PAGES A11-13**

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Christmas at the COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHAPEL
A Community Christmas Celebration & Living Nativity
Dec. 20 at 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm
147 Vesuvius Bay Rd.
For more info call 537-2622

Who reads us?
88% of Islanders read the Driftwood each week.
-Combase survey

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL GIFT IDEAS?
DISCOVER INDONESIA at AL'S ASIAN TREASURES & IMPORTS.
10 am to 4:30 pm
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Metal driveway gates, stone & wood carvings, slate pots, garden fountains & statues, & MANY more unusual finds.
#7 9360 Smiley Rd., Chemainus (just off Henry Rd. & Trans Can. Hwy.)

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

SALT SPRING INN
CHRISTMAS HOURS
Thursday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve
8am - 3pm
Friday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day
CLOSED
Saturday, December 26
Boxing Day
CLOSED
Thursday, Dec. 31st
New Year's Eve
8am - 3pm
5pm - 11pm
Friday, Jan. 1st
New Year's Day
BRUNCH: 10am-2pm
LUNCH: 2pm - 5pm
DINNER: 5pm - 10pm
250-537-9339
"Merry Christmas from all of us at The Inn!"

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

CHILD-CENTRED SUPERVISED ACCESS
serving Gulf Islands and Victoria.
Criminal Record check. Supervisor, Geoffrey Anderson, BA. Lay counsellor.
250-532-8785 or email: geoffreyanderson@live.com

CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!
89% of islanders read the Driftwood each week, so you can find what you need and sell what you don't in the Driftwood Classifieds. For private party merchandise ads that total a value of less than \$200, use your Chamber of Commerce Residents Card and save 50% off the price of your ad. 250.537.9933, classified@gulfislands.net

IF YOUR Driftwood subscription label has the date highlighted, now is the time to renew!



News Updates
Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

Your gift to the **Heart and Stroke Foundation** will help support life saving research and education in heart disease and stroke.

To donate In Memory or In Honour:
www.heartandstroke.bc.ca
Toll-Free: 1-888-754-5274

Mail to:
401-495 Dunsmuir St.
Nanaimo, BC V9R 6B9



PERSONALS

1-877-20-TAROT TO know everything about your future, love, money, health, work. Holidays special, \$2.59/min. connexion medium 1-900-52-tarot, #3486. Fido/Rogers/Bell. www.connexionmedium.ca. 24h/24 7d/7.

DATING SERVICE. Long-Term/Short-Term Relationships, Free calls.1-877-297-9883. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes.1-888-534-6984. Live adult casual conversations-1on1, 1-866-311-9640. Meet on chat-lines. Local Single Ladies.1-877-804-5381(18+).

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND EARRING, Trincomali Place. 250-537-9309.
LADIES RING found in Ganges. Call to identify 250-537-2791

TRAVEL

SKIING

SUN PEAKS RESORT, BC
www.sunpeaksreservations.com Toll free 1-888-578-8369. Fully equipped hotels, studios to 4 bedroom condos and chalets. Ski in/Ski out or short walk to lifts, hot tubs.

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BED AND BREAKFASTS, Attractions, tourism operators get incredible exposure for your business...Advertise in the 2010-2011 BC Alberta Bed & Breakfast directory. Call Annemarie at 1-800-661-6335 ext. 744

SLOW START UP- Huge Profits! Heater Dealers Wanted! #1 Portable Infrared Heater. As Seen on TV. Don't Miss This Hot Opportunity! Call Now! 1-800-714-8425.

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WHAT RECESSION? This New company is exploding!! Why? Products, Branding, Packaging, Science Management, and Compensation...all World Class from Top to Bottom. 6 figure earners with strong track records only please, 1-800-605-8675.

COMING EVENTS



SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF AT THE ISLANDS TRUST.
Our Salt Spring Island office WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS from Friday, December 25 to January 1, 2010. REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME at 8:30 am, Monday, January 4, 2010.
We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. In case of emergencies, please contact our Victoria office at 250-405-5151

SSI United Church invites you to their Christmas Events

Thurs. Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols	7:00 pm
Fri. Dec. 25	Gary's Christmas Day Community Dinner (at Meaden Hall)	12:00 pm
Sun. Dec. 27	Worship Service with Rev. Al Tysick	10:00 am

Phone 250-537-5812 for more information

CARDS OF THANKS

I am so grateful for the opportunity over the last 7 years, to have assisted with you all, in the creation of the elegant Sacred Space of Ganges Yoga Studio. Classes are over for the remainder of this year. Please watch the website for details of our relocation in the New Year.

Filled with the clear energy of our intent to raise consciousness, I believe that our practice together will continue because the intent has been so pure.

Thank you to everyone who has graced this place and may you and your families experience the Joy of Deep Peace in your Seasonal Celebrations together.

May Blessings be upon us All.

With Love, Celeste.



GANGES YOGA STUDIO
250-537-2444 gangesyogastudio.com

Come get your holiday hairdo, Colours, cuts and perms too.
Book early, because I care, Ask for KIM at Gail's Hair!



Call today...
250-537-4404

Salt Spring Singers Registration
Salt Spring Singers, a non-auditioned community choir directed by Mitch Howard, will hold registration and the first spring program rehearsal at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, at SSI Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Rd. Registration will close at 6:45 p.m., with rehearsal at 7 followed by refreshments at 8:15. All voices welcome.

Call Lesley Reynolds at 537-4861 for a registration form or more information.

Run it 'til it sells. \$24.99
Run your classified ad in The Driftwood 'til it sells!
All ads appear on-line at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com and bcclassified.com
Your private party (merchandise) classified ad will run in our next 4 insertions • If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 4 insertions • Extra lines at 1/2 price • Please, no more than 3 items, call to remove an item.



Harbour House Hotel
NEW YEAR'S EVE WINE MAKER'S DINNER
Dec.31st, 2009
5-Course Dinner
Paired with Garry Oaks Wines

Using only the best, fresh, local and seasonal products
\$60.00 Dinner with Wine • \$45.00 Dinner Only
7:00 to 10:30 pm
Call Now to Book Your Seat 250-537-4700



PARC OFFICES CLOSED
Dec 28 to Jan 1st
Open for business again on Jan 4, 2010

Messages can be left by phone at 537-4448 or email to parc@saltspring.com



Connecting your giving to island needs



Each year your community foundation distributes over \$100,000 in grants to our island's charitable organizations. Please send your donation to SSIF, Box 244, Ganges PO, SSI, BC V8K 2V2 or donate through the Foundation's website.

For more information please go to the website, phone 537-8305, or email info@saltspringislandfoundation.org www.saltspringislandfoundation.org

DOROTHY PRICE
CERTIFIED YOGA TEACHER
www.dorothyoga.com



Mon. 8 - 9am - ALL LEVELS
The Core Inn (3rd floor), Ganges

Mon. 4:30 - 6pm - ALL LEVELS
SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

Tues. 7 - 8:30pm - ALL LEVELS
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds


Wed. 9am - 10:30am - ALL LEVELS
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds

Wed. 6:30 - 8pm - ALL LEVELS
The Core Inn (3rd floor), Ganges

Thur. 4:30 - 6pm - ALL LEVELS
SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

Fri. 8am-9am - ALL LEVELS
Pranayam & meditation option at 7:15am
SSI Centre of Yoga, 355 Blackburn

250-653-4655 dorothyoga@hotmail.com



Islands Trust

On December 9, 2009, to celebrate our 35th Anniversary, the Islands Trust hosted, with the help of the Island Natural Growers and the Gulf Islands Secondary School Culinary Program, a very special event showcasing foods and beverages from the Gulf Islands. A wonderful dinner was prepared by some of the finest chefs in the Islands Trust area. An auction of donated items from the gulf islands was also conducted by Arthur Black.

The Islands Trust would like to thank all of the participating chefs, farms, artists, island businesses and individuals that made this special event such a great success.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to assist land conservation efforts in the Gulf Islands through the Islands Trust Fund's Opportunity Fund.

In 1974, legislation created the Islands Trust "to preserve and protect the trust area" – a mandate unique to this area and the only one of its kind in Canada.

355B Blackburn Rd.
250.537.9130

Join us!

Salt Spring Centre School

Where learning connects the child to the world!

January Enrollment Open
for Kindergarten, Grade 1-2, and Grade 5-6 classes.
5 days a week (except Kindergarten).

Offer your child the opportunity to go beyond the BC Curriculum, plus enrichment of: French, Theatre, Horticulture, Compassionate Communication, Outdoor Ed, Leadership skills, Fine Arts & Music



Inquiries: info@saltspringcentreschool.ca

K - GRADE 6

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TUESDAY 10 AM

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BCjobnetwork

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

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Top 3 Content Management Systems
Program starts: Jan 12th 2010

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Email: coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org
SALT SPRING LITERACY

TRAIN TO be an Apartment/Condominium Manager from home. Jobs registered across Canada! Thousands of grads working. Government registered. 29 years of success. Information: www.RMTI.ca or 1-800-665-8339, 604-681-5456.

HELP WANTED

ELECTRICIAN: LOOKING for Journeyman or 4th year apprentice for residential/commercial work. P/T to start, possibly F/T. Competitive wages & benefits. Reply to Dept. 14, c/o The Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3.

SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (Gulf Islands)

Employment Opportunity
Expressions of interest are requested for three part-time resident maintenance positions (facilities and ground) at our schools on Galiano, Mayne and Pender Islands. Hours of work will vary based on seasonal requirements. Average weekly hours will be 13. Preference will be given to individuals who hold trade certificates. Expressions of interest can be made to: Mr. Dave Henshall
Email: dhenshall@sd64.bc.ca
Phone: 250-537-5723, ext. 11

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

as mother's help in London, UK, Jan.-June, then on Salt Spring July - Aug. Live-in position in beautiful Notting Hill flat. Nannying & cleaning req'd, hours & pay neg; all exp. paid. Apply to: robinrudgley@hotmail.com

LOCAL RESTAURANT

looking for kitchen help. Seeking dishwashers and line cooks. Please email resume and wage expectations to wstcoastchef1@hotmail.com attention Chef.

MANAGER OF TRACK

- Kelowna Pacific Railway Ltd (KPR) is accepting applications for our Manager of Track position. KPR operates in the Okanagan Valley and this position will work out of our Vernon, BC office. Experience in all aspects of track work is essential for this position including track equipment, track inspections, rules and regulatory, budgeting, costing and good computer and communication skills. Please submit resumes to: info@khawk.ca Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

SEACHANGE SAVOURIES

is creating a new management position. This job requires excellent communication and management skills. Successful applicant will be experienced with both Macs and PCs, Excel, Word, and databases (preferably FileMaker), and will be able to perform basic technical support tasks. Daytime hours Monday to Thursday at SeaChange on Salt Spring Island, starting wage \$18.00/hr. Send resumes to: nicki@seachangesavouries.ca (no hyphen).

STORE MANAGER

- Home Building Centre, Salmon Arm. Must have retail store experience in a building centre environment. Reply to Box #6 c/o The Morning Star 4407 25th Avenue, Vernon, BC V1T 1P5 or email resume to john.kehler@hbcvernon.ca

WORK WANTED

JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER Contractor available. Additions, renovations, solariums, sun decks, concrete work. Quality experience and integrity. Jim Anderson 250-537-0779. References.

PERSONAL SERVICES

PSYCHICS

PSYCHIC HEALING and intuitive counseling. In person or by phone. Call 250-653-0036 or farmboy@uvic.ca

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Cut Your Debt by up to 70%

DEBT FORGIVENESS PROGRAM
Avoid Bankruptcy, Stops Creditor Calls. Much Lower Payments at 0% Interest. We work for YOU, not your creditors.
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COMPUTER SERVICES

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SALES • SERVICE • SUPPORT
250.655.3566 #6-2353 Bevan Ave, Sidney

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER WANTED TO SERVE AS PARC COMMISSIONER

2-year term, starting Feb 1, 2010
Application forms may be picked up or requested from the PARC administration office, (Mon to Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm). Please submit your expression of interest and relevant previous experience, no later than **January 15, 2010** to:

PARC
145 Vesuvius Bay Road
SSI BC V8K 1K3
Fax: 250 537-4456 or
email: parc@saltspring.com

For info call 250-537-4448

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Run it 'til it sells. \$24.99
Run your classified ad in The Driftwood 'til it sells!

All ads appear on-line at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com and bcclassified.com

Your private party (merchandise) classified ad will run in our next 4 insertions • If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 4 insertions • Extra lines at 1/2 price • Please, no more than 3 items, call to remove an item.

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

APPLIANCE REPAIRS

SAM ANDERSON Appliance Repair. Warranty technician for all makes & models. Sears warranty rep. 250-537-5268.

CLEANING SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING services available. Anyone out there looking for help with house cleaning? Please call Alexa at 537-4620 or 538-8881 cell.

COMPUTER SERVICES

CALL BOB McIvor for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 537-2827 or (cell) 538-7017. Please go & back-up your important data now!

MAC HELP when you need it. shoebox/digitalmedia@gmail.com

CONCRETE & PLACING

GULF COAST MATERIALS
Serving the Gulf Islands
Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Penders

- PARKING CURBS
- READY MIX
- WASHED GRAVEL
- REINFORCED STEEL
- BAGGED CEMENT

250-537-2611
345 Rainbow Road

CHRISTMAS STORIES PAGES B5-13

COMPUTER SERVICES

HAGEN'S COMPUTERS
SALES • SERVICE • SUPPORT
250.655.3566 #6-2353 Bevan Ave, Sidney

HELP WANTED

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

DRAFTING & DESIGN

LET'S GET STARTED!
Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

PLEASE CALL HELSET DESIGN
250-537-1037 & ask for Jim

HAULING AND SALVAGE

STRONG WOMAN HAULING
Attn: SaltSpring Island residents, contractors & managers! I will sort, load and haul away. Construction/reno debris, tenant leftovers, household garbage, brush, yard waste. Look for the new PINK one ton/ WCB est. 1993

Vanessa
250-538-8985
Love Hauling!

Photos are available for purchase @ our on-line photostore
gulfislandsdriftwood.com

OTHER AREAS

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZERS

THE DOMESTIC GODDESS
Home Management Services
Primary &/or Revenue Property
250-537-1003

RECYCLING

SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tues. through Sat., 10am to 5pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call the Recycle Depot at 537-1200, or Community Services at 537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

PETS

PETS

STARBARKS NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm
Sundays 10am - 2pm
250.653.4871

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

BUILDING SALE!... Priced to sell! Canadian manufacturer since 1980. Final Clearance! Special sizes. 20X24, 25X30, 30X40, 35X50, 40X60, 48X90, 50X110, 60X150. Others! Pioneer Steel Manufacturers, 1-800-668-5422.

bcclassified.com

HOMES FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE

MORTGAGES

BANK ON US! Mortgages for purchases, renovations, debt consolidation, foreclosure. Bank rates and many alternative lending programs avail. Let Dave Fitzpatrick simplify the process. Mountain City Mortgage 1-888-711-8818 email: dave@mountaincitymortgage.ca

HOMES FOR RENT

ISLAND EXPLORER
Property Management Ltd. & Real Estate Services

2 Bedroom Ocean View House,
N/S, N/P, avail. Jan 1, 2009, long term...\$1100

2 Bedroom Town House,
2 1/2 baths propane insert, hardwood floors, dishwasher, like new, close to town, N/S, N/P, avail. immed..... **\$1350**

3 Bedroom Lake View Home,
2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, furnished, washer/dryer, woodstove, live in cat, includes hydro, water, & local phone, N/S, N/P, avail. January and February **\$1500**

Channel Ridge Ocean View Home,
Master Suite plus 3 additional bedrooms, large kitchen, all appliances, extensive decks with hot tub, N/S, N/P, long term avail. immed..... **\$1900**

Beautiful Waterfront High End Home,
3 bedrooms plus loft, 4 baths, indoor pool, private dock, N/S, N/P, avail. immediately **\$2700**

250-537-4722
1-800-800-9492

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, bonded management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

warm **MEXICO WINTERS**
www.RealtySanMiguel.com

Find what you need, sell what you don't.
Salt Spring "New to You"
Merchandise ads with items totalling less than \$200 receive a 50% discount with your Residents Card.

Deadline 10 am Tuesday for Wednesday paper, 4 pm Wednesday for Friday paper.

ANTIQUES/VINTAGE

NEW TO YOU
Find what you need and sell what you don't, in the Driftwood New to You classified section. For private party merchandise ads that total a value of less than \$200, use your Chamber of Commerce Residents Card and save 50% off the price of your ad.
250-537-9933, classified@gulfislands.net

BUILDING SUPPLIES

#1A STEEL Building sale! Save up to 60% on your new garage, shop, warehouse. 6 colors available! 40 year warranty! Free shipping, the first 20 callers! 1-800-457-2206. www.crownsteelbuildings.com.

SEE US FOR A FAST QUOTE ON ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS!

- Flooring
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For all your building requirements, large or small!

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SINCE 1882

FOOD PRODUCTS

Sunset Farm est. 1982
Naturally Grown SS Lamb Gov't Inspected
Available Year Round
Also available: wool socks, comforters, knitting wool, pillows, and sheepskin rugs.
250-537-2082

FRIENDLY FRANK

GOLDSTAR MICROWAVE convection oven, white, good condition, large capacity 221/2"wx18"dx15h. \$100. Also GE white microwave oven, in box, like new. \$50. 250-538-1944.

FUEL/FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD SPRING SPECIAL
CUT, SPLIT & DELIVERED
Standing timber & logs wanted
MARCO 250.537.6170

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
GUARANTEED CORD
Cut, Split & delivered Cedar Fence Rails
250-653-4165

FURNITURE

OAK STEREO/ENTERTAINMENT stand with 4 tinted glass doors (48x47x20") with shelves. Perfect cond. \$200. Call 250-537-7666.

GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE SALE: CLOSED Dec. 13 - Jan. 7. Thank you for your patronage!

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

A FREE Telephone service - Get Your First Month Free. Bad Credit, Don't Sweat It. No Deposits. No Credit Checks. Call Freedom Phone Lines Today Toll-Free 1-866-884-7464.

A MOST UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

A New Salt Spring Book by award-winning author **Roger M. Brunt** (& Ken Byron, Sr.)

"A MAN OF HONOUR" Ken Byron's 89-year life story
For Your Copy - \$22.95
Roger Brunt 250-537-4713
rbrunt@saltspring.com

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ART

Offering for sale a private collection of works from Papunya Tula Artists Co-op. Exhibition quality, acrylic on Belgian linen. Investment potential. These paintings depict ancient Dreamtime stories of Pintubi people from the Western Desert. Works by acclaimed artists: Nanyuma Napangati (61 x 55cm) \$995, Pantijya Nungurrayi (91 x 46cm) \$1750, and Miriam Napanangka (107 x 28cm) \$995. Includes authenticity certificate with cultural story and artist bio. (250) 931-7899, redochre@shaw.ca, www.livingtraditions.ca

FIND IT! SELL IT!

Find what you need and sell what you don't - in the Driftwood Classifieds. For private party merchandise ads that total a value of less than \$200, use your Chamber of Commerce Residents Card and save 50% off the price of your ad. 250.537.9933, classified@gulfislands.net

HOT TUB (SPA) COVERS.

Best price. Best quality. All shapes & colours available. 1-866-652-6837
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H&H TRAILER SALE. Bow Valley Ford, Canmore, Alberta. Thousands in discounts. Clearing the lot. Cargos, flatbeds, car haulers, goose-necks, more! 1-800-403-0084 ext. 257 or alan_way@bowvalleyford.com

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Save up to 50% or More & NO PST/GST On All New & Used Furniture, Mattresses, Tools & Hdwe 'til 5pm Sat. buyandsave.ca BUY & SAVE, 9618 4th St, Sidney.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

29 STRING Celtic harp with soft case \$700. Olds Tenor Saxophone \$500. 537-5139.

Who reads us?
88% of Islanders read the Driftwood each week.
-Combase survey

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

REAL ESTATE listings for the Gulf Islands are viewable anywhere in the world with internet access. www.gulfislandsrealestate.ca

RENTALS

APARTMENT/CONDO

JAMES BAY, one bedroom fully furnished condo available near Beacon Hill Park. Beautiful ocean and city views. Short 10 min walk to downtown Victoria, shopping, and facilities. Secure building features pool/spa, exercise facility, and guest suites. Upgraded bathroom and kitchen with stainless steel appliances including dishwasher. One secure underground parking stall. Includes linens, full kitchen, etc. \$1250/month or for extended lease can be rented unfurnished. Phone 250-298-0650 or email kensak@hotmail.com

COTTAGES

NEWLY RENO Vesuvius bach sep ent, nr bus, quiet area. NS \$575 incl util. 250-537-0008.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR RENT

NOW ONLY 2 sites avail. on acreage close to Ganges with services, bring your trailer or RV. \$400 + \$600 + hydro. 250-537-2650 lv. message.

HOMES FOR RENT

2 BDRM HOUSE, Jan 1st, longterm, quiet, \$800/mo. plus util. Ref's req. 250-538-7795.

2 BED, 1 bath, 5 appl., 1/2 acre, close to town. Immediately. Long term. \$1200 + util. 250-538-2323.

COTTAGES ON St. Mary Lake, fully furnished, NS, NP. Starting at \$650/mo., available Oct. 15 to Apr 1. 250-537-2585.

SEASONAL ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION INFO for the Gulf Islands is a mouse-click away: www.gulfislandstourism.com

SHARED ACCOMMODATION

SINGLE, N/S female to share with same, a larger 2 bdrm, Ves. apt. \$450/mo. incl. wood, light, water. I am quiet, easy, 50yr who will be around part of week. 250-537-2809.

SUITES, LOWER

1 BDRM ground level suite. Own entry, W/D, satellite. \$700 all util's incl. Suits one person. 250-537-2949 or email: isokol@saltspring.com

HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

TOWNHOUSES

3 BR, 2.5 ba, NS, 6 appl. grge, strge, gas fp, fnced yd/patio, on bus rt, nr RRU, incl. hw, prking, garbage, 1 indr cat OK Lease \$1750/m + util. Avail. Jan 1st. 250-388-5894 or taitconsulting@shaw.ca.

TRANSPORTATION

AUTO FINANCING

\$0 DOWN at auto credit fast. Need a vehicle? Good or Bad credit call Stephanie 1-877-792-0599 www.autocredit-fast.ca. \$500 Free Christmas Cash with purchase. OAC. DLN 30309.

WANT A Vehicle but stressed about your credit? Last week 11 out of 14 applications approved! We fund your future not your past. Any Credit. \$500 Christmas Cash! www.coastlineautocredit.com or 1-888-208-3205.

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2005 SMART CAR; Cheap and Cheerful! Diesel; Passion Model; 33,000kms; One Persnickety Female Owner; All maintenance records from North Shore Mercedes Benz Dealership; A/C; Heated Seats; Rear De-fogger; Keyless Entry; Alarm System; Bose Music System/CD; Fantastic Inexpensive Island Car. Grey Interior/Black with Grey Exterior. \$10,500. Kemble96@telus.net

MOTORCYCLES



SCOOTERS
Gas & Electric.
Island's Largest Selection.
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marc@sgpower.com

SCRAP CAR REMOVAL

SCRAP BATTERIES Wanted We buy scrap batteries from cars, trucks & heavy equipment. \$2.00 - \$12.00/each. Free pick-up anywhere in BC. Minimum 10. Toll Free 1.877.334.2288.

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1990 FORD Ranger, white, V6 with canopy, runs well. \$2800 obo. 250-538-7077.

HOMES FOR RENT

MARINE

BOATS

18' WHITE fiberglass canoe, strge, gas fp, fnced yd/patio, \$400. 250-931-1370.

OUTBOARDS
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from 2 HP to 350 HP
Four strokes
New & Used
Great Selection
Great Prices

Over 40 years in Victoria



730 Hillside Ave., Victoria
250-382-8291
www.sgpower.com jay@sgpower.com

SIMPLY SALT SPRING

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You are in the mood to take deliberate action. It is likely you are ready to commit to some pretty serious undertakings. Gathering new tools and techniques, replacing old ones, is likely. You are wise to take a patient approach. Now is a good time to begin but set the intention to follow through 'as long as it takes'. The ascent you are ready to start will take you to new heights of power, in time.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)
You may be in the mood to let go of old 'stuff' this may include traditions and prior notions. The time has come to initiate new traditions. The light on your path is getting brighter. Risk is required for success. The future beckons. Yet, maintain a clear focus on the steps required. Maintain a balance of awareness on the big picture and the details.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
The endings hinted at over the past few weeks are entering into their next effective stage. This will continue for several weeks. You may be more open to insight and guidance than ever now. Your intuitions are no longer whispering they are a clarion call of trumpets. You are ready to take command of situations. Others may consider you controlling. Regardless, you will do what you feel you must.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
Relationships on all fronts are undergoing deep changes. At best, you are feeling sparked to venture in new directions and/or in new ways. The danger now is that you will forego what has real meaning and value to you personally for the sake of approval and ambition. Be careful of this attitude because you may be held strongly to your promises. Keep your ambitions within the scope of your actual energy levels.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
You may notice you are paying closer attention to the details these days. This may include taking things more personally than you used to. Life is very much about energy and how we can make best use of our own. Avoid getting lost in every perceived slight. If you feel cynical or defensive shift your attitude. Focus your energies on the details of your art, or work, and/or creative projects and prospects.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)
This time of year stands to be a creative period for you. Versatility, scope and range of expression and activity will serve you best. Managing your time well is implied. With Mercury retrograde, you will have to make extra efforts. Be as flexible as you can and avoid trying to control the unexpected turns and/or others. Taking the lead for you now means getting out of your mind's way and into your heart.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
Sparking new traditions will prove inspiring this year. It may be that the new for you is adhering to what is established for others. You may be extra challenged to please 'all of the people' this year. Some will see your actions as unselfish while others may see them quite the opposite. With so much shifting and shaking close to home, extra efforts may be required to maintain balance and poise.


Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
This stands to be a very interesting and perhaps complex and possibly stressful time for you. With a New Year but a week away, you may feel ready to take some leaps of faith. You may not feel so sure about where, when and how to proceed. Be willing to see yourself and the world and in the world in new ways. Above all, honour your unique creative interests and goals.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You may finally feel more grounded and established somehow than you did last month. Although the unpredictable shifts may continue, especially regarding your home and money or other securities, you may feel able to be peaceful for now. Above all, you want to be free. Where this is not available or blocked you will feel very rebellious. This is a time of truce, rest peacefully as you can.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
Something new is starting in your life. This may imply or incur great responsibilities and duties. Either you feel that something has left you cold or others feel that you have been too aggressive. One of your core life challenges is to feel genuinely warm, inside and out, towards yourself, others and life in general. This is your next challenge. Balance this warm intention with deliberate focus.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
Working behind the scenes somehow is the call now. This may include making preparations both inside and out to clear, clean and prepare for a New Year round. Rest and retreat is also implied. Developing more trust in your own self and abilities, others and the world in general may be especially important now. Taking the time to count your blessings will produce many returns now and over time.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Returns for past efforts are rolling in now. They can come in any form; gifts, promotions, opportunities, inspirations, new friendships and so on. Take note of what you notice, to measure how you have earned them. On the other hand, also take note of negative returns so you know where to focus to improve. You can't change yesterday, yet you can redeem it with more positive choices and actions today.

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Thank You

Cindy Walker, Kim Nash, Cordula Vogt, Donna Orsi, Elly Silvermann and Jonelle, for the exciting beginnings of Ganges Yoga Studio.


Morley Meyers who really made it happen, together with Contractors and their respective crews: Art Munneke, Gary Stander, Alex Arnett and Lee Mason.

To Rick Abramyk, a faithful "trouble shooter" and Leslie DeAthe for "holding course". To Dick and then Mike & Renee for Property Maintenance and John Oblati & Angelo for the shiny windows, Shauna for her Virgo attentions and Ann McPhee for the sparkling floors.

Thanks everyone, it could not have happened without you!

A multitude of deep bows, prostrations and ommms! Celeste

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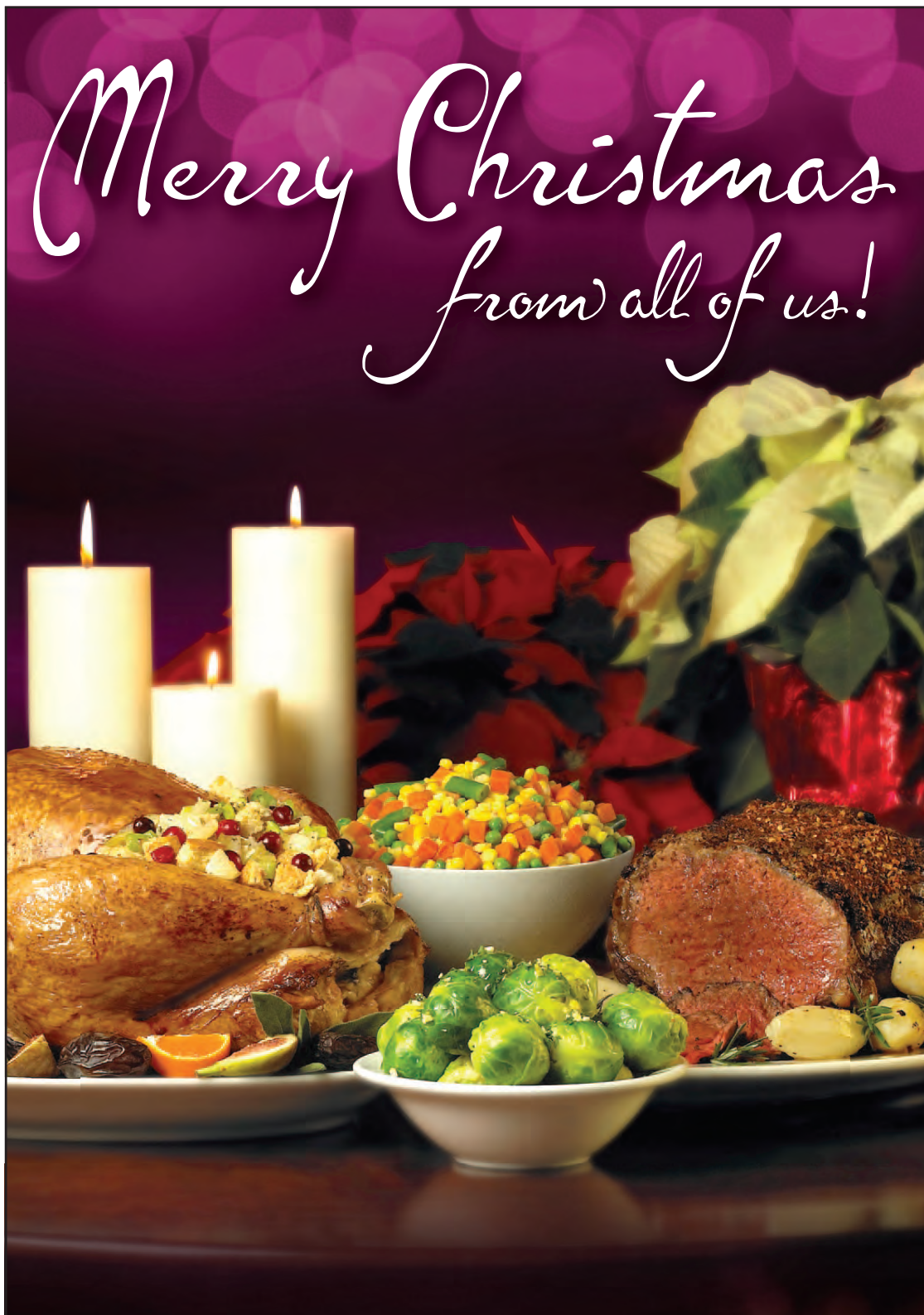


Tao Kimball

from the staff of the

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**Hate it or love it:
MMA is coming
to Vancouver**

It's official, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is coming to Canada's west coast.

Vancouver city council voted in favour of allowing mixed martial arts (MMA) events for a trial period of two years in the city last Thursday, something that fans of the sport have vigorously pursued for the last few years.

The decision, however, does not come without controversy as the province of Ontario has not yet withered in their stance to ban MMA events from taking place within its cities. And while the UFC's loyal followers in British Columbia rejoice, many are still repulsed at the sheer idea of it.

Part of the fear lies within the type of audience MMA fights generally attract: young men (and women) full of piss and vinegar and about seven bottles past their first sip of beer for the night. Loud, impatient and ready to see someone's face get smashed is a Friday night for most of these people.

Yikes. On the other hand, do these types of people not already show up to Vancouver Canucks and B.C. Lions games?

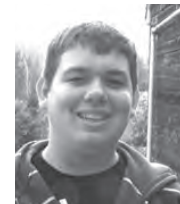
If you think the answer is no, you're only fooling yourself. Sure, now there's the whole "status" crowd who attend these games, but you still have your stereotypical obnoxious drunk guy yelling obscenities at the opposition in the name of the home team.

It's just one of those things. And let's be honest now, MMA is without question the fastest growing sport in the world today, so in terms of profit, the UFC is a cash cow.

Thousands flock to these often sold-out matches and buy the overpriced pay-per-views just to see, for lack of a better term, two dudes pounding the ever-loving crap out of each other for a living.

Somebody needs to contact Human Resources.

But the fact remains, if you were



Patrick Cwiklinski

LET'S TALK SPORTS

to bring a marquee name such as Georges St-Pierre or Brock Lesnar to GM Place, not only would it sell out but people would be willing to pay some ridiculous

sums of money to get in. So at least one thing the people of Vancouver wouldn't have to worry about is an MMA event costing more money than it makes.

However, to most people who are against MMA, it's not about money so much as it is about morals.

Sure, the violent nature of the sport appeals to a large audience, but it's not something you'd let your five-year-old watch unless you couldn't care less about what he or she is doing, in which case you probably should think twice about having kids to begin with.

There's no debate that MMA is a violent sport full of blood and brutality, but right now, this is what is selling the most seats at large venues, and as it stands, it looks like that trend isn't going to slow down anytime soon and maybe that says something about the kind of society we live in.

But I'm not going to get all Dr. Phil on you and tell you what's wrong and what's right, it's just a fact.

Hate it or love it, the UFC will be coming to Vancouver in summer 2010 and the quicker those opposed to it just accept the fact, the quicker it'll be over and done with.

And for fans of MMA, get ready to see some good old-fashioned beatdowns courtesy of Dana White and the gang.

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Arts & Entertainment



Among the Driftwood's top cover art contest submissions were these pieces created by Gulf Islands Secondary arts students (from left) Anika Kitka, Matt Beaver and Katie Melen.

BOOK REVIEW

Passionate artists get hours in the limelight

Second volume in Unheralded Artists series now available

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Life and Art of Frank Molnar, Jack Hardman and LeRoy Jensen, the newly released second volume in the Unheralded Artists of B.C. series from Mona Fertig's Mother Tongue Publishing, is an interesting read and lovely to look at, with vibrant colour photos of the artists' work on virtually every one of its 146 glossy pages.

The quality of the design, photography and printing is impressive, and my first thought was: Mona, you done good!

Fertig's father George was one of B.C.'s unheralded artists, and while a book about him will be next in the series, Fertig has made it her life's work to help get recognition for as many of our unheralded artists as she can.

Certainly, this volume is a good way for anyone to get to know B.C.'s outsider artists — people who had talent and worked all their lives as artists, yet never achieved mass recognition, often because they didn't follow the artistic trends of the time.

The book is of special interest to Salt Springers, since Jensen lived here until his death in 2005, while Molnar is still alive and living in Vancouver, and Hardman died in 1996.

There is a separate section about each art-



Mona Fertig of Mother Tongue Publishing.

ist, with Eve Lazarus writing about Molnar, Claudia Cornwall covering Hardman and Wendy Newbold Patterson telling Jensen's story. The authors are all well-published writers, with long lists of story and book credits.

Molnar, Hardman and Jensen were alike in many ways. All three taught art, both to share their techniques and talent and put food on the table.

Molnar was one of the first art teachers at Capilano College. Hardman taught Burnaby high school students and was the director of the Burnaby Art Gallery from

1976 to 1981. Jensen resigned from teaching posts at UBC and the Banff School of Fine Arts because he disagreed with traditional art instruction.

In fact, all three artists showed their maverick streaks early.

Molnar fled Budapest for the United States during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, then came to Vancouver in 1962 to paint against the Canadian art grain. Lazarus says Molnar is known for his "bold dynamic nudes with provocative themes and sensuous colours."

But Canadians apparently have never been keen on nude paintings. According to Molnar, "They think my art is disturbing for the children. They say they wouldn't have it in their living room, wouldn't have it in their home."

Molnar's nudes pose in vibrant blue and turquoise rooms with red, orange and yellow flowers and vases, or are surrounded by green leaves, birds and a lemon-coloured moon.

They're not for the lover of pastel, but being beyond the pale is something Molnar shared with Hardman, a sculptor and printmaker.

Hardman was influenced by cubism, and created semi-abstract pieces, often of family groupings, in the '60s when the prevailing sculpture style was non-figurative.

In the book, we see clusters of his small futuristic figures, and larger, totemic stacked square and oblong shapes, their

sides carved with symbols and patterns of lines.

Hardman's style was seen as a betrayal of the modern art movement, and he often suffered from depression and suicidal tendencies as he struggled to "make it."

He even destroyed some of his pieces in desperation. When he became the Burnaby Art Gallery's director, he tried to make a difference in the art world by giving many different types of artists a chance to show their work.

Jensen's life was unusual from the beginning. He was born in Vancouver, lived in China and Japan as a child, where he first learned to draw, then joined the merchant navy at the age of 14 after lying about his age.

He eventually studied art in Denmark and France. Returning to Vancouver in the '60s, he found an art scene dominated by the tastes and trends of New York, then focused on abstract impressionism.

Jensen had trouble getting an exhibition since his style was based on what he called four forces — movement, luminosity, rhythm and spirit.

His paintings are bold visions of female figures emerging from complex layered backgrounds.

They're intense, almost primitive looking. In 1982, Jensen joined black sheep nation, moving with his family to Salt Spring.

He had been a founding member of **BOOK** continued on B3

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

DANCE REVIEW



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

GISS dancers commanded the stage at ArtSpring last week.

High school dancers stage hugely impressive show in Do you Have the Time?

Audience bears witness to emerging talents

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It was a night of talent, a night of courage, a memorable night of dancing as GISS dance students took to the stage last Tuesday and Wednesday night at ArtSpring.

The show, entitled Do you Have the Time? featured two groups of dancers under the tutelage of GISS teacher Sonia Langer: one group featuring beginner students who'd been dancing for the past 13 weeks and the other composed of Level Three dancers within the GISS dance program.

Besides two large group numbers choreographed by Langer, the entire program consisted of routines choreographed for and by the students, which played on themes of love, relationships and what it means for young people today to hold their own in a constantly changing world.

The night opened with a number choreographed by Deena Whitcutt and Jacqueline Schubert, performed to Lady GaGa's Pokerface.

Starting off with a poker game, complete with card sharks in black sunglasses, the piece busted out some great energy and the seven young ladies on stage were clearly enjoying every moment of their time in the spotlight.

Dream, choreographed and danced by Carly Davenport, Nikky Varlis-Love, Paige Penny, Jolen Maclean, Jenna McRobb, Nicole Jory and Olivia Kornelsen, was an especially enjoyable number. Telling the story of a little girl wanting to be a dancer when she grows up, the piece featured some sweet and innocent partnering to start, then burst into a sexier routine set to Britney Spears' Crazy. Sunshine Rhythm was full of

bright and fascinating choreography by student Sophia Lynn and featured brilliant smiles from dancers Nicole McMahon, Tiana Rumford and Samantha Brunt. This happy little number had some interesting African-style movements and kept the dancers in constant motion throughout the piece.

Sweet Temptation, danced by beginners Chloe Esposito, Codi McIninch and Rebecca Johnstone, had more of a contemporary feel and was notable because the dancers did a remarkable job of giving it their all.

I especially enjoyed Alien Invasion with its creepy alien seeking to control the movements of two other dancers. This piece included some great theatrics and the three dancers Linda Middleton, Alix Wilson and Ella Bronstein remained fully in character throughout.

Simply Needed was simply beautiful and Maclean (who choreographed the piece for Middleton, Aileen Pang and McRobb) should be commended for a job well done. The number included long, fluid movements and the choreography utilized each girl's strengths.

Langer's group number for the Level Three class was completely charming. The old-fashioned costumes and use of cool props (including a home-made car!) added to the fun and the piece had the audience laughing as well as ooh'ing and ahh'ing. Mission Impossible was another treat, starting out with a seductive tango and morphing into a hilarious group of MI gals "dance-fighting" over their man. With some very serious (and very funny) booty shaking and the full commitment of every dancer on stage, this piece will go down as one for the books.

Amalia Smith shone in I Had a Dream, an absolutely exquisite piece that highlighted her extensive dance training. Here Smith was definitely in her element, exuding passion, commit-

They definitely proved they have been exploring and finding the power within the expressive qualities of dance . . .

ting fully to her movements and creating some beautiful shapes on stage.

In Mad Flava, the second group piece choreographed by Langer (this time for her Level One class), the audience was surely impressed by the display of great footwork, cool formations and big smiles by its beginner dancers.

Some small recommendations for the dancers would be to remember that facial expressions say as much to the audience as the movements themselves.

A dancer looking at his or her feet or watching their neighbour for assurance takes away from the dance. As an audience we love to see dancers commit 100 per cent and to not pull back or cheat the motions. After all, there were some beautiful routines in this performance and the crowd wanted to see them stretched out to the last possible moment!

Overall, what an accomplishment for these beginner and intermediate dancers. The shows were made all the more impressive when considering that some of these courageous lads and lasses had only been dancing for a little over three months. They definitely proved they have been exploring and finding the power within the expressive qualities of dance and we, the audience, were only too happy to bear witness to their emerging talents.

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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents...

Flick Pick

Jason Tudor

Public Enemies — nothing new, but not bad

Oh, Public Enemies sure sounds like film heaven. You've got director Michael Mann, master of masculine dramas with a touch of action. You've got Johnny Depp, Christian Bale, Billy Crudup and Oscar winner Marion Cotillard. You've got the story of John Dillinger, full of shootin', robbin' and cocky dialogue.

Somehow, though it doesn't all work, and now that's truly something criminal. Ouch. Actually, that joke is even more criminal.

The film focuses on the last 13 months of Dillinger's life, told in supposedly fairly accurate detail. Dillinger (Depp) escapes jail and goes on a bank robbing spree with a few compadres, arousing the attention of both J. Edgar Hoover (Crudup) and the Depression-addled American masses. Hoover's looking to drum up support for a federal anti-crime unit; the masses are looking for a hero.

While Hoover assigns crack agent Melvin Purvis (Bale) to the job of catching the dastardly villain, Dillinger falls for the beautiful young Billie Frechette (Cotillard) and promises her he'll give up crime if she'll just be patient for one last score. Of course, we viewers all know where this is going, even if we don't know the real story of Dillinger's last days.

This was my biggest problem with Public Enemies: it all felt so by-the-numbers. I'm not saying it's a bad film, only that it's exceptionally predictable. Now, of course Mann can't exactly change historical fact. What happened happened. But the way in which he depicts it in terms of narrative, aesthetics and subtext is all standard Mann stuff.

Now, if you know Michael Mann, you know what I'm talking about. Men doing manly things but always with a sense of romantic, semi-existential angst, all the while looking great and gritty.

But Public Enemies doesn't register as nearly as interesting as most of his other works, missing as it is Heat's cacophonous street-level shootouts and epic Brian Eno score, Last of the Mohicans' grandstanding Daniel Day Lewis, Collateral's freakishly evil Tom Cruise, or the criminally under-appreciated Miami Heat's glossy, steamy intensity. There's just no reason to care about anything in this film and, given the people involved, that makes it a serious disappointment.

I don't want to say that Public Enemies is really that bad of a film. It's just nothing new. The key here is that a "nothing new" Michael Mann film is still better than 90 per cent of anything else you'll find on the video store shelf.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WINTER WEAVING: Geri Alton from Bramblewood Farm does a little spinning during last Saturday's Christmas market in Centennial Park.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE

Lots of ways to ring in new year

Several events and PB swims planned

While the Harry Manx evening at Fulford Hall has long since sold out, there's still plenty of options for celebrating the new year on Dec. 31.

At Mahon Hall, a "massive all-out party" is promised with live bands from Vancouver, Victoria and top DJ talent direct from Hawaii and California.

Joining the bill is local Salt Spring band Pulselab, headed by Meghan Casault, plus Mindil Beach Markets and Renegade Movement.

"Expect a massive sound system, light show and top entertainment talent to ring in 2010 in style," says James Whitehead, best known as part of Great White Shark, who is promoting the event.

The all-ages and all-night show opens at 10 p.m. Ladies are invited to join the party free of charge before 11 p.m. General admission is \$10.

At Moby's Pub, a fancy dress party with Son De Cuba is on tap. Call Moby's at 250-537-5559 for information

and tickets.

Down at the Fulford Inn, Alf Reda and the crew have a special New Year's Eve dinner planned, along with dancing to Dale and Dave. There's no cover charge and the evening includes complimentary New Year's snacks.

See next week's Driftwood for other late-breaking dinner and entertainment events for Dec. 31.

On Pender Island, the 11th annual Magic Lake Lantern Festival is unfolding under the title of the Web of Light.

Events include the Lanterns and Light Parade, which travels from the Danny Martin Ball Park to the Magic Lake picnic area. People are asked to bring their lanterns to the park at 4:30 p.m. for the procession that begins at 5 p.m.

Musical performances, a Web of Light gallery of lanterns on display and wandering minstrels are all on tap at the beginning of the evening.

Main events include a Whales of the Salish Sea kayak ballet on Magic Lake, Pender youth giving a Larger than Life cho-

reographed stilt show, a Web of Life shadow dance performance and a grand finale called The Promise of a New Year.

Lantern-making workshops are set for Dec. 28, 29 and 30. Call Nicola Povey at 250-629-3707 or Jude Farmer at 250-629-6930 for more information, or email lanternfestival@shaw.ca.

Also on Pender Island is a New Year's Eve party

at the Community Hall with Big House Voodoo and a party at Poets Cove Resort.

New Year's Day polar bear swims are set for Salt Spring at Vesuvius Beach at 11 a.m. and off Morningside Drive in Fulford at a time TBA. Port Browning Marina hosts the swim on Pender Island at 1 p.m., while the Galiano Island polar bear swim is at Azure Beach (off Ganner Drive) at noon.

All the listings - all the time
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Reviving voices of B.C. artists

BOOK
continued from B1

Greenpeace and continued fighting for social environmental causes here, like preservation of the Texada lands while pursuing his passion — his art.

With The Life and Art of Frank Molnar, Jack Hardman and LeRoy Jensen, Fertig has given three passionate artists a shot in the dark. She says she's been called their Mother Teresa by BC BookWorld's Alan Twigg, but she sees herself more like a much smaller presence.

"I'm like a little mouse gnawing at the gate of art history," says Fertig. "I'm saying 'Let these voices in.'"

The Life and Art of Frank Molnar, Jack Hardman and LeRoy Jensen is available at local bookstores, WinterCraft and the new Starfish Gallery in Grace Point Square.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHRISTMAS TEDDY: Lance Leask has a new friend. The two were seen at the Legion's Christmas fair and sale on Salt Spring.



Stuart McLean, you're in Meghan's sights

Everyone should practise their storytelling art

BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

I think I've discovered the perfect job for me — to become a professional storyteller.

I've been thinking a lot about storytelling, after recently attending Stuart McLean's Vinyl Café Christmas show in Victoria. Anyone who listens to Stuart McLean knows that his radio show is essentially a medium for great stories — his own, his listeners' and those of the musicians who play on his show.

Sitting in the balcony of the packed Royal Theatre, it struck me how incredible it was that here we were, 1,400 strong, sitting quietly, listening to a man telling stories.

There were no pyrotechnics, no razzle-dazzle costumes, definitely no sexiness and absolutely no extravagance. There was just a man, a Christmas tree and a voice . . . and we had paid for the privilege of listening in.

Stu is certainly no Britney Spears and yet there we were, children, teenagers and every age above, fascinated by the "performance." What it is about storytelling that has the power to hold 1,400 people spellbound? Maybe it's that it makes us feel like children again — children with imaginations as wide as the sky, children sitting on the rug in a kindergarten class, listening intently while our teacher reads us a story.

After all, as adults we're rarely read aloud to (unless you count your husband or wife reading out the newspaper obits) and nobody tells us made-up stories anymore (unless you watch Fox news).

I have always loved stories. I have memories of sleep-overs with girlfriends where we would lie in the dark and simply "make up stories" to one another.

LIVE AND LEARN

We would transport ourselves into well-known stories like the Lady of Shalott, changing and adapting them as we saw fit. It was pure magic.

As an adult, I've made it a practice to store my best stories in a special grab bag of the brain, somewhere I can draw them out with ease when the proper occasion arises. I've got my staples — stories guaranteed to draw a laugh or touch the heart. Just ask me about the camping incident with the Pee-zee or about the time a fellow university student sleep-walked into my dorm room and peed in my drawer (not all of my stories surround urination). I take pride in the telling of these stories, adding to them and reworking them and even telling some of them in this column.

I've always been envious of those cultures where the art of storytelling is still valued and honoured — those cultures that still have strong oral traditions where children are taught about who they are and where they come from through their own stories and histories.

Some might even say storytelling helps define us as human beings. It is the world's oldest activity, after all, going on since the first days of man. Every single art form is at its heart telling a story: writing, song, dance, poetry and even painting.

And yet, with the influx of texting, emailing and tweeting, I fear that the art and magic of storytelling may soon be relegated to the background of our society. While some might say these modern forms of communication are in fact methods to share our stories, I think they devalue the give and take of telling and listening to stories in person — one human being to another.

I have a friend who works with kids in the dramatic arts. One day he tried to

play a game whereby one child would tell a personal Christmas story while the others sketched what it was they were listening to. The exercise proved to be one in futility.

"I don't have any stories," said child after child.

"What do you mean? Everyone has stories," my friend replied, but could get no further with the children.

The problem here was not that the children didn't have any stories to share . . . the problem was that they didn't recognize the stories they already owned. Kids today seem to think stories are things that happen to "other people" and don't see that their short lives thus far are already stuffed to bursting with stories worth sharing.

They don't see that the time their Uncle Jim drank one too many rum and egg-nogs and got himself tangled in the Christmas lights is a story. Or that the time the Christmas tree was so dry that when Mom turned on the ceiling fan, it blew pine needles so deep into the house they were still picking them out of carpets a year later — that's a story too.

So I hope this holiday season you'll make sure to tell your kids some of your own stories while also encouraging them to tell their own. And remember . . . stories aren't just for children. In a world where everything is explained and rationalized to death, storytelling might be the only magic we have left.

While anyone can do it, some people (Stuart McLean is one of them) have a natural gift for telling stories. I think in the future I might just aim to improve my storytelling skills and give ol' Stu a run for his money.

Now that would be one hell of a story.

Meghan Howcroft's Live and Learn column is usually seen in the Driftwood's Weekender, but the Weekender won't be published on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

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CHRISTMAS STORIES



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

HAPPY HATS: Oscar and Violet Fox stay warm in their hats as they play on a tire swing in Centennial Park.

CHRISTMAS STORIES

Love, trees, elves and rock concerts

Annual contest demonstrates local kids' creativity and skill

Salt Spring Island youth and teachers once again seized the opportunity to create a storm of words for the Driftwood's annual Christmas story writing contest.

Following are the first and second-place winners in the various age categories, which were drawn up based on the number of entries received in the age group. Some 170 entries were received in total.

Judging was again undertaken by a group of retired teachers — Alex Mitchell (coordinator), Dan Davies, Louise Nye, Victoria Olchoweki and Betty Poole. The high school category, with stories submitted by students of English teacher Peggy Williams-Gerlach, was judged by Driftwood staff.

First and second-place winners can pick up cheques of \$30 and \$20, respec-

tively, from the Driftwood office beginning today, Tuesday, Dec. 22.

The stories run on pages B5 through B13, in no particular order. As well, the honourable mention names and stories are listed randomly.

Age 5-7: First place, Zama Szakacs, A Kitten on Christmas Eve; second, Cassidy Bellavance, The Christmas for Angel. Honourable mentions: Samantha Shore, Julia Meets the Snow Princess; Lukas Fisher, The Greedy Boy; Annie Bateman, The Winter Magic.

Age 8: First place, Ella Baker, The Most Wonderful Gift; second, Davin Norgard, Santa's Sick. Honourable mentions: Nathan Welsh, Christmas With a Mouse; Linnea Barrett, An Amazing Day.

Age 9: First place, Madeline Woodley, The Artificial Christmas Tree; second, Jasper Irwin, The Santa Catastrophe. Honourable mentions: Fae van Barstead, The Christmas Wish; Abe Green, The Two Elves; Jasper Cowell, How Calvin Saved Christ-

mas; Ty Davies, A Christmas Dream.

Age 10: First place, Julianne Robertson, Believe in Something Else; second place, Tai Jacobs, Rudolf and the North Star. Honourable mentions: Trent O'Donnell, Snow Wars; Jeyda Gordon, The Midnight Sleigh Ride; Scott Shields, Saving Christmas; Molly James, A Magical Christmas; Jackson Walde, The Touch of Ice; Catelyn Creswick, Believe!; Emily Elaine Christie, Halloween Christmas.

Ages 11 to 13: First place, Norees Gasper, The Little Pine Tree; second, Jenna Aston, The Missing Cookie. Honourable mention: Becki Steel, The Year There Were No Presents.

Ages 14 to 16: First place, Sarah Kennedy, The Snowman; second place, Nick Slakov, The List. Honourable mentions: Danica Jensen, A Kraft Christmas.; Melissa Macfarlane, The Magic of Snow; Eva Olynyk, Christmas, Like, On Salt Spring, Eh?; Mariah Viberg, Winter Box of Memory; Andrea Castillejos, A Stranger's Help.

The Artificial Christmas Tree

BY MADELINE WOODLEY
AGE 9
FIRST PLACE

It all started one cold and starry night a few days before Christmas. Ruby was walking up her long driveway with her Dad.

They had been down with some pellets for the wild rabbit which they had discovered living on their property. The pellets were supposed to make the winter easier to survive for the little animal with tan fur and a tail as white as snow.

Ruby was an average nine-year-old girl with long auburn hair, brown eyes and a golden complexion. As she walked alongside her father, doubtful thoughts ran through her head. You see, a few days before, Ruby's parents had bought an artificial bayberry spruce Christmas tree with the lights already on it. They had

gotten it because they felt that it would last them for years, as long as they took care of it, and it would save them the yearly sight of the live Christmas tree dying in front of their eyes.

Because of this, Ruby felt that it just wouldn't, it just couldn't be Christmas. Not without the fun of choosing a tree from the Boy Scouts at Windsor Plywood or without the smell of the fresh evergreen. These thoughts were still going around in her head when she and her father reached home. As the two entered the house they saw Ruby's Mom and siblings trying to decide whether to put up the star or the angel. Finally they decided on the star. Their two-year-old brother clapped in delight. It almost looks real, thought Ruby... but only for a second because she quickly banished the thought from her mind.

Her mother sensed her daughter's disappointment and, gently taking a blue box, walked towards Ruby.

"Here," her mother said softly, "pick a tree to hang these on."

Ruby, still bundled up from the walk, went out to the front yard. She chose a small fir tree that was full of suet balls for the birds to feed on. She hung them all and stood back to look at the tree. Something was still missing so she went inside. A few moments later she came back out with her hands full of beautiful ribbon. Stringing it from branch to branch she finished decorating the little tree. As Ruby turned to go inside to join her family she felt happy and peaceful. Now she understood what her parents meant and accepted the artificial tree with an open heart.

When Ruby woke up on Christmas morning she looked out her window and was greeted by the loveliest sight she had ever seen. The little tree she had decorated was full of birds enjoying a Christmas feast! Ruby turned away from the window and walked downstairs. There was the artificial tree in all its glory. Ruby smiled. This was going to be a perfect Christmas after all.

Believe in Something Else

BY JULIANNE ROBERTSON
AGE 10
FIRST PLACE

Off in the horizon Amy could see the sun set. As beautiful as it was, she steps away from the open window, steps back, takes a big breath and whispers, "It's almost Christmas."

Then she closes the window.

"Amy, time for dinner," her mom yells from downstairs.

Amy goes downstairs slowly, walks into the kitchen and sees her Mom sitting with her plate at the table. Amy says hi to her mother, sits down and starts eating. Her Mom starts talking about how her brother is very sick and he might die. They need new medicine for her brother because the medicine spilled. They need a new bottle of medicine and there is no label. Christmas is only a day away and the doctor said he might die two days after Christmas.

Amy finishes dinner, thanks her mom, kisses her brother and puts her plate in the sink. She says good night and goes

upstairs, puts her pajamas on, and sets her alarm so she can wake up early. She turns off her light, closes the blinds, and goes to bed.

The next day, she wakes up to her alarm clock, says good morning to her Mom and eats breakfast. While eating she prays she can go to the North Pole to get the medicine for her brother. While eating Christmas Eve dinner with her Mom, Dad and brother, she wishes it was the middle of the night so she can meet Santa and go to the North Pole.

In the night, she wakes up to the thudding of hooves on the roof. She runs to her window and pushes away the blinds, opens the window, yells, "Santa, are you there? I need you to take me to the North Pole to get medicine for my dying brother. It is getting late and he could die earlier than he was supposed to. I need the medicine now. I can only get it from the North Pole."

Santa brings his sled down and is hovering beside the window.

He says, "You have to jump, Amy," in a very noble way.

Amy says, "Are you sure I won't fall?"

"Yes, I am sure you won't fall. I am right here," Santa says.

Amy jumps.

"It's a good thing I came here last or else you would have to come with me all around the world which would be fun but we still have to get your broth-

er's medicine very quickly," says Santa.

"Okay," says Amy, and they ride to the North Pole.

When they get to the North Pole, Amy gets out and helps Santa get out the bags that were filled with toys and runs into the shop. When she gets into the shop, she stops where she is and looks all around. The shop was almost empty of toys. Since Santa had already made his trip there were no toys. The elves were running all around cleaning the spots that were filled with toys for so long it was dusty. Once they saw Amy, they stopped in their path. Amy said "hi" to all of them at once and started explaining to the closest Elf why she was there. The Elf said he could make that kind of medicine if he could get one of the ingredients.

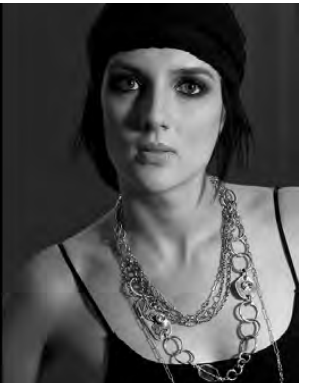
Amy put down the bags where she was standing and the Elf ran to Santa and explained what they were doing. Amy and the Elf set off on their journey.

The Elf remembered he had a stash in the shed with the reindeer so they ran to the reindeer and got the ingredient. The Elf made the medicine very quickly. Amy said thank you to the Elf. Amy and Santa ran off in the sled as quickly as possible.

On Christmas morning she gave her brother the medicine. Her brother did not die and she was very grateful for Santa and the Elf.

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What's On This Week

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Tues.
Dec. 22

ACTIVITIES
Holiday Green Drinks.
All welcome at the Harbour House. Music & food. 5 to 8 p.m.

Wed.
Dec. 23

ACTIVITIES
Creekhouse Christmas.
Santa visits Island Star Video and Mark's WorkWearhouse, plus Acoustic Planet, Orca Electronics, SS Soapworks and Windflower Moon. With music, hot chocolate, spiced cider. 5-8 p.m.
Food Bank Collection.
Island Star will give a free rental to anyone who brings a donation for the food bank between 6 and 8 p.m.

Thurs.
Dec. 24

ACTIVITIES
No activities scheduled at this time.

Fri.
Dec. 25

ACTIVITIES
Gary's Community Christmas Dinner.
Dinner for everyone at Meaden Hall. Noon to 2 p.m.
Christmas at The Local.
The Local Pub is open from noon to 6 p.m. for "show & tell."
Traditional Christmas Dinner.
At the Harbour House.

Sat.
Dec. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Hey Boy Hey Girl.
Live band at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. on.
KC Kelly.
Plays steel guitar at Harbour House lounge. 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Boxing Day at The Local.
The Local is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. for 'show and tell.'
Neighbourhood Night at the Raven.
Every Saturday at Raven Street Cafe from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sun.
Dec. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
The Barley Brothers.
Still alive and un-plugged. Every Sunday at the Fulford Inn. 6:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Leather Mask Making Class.
Led by Andrea Russell. All proceeds buy toys for refugee children on the Thai-Burmese border. 2 to 6 p.m. Register: Andrea, 250-537-5834.
Worship Service with Rev. Al Tysick.
At SS United Church with leader of Our Place in Victoria. 10 a.m.

Mon.
Dec. 28

ACTIVITIES
SS Christmas Bird Count.
Annual bird count on Salt Spring. Call John de Haan at 250-537-8329 for info or to participate.

Tues.
Dec. 29

ACTIVITIES
No activities scheduled at this time.



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CINEMA
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The Blind Side with Sandra Bullock plays next at The Fritz!

- EXHIBITIONS**
- **ArtSpring Lobby Show** for your holiday enjoyment is work by **Nixie Gerbitz, Suzanne Prendergast, Margaret Threlfall and Beth Threlfall**. Runs to Jan. 2.
 - **Salt Spring Artists' Gallery** presents **The Big Small Show** at **135 McPhillips Ave.** through December.
 - **Starfish Gallery & Studio** is Salt Spring's newest fine art gallery, open at **1108 Grace Point Square**. Fine art photography plus new etchings from **Anais La Rue**.
 - **Roderick Shoolbraid's Nature 2008-09** is the December exhibit at the **Salt Spring Coffee Company Cafe** in Ganges.
 - **Mikaela Heydemann** shows her artwork at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro** through December.
 - **Lisa Lipsett** is exhibiting her work at **Island Savings Credit Union**.
 - **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at **Jana's Bake Shop**.

Our Calendar - on your smartphone

On your smartphone, go to **getscanlife.com** and download the free software. Use the scanlife software to take photos or scan the barcode. Information in the barcode will direct your mobile browser to the on-line version of the Driftwood's What's On Calendar.

Community Christmas Dinner
Friday, Dec 25th
Noon to 2pm
Meaden Hall
Info: SSI United Church - 250-537-5812

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Email: classified@gulfislands.net

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CHRISTMAS STORIES



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ANGEL SMILES: Some of the angels in the Community Gospel Chapel's live nativity on Sunday were, from left, Kamryn and Mikayla Little and Miranda Bantel.

The Little Pine Tree

BY NOREES GASPER
AGES 11-13
FIRST PLACE

In a little patch of woods near the small town of Appleton was a little pine tree. This was a rather scruffy pine tree and it was also quite short.

As Christmas approached, the people of Appleton would go to the little patch of woods to find a Christmas tree. The little pine tree, whose name was actually George, got really excited. He and his friend (a sparrow, whose name was remarkably Sparrow) would make themselves look extra special. But the fact of the matter was that George never got picked! The people always wanted nice, perfect, big Christmas trees.

And this year George was feeling particularly lonely because Sparrow had decided to fly south. As he stood there he watched the other pine trees being potted and brought home to families and made into beautiful Christmas trees. It was only one week 'til Christmas and George was feeling quite lonely indeed as he stood there with fluffy white snow lying on his uppermost branches. He shivered as an icy wind blew through his branches.

All of a sudden he saw them. A little girl talking to her Dad.

"Daddy, I want to have a beautiful Christmas tree," she said, her eyes gleaming.

George sighed. "I guess I'll just

have to spend Christmas alone for the rest of my days!"

As he thought this, the little girl and her father rounded the corner and suddenly she spotted him.

"Daddy, Daddy, this is it! The most perfect Christmas tree ever!" she screamed.

Startled, George had thought that she was talking to the bigger tree next to him! But as he was lifted from the ground and into a pot, then carried to their car, his surprise faded into excitement. He was going to be a beautiful Christmas tree after all.

They drove a little ways, not far, but for George it was the farthest he had ever been. They hoisted him out of the car and into their house. It was warm and the smell of cookies lingered in the air. They placed him in their living room right in the centre! He felt sooooo important!

The little girl called to her mother and soon in came a kind-faced woman holding a bowl of cookie dough.

"Look at the tree Mom, isn't it perfect?"

"It certainly is," her mother replied.

"I'll go get the decorations," her father added.

He and his daughter left the room. He soon came back with a box of Christmas tree decorations so big that George could have fit inside it.

He took a beautiful star out of a box and gave it to the little girl who had just reappeared with her little brother. The family decorated George for hours and in the end he was the MOST BEAUTIFUL Christmas tree in all of Appleton!

The Christmas for Angel

BY CASSIDY BELLAVANCE
AGES 5-7
SECOND PLACE

The bad guy was here to take her away to kidnap her but Elfie came to save her.

Then they went to Elfie's house to get a snack and then they went to Santa's house together. Then the reindeer were getting ready to chase them. And they started to chase them and finally they chased them and they ran and ran and ran and ran. They

ran so fast they got really tired so they went back to their houses and they were so tired they went to bed.

But the next day they played in the snow. They had so much fun. They had snowball fights. They had so much fun but they got so tired that they went to bed and they had a good night's sleep.

Angel was making dinner when all of a sudden a bad guy showed up.

Santa's Sick

BY DAVIN NORGDARD
AGE 8
SECOND PLACE

On a dark and spooky Christmas Eve, Santa got sick. So he had to send Sid the sloth and Steve the monkey to do his gift-delivering duties.

They didn't know how to get the presents to the right kids, so what ended up happening was that they had to go to

every Toys R Us in the world! On the way, in Vancouver, Steve saw a candy shop.

He saw a picture of gummy bears so he jumped off the sleigh and jumped into the candy shop.

The store manager saw Steve and tried to hit him with a broom. Steve accidentally jumped into the ice cream freezer and turned into a Steve-sicle.

Meanwhile, Sid saw the candy shop and decided he would get a snack.

He went in and bought a popsicle.

He looked at the other side of the popsicle and there was a tail sticking out!

When he realized it was Steve, he quickly stuffed him

into the oven to defrost.

When they got outside, the sleigh was nowhere to be seen.

"Oh no!" said Sid.

"How are we going to deliver the presents?"

Sadly, they walked down the street wondering what to do next.

They came to a Christmas concert where a rock band was playing. Sid read the concert poster and the band was to play a concert in Greenland later and they were using their private jet to get there.

Sid's eyes lit up and he smiled at Steve.

Sid and Steve went into a clothing store in Vancouver. Sid and Steve bought clothes from the store and got dressed

up.

Sid said, "This is the way to get on the jet, Steve."

They had to wear mohawk hairdos and bring fake band equipment to get on the plane.

When they got to Greenland, they snuck onto an icebreaker ship and sailed away to the North Pole.

They came to Santa's workshop and there was the sleigh, tied up at the front, with all the reindeer ready to go.

"We got the reindeer back!!!" said Sid.

They quickly jumped in the sleigh, delivered all the presents to the children of the world, and had enough time left over to stop in for a rock

Rudolph and the North Star

BY TAI JACOBS
AGE 10
SECOND PLACE

It was Christmas Eve. The elves were packing the last of the presents.

Others were getting the reindeer ready or cleaning the sleigh. When the elves came to Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, his nose would not shine.

The news was quickly reported to Santa, who hurried to Rudolph.

"What is wrong, Rudolph?" said Santa.

"I do not know," said Rudolph. "I was just standing by the win-

dow when a bunch of clouds rolled past. But one of the clouds has not moved away yet and my nose will not shine," said Rudolph.

"Well I do not think I can deliver all these presents on my own with only the North Star to guide me."

Santa went over to the window. "The cloud, of course, it's covering the North Star!" said Santa.

"Yes, but what's that have to do with my nose?" said Rudolph.

"I think I get it now," said Santa. "Your nose is powered by the North Star, isn't it?"

"Yes," replied Rudolph, "so if we cannot see the North Star then your nose will not have any power and therefore will not shine, correct?"

"Yes," said Rudolph.

Santa hurried to the Toy Factory, where coincidentally his top inventor had just completed his invention: the Cloud Blower SP.

"Well, this is a good time to test the Cloud Blower SP," said Joe, the inventor.

"Good ideal!" said Santa.

Then Santa chose a team of elves to go on this mission and he ran to Rudolph's stable as the elves blasted off.

When the elves reached the height that the average plane flies at, they turned on the Cloud Blower SP.

Whoosh! The cloud was gone in a flash and Rudolph's nose had power once again!

Christmas was safe just as the clock struck midnight!

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CHRISTMAS STORIES

The Most Wonderful Gift

BY ELLA BAKER
AGE 8
FIRST PLACE

Once there was a fairy named Holly. She had a brother named Oak. He was a very good flute player.

Holly loves to sing and dance. Sometimes Holly makes Oak play the flute and Holly sings and dances.

Once in the dark of December an angel named Leaf flew into the willow tree.

Leaf said, "It is an emergency!!! It is an emergency!!!"

Holly said, "What can we help with?"

Leaf said, "I need Oak to play the flute and I need you to sing Silent

Night."

Holly said, "Where are we going?" Leaf said, "We are going to be late, come on let's go!!"

As Holly, Oak and Leaf were blazing through the sky, Leaf said, "Here we are."

Holly said, "What is so special about a barn?"

Leaf said, "It is what is in the barn."

Then they went into the barn. In the barn there was a donkey, a baby, a poor lady and three wise men.

Leaf whispered, "And a one, and a two, and a . . ." Leaf and Holly sang in the most magical voices while Oak played the flute in the sweetest way he knew how.

The baby, who was crying, began to smile and giggle and snuggle with his mother.

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The Missing Cookie

BY JENNA ASTON
AGES 11-13
SECOND PLACE

“Oh my,” Santa exclaimed when he read little Keith’s letter.

“What does little Keith want this year?” asked the elves. “He says that in the little pet shop around the corner from his house there is a little white terrier puppy,” said Santa. The wind whipped my face and my ears blew back. I heard the bells attached to the sleigh jingling in the cool winter’s air. I felt like a bird. And as I sat in the cosy bag of toys I slowly drifted off to sleep. I woke up startled when I felt the toy bag being lifted off

the sleigh and onto the roof. I looked out the top and saw the chimney.

I was cold. I curled up in the bag again, but not for long.

As soon as you could say “Santa,” I felt like I was being squeezed into a toilet paper roll. Santa popped out the chimney with his bag of toys.

Then it hit me. It was the smell of cookies and milk. I stumbled out of the bag and onto the floor.

“No cookies for you,” chuckled Santa cheerfully.

At the third house I had decided that he was a cookie hogger. He ate all the cookies and drank all the milk.

After that he delivered his toys to the stockings.

We went to about seven or eight more houses (one of which contained a very enormous guard dog) before he took me

out of the bag and upstairs to a bedroom.

He plopped me into the stocking on the frame of the bed. Then Santa was gone.

I barked after him, and then Keith sat up in his bed and got up.

I barked again. He ran over to me, picked me up and brought me to the window.

We looked up into the dark blue sky and saw Santa and his reindeer flying through the air.

I saw Santa every year on the same day.

I would wait for him at the fireplace every year.

He would smile and say, “Hello, Bobbi” and go to eat his cookies.

But what he didn’t know was that there was always one cookie missing.

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The Santa Catastrophe

BY JASPAR IRWIN
AGE 9
SECOND PLACE

The penguins were arguing.

“How come the North Pole gets all the attention? It’s all Santa this and Santa that.”

Their leader stood up. “We must do something,” he said.

“What we must do I’m not sure of yet. All my tiny brain can think of is . . .”

The North Pole was

in a mad rush.

Elves were running everywhere, gathering presents for the big night.

Bob, the elf, was walking down the street when a penguin came up to him and asked who he was.

Bob said he was Bob and asked the penguin if he was on vacation.

Behind him, Bob saw an army of penguins with icicles on boats.

“What’s going on?” Bob thought.

The penguins were charging off the boats and onto the North

Pole.

The elves were no match for the swarm of penguins.

Santa looked out the window and saw penguins trashing the workshop.

“Halt all penguins!” the head elf yelled.

The penguins kept trashing the factory. Bob the elf grabbed some fish and ran onto the boat.

The penguins perked their heads and ran on the boat yelling, “FISH! FISH!”

Bob left the fish and jumped off the boat. The boat floated away.

The factory was a mess but Santa was cheerful.

“Let’s go! Let’s get this place going!”

“Who wants hot chocolate?”

The elves cheered.

As the penguins floated away, the leader said, “Well that didn’t work, but at least we got fish.”

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CHRISTMAS STORIES

The Snowman

BY SARAH KENNEDY
AGES 14-16
FIRST PLACE

Ellis pulled her woolen scarf tighter around her neck.

The air was frigid and the winter wind pounded her frozen face relentlessly, but still the young girl did not retreat. Despite the best effort of the December day to defeat her, Ellis merely brushed the snowflakes off her scarf, tied it more firmly, and reached for another armful of snow.

She couldn't see far across the whitewashed landscape. New York was in the middle of a snowstorm, and the only things that Ellis could see were the Christmas lights on her house shining dimly through the cloud of snow that fell in heavy flakes, covering the girl's front yard in a cold, white blanket. The only other visible object in the yard was Ellis' snowman, which was nearly complete.

As the temperature continued to drop, Ellis

placed another layer of snow on top of her creation, smoothing it out and rounding off all of the rough edges with her small fingers. The snowman's head had to be perfect, and Ellis had spent so much time already that she was not about to quit now. Once the third large snowball was deemed complete, Ellis took a step back.

The snowman was perfect. Each of his three bodily layers was nicely rounded and smooth. She had already placed bits of coal down his chest to form buttons and wrapped a red scarf around his neck. Ellis had retrieved two long sticks for his arms and now all she needed to do was complete his face. After that, she would allow herself to go inside and sit by the fire, admiring her work from the window.

Ellis reached down and brushed some snow away near her feet. The supplies she had brought outside with her had been nearly buried by the swiftly falling snow. The girl gingerly retrieved the pile of coals and, selecting only the roundest ones, proceeded to place the snowman's

eyes and mouth.

After she was finished, Ellis grabbed the long orange carrot, which had nearly been frozen to the ground. She stood away from the snowman for a moment, judging the best placement for his nose, and then carefully inserted the vegetable into his face. Ellis brushed some excess snow away, and then placed a hat on her snowman's head. Finished, at last. The snowstorm was beginning to let up and the snow began to fall a bit thinner on the white ground.

She was finished. Before her, in her front yard, lay a work of art finer than anything that could be placed on exhibition in a museum. This snowman was of a different sort of beauty.

After a few minutes of adoration, Ellis decided to go inside. Satisfied with her work, she collected the unused bits of coal from the ground and began to walk toward her house, using the brightly coloured Christmas lights as a guide.

Ellis couldn't help but break into a smile. Every year, she had built a snowman in the

yard, and every year the neighbours would always stop by and compliment her on it. This year, she would have the best snowman in town, and it would be all because of her own hard work. She deserved a rest. Ellis could already taste the hot chocolate as she hurried toward the door.

"Hey, Ellis!" The girl turned and was met promptly with a snowball sandwich. Her face was already numb from the cold air, but the icy projectile stung her cheeks nonetheless. Ellis was nearly knocked off her feet, and she stumbled back, dropping the coal pieces from her hands.

A young boy, bundled up from head to toe, emerged through the snow. He was wearing a woolen hat, scarf, heavy jacket, mittens, snow pants, and a pair of beautiful yellow gumboots.

"Right in the kisser," he giggled, pointing at Ellis' white-pasted lips with a mittened finger. "What a shot!"

"Ben!" cried Ellis, wiping the snow away. "What is your problem?"

"My problem is that you're an idiot," said Ben, sniggering once more at his clever sense of humour. "Why are you standing here in the middle of a blizzard anyway? Did you forget which house is yours?"

Ellis rolled her eyes. "I was just going inside," she said. "I was building a snowman, if you have to know." She flashed him a sneer. "I'm sure it's better than yours."

Ben frowned. "I'm a better snowman builder than you are!" he said,

stomping one yellow boot. "I bet your snowman looks like a snow cone!" He smirked.

"Yeah, well I bet yours looks like you were trying to make a self portrait, only you thought you were a giant marshmallow," said Ellis. "I'm going inside."

Ellis promptly scooped up the coals that she had dropped, turned on her heel and began walking away. Ben's pale cheeks turned red and he shouted, "Well, you know what your snowman looks like now?" Ellis turned to see the bundled-up boy make a rush for her sculpture. Before the frozen girl could even react, Ben had jumped up and ripped the carrot right off of the snowman's face.

"Hey!" said Ellis, throwing the coals aside. "Cut it out!" But Ben was not finished. As soon as he saw that Ellis was upset, he broke into a grin. He took a bite out of the carrot and tossed it aside. Ellis was taking long strides in his direction, but Ben still had enough time for one more move. With all of the strength that he could muster, he put his hands on the snowman's midsection and pushed.

"No!" screamed Ellis, but it was too late. She had made the snowballs so smooth that the middle and top ones slid gently off of the base with ease, falling to the ground with a dull thud. They crumbled to bits, and now Ellis was left with only a big snowball, pieces of coal, and a bitten carrot.

"Now your snowman

looks like a snowball," said Ben. "Oh, wait. He is only a snowball!"

Ellis didn't say anything. She merely ran up to her ruined sculpture and shoved the boy out of the way. The girl bent over the remains of the two snowballs that had fallen, in hopes that perhaps they could be repaired, but as her fingers brushed against the snow, she could see that she would have to start all over again.

Ellis turned her head away from the sigh and met the eyes of the boy who was standing next to her.

"Go home," she said in a voice that was colder than the blizzard itself. The snow continued to fall, and a fine layer had accumulated on Ben's woolen hat. He was no longer smiling.

"Go home," repeated Ellis, still bending over the ruins of her snowman.

Ben stared at her. The colour had gone from his cheeks, and he looked sorry and a little scared. But he said nothing, and after a few moments of silence, he turned away. Ellis watched him walk away through the snow until she could no longer see him, only the whiteness of the blanketed from the yard, marred by a few pieces of coal and a bitten carrot.

"Ellis, it's time to go to bed."

The small girl straightened up at the sound of her mother's voice. She turned to stare at the coloured Christmas lights that marked the location of her house, on the other side of the yard.

Ellis cast a final look at the lone snowball,

with the coal pieces scattered around it. Tomorrow, all of the other yards would have happy snowmen standing in them, after the big blizzard. All of the other yards, except Ellis'.

Ellis tightened her woolen scarf around her neck, and began walking toward the brightly coloured lights.

The next morning, the snowstorm had ended. Ellis woke up before everyone else and went downstairs. She got dressed to go outside, tying her woolen scarf tightly around her neck. She decided that she might give it another try and attempt to make a new snowman. But in her heart, she knew it wouldn't be the same.

Ellis opened the door and stepped out into the cold air. The whole world was covered in a veil of snow, and everything was white and sparkling as far as she could see. Normally, she enjoyed these winter mornings, but with no snowman in her yard, the effect was ruined.

Ellis' gaze fell upon her own white yard, and she blinked. There, right where she had been working on her own yesterday was a snowman. Ellis was taken aback, and she hurried through the deep snow to see if it was real.

It was. Three perfectly round snowballs sat one on top of the other, lined down the front with little bits of coal as buttons. Two sticks were placed for arms, and more coal made up two eyes and a mouth, topped by a woolen hat. And there, right in the centre, was a carrot with the tip bitten off.

A Kitten on Christmas Eve

BY ZAMA SZAKACS
AGES 5-7
FIRST PLACE

Once on Christmas Eve my kitten Rocky jumped onto my bed.

Rocky had found a stray kitten.

So I fed the stray and in the morning I went to the SPCA to get a collar for the stray.

The kitty liked me and I liked the kitty. The kitty also liked my whole family.

Once we got back from the SPCA we ran to the Christmas tree to open our presents. I got a ring. Ava got a doll and Nusha got a TV. Our Grandma Googa got us a TV. Our Aunt Cathie also gave us presents.

Driftwood

OWNER'S MANUAL

chapter 5

>AQUA

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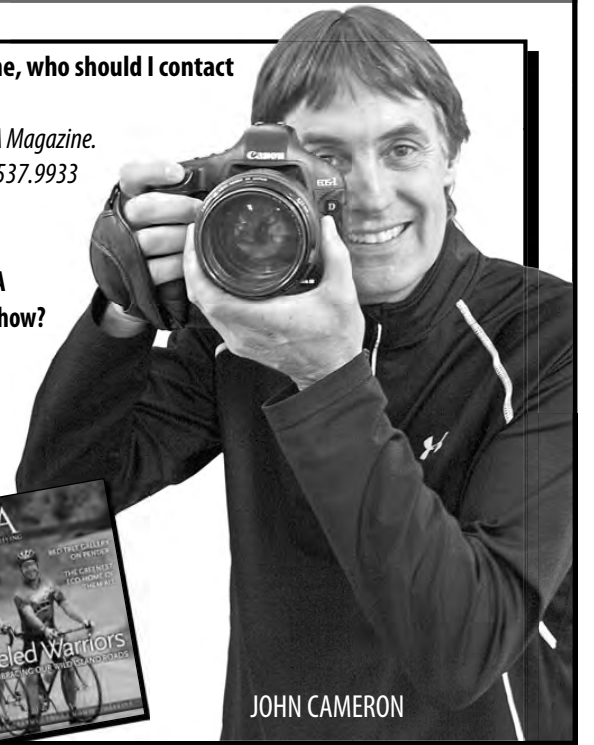
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The List

BY NICK SLAKOV
AGES 14-16
SECOND PLACE

The blood red light of the sun sinks out of sight between two snow-covered hills.

It's amazing to me that something so majestic and profound can go so unnoticed by the human species.

I am amazed that as I lie here in the snow on Christmas Eve, people are bored with their lives.

I trudged home through the snow to what I knew would be an extraordinarily normal dinner, with an extraordinarily normal family in an extraordinarily normal house.

Everything just seemed like it would always be the same. I knew that there had to be more in the world than my town in Ontario. I thought that I could do better.

My whole life stretched before me, but all I had to look forward to was the same thing. I wanted more in my life.

As I opened the door from the garage into the mud room, confetti burst from the walls around me, with a torrent of light and colour as my family welcomed me home on Christmas Eve.

But, in the depressive state that I was, I just pushed past their happy faces and ran to my room.

I was mad at them for keep-

ing me locked up in their boring world.

Did they ever think about what I wanted? No. It seemed like they were all content to sit here and rot in this nowhere town.

Snow was piling up thick outside of my bedroom window as I moped around my room trying to find something to do until I would have to face them all again.

Just then a small piece of paper was slipped under the door along with a pencil.

It was titled, "Things I am thankful for," and underneath there was room for a list. Taped to the back was a dirty brown envelop that looked like it was about to fall in two pieces.

It was labelled the same as the first piece. I guessed that it was my father Richie's.

I quickly scanned through his list. It seemed more like a list of things he wished he could be thankful for but didn't have.

Then at the bottom there was a note that looked more recent.

"Son, when I was 15 I was discontented with my life. It seemed almost like the world was conspiring against me, dragging me down. I felt ready to leave my home but my family and friends didn't understand, not that they were violently opposed to me leaving, just that they couldn't understand why I would want to change anything. My father gave me a piece of paper with the title, 'Things I am thankful for.' As you can see, I was selfish and think I really hurt him in showing him that list. Since then I have written other lists like this one only being more honest and realistic. I hope you don't make the

same mistake that I did."

And so, heeding my father's words, I started out on a journey that would deeply move me.

I started with the basics, I'm alive, healthy, and all that stuff. As the minutes turned into hours I came to a conclusion.

"To make a list of things that I am thankful for is impossible. The list would be infinite. However, I have come up with several main, all-encompassing things that are worthy of real gratitude.

"First off, if you think about the chances of there being something as opposed to nothing, nothing is quite a bit more probable, so I give thanks to the fact that there is existence.

"Second on my list is that I was born, am sentient and I am alive. Next comes that I live on earth and I am a mammal. I am a HUMAN! Humans are intelligent, we can rationalize, we can communicate with each other in many different ways.

"Next, I live in North America. Not only do I live in North America, I live in Canada! I am considered "middle class," which means I can go on vacations. Vacations, what an absurd idea, really, that I can do things with my time other than just survive.

"I am healthy, my family is healthy and I live in a fantastic village with no war and no hate. Against all odds, I exist."

Some people are bored with their lives on Christmas Eve. Don't be one of them.

Appreciate what you have, because you have more than humans can comprehend.

Like this beautiful sunset between two snow-crested hills.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
JUGGLERS: Devon Quinn, left, and Kathleen Measures juggle seasonal balls in Centennial Park during last Saturday's Christmas market.

Salt Spring Island Baptist Church

Christmas Eve Service
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Christmas & New Year Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ Thursday, December 24
Family Mass Christmas Eve 5 pm Our Lady of Grace (Ganges),
Christmas Mass 10 pm St. Paul's (Fulford)

CHRISTMAS DAY ~ Friday, December 25
10 am Our Lady of Grace Mass (Ganges)

NEW YEAR'S DAY ~ Thursday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8 am St. Paul's (Fulford) • 10 am Our Lady of Grace (Ganges)

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Sat. Dec. 19, 3 pm—5 pm • Thurs. Dec 24, 10 am -11 am

Our Lady of Grace extends every blessing to you and your family for a Joyous Christmas and New Year

POWER SQUADRON

Course offers safe-boating essentials

Local instructors and volunteers deliver marine confidence

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Regardless of whether you prefer to sail, motor or paddle your way among the Gulf Islands and beyond, an upcoming course offered by the Salt Spring Island Power Squadron is just the thing to keep you and your crew on track and above board.

"It's described as Canada's premier recreational boating program for in-depth boat operation and safety training plus the challenge of plotting and navigation," said Derek Castle, commander of the Salt Spring squadron.

"It's really our cornerstone course."

The 13-week boating course offers up a general introduction to the safe handling of boats of all types.

Graduates will receive the mandatory Pleasure Craft Operators Card (PCOC), a one-year membership to the Canadian Power Squadron and the chance to meet like-minded and knowledgeable folks from the island's boating community.

Topics include types of boats, boat handling, government regulations, nautical charts, aids to navigation, rules of the road, elementary chart plotting and calculations, the compass, bearings

and fixes, safety considerations and equipment, lines and knots, anchoring, weather, canals, locks, and boating courtesies and customs.

The course also features a student cruise in which groups of students hit the water to hone their skills in an extended navigation session.

Castle said the skills learned by students in past years have proven extremely useful in the deceptively complex waters around Salt Spring.

Currents, winds and hidden reefs, he said, combine to make the waters of the Gulf Islands some of the craziest in the country.

"It can be more challenging than the open water," Castle said.

"There are a lot of things to hit and a lot of things can go wrong."

Although kayakers haven't traditionally looked to the Power Squadron's offerings, much of the information about navigation, currents and weather is especially useful for people setting out in smaller boats.

Given that kayakers are more susceptible to nautical dangers, knowing what to do in the event of an emergency is even more important than it is on a larger boat, said Castle, an avid kayaker.

The Salt Spring Power Squadron's dedicated crew of volunteers have been trying to minimize what can go wrong since the local chapter was established back in 1972.

The local chapter is among a nation-wide network of 171 squadrons and an active membership of more than 41,000 members.

The non-profit organization works closely with the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada to ensure the group is up to date with the latest safety standards and information.

The Canadian Power Squadron was created in 1938 as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting boating safety and a greater knowledge of the marine environment.

"There were too many people out there who didn't know what they were doing," he said.

Here on Salt Spring, Castle said, dozens of committed volunteers representing a broad range of professional backgrounds offer students a place to learn the basics, polish up their techniques and socialize with fellow boaters.

"Some people think all it is is safety, but it can also be a lot of fun," he said, adding that the group's two entertainment coordinators make sure there are plenty of chances to mingle with fellow boaters.

The local group includes 24 bridge, or executive, members who are responsible for the group's day-to-day operations.

"We're just blessed on this island for the knowledge, the willingness to volunteer and the skill set that volun-

"There are a lot of things to hit and a lot of things can go wrong."

DEREK CASTLE
Squadron commander

teers bring," he said. "It's a real cross-section of people."

Some of the section's volunteers have backgrounds as Royal Air Force pilots, professional meteorologists and university professors.

The squadron strives to achieve a balance between knowledgeable veterans and energetic newcomers who

can shape the group's future.

"All the volunteer organizations need young blood to stay alive," he said.

A complete list of all the courses offered by the Salt Spring Power Squadron is available online at www.saltspringsquadron.com.

"The spectrum of education goes all the way from the basic PCOC all the way up to celestial navigation," Castle said.

The website also provides plenty of background information about the group and regularly updated newsletters.

The basic boating course costs \$255 and starts on Jan. 12. For more information about the class, contact Lynn Clark at 250-537-5377.



Nairn Howe

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- It cannot silence courage.
- It cannot invade the soul.
- It cannot steal eternal life.



"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray."

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island Christmas Services for 2009

Thursday, December 24th
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's
4:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist at All Saints

Friday, December 25th
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's

Sunday, December 27th
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at All Saints

Friday, January 1st
12:00 noon - Naming of Jesus Service at All Saints

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

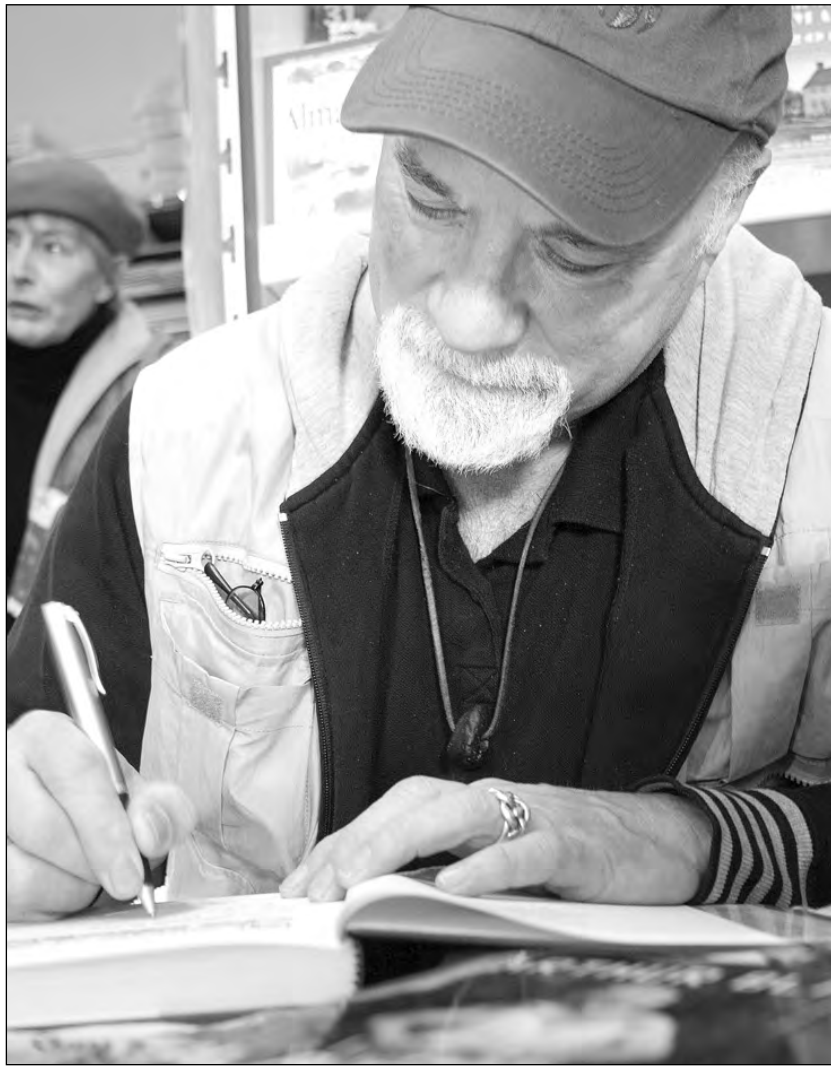


PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

GREEN BOOK: Arthur Black signs copies of his new book *Black is the New Green* at Salt Spring Books on Saturday.

Grabbing the CFSI radio signal

Q: When I'm in my car I can only get the new Salt Spring radio station in some areas. Can you find out why this is the case and if there are plans to make reception better in the future?

A: Variable island terrain and FM wave emission characteristics are what the CFSI management team pinpoints as why the station cannot be accessed on some parts of Salt Spring Island.

Unlike AM radio waves that can travel the contours of the land, FM radio waves travel in a straight line and do not bend around the earth, explains station manager Bob Simpson.



When asked why the station chose an FM signal, despite its challenges, Simpson said an FM station offers better sound quality for music; it is in stereo, where AM is usually not. AM is used primarily for talk radio, and given CFSI's large musical content, the station decided FM was the way to go.

The management team says recent improvements to their transmitting antenna have given listeners improved access in Cusheon Lake, Blackburn Lake, Seymour Heights and Dukes Road areas of the central island, as well as Lee's Hill and Fulford Valley.

Simpson estimates the FM signal can access more than 70 per

cent of Salt Spring Island.

The station is planning future upgrades and working with an engineer to improve listener reception.

For those unable to receive the station's FM signal, the station offers live streaming online at www.cfsi-fm.com. Click "Listen Live Online" and open with a media player. CFSI suggests Winamp for Windows users, iTunes for Macintosh users and Rythmbox for those using Linux.

There are residents in the Beaver Pt. area on dial-up who cannot currently access online radio. The station hopes this will be resolved with a Shaw Communications' federally funded broadband internet service upgrade.



Amy Geddes

YOU ASKED

READ THE BLOG AT WWW.GULFISLANDS.NET/WORDPRESS

CFSI 107.9 FM, being an FM station, is challenged by the extremely variable terrain of the island. When FM waves from CFSI's transmitter tower on Mt. Erskine encounter mountains or large hills, the signals can be stopped or reflected back into space.

SOCIETY

The three-pronged tongue: gossip and community

Gossip's impact on Salt Spring Island

BY LESLIE WALLACE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It doesn't take long for newcomers to Salt Spring to get a sense of our unique island culture.

Generally speaking, islanders are friendly and helpful to each other. When tragedy strikes we are also generous. We talk with, and even hug, people we don't know. And we gossip about each other — a lot.

In a relatively small community such as Salt Spring, an argument could be made that certain types of gossip function as legitimate "news" and might even be regarded as building community.

An islander who sees a lot of people in her business, upon hearing that I was doing this article, remarked that people hearing that a couple has broken up, for example, are less likely to accidentally say things to that person that might cause them pain or embarrassment. Passing along the "news" that someone has passed away will often result in the community responding more quickly with kind words and assistance for the family left behind.

When most people think of gossip, though, they are thinking of the destructive variety, the type of gossip that can damage reputations, make it difficult for a person to get a job or housing or make new friends.

On Salt Spring, reputation is everything. It's common practice on the island to ask other people who live here for references for prospective tradespeople, tenants, employers and employees.

I asked around about a fellow's family before agreeing to go out with him. It's hard to keep a secret here, and if you're a trial to work for, if you're always in conflict with your neighbours, if you cheat your customers, chances are, people will find out about it and they will tell others.

Readers may be familiar with the story about the islander who started a rumour about herself in Fulford, curious to know how long it

would take the rumour to get to Ganges. The reported travel time? Fifteen minutes. It's a great system, as long as the "information" circulating about a person is actually true.

But what if the negative gossip that's been told about someone isn't true? I've been the object of negative gossip twice that I know of. In both cases, the person who was told the gossip told me about it — not to cause me harm — but to let me know that these particular people were speaking badly of me. In one case, I didn't take the incident to heart. The gossip was someone who was in the habit of speaking badly of others and I was confident that my reputation would not be stained by that person's remarks.

I was very disturbed by the second incident, though. Again, the gossip was someone I knew, although not very well. What they said about me was untrue and had potential to do me significant harm in the community. It caused me harm just to hear it, and to wonder who else has heard it, and whether or not they believed it.

How someone talks about a person when they're not present is a pretty good indicator of that person's status in the community. Are they well-liked? Are they respected? Those who study the functions of gossip say that gossip usually has one of two functions — to force people to con-

It caused me harm just to hear it, and to wonder who else has heard it, and whether or not they believed it.

form to group norms, or to help the gossip in some way.

The higher the competition between the gossip and the gossiper, the more likely it will be that the gossip will be of the negative variety. Someone who has been hurt by the words or actions of someone else might revert to gossiping about them if they lack the courage or assertiveness skills to confront the person directly.

Negative gossip has such a potent capacity for harm that spiritual traditions such as Judaism and Buddhism include teachings that specifically address this topic. Judaism teaches that gossip is a "three-pronged tongue" that "kills" three people: the gossiper, the person who hears the gossip and one who is gossiped about.

"Right Speech" is one of the aspects of the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path, one of the principal teachings of the Buddha, and includes avoiding idle chatter

and gossip. In Pali, the language of some of the earliest Buddhist scriptures, the word for slander means "breaking up fellowship," suggesting that early Buddhists were aware of the negative impact of gossip on communities as well as on individuals. In fact, anyone who joins a Buddhist community today is asked to adhere to the Buddhist Precepts, which guide the conduct of those living in the community. Three of the 10 major precepts deal with how we speak with others, cautioning against lying, slander and praising yourself while putting others down.

Perhaps you are one of the lucky islanders who has lived here long enough to hear a story about yourself.

My favourite story along these lines was told to me by a long-time islander. We'll call him John Doe. John was chatting with someone he'd never met before — no names had been exchanged — when the person he was talking with launched into a story about, you guessed it, John Doe. John listened to the entire story. Only the person who told the story could tell us how he felt or what he thought when my friend told him: "I'm John Doe."

Leslie Wallace is a private person who has given up on having a "private" life since moving to Salt Spring 16 years ago.

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a new Q&A column and blog by Driftwood reporter Amy Geddes. See the column on page B14.

DO NOT MISS A POST

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Driftwood

WANTED: Your questions about Gulf Islands life. Email ageddes@gulfislands.net or fill out the question form on the blog.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHRISTMAS MARKET:

Cerika and Georges, of Bohemian Arts, sell their wares in Centennial Park on Saturday..

De-Scottishify? Och! Just say 'no!'

That garret of the earth – that knuckle-bone of England / that land of Calvin, oat-cakes and sulphur.

That would be Sydney Smith running off at the mouth.

Smith was an English clergyman, essayist and wit, a contemporary of Napoleon and Beethoven and, obviously, no great friend of Dear Auld Scotland, which is what he was slagging for being an attic, a skeletal leftover and a repository of brimstone religion and bad food.

Mister Smith must have been possessed of an admirable set of gonads to bad-mouth Scotland that way, considering that he was ordained as a minister in Edinburgh and even helped to found the esteemed Edinburgh Review in 1802.

He's not the only famous name to take a flinty view of Scotland. Lord Byron called it "a land of meanness, sophistry and lust." Charles Lamb sniffed, "I have been trying all my life to like Scotchmen, and am obliged to desist from the experiment in despair." That curmudgeon's curmudgeon, Samuel Johnson, grumbled, "The noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England."

Harsh words, laddies — although to be fair, Scotland does have a few things to answer for. Argyle socks hop to mind. Closely followed by haggis, plaid shirts, kilts, porridge and caber tossing — all accompanied, of course, by the banshee keening of a set of Highland

bagpipes.

I haven't even mentioned Scotland's most cursed bequest to the world. (Hint: it involves dressing up in geeky clothes in order to take long walks in faux-wilderness surroundings punctuated by acts of personal flagellation and self-mortification inflicted with a variety of clubs and cudgels specifically designed for the aforementioned exercise in embarrassment.)

Ah, yes. No accident that, backwards, it spells "flog."

On the other hand, Scotland also bequeathed us Robbie Burns and single-malt scotch. Not a bad bargain.

And, oh yes — Canada as we know it.

If the Great White North could show the ribbons and strains of Scottish blood absorbed just in the exploration of this land — the Mackenzies and Frasers, the Thompsons and Raes, the Douglasses and Dunsmuir

— we'd have a brand new tartan on our hands.

Those early Scots-Canadians mastered parchment as well as paddles. The names of the first six prime ministers of Canada carry a certain burr: Macdonald, Mackenzie, Macdonald, Abbot, Thompson, Mackenzie Bowell.

For a mere knuckle-bone of England, Scotland has made a rather impressive international splash over the centuries. It's interesting, then, that there's a move afoot to stamp all that out. And more interesting that the initiative for the move comes from Scotland itself.

It's even given the English language a

brand new word: De-Scottishification.

This profoundly ugly mouthful means "to re-brand a product or a company in order to play down or remove its Scottish connotations."

Why would any company want to divorce itself from its Scottish background? It all has to do with the decision this year by the Scottish government to release Abdelbaset al Megrahi — a.k.a. the Lockerbie Bomber. The man had been found guilty of involvement in the aircraft bombing that took 270 lives over Scotland. In 2001 he was sentenced to life imprisonment, but this year the Scottish government cut him loose and sent him back to Libya — a decision thought to be not unconnected to a massively favourable oil deal between Scotland and that country.

Whatever the politics, it was a PR disaster for Scotland, leading to world-wide calls for a boycott of all Scottish businesses. The Hebrides company that manufactures the famous Harris Tweed fabric blinked. The company has dropped the word "Scottish" from all of its North American marketing campaigns. "We have been getting a lot of (negative) feedback and we have had to 'de-Scottishify' the image of the brand," said a company spokesman.

No more Harris Tweeds? What next — a blackout of all Sean Connery movies? Do we have to re-name Scotch Broth, Scotch Tape and Scotch Eggs?

At the risk of compounding their misery I think Harris Tweed should be cited for contempt.

Of the English language. "De-Scottishification?" Ugh. Even Sydney Smith wouldn't stoop that low.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

— we'd have a brand new tartan on our hands.

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It's even given the English language a

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Province expands screening program

An estimated 40,000 babies expected to be screened in 2010

Newborns across British Columbia are now being screened for more treatable metabolic diseases and other medical conditions, resulting in early identification and treatment.

The BC Newborn Screening Program, a service of the Provincial Health Services Authority, has expanded screening from six to 18 disorders, using the same simple blood sample already collected from babies shortly after birth.

"Over the coming year, the program will screen about 40,000

newborns in B.C. and will likely identify about 40 babies with one of these 18 treatable conditions," states a press release from the provincial government. "In October 2010, a 19th disorder (congenital adrenal hyperplasia) will be added to the list of screened conditions for newborns."

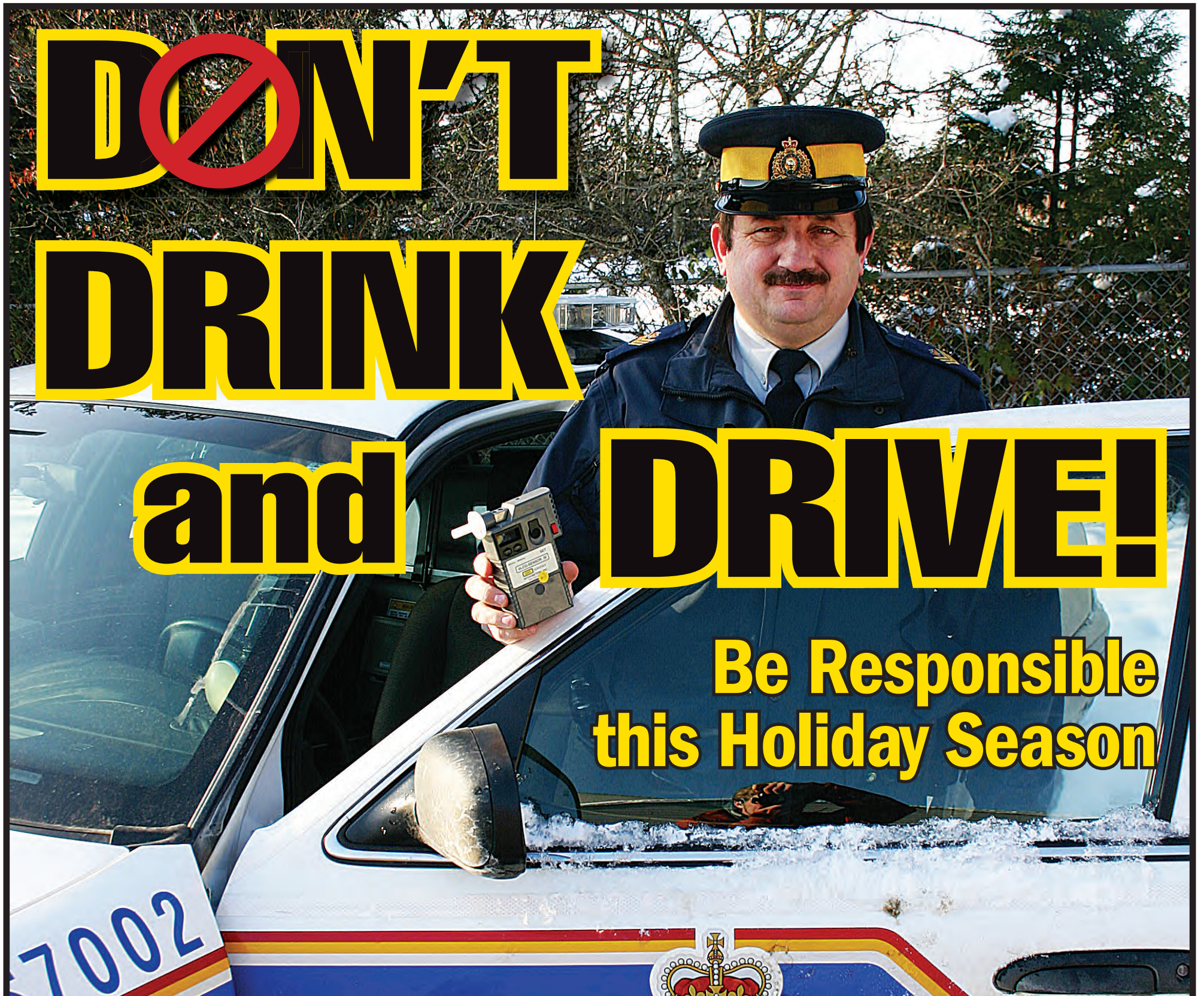
B.C. began newborn screening in 1964 with province-wide screening for one disorder — phenylketonuria (PKU). Prior to this current expansion, the BC Newborn Screening Program screened for six treatable disorders including PKU, congenital hypothyroidism, galactosemia, medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD), glutaric aciduria Type I (GAI)

and long-chain 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (LCHAD).

"Screening for these 18 treatable disorders improves health outcomes for those affected children. These disorders were chosen after a careful review of the medical literature and best practices," said Dr. Hilary Vallance, medical director of the BC Newborn Screening Program and chair of the newborn screening advisory committee. "There are no additional steps for families or health-care providers, as the testing utilizes the same few drops of blood taken from the heel of a newborn that has been collected from babies born in B.C. for more than four decades."



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