



# Driftwood

Wednesday, August 4, 2010 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 50TH YEAR — ISSUE 31 \$1.25 (incl. HST)

**BC FERRIES**



PHOTO BY TOBY SNEGROVE

A BC Ferries employee talks with frustrated passengers at Village Bay after the Queen of Nanaimo made a hard landing at the Mayne Island terminal on Tuesday morning, leaving travellers originating from Salt Spring and Pender islands stranded on the boat for three hours. Five people were injured.

## BC Ferries crash at Mayne injures five

Incident cripples Queen of Nanaimo

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A passenger was airlifted to a hospital in Victoria with a head injury after a BC Ferries vessel plowed into the Mayne Island ferry terminal on Tuesday morning.

The victim was among four passengers and one crew member injured when the Queen of Nanaimo "experienced a hard landing" as it docked at its Village Bay berth just after 7:30 a.m.

"About 10 seconds before it happened, the captain told everyone we were going to hit the dock," said Owen Hooper, a 15-year-old passen-

ger who was on his way to Vancouver for the day. "It was crazy. I didn't know we were going to hit until I saw how fast we were going."

Hooper, who was seated with his friend Courtenay Bolton near the vessel's gift shop, said the impact sent many people to the ground and knocked items off the store's shelves.

Hooper said it felt like the vessel's engines lost power when the boat was put into reverse as it approached the dock.

Approximately 201 crew members and passengers were stranded on board for approximately three hours as emergency workers fixed the off ramp and RCMP officers conducted three

**"I didn't know we were going to hit until I saw how fast we were going."**

OWEN HOOPER  
*Passenger aboard Queen of Nanaimo*

sweeps of the vessel.

"It was basically a precautionary measure to make sure everyone was accounted for," said RCMP Sgt. Rob Vermeulen.

Emergency personnel from the Coast Guard and Mayne Island Fire Department also offered assistance. Police had not released the injured

**CRASH** continued on A2

**TOURISM**

## Weather blamed for poor tourist start

Businesspeople hope for better second half in 2010

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Business owners on Salt Spring are hoping tourist dollars will increase after an alarmingly slow start to 2010.

Chamber of Commerce general manager Paul Neale said B.C. Tourism statistics show a significant drop in visitors from 2009 to 2010. Visitors to the Ganges Visitor Information Centre were down by 12.5 per cent in the first quarter and 14.6 per cent in the second quarter with numbers counted until the end of June. Bus traffic in the same period went down 25 per cent.

Requests for information from would-be visitors were also down. The tourist information centre received 67.4 per cent fewer emails and requests for brochures in the first quarter of 2010 than during the same period in 2009, and 21.9 per cent fewer in the second quarter.

Neale said tourism sectors were warned that the benefits of the Olympics would likely be felt in the long term rather than the short term, and may not result in more visitors until 2011 at the earliest. June's cold weather was no help, and while numbers appear to have improved in July, they still aren't as high as hoped for.

**TOURISM** continued on A2

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TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft	TIME	HEIGHT m	HEIGHT ft
<b>AUGUST</b>					
04 06:36	1.0	3.3	08 01:53	3.2	10.5
WE 16:13	2.8	9.2	SU 10:01	0.3	1.0
17:16	2.8	9.2	18:17	3.2	10.5
22:50	3.1	10.2	22:35	2.8	9.2
<b>05</b>					
07:29	0.8	2.6	09 03:01	3.2	10.5
TH 16:53	3.0	9.8	10:47	0.3	1.0
18:58	2.9	9.5	18:42	3.2	10.5
23:37	3.1	10.2	23:25	2.6	8.5
<b>06</b>					
08:22	0.6	2.0	10 04:10	3.1	10.2
FR 17:22	3.1	10.2	TU 11:30	0.4	1.3
20:36	3.0	9.8	19:07	3.3	10.8
<b>07</b>					
00:42	3.1	10.2			
SA 09:13	0.4	1.3			
17:50	3.2	10.5			
21:43	2.9	9.5			

**NEWSBEAT**

**BC Ferries uncertain about sailings**

**CRASH**

continued from A1

people's names by Tuesday afternoon. Hooper said BC Ferries provided passengers with complimentary food from the vessel's galley during the wait. He and Bolton boarded a Swartz Bay-bound ferry soon after disembarking the Queen of Nanaimo and decided to spend the day in Victoria.

Salt Spring Air's Philip Reece said his airline got the call from BC Ferries soon after the incident to fly staff from Salt Spring to Mayne.

"We didn't know how bad it would be," he said.

By Tuesday afternoon, the airline had flown several passengers from Mayne to Vancouver and some BC Ferries personnel to the scene from Richmond.

Deborah Marshall, a spokesperson for BC Ferries, said engineers were still trying to fix the damaged vessel and dock on Tuesday afternoon.

She could not say how long the vessel would be out of service nor confirm what caused the incident. The second berth at Village Bay is still operational.

Toby Snelgrove, a Mayne Island resident who made his way down to the dock after hearing the news, said the dock's pilings appeared to be listing outwards and the boat's entire front-end loading bay was damaged.

He commended BC Ferries' staff and emergency crews for their professional



PHOTO BY TOBY SNELGROVE

Paramedics board the Queen of Nanaimo following a Tuesday morning crash into the dock that injured five people.

and orderly response.

One of the injured people was transported by boat to Lady Minto Hospital and treated for minor injuries. Three others were treated by ambulance personnel on Mayne Island and released.

The Queen of Nanaimo was on its regular morning run between Salt Spring Island, North Pender Island, Mayne Island, Galiano Island and Tsawwassen when the accident occurred.

BC Ferries cancelled all of the vessel's Tuesday sailings as a result and was unable to provide information about Wednesday's sailings before the Driftwood's presstime.

An original version of this story was posted to our website at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Post your comment to this story online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**U.S. economy may be part of the problem**

**TOURISM**

continued from A1

Sara Foster has run the Caprice Heights Bed and Breakfast for 13 years. She said her July bookings were similar to 2009 numbers, but both years were much lower than the two to three previous summers.

"Right now August is not looking very good. Usually August is my busiest month, but I don't think it's going to be unless things drastically change," Foster said.

Although bed and breakfast clients often don't book rooms far in advance, Foster said the calendar would normally be fuller than it is now.

An article published last summer in BC Business magazine shows that the U.S.

economy — slower to recover from the recession than Canada's — may be part of the problem.

"The recent slide in tourists started in early 2008 with a strengthened loonie, soaring gas prices and the first stages of a rapidly deteriorating U.S. economy," author Valerie McTavish wrote.

"Historically, Americans have accounted for 75 per cent of all overnight international visitors to B.C., and in 2008 U.S. visits were down eight per cent — 12 per cent in the third quarter alone."

Clam Beach Cottage owner Sharon Brewer said she has noticed a definite slowdown in inquiries from American tourists.

Although her business is

"booked solid" with repeat clients who return year after year, she said the number of information requests from potential newcomers has dropped.

American visitors are likely not aware of one factor that could be keeping Canadian numbers low.

Business owners predicted the new harmonized sales tax, implemented on July 1, would have a drastic affect on the tourist trade.

As Lyle Hall, a managing director of a tourism consulting firm pointed out in an article for Canadian Lodging News, revised tax rates on accommodations are just the beginning.

"Tourism commodities previously assessed only GST will see tax rates more than

double, including campground rental charges, green fees, ski lift tickets, equipment rentals, convention planning services and taxi fares," Hall wrote.

Vaughn Walters, the organizer of Salt Spring's Studio Tour, said participating studios have reported 10 to 20 per cent fewer tourist sales this year so far, but is hopeful that better results will accompany the better weather.

"July has been an improvement over what we've been dealing with the first six months," Walters said.

"Things could change to be good and stay very good until October, we just don't know."

"It's nothing to panic about, but it's something to be aware of," he added.

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# Newsbeat

## Heads up!

**Salt Spring Local Trust Committee**  
 Thursday, AUGUST 5  
 ArtSpring, 10:30 a.m.; town hall at 12:45 p.m.

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

# Purple loosestrife found in Cusheon Lake

Early detection and monitoring essential, says expert

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The discovery of a new invasive species in Cusheon Lake should be a cause for concern for all residents who live near the lake, according to Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia.

"This is definitely a plant that people recognize is not good to have," Wallin said. "Purple loosestrife is highly prolific and can take over whole areas."

"The problem with any invasive [species] is that it will upset the natural ecosystem."

A resident of Horel Road discovered a specimen of purple loosestrife near the shoreline at the west end of Cusheon Lake. The plant was identified after a sample was taken to Salt Spring Conservancy executive director Linda Gilkeson.

Resident Sandy Brainerd, who's lived near the lake for 18 years, said she had never seen the plant before her discovery in July.

Brainerd advises people to be on the lookout for the plant and to rip it out and/or cut the plant down to ensure it doesn't go to seed.

Isolating the threat and determining how the plant made it into the lake, Wallin said, are essential to avoid further spread.

Purple loosestrife is commonly available in garden supply centres and frequently used as an ornamental plant in water gardens.

"They shouldn't be selling it but people are buying it," Wallin said. "It's absolutely beautiful, but it takes over."

Infestations can dramatically disrupt water flow and lead to a sharp decline in biological diversity as native food and cover plant species become crowded out.

Cusheon Lake provides drinking water to approximately 200 households served by the Beddis Water Districts.

Wallin said many communities, be it



Sandy Brainerd with purple loosestrife stalks removed from her Cusheon Lake property.

PHOTO BY GAIL SUIBERG

**"The problem is that, unless it's blooming, nobody knows it's there."**

WAYNE HEWITT  
 Member, Cusheon Lake Steering Committee

cation of purple loosestrife from the town's lakes.

Salt Spring, Wallin added, is fortunate the specimen was discovered and eliminated at such an early stage.

"The analogy I always use is that it is easier to remove two of them than it is to remove hundreds of them," she said. "You now need to establish how to strike it and how to monitor it."

To successfully eliminate purple loosestrife, the plant must be removed in its entirety from root to tip.

Wayne Hewitt, a member of the Cusheon Lake Steering Committee, said this is the first time he's heard of purple loosestrife growing in the lake.

"The problem is that, unless it's blooming, nobody knows it's there," he said.

Hewitt said he worries that people will mistake the native and highly beneficial hardhack in their efforts to eliminate the purple loosestrife threat.

The plant's purple flowers, which can appear between late June and early September, usually grow to between one and two centimetres in diameter. The plant can reach up to 1.5 metres in height. When seeds reach maturity, the plant's leaves turn bright red.

People unsure of the plant's identity can take a picture of the specimen and have it identified by Gilkeson at the conservancy office, garden club members or nursery employees.

More information about local invasive species is available by contacting the Salt Spring Island Conservancy at 250-538-0318 or visiting the group's website at [www.saltspringconservancy.ca](http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca).

through their locally elected council or regional district representative, have the option to regulate which invasive plants can and cannot be sold and used within

their boundaries.

The local government in Saanich has spent more than 15 years on a program that has nearly succeeded in the eradi-

## News briefs

### Campfire ban enforced

Reports of smoke over the long weekend resulted in fire department personnel extinguishing a number of illegal campfires.

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue Chief Tom Bremner said Tuesday it is important that people respect and follow the campfire ban for their own safety and for the safety of island residents and structures.

"We caution people to be extremely careful and to have any open fire of any sort is not a wise choice,"

Bremner said.

He noted the courts will not care if offenders plead ignorance or forgetfulness of the ban, which went into effect on July 23.

Fire crews also attended to several hot stumps at 1482 Fulford-Ganges Road, which the warm weather rekindled after a major fire was extinguished there last week.

### Phone scam targets island seniors

A local woman warns fellow grandparents to take

note after she was targeted by a telephone scam last week.

"They were obviously looking for a grandmother who is a bit soft in the head," said Jean Knight, a resident of Meadowbrook Seniors Residence on Atkins Road.

Knight received a call from an individual posing as her grandson and needing \$8,000 to post bail from an Ottawa detention centre.

"Whoever phoned sounded exactly like my grandson," she said.

After Knight's initial hesitation, the caller lowered his

request to \$2,000.

Knight said things became really fishy when she was asked to send a wire transfer via Canada Post.

Her suspicions were confirmed when she later learned that her grandson was recovering from an injury at home in Abbotsford.

Knight said further discussion with staff at Canada Post and the local RCMP detachment confirmed that such scams are frequently made to residents at senior living facilities.

"I want to warn grandmothers to be very very careful," she said.

### Nominations open for 2010 awards

Fans of favourite island businesses can show their appreciation by nominating their picks for the 2010 Business Excellence Awards.

Nomination forms are now available and can be submitted by Sept. 3, with a variety of categories celebrating top performers. The categories are for the best of the year as: business (eight or more employees); small business (less than eight employees); new business (in its first three years of

operation); business ambassador; building or construction trades; agriculture/farm; green; citizen — Spirit of Salt Spring; and market vendor.

Participants must include their names, contact information and the reason for their choice. The program is co-sponsored by the Driftwood and the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce with additional local business sponsors.

Completed forms can be dropped off at the Ganges Visitor Information Centre or the Chamber of Commerce, Island Savings Credit Union, the Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe or the Driftwood office.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**YOGA CALM:** Some of those taking part in the Salt Spring Centre's annual family yoga retreat enjoy the beautiful Blackburn Road setting as they undertake their moves.

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### ENVIRONMENT

# Giant hogweed leaves mark

Invasive species carries offensive punch

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The last thing Susan Bloom expected while working in her garden on a recent Sunday afternoon was a run-in with giant hogweed.

At first, Bloom suspected the small blisters on her arm were from a minor burn.

When the sores turned purple and increased in size, Bloom sought professional advice.

Since neither the doctor nor the pharmacists she consulted had heard of giant hogweed or its side effects, it wasn't until Bloom researched her symptoms online and spoke with neighbours that she came up with the diagnosis.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure, but it certainly makes sense," she said. "People should be aware of this."

According to Linda Gilkeson, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's executive director, giant hogweed is nothing new. Fortunately, unlike Scotch broom or gorse, it's still mainly confined to gardens.

"It's not a new invader nor a massive invader," she said.

The recent surge in giant hogweed sightings coincides with a

nation-wide effort to highlight the plant's dangers and promote more awareness about invasive plants in general.

Giant hogweed, or *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, was brought to North America from Europe as an ornamental plant. Mature specimens, which can resemble a very large parsley plant, can reach five metres in height and have leaves as wide as 2.5 metres. Small hairs on the plant's stems and leaves contain a poisonous sap that can cause severe irritation, blistering and dermatitis when exposed to sunlight.

Anyone attempting to remove or destroy the plant must take precautions to avoid any contact between the plant and exposed flesh. Those who do come into contact with giant hogweed should seek immediate shelter from the sun, and wash exposed skin with soap and water. Consult a physician in the event that blistering and/or a rash develops.

Such dramatic side effects are part of the reason giant hogweed was targeted as public enemy number one in the invasive plant world.

After media reports of giant hogweed incidents involving children, the plant became a giant public safety concern, according to Gail Wallin, execu-

**"Nobody cares about that little smoldering fire until it's a real forest fire."**

GAIL WALLIN

*Invasive Plant Council of B.C.*

tive director of the Invasive Plant Council of B.C.

Wallin, who assisted with carpet burweed eradication in Ruckle Park, said she and her staff have fielded a steady flow of calls about the plant ever since the campaign began in May.

She's confident public involvement will prevent giant hogweed from spreading any further and putting more gardeners and children at risk.

"This plant clearly has social impacts," she said. "Nobody cares about that little smoldering fire until it's a real forest fire."

Giant hogweed sightings should be reported to 1-888-WEEDSBC.

More information about giant hogweed and other invasive plants is available at [www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca).

### SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEM

EFFECTIVE JUNE 30-SEPT. 6, 2010

## Riders Guide

[www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com)

BUS INFORMATION 250-538-4282

1 Ganges Local					
Loop					
Monday to Friday					
A	D	H	C	A	
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Meadsworth	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	
12:10	12:13	12:16	12:20	12:27	
2:05	2:08	2:11	2:15	2:22	
4:20	4:23	4:26	4:30	4:37	
C1	6:05	6:08	6:09	6:11	-
Saturday					
8:10	8:13	8:16	8:20	8:27	
9:50	9:53	9:56	10:00	10:07	
11:20	11:23	11:26	11:30	11:37	
12:55	12:58	1:01	1:05	1:12	
C1	4:05	4:08	4:11	4:15	4:22
C1	6:05	6:08	6:09	6:11	-

C1 Combined Routing: Trip continues as Route 3 Vesuvius and Route 5 Fernwood. Drop off only at Hospital and Brinkworthy.

3 Vesuvius					
To Vesuvius			To Ganges		
Monday to Friday					
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
6:30	6:37	6:45	6:57	7:03	7:10
8:30	8:37	8:45	8:57	9:03	9:10
12:30	12:37	12:45	12:57	1:03	1:10
3:50	3:57	4:05	4:17	4:23	4:30
5:00	5:07	5:15	5:27	5:33	5:40
C3	6:05	6:15	6:21	-	-
Saturday					
8:35	8:42	8:50	9:02	9:08	9:15
12:30	12:37	12:45	12:57	1:03	1:10
4:00	4:07	4:15	4:20	4:26	4:33
C3	6:05	6:15	6:21	-	-

C3 Combined routing: Trip leaves town as Route 1 Ganges Local and continues as Route 5 Fernwood.

4 Long Harbour					
To Long Harbour			To Ganges		
Monday to Friday					
A	L	L	A		
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Long Harbour	Lv. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges		
1:45	1:55	1:55	2:05		
M-TH	2:55	3:05	3:15		
FRI	3:20	3:30	3:50		
M&TH	4:00	4:10	4:20		
Saturday					
2:10	2:20	2:20	2:30		
3:40	3:50	3:50	4:00		

M-TH Trip operates Monday to Thursday.  
FRI Trip operates Fridays only.  
M & TH Trip operates Monday AND Thursday only.

5 Fernwood					
To Fernwood			To Ganges		
Monday to Friday					
A	M	M	A		
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Fernwood Dock	Lv. Fernwood Dock	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges		
10:30	10:43	10:43	11:00		
2:25	2:38	2:38	2:55		
C5	6:05	6:34	6:49		
Saturday					
11:00	11:13	11:13	11:30		
2:20	2:33	2:33	2:50		
C5	6:05	6:34	6:49		

C5 Combined Routing: Trip leaves Visitor Info Centre via routes 1 Ganges Local and 3 Vesuvius.

2 Fulford Harbour											
To Fulford						To Ganges					
Monday to Friday											
A	I	J	K	E	E	K	J	I	A		
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Park & Ride: Fulford Inn	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Park & Ride: Fulford Inn	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges		
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		
11:00	11:06	11:13	11:17	11:20	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00		
1:00	1:06	1:13	1:17	1:20	1:40	1:43	1:47	1:54	2:00		
3:00	3:06	3:13	3:17	3:20	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00		
5:00	5:06	5:13	5:17	5:20	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00		
Saturday											
8:30	8:36	8:43	8:47	8:50	9:10	9:13	9:17	9:24	9:30		
10:00	10:06	10:13	10:17	10:20	10:40	10:43	10:47	10:54	11:00		
* 10:20	-	-	-	10:40	10:50	10:53	10:57	11:04	11:10		
* 11:30	11:36	11:43	11:47	11:50	12:10	12:13	12:17	12:24	12:30		
* 11:50	-	-	-	12:10	12:20	12:23	12:27	12:34	12:40		
1:15	1:21	1:28	1:32	1:35	1:55	1:58	2:02	2:09	2:15		
2:55	3:01	3:08	3:12	3:15	3:15	3:18	3:22	3:29	3:35		
* 3:00	-	-	-	3:20	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00		
5:00	5:06	5:13	5:17	5:20	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00		
* 5:20	-	-	-	5:40	5:50	5:53	5:57	6:04	6:10		

\* Trip routes via Cushman Lake Rd.

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### RCMP

# Drunken hordes disrupt Hornby tranquillity

Four Salt Springers charged with trafficking

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents are among the scads of drunken revellers suspected to have wreaked unprecedented chaos at a popular Hornby Island beach over the weekend.

"People were drunk all over the place, falling over and leaving garbage everywhere," said Jodi Alton, a manager at the Tribune Bay Campsite.

"Everybody wants to have a good time, but this wasn't good. It was like loser drunks."

Alton said staff at the 116-site campground "evicted" four groups as a result of drunken rowdiness.

At least one group of intoxicated beer-toting campers were turned down at the campground's reservation desk. Saturday morning revealed

a trail of broken glass and discarded garbage along the sandy beach that lines Tribune Bay. The destruction continued along the area's main road.

The scene began to unfold on Friday afternoon as off-island visitors began to stream onto the island south of Courtenay for the B.C. Day long weekend.

While the weekend usually brings a strong contingent of party-minded campers, Alton said, this year's group lowered the bar to an all-time low.

"I've never seen that total disregard here on Hornby," she said. "The cops had their hands full."

RCMP Const. Duncan McGeorge said officers charged four Salt Spring residents, including two minors, with trafficking of ecstasy and mushrooms.

Countless others, he said, received tickets for drinking in public and several party goers had their driver's licences suspended.

"There was quite a contingent of Salt Spring youth, maybe about 50," he said. "They were by

far and away the most rowdy and obnoxious of the bunch."

Most of the Salt Springers were between the ages of 16 and 25, he said.

The Tribune Bay beach and surrounding area is a popular gathering spot for Salt Spring and Vancouver Island residents during the summer months. McGeorge said about 1,000 people were at the beach on Saturday afternoon.

Despite the area's party-friendly reputation, Alton said her campground seeks to promote a family-oriented vacation experience. Until the weekend, she said, the summer's visitors had been pretty calm.

"A lot of the families were frightened and nobody was able to walk on the beach," she said.

Most of the "campers," Alton added, appeared to have made no accommodation arrangements before arriving on the island, choosing to spend most of the night camped in their vehicles or on the beach.

# NEWSBEAT

## TREE PLANTING

# Company's billionth tree has island roots

Islander looks back on a life in the cutblocks

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Claud Contant strapped on his planting bags for the first time back in the late 1970s, he never thought he'd still be in the bush more than 30 years later.

It took Contant at least a few seasons before he was passionate enough to make tree planting and silviculture a life-long career.

He may not be planting as many trees as he used to, but he's still just as enthusiastic to zip along the logging roads that crisscross the backcountry of Vancouver Island in search of new contracts and silviculture opportunities.

Back when he started, planting offered many Salt Spring residents a chance to save up enough money to put towards a property here on the island.

The work was hard, but wages were good and property costs were a far cry from today's prices.

"There was a time in the mid-1980s when there was very little work on these islands and a large number of young people used tree planting as their main source of income," Contant said. "That period is forgotten now, but at some point I remember clearly there were over 30 people on Salt Spring that went planting every year. Most people believe that planters from that period were mostly young hippies in search of an alternate lifestyle.

"While there is some truth to this belief, the reality was a bit more complex. Some of us were carpenters, there was a freelance published journalist, a university-trained philosopher, a certified teacher and a future architect."

Since Contant's Salt Spring Planters Inc. was bought out by Brinkman and Associates Reforestation Ltd. in the 1990s, a sagging forestry industry has encouraged plenty of changes.

Today's tree-planting company still has planters on the ground each summer, but also concentrates on maintaining tree plantations, harvesting cones, conducting surveys and offering fire control. In addition to securing Brinkman's contracts, Contant still works on the island with many forest-lot owners to manage and rebuild forest ecosystems.

In a response to diversifying seed stock and species, tree planting companies have even begun to sway from the controversial monoculture approach.

For a company like Brinkman, projects are underway around the globe and now include urban reforestation projects like the one underway in downtown Toronto.

But it isn't surviving in the silviculture business that's got Contant so enthusiastic these days, it's the fact that Brinkman and Associates has just overseen the planting of the company's billionth tree.

"That was made possible thanks in part to such a strong association with all the Gulf Islands planters," Contant said in a recent interview on the 160-acre of forest land he planted here on the island. "I want to thank all the Gulf Islanders who've made this possible."

Speaking in an interview from the Kootenays, company found-



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Veteran Salt Spring silviculture specialist Claud Contant celebrated this summer as Brinkman and Associates Reforestation Ltd. planted its billionth tree.

**"Most people believe that planters from that period were mostly young hippies . . . [But] some of us were carpenters, there was a freelance published journalist, a university-trained philosopher, a certified teacher and a future architect."**

CLAUD CONTANT  
*Tree-planter*

er Dirk Brinkman said the early generation of Salt Spring planters represented a major part of his company's growth.

He thanked all of those early planters for their months of hard work and willingness to come back time and time again.

"Those were some of our best years," he said.

In spite of all the changes, the life of a planter has remained unchanged.

"The work is still hard, physical manual work," he said. "The crew still has a tribal energy and the life-long bonds and friendships haven't changed."

Since the company's crews in B.C., Alberta and Ontario all set aside some time in June to take part in a mass planting, nobody knows for certain who got to put the billionth tree into the ground.

Brinkman and Associates hired about 1,100 planters for its 2010 planting season. Many are 20-something university students looking to cover their tuition fees. Even in a depressed market, today's high ballers can still average about \$250 per day.

More often than not, however, planters' incomes fall far below expectation and profits can quickly run dry during a day off in town.

What keeps planters yearning for more, Contant figures, is the common bond and sense of accomplishment that result from expending more than 5,000 calories every day for up to two months.

"Try running the equivalent of a half-marathon every day with the same people every day and you'll get to know them like you never thought was possible," he said.

Contant said the job gives people the chance to see places they wouldn't otherwise get to see and offers intensive lessons on everything there is to know about life in Canada's forests.

"In the first place, it's an easy thing to start with," he said. "What keeps you going is that you enjoy it and it can open more avenues."

Regardless of where the industry is headed, it seems Contant, along with Brinkman and Associates, still have plenty of paths to follow ahead.

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# NEWSBEAT

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Fire trucks are tools, not toys

Equipment and infrastructure needs explained

BY MITCHELL SHERRIN  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD  
FIRST OF TWO PARTS

Islanders who've seen firefighters battling a blaze usually understand the need for a fleet of well-maintained vehicles. But people who haven't utilized emergency services might wonder, "Why does the fire department have so many trucks, anyway?"

Without background knowledge, it can be baffling to think why a community with 10,000 people would need three fire halls, 10 fire apparatus and several support vehicles. Locals are often perplexed when two or more fire vehicles show up to assist an ambulance for a medical problem. Many taxpayers might question why a truck that only tallies a few hundred kilometres each year would ever need replacement. A few citizens might comment that daily inspections and maintenance of fire department apparatus is an excessive, "make-work project." And then, others might query why a fire truck would cost in excess of \$500,000 compared to similar-sized vehicles that are a quarter the price.

What follows is a brief introduction to the equipment and services that Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) uses to sup-

port residents and guests of the island.

Let's start with the most serious problems Salt Spring can face. Everyone will agree that a structure fire or a brush fire on the island requires a rapid coordinated response with multiple vehicles performing different roles. Without such response, a conflagration could threaten everyone and every home on the island.

A key concept to understand with emergency services is that, "Time is loss." On average, uncontrolled fire doubles in size every five minutes with adequate fuel available. Of equal concern is the medical concept of the "golden hour," which suggests that patients with serious problems have a brief span of survivability without critical intervention.

SSIFR responds to calls for assistance based on dispatch information provided by the caller which is often incomplete. Consequently, incident commanders plan for worst-case scenarios until they collect information that allows them to downscale resources. Calling for additional resources once an incident is underway can add 15-30 minutes to the response — easily enough time to lose a house or a life.

Smaller magnitude incidents like vehicle collisions or medical calls might not require the same level of response. On occasion, those incidents might require considerable resources. A per-

son who needs CPR or spinal immobilization could require assistance from a crew of six to 12 rescuers. Traffic control, fire suppression, extrication and medical assistance for multiple casualties at a complex vehicle crash can actually tax the resources of the entire department.

Another requirement for multiple apparatus is the sheer size of Salt Spring Island. While it might seem like a tiny community, at 183 square kilometres, it's actually the largest fire-protection district in the province. Other regions of a similar size might have two, three or more departments protecting the same number of residents. Comparatively, Pender Island has an equal-sized department to serve a community of 2,500 residents on 34 square kilometres and Galiano actually has two fire departments to provide protection for their 1,300 residents.

Fire departments on the mainland or on Vancouver Island have mutual-aid agreements with their neighbours to provide assistance for major incidents. Due to geography and travel time via boat or ferry, SSIFR must stand alone for all but the largest calamities. This too increases the requirements for self-reliance through provision of adequate equipment.

Three fire halls on Salt Spring help to provide each region with a rapid response of equitable resources. If all the trucks were based out of Ganges, residents of

Fulford would have to wait 10 to 15 minutes longer for a response in their neighbourhood. And while Central might be only a six-minute drive north of the Ganges fire hall, those few minutes might mean life or death for residents on Sunset Drive.

The two elements of fire insurance and fire protection are intrinsically linked. On behalf of the insurance industry, the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) provides recommendations for a certain degree of protective services based on the size of the community. The FUS performs an external audit and determines the ideal location and number of halls and apparatus. If SSIFR chose to act contrary to FUS recommendations by utilizing fewer fire trucks and/or fire halls, islanders could expect to pay higher fire-insurance rates. And if SSIFR did not provide optimal service in response to an emergency, the department could be exposed to litigation from those same insurance companies.

It should also be noted that FUS only recognizes apparatus of a certain age and capability. If trucks can't meet annual performance targets, they don't count for insurance ratings.

*To be continued next week*

*The writer is a SSIFR firefighter. For more information about SSIFR, please contact their office (250-537-2531) or consult their website (www.saltspringfire.com).*

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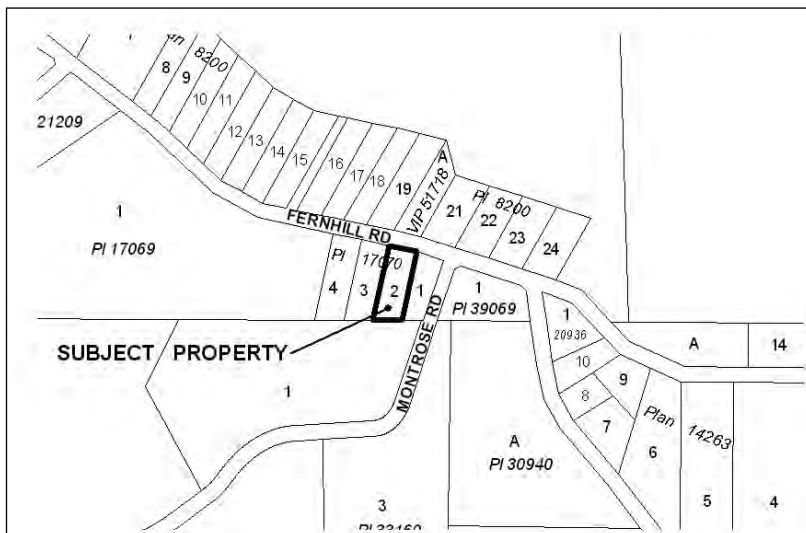
Islands Trust

## NOTICE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MA-TUP-2010.1

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Commercial Use Permit pursuant to Section 921 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 2, Section 8, Mayne Island, Cowichan District, Plan 17070.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit the commercial use of "retail sale of food items" on the property. The establishment of these uses would be subject to a number of conditions specified in the permit. The permit would be issued for two years and the owner may apply to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for an additional two years.

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory Holidays, commencing, July 29, 2010 and up to and including August 10, 2010.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Planner Kaitlin Kazmierowski at (250) 405-5194, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: information@islandstrust.bc.ca, before 4:30 p.m. August 10, 2010. The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during a Local Trust Committee Special Meeting starting at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, August 12, 2010 at the Mayne Community Centre, 493 Felix Jack Road, Mayne Island.

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Kathy Jones  
Deputy Secretary

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

# Transition Salt Spring potluck cooks up ideas for the future

Building resilience behind worldwide movement

The first of monthly community gatherings put on by Transition Salt Spring is set to run next Friday, Aug. 13 at Beaver Point Hall.

The evening, which begins at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper, will include an introduction to Transition Salt Spring, and an idea-sharing session about how the island can become a more resilient, sustainable and self-reliant community.

"The Transition initiative is a grassroots citizens' movement to address the challenges of peak oil and climate change at the community level, through projects that reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, reduce our energy use, reduce waste, and create new, sustainable systems to replace the ones that are breaking down all around us," explains a press release.

"The movement is based on permaculture principles and is growing as more people are seeing that our own active engagement with our community is key to building our own resilience. Resilience is very closely determined by the ability of people to respond and work together."

Traditionally the potluck has been a popular and effective way for communities and groups to meet, have fun and to get to know each other better.

"Now, with the gathering storm clouds of peak oil threatening to engulf us as early as 2013, according to Lloyds of London 'with catastrophic consequences' and even the U.S. military complex and Pentagon

predicting that a 'crunch' will happen by 2013 with 'severe shortages' as soon as 2011, we need to come together in our communities to prepare," says Transition Salt Spring. "How can we do this if we don't know each other?"

"An unintended consequence of the prosperity created by our current capitalist system is a significant reduction in real communal activity. Individually many now have the resources to frequently travel to exotic locations. Activities such as TV watching, surfing the net, shopping and other forms of consumption invariably take us away from connecting with those in our own community and even within our own families. Transition Salt Spring intends to engage all citizens in building a strong and resilient community."

Transition Salt Spring is one of several local "official" initiatives. Others are in Cowichan, Victoria, Port Alberni and Vancouver with groups also forming on Pender and Galiano. The first Transition Town (now known as Transition Communities) started in Totnes, Devon, UK in 2006. Since then the movement has spread across the globe with 323 communities worldwide. Seventeen of those are in Canada, with eight in B.C.

For more information on the worldwide transition network see [www.transitionnetwork.org/](http://www.transitionnetwork.org/). For information on and to subscribe to Transition Salt Spring, go to <http://transitionsaltspring.ning.com/>.

Anyone wanting to participate in the organizing of the event should contact Daniel Ruane at 250-537-8773 or Shoshannah Ray at 250-653-9329.

# NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**MANDALA:** Aija Steele, owner of Duck Creek Gallery, and Lama Tenzin Tsundu are paddled by Ben Luna out to sea, where the remnants of a Green Tara sand mandala is dispersed. See story and photos on Page B8.

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## ISLANDS TRUST

# LTC puts out full agenda for Thursday

Stewardship award also presented

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee sits Thursday for its monthly public meeting at ArtSpring, with a number of items on the agenda.

Business opens at 10:30 a.m. with trustees reviewing minutes, correspondence and activity reports. At 12:15 p.m., Dorothy Cutting will be presented with the Community Stewardship Award she won in June.

The town hall meeting is scheduled for 12:45 p.m., and will be followed by consideration of various applications and referrals. Those include a development variance permit for 827 Rainbow

Rd., a development permit for 370 Baker Rd., the PARC application regarding a park off Furness Road and a farmworker dwelling proposal for 205 Stark's Rd.

An eight-lot bare land strata subdivision at 2320 North End Road will also be considered.

Bylaw 443, respecting greenhouse gas emission targets, is also up for adoption.

## CYCLING

# Survey hoped to drive SSI cycling revolution

Working group considers cross-island bike path

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Stars are aligning favourably for construction of a paved bike path across the island, according to a member of the Salt Spring Island Cycling Working Group.

As plans for a dedicated cycling link between Fulford and Vesuvius Bay near completion, the working group wants public input to gather more information about cycling on the island.

"A survey will help us get clear on who cycles on Salt Spring, what they're looking for, what they find, what would make them feel safer, get them out more and get more cycling here," said Brenda Guiled, the working group's chair.

"We need it to establish cycling patterns, needs and wishes on Salt Spring, by islanders and visitors."

Guiled said the survey stems from a 2010 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan recommendation that island cycling and hiking possibilities be improved.

For cycling, this means establishing cycling patterns, needs and wishes "so every stripe and sort are best served."

"The survey will be used to help regional, provincial and federal funding partners see the great potential of including Salt Spring in the development of a world-class regional cycling trails network."

A cross-island pathway would be part of the Salish Sea Trail Network, currently being considered by the Capital Regional and Cowichan Valley regional districts.

The Salt Spring portion of the circuit would be a crucial link that would connect Swartz Bay and Crofton.

Completed surveys will be accepted until the end of September. A preliminary report will be presented at a public forum on the fourth weekend of October.

The survey was created by Island Pathways' new Bicycle Working Group thanks to a \$5,000 contribution from the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

More information about the group and the survey is available by calling Guiled at 250-653-4722.

The survey is available online at [www.islandpathways.caonline](http://www.islandpathways.caonline) or <http://www.ssi-bicycleworkinggroup.blogspot.com/>



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# Opinion



Gold - Best Special Publication - "AQUA - Gulf Islands Living"  
 Gold - Best Photo Essay Award - "Day in the Life"  
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 Bronze - Best Special Section - "Derrick Lundy Retrospective"  
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**2010 BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards**  
 Gold - Best Overall Newspaper / Silver - Best Editorial Page / Silver - Best Front Page  
 Silver - Best Special Section - "AQUA Gulf Islands Living"  
 Silver - Best In-House Ad Campaign - "Owners' Manual"  
 Bronze - Best Community Service - "Residents Card Program"  
**2010 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards**



EDITORIAL

## Strangling loosestrife

Reports of two invasive species — one new and one not — on Salt Spring in recent weeks should be cause for alarm.

In two separate cases, island residents described their discoveries of giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) to the Driftwood, and their stories are in this week's issue of the paper.

Susan Bloom was recently stung by the highly toxic plant in her garden, while Sandra Brainerd was shocked to find purple loosestrife growing on the edge of her property on Cusheon Lake.

Mature specimens of hogweed can resemble a very large parsley plant and grow to five metres in height with leaves as wide as 2.5 metres.

Purple loosestrife has beautiful hot pink/purple flowers on stalks that are woody and square-shaped (or five-six-sided) and grow up to two metres in height.

According to Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Plant Council of B.C., purple loosestrife growth can disrupt water flow and crowd out native plant species in lakes. Like the ubiquitous Scotch broom, the plant's seeds can lay dormant for many years before sprouting.

**THE ISSUE:**

Invasive species

**WE SAY:**

Important to be vigilant

According to the InvasiveSpecies.com website, some 190,000 hectares of wetlands, marshes, pastures and riparian meadows are affected in North America each year.

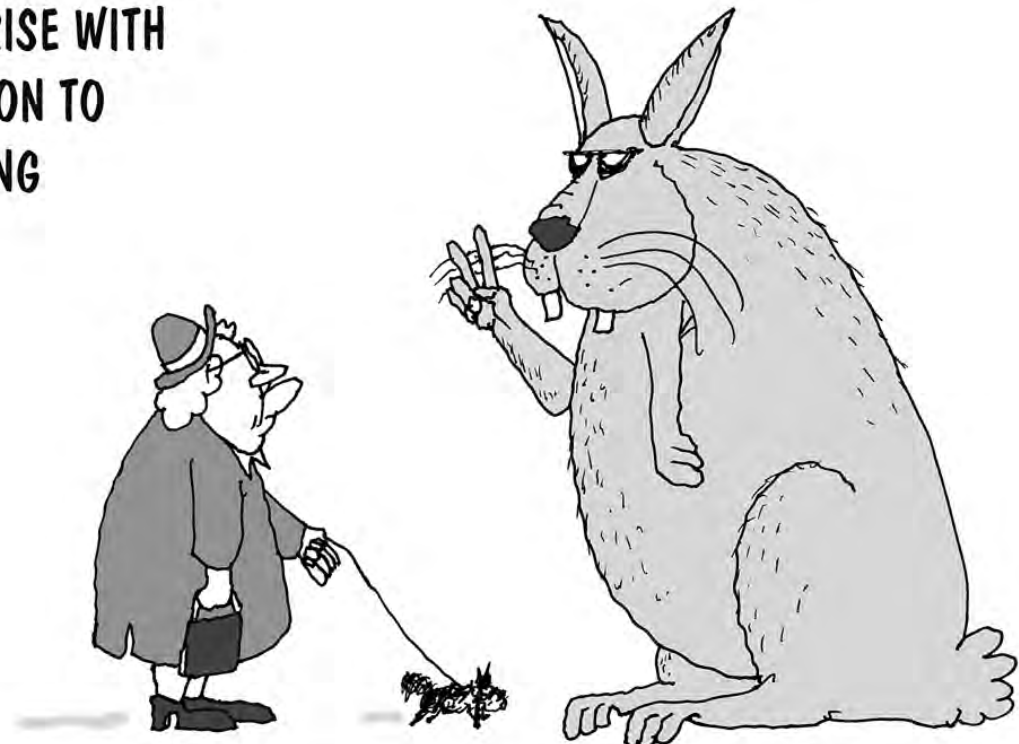
Salt Spring residents are no strangers to fighting invasive species, whether it's Scotch broom across the island or stubborn carpet burweed in Ruckle Park. They know the first step to successfully eradicating invasive species is widespread public education. With a number of well-aware Salt Spring residents at hand, combined with the bounty of internet resources for identifying suspect plants, the island is certainly in a better position than some places to strip the threat before it gets going.

In the case of purple loosestrife, Saanich's local government implemented an eradication program 15 years ago that has reportedly almost succeeded in eliminating the plant from the area's lakes. Hopefully Salt Spring won't get to the stage of needing such a long-term strategy, but a short-term education plan might be in order.

In the meantime, islanders who suspect they see purple loosestrife on the loose are urged to remove it and remain vigilant if they see it on their own property, or to report sightings elsewhere to the Salt Spring Conservancy.

It's one battle the island can't afford to lose.

## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA'S CONDEMNED RABBITS WIN REPRISE WITH RELOCATION TO SALTSRING



## Democracy across the islands

BY SHEILA MALCOLMSON

Peter Vincent's column (Anti-Trust sentiment across the islands) in the July 28 Driftwood tells many one-sided and poorly researched stories about the Islands Trust.

I must correct a few.

Neither Vincent nor Isaac Kramer (July 14, Viewpoint) understand that the Province dictates who can vote in local elections — not the Islands Trust.

B.C. gives the vote to Canadian adult residents and to Canadian non-resident property-owners (one per property), but not to properties with any corporate ownership. A corporate vote in local elections isn't allowed anywhere in North America.

The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee rescinded its farm-sales decision and will vote again this month.

On Keats Island, the Squamish First Nation and Department of Fisheries and Oceans support legal action against the seawall built on a public beach, based on damage to archaeology and fisheries habitat, and we've had a flood of mail from neighbours urging faster enforcement.

The legislative services manager is not the same as our bylaw enforcement clerk.

The manager position was approved in this year's budget to help us comply with the growing demands of the Local Government Act and other legislation.

The clerk position (approved a few years ago) is dedicated to improving our response to complaints about bylaws — which cover the full spectrum from "Islands Trust doesn't enforce enough" to "Islands Trust enforces too strictly."

Interestingly, in the Driftwood's own informal poll that asked whether Islands Trust bylaws need greater enforce-

### VIEWPOINT

ment, the responses published last week were 84 per cent "yes."

The bylaws we enforce are all developed on-island, by locally elected islanders, with broad community input.

Whether on Keats or Salt Spring, these are community bylaws enacted by the people you and your neighbours elected.

There is no "Islands Trust" external imposition of decisions as Vincent suggests, and if your values are not being reflected in the zoning and bylaw decisions made locally, please participate, vote and run for office.

The rest of Peter Vincent's article skips stones over the surface of our islands' choppy waters, showing no understanding of the deep underlying and undeniable island humanity.

Beneath every Islands Trust decision, there is a vast diversity of human voices and preferences, all of which trustees have to weigh thoughtfully before diving into the inevitable waves of human displeasure, disappointment and even disgruntlement.

It is easy to find people who are mad at local governments for not giving them permission for things.

If you can find any level of government being celebrated in the media for pleasing everyone, I'd love to know their secret.

Finally, Vincent takes poetic licence with the work of the great John Keats.

Let's recall that Keats was not well-loved in his time. Triumphant over scathing reviews, he left a timeless and world-famous legacy of beauty, just as we are dedicated to do.

*The writer is chair of Islands Trust Council.*

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

### Should rooster noise be controlled?

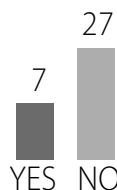
Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before

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

Yes  No

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

### Are you travelling off-island for the long weekend?



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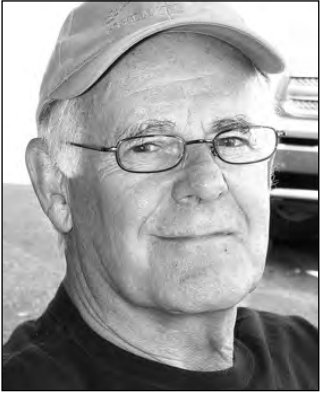
# IslandVoices

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**
**"They were by far and away the most rowdy and obnoxious of the bunch."**

CONST. DUNCAN MCGEORGE, ON SALT SPRING PARTIERS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### We asked: How can we keep impaired drivers off Salt Spring roads?


**HOWARD CORAM**

*Bartenders should be called to account if they serve people who have obviously drunk too much.*


**JANINE MITENKO**

*Public buses running later would be kind of helpful.*


**LIZ FENNEL**

*Younger drivers should be aware of the risks and know the consequences.*


**REISHA SAREK**

*People should think about the alcohol-related accidents that happened in the community and remember it's their choice. That's what stops me.*


**MARLENE CORAM**

*They should keep up drunk driving education in schools.*

## 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](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) under the Opinion tab.**

### Remarkable community

On Sunday afternoon, July 25, the words "preserve and protect" took on a whole new meaning for us.

Our son, his partner and daughter lost their home and all its contents to a sudden and rapidly spreading fire.

The good news is that all three are safe and sound. Had the fire occurred during the night, the ending would likely have been different.

Our local fire department is truly a group of angels in yellow disguises. No navel-gazing preservation and protection from them, but rather hands-on, sweat-

producing, brave and back-breaking labour to save the trees and the island from disaster. This hardworking team, their competent leader Ken Akerman, our wise, astute and compassionate new fire chief Tom Bremner and the forestry people, all backed up by the ever-ready ambulance crew, worked slavishly in the heat of the afternoon and again the following day to keep this fire from spreading up the side of Mount Maxwell. Their selfless care and concern for the preservation of the surrounding area has been remarkable.

While impossible to save the family home, the efforts made to save this tinder dry island from a disaster were amazing. Our sincere

gratitude to all who helped in the emergency: the fire department, the ambulance crew, the RCMP, the forestry service, the citizens who called and alerted the forestry department, neighbours, John and Jennifer Quesnel and their boys, and anyone else who was there in the background supporting in so many ways.

We are blessed to live in this wonderful community  
**BARB AND STRICK AUST,**  
SALT SPRING

### Gossip lesson

It is my hope that the phenomenon called gossip, when understood a little, might be mitigated.

Gossip is a process of spreading information and the result of that pro-

cess, more easily started than stopped, the result more easily scattered than contained. The motivating kernel of truth can be compared to a sourdough starter that ferments and in the process gets tasty to chew on.

Children, youth, women and men become targets of gossip. Consideration is seldom given to allow the target the benefit of the doubt. We who pass on stories rarely consider that we may be mistaken, in whole or in part.

In the case of long-lasting gossip, sometimes years in length, there are periods of hiatus, interrupted by renewed bouts of being shunned, sneered at and regarded with disapproval

and superiority.

When gossip happens in a small community, targets are often able to discern who is the instigating adversary because they become familiar with relationships, friendships and connections of those in their community. They can sometimes put two and two together and come up with four.

Gossip can sound the death knell on friendships, as vital to overall health as breathing. The dignity of a person is threatened. Targets grow tired of putting on a brave face. It is tempting to become vengeful, even though they know it will be to their detriment. Anger and rudeness freely surface then when an adversary is

met face to face.

Following an episode of "falling short," the focus of gossip must mentally and emotionally regroup, staying firm in the knowledge that we all have within us aspects of light and darkness. He or she must not give in to feelings of shame. We can forgive ourselves, even for the kernel of truth that we think could have begun gossip in the first place. If we don't, we will not be of value to ourselves or to those who love us.

It comes down to trying to live so that we don't answer spite with more spite. We grow richer when we have this as our goal.

**RUTH VOLQUARDSEN,**  
ATKINS ROAD

**MORE LETTERS** continued on A10

# Roosters and rabbits and turtles, oh my!

There was a time when roosters were well-respected members of Salt Spring society. You could count on a rooster to be up and at 'em at the crack of dawn, do its obligatory "cock-a-doodle-doo", service a hen, scratch a few grubs out of the dirt, service a hen, peck at a couple of lice, strut around the yard a little, service another hen, and so on. By the time six or seven hens had been attended to, the day's work was done and it was time for the King of the Roost to retire for the night so that he could start all over again the next morning. It's a tough life but, hey, it's a living and somebody's got to do it.

The island has changed and now, instead of eating and crowing, the once lofty rooster is being made to eat crow. Apparently, new voices on the island are being raised to protest against the "excessive noise" created by the overzealous rooster. Our noble winged beast is being blindsided on both the left and right by a flurry of noise and animal control bylaws. Who can blame him for crying foul and feeling like his feathers have been ruffled and his wings clipped? How can it be fair for this fowl to be made "the fall guy" in this power struggle between rural farmers and suburbanites?

It's that age-old question again: which came first, the chicken or the bylaw? Should roosters be made to feel like outlaws for just doing what comes "natural?" Do we really need to equip every farm rooster with an alarm clock to make certain it keeps an eye on the time and avoids being labelled an "early bird?"

For the hard-core cosmopolitan wannabee, the obvious answer is to ban roost-

ers completely and ensure that the only good place for a noisy bird is in the soup pot. A more scientific solution involves enclosing roosters in opaque containers. Apparently, these would block out the ultraviolet light that comes at dawn (the UV rays are the trigger that stimulate the crowing activity).

Roosters themselves are standing up and starting to organize against these oppressive measures. "Crow Against the Machine" is a newly formed solidarity group dedicated to promoting the rights of roosters and challenging the birds who have resorted to cross-dressing so as to be mistaken for hens to have the gonads to come out of the closet make their voices heard.

Oddly enough, at the same time that the powers-that-be are making life difficult for the plucky rooster, the European rabbit is being welcomed to the island with open arms. In fact, only a couple of weeks ago the Driftwood reported a Salt Spring woman had raised enough funds to establish an animal sanctuary for rabbits on the north end of the island. These small mammals (by the way, rabbits are not classified as "rodents" but rather as "lagomorphs") would be plucked off the UVic campus and transported to "bunny nirvana" here on the rock.

It appears that Vancouver Island's loss could become Salt Spring's pain. Unfortunately, Peter Cottontail and Thumper are likely to view the island's fields and gardens as a never ending all-you-can-eat buffet


**Shilo Zylbergold**

**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT...**

salad bar. All good intentions to keep these fuzzy critters penned and neutered are just that — good intentions. You see, the trouble with rabbits is that they breed like... well... rabbits. There being no indigenous predator to control their numbers here on the island (with the possible exception of realtors), the outcome seems guaranteed. One look at the moonscape that became Australia's experience with hopaway rabbit populations should remind us of how wrong it can go. If you have a problem with roosters crowing in the morning, just wait till you get woken up by shotgun blasts!

One would think that roosters and rabbits would be enough animals to occupy the psyche on one little island. Enter the western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*). Although not exactly a major threat to the noise bylaws, this reptile has nevertheless sparked controversy on Salt Spring, especially on the sandy shores of Stowel Lake.

You see, the Pacific coastal population of this species of turtle was declared "endangered" in 2006 as a result of the degradation of its wetland habitat (as well as the disturbing fact that these creatures steadfastly refuse to look both ways when crossing the road). As a result, a number of environmental groups including the Habitat Acquisition Trust and our very own Salt Spring Island Conservancy have taken positive steps towards educating the general public and protecting this slow moving critter.

It turns out that these turtles have chosen the beach sand of Stowel Lake as the best possible spot to dig their nests and bury their eggs. The turtle hatchlings emerge from their eggs in the summer but remain in their nests until the next spring (except for the lucky few who get to fly down to Mexico to overwinter). This practice constitutes a direct threat to a competing species, *Humanus Suntanus*, who have been denied access to a great deal of the beach shoreline due to the metal cages (somewhat resembling green row-house condos) that have been placed there to protect the nests.

On any given day, one can see the hand-painted sign on Beaver Point road warning motorists of "turtles x'ing." (More difficult to see is the sign aimed at the more prurient 18+ crowd that announces "turtles xxx'ing.") During a life cycle which can span up to 50 years, the western painted turtle will grow from the size of a loonie to the diameter of a dinner plate. Because it carries its home on its back, it has thus far been classified under the "non-conforming accommodations bylaw" and has managed to avoid the wrath of the local authorities.

Nobody asked me, but it's high time we got our priorities in order. You don't buy a house next to the ferry terminal and then complain about the ferry noise. Likewise, lay off the local rooster just because he doesn't fit in with the image of Salt Spring that was conjured up in the promotional brochures. If you've got nothing better to do, go save the rabbits and turtles.

*thyme2001@hotmail.com*

OPINION

# Making climate-conscious steps 'the new normal'

Mid-term review for year of daily change

This month's challenge was supposed to be about food — getting as close as I could to the 100 mile diet to help reduce my carbon footprint. But I realized right away that it's just too easy at this time of year. The markets are bursting with fabulous locally grown fruit and veggies, with so many wonderful treats and new varieties to try. Even my own garden is struggling into production at last. For the months of high summer and fall, I just naturally stop buying a lot of the imported food I'm more likely to want in the winter.

There are, of course, certain year-round challenges. Coffee. Olive oil. Grains. But I'm going to take all this in about November when food choices get harder.

The story for this month is a kind of mid-term review and report card. One of the many things I've learned so far in my year of living climatically is that making changes to the habits of a life time is actually a fascinating process with unexpected results.

It gets under your skin — in a good way — so that I'm now looking at everything I do and everything I buy more critically. And it feels good when a positive change clicks into place, giving me a little



Judi Stevenson

## MY YEAR OF CHANGING CLIMATICALLY

glow of satisfaction. And little by little it builds, as one or another climate-conscious step becomes a new habit, a "new normal." It's not all easy all the time. But it's getting easier.

I've also discovered that some of the challenges and changes I've set myself are not single events. They're more like unfolding processes of change over time. So let me tell you a bit about how I'm doing now with some of the year's earlier challenges.

Remember the new wool (not petroleum) carpet? Well, I'm still loving it, although if I could wiggle my nose like Samantha in "Bewitched" and turn it purple, I would. The best part though was how many people came up to me after reading the two columns to talk about their struggles to buy the most environmentally friendly

products and keep their old stuff out of the landfill — some of which were inspired by my stories.

I particularly loved hearing from the senior in Brinkworthy who wanted to know more about options for recycling or re-using the old carpet at her place. I hope she found a way. And the young mom who stopped me in the street to tell me that her kids loved the story of me dumping out a full garbage bag for examination and were demanding to do the same. I hope they did, and identified lots of things to help mom recycle.

On the general topic of reducing garbage, so many people told me how frustrated they feel about being "forced" to buy a new something-or-other because they can't find a way to get the old something-or-other repaired that I began to think it may be time to revive the small appliance repair business. (Thank goodness we can still get large appliances repaired here.) Or maybe start a fix-it network or a skills exchange on Salt Spring?

About my own garbage-related challenges, I was pretty pleased when the bag I had "autopsied" in the back yard was weighed at the pickup station. There was more than two months' worth of refuse there and it weighed 25 pounds. Much less than the Canadian average, which Environment Canada

says is a ton a year per person (at least in Ontario).

But embarrassingly, the next bag, just one month later, weighed 30 pounds — even though I was recycling ferociously. There was a reason though. A new cat had come to live at my house and I was not letting him go outside, so suddenly a lot of kitty litter was required.

Hmm. I remembered Peter at the recycling depot telling me that the three most problematic items dumped into landfills by householders are Styrofoam, diapers and kitty litter. So I took on a mini-challenge: what to do about my kitty litter?

I found two options marketed locally as alternatives to the heavy, nasty clay products: one made from wheat, one made from corn cobs. The wheat-based product was recommended so I tried it, crossing my fingers that the wheat in question was some sort of waste by-product of the grain industry. Wrong. The cat liked the stuff just fine but I was horrified to read on one technical website that it is made from Durum wheat, the good hard variety used for making pasta.

It makes no sense to me that farm land is being used to grow biofuels instead of food, and I don't want my cat peeing on food grains either. Luckily the ground corn cob version was also accept-

able to the cat, so we're good now. And the following bag of garbage, two months later, weighed just 21 pounds. Yes!

To reduce my waste still further, I've signed up for one of the composting workshops that are going to be put on at the Farmers Institute this year. The first one is happening this Thursday, Aug. 5, and you have to pre-register with Elizabeth White of the co-sponsoring SSI Earth Festival Society (250-537-2616). She'll put you on a list for the next one if the 5th is too soon.

No space left now to follow up on my home energy audit, except to say one thing. After reading the column about it, someone challenged me on why I was focusing on "home improvements" when energy use at home is not the biggest contributing factor to our carbon footprint here on Salt Spring.

What is? Transportation. I could have replied that every single personal decision matters. I could have said that the kind of change we have to make in order to stop the juggernaut of climate change is no less than the transformation of our selves, our culture, our very way of being on and with the planet.

But the argumentative person was making a good point, and one I will challenge myself about next month. What about driving? And what about flying?

### MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

## Eat more rabbit

I'm a poor poor farmer, what am I going to do? A poor poor farmer, full of rabbit stew. The eagles got my chickens, the rabbits got my wheat, and by the time the winter comes I'll have nothing left to eat.

If you are a farmer growing fruit and vegetables for market or growing fruit and vegetables for your family and you've been invaded by rabbits, which are very hungry, and you wish to get rid of them, employ the Texas triple-"S" system: shoot, shovel and shut up.

Eat more rabbit.  
**KEN BYRON, SR.,**  
EPRON ROAD

## Town character

Ganges village is about to get a whole

lot blander. The strip of shops from Admirals Specialty Foods and Sushi to Mark's Work Warehouse is slated for demolition in the new year and when it gets rebuilt, Mark's will take over the whole block.

Prime store frontage will be used to display socks, work shirts and plastic coffee mugs. At the same time, we will lose Admirals, Windflower Moon, Acoustic Planet and, in its present location, Salt Spring Soapworks.

In Ganges and on Salt Spring we have an opportunity and a challenge. There already exists a healthy pedestrian culture, charming storefronts and plenty of public space. The challenge is to facilitate growth and development in such a way that Ganges retains its unique character and continues to meet the community's needs.

I have two problems with the expansion of Mark's. One is the displacement of four

locally owned and operated businesses that manifest the unique Salt Spring character. The other is the loss of pedestrian appeal in the heart of our downtown core. Residents will lose forever the unique selection of groceries and sushi at Admirals and the funky clothes, incense and spiritual books at Windflower Moon. Locals and visitors alike will lose the variety and interest of walking down our main street. Imagine if an entire block of downtown Paris was taken over by a comparable chain of work clothes. Wouldn't we be disappointed and outraged?

While I have no problem with the existence of Mark's, their existence would not be threatened if they lost access to their current location. Surely a big retail chain of practical work clothes would, in fact, be more accessible in a location where parking is available any day of the week. Local

interests including tourist appeal would be better served by letting Mark's relocate and keeping downtown for local small business.

On Salt Spring, we have a fast-growing community of locals, eccentrics and seasonal tourists. In each of our decisions we have the right and the responsibility to effect change. How do we want to develop our built environment? Almost every change gets made by an individual not a collective, which is why people who have the right to choose what happens to our precious downtown space also have extra responsibility.

Let's all take action to create a more pedestrian, more interesting downtown core; concentrate our larger commercial and industrial activities to appropriate areas and as always protect our farms and forests.

**EMILY MCIVOR,**  
SALT SPRING

# Summer Photo Contest

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## OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**BEACH MUSIC:** Simon Wells strums his guitar as the setting sun lights the beach and water in red glow.

## MORE LETTERS

## Koffie's on

The Koffie Club on Salt Spring has been growing steadily since its start-up this year.

We've shared Dutch and Indonesian meals, supported each other though the "home team's" World Cup soccer adventures and even started language "refreshing" sessions.

We really appreciate the Driftwood's interest in publishing our story with a picture in the July 28 issue — thank you!

May I add that we also want to thank fellow Dutchman, Moby's Robert Steinbach, for his hospitable welcome every month. Our gathering would not be the same without his treat of traditional Dutch cookies with the koffie.

One or two corrections: reading Klub instead of Club in print took us by surprise. It's always been the Koffie Club.

Just in case, though, I checked the Dutch/English dictionary for confirmation. Club is still "club" in Dutch as well.

Also, in defence of my nephews as quoted in the article calling me "antique," they would not dare! What I meant to say is that they laugh at and call my use of the Dutch language "antique."

Wednesday, Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Moby's is our next Koffie Club. Bring your kids, grandkids, visitors, everyone welcome!

**ANKE SMEELE,**  
SALT SPRING

## Grateful for court repairs

In a world where bureaucracy and government usually evoke thoughts of mismanagement, it is truly a pleasure to be able to talk about something positive.

As an active tennis player and user of the grounds at Portlock, I am truly grateful to Kees Ruurs, PARC man-

ager, for arranging to have the tennis courts repaired.

Two of the courts were in poor repair and even a hazard to play on, prior to the repairs.

They are now in much better shape and I just wanted to express my thanks.

I also wanted to thank "Banana Joe" Clemente and his crew for the excellent way that they maintain the tennis courts and in fact the entire grounds around Portlock.

All of the Salt Spring Tennis Association members I have spoken with feel likewise and so thank you on behalf of all of us.

**FERNANDO DOS SANTOS,**  
VICE-PRESIDENT,  
SALT SPRING TENNIS ASSOCIATION

## Phantom surgery

A big thank you to doctors Pamy Sira and Roy Preshaw for offering to act as locums until a new general surgeon can be found for Salt Spring while SOS (Save our Surgery) fights to keep our state-of-the-art operating room in use. ("Ladies, villains clash as SOS gets creative," July 21 Driftwood.)

SOS chair Phyllis Bolton has urged VIHA CEO Howard Waldner to "accept the offer made by Sira and Preshaw, and continue to search for a general surgeon to provide long-standing and essential medical services in the operating room at Lady Minto Hospital to whose modernization Salt Spring Islanders contributed \$800,000."

A "Phantom Ball" by all means, but a "phantom surgery" never!

**KEN LEE,**  
SALT SPRING

## Fundraising

Here's food for thought: I wonder if the woman who is obsessed with saving rabbits would step up to the plate and raise \$65,000 to save starving children!

**LINDA KOROSCIL,**  
SALT SPRING

RANTS *and* Roses

## Rants

A truck full of thorny roses to the individual on Quebec Drive who decided it was time to mow the lawn in the early hours — 1:30 a.m. on July 28. Your barking dog and the other machinery that you decided to take out for a spin gave us a sleepless night. Show your neighbours some consideration! Kate & Mike on Quebec Lane

## Roses

A car full of sweet smelling roses to people who stay in their own lane when driving the narrow blind curves on the island.

Square and four round cement roses to Mhinder Mayer and Gulf Coast Materials for the

sand that gave the Salty Wheels Square Dance Club and guests a "smooooth" base for their outdoor dance floor. Thank you. Margaret Reid

A huge thank-you to all who supported our raffle for the 2010 toy run. Your support will go a long way to helping the kids of Salt Spring. Another huge thank-you to Country Grocer!

Pharmasave would like to shower Dorrie Jensen with sweet-smelling green roses for her and Dave's help in getting our soft plastic recycling organized. We really appreciate all you do for us! Thanks so much!

Lip smackin' roses to the cookie bakers fundraising for Grandmothers-to-Grandmothers in

Africa at the Rocky Horror Show.

Bunches of roses for my Rocky Horror Show family for the loving support after I broke my ankle. Also to Becky for helping with the horses, and to Dr. Holly for the sympathetic diagnosis. A special bouquet for Jekka, who will be a fantastic "Janet." Kaya/"Janet"

A dozen Italian blown-glass roses to the boys and girls at Gulf Islands Glass, with special thanks to Travis. Well done, folks! Herb Burnett

Super cool time-warped red roses to Rocky director Rachel Jacobson for making a dream come true for Rocky Horror fan Magali from Owen Sound, Ontario.

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*Salt Spring Island*



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BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

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BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

It's a world where people living in a house have a boat and can't even get up with those pondering a new career choice. It's called by many people "the island life."

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

It's a world where people living in a house have a boat and can't even get up with those pondering a new career choice. It's called by many people "the island life."

# OPINION

## Update land use bylaws for the times

BY MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE

In my remarks to the trustees at the last town hall meeting, I said that I did not come here for a love-in with the Trust nor did I come to trash it. I came to listen.

I did listen and then felt motivated to respond. It seemed to me that this land issue re: the Salt Spring Coffee Co. became a community issue. Trustees spoke about the many letters they received opposing the application.

I reminded them that there was also a petition with over 300 signatures, including many island growers and prominent environmentalists. It seemed to me that mostly this represented a flawed process.

My suggestion was that in the future, when there is a generous community concern and response, that we move to a round table forum and hire an independent professional facilitator to assist in bringing forth discussion. This way, the community would probably not end up being scolded for its behaviour and remarks. A well-facilitated meeting embraces controversy and diffuses it into conversation, dialogue and seeks a kaleidoscopic view of the situation, sometimes breaking down into smaller groups with focus issues.

I attended the meeting in the park on the need for a review of the Trust. Again, I went to listen. I don't know enough about self-government and I like to hear others' thoughts. There were people there from other islands who had stories and grievances

### INDEPTH

and they needed to be heard.

Speaking of using vehicles, who or what has the clout to deal with too much traffic here on the island? If incorporated, would we have our own transit system? Could we buy property and use it for innovative housing and community gardens, and food processing facilities?

What body would have the ability to take the taxes and use them to the benefit of Salt Spring and its future health as a community?

There is much to learn, much to discuss and even new models to be invented.

Whatever gets us exploring, discussing with contemplation is what I will support. I have said it before: individual letters to the Driftwood won't cut it.

After spending a week in the authentic old growth forest in the Walbran Valley in 1991 defending the forest, I returned to Salt Spring with the realization of what this place must have looked like a hundred years ago.

Prized for its views, by cutting trees to see the ocean, punching roads and more roads, and now with an estimated 10,000 or so car trips per day on the main road, we have to address the issue of not only habitat preservation but traffic.

In four to five years the traffic on the main road through Ganges will be bumper to bumper. It is already ridicu-

lous. People living near that road have to keep their windows closed, can no longer be out in their garden because of choking fumes and noise. Even while shopping in Ganges, while out and about, we are being poisoned and bombarded with noise. And what's a big oil spill got to do with me? It's not in my neighbourhood, eh?

Regarding the trustees' decision on the coffee company application, trustee Ehring said that consideration for the neighbours was an important factor. How many neighbours was that, I wonder? Trustee Torgrimson had spoken about her concern with urban sprawl. My impression is that is what we already have on this island.

Both trustees had suggested to the coffee company, that there may be industrial-zoned property available in the Rainbow Road area. This too got a rise from me. In that area and around Ganges is the highest density of residents of any other area. Many of them are seniors in a variety of forms of cluster housing. They would be considered neighbours too. How about the impact on them, and that many? Rainbow Road already has traffic problems.

Having a habit of keeping myself informed of "ecological" issues, I am finding many architects supporting cluster housing as a way to preserve habitat. Being part of the back to the land movement in the late '60s and early '80s, we were up against land use issues constantly. Agricultural

zoning laws prevented us from executing our vision of living and farming on shared land.

We must update land use laws for the times. We cannot as humanity continue with lifestyles developed in previous decades. There is so much available now in terms of sustainable living projects, but do we have the means, regulations and laws, bylaws to execute then here?

We have had some excellent meetings here on climate action issues and a wealth of suggestions for actions. A few years ago, there were the charettes.

Now we need a week, or several weekends maybe in the fall, of full island participation to view the input, proposals, grievances, hold discussions and figure out what we can actually do to make life more harmonious for everyone.

Something that tweaked my ears and mind came from one of the speakers at the July 4 park meeting when he was speaking about myths. "If you think islanders aren't 'green, well look at how they vote. They vote in environmentally concerned candidates."

We have to move from me and mine to us and our shared environment/habitat and how we move about in it. If revisions, or even a new model of governing is proposed, then let's thoroughly explore the whole galaxy.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident who attends many community events and meetings.*

## A right and proper thing to do

BY ARTHUR BLACK

Like much of Canada, my island, Salt Spring, still has little wisps and vestiges of British regalia pinned to its topographical lapel.

There's the town of Ganges named after a British Navy flagship; half of our mountains — Bruce, Hope, Erskine — and many of our bays (Fulford, Burgoyne) carry the names of British naval officers.

And then there's Lady Minto. No naval officer she, but an upstanding doyenne of British aristocracy. Her name was Mary Caroline Grey, she was wife of a Governor General of Canada back in the early 1900s. And she was by all accounts a right and proper lady and a generous philanthropist in her own right.

I think Lady Minto would be proud of the doughty little hospital that perches on a hill near Ganges and bears her name today. It's a robust and reliable medical redoubt staffed by friendly and astonishingly competent people who strive to make a visit to the hospital as good as a visit to the hospital can get.

And there's also a fabulous Lady Minto surgical operating facility in that hospital — available to the 15,000-plus British Columbians who live in the southern Gulf Islands year round — not to mention the tens of thousands of tourists who vacation here each year.

Oh wait — scratch that last entry. The Vancouver Island Health Authority has decided that we don't need the Lady Minto surgery after all. This,

after public assurances that the surgery would be continued in 2006 — only four short years ago. Oh. And also after a \$3-million upgrade just five short years ago.

Why the VIHA about face? Well, it's complicated, as all these health questions are. But what it comes down to, from VIHA's point of view is . . . they just can't find surgical personnel to staff it.

Which is curious to me. Because I know at least one surgeon in Mississauga who would give up his first born and/or his BMW for a chance to practise surgery on Salt Spring. An orthopaedic surgeon I met at a convention in Arizona asked me "Who do I have to kill to hang out my shingle on your island?" He wasn't smiling.

Turns out the problem isn't so much that VIHA can't find surgeons for the Lady Minto surgical facility presently gathering dust. It's more that they . . . haven't actually advertised for any. They've been leaning towards shutting it down for some time, but lack the administrative cajones to up and say so. So it's the death of a thousand cuts. As a matter of fact, the last surgeon the hospital had would still be in the Lady Minto OR sawing away, if he hadn't, he says, been forced to retire in 2008.

Dr. Roy Preshaw says he came to the island after he was told that Lady Minto would be the anchor for health care for the population of all the southern Gulf Islands.

That's what brought him to practise on the island in 2002 and kept him plenty busy til his retirement two years ago.

**I think Lady Minto would be proud of the doughty little hospital that perches on a hill near Ganges and bears her name today.**

So what's to happen with the brand new and suddenly next to useless Lady Minto operating facility? It might still be used for minor operations like endoscopies, even though they really don't require a multi-million dollar theatre. Presumably VIHA has some plan to justify the closure. Just as they presumably have some plan to give back the \$800,000 that Salt Springers pledged to keep the surgery alive.

It would be nice if this impasse could — unlike most B.C. political hot potatoes — be resolved amicably and a facility that was built to serve the afflicted could actually go ahead and do that instead of being cordoned off and mothballed.

That would be — as Lady Minto would no doubt tell us were she here — the right and proper thing to do.

*The above was a Planet Salt Spring segment aired on CBC's All Points West and reprinted with permission of Arthur Black.*

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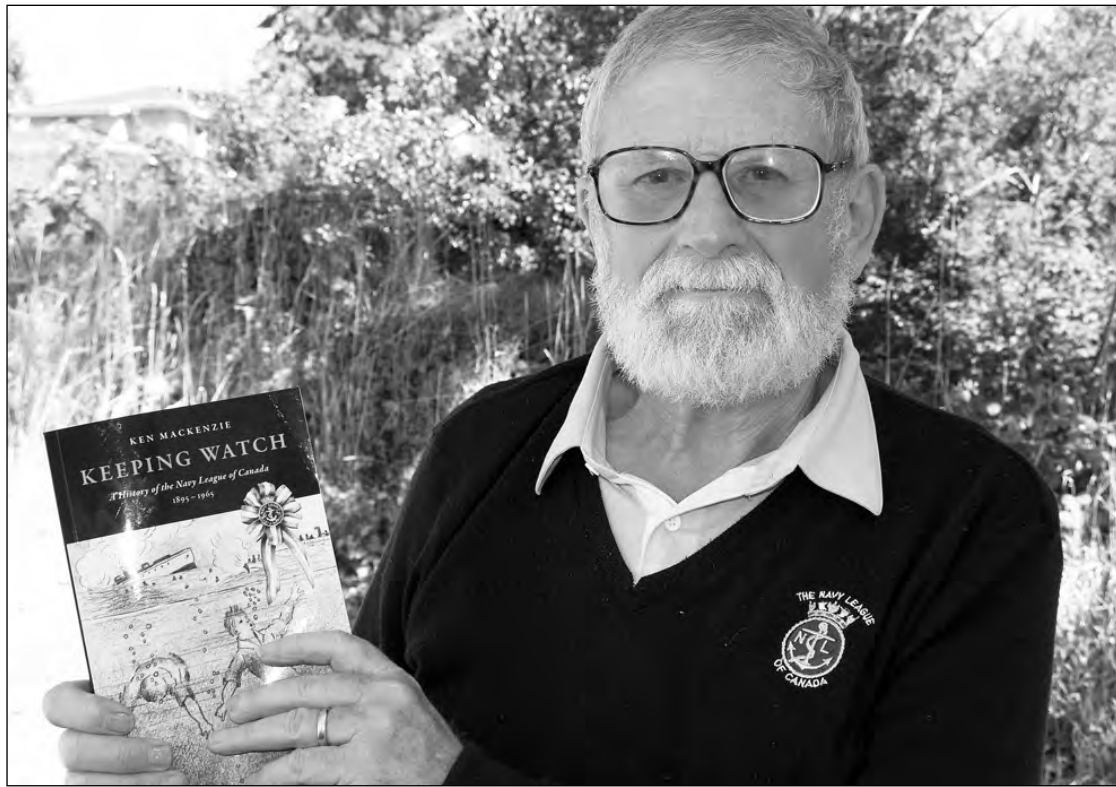
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- THIS WEEK:**  
Kayak tours promote marine ecology with recreation
- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Admiral's         | Meadowbrook            |
| Apple Photo       | Morningside-Fulford    |
| Barb's Buns       | NE Fitness             |
| B-Side            | Raven St. Market Café  |
| Calvin's          | ReMax                  |
| Chamber Office    | Royal LePage           |
| Core Inn          | Rock Salt              |
| Creekhouse        | Rendezvous Café        |
| Dagwoods          | Senior's Centre        |
| Embe Bakery       | Seabreeze Motel        |
| Fulford Inn       | Seaside Fish & Chip    |
| Fulford Ferry     | Salt Spring Coffee Co. |
| Golf Course       | Salt Spring Books      |
| GISS              | Salt Spring Inn        |
| Greenwoods        | Salt Spring Physio     |
| Golden Island     | Sears                  |
| GVM               | Shipton's              |
| Hospital          | Skin Sensations        |
| Harbour Foods     | Sports Traders         |
| Harbour House     | Studio One             |
| Hotel             | The Local              |
| Harlan's          | The Fritz              |
| Home Hardware     | Thrifty's              |
| Island Savings    | TJ Beans               |
| Island Star Video | Transitions            |
| Jana's Bakery     | Uptown Pizza           |
| Library           | Unglobe                |
| Love My Kitchen   | Vesuvius Store         |
| Long Harbour      | Vesuvius Ferry         |
| Terminal          | on Board               |
| Marketplace Cafe  | Vesuvius Ferry         |
| Moby's            | Terminal               |

# NEWSBEAT

## HISTORY



# Islander maps uncharted history

New work broaches void in nation's maritime history

*Keeping Watch: A History of the Navy League of Canada 1895-1965 is self-published through Aldridge Street Editing & Publishing Services. For more information, visit [www.aldrigestreet.com](http://www.aldrigestreet.com).*

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ask almost anybody what they think of the Navy League of Canada and chances are you'll be met with a blank stare, requisite head scratching and maybe a wild guess about some ill-fated Canadian sporting association.

That knowledge gap, combined with some prompting and encouragement from modern navy leaguers, is partly why a Salt Spring author, maritime historian and 12-year navy veteran dedicated nearly two decades to researching and writing a comprehensive history of the 115-year-old organization.

Or at least most of that story. Kenneth Mackenzie said he chose to stop in 1965 to preserve the book's character, objectivity and integrity.

"As a historian I've always felt that you can't write a proper history when most of the people are still alive," he said in a recent interview. "When those who are still alive are your friends, I think that reinforces it, so I was perfectly willing to stop in '65."

That left Mackenzie with 70

years of archival records, correspondence, anecdotal evidence and newspaper clippings to wade through as he cobbled together the Navy League's story.

The evidence was far from plentiful, though Mackenzie's extensive experience as the Canadian National Railroad's official archivist undoubtedly helped him uncover some real gems, many of which are reproduced in the book.

"Very few people have ever heard of the Navy League," he said. "That's always been one of its problems."

The result of Mackenzie's effort traces the evolution of an organization that nearly mirrors the trends, changes and tendencies manifest in the broader context of Canada's development.

As a testament to its early links to Imperial tradition and culture, the Toronto-based organization really took off in Victoria, home of B.C.'s pervasive colonial and maritime culture.

By the time of Canada's involvement in World War I, the Navy League's powers-that-be had transformed the organization to act as an early-day NGO looking out for the welfare and comfort of merchant seamen.

With the onset of the Great Depression, Mackenzie traces the Navy League's involvement centred on the sea cadets program and educating youth about the merits of a life spent at sea.

By mid-century, the group's advocacy of sea power shifted towards the propagation of a nation-wide sea consciousness,

a task that has proven daunting to this very day.

Though ideally suited to armchair and active navalists, Mackenzie's thoroughly researched and well-written account of the Navy League of Canada's inaugural 70 years is made more accessible to a broader audience thanks to his frequent use of context.

The league's development is consistently explained through the inclusion of broader cultural, geographic, economic and political happenings in Canada's early years.

Arguably the most intriguing aspect of Mackenzie's work is his look to the horizon, to the Navy League's future role and relevance.

In an age when each day brings headlines of another catastrophe facing the world's oceans, Mackenzie sees the league's future as an association capable of defending the oceans on a national and global scale.

"Canada, now more than ever, needs to recognize the need for wholesome seas, and at the moment they are a degraded and polluted wholesomeness," writes Mackenzie in the book's epilogue.

"The global ocean needs an Ombudsman; it needs an organization speaking with a unified and knowledgeable voice on its behalf.

"The Navy League of Canada could very well be such a body. Perhaps it's time to change its name and extend its outlook in the third world war, the planet's fight for its very survival."

# Kipling sums up July bridge matches

Proper attitude leads to walk with kings

**BY JILL EVANS**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Duplicate bridge is an iffy game — you know, "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs..."

Well, on July 19 there were six full tables and George Laundry and Paul Retallack kept their heads and won, but if half a point had gone the other way, second place finishers Irene Hawksworth and Jill Evans might have tied. And so it goes.

Jeff Bell and summer visitor Diane Wheatcroft partnered to third place, while Isabelle Richardson and Jean Elder occu-

## BRIDGETRICKS

pied their oft-times fourth spot. Meeting with triumph and disaster and treating those impostors just the same got Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor into the fifth place.

July 26 saw a full moon's weirdnesses in the hands, where if a singleton or void hadn't sat opposite a partner's great suit, players might not have muttered to themselves "If you can bear to hear the suit you've spoken! Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools..." and gritted their teeth in the face of adversity.

Prem Margolese and Jeff Bell

must have mastered this in order to end up in first place among the six full tables, with the George Laundry/Paul Retallack partnership next in line.

Tilly Crawley and Lynn Thorburn were also not fazed and came third, with Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor in the fourth spot.

Fifth place went to Gisela Welsh and Joanne Elizabeth, and as for the rest, if you can "lose, and start again at your beginnings! And never breathe a word about your loss..." you might walk with Kings successfully next time — or some time.

For info, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca).

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PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
Salt Spring's Kenneth Mackenzie with his new book Keeping Watch: A History of the Navy League of Canada 1895-1965.

Ice Wine Jelly with Mint:  
SeaChange Savouries



Photography: John Cameron 250.538.2218

# Keep Smiling...

## Thoughts & News

from Dr. Richard Hayden

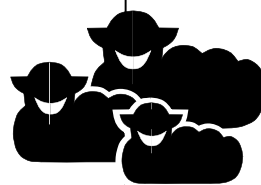


### What's the cheapest thing, Doc?

So, what is the cheapest sort of dentistry? After doing this for 17 years I have discovered that dentistry that lasts a long time and that doesn't have to be redone too soon is ultimately cheapest.

The most expensive dentistry is often what seemed to be the cheap option but fails and needs to be redone, usually in a more costly and complicated way.

Take for example a tooth with a crack in it. One option is to place a new top on the tooth so it won't fracture. This might cost \$1000 to \$1500, depending on your dentist. Another option is to "wait and see" which costs nothing. Recently I saw a lady whose tooth had split right to the nerve. OUCH! Now a root canal is required as well as the crown, doubling the cost and making the entire procedure less predictable.



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The new free place to list your fitness class or regular group activities of any kind.



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## WEDNESDAY

**SLOW FLOW YOGA CLASS** with Dorothy Price for sore backs, sore joints, etc. begins on Aug. 18th at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:45 to 8 p.m.  
**STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD** takes a break for the summer.  
**GENEALOGY GROUP** takes a break for the summer.

### every WEDNESDAY

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at The Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
**SUNRISE YOGA.** Tuesdays to Fridays at Ganges Yoga Studio. 7:30 a.m.  
**PILATES CLASSES** with Diana Bell at 210 Cedar Lane. All levels class at 11 a.m. More info: 250-537-5965. \$10 drop-in. Bring your own mat.  
**ZEN MEDITATION** at 210 Cedar Lane at 7 p.m. Call 250-537-2258 for details. Newcomers always welcome.  
**ART CAMP** for kids aged five and up runs Mondays through Fridays in the summer at Fables Cottage on Hereford Avenue. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.  
**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards. Music with Harry W. and friends, 2 to 4 p.m.  
**BODYBALL** is taking a break for the summer.

## THURSDAY

**BINGO** at Meaden Hall on the first and third Thursday of each month at Meaden Hall. 7 p.m.

### every THURSDAY

**TRISHA'S BOOMER BOOTCAMP** is a low-impact class using easy-to-learn exercises with a focus on cardio, strength and agility. Suitable for all fitness levels. North End Fitness (non-members welcome) from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in. Info: 250-653-4656 or trisha@synergyfit.ca.  
**FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES** with Betty-Lou Lake is taking a break for the summer and returning on Tues., Sept. 7.

**SUNRISE YOGA.** See Wednesday listing.

**ART CAMP.** See Wednesday listing.

**TODDLER TIME**, story time and singing with Wendy runs Thursdays at Fables Cottage at 10:30 a.m. Free.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards.

### every FRIDAY

**SUNRISE YOGA.** See Wednesday listing.

**ART CAMP.** See Wednesday listing.

**KUNDALINI YOGA** for beginners and intermediates runs with Nomi Lyons on Sundays in August and September at 334 Cusheon Lake Rd. from 4 to 6:30 a.m. (Yes, a.m.) Info: 250-537-9299. By donation.

## every FRIDAY

**RUGG HUGGERS** Baby and Parent Drop-In group. Family Place, 120 Park Drive. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 250-537-9176; familyplace@ssics.ca

**FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASS** at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Road. \$12 drop in or \$100/10 classes. 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Anna Haltrecht at 250-537-5681 or anna@bonesforever.com

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards. Music with Silk from 2 to 4 p.m.  
**BODYBALL** takes a break for the summer.

### every SATURDAY

**PILATES CLASSES** with Diana Bell at 210 Cedar Lane. All levels class at 9:30 a.m. More info: 250-537-5965. \$10 drop-in. Bring your own mat.

**DAD 'N' ME** Pancake Breakfast for kids and their dads at Family Place, 120 Park Drive. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Info: 250-537-9176; familyplace@ssics.ca

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards.

### every SUNDAY

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards. Jazz in the vines from 3 to 5 p.m.

**KUNDALINI YOGA** for beginners and intermediates runs with Nomi Lyons on Sundays in August and September at 334 Cusheon Lake Rd. from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-9299. \$80 for 8-class pass; \$14 drop-in

## MONDAY

**SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** trustees meeting. Ganges fire hall, 7:30 p.m.

**SALT SPRING PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION** meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Portlock Park Portable, 7 p.m. — although actual meeting dates are subject to change. Info: PARC, 250-537-4448.

### every MONDAY

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** meets every Monday evening at Salt Spring Seniors Services Centre. 7 p.m.

**PLAY READING GROUP** meets every Monday at Salt Spring Seniors Services Centre. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ART CAMP.** See Wednesday listing.

**THE CLINIC** by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Çore Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.

**PILATES CLASSES** with Diana Bell at 210 Cedar Lane. A gentle stretch-based class suitable for beginners. 2 p.m. More info: 250-537-5965. \$10 drop-in. Bring your own mat.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

**LIFE DRAWING.** Core Inn (third floor). 1 to 3:30 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121. Drop-ins welcome.

**TOASTMASTERS** public speaking group. Harbour House Hotel, Crofton Room. 7 p.m. Members of the public welcome.

## every MONDAY

**BONES FOR LIFE CLASS** at Cats Pajamas Studio (104 Langs Road). \$12 drop in or \$100 for 10 classes. 4-5:15 p.m. Info: Anna Haltrecht at 250-537-5681 or anna@bonesforever.com

### every TUESDAY

**TODDLER TIME** is arts and crafts activities for kids aged 2 to 4 years at Fables Cottage from 10:30 a.m. \$10

**MARKET IN THE MEADOW.** United Church Meadow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**KUNDALINI MOVING MEDITATION** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and **ECKHART TOLLE PRACTISING PRESENCE** from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.

**SUNRISE YOGA.** See Wednesday listing.

**ART CAMP.** See Wednesday listing.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE** for all levels at the The Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm, 190 Reynolds Rd. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**PILATES CLASSES** with Diana Bell at 210 Cedar Lane. An energetic class suitable for the fit client. 5:30 p.m. More info: 250-537-5965. \$10 drop-in.

**FREE TASTINGS** of local wines paired with local foods and picnics in the licensed grounds of Salt Spring Vineyards.

**PADDLE & PLAY** — a Family Place activity held at Lakeside Gardens on St. Mary Lake. (1450 North End Rd.) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 250-537-9176.

**SYNERGYFIT STRENGTH AND BALANCE** class at Beaver Point Hall. A low-impact class designed to increase your heart rate and over-all strength and balance. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. 10 sessions for \$100 or \$12 drop-in. Info: 250-653-4656, trisha@synergyfit.ca  
**FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES** with Betty-Lou Lake takes a break for the summer, returning Tues., Sept. 7.



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	4:30-5:30 PM	MELLOW YOGA
	6-7 PM	BEGINNERS' YOGA

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**LOOKING FOR THE BIG ONE:** Brandon Momney tries his hand at fishing off the Fernwood Dock at sunset on a recent Salt Spring summer day.

## DRAGONBOAT RACING

# Festival a hot spot for Spirit Point Dragons

Harrison Springs freshwater challenge mastered by islanders

Spirit Point Dragons brought home metal again this paddling season — this time from the Harrison Hot Springs Dragonboat festival in late July where the club's women's team took first place in their division.

Paddlers for the Salt Spring team included Sabine Georgy, Marit McBride, Robyn Huntley, Robyn Dupuis, Glynis Finer, Linda MacQueen, Lynda Brown, Dianne Bateman, Stephanie Maskell, Carmelle Labelle, Tracey Watson, Andrea Smith, Katherine Davison-York, Ann Marie Davidson, Melynda Okulitch, Wendy Eggertson and Janice Shields. Sam Parker came out of retirement, and Judy Wil-

lett now living and racing in Comox/Campbell River again joined the team.

Barry Green volunteered as team manager during the festival. Andrew Okulitch was caller/drummer for all races, and Tom McKeachie kept the boat on track.

Paddling in fresh water always presents some challenges for teams used to salt water practices, and all times are generally slower.

The Salt Spring team faced the additional challenge of paddling short in all races after illness sidelined one club member.

In the morning, Spirit Point Dragons raced against an assortment of mixed and women's teams finishing their 200-metre qualifier in just over 59 seconds; and the 500-metre qualifier in two minutes, 49 seconds.

The heat, wind and sand-

storms all picked up in the afternoon, but even paddling short Spirit Point managed a 2.35 finish in the semi-finals and landed in the women's C division.

In their final race they steamed down the course well ahead of other competitors. Deep Cove's Perfect Catch finished 2:39; Sea Syrens at 2:42; Spirit Abreast in 2:45; and Fort Langley Dragon Queens in 2:49.

At two minutes, 34 seconds the Spirit Point winning time was so fast they would also have won in the next division up.

In related news, Spirit Point coach Mary Rowles paddling with Vancouver-based Dragonhearts Ultimate also brought home a gold medal as that team won the festival overall.

The Spirit Point club will send a mixed team to the Vic-

**The heat, wind and sandstorms all picked up in the afternoon, but even paddling short Spirit Point managed a 2.35 finish in the semi-finals . . . .**

toria two-day festival in mid-August.

The club thanks Harbour's End Marine, Moby's Pub, Royal LePage and Country Grocer for their sponsorship.

Anyone interested in trying out this sport should contact maryrowles19@hotmail.com.

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7:45 am Saturdays only	8:30 am Saturdays only
7:50 am Daily Except Saturdays & Sundays	9:00 am Daily Except Saturdays
9:15 am Saturdays only	10:00 am Saturdays only
9:50 am Daily Except Saturdays	11:00 am Daily Except Saturdays
10:45 am Saturdays only	11:30 am Saturdays only
11:50 am Daily Except Saturdays	1:00 pm Daily Except Saturdays
12:15 pm Saturdays only	1:10 pm Saturdays only
1:50 pm Daily Except Saturdays	3:00 pm Daily
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## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS AWARDS

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**Nomination Form - nominations close Friday, Sept. 3, 2010**  
Please use one form per nomination

**BUSINESS/INDIVIDUAL:**

**CATEGORY:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Business of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business of the Year
<input type="checkbox"/> New Business of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/Farm Business of the Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Ambassador of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Market Vendor of the Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Business of the Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Building or Construction Trades of the Year
<input type="checkbox"/> Citizen of the Year	

**Why are you nominating this person/business for this award?**

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Your contact information must accompany this application to be valid  
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Please drop off completed nominations at the VISITOR CENTRE, ISLAND SAVINGS CREDIT UNION, GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD, ROCK SALT AT FULFORD HARBOUR or nominate online @ [saltspringtourism.com](http://saltspringtourism.com)

Criteria for each award can be found at [www.saltspringtourism.com](http://www.saltspringtourism.com)

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## GOLF

# Full field swings over \$6,000 worth at Golf Fore the Cure

Lots of laughs and hot pink fun

BY SUSAN RUSSELL  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It was all about raising money for breast cancer research, but the golfing ladies really thought it was about having a great time.

The third annual Golf Fore the Cure tournament held last week at the Salt Spring Island Golf Club managed to raise over \$6,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

With more than 66 entrants, the field was full for a shotgun start/alternate shot format.

The women were greeted at registration with lots of ladies in pink, particularly the bubblicious Joanna Barrett, with her decorated golf cart, and the ladies of Mouat's, in their hot pink outfits with matching wigs.

Treva Hinchcliff, Deb Hamilton, Marnie McAughtrie and Mary Lou Bompas brought a smile to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Mouat's crew turned up for the benefit golf tournament in hot pink outfits and matching wigs.

everyone who met them, and they really upped the fun quotient.

After snacking on delicious scones and jam donated by Christine Godlonton, the ladies were able to throw extra cash in the

bucket and try the putting competition, won by Grace Murchie.

There was an Over the Hill competition, which tested the ladies' skill at pitching, won by Jane Hickie.

The amount of laughter and

shouting on the course was a testament to the amount of fun, and the ladies of the sponsoring Driftwood — Erin Jory and Kim Young — were having a great time.

They were awarded the green conservancy award for not hitting out of the anthill.

This year was family bonding time with several family groupings: Morgan Savin and her daughter Brett Webb, Pam Ellacott and her daughter Cynthia Ellacott Rumsby, Julie Tyler and her stepdaughter Christine Dalton, and Linda Roth and her granddaughter Kirstin Compton.

Many thanks to Linda for her expert picture taking.

With able assistance from Hamish Simpson, Larry Davies and Dennis Wheatley, the on-course competitions went without a hitch, with KP won by Franki Johnstone, and the safest drive by Linda Tremblay.

The ladies all enjoyed the "punch" on the sixth green, pro-

The amount of laughter and shouting on the course was a testament to the amount of fun . . .

vided by the Investor ladies Darcy Hoffer and Cindy Eagle.

At a wonderful lunch supplied by Jesse, Bill and the gang, lots of raffle and door prizes were handed out. Many thanks to Joan Pateron, who, after winning the 50/50, donated the money back to the Canadian Cancer Society.

The grand prize, with a low net of 31, went to Kathy Luke and her partner Joan White.

Thanks to the great organizing of Karen Davies and her volunteers, the golfers are already making plans for next year.

## KARATE

# Island dojo hosts karate promotion with 12 achieving next step

New site 'sets a new standard'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of Salt Spring's karate club had more than a few reasons to jump in celebration on Friday afternoon.

Members oversaw promotions of 12 members and the awarding of third-degree black belts (san-

dan) to Chris Barclay, Monica Byron and Randolph Parker.

"Once you achieve your black belt you now have to realize you know the basics," Parker said. "You think you know a lot of stuff, but once you get there, you realize you only know the fundamentals."

Chris Denbigh, Jorge Coelho, Sonja Collombin and Mike Dragland were promoted from brown to black belts (sho-dan) during

the five-hour ceremony at Pat Byron's rammed earth dojo on Furness Road.

Eight other club members received under-belt promotions.

Though any old black belt can be picked up in a store for less than \$30, Parker said, the right to wear a black belt only comes after years of practice and dedication.

A successful black belt student, he added, has probably

dedicated a decade to the sport, spent thousands on membership fees and completed about 10,000 sit-ups.

Though the club's regular weekly practices will still take place at the Salt Spring Elementary School gymnasium when regular classes resume in September, the Furness Road facility will be used on an invitation-only basis for special ceremonies and guest speakers.

The Salt Spring club's black-belted members performed a personal kata, or form, to celebrate the new dojo's official opening.

"It really is an awesome space," Parker said. "It sets a new standard. Students feel elevated to a new level just by being there."

More information about Salt Spring's karate club is available by calling Chris Barclay at 250-537-1155.





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## TENNIS

# Rookie tourney exceeds expectations

Annual event draws aces to the court

Up-and-coming Salt Spring and off-island athletes competed in the second-annual Salt Spring Island Rogers Rookie Tour Junior Tennis Tournament on July 24.

Athletes aged 15 and under appeared to enjoy themselves as the sun was beaming and competition was friendly, according to event organizer Marianne Banman.

"For most of the athletes, this tournament represented a huge milestone as their first organized event," she said. "The

quality of play was superb, with several close and breathtaking matches."

The Portlock Park tennis courts were in full swing until the midday heat set in.

Each player played five matches in a round-robin tournament. Play was divided into three-quarter and full-court divisions. Local volunteers and parents assisted with scoring, line calls, and to make sure rookies had plenty of confidence and focus.

During the final matches, parents and children alike watched intently as the two newly minted tennis players in each division jockeyed for the championship titles.

At the end of the day, all were content and a little army of red-shirted tennis players trudged homeward, content with their play and sportsmanship.

Athletes were pleasantly surprised with a Rogers gift bag at the tournament desk, filled with water bottles, T-shirts and other goodies. Thrifty Foods donated a player snack pack and popsicles for everyone's refreshment and enjoyment.

"It was the most successful tournament so far," Banman said. "Less numbers than last year, but the level of play was terrifically higher."

"I was so impressed with all the players."

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### COMING EVENTS

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**This Week's Horoscope**

by **Michael O'Connor**  
www.sunstarastronomy.com  
sunstarastronomy@gmail.com  
1.888.352.2936

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)**

Love is in the air for you now. Respect is the other end of the deal and is equally important, on the material plane. Your ability to find freedom within confines is also featured. With your sights set on the future, you are willing to exercise some humility and constructive criticism. You may wonder later if you looked twice before you leaped. C'est la vie, you are in a new game now.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)**

Although it is high summer, this is a nesting time for you. Making your space according to your creative needs and desires is important. You are willing to do what it takes, but you may need more knowledge and training. Take a cooperative approach by explaining why you need things a certain way. Honouring the same needs expressed by significant others will contribute big to your 'happy ever after'.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**

Finding freedom within commitment and vice versa is ever ideal and a main goal for you now. This theme may cross over into your public and professional life as well as personal. Are you too fussy and particular in any way? For a more objective answer, try asking other significant players on your stage. If reconciliation seems distant, it may be the sign that it is time to move on.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**

Working with change can be harder than we bargained for. Often, the issue is our attitude subject to our attachments and expectations. When we are keen and 'into it' we can achieve great things and endure despite obstacles and emerge triumphant. Yet, where there is resistance there is pain and suffering. Summon the courage to face fears and tackle your comfort zone to lay claim to your will power.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**

Pushing through and beyond is the call now. Other key players and circumstances are pushing you to follow through. Exercising a constructively critical perspective is necessary to prioritize. Discerning what you need and what has outlived its purpose is featured. Trying new approaches includes experimenting with new technology and/or any other innovative methods.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**

Exercising a new level of command begins with the planning stages. Happy behind the scenes in your studio, shop or other sort of headquarters is likely now. New ideas are brewing and you sense their power and potential. Yet patience is required as you build upon new foundations. Pacing yourself is also important. Clarify where your commitments lie then proceed one steady step at a time.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**

Who are your true friends and who are not? Given the ever changing flow of life, the answer may not be so obvious. This is why it is important that we learn to be our own best friend. What this implies and how to do it is another story. It begins with self-acceptance, non-comparison with others, choosing to like and learning to love ourselves and avoiding self recrimination. The universe is asking this of you now.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**

Some situations are more complex than others. Like is full of paradoxes, riddles, apparent contradictions, ironies and so on.... In your case it is about shining in the sun, yet needing to get out of your own way to do so. It is not always about pushing hard. Simply showing up regularly and staying the course often works. Yet setting goals and intentions and living with vision helps you know when to stay and when to go.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**

An adventurous mood is leading you to explore new horizons. New places, people and/or philosophies are stirring your perspectives. Your next new 'love interest' is calling you out. However, guided by practical considerations all your own, you are not in the mood to simply follow anyone else's lead. Yet, you do want things to change and to break free from the past.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**

Making the most of the talents and resources of others continues as a central theme. Giving and/or receiving training or instruction is probable and ideal. In some respects, you are at a high point in your life. Knowing how you got here and where to direct your energy and focus next is equally important and may require tenacity and endurance. Exercise your executive!

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**

A new light and quality of exchange and expression is emerging on a variety of fronts. Maintaining an active pace and keeping an open mind is important. Your willingness to learn new skills and meet new people is a key to your success. Sometimes we get to do what we like while at other times necessity guides our choices. The busy pace may prove disorienting so clarify your priorities now.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**

Creating better health simply begins with clear intentions of taking sincere care of your self. You can still be strong and, in fact, more exercise and the efforts implied may be necessary. Nutrition and exercise is obvious when it comes to health but equally important is cleansing the body, inside and out. Aim to get clear about being cleaner and healthier than ever.

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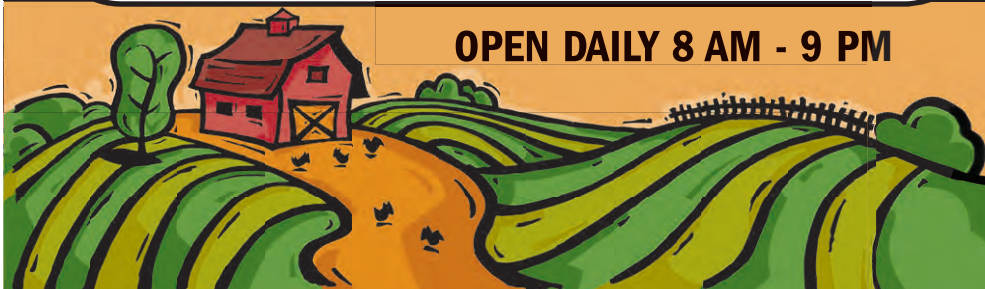
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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Jamie Capranos in Oregon grape and salal.

NATURAL REMEDIES

# Herbal integration

Island homeopath shares knowledge of local herbs

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A well-known island homeopath is literally returning to her roots with a vigorous incorporation of herbal knowledge into her healing and teaching practice.

Jamie Capranos has shared her knowledge with islanders for many years, becoming a familiar face through her work at Salt Spring Natureworks' healing department.

For the past six years she has offered homeopathy from the Green Raven Centre on Blackburn Road, moving to a full-time practice there three years ago.

"A lot of people know me as a homeopath, but I've actually practised herbology much longer, so once the homeopathy was up and running I wanted to reintegrate herbs into my practice," Capranos said.

One way she's done that is to create a series of medicinal teas. Made from herbs sourced from certified organic Canadian farms, Capranos has created six varieties that address a variety of complaints.

"Herbal infusions are one of the best ways to completely replenish the body," Capranos explained.

"Herbs are so tonifying and nourishing. They're like food for our cells: deeply, deeply nourishing."

The teas come with a lovely label designed by the Salt Spring firm of Hermani-Sorrentino Design and are available at Green Raven or online through Salt Spring Seeds. Although she just introduced the Salt Spring Medicinals line a few months ago, Capranos said the response has already been great.

"They've just taken off. It's actually really overwhelming," she said, noting she's already low on her most popular blend, the Cleanse & Detox.

Capranos is also bringing her herbal knowledge into her teaching calendar with a 10-month course beginning in September called The Alchemy of Herbal Medicine. During her years teaching homeopathy she has offered basic courses in herbs and has realized there is a strong interest and knowledge base already existing on the island, with learners hungry for more advanced study.

"Salt Spring is one of those places where so many people are talented in so many areas. People are so enthusiastic about this kind of knowledge — it's less of an academic pursuit and more of a lifestyle," Capranos said.

Capranos has eight years of post-secondary education, but said some of her most influential teachers are from the shamanic realm in New Mexico and Susan Weed at the Wise Woman Centre in New York. She sees modern medicine becoming more integrated with traditional and alternative practices for a more holistic approach.

With doctors of western medicine now practising

acupuncture, taking seminars on homeopathy and studying energy work, she believes there is "a real cultural shift" that everyone will benefit from.

"I see the course as an opportunity to sit in a circle with people and share wisdom as a community, which I see really touching and affecting other lives," Capranos said.

"I'm just passing on wisdom that I've been blessed with by so many extraordinary teachers."

Capranos will focus the intermediate-level course on teaching a small number of herbs thoroughly, concentrating on varieties that grow on Salt Spring and the surrounding bioregion. The goal is for students to feel confident and grounded in their knowledge. And the focus on locally found plants is not just based on convenience.

**"People are so enthusiastic about this kind of knowledge — it's less of an academic pursuit and more of a lifestyle."**

JAMIE CAPRANOS  
homeopath

"I believe the herbs that grow where we are the ones we would benefit most from our connection with; there is an intrinsic connection between where we live and the herbs we need," Capranos said.

Oregon grape, for example, grows abundantly on the island and its root has many healing uses. Capranos said it can be used for liver and gall bladder complaints, for mucous membranes and respiratory health and for purifying the blood. It can be made into a tincture, a tea or a salve.

She also believes healing should be affordable, and students will learn to create a rich cabinet of the "people's medicine" by wildcrafting and drying herbs themselves.

The principle of energetics and the energetics of herbs will also be discussed.

"Herbs are a living system and the human body is a living system," Capranos said. "Herbs are much more than their constituents, just as the human body is more than the liver, the gall bladder and so on."

Other components of the course will include long-term health plans, nourishing traditions and nutrition, prevention and how to treat chronic disease. Capranos has creative ways to teach anatomy and physiology, noting that holistically, for example, the respiratory can't be studied in isolation from the rest of the body.

The Alchemy of Herbal Medicine begins Sunday, Sept. 29 and continues monthly through June 2011. For more information or to register, please contact [info@jamiecapranos.com](mailto:info@jamiecapranos.com) or phone 250-537-0602.

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#### BODY CARE

## A return to simpler times

Barrage of shampoo bar requests prompts action

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A product that's been off the shelf for 15 years is set to make a return at Salt Spring Soapworks this month, proving many consumers desire simpler — and greener — times.

Last year, company owner Linda Quiring acted against her personal inclination and listened to clients' number one request to bring out a lip balm.

With 100 per cent organic ingredients, the lip balm is now the company's top selling product.

Keeping this experience in mind, Quiring was less reluctant to act on the second-most popular request, to bring back the company's shampoo bar, although she was surprised people still remembered and wanted it after so many years.

"When I first started selling soap in the market in 1980 a couple of really old people saw the handmade soap and wanted it for shampoo," Quiring said.

"They knew that modern soaps weren't good for washing your hair."

Quiring tracked down an old recipe for a shampoo bar and made it for 10 years or so, but stopped producing it after the novelty seemed to fade. A barrage of requests in recent years, however, has led to a return to the old-time standard.

The difference between a regular bar of soap and the shampoo bar comes down to one "secret" ingredient.

Quiring said castor oil, made from the seeds of the castor plant, was

ubiquitous in hair care and beauty products during the 1930s and '40s. After World War II petrochemical products became more usual, and to this day many beauty products contain detergents rather than soap (although that is not the case with Soapworks products).

"It's going back to a simple thing — lots of things that were kind of neat just got dumped when we went modern," Quiring said in regard to western society.

According to Quiring, castor oil produces a rich lather and doesn't strip the scalp of its natural oils, producing a conditioning effect on hair where regular soap would be drying. It cleanses the scalp and provides body to fine hair.

However, the oil is tricky to work with, so the company has experimented with formulas for the past two years before launching the new shampoo bar this month.

Besides being made with natural ingredients and biodegradable, and containing no artificial fragrance, preservatives or animal by-products, the shampoo bar will cut down on plastic waste because it doesn't come in a bottle and lasts for around six months of hair washings.

"I think that's why after not having it for 15 years people were still asking for it," Quiring said.

"You can take it kayaking or camping and wash your dishes, wash your clothes. You could probably use sea water and it would still lather."

The shampoo bar comes in three varieties: unscented with jojoba oil for extra dry hair; with camomile and calendula for blond or light hair; or rosemary-mint for regular to oily hair.

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SALT SPRING

# GREEN EDITION

## ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING

# EcoNests: homes with a conscience

Meet the Laportes — Salt Spring's new green builders

BY LESLIE WALLACE  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine a newly constructed home that a wild animal might wander into, not knowing it has left animal territory for human, a home that looks, smells and feels so natural to a rabbit, say, that its instinct to avoid human-made structures is replaced by a sense of familiarity.

In an ideal world, according to natural home builder Robert Laporte, the rabbit who can't tell the difference between its natural habitat and your new home and hops through the front door will be the final arbiter of whether or not your home passes its final inspection.

Siting for solar and wind access will replace siting for view and curb appeal. Builders will look to local birds as their teachers and choose their materials as birds do, from what is available locally in nature.

Informed by an unbroken tradition of European timber framing, the philosophy and standards of Building Biology — the European gold standard for healthy, environmentally sound building practice — and the genius of birds, Robert and his architect wife Paula Baker Laporte take natural building to a whole new level with their clay, straw and timber EcoNest homes.

Robert and Paula share two goals: to design and build a zero-mile house, using only materials that come from the property they are building on, and to eliminate homelessness.

"There's no need for it," says Robert. "[The materials needed for building] are all here. EcoNests are built from what is locally available in 'nature's factory.'" The 600-square-foot cottage Robert and his students started building on the Laportes' property this summer is constructed from wood sourced from their property (20 per cent), with the balance coming from the B.C. mainland. The clay used to build the clay-straw walls came from the south end.

In each location where the Laportes build, the material mix is adapted to local conditions. On Salt Spring for example, there isn't much straw available, so cedar wood chips replaced some of the straw content in the clay-straw walls. All the straw came from Salt Spring: oat and wheat straw from a north end farm, and canary grass from local swamps. The Faswall wood-insulated concrete forms used for the foundation came from Oregon.

The only "products" used in the construction of this home are concrete, steel and exterior grade plywood that has no added formaldehyde. Use of the latter was required to construct a horizontal shear panel for the ceiling to meet structural earthquake requirements under the B.C. Building Code.

Every effort is made to reduce the use of polluting materials. By using Faswall, for example, the Laportes reduce the amount of concrete normally used in construction by 75 per cent. Buildings are responsible for almost half (48 per cent) of all greenhouse gas emissions annually. Production of Portland cement alone, which is increasing five per cent annually worldwide, creates

as much as 12 per cent of global greenhouse gases.

Toxic building materials are major contributors to health problems associated with indoor pollution. Formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, is found in a number of products used in conventional building including drywall, particle board, fiberglass insulation and plywood. These products all off-gas into the home, sometimes for years after installation.

**EcoNests are built from what is locally available in "nature's factory."**

The Laportes have completely eliminated toxic materials from the homes they design and build.

Another distinctive feature of an EcoNest home is that the walls have no vapour barrier. Water can't get trapped in these walls, thus avoiding the water damage and mould problems that plague many conventionally built homes. Moisture always moves from a warmer area to a cold one and from a higher vapour concentration to a lower concentration. Thus, in climates such as this one, moisture has a tendency to flow from the inside of a home built the EcoNest way to the outside during the winter and from the outside in during summer. Protection from the rain is provided by a wide "hip" roof and a good foundation — in EcoNest parlance

"a good hat and a good pair of boots." No additional wall insulation is required because the massive wall system provides thermal mass, protecting the home's inhabitants from hot outdoor temperatures during summer and absorbing, retaining and releasing heat inside the home during winter. EcoNest homes are also built to last. There are homes built in Europe 700 years ago that are still occupied today.

Robert and Paula relocated their building and teaching business to Salt Spring last year. Their workshops fill up fast. With the exception of a one-day seminar, EcoNest workshops weren't advertised on the island this year because there were no spaces available.

The Laportes want Salt Springers to know that they are here, so that they will have the opportunity to participate in future workshops, and to see their home, which will be open to the public when it is completed.

Robert will teach a course in Japanese Timber Framing on Salt Spring from Sept. 19 to 26.

To contact Robert and Paula and to find out more about their courses, go to [www.econest.com](http://www.econest.com).



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Sun 15: Jazz w/Lloyd English



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### MUSIC FESTIVAL



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Gathering at SS Vineyards — one of the jazz fest venues — recently were several of the jazz and blues musicians set to play Aug. 13-15 throughout Salt Spring.

## Full immersion at jazz fest

Acts, performers throughout the island

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's jazz festival has been warming up over the past four years, and with its fifth year running it's about to get positively hot.

That's not just because the festival has moved from June to August to take advantage of better weather and outdoor locations. With three new feature venues and a plethora of musical

events throughout the weekend of Aug. 13-15, the latest edition promises to be sizzling.

This year's theme of "the good life" will see bands playing at three "festival venues," as well as cafes and pubs around town. Good life feature locations — Mistaken Identity Vineyards, Salt Spring Vineyards and Salt Spring Island Cheese — will provide daytime entertainment with access to wine and cheese picnics on site.

"Our aim is to provide a great experience for the resident and for the visitor," said artistic director Paul Mowbray.

"To be in those locations anyway is wonderful, but to add these bands is pretty special."

Music enthusiasts will have the opportunity to experience a total jazz immersion during the weekend, moving from outdoor venues in the daytime to mellow dinner jazz in restaurants and on to nightlife settings in local pubs.

"We just want to get everybody out and listening to good music in nice places, to take in the ambiance," said jazz society treasurer Val Short.

Bands assembled especially for the festival from the island's wealth of musical talent will cater to a variety of tastes, with everything from mainstream jazz to swing, Latin and the blues.

In addition to the three festival locations, six cafe and pub venues featuring more than a dozen different performances will ensure a full menu of musical treats.

Mowbray said he's been thrilled to find the high level of community support for such a project. All of the usual suspects that regularly offer music will be on the jazz tilt for the weekend, and a few less usual spots will also participate, such as Auntie Pesto's Cafe and the Raven Street Market Cafe.

"Business does support the arts," Mowbray said. "I was really impressed. That's what they do here."

Some of the weekend's highlights include Sue Newman and the Jazzmen, who open the festival on Friday afternoon playing vocal jazz and show tunes at Salt Spring Vineyards. Mowbray notes that with Monik Nordine on saxophone, the band features two powerful women with "stunningly world class" skills.

On Saturday, KC Kelly's slide guitar and electric blues will provide the cooler side of jazz with a souped-up six-member band playing on the patio at Mistaken Identity. On Sunday, festival goers can relax to the jazz, R&B and soul of the Simone Lamers Quartet at Salt Spring Island Cheese, before whooping it up

at the festival's annual closer, El José's Cuban Dance Party at the Tree House.

Free events that foster community building and music appreciation include the Swing Shift Big Band's performance in Centennial Park on Saturday. Guests can bring their own instruments to Acoustic Planet on Saturday afternoon to participate in an acoustic jam, and then again on Sunday for two workshops with professional musicians, sponsored by the SHINE Foundation.

The festival's educational aspect also finds two student musicians sponsored by the Ray Newman Fund who will play alongside the pros. Geoffrey McFarlane will play guitar with KC Kelly's blues band, and Daniel Hunter will join Planet Music on sax.

Entrance to events at the three festival venues is \$5 per visit, or people can access events all weekend for a \$15 festival pass, on sale now at Acoustic Planet and Stuff & Nonsense. Most supporting venues at cafes and restaurants include music with a meal, though in some cases a cover charge may apply.

To learn the full schedule and venue locations, visit [www.saltspringjazzfest.org](http://www.saltspringjazzfest.org). Brochures are also available at the Ganges Visitor Info Centre and at participating locations.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**MARKET STOP:** Gaurang B. McIntyre sells beads at the Saturday market in Centennial Park.

## MUSIC &amp; MUNCH

## Piano and vocals on stage at next Music &amp; Munch

Graeme Wilkinson,  
Christian Tatonetti and  
Sylvia Rickard

Pianist Graeme Wilkinson returns to Music and Munch on Aug. 11 along with special guests Christian Tatonetti and Sylvia Rickard.

This year's recital will include a few solo piano pieces of Robert Schumann and Frédéric Chopin, two composers born in 1810.

Bass-baritone Tatonetti will join Wilkinson for some Renaissance/Baroque songs and arias. Originally hailing from Québec, Tatonetti is a versatile musician and long-time resident of Salt Spring Island.

He recently migrated to Victoria to study voice with the illustrious soprano Nancy Argenta at the Conservatory of Music and to sing in the Chorus of the Pacific Opera.

The featured work on the program will be the première performance of a new comic piece by noted Victoria-based composer Sylvia Rickard. The piece, entitled *Belle-Mère*, was originally composed in the 1990s on a poem by Claude Treil and revised in 2009.

Wilkinson is a classically trained amateur pianist and undertook his first serious instruction in music at UBC in the 1970s, although he was not a music major at the time.

Further studies in Switzerland included courses at the conserva-

tories of Neuchâtel and Lausanne.

He furthered his musical education at the Vancouver Academy of Music and obtained an Associateship Diploma in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

In 1979, he was employed by CP Air (later Canadian Airlines, now Air Canada) and has remained with the company until the present time.

In 1999, Graeme took his musical avocation a step further and competed in the first Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas.

Since that time, he has been a regular on the international piano amateur circuit, performing in competitions and workshops in Paris, Berlin, Czech Republic, Colorado Springs, Washington, D.C., Boston and Fort Worth where he remains a regular participant at the Piano Texas International Academy and Festival.

Wilkinson has resided in Montreal since 1989, where he obtained a Bachelor of Music degree at l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Last year he began his graduate studies in music and he continues to maintain a home on Salt Spring.

Music and Munch concerts begin at 12:10 p.m. Admission is free or by donation, followed by an optional light lunch for \$5.50.

## CONCERTS

## Burke home for two shows

Toronto experiences set for showcase

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A singer-songwriter raised on Salt Spring and making her career in Toronto will return to her roots for two nights of a B.C. tour.

Stacy Burke will perform her bluegrass-infused folk to her home audience at the Tree House Cafe on Aug. 8 and 9. The local appearance is part of a two-week tour of B.C. with musician friend Ben Sures, who will perform in alternate sets with Burke at the Tree House.

Burke first moved to Canada's largest city six years ago, after trying out Vancouver and being disappointed by what that city had to offer musically. But she said it's only recently that she's been able to take Toronto full-time.

"I'm really drawn to the city and I love the city, but because I'm from Salt Spring I find it hard to be there year-round," Burke explained.

"I need to come back and recharge my batteries."

Before Burke became a member of Toronto's vibrant music scene, she found early support for her work from Salt Spring-based professionals, recording demos with Randy Bachman and Tom Hooper.

The support has continued along with her artistic development. David Gavan Baxter, a veteran guitarist, songwriter and producer, has said: "Stacy is a new artist who brings a distinctive lyrical sensibility to traditional musical forms. She has a clear voice that rings with truth, and a real melodic gift."

Burke's debut full-length recording *Like a Good Woman Might* was recorded and produced by Chris Stringer (Timber Timbre, Ohbijou). The album features band members John Dinsmore (NQ Arbuckle, Kathleen Edwards) and James Bunton (Ohbijou), as well as special guest appearances by Michael Johnston from the Skydiggers and Suzie "Oh Susanna" Ungerleider.

Two of Burke's solo tracks are on rotation at CBC Radio 3, and her indie Canadiana style seems destined for greater radio presence on CBC 2. Burke said the new album has a definite love and relationships theme with a tendency for the dark side. One of her songs getting the most attention, however, is *The Beast of Gevaudan*, a quirky tune based on the legend of the werewolf.

Although she's performed in many venues across Canada, Burke said coming home to Salt Spring is both "the easiest and the hardest."

"I know everyone here is very supportive of me

and I'm extremely comfortable at the Tree House — but at the same time I'm nervous because I want to impress everybody with what I've been working on for the past years," she said.

Burke opens for Sures on Sunday, Aug. 8 and will reverse the line-up to headline the show on Monday. Guest singers Burke has performed with in the past will be invited to the stage, and copies of her new CD will be available.

Burke is planning a cross-Canada tour of the nation's major cities in support of the album after its official launch this October.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## THEATRE REVIEW

# Rocky Horror: the 'must-have' ticket

Music, characters, costumes, set and antics all stellar

**BY MEGHAN HOWCROFT**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

I am not what you would call a die-hard Rocky Horror Picture Show fan. In fact, watching the cult classic film in high school, I downright detested

it. With its bizarre storyline and raunchy characters, I just didn't understand the fanatical appeal.

However, after attending opening night of the locally produced Rocky Horror Show at Fulford Hall last Friday, I can finally say, "I get it!" This is one hell of a "good-time show," one that islanders will no doubt be talking (and giggling) over for a long time.

Maybe it's an age thing, or simply that the cast and crew did such a phenomenal job interpreting Richard O'Brien's stage show. All I know is the Rocky experience was, quite simply, a blast!

There's no point spending much time on the plot (an innocent couple breaks down in an isolated area and are forced to call upon transvestite Dr. Frank-n-Furter and his uber bizarre household for assistance), since it's just an excuse for outrageousness to ensue.

Fulford Hall was barely recognizable, with an elaborate set obviously built with much forethought. The castle was outstanding, complete with well-utilized balconies and a creepy laboratory. I loved all the little details like the giant movie posters, the fake silvery rain and the castle's hilarious front door. (When Janet and Brad are welcomed inside you can't help but notice the giant spiders, cobwebs and 'Enter at Your Own Risk' sign.)

The cast made great use of the space and especially innovative was the unexpected stage re-arrangement between the first and second acts (I won't spoil the surprise). I swear Fulford Hall never looked so snazzy!

The rockin' live band (consisting of Karen Arney, Laurent Boucher, Monik Nordine, Peter Taschuk, Ian Van Wyck and Caroni Young) were



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Rocky music-makers, from left, Mackenzie Williamson, Mary Jean Fentie, Fred Williamson and Kaya Hunter sing at a recent rehearsal.

outstanding, led by glow-stick-waving conductor Wendy Milton. Although earplugs were handed out before the show, I found I didn't need them for any of the catchy rock numbers.

Unfortunately, there were some technical difficulties on opening night, with many wireless headset mics cutting in and out. It was disappointing for both the hardworking cast and crew, as well as for the audience who missed the vocals on many numbers. I would have loved to hear more of Scott Merrick/Eddie's lively rendition of Hot Patootie, for instance, and while we certainly appreciated Amos Mitchell as Rocky, it would have been nice to see if he was as easy on the ears as he was on the eyes!

While the missing vocals were distracting, especially if you were a Rocky "virgin," relying on the words to help you follow the plot, I have full confidence that will be sorted out for the remaining shows. Besides, the cast was so committed, the costumes so unbelievable and the choreography so jazzy and entertaining, the missing vocals were a small concern.

Jekka Mack was out-

standing in the role of Janet, having taken over at the last-minute for Kaya Hunter (who sadly broke her ankle before the show's opening). And although Jeremy Monkman's vocals weren't flawless, his portrayal of Brad hit the nail on the head.

Eric Booth was perfect as the narrator and Ross Hughes was a delightfully creepy Riff Raff, donning a voice slightly reminiscent of Dr. Evil in Austin Powers. Meaghen Toole was also a gem, hamming it up as the sugar-coated Columbia, and Mitchell not only dazzled as the hot-body Rocky (carousing about in nothing but tight gold "man-panties"), he also kept us chuckling throughout the play.

A special mention should go to Morgan Donnelly, who did a stellar job as the "sweet transvestite" Frank-n-furter. With bang-on vocals and the ability to truly capture the heart of this wacky character, Donnelly definitely stole the show.

Although the opening night crowd was slightly reserved, there were still those who delighted in the come-to-be-expected Rocky Horror audience participation. Audience members purchased

brilliant packages of props before the show, allowing them to participate by snapping rubber gloves, chucking toast, donning party hats and holding newspaper over their heads (you have to see it to understand!).

All in all, Rocky is well worth the price of admission (even just to see Sid Filkow in a corset and fishnets) and will delight those with a sense of adventure. If you're an easily offended individual, uncomfortable around overt displays of sexuality, this is not the show for you! You've got to be prepared for risqué sex scenes, raunchy song and dance numbers, and even a beautifully choreographed orgy in the number Don't Dream It, Be It.

This enormous undertaking will no doubt become the must-have ticket of the summer, providing some wacky and liberating gender-bending weekends from now until the last show date. So put on your fishnets, leave the kids at home and prepare to let loose at the Rocky Horror Show — I promise you won't be disappointed.

Shows run Aug. 5, 6, 7, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m., with an additional mid-night show on Aug. 21.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ART SHOW

# The seesaw of sibling relations celebrated

Sibley Revelry opens Friday at ArtSpring

What happens when two sisters and two brothers get together to stage an exhibition? They celebrate their differences and show off.

The two sisters, Donna Cochran and Gail Sibley, have exhibited together in the past. The idea for a sibling show — which runs from Aug. 6 to 15 — came after Donna saw Gail's family at ArtSpring two years ago.

As press material explains, "Their two brothers, Doug Cochran and Brett Sibley, took a little persuading, but the results are far from quarrelsome. The work reflects the seesaw of sibling relations."

The interrelation of Donna's basketry with Doug's woodturning and stained glass make for some healthy competition that showcases their individual skills.

This is first-born sibling Doug's first exhibition.

"I enjoyed giving my sister some

different media to work with," he said.

Donna meets the challenge and reciprocates by mirroring some of his wood-turned bowls and embellishing wood and stained glass with a cheeky variety of materials — sea urchin spines, Nile perch bones and colourful telephone wire, to name a few.

"Unlike Donna and Doug, Gail's paintings and Brett's photography tell tales of passion and psychological complexity. Brett's passion for photography is revealed through his ability to capture unique perspectives of the visual world, be they the simplicity of a flower or a bird feeding from a hand."

Gail's work speaks to the idea of "sibling" in its light and dark forms. She reveals the psychological underworld of sibling relationships. With this show, her work takes a dramatic new direction both in content and medium.

The opening reception is on Friday, Aug. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at ArtSpring.

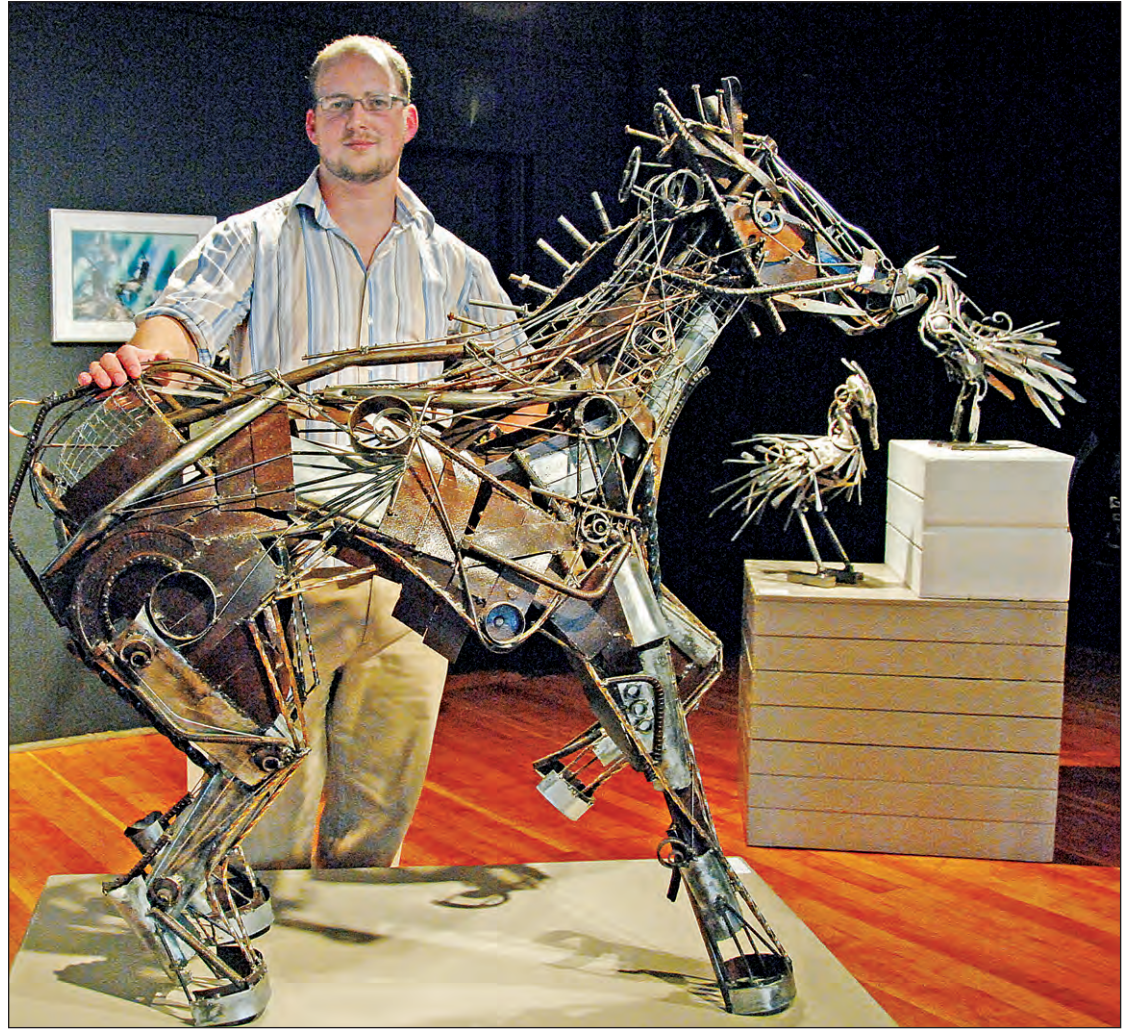


PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**NEW EXHIBIT:** Metal sculptor Carl Sean McMahon stands amid some of his creations at an ArtCraft Showcase featuring his work that opened at Mahon Hall Friday night. The show continues until Aug. 11.

## GALLERIES

# Jewellery artists among new members of Salt Spring Artists' Gallery of Fine Art

Leslie DeAthe and her beadwork profiled

*Salt Spring Artists' Gallery of Fine Art on McPhillips Avenue in Ganong has recently increased its number of member artists. Following is the first in a series of short biographies of those individuals, submitted by the co-operative gallery.*



Jewellery by Leslie DeAthe.

Leslie DeAthe discovered her artistic side about 10 years ago, after retiring from her management consulting career in Toronto and settling down full-time on Salt Spring Island.

She began discovering her creative energy with simple quilts and progressed to more complex art quilts and wall art using various fibres, paints and other media. More recently, Leslie has started designing and making woven beaded jewellery. Her jewellery uses glass beads, crystals, pearls and other semi-precious stones woven into necklaces and bracelets with looks that range from the elegant to the playful.

"It's the blend of colour, texture, and creative design that I love about beading," said DeAthe. "It's really appealing to me to create something beautiful from hundreds of small, shiny beads."

She says her work varies from a simple cuff bracelet to a complex necklace with lots of texture and variety in bead size.

"It's a very meditative process, adding each bead one at a time, stopping only to consider the overall effect and where to go next."

DeAthe beads with a group of other women who are just as addicted to beading as she is. Five of these women will also be contributing to the jewellery display at the Salt Spring Artists' Gallery of Fine Art, including Jennifer Quick, Carol Newmeyer, Marilyn Lea, Maryann Wigan and Erica Ross.

This is the first time this jewellery has been available for sale, and DeAthe says it's worth checking out.

## MUSICAL THEATRE

# Newman offers week-long course in musical theatre for island youth

Lessons in acting, singing and dancing

With musical theatre all the rage these days, the Salt Spring Academy is set to offer another Act-Sing-Dance session with Sue Newman next week.

Geared for kids aged eight

years and older, it will run Monday through Friday, Aug. 9 to 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants will get a taste of what it takes to do this kind of theatre performance, which Newman says is "all about being a triple threat" — learning how to act, sing and dance.

Participants should wear

loose-fitting clothes and bring plenty of food for lunch and snacks and water.

The group will perform for friends and family on Friday, Aug. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

The workshop fee is \$175.

For more information, call 250-537-4294 or register online at [www.saltspringartsacademy.ca](http://www.saltspringartsacademy.ca).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## SPIRITUALITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY  
Lama Tenzin Tsundu applies sand with special tools as he nears completion of a mandala sand painting at Duck Creek Gallery.

# Gentle lessons at Buddhist art event

Lama Tenzin Tsundu shares at Duck Creek Gallery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents were given the opportunity to meditate on compassion and non-attachment during a visit by Lama Tenzin Tsundu last week.

Tsundu, a Tibetan Buddhist, was educated at the Dalai Lama's private monastery in Dharamsala, India and now practises at the Kathok Gonpa temple in Coombs, B.C. He is a master of the sand mandala and a devotee to Green Tara, an important female deity. During a week-long sojourn at Duck Creek Gallery, Tsundu offered public

meditation and spoke on dharma for six mornings as he created a Green Tara mandala sand painting. The image was dissolved and the sands ceremonially dispersed on Sunday at Vesuvius Beach.

According to Wikipedia, Tara "is the source, the female aspect of the universe, which gives birth to warmth, compassion and relief from bad karma as experienced by ordinary beings in cyclic existence."

"She engenders, nourishes, smiles at the vitality of creation, and has sympathy for all beings as a mother does for her children. As Green Tara she offers succor and protection from all the unfortunate circumstances one can encounter within the samsaric world."

Aija Steele, whose father Godfrey Stephens owns the gallery, has known Tsundu for about 12 years. She invited him to visit Salt Spring when he expressed interest in performing the mandala ritual here, explaining that the spiritual benefits of invoking Tara extend to the entire community.

"As he is creating the mandala, he receives the abundance and overcoming of obstacles. Through meditation that gets transmitted to the observers and the community," Steele explained.

On the fourth morning of the lama's stay I watched Tsundu lead the meditation and begin his sand work for the day. In his short dharma (Buddhist philosophy) address, Tsundu described the necessity of letting go of the three burdens we carry around inside us: ignorance, jealousy and hate.

With considerable laughter and jokes throughout the talk, it was easy to see how internalizing those ideals leads to greater happiness. It reminded me that despite losing their homeland and having their culture threatened, you often see Tibetan monks and the Dalai Lama himself smiling and laughing.

Kirsty Barclay is a local novice Buddhist. She was married to a former



PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

From top, Lama Tenzin Tsundu sweeps up the completed mandala and places it in a vase; the vase is covered with a special wardrobe and sprinkled with flower petals amid chants; a procession led by gallery owner and incense-holder Aija Steele takes the vase from Duck Creek Gallery to the ocean at Vesuvius Beach; the vase is emptied into the sea.



Tibetan monk who, like Tsundu, trained at the Dalai Lama's monastery. Barclay explained that Tara finds many female devotees because of her expressed intent to help women achieve enlightenment within the female form. Many men, including the Dalai Lama, are also devotees to the embodiment of abundance, protection and the removal of obstacles.

To watch the mandala take form is both a privilege and an exercise in letting go. The image exists only in its maker's mind, and is revealed in its entirety for only a short time before it is swept away.

"As the mandala takes form, the energy in the room grows with the cumulative effect of all the devotional energy and time put into it by the monk," Barclay said.

Traditionally the sands would have been dispersed in one of Tibet's sacred lakes. In this case they were taken by procession to Vesuvius Beach and then cast into the sea. Barclay said the consecrated sands have blessed the local waters, sea creatures and spirits and connected with the

rest of the world through the oceans.

And while local observers may have found themselves getting attached to the sand image they watched manifest day by day, Tsundu's constant laughter teaches us a valuable lesson.

"The energy of enlightenment is happiness. Otherwise there's no point," Barclay observed.

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# Flick Pick

Jason Tudor

## Chloe — entertaining but maddeningly pointless

I have to admit that I fell off the Atom Egoyan bandwagon years ago. Though his 1990s' efforts *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Exotica* are amongst my favourite films, only 2002's *Ararat* piqued me enough to be worth a viewing. Then came his latest, *Chloe*, an erotic thriller starring it-girl with the big, um, eyes, Amanda Seyfried.

Actually, Seyfried's not really the protagonist. That would be Julianne Moore as Toronto gynecologist Catherine Stewart. Catherine's pretty sure her husband David (Liam Neeson), a charming worldly musician and university professor, is sleeping with some of his students. She meets the high-class prostitute Chloe (Seyfried) in a restaurant bathroom... and a plan is set.

Catherine sets Chloe after David to see if he'll take the bait. Chloe reports back with the affirmation that David was certainly interested, but rather than directly approach her husband Catherine allows things to progress. The situation, predictably, spirals out of control.

That said, it doesn't spiral out of control in the way of the traditional erotic thriller. Based as it is (of course) on the 2003 French film *Natalie*, *Chloe* attempts to echo that genre's tendency to have seemingly normal people go off the deep end at the drop of a hat. Er, bra.

The key here is — and I'm not really giving anything away since it's all obvious in the first 15 minutes of the film — Catherine's got the hots for Chloe. Exactly why that is we're not sure, and Egoyan annoyingly refuses to single out what's going on in that pretty, red-tressed head.

*Chloe* (the film and the character) is loaded with issues of gender, family, fidelity and trust, but it's almost impossible to discern exactly what either of them is trying to say. Both are cyphers, loaded with the stereotypical characteristics of what they represent, and the result is a film that is entertaining as hell but maddeningly pointless.

**CHLOE**  
A FILM BY ATOM EGOYAN

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# People & Community

## HEALTHCARE



Art Falardeau and Nikki Menard.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

## Amega Wand: miracle or placebo?

Islander finds results through the healing tool

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The possibility that pain and ailments can be eased by balancing the body's energy has two local residents ready to share a new product with the community.

Art Falardeau and Nikki Menard are friends who have recently acquired the Amega Wand, a small object shaped like a pen. Distributors claim the wand works on a little-known principle of quantum physics called zero-point energy, and attunes the energy in cells to help them return to a homeostatic or healthy state.

Falardeau has good reason to believe those claims are justified: before he started using the wand he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, but a second biopsy taken after he tried it produced an all-clear result.

"You've got some choices about what you can do," Falardeau, a longtime member of the island's prostate support group, explained about his cancer.

"There's radiotherapy, having radioactive pellets inserted into the prostate; chemotherapy; prostatectomy, having it out. And there's something called passive waiting, which is what I decided to do."

After Menard attended a presentation on the Amega Wand in Victoria, she realized Falardeau's waiting period would provide an ideal testing situation and brought one back for him to try out. Falardeau wanded himself for several minutes, three times a day, for two and a half weeks before the second biopsy. Both he and Menard were amazed by the apparent results.

Produced by a company in Singapore, the wand is said to contain crystals and minerals that are calibrated to the exact frequency individual cells should be at. Promotional material describes the process as similar to a tuning fork, which changes out of tune frequencies to the correct vibration.

An important aspect according to distributors is that it's not a magic cure. As one proponent says in a web testimonial: "The wand does not do the healing. The wand is a reminder tool to awaken the body to the body's own divine healing energy."

Menard and Falardeau are sufficiently convinced of the wand's abilities that they each use one daily and sleep with it at night. They use the wand on their own pains, to calm Falardeau's many game birds and pets and to help their tomato plants grow.

Menard has also taken up the corporation's offer of a business opportunity as a local distributor. She will help people order the wand online (priced at US\$304) and help them avoid the many knock-off versions that she says don't work.

"I think what excites me about this — especially having seen the results for Art — is there's so many possibilities for people to heal themselves," Menard said.

"For me it's the higher purpose, assisting as many people as possible to heal themselves. And I know at some point we'll evolve so we don't need any tools."

Whether the Amega Wand really works or powerful self-suggestion is at play has been explored by journalist Rocco Castoro in Vice Magazine. Castoro met with wand distributors and proponents, wanded himself for a period of a week and spoke with scientific experts.

One of the experts Castoro interviewed was astrophysicist Bernard Haisch, who along with Alfonso Rueda has researched whether zero-point energy and inertia could be used to power spacecraft.

Haisch told Castoro that lab tests have shown zero-point energy is capable of producing "very subtle effects of the atomic spectra," but said "the very idea that you can affect it with a wand is a scam, and the idea that it could have some effect on the human body is also ridiculous."

Believers in alternative healing methods, however, note that

energy work has been practised for centuries. Ancient cultures in China, Japan and India have given names to the "life force energy" and developed healing methods to bring that energy into balance.

Modern systems have also been based on the principle, including Reiki, developed in 1922 by Japanese Buddhist Mikao Usui.

Tanya Lester, a local Reiki practitioner, said that although she has never seen the Amega Wand, information provided by the company suggests several elements are at work to produce a "super healer." By combining crystals, vibrations and the laying of hands associated with Reiki, there are many different healing methods involved, in addition to the mysterious zero-point energy.

"What I feel about alternative healing is the more simple it is the more effective it is as a healing tool," Lester said, speculating that any one of the wand's several elements would produce a similar positive result. While she has no doubt the object has worked on the people who claim its effects, she said it is "probably no better or no worse" than other alternative methods on offer.

But for people like Falardeau and Menard, the results they have personally experienced and witnessed are more than enough proof.


"I don't understand it but I do accept it," Falardeau said.

Menard added: "When you actually see it happen in front of you, you have to believe in it. . . After you see it time after time after time, there's got to be something there."

"I'm really happy someone introduced me to this, so I can introduce it to other people. . . It's a heart thing for me. We both care deeply about other people, so it's something I'd like to share."

Menard plans to host local presentations so people can judge for themselves. She can be reached at 250-537-9380 for more information or a personal demonstration.

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# What's On This Week

www.gulfislandstourism.com/calendar.htm



## Wed. August 4

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Jonathan Crow & Arthur Rowe.** Great sonatas by Mozart, Schumann, Ysaye and Prokofiev. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.  
**Silk.** Salt Spring duo perform for Music & Munch at All Saints. 12:10 p.m.  
**Velvet Band.** Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
**Stephanie Rhodes.** Live music at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.  
**Live Music in the Vineyard.** Every Wednesday with Harry Warner & Friends at SS Vineyards. 2 to 4 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Story Theatre Company.** Interactive theatre presentation from Victoria group. Summer Reading Club season finale at the library. 10:30 a.m.  
**A Voce Sola Masterclasses.** Public can audit morning classes at SS United Church. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Art Camp.** For kids aged 5 and up. Fables Cottage. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Info: 250-537-0028.

## Thurs. August 5

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Rocky Horror Show.** Musical production runs at Fulford Hall. 8 p.m.  
**Owen Matheison & Gemma G.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
**Open Mic.** Hosted by Sean Logan at The Local. 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Andrea Ramolo.** Live at Shipstones. 7 p.m.  
**Simone and the Soul Intentions.** Live music at the Pub in Fulford.

### ACTIVITIES

**SS Local Trust Committee.** Meets at ArtSpring beginning at 10:30 a.m. Town hall session at noon.  
**Composter Demonstration.** See options at display at Farmers Institute. 2 to 5 p.m. Register with Elizabeth: 250-537-2616 or elizwhite@saltspring.com.  
**A Voce Sola Masterclasses.** Public can audit morning classes at SS United Church. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Art Camp.** See Wednesday listing.  
**Toddler Time.** Storytime and singing with Wendy at Fables Cottage. For kids aged 2 to 4. 10:30 a.m.

## Fri. August 6

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Allison Crowe's Spiral Concert.** Allison Crowe returns to SSI with her new album and a concert to aid the island's BCSPCA animal shelter. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.  
**The Rocky Horror Show.** See Thursday listing.  
**Novamatics.** Live music at Moby's. 8 p.m.  
**Hooper Family Band.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
**Run for Cover.** Live at Shipstones. 7 p.m.  
**Simone & Mike Lamers.** Live jazz at the Harbour House. 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
**Silk.** Live music from 2 to 4 p.m. along with local wine and food tastings at Salt Spring Vineyards from noon to 5 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Art Camp.** See Wednesday listing.  
**Argentine Tango.** Keith's Summer Practicas. Top floor, Core Inn. 8 to 10 p.m. Beginners welcome.

## Sat. August 7

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Rocky Horror Show.** See Thursday listing.  
**The White Dogs of Texas.** One-act award-winning play performed by Vaughn Fulford at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.  
**Sunyata.** Live music at the Pub in Fulford.  
**Synergy.** Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
**Blues with Sweet Spot.** Live music at Moby's. 8 p.m.  
**Tom & Matt.** Live music at Shipstones. 7 p.m.  
**Kim & Philip.** Jazz in the Harbour House lounge. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**HUGE Kids' Swap Meet.** The SSI Co-op Preschool at 110 Aldous Rd. hosts a multi-family kids' swap meet from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reserve tables at 250-537-5533.

## Sun. August 8

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Freshwater Trio.** Haydn, Brahms, Ravel from Australian group. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.  
**Lloyd English Trio with Joe Hatherill.** Jazz at Moby's. 7 p.m.  
**Student Recital.** Of students in Eva Bostrand's A Voce Sola Masterclasses. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:30 p.m.  
**Stacy Burke and Ben Sures.** At the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.  
**Barley Brothers.** At the Pub at Fulford.  
**Peter Prince.** Folk music in the Harbour House Lounge. 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
**Jazz in the Vines.** Music at Salt Spring Vineyards, with complimentary local food & wine. 2 to 4 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Herbal Medicine Making & Herb Walk.** With Rainbow Ramadevi May. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info/register: 250-537-1503.

## Mon. August 9

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Stacy Burke and Ben Sures.** Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Children's Clay Camp.** Five-day camp with Tracy Harrison at Creative Fire Art Studio begins. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 250-538-0144.  
**Adrian Iaies Trio.** World-renowned jazz pianist. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.  
**Open Stage with David Jacquest.** Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Stefanie Denz Painting Workshop.** Start of 3-day session on the basics for colour, composition and form, and use of found materials, if desired. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info/register: 250-653-2018.  
**Market in the Meadow.** Next to the SS United Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Art Camp.** See Wednesday listing.  
**Toddler Time.** Arts & crafts for kids aged 2 to 4. Fables Cottage. 10:30 a.m.

## Wed. August 11

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Graeme Wilkinson.** With guests Christian Tatonetti and Sylvia Rickard. Music & Munch at All Saints. 12:10 p.m.  
**Stephanie Rhodes.** Live music at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.  
**Live Music in the Vineyard.** Every Wednesday with Harry Warner & Friends at SS Vineyards. 2 to 4 p.m.  
**Donn Tarris and Tess Fama.** Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Art Camp.** For kids aged 5 and up. Fables Cottage. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Info: 250-537-0028.

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**EXHIBITIONS**

- An exhibit of paintings and sculpture by **Diana Dean** from 1980 to 2010 shows at **Starfish Gallery and Studio** from Aug. 6 to 22, with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Sculptor **Morley Myers** opens a show of plasters and waxes at his **Merchants' Mews** gallery on Friday, Aug. 6, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Through the Glass**, an exhibit of artwork by Bangkok Prison inmate **Felix Cheremnykh**, islander **Heather Luna-Rose** and various island artists runs at **ArtSpring** daily through Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- Sibley Revelry**, a show of work by four **Sibley** siblings, opens at **ArtSpring** on Friday, Aug. 6 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Runs daily through Aug. 15.
- Carl Sean McMahon** shows recycled metal pieces at his **Awakening** exhibit in the **Showcase Gallery** at **ArtCraft** at **Mahon Hall**, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Aug. 11.
- The ArtCraft Gift Shop** of the Salt Spring Arts Council is open daily in historic **Mahon Hall** through the summer from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The **David Jackson** Welcome Back Exhibition is at **Gallery 8** daily to Aug. 7.
- Summer Lights - Illuminated Installations** by **Judson Beaumont**, **Brent Comber** and **Peter Pierobon** runs daily at **Salt Spring Woodworks** through July and August, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., plus the **Night Gallery** is open Friday and Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight.
- The Point Gallery** presents **Idyll**, a **Salt Spring Pastorale**, with work by **Stefanie Denz**, **Delaine Faulkner**, **Karin Jones**, **Murray Reiss**, **Bill Rhodes** and **Stella Weinert**. Runs daily to Aug. 15.
- Shirlee Lewis** and **Gail Sibley** feature new work called **Still Life & Other Reflections** in the **ArtSpring** open space until Aug. 31.
- "Nesting"** is the theme of the 2010 **Salt Spring Potters Guild** display in **Mark's Work Wearhouse** windows, which runs through July and August.
- Hastings House Sculpture Garden Tours** run every Tuesday by reservation at 1 p.m. Phone 250-537-2362.
- New paintings by **Carol Haigh** are showing at **Steffich Fine Art**.
- Susan Haigh's** new studio and gallery displaying her vibrant floral paintings and cards at **289 Cusheon Lake Rd.** will be open most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by calling 250-537-8912 for an appointment.

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

## GRAND

**OPENING:** Musician Stacy Burke, centre, performed at the opening of Damsel & Babe on McPhillips Avenue Friday afternoon. She is seen here with store owner Katie Burke, left, young Ella Scaia and Carolyn Gibson. The new store features crafts, jewellery, clothing, soaps, etc., for women and babies.



## CONSERVATION

# Research on effects of burgeoning browsers laid out at Aug. 13 event

Island-raised scientist back for special presentation

A presentation on the local impacts of a rising deer population is the next Salt Spring Conservancy event at Community Gospel Chapel.

Tara Martin, a research scientist who was born and raised on Salt Spring, will present Browsing Down our Natural Heritage: Deer Impacts on Plants and Songbirds in the Gulf Islands on Friday, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.

Martin is a scientist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Australia and adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia.

Along with UBC colleagues Peter Arcese and Emily Gonzales (who is now with Parks Canada), Martin has been examining the effects of elevated deer numbers across the Gulf and San Juan islands. They've found some worrying trends.

Their research indicates that at moderate to high densities, deer browsing can prevent the growth of several plants known to have been abundant historically, including iconic species such as common and great camas, fawn and

chocolate lilies, sea blush, blue-eyed mary, lupine, onions and various brodea. For example, Gonzales found that blooming of great camas, fool's onion and harvest brodea increased 12-fold in deer exclusion plots set up on Salt Spring Island. This suggests that browsing was lower historically on the island, but that unprotected plants are now rarely able to attain a sufficient size to reproduce.

Deer have similar suppressive effects on many palatable species of shrubs and these effects in turn influence the abundance of native songbirds.

According to material about their work, "Given the mythical status of deer and increasing antipathy towards hunting by many islanders, a general sense of stewardship for plant and bird communities will need to be developed alongside a public awareness of the deleterious impacts of deer if islanders are to preserve their natural heritage. In the absence of active management, high browsing pressure by deer can be expected to result in local extinctions of iconic plants and birds. Majestic chocolate lilies, great camas and the familiar sounds of song sparrows and rufous hummingbirds will become a thing of the past."

Admission to the talk is by donation.

## EDUCATION

# Community support essential for program

Shop class gives thanks

Staff and students from last year's Gulf Islands Secondary School shop class are thankful for so much more than the onset of summer.

"We received about \$4,000 in oak and juniper and that's a big deal," said instructor Jim Watkins about a recent donation from local contractor Hans Hazenboom. "We rely a lot on community contributions."

Hazenboom's contribution was among many provided by island contractors and builders

over the past year.

Without the strong level of community support from islanders, life at the shop would be a lot different, said Watkins.

"I want to make sure the importance of these donations is publicly recognized," he said.

As in so many areas, government funding shortfalls have placed limits on the types and quantities of materials shop students can access over the course of the school year.

In such fiscally prudent times, expensive woods like oak and juniper can easily break the bank.

Community donations can vary in size from usable scraps to large amounts left over from summer remodelling or construction projects. All materials go towards the high school's shop class for students in grades 9 to 12.

The finished products like benches and picnic tables, Watkins said, are often donated to island charities and institutions.

Anyone with extra tools and/or materials is urged to drop by the school district's plant services building at 160 Rainbow Rd. For more information, call plant services at 250-537-5723.

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**GRILL 'R UP:** From left, Duncan Mathieson, Pastor Richard Stetson and Al Robertson of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring barbecue salmon at All Saints By-the-Sea in an annual event.

## PRIZE WINNERS

# Phantom Ball raises best-ever \$76,000

Island family wins Mexican vacation

Sybil Leimbiger was the winner of the 14th annual Phantom Ball prize, in a campaign that saw a record amount of funds raised for the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

"The trip for two to an all-inclusive resort near Puerto Vallarta, Mexico is the perfect destination for Mrs. Leimbiger, who will be travelling with her grandson, Lucas Galbraith, and her son and daughter-in-law,

Alex Bettenhausen and Carolina Rossler," states a foundation press release.

The prize draw was made at the foundation's annual golf tournament on July 10.

A follow-up call from foundation development coordinator Diana Hayes the next week confirmed the winner. Uniglobe GEO Travel in Ganges began to put together the holiday package, with Leimbiger purchasing spots for the additional family members.

Chances of winning were one in 434, the number of donors

who participated in this year's record Phantom Ball campaign, which raised a best-ever \$76,000.

Funds will go towards priority needs for the Lady Minto Hospital over the next year. Discussions with Lady Minto's manager of rural health, Bill Relph, are underway to determine the most urgent needs.

Since the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation first began holding a Phantom Ball campaign back in 1997, \$629,750 has been raised towards annual equipment needs.

## BOOKS

# New books aplenty at the Salt Spring library

Library column writer shares some cool picks

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Books, CDs and DVDs arrive at the Salt Spring library almost daily, so keep your eye on the "New Shelf" as well as the "Librarians' Pick Shelf." Right now, a few of the summery finds include:

- **Cupboard Love: a Dictionary of Culinary Curiosities** by Mark Morton. This volume offers up a tasty collection of common and not so common terms that are part of the language of food. Along with definitions and descriptions, Morton includes interesting etymologies and histories so that everyday words like "croissant," "nosh," "poor boy" and "sushi" take on character and meaning. The Globe & Mail calls Cupboard Love a "whimsical, side-splitting and sometimes cheeky book."

- **Fay Sampson's A Malignant House** is another great read for the crime lover. The second in Sampson's series featuring Suzie Fewings, a family history researcher, this book combines the best of historical fiction and full on mystery writing. Perfect for the beach or just lazing about the house on these hot afternoons.

- **What's Going on in There? How the Brain and Mind Develop in the First Five Years of Life** by Lise Eliot provides a fascinating account of what science knows about the development of the human brain. Whether you are a new parent or a grandparent, this book will help you understand the growth that comes from genetics and what comes from environment and experience. The

author includes many factors of brain and social development, such as the role of nutrition, the differences between boys' and girls' developing brains, which parental factors are most important in shaping brain development, and the evolution of senses and motor skills. It is definitely a book that will help adults grow better children.

- **The Kind Diet: a Simple Guide to Feeling Great, Losing Weight, and Saving the Planet** from Alicia Silverstone (with a foreword by Paul McCartney) is a testament to the benefits, personal and social/global, of a vegan, animal friendly diet. Along with numerous examples of real-life, high-profile vegetarian high achievers and discussions of "good" and "bad" food choices, Silverstone provides a wide range of vegetarian and vegan recipes to set you on the right path to a better body, spirit and conscience.

- And if summer makes even reading too much of a chore, pick up one of the many CDs of contemporary and classical books read to you by experts. For example, Maarten Troost's latest novel, *Getting Stoned with Savages*, is a great follow up to his *The Sex Lives of Cannibals*. In this novel, Troost again sets out to the South Pacific, this time to Vanuatu and then Fiji where he and his wife become one with the local communities as they live through typhoons and other natural disasters, interface with big insects, local ailments, and third world living conditions. Sentimental, sensitive and hilarious all at the same time, *Getting Stoned with Savages* is a perfect summer listen that opens your eyes and hearts to the world in the farthest reaches of the globe we share.



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