

50th
Anniversary
1960 - 2010



B.C. sailor of the year
Local man honoured
PAGE B16

Holiday Gift Guide
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
• Ganges Gift Wrap Centre
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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 50TH YEAR — ISSUE 49 \$1.25 (incl. HST)



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

TREE HUNTERS: Youngsters Ainsley Davidson and Mia Kerrigan find a Christmas tree on beautiful Mount Tuam.

ISLANDS TRUST Trustee proposes 'butt-out' clause

Trust Council considers motion

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Opponents call a proposed amendment to the Islands Trust's standards of conduct "non-Canadian" and a possible violation of the country's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The amendment, raised by Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member George Ehring, proposes that trustees "respect local autonomy and avoid becoming publicly involved in the local politics or controversial local issues in an area outside the local Trust area or island municipality that he or she was elected to represent unless invited to do so by the local Trust committee or island municipality."

If adopted by Islands Trust Council, the policy would discourage trustees from commenting on contentious matters arising on other islands within the Trust's jurisdiction without the prior consent of that island's local Trust committee members.

"This is a bald-faced attempt to stifle public dissent," said Peter Frinton, a municipal councillor from Bowen Island.

Frinton reckons Ehring's move was prompted by a recent trip he and fellow councillor Alison Morse made to Salt Spring in November. Frinton confirmed that both Ehring and trustee Christine Torgrimson encouraged him and Morse to decline an invitation to speak at an Islanders for Self-Government town hall event at the Harbour House Hotel on Nov. 18.

SPEAKERS continued on A2

RESCUE

Fulford woman rescued from live-aboard

Harbour resident also suffered stroke

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A 56-year-old woman known to the Fulford community only as Cher (or Share) was rescued from her live-aboard home after suffering a stroke last week.

Emergency response units were called to the harbour near the fishermen's dock by Bruce Patterson, a local resident and volunteer firefighter who heard the woman's cries of distress earlier that morning.

"[When] I heard the first sounds — it was kind of a squawking sound — I thought it might be a wild seagull," Patterson said.

After he walked over to the water to look for the sound's source, he saw Cher sitting on the edge of her raft, partially clothed and with one

bare leg in the water.

"She was calling out . . . probably yelling for help but she couldn't form the words," Patterson said.

Patterson went back to the Rock Salt Café and gathered a group of people to further investigate. The group determined Cher was in distress and unable to respond clearly. She was dressed in just a coat, with nothing on beneath.

A woman on the scene waded out to the raft, which was moored in about a foot and a half of water, and yelled back that Cher had a large wound or had possibly broken her knee, at which point Patterson called 911.

When the rescue crews arrived, RCMP Cpl. Martin Beardsmore and two Salt Spring Fire-Rescue responders commandeered a rowboat

and brought Cher back to B.C. Ambulance personnel who were waiting with a stretcher on the dock.

"At that point we were assuming it was more of a hypothermia situation," Patterson said, but added the paramedics soon suspected something more was at work.

At the same time, fire-rescue personnel discovered a potentially dangerous situation at the live-aboard structure.

"We realized after the rescue there was an issue of a propane leak," said fire chief Tom Bremner. "We had to turn it off at the source — it turned from a rescue to a HazMat operation."

Bremner said the propane leak could have been a contributing factor leading to the wom-

RESCUE continued on A2

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

STILL REMEMBERING: People gathered in Centennial Park Monday night, lighting candles in memory of 14 women killed at École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. The vigil occurs every year on Salt Spring Island.

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Speaker clause considered

SPEAKERS
continued from A1

He and Morse attended the event to offer a candid discussion of the pros and cons of the incorporation experience on Bowen Island.

Bowen, which is still within the Trust's jurisdiction, has operated as a municipality since 2000.

Frinton said policies within the Trust's standards of conduct already ensure trustees carry out their duties in a respectful and honourable manner.

"I wouldn't be so presumptuous as to tell Salt Springers what to do," he said. "All I can do is measure Salt Spring's situation against my own experiences in politics."

Frinton noted that the amendment could be contrary to Section 2 (b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which ensures an individual's "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression."

"This would be an actual muzzling of Trust officials and could be perceived by the public as a means of limiting debate on contentious issues," Frinton wrote in a letter to the Islands Trust.

"To impose a 'gag order' on trustees

serves only to enflame a perception that the Islands Trust is resistant to dissenting views."

Trustees are scheduled to discuss and vote on the proposed amendment at a Trust Council meeting in Victoria today (Wednesday, Dec. 8). Trustee Ehring is attending the meeting and had not responded to an e-mail sent late Monday before Driftwood's press time Tuesday.

Ken Marr, the president of Islanders for Self-Government, said the Nov. 18 town hall event was intended to provide an open forum to discuss governance options on the island.

"We're trying to educate people on our government options, our current status quo and where we could go," Marr said on Tuesday.

Though Marr said he considers the proposal to be non-Canadian, neither he nor anyone from ISG's board of directors intends to speak against the proposal in Victoria.

"This is the Trust's decision to make," he said. "I honestly don't know what its impact will be. It's a very bizarre situation."

For updated information about Wednesday's Trust Council session, visit gulflandislandsdriftwood.com.

Rock Salt fundraising for Cher

RESCUE
continued from A1

an's injury and distressed state. A subsequent medical examination revealed she had also suffered a stroke. The order in which the events occurred has not been determined.

"It's all speculation as to the chain of events," Patterson said, observing that without the successful rescue, "there are a lot of different scenarios of how things could have gone differently for Cher."

Patterson said Cher is well known in the Fulford village as an easy-going but independent person who keeps to herself. She is musical, sings

and plays guitar.

Her personality has made an impact on the staff of the Rock Salt Café, where she normally visits every day.

Café owner Jill Thomas said two staff members are currently working on fundraising ideas to help Cher with her convalescence when she returns from hospital in Victoria.

"She's like an icon around here — my staff are all quite attached to her," Thomas said.

People who would like to contribute can email Thomas to learn what has been planned at jill@rocksalt-restaurant.com or check the café's website for updates.



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Newsbeat

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RECYCLING

Recycle depot definition of 'commercial' questioned

Island man should be able to help friends without cars, says CRD official

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A Salt Spring man who helps islanders without cars get their recyclables to the Salt Spring Recycle Depot has demanded some clarity about what he views as a ridiculous depot policy.

Rowan Dixon knows a number of elderly people who no longer drive and have no way of easily transporting their materials to the depot on Rainbow Road. He's offered to take in their recyclables and is willing to accept some remuneration to cover gas and basic costs of the service.

But a while back he was told by depot staff that if he was being paid to transport the goods the materials wouldn't be accepted, a policy he finds ridiculous.

"If you're just taking one person's recyclables, what problem can that be?" he asked.

Just because a person doesn't have a vehicle, it doesn't mean they should be prohibited from using the public depot or be forced to ask friends, family members or neighbours to take in their materials for free, he said.

Dixon said the policy simply "promotes people throwing away recyclables."

"It is mind-boggling to me. Why can I not help out an elderly couple?"

While depot manager Peter Grant first told the Driftwood that "Once someone's been paid to [transport recyclables], that's considered commercial," he later clarified that the concern about paid people bringing Blue Box materials to the depot is that items from commercial enterprises could be slipped into the mix.

Salt Spring businesses and institutions were banned from using the depot in late 2006 and must either transport their recyclables off-island themselves or pay a private hauler to do so.

Salt Spring Community Services runs the local depot, receiving a per-household amount of money from the Capital Regional District to handle Blue Box recyclables — such as paper, aluminum cans, hard plastic containers or glass. In March of 2006 a new six-year contract worth approximately \$1.2 million was approved by the CRD board.

Funds to run the CRD's recycling program are raised through tipping fees paid for garbage at Hartland Road Landfill, not property taxes, as in other jurisdictions.

John Craveiro, assistant manager of the CRD's solid waste division, confirmed last week that there's nothing wrong with an individual being paid to bring other island residents' Blue Box materials to the Salt Spring depot since



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Recyclables from all island residents should be handled by the local depot, says a Salt Spring man who is willing to transport Blue Box items for people he knows who don't have their own means of getting the materials to the Rainbow Road centre.

Community Services is receiving money from the CRD to take care of all residents' household recyclables.

If there's any doubt about where the materials are originating from, Craveiro added, Dixon could get letters of confirmation from his customers.

.....

In other recycling news, Pacific Mobile Depots, which comes to Salt Spring periodically to pick up Styrofoam and soft plastics, will be setting up shop at Laurie's Recycling and Waste Services next to the Country Grocer complex in order to avoid having to acquire a CRD transfer station licence.

Zeb Pereira of PMD said his company aims to be there for the planned Jan. 26, 2011 collection event.

Craveiro said last week he was acting on a complaint

from Salt Spring Recycling Depot manager Peter Grant. He said Grant was correct in alleging that PMD required a licence under CRD Bylaw 2810 in order to collect recyclables on the island.

Craveiro said he advised Pacific Mobile Depots that "Everybody has to play by the same rules to either obtain a licence or operate on a currently licensed facility."

PMD began coming to Salt Spring in the spring of 2010, setting up first at Country Grocer and then at the Farmers' Institute to collect Styrofoam and soft plastic materials, which are not accepted at the local recycling depot.

According to the bylaw, if PMD applied for its own licence it would have to pay a \$1,000 annual licence administration and monitoring fee and a one-time \$500 application fee.

News briefs

SAR wins gaming grant funds

Salt Spring Search and Rescue will receive approximately \$49,000 in community gaming grant funds from the provincial government.

The volunteer-driven group was among recipients of more than \$500,000 in funding to improve public safety in the Vancou-

ver Island region and \$3.5 million province-wide as announced last week.

SAR search manager Chuck Hamilton said the funds must be used for a new command unit currently being refurbished by the group.

Hamilton said he's pleased with the news and expected to hear more details about the announcement during the group's monthly business meeting on Tuesday.

He considers the group privileged to receive the

money given the island's large number of volunteer-led safety oriented organizations.

May named among 'most influential women'

Newsweek Magazine ranks Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May among the world's most influential women.

May is named on a list of prominent women from around the world who are deemed to have excelled in business, politics, education, health or environmentalism. The compilation is part of the popular U.S.-based news magazine's ongoing Women and Leadership series.

In an interview published on the magazine's website, the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding hopeful talks about her evolution as an activist and politician as well as

some of the challenges she and other women routinely face during their careers.

"Although I find Sarah Palin's politics beyond reprehensible," she told Newsweek, "I did find it quite wrong that her mothering style was making it into the media — no one ever asked what kind of dads George Bush or John McCain were."

May said she hopes the magazine's series will inspire other women to speak out and become leaders in their own communities.

"Young women in particular need to be encouraged to speak up and defend their rights, their communities and the planet," she said in a Dec. 1 press release. "Women are very powerful and, working together, can be effective initiators of much needed change."

Other women highlighted in the series include U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Australia's first female Prime Minister Julia Gillard.



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WE	16:39	3.0	9.8		17:42	2.0	6.6
					21:17	2.1	6.9
09	00:23	0.5	1.6				
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	16:54	2.2	7.2				
	19:19	2.3	7.5				

NEWSBEAT

VANDALISM

Vandalism, fires on rise at CRD parks

Centennial washrooms now closed early

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Partying, property destruction and fires are some of the recreational activities being pursued at parks lately, causing extra work for already over-taxed CRD staff and RCMP on Salt Spring.

CRD bylaw enforcement officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser said a marked increase in vandalism in Centennial Park has forced him to close the washrooms at 4:30 p.m. instead of when the park closes to the

public at 11 p.m. each night.

Brunnwieser reported kicking out six people who were smoking and drinking in the women's washroom last Friday, three of whom were men. The sink in the men's washroom was recently smashed, and beer cans are starting to pile up.

"It's just such a bloody mess in there," Brunnwieser said. "The guy that cleans it every day, he's just so frustrated."

The bylaw enforcement officer has also attended two fires in Mouat Park in the past week, one last Friday and one on Monday. Both were located between the trees behind the shelter near the entrance to the trails. Salt Spring Fire-Rescue

personnel put out the first fire, and Brunnwieser himself put out the second with an extinguisher he borrowed from the fire hall.

Fires are not new at Mouat Park — Brunnwieser said there were 14 or 15 reported there during the summer months. But when they are investigated, the people responsible have disappeared.

"It's a ticking time bomb, that's my concern," Brunnwieser said.

"People don't realize the fire can go down into the roots when it's dry and then we really have a problem — we can kiss Mouat Park goodbye and maybe even Ganges."

Brunnwieser and RCMP officers are spending more time

patrolling the park areas when time and personnel are already limited. The public can help by reporting any vandalism or fires they see in parks right away.

"These guys don't like to be watched and if they know they're being watched they'll back off immediately and leave stuff alone," Brunnwieser advised.

"I hope people smarten up and don't abuse the system, don't abuse all the equipment for the public because the public's going to have to pay for it," he continued.

"I wish people would show some respect."

Post your comment to this story online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

FUNDRAISER

Fill the Bank campaign ends first year

Fire-Rescue dept. thanks community

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue's first major food bank campaign has ended with almost 5,000 items collected in just one week.

Although the total is just half the stated goal of bringing in one item from every Salt Spring resident, the organizers say the result is far better than they initially hoped for. The community responded to the new campaign with good

cheer, helping fill boxes at the fire hall, grocery stores and schools. Donations included \$1,000 in cash from the Salt Spring Rotary Club.

Other sponsors that helped make the event a success include Patterson Market,

Country Grocer, Thrifty Foods, Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art and Island Star Video for hosting collection boxes. Imagine That Graphics, the Driftwood and TNT Signs donated printing and advertisement services.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Tennis proposal gets third reading

'Cost-recovery' process to expedite building-centre application

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Trustees at Thursday's local Trust committee meeting gave second and third readings to the proposed bylaw that will enable construction of an indoor tennis facility at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club.

While construction of the single-court facility is still many months away, last week's decision marks a major step forward.

The application by Salt Spring Recreational Holdings Ltd. seeks to amend the island's land-use bylaw to allow an additional use on a portion of land on the golf club property near the corner of Upper Ganges and Lower Ganges roads.

Oral submissions made at three public hearing sessions were "unanimous and generally enthusiastic in their support of the proposal," according to a Trust staff report.

Only one of the more than 50 letters submitted during the public input process indicated

The rezoning request seeks to establish an industrial use on property currently split zoned for industrial and agricultural uses.

opposition to the proposal, citing concerns related to funding and public access.

An October staff report, however, dismissed the Salt Spring Ratepayers Group's complaints because "the LTC has no obligation to police the use of the funds by withholding consideration of a rezoning application" and "the LTC has no mandate to oversee issues such as an effective agreement for public use of private facilities."

The Salt Spring Tennis Association has offered repeated assurances that the facility will be made available for

public use. The proposed bylaw must be approved by the Islands Trust's Executive Committee before it can receive final approval from Salt Spring's LTC. The Executive Committee may have an opportunity to review the matter by mid-December.

In other LTC news, trustees agreed to hire a contract planner for Slegg Lumber's long-standing rezoning application to permit development of a building supply centre at 201 Beddis Road.

The rezoning request seeks to establish an industrial use on property currently split zoned for industrial and agricultural uses.

The province's Agricultural Land Commission has approved exclusion of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve subject to several conditions, among which is the transfer of land on the property to enable creation of an "agricultural distribution centre."

The cost-recovery agreement allows the Trust to contract a planner to handle the application at the applicant's expense. Staff expect to have the contract awarded early in the new year.

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION:

Rabbi Meir Kaplan of Victoria lights the last of six candles on the menorah as Mark Pitcher, right, assists and Salt Spring's electoral area director Garth Hendren looks on during a Festival of Lights celebration in Centennial Park Monday night. The inaugural festival and menorah also visited several other Vancouver Island cities in the past week.

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CRIME

Police locate Salt Spring truck used in ATM heist

Found outside Chemainus

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring pickup truck used to transport a stolen ATM from Chemainus last week has been located along with the empty cash machine.

Witnesses reported seeing the ATM taken from Chemainus Foods around 2 a.m. on Nov. 30. Three men wearing balaclavas were spotted driving away with the

machine in a burgundy 1991 four-wheel-drive Chevrolet.

North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP were able to track the truck's owner to Salt Spring with the licence plate number supplied by witnesses. Cpl. Kevin Day said the truck had been stolen from the Crofton ferry terminal some time before the ATM theft.

Vancouver Island police found the pickup truck with help from a tip on Monday, Dec. 6, on a logging road off Panorama Ridge Road in Chemainus.

Upon searching the area they also came across the ATM machine, from which the cash had been removed.

So far there are no clues as to the possible identities of the three culprits.

Anyone with tips about the truck theft or ATM theft should call the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP at 250-746-2153 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

An earlier version of this story appeared on gulfislandsdriftwood.com last Wednesday.

LIBRARY

Trust approves library locale

Jackson Ave. facility to open by February

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's public library will get some new, albeit temporary, digs while construction on the new McPhillips Avenue facility gets underway in the spring.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee voted unanimously Thursday to issue a two-year temporary use permit that allows the library to install an interim facility on two adjacent lots at 118 Jackson Ave next to Mid-Island Co-op.

"I'm happy to see this actually taking place and that the library will stay open and be in the vil-

lage centre," said trustee George Ehring after the vote.

The library board plans to use the temporary site for the 12 to 18 months it anticipates construction on the new library building will take. The lots will house a mobile modular building and an adjoining washroom trailer — estimated at 3,000 square feet in size — and space for parking, according to an Islands Trust staff report presented at Thursday's meeting.

The TUP is needed because the properties' current zoning, Residential 6(b), does not permit a library.

Duncan Hepburn, chair of the library's building committee, said plans to secure the required structure have not yet been

finalized. Though a formal bidding process to rent a structure concluded on Tuesday, Hepburn said, it could take several more weeks before the board is finally able to move forward.

He anticipates the structures may be in place by February, with operations on the temporary site set to begin in early spring.

Library board members selected the site to ensure the library is easy to access, close to the downtown core and within reach of the island's transit network, Hepburn told trustees.

Trustees also voted unanimously in favour of a zoning variance to reduce the minimum setback from the property's lot line to facilitate placement of the new building.

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Success stories highlight renters' desperation



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Housing manager Jai Wilson, left, and Community Services executive director Rob Grant outside Murakami Gardens, a 27-unit community housing project that opened in 2008 and has about 50 names on its wait list.

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Any doubt about the need for affordable housing on the island was put to rest soon after news of the Murakami Gardens housing complex was made public back in 2006.

Within days of the announcement, long-before shovels came anywhere near breaking ground on the project, a waiting list of more than 50 names had been collected for the proposed 27-unit complex.

Two and a half years after the complex welcomed its first generation of residents, that waiting list still hovers around the 50-person mark, according to Jai Wilson, as Community Housing Manager with Salt Spring Island Community Services.

"It's remarkable how desperate people are to find somewhere to live and what they'll endure, so I think when people see these units and how new they are, how nice they are and how secure they are, they're like 'wow,'" Wilson said during a recent interview at his office at the Murakami Gardens property.

"What that certainly echoes is the need across the continuum of housing on this island, from very lower-income affordable housing all the way up to the medium-income housing, and I'm seeing it with single individuals looking at the studios and one bedrooms and the smaller families searching for the two bedrooms and the three bedrooms," Wilson said.

Not only is the demand still strong, Wilson said, but there's a real reluctance among many of the facility's 50 residents to move out once they've finally got a spot.

"When we do have a turnover, it's only one unit at a time," he said.

Community Services has agreements with B.C. Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing and Islands Trust which ensure units' affordability for low-income residents. The complex is managed in accordance with B.C.'s Residential Tenancy Act.

What's taken for granted in communities across the province is more of an exception on Salt Spring, where conditions of tenants' rents and leases are often vague and uncertain.

The result is an unpredictable and unstable housing experience.

"We need to pay the bills, but our primary mandate is safe and stable housing," said Rob Grant, executive director of Salt Spring Community Services. "Hopefully people will get the message that these units will be as stable a residence as can possibly be."

"Where the rental is secure, the tenant is actually in control. Their rental rates are fixed and, if rates go up it's only a small percentage. This gives security to people so that they can make a plan with their life."

NEDDY HARRIS
Salt Spring Island Land Bank

The need to overcome the obstacle to "stable housing" is what got Salt Spring's Neddy Harris involved back in 2001 when she began volunteering her time for housing groups.

She'd heard plenty of stories about able-bodied, working people who were becoming priced out of the market and left to shuffle from home to home.

In one instance, she recalled, even a professional moved 11 times in eight years before giving up and moving on.

Year-to-year rental increases pale in comparison to the rent hikes that occur when a new tenant comes into a property.

"Each time a person or a family has to move, there can be

another leap in the rental rates and wage increases don't keep up," she said.

Bringing rents under control, she said, is one of the major goals she and fellow members of the Salt Spring Island Land Bank have sought to accomplish since 2004.

"Where the rental is secure, the tenant is actually in control," she said. "Their rental rates are fixed and, if rates go up it's only a small percentage. This gives security to people so that they can make a plan with their life."

To date, the Land Bank has secured four island properties in various stages of development.

The group's crowning achievement has been restoration of a heritage farm house on Dean Road. The facility offers rental accommodation for 11 island residents who pay anywhere between \$390 and \$425 a month for a room and access to shared kitchen and washroom facilities.

Patience, countless hours of volunteer labour, donations of land or money from island residents (such as the Murakami family), timing and persistence are all part of the frustratingly complex process of seeing projects like Dean Road and Murakami Gardens to completion.

When success is achieved, however, those growing wait lists leave little time to sit back and relax.

"Our units are a tiny amount of the housing required here," she said.

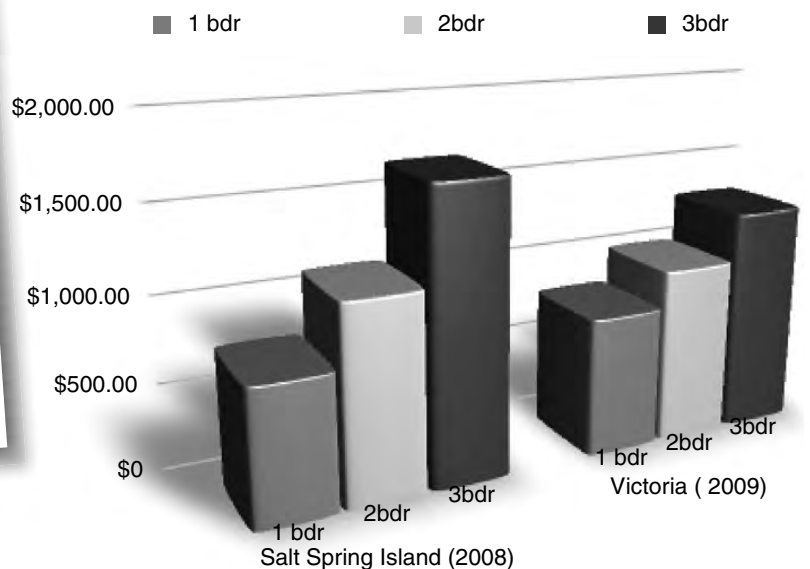
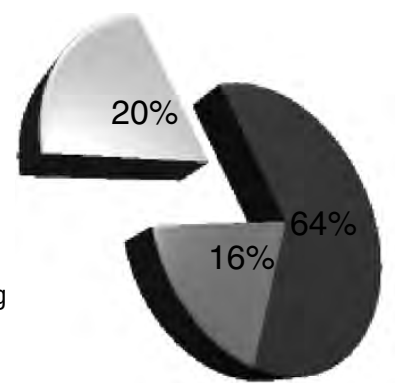
Community Services is already at work on other initiatives including a 24-unit family home development that's stagnated for a decade. The Land Bank is nearing completion of a monumental effort to establish the Brackett Spring project near the intersections of Rainbow and Booth Canal roads.

And that's just the beginning.

Find out why so many of these affordable housing projects have taken so long to develop or, in most cases, failed to materialize in next week's installment of Home Out of Range.

● long term ● seasonal ● unspecified

Twenty per cent of the available rental accommodations on the island were advertised (October 2009) as short-term or seasonal rentals. According to Phase II of the Salt Spring Island Housing Needs Assessment, many of these rentals are the result of nonresident property owners who wish to spend their vacations on Salt Spring or capture the more lucrative vacation rental market.



Average rents for one-, two- and three-bedroom units on Salt Spring were near or more than rates for similar sized accommodations in Victoria based on figures collected in 2008 and 2009.

The suites and cottages solution

Obvious solution fraught with uncertainties

Though it may not be the only step towards addressing the island's housing issues, study after study published in the past decade repeatedly stresses the significance of easing restrictions around the rental of suites and cottages.

According to the Islands Trust Community Housing Tool Kit, published in January 2010, the legalization of secondary accommodation is among the most "readily available and inexpensive sources of affordable rental housing."

It just so happens that the Islands Trust is working to identify pilot areas on the island where legal secondary accommodations can be introduced to island renters. The process, which is part of the Trust land-use bylaw review process, is expected to wrap up by the spring of 2011.

Advantages to potential tenants include housing stability and quality while landlords can benefit from the extra income of a rental suite and access to Canada Mortgage and Housing grants that would otherwise be unavailable if their unit contravened local bylaws.

Based on a report prepared in Oak Bay, where town councillors are also considering secondary suite issues, it is believed legalization would encourage young working families to move into the area, decrease the pressures of urban sprawl and enable seniors to live in their homes longer.

In spite of the benefits, however, opponents of the concept on Salt Spring and beyond say secondary suites will result in all the problems associated with increasing the population density in any given neighbourhood.

"Common concerns expressed were related to potable water supply, septic capacity (and costs to upgrade), and the perception that it would result in changes to the character of the community," reads part of the Islands Trust's Community Housing Tool Kit.

Though B.C. Building Code requirements are "somewhat more forgiving" to facilitate the creation of secondary suites, one of the most significant barriers to the initiative's success may very well be persuading property owners to upgrade their units' septic and building requirements to comply with regulations.

The role of certain mechanisms to ensure affordability has also come forward as a major part of the discussion.

"Key to success is a mechanism to ensure that both existing and new units have controls to ensure they remain affordable," reads part of the Tool Kit. "Solutions proposed for affordability centered on the use of housing agreements, however, there was concern expressed that the associated administrative requirements and costs would prove to be a disincentive."

The Islands Trust intends to give residents more opportunities to offer their views on the suites and cottages issue in early 2011.

NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MAINTAINING THE PROFILE:

Gulf Islands Secondary School students hit the road Dec. 1 for a World AIDS Day March organized by the school's Global Awareness Group.



sleek
frankly scarlet jewellery
Grace Point Square 537-9500

ESL Provincial government grant issued

SS Literacy gets \$40,000 for tutoring ESL islanders

Murray Coell in a press release last week.

"Providing these services helps people and families integrate themselves and begin contributing economically and socially to our community."

The Salt Spring Island Literacy Society will use the funds to deliver tutoring services.

Funds are distributed through the province's English as a Second Language Settlement Assistance Program, which also receives federal government support.

Funding allows for a

co-ordinator to recruit and provide standardized training to volunteer tutors and match those tutors with immigrants who want to improve their English language skills.

Tutoring is focused on the learner's individual goals and functional language skills that can vary from reading a menu to functioning successfully in a workplace.

A total of \$1.6-million in funding has been given to 42 service providers in over 50 regional and remote communities and their surrounding areas.

Training for Salt Spring residents who need English language support have been given a boost by a \$40,000 grant from the provincial government.

"This funding will support people settling and immigrating locally and make their transition into Canadian culture smoother," said Saanich North and the Islands MLA

ON CALL & ON TIME

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TROY KAYE

Jobs & the Economy

Political propagandists, commercial advertisers, and special interest groups frequently choose to engage in DISINFORMATION campaigns. Their theory is that if an unfounded assertion is repeated often enough, some people will come to believe it to be true.

FICTION:

"Islands Trust policies are forcing young families off the island in order to find work."

FACT:

Our school enrollment has increased. Our birthrate is up by one third. At least 6 local businesses have imported workers to live and work on Salt Spring. The hospital, banks and ferries all bring in off island workers. Ferry terminals are crowded with workers from Vancouver Island commuting TO Salt Spring to work. WE HAVE JOBS.

FICTION:

"Islands Trust policies are stifling our island economy."

FACT:

Salt Spring Island has:

- Realtors - 38
- Auto repair companies - 10
- Bakeries - 7
- Building designers - 18
- Fitness centres - 5
- Computer services - 10
- Gravel sales companies - 5
- Landscaping contractors - 11
- Grocers - 10

- Art galleries - 19
- Tree services - 12
- Restaurants - 25
- Gas stations - 4
- Roofing contractors - 8
- Plumbing contractors - 10
- Electrical contractors - 15
- Painting contractors - 17

EXCAVATING CONTRACTORS - 25
BUILDING CONTRACTORS - 55

Salt Spring has a vibrant tourism industry that is our largest private sector employer. We have hundreds of guest accommodations including Hotels, Resorts, Cottages and B&B's. Farmers and cottage industries sell at a thriving farmers market. We have two golf courses & three wineries.

37 % of Saltspringers are self-employed compared to a 14 % Provincial average. Our Official Community Plan is one of the most supportive of home based businesses in BC.

Our many artists & craftspeople sell their works in the Market, their Home Studios & local art galleries. In addition to our 3 ferries, we are serviced by 3 airlines that total at least 12 round-trip flights per day.

EVEN IN THIS TIME OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISES, SALT SPRING'S DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY IS SOUND



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Opinion



Gold - Best Special Publication - "AQUA - Gulf Islands Living"
 Gold - Best Photo Essay Award - "Day in the Life"
 Gold - Newspaper Promotion Award - "Owner's Manual" / Bronze - Best Overall Newspaper
 Bronze - Best Special Section - "Derrick Lundy Retrospective"
 Bronze - Best Sports Photo - "John Cameron - Slugger"
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

Politics by invitation

For all our wacky ways and weirdness, Salt Spring residents and their politics are never too far detached from the goings-on of the "real world" beyond our shores.

Let's take, for example, the recent clamour surrounding the release of thousands of previously undisclosed cables on the WikiLeaks website. Despite posing a potential threat to global security and destabilizing whatever inroads have been made in Afghanistan and other "emerging democracies" over the past decade, the "Cablegate" controversy has gained real media traction thanks to an endless parade of diplomatic blunders. It's as though the recording machine was left running after someone spiked the punch at the Diplomatic Corps' Christmas party.

THE ISSUE:

The 'invitation-only' amendment

WE SAY:

Proposal compromises political process

While diplomats and higher-ups around the world are busily back-pedaling, an interesting political drama in its own right is moving full-steam ahead right here on Salt Spring.

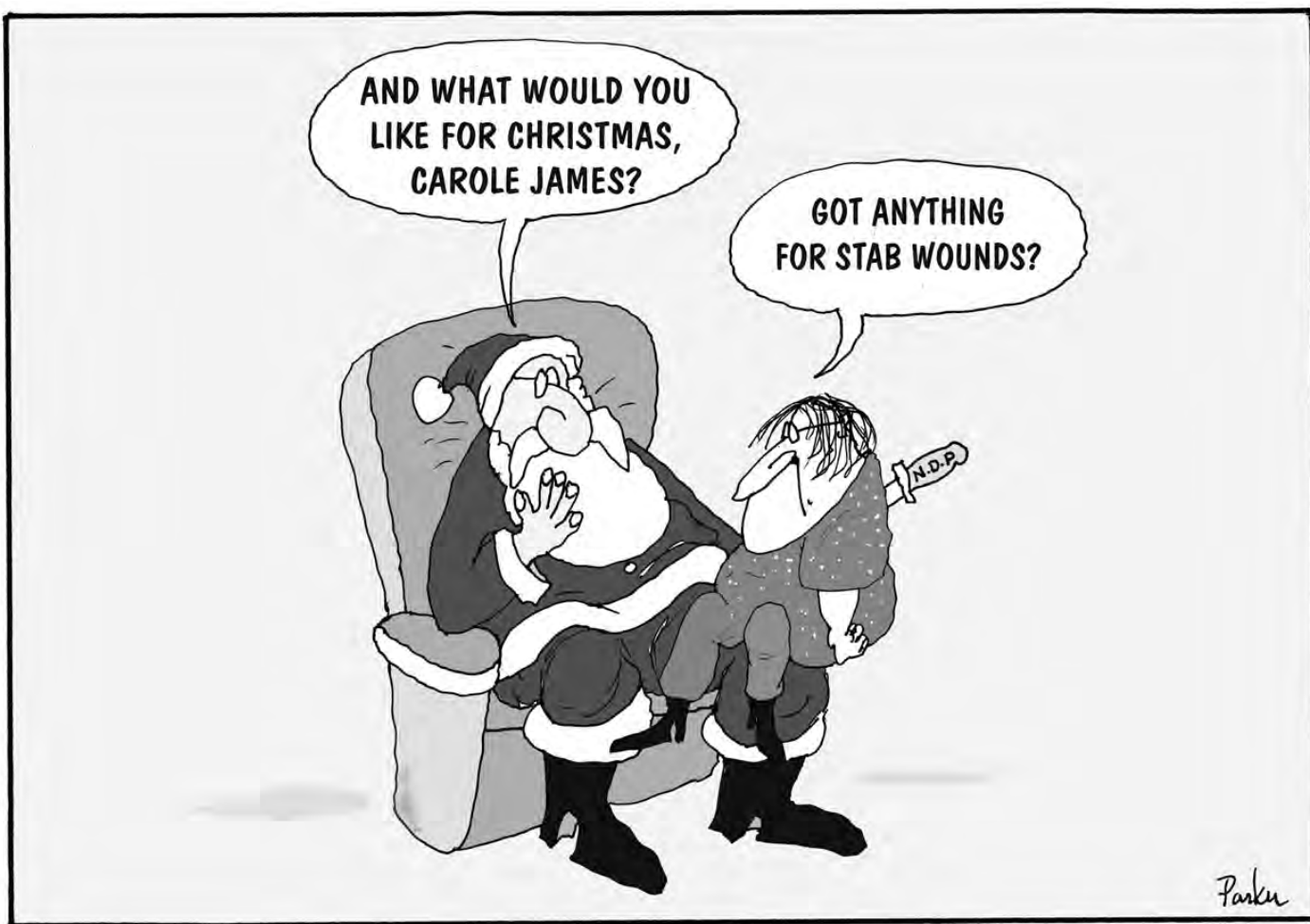
Whereas the WikiLeaks controversy revolves around the making public of private information, Salt Spring's latest scandal involves a proposal to eliminate what many see as a fundamental public right to free speech.

Simply put, the amendment to trustees' "standards of conduct" proposed by Salt Spring trustee George Ehring seeks to prevent locally elected trustees from "becoming publicly involved in the local politics or controversial local issues" on another Trust island "unless invited to do so" by the local Trust committee of that island. The proposal arose after Bowen Island council members, including trustee Alison Morse, spoke about incorporation at a Nov. 18 meeting sponsored by Islanders for Self Government on Salt Spring.

Ehring's proposal runs in the same vein as politicians' negative reaction to the WikiLeaks releases. Both presuppose the interest of the public is best served when opinions are controlled through carefully massaged messages.

Dissent is frowned upon, discussion is hindered and the political process is reduced to little more than a public relations campaign.

It's enough to make you wonder how much holiday punch all of these folks have been drinking. Let's hope sober thought will prevail when Trust Council discusses the matter in Victoria today.



Mark's Work Wearhouse and Ganges

BY JONATHAN YARDLEY

My client Leon Aptekmann has asked me to provide some factual background to the various reports and letters related to his proposed amendment to an existing development permit for Creek House on Fulford-Ganges Road.

That he's been called the "wicked landlord" and that Mark's Work Wearhouse has been labelled a "box store" are misguided at best and slanderous at worst. Hopefully, a few facts should clear up any misinformation related to this project and set the record straight.

Leon has lived on Salt Spring Island for 26 years. He bought his first piece of property in 1965 and has been providing retail and office space for many island businesses since then. In 1980, he purchased the properties on Fulford-Ganges Road (Creek House). He applied for a development permit (DP) in 1988.

In order to obtain this original DP, all the necessary agencies were consulted and after an extensive review process, the Islands Trust issued a DP for a three-phase development, which included the eventual rebuilding of the four store units.

Leon, together with the late Les Ramsey (Ganges Pharmacy), also purchased the large car parking area below ArtSpring to provide additional parking for this future development. The community has been free to use this 50-space parking lot for over 20 years.

The current application is an amendment to the existing DP; the amendment is simply a detailed plan of the proposed new buildings. The fact is, the replacement of the two buildings currently occupied by Acoustic Planet, Saltspring Soapworks, Windflower Moon and Admiral's had been approved for redevelopment since 1989.

From what I understand, the main objection raised against Phase 3 is the disruption to four small island businesses. Of the four businesses, only Saltspring Soapworks has a lease; it will be relocated just west of Ganges Creek. Admiral's had a lease but it expired last August; they did not wish to renew it. Acoustic Planet does not have a lease; neither does Windflower Moon, although

VIEWPOINT

they were offered one on two separate occasions.

In any tenant agreement it is usual to give 30 days notice for a party to vacate. Leon indicated to all tenants over four years ago that he would be rebuilding. On July 1, 2010, he also gave them six months notice so they would have sufficient time to seek alternative locations for their businesses.

The primary reason for the replacement of the current buildings is the poor condition of the structure. Based on engineering assessments, the foundations are unstable and the structure is rotten. In fact, as the buildings currently exist, it is doubtful they would meet the current requirements of the B.C. Building Code.

The secondary reason for redevelopment is to provide a building that complies with both the official community plan (OCP) and the land use bylaw (LUB) of the Islands Trust. Unlike the buildings that are now existing, the new Phase 3 will follow the OCP, LUB and the B.C. Building Code.

With regards to the tenancy of Brian and Heather Gooding, the proprietors of Mark's Work Wearhouse, they carry the lease, not Mark's Work Wearhouse. Brian sources merchandise from Mark's because it provides him with products he believes islanders need.

A long-time islander himself, Brian used to manage the B.C. Liquor Store before he and his family began operating the clothing store 11 years ago. He asked Leon if he could move to a larger space in Phase 3; the move gives him an extra 900 square feet in order to incorporate offices, a receiving area and warehousing which are currently off-site, bringing everything under one roof.

I truly hope these facts help clarify any misconceptions that may have arisen since Leon submitted the application for the amendment to the existing DP.

The writer is the architect handling the development permit application for Ganges landowner Leon Aptekmann.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

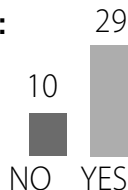
Is Carole James stepping down good for the NDP? Yes No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you approve of WikiLeaks?



Driftwood

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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
“This is a bald-faced attempt to stifle public dissent.”

PETER FRINTON, BOWEN COUNCILLOR, ON PROPOSED TRUST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AMENDMENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's your all-time favourite Christmas movie?


PHIL RITSON
Die Hard I. It's got Christmas, high-def count and Bruce Willis.

LINDA KOROSCIL
It's a Wonderful Life with Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. It's in black and white and reminds me of my mom's era; it's nice to see that era.

MARIE BEAUDOIN
Blizzard. Christopher Plummer is Santa Claus and it's filmed in Quebec. The cover looks totally stupid but it's a great movie!

RAY GOUCHIE
Bad Santa with Billy Bob Thornton.

ROMY CHAPMAN
Love Actually because it's got three or four storylines intertwined and it's really sweet.

Letters to the editor

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

No urbanizing plan

The Driftwood's endorsement of Bylaw 3740 proposal to support Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (SSITC) funding is encouraging ("Up to speed" editorial, Dec. 1).

Currently, transportation infrastructure is deficient. Pedestrians and cyclists are at risk in many locations on the island. Impaired sightlines compromise safe vehicle flow.

Launch of the first phase of North Ganges Village Transportation Management Plan (NGVTMP) addresses Blain Road to the Lower/Upper Ganges Roads intersection — the

most densely populated area of our island.

Salt Spring Island Community Health Committee initiated a Pedestrian Safety Committee in response to numerous collisions, countless near misses and a fatality. The need for sidewalks and bicycle lanes were a primary safety priority.

Establishment of the SSITC provided a vehicle for the Capital Regional District to assume liability for improvements.

The Driftwood has characterized SSITC intention as compromising "wholesale urbanization of our roadways."

Driftwood reporters have attended recent SSITC meetings, reviewed minutes, motions and are

aware of SSITC's conservative intention to resolve proven safety issues with the least impact on rural environment and cost to residents. SSITC has no appetite to urbanize our beautiful island.

Drivers of the NGVTMP are concerned citizens groups' demands for improved transportation safety.

JEAN TAYLOR,
CHAIR, SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Undemocratic process

Now I am even more concerned about the proposed tax increase for so-called "capital priorities." ("Capital plan looks at future needs," Dec. 1 Drift-

wood.)

With the exception of an even higher overall projected cost, CRD transportation manager Bob Fenske seems to have confirmed everything that Maxine Leichter was warning about in her Viewpoint the previous week and what the Driftwood calls in its editorial a "wholesale urbanization of our roadways."

From his response and comments in a related article it sounds like a large tax increase is being planned for the future to fund unknown projects and that this tax increase will continue on indefinitely because the CRD philosophy in Victoria is not to have taxes go up and down.

If you were not one of the few who attended an open house sometime last year, to find out what is really going on it seems the public has to seek out an obscure CRD employee and, if they disagree with the proposals, participate in an undemocratic process where there is no secret ballot and the counter petitions are taken by a representative of the people that want to raise your taxes.

The counter petition is taking place at a time of the year when many on the island are away, weather is often bad, and in a place that is not accessible to the physically challenged due to a long, steep stairway.

So much for the importance of sidewalks eight

feet wide so that two wheelchairs can pass each other.

Am I missing something here? It seems that that the CRD transportation official just doesn't get it.

These reasons alone are enough to sign the counter petition and oppose the tax increase.

SAM FREDERICKS,
GANGES

SS Coffee fans

My family and I are sorry to see the Salt Spring Coffee people leave the island.

We wish them all the best and we will still continue to buy their coffee.

JOAN BUCKLEY,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on A10

Instead of boasting, braggadocio, try the truth

They have probably already started arriving in the mail. No, we're not referring to Christmas cards from friends and relatives in faraway places. Nor are we talking about gifts inside parcels and packages coming in daily from abroad. What we are dealing with this week is the dreaded "Family Christmas Letter."

I'm sure we're all familiar with this piece of work. Usually running several pages long, this missive (photocopied and sent not only to you but to dozens of other relatives) serves to ostensibly give you an account of the events and goings on in the lives of a family of distant cousins you wish had not found your mailing address. This letter is an update to last year's letter which you found equally irritating.

The reason why these letters are so detestable is because they are nothing but a thinly-veiled show of boasting and braggadocio. While seemingly drawing attention to how "absolutely wonderful" are the self-indulgent lives of these not so next-of-kin, they are actually and insidiously designed to make you and your family feel completely like inadequate, abject failures.

A typical family Christmas letter is all about perfection (or a 10 per cent improvement on last year's perfection). The biggest dilemma discussed is whether or not to spend the money on an addition to the summer cottage in Banff, or to just keep it as is and invest instead in a time share in Arizona. The kids are all well on their way towards developing successful careers and are in stable, loving relationships. Comments like "Fred Jr. has taken

a one-year sabbatical from his head administrative position with the National Research Council to devote his time treating orphans with dengue fever deep in the Amazon rainforest" are representative of the kind of information contained in these holiday bulletins. (Meanwhile, you realize that your description of your own kid being in "marketing" means that he is presently pasting price stickers onto bags of dog food.)

Nobody asked me, but it just doesn't seem fair to keep receiving these letters year after year. Why can't our lives be as perfect as theirs are? Well, to brighten up your holiday spirits, here's a little family Christmas letter to all of you out there in Reader Land.

"Dear Cousin/Niece/Uncle/Other (please check one)

Well here it is December again and I thought I would give you all an update on how our side of the family is doing. It's been a hectic year with quite a few changes, but we all seem to be managing well and are looking forward to slowing down the pace for the holidays.

Jimmy is applying for parole again, and we have faith that this time it will be "third time lucky." We believe the last 18 months have not been a total waste because he has really applied himself in prison and learned to make a mean ceramic shaving mug. When he hits the sidewalk this time, he will be coming out with a viable trade and so his future looks rosy.

Maria has not been so lucky. She had


Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

been bracing herself for a mortgage foreclosure on her leaky trailer when she was informed that all the paperwork on the original agreement for sale had been fraudulent and that the vendor was a fictitious carpet emporium in Sri Lanka that had been involved in pyramid schemes and money laundering for the Taliban (or was it the Vatican . . . I forget which one she said).

In times like these, with her strong belief in the Power of Now or Never, she reminds herself how difficult all these trials and tribulations would be if she had to go through them alone. Unfortunately for her, she is in even worse shape because she is saddled with Tony, that good-for-nothing, common-law whatever of hers whose idea of helping around the house is helping himself to another six-pack of Lucky from the fridge.

Still, Maria considers herself fortunate when she compares her problems to those of her baby sister, Irene. We had all thought that little Reenee's life had taken a turn for the better when she hooked up with Ray, the guy she met on that internet dating website, Herpes Hot Line. They seem so well matched and she was so happy all day Tuesday and most of Wednesday. Then it all came crumbling down when she found out that not only was Ray married with six kids, but Ray was really Ray-Anne. She was still willing to give it a go (and considering her track record, this would have been a step up for her), but all her hopes were quashed

when Ray insisted she sign a prenuptial agreement naming him sole benefactor should she come to an untimely demise in the act of leg waxing or some other equally dangerous activity.


Nevertheless, not all the news in the family has been as positive and uplifting. As you probably remember from last Christmas' group letter, Grampa Ralph had moved in with us after being evicted from his Sunset Meadows rental unit. (He denies that his eviction was the result of his breaking his lease by carrying on with his crystal meth kitchen lab after being warned repeatedly that he was acting in contradiction to provincial Food Safe regulations, but you all know Grampa.) We gave him Billy's room in the basement and moved Billy and his 700-piece model train set (why is this so important to a 35-year-old?) into the garage. It would be nice to report that Grampa has adjusted well to the move, but he has locked and barricaded the door to his room and hasn't responded to our pleas for weeks.

That's all the news for this year. We hope all is well with you and yours. There's lots more I could tell you about, but I better end now because it sounds like a pipe has burst and I'm ankle deep in water.

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you!" — signed, the Luckmore Family

Well, that's a family Christmas letter you wouldn't mind receiving, isn't it? You probably feel better about yourself already, don't you? You're very welcome. And by the way, Happy Holidays.

thyme2001@hotmail.com



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 Driftwood Weekender Dec. 17th
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OPINION

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Free speech threat

The following is the proposal from our "trusted," "elected" trustee George Ehring for this week's quarterly Islands Trust Council meeting, seemingly to stifle any views other than his towards his princely fiefdom of Salt Spring Island:

An amendment to policy 2.1.ii Standards of Conduct by the insertion of a new clause 2.7: "As an elected official, respect local autonomy and avoid becoming publicly involved in the local politics or controversial local issues in an area outside the local trust area or island municipality that he or she was elected to represent unless invited to do so by the local trust committee or island municipality."

Some famous people who might object:

Voltaire: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend till the death your right to say it."

Abraham Lincoln: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."

David Ben-Gurion: "The test of democracy is freedom of criticism."

Tommy Smothers: "The only valid censorship is the right of people to not listen."

Harry Belafonte: "You can cage the singer but not the song."

Fie on you, George Ehring.

DEREK HILL,
 CHU-AN DRIVE

Bike project clarification

Just a slight correction or clarification to Sean McIntyre's article in last week's Driftwood entitled "Time has come" for cycling infrastructure.

The article was a bit confusing as it talked both about the Ganges Pathway Network (but not by name) and the idea to construct a bike lane from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius Bay.

They are two separate projects.

The Bicycle Working group (a working committee of Island Pathways) is working on a road cycle lane that would run from Fulford Harbour through Ganges to Vesuvius.

We have had this vision, which is shared by many others in the community, of having bike lanes across Salt Spring that someday will form a circuit called the Salish Sea Regional Trail Network.

It will include parts of the Trans-Canada Trail, the Cowichan Trail, a bit of the Galloping Goose Trail, the Lochside Trail and run across Salt Spring.

This would be a world-class bike circuit that we think will attract cyclists from B.C. as well as around the globe. It would also make cycling safer on Salt Spring for residents.

The Ganges Pathway Network (a community vision for over 15 years) has been the project of Partners Creating Pathways (PCP), which is a successful partnership of Island Pathways, the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Salt Spring Transportation Commission.

Together, PCP has been constructing the pathways on Lower Ganges, Atkins, Blain and Crofton Roads, all a part of this network.

These pathways, though built for cyclists, pedestrians and motorized wheelchairs, are mostly used by pedestrians.

We are happy to announce that the Salt Spring Island Foundation attended our (Island Pathways) AGM to give us a generous donation toward this project.

They have supported the completion of the Ganges Pathway Network since the beginning. We were also happy to announce at our AGM that the Victoria Foundation had just informed us that they too were supporting our project. We are on the way to putting together the funds required to complete our 2011 project.

We are busy making Salt Spring safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Please contact 250-537-4859 if you would like to join us. More information about all our projects can be found on our website: www.islandpathways.ca.

JEAN GELWICKS,
 ISLAND PATHWAYS BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR OF PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS

Wonderful shirts from LMH

Last week my father-in-law had a fall that required a stay in Lady Minto Hospital and an ambulance transfer to the Royal Jubilee in Victoria.

I accompanied him in the ambulance, which happened to be from Saanich and not one of ours.

The young lady in the back of the ambulance with us immediately remarked on the wonderful, fuzzy and warm Johnny shirt he was wearing.

"Where did you get that wonderful shirt," she said. "I've never seen anything like it on Vancouver Island."

We had to transfer to another ambulance in Saanich for the last leg of our trip. This time we had a male attendant who also noticed the tartan flannelette number.

Upon arriving on the ward at RJH, the nurse commented that LMH must think a great deal of their patients to provide such warm and colourful Johnny shirts.

I rescued the shirt and have returned it to Lady Minto Hospital as I was warned that it would disappear into the laundry at RJH and never be seen again.

Perhaps this story of something so simple as the thought given to the purchase of Johnny shirts will remind us of the deeper reasons why we need to work towards keeping our hospital.

MARG MONRO,
 SKY VALLEY ROAD

Moratorium rally planned

As you may well know, Admiral's food store in downtown Ganges is being evicted on Dec. 31, along with the neighbouring small shops (collectively, "The Admirables").

The developer, Leon Aptekmann, a local resident, is going to redevelop the site, and install Mark's Work Warehouse along the full frontage.

I have spoken often to Paul about where else he can relocate Admiral's and there is nowhere to do so.

Now I like Mark's and shop there frequently, but I think Paul's Admiral's is a treasure, irreplaceable in Ganges and people like us will be the worse for his disappearance.

Also, much as I like Mark's, I think a block-wide store frontage is inappropriate for that part of Ganges.

Much of the charm is the "small shop front" nature of Ganges (where it hasn't already been replaced by "uglies" like the Bank of Commerce). We don't want a repeat of monstrosities, do we?

I have written to Leon Aptekmann asking for a moratorium on Paul's eviction; for consideration to be given to redeveloping so as to include The Admirables; for a plan that is tasteful and in keeping with the character of Ganges; and for a two-part development so that (with some musical chairs) they can all be accommodated during the redevelopment period.

Paul's experience (along with other reports) leads me to believe that there is a general shortage of space for small retail and small offices in downtown Ganges.

Accordingly, I advocate an accommodative stance by the planning authorities to allow for a two-storey redevelopment of the whole block (adding a floor to part of it) which would a) facilitate a two-part redevelopment and the retention of The Admirables; and b) mitigate the pressure on downtown commercial space in general.

This would be a win-win outcome.

To this end, I have sent a letter to the islands trustees for Salt Spring.

Now to the urgent reason for me writing . . . there is a rally downtown next Saturday (time to be announced), and I invite those who you feel strongly about big-box frontages in downtown Ganges and/or the eviction of Admiral's et al to please turn out in support.

Please pass the word around and bring as many friends as you can.

The more people, the stronger the message. Don't be the one person who might have tipped the balance but didn't.

The guillotine falls on Paul's neck in 26 days and time is critical to save him.

See you all next Saturday, snow, rain or shine.

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 IN SALT SPRING CURRENCY

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IN SALT SPRING CURRENCY

OPINION

Revisit two-trustee concept

BY PETER LAMB

Let me say at the outset that, as a former Islands Trust trustee, I am not a fan of the Peter Vincent Head to Head columns in the Driftwood.

Personally, I find his consistent attacks on the Islands Trust and trustees as well as his interpretation of events not conducive to promoting a healthy community. However, those are his views and I accept that.

So in reading the Nov. 17 issue, you can imagine my delight to read at the end of his article that he proposes an idea that I can wholeheartedly support.

The idea is to revisit the concept of electing two additional trustees for Salt Spring Island, an initiative proposed by Trust Council in 2008 after extensive community consultation around the Trust area.

Such a change would strengthen our local government structure, increase representation for Salt Spring, better reflect island diversity, spread the heavy workload among four local trustees and reduce the chances of a tied vote at the local Trust committee.

The Ministry of Community Services endorsed the proposal but required a public referendum on Salt Spring before approving the required legislative change.

So far, so good. While the two additional trustees would be full, voting members of the local Trust committee, which makes all decisions on land-use planning on the island,

IN RESPONSE

the ministry would not agree to them having a vote at Trust Council, which deals with Trust-wide policies and issues. This limitation was not supported by Trust Council but the proposed referendum would have been a good first step to improving local representation on Salt Spring.

Together, perhaps, we can make progress to achieving a consensus on improving local governance.

It would also not preclude a future potential move toward municipal incorporation.

Unfortunately, on that basis, the referendum in November 2008 failed, with 58 per cent opposing the proposal, largely due, I believe, to a campaign by the Islanders for Self Government, which focussed on the issue of no vote at Trust Council for the additional trustees.

So here's my challenge to Mr. Vincent.

Let's get together to work on revisiting the two additional

trustees for Salt Spring but, this time, with full voting rights at Trust Council.

This should have the support of the ISG since it accomplishes broader representation on the local Trust committee and at Trust Council.

It would also enhance the potential for a local community commission of the trustees and CRD director (and perhaps other community representatives), which would provide an opportunity for improved coordination of services on the island and better sharing of information.

Peter, this is a perfect chance for people to work together rather than continuing to pose enemies.

To find common ground rather than foment division within our small community (to use your quote from George Bush "You're either with us, or you're against us").

Together, perhaps, we can make progress to achieving a consensus on improving local governance.

If you are willing to move forward, we need to get started early to persuade the ministry to support a new referendum in November 2011. I'm willing to try. Are you?

The writer has been a Salt Spring resident for 21 years and is a former local trustee.

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- It will cost \$300,000 to build, and we will need another \$50,000 for permits and site preparation. We have raised \$53,000. When we reach \$75,000 an anonymous donor will match it. We are then eligible for a grant of \$150,000 from the province and will need to raise a further \$50,000 to reach our preliminary target of \$350,000.
- If you have already contributed, thank you. To donate now please follow the instructions below. If you have any questions please write to windrush@telus.net or phone the chair of the Salt Spring Livestock Producers, Margaret Thomson at 250 537-4669.

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OPINION

Less chat, more informed silence needed for literary appreciation

BY GEORGE SIPOS

A most interesting article in the Nov. 25 Weekender describes a new Salt Spring-based project called BookClubBuddy.com. This is a website that features interactive listings of Canadian books, interviews and other features about authors, opportunities for readers to chat with each other and with the writers about their books, and so on.

"The virtual book club is meant to connect authors and their readers, and readers with each other, across the boundaries that distance them." There are even video clips that allow us to hear Caroline Adderson discuss her work while raking her garden, for example.

Sounds great, and oh so modern.

So why, as a writer, do I squirm in my seat when I read this? Why do I feel a little like the boy who watched the Emperor in his splendid new clothes?

Mainly, I guess, because I have never believed that the point of books was to connect writers and readers. The point has always been to connect both to the written text.

When a reader reads, she does so in silence and isolation and privacy. That's what we love about reading — it is a connection of intimacy between a reader and words. Since language is our most fundamental cultural connection with the world, reading a book is the most important means of discovering the shapes and limits of what it means to us to be alive.

When a writer writes, she also works in silence and isolation

IN RESPONSE

and privacy, seeking for her own part the right words to describe what can be known and understood.

For both, the essential engagement is with language. What they might know of each other is irrelevant. Do I really care whether Shakespeare was a nice man or a nasty one, whether he had a beard, whether he liked cheese or, for that matter, whether he actually wrote the plays attributed to him? All that matters is how apt and harrowing King Lear's words are in the storm, how they capture a fundamental truth of what it is to be human:

"Is a man no more than this? Consider him well. Thou owest the worm no silk, the beast no hide, the sheep no wool, the cat no perfume . . . Thou art the thing itself; unaccommodated man is no more but such a poor, bare, forked animal as thou art."

What we need, it seems to me, is not new electronic avenues for idle and irrelevant chit chat at the peripheries of literary experience, but more and richer opportunities for the informed silence that is at the heart of reading.

In my 17 years as a bookseller, the customers I valued most were the ones who spent time in front of the shelves of their choice, picking up one book after another and reading a few pages from each. Most they put back, a few they bought. But with each book I knew they were deploy-

ing their own taste and critical judgement, their own desire and longing and not merely the conditioned reflexes fuelled by Oprah, or by brand recognition, or the silly sanction of prizes.

What we need is a society in which more people have the confidence to trust their own judgement, to pick books to read because the language or the story speak to them, because they feel engaged, not by the author, but by the text.

This has nothing to do with marketing, or fancy graphics, or the cult of celebrity, or with the spurious and shallow promises of a global "connection" to others.

I'm no fool, and of course I realize that the way to greater sales for authors is to embrace the ersatz benefits of whatever publicity machine seems to work. Who can argue with having food on the table?

But long after we're dead and no longer need food, the question that will be asked about our work will not be, "Did the books sell well?" but, "Were they good books?" These questions are not synonymous.

So while I wish the originators of BookClubBuddy.com well, I myself will by preference seek out a quiet chair by a lamp (perhaps with a glass of Scotch nearby) and a book I can get lost in, following from phrase to phrase and page to page whatever strange journey of the heart and mind the words want to take me on.

The writer is an author and executive director of ArtSpring, a former bookstore owner, among other professions.

RANTS and Roses

A huge bunch of beautiful roses to Dr. Gummeson and nurses Ian and Jenny at Lady Minto. Thank you so much for your wonderful care of Alice after her accident. Your kindness, compassion and support for both Alice and her anxious mum were so greatly appreciated. Big thanks also to Bob, Erica and Jeff for being there by her side. Cal

A huge bouquet of Benjamin Britten roses to bloom all winter for the people who made my ambitious Winter's Light recital such a success — to the All Saints

Music Makers team; to Joi Freed-Garrod and Linda Quinn; to Laurie and Jim Stubbs, Sally John and Jean Brouard, Wendy Milton, Ian Van Wyck; to the Chanukah crew: Hannah Brown, Rachel Jacobson and Karen Love; to singers Gordon Keel, Manya Sadouski and Anke Smeele; to the composers and the audience. Bright blessings to you all. Rasma


Bravo to Joe Somebody for doing such an outstanding job of hanging the Christmas lights on the trees outside of Country Grocer.

A pond full of gorgeous water

lilies to Tami Plambeck and friends for their creative, beautiful and inspiring Mermaid display at Rainbow Road Pool. Season's Greetings from many little swimmers.

A huge bouquet of sweet-smelling roses to the Rev. Richard Stetson and all the many helpers who arranged an impressive St. Nicholas Day children's program at All Saints By-the-Sea on Saturday, Dec. 4. The activities for the children were outstanding. Thank you!

MORE R&R continued on A17



Islands Trust

NOTICE OF NOMINATION SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUSTEE BY-ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors of Saturna Island Local Trust Area that nominations for the office of:

One Local Trustee

for the balance of the three year term of December 2008 to December 2011,

will be received by the Chief Election Officer or a person designated at the offices of the Islands Trust, Suite 200, 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8 between the hours of **9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, the fourth (4th) day of January 2011 and 4:00 P.M. on Friday, the fourteenth (14th) day of January 2011 and during that period the nomination documents shall only be received on regular office days and hours.** Should anyone wish to file nomination documents in other than office hours, arrangements may be made by phoning the Chief Election Officer at (250) 472 0059.

Candidates shall be nominated in writing by two duly qualified electors of Saturna Island Local Trust Area.

The nomination documents shall be in the form prescribed in the *Local Government Act* and shall state the name and residence of the person nominated in such a manner as to sufficiently identify the candidate. The nomination documents shall be subscribed to by the candidate.

At the time of filing the nomination documents, the candidate shall also file with the Chief Election Officer or a person designated by the Chief Election Officer a written disclosure, as required under the *Financial Disclosure Act*.

Copies of all forms are available at:

- the Offices of the Islands Trust, Suite 200, 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C., V8R 1H8
- on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/byelections.cfm>
- or by calling the Chief Election Officer at (250) 472 0059.

To qualify for the office of Local Trustee the candidate must be a:

- Canadian Citizen
- Eighteen (18) Years of age or older
- Resident of British Columbia at least six (6) months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed; and
- Not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, elected to or holding office.

If an election by voting is to be held, voting day will be Saturday, February 19th, 2011.


Given under my hand at Victoria, B.C. this third (3rd) day of December, 2010.

Thomas F. Moore,
Chief Election Officer

LIONS Santa Ship

Saturday Dec. 11th
6:30 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock with a fireworks display in the harbour. Then off to the Salt Spring Elementary School auditorium to distribute gifts. He'll also visit Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital.

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OPINION

Coffee Co.— the moving decision

An open letter to Salt Spring Island residents

BY MICKEY MCLEOD

Dear neighbours:
Salt Spring Coffee has been in the news lately not so much about our product but about a business decision we made reluctantly to move our operations to Richmond. Maybe you heard a bit here and there, and aren't quite sure why we'd leave a good thing and a place we've called home for two decades. Here's our side of the story, as much as we can squeeze into one column.

Robbyn and I moved to Mansell Farm on Salt Spring Island in the early 1980s. We started with a large market garden in our greenhouse. What we knew for sure was that we didn't want to use pesticides or artificial fertilizers on our farm or for them to enter into the food chain. It just seemed like the proper thing to do — and it still feels that way today.

Next, we opened a farm stand along the side of our road and soon after we found ourselves selling our local organic goods at the Saturday farmer's market in Ganges on Salt Spring Island.

When did coffee come into the equation? It's definitely Robbyn who gets the credit. She grew up in California and brought with her a bit of urban savvy combined with a thirst for the freshly roasted good stuff, and before we knew it, we were roasting and grinding organic beans on Salt Spring, brewing them on the homestead's old woodstove.

Great coffee, responsibly made, offering jobs where no jobs existed, a small business with great staff making a quiet, decent living for 15 years. Word spread and people liked our product. We started to plan for expansion as best we could following our business model: great coffee that doesn't compromise the earth.

Our first choice was staying put. We found local property, applied for rezoning, and spent upwards of \$200,000 in application fees, permits and environmental studies for an acreage. We introduced the idea to the Islands Trust, and worked off and on for almost two years.

Trustees didn't discourage us from proceeding, but also made it clear any deal was far from a sure thing. Finally, our rezoning application was unanimously turned down. Two years and \$200,000 gone, an eternity and a small fortune for a small business.

Robbyn, my brother Ross, my trusted executive team and I talked, and argued back and forth, spending long sleepless nights, the kind all small business owners face. In the end, we decided to move most of our business onto the mainland, but keep the Ganges café, our tasting lab, our Salt Spring name and Salt Spring home. Canadian to a fault some might say.

As difficult as this might seem to some, this move is about being a better employer, a better roaster, a better leader in our local communities and a better steward of the environment. Our operations, distribution and transportation will be more efficient, we will reduce our environmental footprint and continue to produce great coffee.

We've come a long way since 1996, growing from a small, independent coffee roasting company to now one of Canada's largest and most respected artisan roasters of direct trade coffee. We are 100 per cent organic, 100 per cent fair trade and 100 per cent operationally carbon neutral. Plus we get at least 100 per cent more sleep.

Best of the holidays.

Mickey

The writer is co-founder, president and CEO of Salt Spring Coffee.

MORE R&R
continued from A16

Sorry for accidentally nicking your SUV mirror on Friday when driving off the Fulford ferry. My number is 250-537-4357 if I damaged your mirror.

Pollen-rich roses to Dave and the staff at The Fritz Theatre for hosting our preschool's fundraiser. Honey-sweet roses also to all of the friends and families who came out to see the Bee Movie! Thanks for your support. Salt Spring Island Co-op Preschool



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FULFORD FARE:
Susanna Kong keeps busy with her knitting as she sells her wares at the annual Christmas Artisan Fair at Fulford Hall last weekend.

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Insurance costs	none	\$ 301
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Interest-equivalent income 7.0%*		

For more information, please contact Investment Advisors
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* Figures are based on a jointly insured policy for a male and female age 65 in a 43.7% marginal tax bracket. Annuity rates shown are provided by Sun Life Assurance. Insurance rates are shown are provided by Empire Life. Rates shown are as of December 2nd, 2010 and are subject to change without notice. Life insurance policies require medical underwriting and annuities are non-reversible and deposits are non-refundable. Annuity income includes interest and return of capital.

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e: righthandman@telus.net Fully Insured

Relax...

HOT TUBS, POOLS, SAUNAS



**Aquafun Family Pools
& Spas Ltd.**
1-800-496-2611

5265 TRANS. CANADA HWY., DUNCAN
www.aquafunpools.ca



Our technicians
are on
Salt Spring every week

Dine out

SALT SPRING

\$17.99

3 course dinner

TO START
roasted garlic caesar salad
or
prawn cocktail
chilled with cocktail sauce

ENTREE
subhadia Indian curry
fresh chicken or tiger prawns
or
ravioli & prawn trio
spinach garlic ravioli with sautéed prawns with a truffle beurre blanc
or
grilled tiger prawns
two skewers with chipotle sauce

TREATS
key lime cheese cake
or
chocolate ganche torte
or
strawberry cheese cake

\$23.99

3 course dinner

TO START
New England clam chowder
or
classic calamari
with watercress dip

ENTREE
barbecue ribs
pork ribs, with fresh cut fries & coleslaw
or
roasted cedar plank salmon
sockeye with fresh ginger cilantro cream sauce
or
roast beef dinner
slow roasted certified angus beef with garlic mashed potatoes, gravy & slow roasted carrots

Add skewer of prawns \$2.99

TREATS
key lime cheese cake
or
chocolate ganche torte

The
Oystercatcher
FISH • GRILL • VIEW

250.537.5041 Book your Christmas party with this menu

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds

CALL 250-537-9933 or 310-3535

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

PLACE AN AD

In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges
 By telephone 310-3535 or 250-537-9933
 or fax 250-537-2613
 By email to classified@gulfislands.net
 By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,
 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

Payment
 By cash, debit,
 Mastercard or Visa.
 Classifieds are prepaid
 unless you have
 an advertising account.



DEADLINES

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

Driftwood WEEKENDER
 Published FRIDAYS
 Display deadline:
Wednesday 10 am
 Word ad deadline:
Wednesday 4 pm



WHAT IT COSTS

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

EMPLOYMENT ADS
 3 line rate \$14.96 - additional
 lines 1.25¢ ea
 All ads are posted to
 BCJobNetwork.com and
 BCClassified.com

DISPLAY ADS
 \$11.20 per col. inch

YOUR AD ON-LINE

All ads booked in the Driftwood
 Classifieds appear on-line at
www.bcclassified.com
 Employment ads also listed on line at
www.bcjobnetwork.com
 Auto ads also listed on line at
www.bcautocentral.com
 Over 20,000 on-line ads updated daily



BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE

Book your classifieds online
 - open 24 hours a day
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com
 or
bcclassified.com

bcclassified.com



Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

Sue & Jonathan Yardley
 are delighted to
 announce the birth of
 their first grandchild
Lucy Rose
 She arrived at home on
 November 15
 Proud parents of the
 most beautiful baby in
 the whole wide world
 are Ben and Jessie in
 Vancouver.


DEATHS

Hamilton, Doreen
 Born December 3, 1918
 in Barbados
 Died November 22, 2010
 on Salt Spring Island
 Doreen, predeceased
 by her beloved husband
 Kenneth, will be greatly
 missed by her children:
 Caroline, Boodie (Mike)
 and James (Elisabeth)
 and her grandchildren:
 Lydia, Nicholas (Heath-
 er) and Patrick and new
 great-granddaughter
 Madeleine.
 She will also be greatly
 missed by the Fabulous
 Five, Dorothy Armstrong
 and all her friends at
 Meadowbrook.
 A service was held, in
 her memory, at All
 Saints by the Sea on
 November 29.
 The family would like to
 thank Dr. David Wood-
 ley, and the entire staff
 of the Lady Minto Hos-
 pital for the wonderful
 and professional care
 that they provided.

COMING EVENTS

Bite Me! Treats
 Our delicious treats
 available at
**The Legion Christmas
 Fair this Saturday.**
Special orders?
 Call Gemma 250-537-4644

COMING EVENTS

StoneRidge Pottery
 and
Flowers by Arrangement

*Fabulous pottery,
 wreaths, Christmas
 decor & glass jewellery
 by Lisa Cherneff for all
 those special people on
 your list.*
 Open 10am - 5pm
 Tuesday - Saturday
 250-537-9252
 520 Long Harbour Rd.

COMING EVENTS


Shop for Xmas
 copper rain chains
 silver jewelry • oil paintings
 hand carved wood buddhas,
 eagles, whales (up to 9 feet tall)
 pottery • mirrors • wind chimes
 Discover Indonesia at
**AI's Asian Treasures
 and Imports**
10 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday - Sunday
 250.732.3696
 #7 9360 Smiley Rd., Chemainus
 (just off Henry Rd. & Trans Can. Hwy.)


COMING EVENTS

MAKE A WALL BASKET
 with Donna Cochran and Melanie Thompson!
Saturday, Dec 11, 1-4pm at Mahon Hall
 as part of Wintercraft's hands-on holiday activities.
*Festive embellishments will be available to
 finish off your basket.*
It's fun, it's for all ages and it's free.
 (For those able, a donation to the Food Bank is welcomed.)

COMING EVENTS

**Celebrate the 4 day school week
 with a family outing!**
 Thursday is now family night at
Rock Salt Restaurant.
 Kids eat for only \$2.00!
 Details www.rocksaltrestaurant.com

IN MEMORIAM


Clark Little
**May 02 1986 -
 December 09 2003**
 Death leaves a heartache
 no one can heal,
 Love leaves a memory
 no one can steal.
 You live on forever Clark
 in all our hearts.
 Love Mom, Dad,
 Dustin, Emily.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEAUTIFUL OREGON Noble
 Fir Christmas Wreaths & Cen-
 terpieces. Free shipping in the
 continental US! Our online gift
 shop also features Denali
 throw blankets and a huge ar-
 ray of fantastic gift items!
www.flyingcloudgifts.com
 or
 call 888-448-8825.

Christmas Show & Sale

**Dec. 1 - Dec. 15
 Noon - 4pm Daily**
 Gift baskets, Herbs,
 Spices, Chocolate,
 Teas and More

Tastings

Sandra Tong
 Independent
 Consultant for
**VICTORIAN
 EPICURE SELECTIONS**
 142 Woodland Dr.
 off Mobrae Avenue

**20% off
 Games
 Jigsaw
 Puzzles
 Art Supplies
 Wall
 Calendars**

**Salt Spring
 Books**
 104 McPhillips Avenue
 250-537-2812

**SUNSET FARM HAS GREAT
 IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS:**
 • Sheepskin Rugs
 • Wool Blankets
 • Wool Duvets
 • Great Wool Socks
 • Hand Made Candles
*Farm Raised Lamb,
 Chickens & Eggs*
1325 Sunset Dr. 537-2082

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

COMING EVENTS

ANTIQUÉ MARKET. Diamond
 draws for customers. Jewel-
 ery, textiles, collectibles, Xmas
 shopping. Amber Casa.
 December 17-19.

DEATHS

**Ib Holger
 Ronne**
 (nee The Great Dane)
 We say goodbye to a loving
 man, husband, father, grand-
 father, brother and friend, after
 a long battle with bladder cancer.
 Holger passed away
 peacefully with his daughters
 Wendy and Susanne at
 his side on November 28th,
 2010 at Victoria Hospice.
 Holger was born in Copen-
 hagen, Denmark on April 1,
 1931. He came to Canada in
 1955. He loved birds, dogs,
 reading, telling jokes, build-
 ing, playing cards, bocci ball,
 learning new things, but what
 mattered most was his family.
 Survived by his wife Solveig
 of 53 years; son Finn (in the
 Philippines); daughters Sus-
 anne, Lisbeth, Wendy; grand-
 children Kara, Ryan, Shay,
 Helene, Travis, Paige, Tyler
 and sister Inge (in Denmark).
 Holger will be dearly missed
 by all who loved and knew
 him.
 In lieu of flowers, donations
 can be made to the SPCA.
 The Celebration of Holger's
 Life will be held at the 1st
 Memorial located at 4725
 Falaise Drive, Victoria, BC
 at 2 pm on Saturday, Janu-
 ary 15th, 2011. Please RSVP
 at ronnefamily1@gmail.com

DEATHS



DEATHS

Sampson,
AUDREY AMY DORRELL
 Born November 12, 1934 in
 Saskatchewan. Passed away
 peacefully December 5, 2010
 at Lady Minto Hospital sur-
 rounded by her family.
 Predeceased by her grand-
 son Cody Sampson and her
 son Leo Geary.
 Beloved wife of Charles. Cher-
 ished mother of: Brenda
 (Kim, Jordan, Cara); Laura &
 Vernon (Sam); Dianne &
 John (Myles & Mason). Dear
 step-mother to Wayne (Shay-
 la) and David Sampson.
 Audrey was a strong, highly
 intelligent woman, always
 thinking of others before her-
 self. Devoted to her husband,
 children & grandchildren. She
 will be greatly missed by her
 family and many friends.
 A celebration of her life will
 be announced at a later date.

DEATHS



**Salt Spring
 Community Theatre
 AUDITIONS**
 for Proof,
 by David Auburn
**Saturday, Dec. 11th
 11am - 1pm.**
**Tuesday Dec. 14th,
 7pm - 9pm.**
**Salt Spring Sailing
 Club,
 141 Douglas Rd.
 Directed by
 Susannah Devitt
 Contact Susannah for
 more info 250.537.2570
 152 Douglas. Rd.**

ILSE LEADER'S OPEN HOUSE

Dec. 11th & 12th, 10am to 5pm


 1241 ISABELLA POINT RD.
**Handwoven and Handknitted
 Designer Clothing & Accessories**

COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

14th Annual Salt Spring Centre School
Winter Fest
Saturday, Dec. 11
 11am - 3pm
 Salt Spring Centre
 355 Blackburn Rd.
 250.537.9130
**Craft-Making
 Musical Entertainment
 Mindful Gift Market
 Scrumptious Foods
 Raffle draw at 3pm**



DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRAVEL

BCjobnetwork

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

INFORMATION

INFORMATION

COMING EVENTS

INFORMATION

TRAVEL


CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

Thinking of volunteering somewhere?
Check out opportunities at:
www.volunteersaltspring.com
or phone Gloria at 250-537-9971

GET IT DELIVERED!
As of December 1st, Salt Spring's Finest Natural Water from the Salt Spring Water Co. will no longer be available to purchase at the Country Grocer. A convenient option is to take advantage of our home delivery service at no extra cost to you! Call us at 250.653.4729 to arrange or see more information at www.saltspringwaterco.com. Our water will still be available at Thrifty's, SS Natureworks, Harbour Food Market and Patterson's.

 **salt spring island FOUNDATION**
Connecting your giving with island needs
Your gift today will help islanders now and in the future. The Foundation gives approximately \$100,000 to our island's charitable organizations every year.
Donations may be made through the website, by phoning 250 537 8305, or by mail to SSIF, Box 244, Ganges PO, SSI, BC, V8K 2V2.
www.saltspringislandfoundation.org

 **SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ISLANDS TRUST**
OUR SALT SPRING ISLAND OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 and for the HOLIDAYS from Monday, December 27 to Monday, January 3, 2011.
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME AT 8:30 AM, TUESDAY, January 4, 2011.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS MAY CAUSE.
IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR VICTORIA OFFICE AT 250-405-5150

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



Get your Hottie Spice fix this season @ Fulford Craft Show Dec. 3, 4, 5 WinterCraft Dec. 3-19 Waterfront Gallery Country Grocer NatureWorks & Admirals

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
John and Taylore present a seasonally appropriate service on the book "The story of Stuff", Sunday Dec. 12, 11 am at S.S. Seniors' Centre.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF AARON SAMUEL HANNAH-MATIN, late of 672 St. Charles St. E., in the town of Breslau, Region of Waterloo, Province of Ontario.
ALL PERSONS having claims against the estate of **AARON SAMUEL HANNAH-MATIN**, late of 672 St. Charles St. E., in the town of Breslau, Ontario, who died on or about the 26th of August 2010, are hereby required to send full particulars of such claims to the undersigned administrator on or before the **10th day of January, 2011**, after which date the estate's assets will be distributed having regard only to claims that have then been received and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not have notice.
Dated this 1st day of December 2010.
Edward Matin, 17a - 218 Silvercreek Parkway N., Suite #146, Guelph, ON, N1H 8E8.

INFORMATION

Your gift to the Heart and Stroke Foundation will help support life saving research and education in heart disease and stroke.
To donate In Memory or In Honour:
www.heartandstroke.bc.ca
Toll-Free: 1-888-754-5274
Mail to:
401-495 Dunsmuir St.
Nanaimo, BC V9R 6B9


ATTENTION RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS! If you received the CEP (Common Experience Payment), you may be eligible for further cash compensation. To see if you qualify, phone toll free 1-877-988-1145 now. Free service!

PERSONALS

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

FREE TO TRY. LOVE * MON- EY * LIFE. #1 Psychics! 1-877-478-4410 \$3.19 min. 18+ 1-900-783-3800 NOW HIRING

OLDER BUT healthy and active gentleman, nice waterfront property and home, would like to meet an attractive younger lady. Please reply to Box 5, c/o Driftwood Publishing Ltd., 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3.

LOST AND FOUND

Illustrated book found at intersection of Dukes Rd & Seymour Hts. Claim at Driftwood.



Lost Cat
Black and white young male cat named **Chuck**. Missing since Dec. 1st from Reynolds road and Hillcrest area. Possibly chased by dog. Has a tattoo in his ear.
Please call 653-2330 or 653-4137 if you see him. Thanks.

LOST: SILVER Oticon hearing aid Dec. 3, in Ganges. Call 250-653-4377.

SHEEP FOUND, area of Old Scott and Long Harbour - Not John or Cheryl's. 250-537-2656.


WOOL MITTENS left in car by hitchhiker, Thurs., Nov. 27. Call 250-653-4526.

TRAVEL

TIMESHARE

SELL/RENT YOUR TIME-SHARE FOR CASH!!! Our Guaranteed Services will Sell/Rent Your Unused Timeshare for CASH! Over \$78 Million Dollars offered in 2009! www.sellatimeshare.com (800)640-6886.

HELP WANTED

 **ISLAND WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE**
Salt Spring Island Transition House
www.iwav.org
ON CALL FRONTLINE SUPPORT WORKER
SCHEDULE: Varied shifts on a 24-hour schedule, primarily day and afternoon shifts 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.; off weekends & statutory holidays.
REGULAR WAGE RATE: \$17-\$19 Hour based on qualifications.
Please email, Transition House Coordinator for job description: tcoordinator@iwav.org

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

SUNNY WINTER Specials At Florida's Best Beach-New Smyrna Beach Stay a week or longer Plan a beach wedding or family reunion. www.NSBFLA.com or 1-800-541-9621.

CHILDREN

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

FUN LOVING care for toddlers & babies, 10 years experience, references. Wendy 250-537-4663.

HEART N' HANDS Montessori. We have a couple of openings to come and learn/play with us in our bi-lingual environment. Flexible times and rates. For more info call Denise 537-5562.

BCjobnetwork

AUTOMOTIVE

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY with an Excellent Company! DAVIS GM in Lethbridge, AB is looking for an AUTOBODY TECHNICIAN to join their team. Please submit your resume info@hire-standard.com or call Lorie at 1-403-394-2501

TECHNICIAN REQUIRED. Bow Valley Ford, Canmore, Alberta. Great working conditions in a very busy shop with great rates & full benefits package. Contact Joe Hawkeye, 1-403-679-2270. Fax 1-403-679-2271. Email: jhawkeye@bowvalleyford.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Direct reach to BC Sportsmen and women...Advertise in the 2011 BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis, amazing circulation 400,000 copies, year long impact for your business! Please call Annemarie at 1-800-661-6335 or email fish@mondaytourism.com

HYGIENITECH MATTRESS Cleaning & Upholstery Cleaning/Sanitizing Business. New "Green" Chemical-Free process removes bed bugs, dust mites, and harmful allergens. Big Profits/Small Investment. 1-888-999-9030 www.Hygienitech.com

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

HELP WANTED

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION INSTRUCTOR CanScribe Career College offers one of the top Medical Transcription programs in Canada and we are seeking an onsite instructor to join our team. You will work under the direction of our Senior Academic Officer to help ensure the success of our student body. You take pride in your work and love helping people succeed. You have graduated from a recognized MT program and have at least 2 years' experience working as an MT. QA and/or instructor experience is a definite asset. CanScribe offers a competitive salary, benefits, profit sharing, travel opportunities and an excellent working environment. Please email your resume with cover letter and salary expectations jlclarke@canscribe.com

CARETAKERS/RESIDENTIAL MANAGERS

APARTMENT MANAGER. Live-in, full time, NANAIMO. Good wage. Must have experience, references required. Please email resume to rzap@hotmail.ca or fax to 1-604-298-1123.

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

AIRLINES ARE HIRING- Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified- Housing available. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (877)818-0783

APARTMENT/CONDOMINIUM MANAGERS (CRM) home study course. Many jobs registered with us across Canada! Thousands of grads working! Government certified. 30 years of success! www.RMTI.ca or 1-800-665-8339, 604-681-5456.

HELP WANTED

Become a Psychiatric Nurse - train locally via distance education, local and/or regional clinical placements, and some regional classroom delivery. Wages start at \$29/hour. This 23 month program is recognized by the CRPNBC. Gov't funding may be available. Toll-free: 1-87-STENBERG www.stenbergcollege.com

INTERIOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR SCHOOL Locations in Alberta & BC. Hands on real world training. Full sized equipment. Job placement assistance. Funding Available. www.iheschool.com 1-866-399-3853



WEB DESIGN ON-LINE MARKETING CERT.
Drupal CMS E-COMMERCE DIPLOMA
Semester starts: Jan. 24
edu@vsbt.ca
250-298-5059
1-800-215-6702
SchoolVictoria.com
Tuition Free Audit Seats
PCTIA 3010 HRSCD cert.   

HELP WANTED

 **ISLAND WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE**
Salt Spring Island Transition House
www.iwav.org

Island Women Against Violence is a non-profit society dedicated to supporting women and their children in the Southern Gulf Islands whose lives have been affected by violence and abuse.

Administrative Assistant / Bookkeeper
The admin assistant / bookkeeper works directly with the Executive Director to provide support for the organization's administrative and financial activities. Administrative duties include maintaining employee records, internal/external communications and support with reports to funders. Bookkeeping duties include payroll with benefits, payables, class accounting and financial reporting.

- A successful candidate will have:
- Minimum 3 years of experience in an administrative role
 - Proficient computer skills including working knowledge of Microsoft Office and Quickbooks
 - Solid bookkeeping experience including payroll
 - Experience in a non-profit organization
 - Professional manner with positive communication skills

A competitive wage and comprehensive benefits program is provided.

Please mail resume and cover letter by December 21st to:
Ragnhild Flakstad, Executive Director
Island Women Against Violence
PO BOX 376
Salt Spring Island, B.C.
V8K 2W1

Post your comments on-line at gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Legion **Christmas Crafts & Collectibles Fair**
At Meaden Hall
Royal Canadian Legion
Saturday, Dec. 11
9:30 am - 4:30 pm
For details contact Fran @ 250.537.0710



We Believe in You.
Sprott-Shaw COMMUNITY COLLEGE since 1903
Sprott-Shaw Community College has been training students in BC for over 107 years. We want **you** to be a success story too!
Get In. Get Out. Get Working.
Call Our Duncan Campus: (250) **748-2700**
sprottshaw.com

NO WAITING LISTS - SMALL CLASS SIZES - FREE LIFETIME UPGRADES - LATEST SOFTWARE
JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE - FINANCIAL OPTIONS - QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK? PAGE B6

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

**DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM**

classified@gulfislands.net

BCjobnetwork

FORESTRY

LOGGING CO. looking for owner/operator logging trucks and experienced logging equipment operators for McKenzie area and the Kootenay area. Forward contact info & qualifications to Ben, email: ben@bcland.com or fax 250-714-0525

HELP WANTED

HOE CHUCKER/HYDRAULIC loader operator with coastal logging experience. Union wages, full benefits, local/camp settings. Level 3 first aid an asset. Please send resume to office@lemare.ca or fax 250-956-4888.

Medical Office Trainees Needed! Drs & Hospitals need Medical Office & Medical Admin staff! No Experience? Need Training? Local Career Training & Job Placement also Available! 1-888-778-0459

ROCK SALT Restaurant is hiring a daytime server. Email jill@rocksaltrestaurant.com to apply.

SS COFFEE - Assistant Manager (Temporary) Ganges Café. Passion for coffee, customer service, and teamwork. Previous experience required. Apply to Café.

TUG SKIPPER Full time senior - junior positions available. Minimum Limited Master <60GT Certificate required. Apply alertbaytowing@cable-rocket.com or fax to 250-974-5216

TEACHERS

TOEFL FACILITATOR The Gulf Islands International Program is seeking a qualified TOEFL facilitator to help prepare a small group of our international students to write the TOEFL iBT as part of their university entrance requirements. Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree with significant course work in English and previous TOEFL training and experience. This position is a short-term contract (30 hours) and tutorial sessions will be scheduled on five Fridays in January and February between the hours of 9:00 and 3:00. Please send your resume and a cover letter to the Director of the program at sbergstrom@sd64.bc.ca. The closing date for applications is 12:00pm. December 15, 2010.

TRADES, TECHNICAL

ENSGN ENERGY SERVICE INC. is looking for experienced Drilling Rig, & Coring personnel for all position levels. Drillers, Coring Drillers \$35.-\$40.20.; Derrickhands \$34.-\$40.20.; Motorhands \$28.50; Floorhands, Core Hands, Helpers \$24.-\$26.40. Plus incentives for winter coring! Telephone 1-888-ENSGN-0 (1-888-367-4460). Fax 1-780-955-6160. Email: hr@ensnenergy.com.

WORK WANTED

ARE YOU a senior who needs help at home? Experienced live-in caregivers available for senior, disabled or child care. \$1350/month for 40 hours/ week. Pacific Live-in Caregivers 250-616-2346 www.pacificcaregivers.com

CARPENTER/CONTRACTOR

Available for additions, renovations, decks, concrete, etc. Building for a better world, one dream at a time. Jim Anderson 250-537-0779.

NOW AVAILABLE for hire, John Caron Carpentry. In business on SSI for 26 yrs. New construction, renovations, fencing, total property maintenance, no job too big or too small. Reliable, punctual, hard working, excellent references. Free consultations. 250-537-9397. jbcaron@telus.net

PERSONAL SERVICES

HEALING ARTS

LUXURIATE IN a 1 1/4 hr. "heavenly" Hawaiian Lomi Lomi hot stone massage. \$65 special through Dec. Corrie Hope Furst, 28 years exp. Great gift idea. Serene south end by the sea. 250-653-4286.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

DEBT CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM Helping Canadians repay debts, reduce or eliminate interest, regardless of your credit. Steady Income? You may qualify for instant help. Considering Bankruptcy? Call 1-877-220-3328 FREE Consultation Government Approved, BBB Member

NEED INSTANT CASH FAST? 1st & 2nd Private Mortgage Loans up to 90% at Competitive Rates! Quick Closings! Call Daman Lehal Broker/Owner 1-888-375-3631 daman.lehal@eq lending.ca

PERSONAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Cut Your Debt by up to 70%
DEBT FORGIVENESS PROGRAM
Avoid Bankruptcy, Stops Creditor Calls. Much Lower Payments at 0% Interest. We work for YOU, not your creditors.
~Call Cornell~
1-866-756-9239

cornellp@4pillars.ca
www.4pillars.ca
4 PILLARS CONSULTING GROUP

\$500\$ LOAN SERVICE. by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 6 or 12 installments. Toll Free: 1-877-776-1660 www.moneyprovider.com.

IF YOU own a home or real estate, ALPINE CREDITS will lend you money: It's That Simple. Your Credit / Age / Income is NOT an issue. 1.800.587.2161.

LEGAL SERVICES

#1 IN PARDONS Remove Your Criminal Record! Get started TODAY for ONLY \$49.95/mo. Limited Time Offer. FASTEST, GUARANTEED Pardon In Canada. FREE consultation: 1-866-416-6772 www.ExpressPardons.com

CRIMINAL RECORD? Guaranteed Record Removal since 1989. Confidential, Fast, Affordable. Our A+ BBB Rating assures EMPLOYMENT/TRAVEL & FREEDOM. Call for your FREE INFO. BOOKLET. 1-8-NOW-PARDON (1-866-972-7366) www.PardonServicesCanada.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Our "Victoria Metro" office Christmas party raised **\$5200** For the **Investors Group Walk for Memories** supporting Alzheimer's Research In Victoria on January 30, 2011
*Trademarks owned by IGM Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations. MPI1577 (02/2009)

FITNESS & TRAINING

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH

- Private, Adult Swim Membership Gift Certificates now available at the Summerside Pool.
- Private fitness room included with each membership • UV Filtered, salt water pool
- Private adult swimming lessons

Gift Certificates also available
OPEN DAILY 5:30am - 9pm
for more info call Julie 250-537-9433

BCjobnetwork

PROFESSIONAL/ MANAGEMENT

Alberni Valley Adventure is a newly formed Adventure Tourism Marketing company located in Port Alberni and is seeking an inaugural Executive Director to bring the vision of its' board of directors to fruition. The results will include the establishment of a fully functioning business operation and generation of revenues that will support the organizations to be self sustaining.

For a complete Job Outline please contact Yvonne at 250.724.1241 or info@cfac.ca. Resumes / cover letters are accepted until 4:00 pm Friday, December 10, 2010 and may be mailed, emailed, faxed or dropped off to:

Alberni Valley Adventures
C/O 4757 Tebo Ave.
Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 8A9
Email: info@cfac.ca
Fax. 250.724.1028

PERSONAL SERVICES

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DIAL-A-LAW OFFERS general information on a variety of topics on law in BC. 604-687-4680 (Lower Mainland) or 1.800.565.5297 (Outside LM); www.dialalaw.org (audio available).

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?
CHECK IT OUT! PAGE B6

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COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

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COTTAGES

1 BDRM cottage, quiet, yet walk to everything. All new appl., WD, NS, NP. \$850. heatehmartin.49@gmail.com or 250-653-9729.

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HOMES FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM Cottage avail immediately, long term, approx 600 sq.ft. Ocean view, utilities included, shared property \$950. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

1 BEDROOM house in Vesuvius \$1100. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

1 BEDROOM Studio Apartment. Furnished, utilities included, suit single person, long term, December 1, \$775 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

2 BDRM, cottage with deck & ocean view. Wd stove & elect. heat, NS, cat ok, \$800 + util. Long term, avail now. 250-537-1968.

2 BDRM, long term house in Vesuvius, fenced, veggie beds, wood stove, NS, cat ok, \$1100 plus util. 250-537-0718.

2 BDRM, mobile. WD, no pets, covered decks. Suits mature single or couple, \$700/mo plus util. Avail. Nov. 1, 250-537-9799.

2 BED, 1 bath, close to town, 5 appl., Avail. Jan 1. \$1200 + util. 250-538-2323.

2 BEDROOM plus office oceanfront Town Home in Ganges, 2.5 baths, propane fireplace, one car garage, NS NP, avail immed. \$1900 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

2 BEDROOM with 1 bedroom in law suite. Large Channel Ridge View home. Extensive landscaping, fabulous ocean view, NS NP, long term, avail Nov 1. \$1995. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

3 BDRM, 2 bath home, close to town. Avail. Jan. 1, \$1500 plus util. NS, small pets considered. 250-538-7886 or 250-538-8643.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

3 BDRM, 2 bath. modular home on Saturna Isl. Located on waterfront acreage on Boot Cove. 5 mins. from ferry. 5 appl. F/P. \$700/mo + util. Avail Jan 15. 604-531-3966 or j.hogg@shaw.ca

3 BDRM house, 1.5 baths, near Central, WD, fireplace, carport, NS. Avail. Jan. 1, long term \$1350 plus util. 250-537-4413.

3 BEDROOM Long term rental. WD NS No dogs. Avail Jan 1 \$1000/mo 250-653-4268

AVAIL. JAN 1, 3 bdrm, WD, wood stove, deer proof garden, carport, view to Vancouver Island, ren. 2005, repainted 2009, \$1000 plus util., 604-986-1359.

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COTTAGES ON St. Mary Lake, fully furnished, NS, NP. Starting at \$700/mo., available Nov 1 to Apr 1. 250-537-2585.

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SOUTH END, 1 bdrm carriage suite, \$700/mo plus hydro, ocean view, steps to beach. Avail now, call 250-653-9726.

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RENTALS

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STORAGE

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SUITES, LOWER

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

RENTALS

SUITES, LOWER

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Approximately 1800 sq. ft. of shop space and 400 sq. ft. of upstairs office space, close to Ganges. Single phase power. Zoned ID-2. Space currently leased to Salt Spring Coffee Company. Available January 1, 2011. Call 250-537-9710 ext. 1 for further info.

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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1 Bedroom suite near town
1 bath, farm setting, W/D hook ups, N/S, N/P, long term, available immediately.....\$650

1 Bedroom Studio Apartment
Furnished, utilities included, suit single person, long term, December 1st\$775

1 Bedroom Cottage
Available immediately, long term, approx 600 sf Ocean view, utilities included, shared property\$950

1 Bedroom house in Vesuvius.....\$1100

Oceanfront Town Home in Ganges, 2 bedroom plus office, 2 1/2 baths, propane fireplace, one car garage, N/S, N/P, avail. Immediately\$1900

Large Channel Ridge View Home, 2 bedrooms with 1 bedroom in law suite, extensive landscaping, fabulous ocean view, N/S, N/P, long term, available November 1st.....\$1995

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY LARRY MELIIOUS

CCGA Unit 25 is bolstered by two members passing the RHIOT course to become coxswains.

COAST GUARD

Coxswains added to auxiliary

Ronan White and Per Svendsen pass rigorous course

Two Salt Spring Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary members have earned a promotion to the rank of coxswain.

CCGA Unit 25 leader Tom McKeachie congratulated Per Svendsen and Ronan White on passing the Rigid Hall Inflatable Operator Training course that led to their promotion.

“The RHIOT course is an advanced boat-handling course run by Canadian Coast Guard in Bamfield,” explains a press release.

“This course is designed and run by CCG and is respected world wide. It is designed to build confidence, perfect skills and take course candidates to a higher level of performance.”

Individuals chosen for RHIOT training are usually selected on their leadership potential and ability in the auxiliary. In most cases these individuals are poten-

tial unit coxswains and part of the leadership base for any unit.

Coxswains act as masters of rescue vessels.

The week-long RHIOT course takes place in Bamfield and in the waters of the Barclay Sound, just south of Ucluelet.

Svendsen and White join Unit 25 current active coxswains Roger Webber, Larry Melious and Tom McKeachie.

The additional coxswains will help enable the volunteer group to return to search and rescue duty in the near future.

This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

You are progressively moving to new levels of power and responsibility. Inwardly, your consciousness is expanding to embrace a wider vision of reality than you once knew. Call it a spiritual awakening! The seeds of change have already been sown and the turning date was late last spring. By late January you will be ready to take new risks and by April you will shake the world, at least your own.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

You are in the mood to merge. This may well have romantic and sexual overtones. Entering into joint ventures on professional levels is also likely. Sharing and exchanging ideas and activating innovative plans that will require investment and commitment are part of the plot. Taking calculated risks is likely and doing so with others stands to be the best way to go.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Some noticeable shifts and openings on relationship fronts are coming into focus now. Yet, you will have to give more than usual somehow. This includes having a clear vision of what you truly want and need. Knowing the difference between these two is often the hard part. Take time to make the effort to clarify your intentions. Make a ‘dream board’ with images and words or at least a wish list you can believe in.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Often in order to realize our dreams we must be willing to face our fears. You are meant to lay claim to something special at this phase in your life. Something that symbolizes a power potential you feel within. Perhaps it is a skill or perhaps it is an undertaking that symbolizes your deepest desires and highest aspirations. Tune in and lay claim to your heart's desire.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

You are in a complex cycle now. At best, you feel creative and inspired. At worst, you feel conflicted. Something is brewing within yet it is probably not yet time to be revealed, even to you. Your challenge includes seeing a bigger picture. This may imply looking at things in new ways, or seeing yourself from different angles. Your willingness to prepare the ground now is ideal. Ask within to know what to do.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A tug of war between staying in your cozy nest and venturing out to engage with others is likely now. You are in the mood to play. Yet, this is also an important time for establishing a more solid foundation, which requires work. The building process will continue for a couple of years yet, so for now honour the importance of family and play time amidst an otherwise busy schedule.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Getting out and about, doing errands, shopping, and gatherings with friends and so on will find you in your element. At worst, you are weighed with worry and/or a lack of faith or trust. If so, try to simply let go and let God/dess. There is a rhyme, reason and season to everything. If your heart is hurting and/or your energy levels are low, reach out to god friends and times to help you lift the weight.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

In the complexity of human life, it sometimes feels as though the tide is both going out and coming in. Open your mind to a wider perspective and imagine the many shorelines and you will see there is no contradiction. Accepting the dissolving of old patterns of thought, action and association...and nurturing a new philosophy, vision and self-concept is your current task.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

A pioneering urge continues to lead you on. At best, you feel confident amidst some measure of turmoil in your home environment. At worst, you are not taking responsibility for your thoughts, emotions and status and feel justified in casting blame. New visions are gestating and you will feel inspired to act on them more fully early in 2011. Do the inner and outer work now to prepare.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Creating warmth amidst the cold is a natural urge and active in your life now. This includes entertaining new perspectives and creative opportunities. You are destined to venture into new territory. Simply getting your bearings and tuning-in to the dreams that offer glimpses of your destiny is the first order. Take time out to commune with your soul.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Inspiring opportunities are likely rolling in now. You may have to do some inner work and/or work behind the scenes to meet the challenge. Your willingness to gather new tools and learn new skills is ideal. Making new friends and increasing your network is also implied. Yet, sometimes it is better to listen more and speak less. Aim to stay grounded and negotiable and do not divulge more than you must.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

This is a window of opportunity to shine your light and gain some attention. Do you want to approach authority figures for favours? However, with Mercury turning retrograde, this is probably a better time to plan and negotiate rather than inter into long-term and binding contracts. Focus more on cultural and spiritual activity than business and practical affairs.

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

LIGHTING THE DARK: Salt Spring Centre School student Emma Roll is one of many youngsters lighting candles in apples amid a roomful of song at the school's annual Advent ceremony on Nov. 30.

FARMING

Meat producers can taste abattoir

\$20K needed to trigger matching funds

Donations toward a community meat processing facility on Salt Spring are approaching the amount needed to trigger a series of matching fund agreements.

Margaret Thomson, chair of the Salt Spring Meat Producers group, said community donations toward the mobile abattoir have reached \$53,500.

The number is tantalizingly close to the

\$75,000 required by an anonymous donor before that person contributes a matching amount.

The topped-up amount of \$150,000, in turn, will bring the number up to what the provincial government requires before it will match funds.

The funding comes from the Meat Transition Assistance Program, which is managed by the BC Food Processors Association.

"It's really looking achievable," Thomson said about the project, which would allow

local farmers to process animals on the island rather than shipping them off for slaughter and then back again.

The meat producers' ideal goal is to raise the initial \$75,000 by the end of 2010.

Thomson said the Farmers Institute has contributed \$10,000 already, and is hoping local individuals or groups will get into the fun by matching their amount.

"That would only take a few donations," Thomson said.

Farmers expect that if licensed slaugh-

ter services are made available locally, meat production on the island will return to levels it enjoyed before provincial regulations changed in 2007.

FINANCIAL PLANNING PAYS OFF

MANAGING YOUR MONEY

A great way to save – it's almost TFSA time again

Unless you *know* you're going to win the lottery, there's no other way around it: To achieve your retirement and other financial goals, you *will* have to be a serial saver. Although they are relatively new, you should consider contributing to investments held within a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA).

Here's why:

- With investments held within a TFSA, you put your money in, and you get your money back out – at any time, for any purpose – tax-free.
- A TFSA is like the mirror image of an RRSP. With investments within an RRSP, you get a tax deduction for your contributions but all withdrawals are taxable. With a TFSA, there is no tax deduction for your contributions but you do not pay tax on future investment returns or withdrawals. All TFSA eligible investment earnings are totally tax-free and will not trigger any clawbacks on federal tax credits or benefit programs, such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, Old Age Security Benefits, Age Credit, GST Tax Credit, or Canada Child Tax Benefit.
- There are no age restrictions on a TFSA and there is no limit on how much contribution room can be carried forward – fill up unused room any time you want.

- You can make a gift to your spouse for investments in a TFSA and transfer TFSA assets to a spouse upon death.
- The current maximum annual TFSA contribution is \$5,000 per person, per year, regardless of income level.

And here's why it's nearly time to take TFSA action: The additional TFSA contribution room for 2011 will once again be \$5,000. This means that beginning on January 1, 2011, you will be able to contribute another \$5,000 to your TFSA in addition to your 2010 limit.

Investments held within TFSAs are a very flexible way to save because any amount you withdraw from a TFSA is added to your contribution room in the following year. You can invest in your TFSA eligible investments at any time, up to your maximum contribution level. Here's how it works:

- You make a \$15,000 tax-free withdrawal to renovate your home.
- You will be able to re-contribute the \$15,000 to your TFSA in the future without affecting your other available contribution room.
- Had you used investments held within your RRSP savings for the reno, you would have needed to withdraw up to \$27,800 to pay taxes *and* cover the cost of the reno (assuming a 46 per cent marginal tax rate) – *and* you would have lost that RRSP contribution room.

Talk to your professional advisor about putting a TFSA – and other serial savings strategies – to work for you.



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NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust staff to review suites, cottages map

Clear-cut criteria deemed essential

"I don't think we should approve . . . areas that explicitly contradict some of the Trust's objectives."

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's local Trust committee has called upon staff to refine a map of proposed pilot areas for the legalization of rental suites and cottages.

"If you look at the pilot areas [now proposed], Maliview is not an area because they have no adequate sewage, Beaver Point and Beddis roads are not appropriate and so on," said trustee George Ehring during Thursday's LTC meeting.

"This is a conversation we need to have."

Locations within the Burgoyne Valley and near Long Harbour, Ehring said, should be added to the list given their proximity to the transit network.

Trustee Christine Torgimson said she needs more information about the build-out potential should the rental of suites and cottages be legalized in any given area.

Such information must include a record of existing homes and a list of any potential cottage sites.

Islands Trust staff prepared and presented its pilot-areas map during an open-house event held in early November. The initial plan called for pilot areas in locations outside of sensitive watershed areas, close to the transit network and in areas with adequate sewage disposal and water supply.

Speaking at Thursday's town hall session, Salt Spring's former Capital Regional District director noted poten-

GARY HOLMAN
Former CRD director

tial pilot areas must be well defined and adopted incrementally.

"I don't think we should approve more pilot areas that explicitly contradict some of the Trust's objectives," Gary Holman said.

Creating pilot areas at the end of Beddis Road or near Ruckle Park, he noted, are not ideal from either an affordability or environmental perspective because of their relative isolation.

"It's important to establish that those [pilot] areas are set on a consistent set of criteria," he said.

Sheila Malcolmson, chair of the Salt Spring LTC, noted it may be worth expanding pilot areas as more information about effects of legalized suites and cottages is collected.

"A true pilot area starts in a small area and expands further," she said.

The updated pilot-areas map will be presented to trustees at January's LTC meeting. More opportunities for public comment will occur during the winter months.



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IN THE HOOP: Having fun on the deck at the Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair last weekend were, from left, Amelia Bapty, Anju Dtsu and Kiara Cowell.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Colour and virtuosity at two-piano concert

Theodora Primes and Chris Kodaly on stage at ArtSpring

BY MELISSA FISHER
 SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Dazzling sound delighted the ArtSpring audience Saturday night in dual Steinway piano performance by Chris Kodaly and Theodora Primes.

As theatre director George Sipos phrased it in his welcoming remarks, the former and present ArtSpring resident pianos "met for the first time a couple of days ago on stage

and happily can be said to getting along well."

That fact is less due to chance than to the intelligent and artful agency of Jim Anderson, the piano technician who has been caring for both pianos.

In fact, he received a distinguished service award at intermission, in recognition of his "extraordinary commitment and excellent work in maintaining our community Steinway pianos."

Intelligent and artful agency was also applied by both pianists. Kodaly manned his own Steinway, **CONCERT** continued on B2

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERT PREVIEW

Salt Spring Singers' winter concert wraps up glorious gift to music lovers

Eclectic program has something for everyone

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Singers are offering an early Christmas gift with their winter concert *Wrapped in Song*.

In two shows taking place this Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 at ArtSpring, the singers will present an original grouping of selections in a framework inspired by choir director Mitch

Howard's childhood memories.

"I grew up in large family," Howard explained. "Around the Christmas tree there were so many gifts, all sorts of shapes and sizes, so you never knew what was inside — but there was something for all our different interests and tastes. And that's what the program is like."

For audience members who like to get the blood pumping, Howard has a number of spirituals from the "rockin' the house" school and African songs — some authentic traditionals and some that have been adapted to represent the Christian season.

A complete set of Argentinean carols will please those who appreciate the religious significance of Christmas but are interested in new ways of expressing it. *Navidad Nuestra*, written by Ariel Ramirez, is a folk drama of the nativity based on the rhythms and traditions of Hispanic America. Accompanied by Alvaro Sanchez on guitar, bombo and charango (a stringed instrument traditionally made from an armadillo shell) and Patricia Brown on bombo, the Singers will narrate the Christmas story from annunciation to the flight into Egypt.

"It's very different and very beautiful, and I think it will be of great interest with all the different instruments and



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Mitch and Jennifer Howard are the director and accompanist of Salt Spring Singers.

sounds on the stage," Howard said.

For fans of modern composers, Howard's gift basket includes a couple of what R. Murray Schafer calls "ear-cleaning" pieces because, the director said, "most of us still listen to music with 18th-century or 19th-century ears."

To challenge the music listening ears of audience and Singers alike into exploring new directions, there is John Tavener's *The Lamb*.

"Tavener uses the same counterpoint as Bach would have but puts a pretty spectacular twist on it," Howard said.

"It's a beautiful piece, just not as conventional as some."

Modern American composer Morten Lauridsen, on the other hand, writes in a neo-classical and neoromantic style. His *Magnum Mysterium* explores the great mystery of Christmas with harmonies audiences will be familiar with.

Those who feel a winter concert should offer up some old favourites will find they haven't been forgotten. *Sleigh Ride* and *Charles Ives' A Christmas Carol* are important anchors, while the *Peanuts* classic *Christmas Time is Here* adds nostalgic charm — though as Howard promises, "We sing it better."

And for the jazz fans who have been left off the list until now,

Wrapped in Song offers the Singers' first jazz selection in 15 years with *A Child is Born*.

Vocal soloists for the show include some of the choir's recognized talents, such as Jean Brouard, Vera Algoet, Gordon Keel and — a recent returnee to the island and the group — Kevin Wilkie. Howard said audiences will be delighted by a new addition to the Singers in Meghan Goguen. Goguen is on Salt Spring while taking a gap year between high school and university.

"Nobody's heard her here before and she's quite special. It's a beautiful voice," Howard said of the young soprano.

With the Singers are now at a place where they can take on anything the choir director throws at them, Howard said he's proud of their accomplishment and expects an amazing concert as a result.

"There's really honestly something for everybody — we're doing a beautiful, honest and genuine program, the best we can do, as our gift to the audience. And of course the audience's presence is their gift to us."

Wrapped in Song will be at ArtSpring Saturday, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Concert goers are advised to purchase tickets in advance or arrive well before curtain time for pre-show sales to this popular event.

Salt Spring Singers

Wrapped in Song

Mitch Howard, Director
Jennifer Howard, Accompanist

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Flick Pick



Antichrist — prepared to be disturbed

Danish director Lars von Trier is commonly called modern cinema's "enfant terrible," and for good reason. His films, such as *Breaking the Waves*, *Dancer in the Dark*, and *Dogville*, have consistently tormented audiences with heartbreaking drama full of cruelty and despair. And yet, these are all Sesame Street compared with *Antichrist*.

Willem Dafoe and Charlotte Gainsbourg play "He" and "She," a couple whose amorous activities distract them just enough to not notice their infant son falling out the apartment window. She's resulting distraught renders her emotionally paralyzed, and He (who is a therapist) attempts to help by taking her out to a forest cabin in which she'd spent a summer writing her thesis on the historical mistreatment of women.

There, things go from bad to worse. He is beset by horrific visions apparently provided by the forest itself, and is struck dumb by his wife's apparent descent into madness. Before long violence erupts, and some kind of gender-based apocalypse seems inevitable.

I suppose this review should have started with a disclaimer that *Antichrist* is amongst the most disturbing films I've ever seen. It's not just the hardcore sex

or graphic violence (some of it applied to areas of the body that should not be privy to sharp objects) but the creep factor of the forest is hard to exaggerate. One sequence, in which He finds a fox tearing itself to pieces, then turning to him and rasping "chaos . . . reigns!", is at once weirdly comic and devastatingly disheartening.

You may be wondering if *Antichrist* is worth seeing. If you can handle the grim violence and deadening imagery, absolutely. Von Trier isn't only aiming to shock; at the blackened heart of the film is a troubling assault on the patriarchal essence of Western civilization.

Headly stuff, sure, but von Trier's treacherous style is the perfect vehicle. He never resorts to blatant accusation, allowing our own prejudices and annoyances to come to the fore. We want He to succeed in helping She, but the film makes us realize that there might be nothing he can do but fuel the raging fire inside She's soul.

Then again, I could be wrong, and perhaps the noted provocateur in von Trier is laughing at us. It wouldn't be a surprise to learn that he considers himself to be the real *Antichrist* of the film.

CONCERT

continued from B1

original instrument, while the theatre's new piano was played by Primes, of Salt Spring and Hollywood. The evening began with the *Petite Suite* by Claude Debussy, arranged for two pianos. The piece makes up in charm what it lacks in substance, providing eminently singable themes in a setting remarkably unlike the composer's other work. Aply read as it was, the presentation leaned more towards recitation than spontaneous combustion, but as it progressed the pianists became more able to hear and speak as one.

Saramouche followed, a three-movement suite by Darius Milhaud depicting well the character of the roguish clown from *commedia dell'arte* from whom it takes its name. The third movement, a samba entitled *Braziliera*, was exciting and altogether excellent.

Following intermission were the solos. Primes played three short pieces by Chopin, which made a nice collection in themselves. The *Etude in C minor*, Opus 10 No. 12 was presented with all the flash and sparkle it deserves, and followed by the dreamy introspective deeply

poetic *Nocturne in B flat minor*. Lastly presented, the *Etude in C minor*, Opus 25 No. 12 (*Ocean*) features virtuosic passages for the left hand, which the audience was well able to appreciate. Since the two pianos were nestled harp to harp, the bass end of that Steinway was facing the audience. Primes played with a fierce tenderness and competence that embodied her assertion that Chopin is to the piano what Einstein is to physics.

Then Kodaly came to offer the "real" Debussy in *Estampes*, three movements named after sketches on the composer's studio wall. *Pagodas* began with the breath-taking evocation of colour that is Kodaly's signature. The body of sound responded to his caress, filling the room with bright warm colour and Debussy's prescriptive high definition that creates distinct layers and textures, making clear why Debussy preferred to be described as a symbolist, not an impressionist. Kodaly has suffered debilitating injury to his hands, which became evident as the solo continued. The *Evening in Granada and Gardens in the Rain* movements were beautiful, and showed his thorough conception and deep love for the music, but were not examples of

his playing at its best.

Primes' husband, filmmaker Robert Primes, joined the two artists on stage to narrate the evening's final presentation, the *Carnival of The Animals*, by Camille St. Saens. Prefatory remarks of his own, to educate the audience to recognize some of the literary and cultural allusions, slipped seamlessly into the text provided by Ogden Nash. Primes achieved the right tone of laconic irony, allowing the humour to be felt fully between prodigious statements by the pianos representing all manner of creatures, including tortoise, ass and even "pianists." The tongue-in-cheek, "laboured exercises" of the latter brought chuckles from anyone who has ever attempted to master the piano, and was a fine example of the understated parody St. Saens intended. St. Saens as a composer demands great things of his interpreters, and these pianists gave the substance, style and near virtuosic capability required for the occasion.

The lingering applause and standing ovation from the enthusiastic crowd brought Kodaly and Primes back for a true "encore," the repeat of the *Swan* movement from the *Carnival*.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FRIENDLY JEWELLER:

Alvaro Sanchez smiles through his case full of hand-crafted pieces at the Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. For those who missed the weekend fairs, WinterCraft continues at Mahon Hall until Dec. 19.

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FOLK CLUB

Inspiring performers set for Salt Spring Folk Club outing

Jon Brooks and Tannis Slimmon on Dec. 13

A guitar-slinging bard of the topical song, Jon Brooks, and breathtaking vocalist Tannis Slimmon will appear at the next Salt Spring Folk Club concert at Fulford Hall on Monday, Dec. 13.

"A songwriter dedicated to uniting folk song tradition with today's stories, Brooks has an uncanny ability to press his ear against the heartbeat and the soul of the times we live in," states a press release. "In only four years he has twice been nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award (Songwriter of the Year), been profiled on CBC's The National, named the Musician to Watch in 2010 by the Toronto Star, garnered an Ontario Council of Folk Festivals Award, and took home the U.S. Mountain Stage NewSong Contest.

Brooks' music is also featured on Neil Young's Livingwithwartyoday website and he recently won both the coveted Kerrville New Folk Competition in Texas (out of 15,000 entries) and was a finalist in the Music2Life Contest.

Though Brooks' music is filled with grey and morally ambiguous characters living on the outskirts of approval, his mandate is unequivocal.

"I'm not interested in 'happy songs,'" he said. "I've chosen to write healing songs and, for that reason, I'm obliged to reveal a wound or two now and then. I'm



PHOTO BY DEAN PALMER

Tannis Slimmon plays the folk club in a double bill with Jon Brooks.

even less interested in writing unhappy songs: I want to write hopeful songs, inspiring songs and I expect I owe today's listener some hopeful argument — some legitimate reason — as to why we should believe our present world could be improved, or healed."

Slimmon — also from Ontario — is "a critically acclaimed Canadian musician who sings of hope, of change, of making a difference while we are on this planet," says press material. "Her vocals float effortlessly through the air like a feather falling in the sky. She is a charismatic singer who captivates audiences with her melodious harmonies, thought-provoking lyrics and warm rapport."

In 2008 Slimmon was hon-

oured with the Contemporary Vocalist of the Year award at the Canadian Folk Music Awards for her album Lucky Blue.

Exclaim Magazine described her as "a breathtaking vocalist with a bright, angelic disposition, Slimmon is a favourite folk attraction whose harmonies are as warm as her smile."

Juno-winning musician David Francey said of her: "One of the most beautiful voices I have had the pleasure to listen to."

Music begins at 7 p.m., with doors open at 6:15 p.m. (6 p.m. for season's pass holders). Dinners and delectable desserts are offered by Fiddlehead Catering.

Tickets are \$20 and available at Acoustic Planet, Salt Spring Books and Stuff & Nonsense.

HOUSE CONCERT

Juno-winner Morgan Davis next SSI house concert series visitor

Thursday night at Pingle house

Rob Pingle's Home Routes house concert series takes a trip into blues territory when veteran performer Morgan Davis drops by on Thursday, Dec. 9.

"For nearly four decades Morgan Davis has been on the road travelling across Canada, the United States and Europe," explains his website.

"His performances draw from a rich tradition of country blues, as well as his own contemporary songs infused with wit and a large dose of humour."

Originally from Detroit, Davis moved to California and then to Canada, immersing himself in the study of Delta blues while living in Rochdale College, "Toronto's mecca for the subculture of the late 1960s."

Davis hit the road with the Rhythm Rockets, The Knights of The Mystic Sea and David Wilcox's first

band, eventually forming his own trio.

He has opened for performers such as Willie Dixon, John Lee Hooker, Albert King, John Hammond, Albert Collins and Eric Bibb, and he considers backing Dr. John to be one of the highlights of his career.

Morgan's first solo recording — Blues Medicine — earned critical acclaim and awards for songwriting and production. In 2004, Painkiller won an impressive four awards at the Maple Blues Awards and was also named the best blues recording at the Juno Awards.

His most recent recording, At Home In Nova Scotia, pays homage to Atlantic Canada, where he has been a resident since 2001.

Advance tickets for the house concert are available at Acoustic Planet Music for \$15, or phone Pingle at 250-538-7262.

Showtime is 7 p.m.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

ON STAGE: Stepsisters (Paisley Conrad and Maddi MacKay) react to the invitation to the Ball guest list, as GISS performs Ash Girl. The show runs again tonight (Wednesday) at ArtSpring, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.



Keep Smiling...

Thoughts & News



"I don't like to eat with friends because I eat so slowly." *from Dr. Richard Hayden*

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"My grandkids think it is a joke when my teeth click and I can take them out."

"I hate boiling my food to death so I can eat it."

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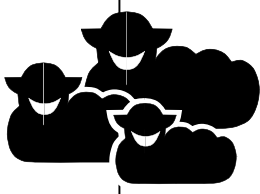
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SEASONAL EVENTS

Carols for Christmastide, Festival of Nine Lessons are among Anglican offerings

Singing, readings and poetry celebrate the season

One of the highlights of the Christmas season for many islanders is the musical event known as Carols for Christmastide.

Established in 2003 by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, the hour-long program has become popular both as an opportunity to sing along and as a recital.

This year the event falls on Wednesday, Dec. 15 and will bring the season's best with members of the All Saints church choir leading the singing, together with some solos and duets.

Talented musician and choir

director David Storm will be at the piano and organ.

In order to accommodate those who may not wish to drive at night, the concert will be held at 2 p.m. in All Saints church, where the ambiance and acoustics lend themselves perfectly to this season of musical delight.

The music is, as always, free in order that all may afford to enjoy the afternoon. However, any donations received will be directed to the food bank.

Following the music, festive refreshments will be available for \$2. Sarah's Christmas cake, Linda's shortbread and the mulled apple juice are always a big hit, say organizers.

Another of the Anglican Parish's Christmas events, which attracts both parishioners and community members, is somewhat more formal.

Adapted from the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which was designed in 1880 by Bishop W.E. Benson in England, the parish will offer a version that is still certain to please lovers of this traditional service.

In a series of biblical readings that tell of creation, then the expectation, annunciation and birth of Jesus, the story of the fall and redemption of humanity quickly unfolds.

Interwoven with the readings will be traditional carols and poetry that emphasize the story as it emerges, with an opportunity for all to sing.

The service of lessons and carols will be held on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea, where the setting of choir and candlelight offers peace for the busy days ahead.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BOOKS & ART

Celebrated artists make SSI home

Irish-Canadian author, painter are ordinary folk

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's reputation as the creative haven of the west has gained more substance with the addition of a couple lately returned from Ireland.

If author Patrick Taylor's name sounds somewhat familiar, the names of his characters Dr. Laverty and Dr. O'Reilly are sure to ring some bells. Laverty and his dubious mentor are the stars of the popular series of novels that began with *An Irish Country Doctor*, with two titles in three editions hitting the New York Times bestseller list to date.

Dorothy Tinman may not garner the same instant recognition for her titles, but her mesmerizing oil paintings of Irish skies and seas can be found in several top galleries in the United Kingdom.

Like her partner, Tinman has been a featured subject in the glossy magazine *Northern Ireland Homes and Lifestyle*, commanding a spread of several pages. But despite the attention each has received, they are in person exactly the ordinary and down-to-earth people they claim to be.

Taylor's writing career has gradually taken over his original occupation. Like his protagonist Barry Laverty, Taylor himself was an Irish country doctor in his early years. He left his home in Northern Ireland in 1971, however, two years after the start of "The Troubles." Emigrating to Canada he braved winter on the prairies and became a leading specialist in the field of human infertility. His work has resulted in three lifetime achievement awards.

After moving to North Vancouver to become a department head of obstetrics and gynecology at St. Paul's Hospital, Taylor lived on Bowen Island and in North Vancouver. The success of his writing allowed him to retire from his administrative position and concentrate on writing full time. He is currently in negotiation with publisher Forge Press to write three more titles in the *Irish Country* series.

Taylor and Tinman returned to their home isle to live for two years in Cootehall, located on a lake in The Republic of Ireland's County Roscommon. The sojourn allowed each partner to revitalize his and her creativity.



Patrick Taylor and Dorothy Tinman.

"Going to Ireland really did fire my juices," Taylor said.

When the couple decided to settle in Canada for good, they wanted to return to the West Coast and made Salt Spring their home, partly through the recommendation of Taylor's longtime friend and former Bowen dweller Nick Bantock.

"We both like a feeling of community and we felt we had a better chance of establishing that here than the Lower Mainland," Taylor explained.

"It's a very friendly place, we think. It's not too small and not too big. It just fits the bill," Tinman added.

The couple's home on Channel Ridge has a view of the sea on good days, and interesting cloud formations and fog when it doesn't — an ideal situation for Tinman, who is getting her studio constructed and preparing to transfer her technique to local scenery.

"We see some spectacular light here," she said.

"Sometimes the light here is so bright you can't look at it — it dazzles."

Tinman's Irish land- and seascapes are tactile and evocative, impressionist views that she creates with thick oil paints, often using knives for working with the impasto.

"Paintings that I like I always want to put my hands on," she said. "It's like I could feel what they look like with my eyes closed."

People on Salt Spring can currently view Tinman's work at Bocado's Bistro, where she and Taylor appeared for a sold-out "Irish Night" event featuring her work and his reading last month.

Tinman is exploring options for West Coast representation, and has been invited in by one gallery located in Seattle so far. She will be looking into Vancouver galleries this spring.

Taylor, meanwhile, is enjoying his writing career. He said the transition into being a full-time author was less challenging than his previous one from researcher and teacher to hospital department head. His books are character-based rather than plot driven — in fact, he jokes that nothing actually happens, but fans often compliment the attention that even bit players receive.

With three more titles being planned, and about a year of writing needed to complete each one, Taylor said he can't promise a Salt Spring Island doctor will ever appear. Where local colour may come into play is with his magazine articles on sailing, which frequently have a humorous slant.

"Nothing funny ever happens, but everything always goes wrong, and by the time I've written it up people are laughing at me . . . I'm quite used to people laughing at me," he said.

Taylor has no plans for any public events in the near future, as he and Tinman will be travelling to Arizona in the new year. He also doesn't really need the publicity, with his latest book *An Irish Country Christmas* now in mass market and being distributed by News Group.

Taylor acknowledged it still feels a little strange to see his book at every pharmacy and grocery store bestseller rack.

"You say to yourself: 'That's my wee book,'" he said with a trace of wonder.

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What's On This Week

www.gulfislandstourism.com/calendar.htm



Wed. December 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ash Girl. Modern telling of the Cinderella story by GISS 2nd Story Theatre. 7:30 p.m.
Salt Spring Elementary Christmas Concert. At SS Elementary School. 7 p.m.
Open Stage. Wednesdays with Stephanie Rhodes at Moby's. 8 p.m.
Lloyd English Trio. Live jazz every Wednesday at the Harbour House.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.

Thurs. December 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Morgan Davis. Juno-winning blues artist at Home Routes house concert. 7 p.m. Info/tix: 250-538-7262, or Acoustic Planet.
Darling Hearts. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Open Mic. Thursdays at the The Local pub. 6 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.

Fri. December 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mancubs. Rock band at Moby's.
KC Kelly. Harbour House Hotel.
Christmas Singalong. With Dave Jacquest at the Tree House. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Transitions Anniversary Party. Cake and sing-along at the Transitions thrift store. 2 p.m.
SSI Small Business Holiday Party. Music from the Salt Shakers, a lavish buffet and more. Harbour House. 6:30 p.m. Reserve at 250-537-1919.
Rollerblading. At Fulford Hall. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Tango Lesson & Practica. At the Core Inn. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Laura, 2150-537-4077.
WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.
Fundraiser for the Walking Bear Healing Circle. Yoga class, followed by prayer and song circle, and social. Ganges Yoga Studio. 6 p.m. Proceeds to local group offering healing based in First-Nations tradition. Info: 250-537-4440.
Salt Spring Wine & Cheese Party. At Thrifty Foods. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sat. December 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers: Wrapped in Song. Christmas concert at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.
Mancubs. Rock band at Moby's.
Peter Prince. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Santa Ship. Annual visit from the Bellingham Lions' ship and Santa. Ganges Coast Guard dock at approx. 6:30 p.m. Then Santa goes to SS Elementary to meet with kids and to Greenwoods & Lady Minto.
Winterfest. Crafts, music, alternative gift market, food and fun at SS Centre. A SS Centre School event. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2nd Annual Christmas Crafts & Collectibles Fair. At Meaden Hall. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cookie Walk. Pick up some Christmas baking at SS United Church. 9 a.m. to noon.
Pet Photos With Santa. Arthur Black is the celebrity Santa for the SPCA photo fundraiser at Moutat's Home Hardware. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. December 11

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.
Yoga to Beat the Blues. Workshop at StillPoint Yoga Studio (behind the Harbour House Hotel). 1 to 3 p.m. Call 250-537-2444 to register. All levels welcome.
Auditions. For the play called Proof by David Auburn. At the SS Sailing Club, 141 Douglas Rd., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Susannah, 250-537-2570.

Sun. December 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers: Wrapped in Song. Christmas concert at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.
The Barley Bros. Sundays at the Harbour House Hotel.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.

Mon. December 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tannis Slimmon and Jon Brooks. Salt Spring Folk Club double bill at Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. Doors at 6:15 (and 6 p.m. for season's pass holders.) Dinners and desserts available.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.
Life Drawing. Mondays on the third floor of the Core Inn. 1 to 3 p.m. Drop-in cost \$8.50. Short to long poses.
Toastmasters. Group meets Mondays at the Crofton Room in the Harbour House Hotel. 7 p.m.

Tues. December 14

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Transportation Commission. Meets in the Portlock Park portable from 4 to 6 p.m. Public welcome.
Auditions. For the play called Proof by David Auburn. At the SS Sailing Club, 141 Douglas Rd., 7 to 9 p.m. Info: Susannah, 250-537-2570.

Wed. December 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Carols for Christmastide. Seasonal music at All Saints. 2 p.m.
Fulford Elementary Concert. At Fulford school. 6:30 p.m.
Winter Pageant. Presentation by SS Centre School kids at SS Centre. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Christmas Party. At Salt Spring Seniors. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the program, music and food. 2 p.m.
WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.

Tues. December 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fernwood Elementary Christmas Concert. At Fernwood school. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. See Exhibits, below.

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EXHIBITIONS

- **WinterCraft** show and sale of work by 80 artists & craftspeople presented by the Salt Spring Arts Council at Mahon Hall runs daily to Sunday, Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Random 8 Christmas Exhibition** featuring work by Janet Cameron, Jerry Davidson, Lynn Demers, Bly Kaye, Jan Sharkey Thomas, Dennice Stambuck, Ian Thomas and Janis Woode at Gallery 8. Runs daily to Friday, Dec. 31.
- **Imaginary Landscapes**, an exhibit of paintings by Vancouver artist Andrew Gibbs, runs at Market Place Cafe through Jan. 30, 2011.
- Dogs are the subject for **Best in Show**, a fundraiser for the animal rights organization PeTA, at Starfish Gallery. Runs daily to Dec. 10.
- **New Paintings** by Paul Bryans are now on exhibit at Steffich Fine Art.
- **Pegasus Framing Gallery** presents work by the lino-cut master Richard Calver along with Bill Mayberry abstracts and hyper-realist oils by Christopher Walker.
- Photographer Eric Klemm shows two new images — **Tower and Standing Babas** — at Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art through Sat., Dec. 11.
- See Lyman Whitaker's wind sculptures at Grace Point Square.
- **Julianna Slomka** shows paintings of music and dance, as well as earlier drawings, at the Harbour House lobby through Jan. 1, 2011, and at Cafe Talia in December.
- **Margaret Threlfall's** miniature original watercolours are now available in the ArtSpring lobby display case.
- **Evelyn Russell** shows collograph and China ink paintings at Island Savings through the end of February.
- **The Salt Spring Photography Club** displays photos by club members at the Salt Spring Coffee Company on an electronic picture frame, with updated photos every two weeks.
- **Margaret Ann Argiro**, visual artist and photographer, has eight photos and one pastel painting hanging in Bruce's Kitchen. Images feature fruits, vegetables and the Northern Range as seen through the notch in Mt. Belcher.
- **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at Jana's Bake Shop.

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NOT-FOR-PROFITS



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
 SOLID volunteers are ready for customers seven days a week in the run-up to Christmas. Clockwise from top left are Louise Adele, Meron Moroz, Lynda Turner and Shirley McIntyre.

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Goats, crafts help build school

Sales directly benefit African projects

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Volunteers at a nonprofit Salt Spring gift shop are settling in for some extra shifts as the SOLID store extends its hours for the lead-up to Christmas.

Established in May 2008, the small store located beside the library raises funds for the Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development. SOLID is a non-profit society dedicated to supporting projects in HIV/AIDS-stricken communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Offering crafts and other items donated or purchased at fair trade prices, as well as fundraising items produced by other local non-profit groups, the shop is the island's storefront source of everything from African bangles, clothing and body products to locally knitted dolls and baby blankets.

"It's kind of modelled after Ten Thousand Villages, but we're more like 10 villages,"

said SOLID volunteer and store coordinator Meron Moroz.

Purchasing products directly from African artisans or through organizations like the African Fair Trade Society means the store benefits communities in need both coming and going: the initial purchase goes to the producers, and revenue from commercial sales at the store goes toward the many ongoing projects that SOLID supports.

Although the store's sales wouldn't make anyone a living, Moroz said in terms of fundraising the value is good.

"On average, we've been able to raise \$500 a month for projects. That's \$6,000 a year, so I think that's significant."

The shop has also provided a storefront for local fundraising groups who would normally be limited to craft fairs and the film festival during the winter months, including Seeds for Malawi and the RCMP calendar benefitting Meals on Wheels. Ometepe Coffee is also available.

Ongoing projects that SOLID helped establish and continues to support include a health

clinic in Lesotho, an elementary school in Swaziland and a rescue centre for girls escaping genital mutilation in Kenya.

A major project currently underway is to build a secondary school in Lesotho. At present the students meet in a shipping container that Moroz accompanied to the region several years ago. Filled with donations, the container stayed in place after it was emptied because it was at the end of its shipping life.

But as Moroz explained, the climate of the mountainous country is close to what you'd find in the Okanagan: hot in summer and occasionally snowy in winter. The uninsulated metal box makes for a poor learning environment.

"Four thousand dollars will complete it," Moroz said of the new school building.

"That's the big push project right now."

With volunteers in place to keep the shop open every day from now until Christmas (opening hours are 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.), Moroz hopes people will be inspired to buy gifts

with the added value of supporting projects such as these. Another bonus for shoppers is that the shop's low annual sales make its products exempt from HST.

People who don't want to buy more stuff can always purchase a goat for just \$46, destined for HIV-positive mothers in Kenya (and with no administrative fees attached).

SOLID supporters may want to consider a gift to the organization itself this holiday, as it seeks a new location for when the new library begins construction next spring. Moroz said having a presence downtown will be essential for the store's ongoing success, with many of its sales coming from summer visitors.

"We need to find a permanent space — and it will need to be affordable," Moroz said.

"Even an existing store that could give us a corner . . . We could compensate their rent and issue a tax receipt."

For more information on SOLID and the projects it supports, visit <http://solid-saltspring.ca/>.

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Fulford Community Hall Christmas Artisan Fair

Fulford Community Hall
 Wishes to thank the wonderful and talented artisans in supporting the hall during our Christmas Fair.

To Marie and her crew for the glorious greenery and our special chef.

To all the hardworking, cheerful, greatly appreciated volunteers, thank you for another successful year.

Special thanks to Embe Bakery & Thrifty Foods

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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IWAV
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

CREATIVE CHARITY

Salt Spring quilting group's pillowcases one in a million

Quilt guild embraces community project

About 29 island residents can sleep a little easier this holiday season thanks to the efforts of Salt Spring's Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild.

The group's 15 members have been busily sewing and stitching a collection of colourful pillowcases as part of a North America-wide volunteer effort that aims to donate one million pillowcases to underprivileged children and adults.

"We all just wanted to do a community project," said Claudia French, a quilt guild member who helped coordinate Salt Spring's contribution.

The group's good intentions mean 29 islanders will get to set their heads down on one of the group's handmade pillowcases. Considering guild members' efforts, which have produced pillowcases adorned with pink pigs, rainbows, dinosaurs and countless other funky patterns, there's sure to be something to suit anyone and everyone's taste.

The finished products will be distributed on a case-by-case basis in hampers from the island's food bank.

The overall campaign's latest figures put the total number of pillowcases collected at just more than 200,000.

"Every pillowcase can make a difference in your community," reads information about the campaign at www.allpeoplequilt.com. "A pillowcase can provide comfort for a cancer patient, hope for a foster child, encouragement for a battered woman, or beauty for a nursing home resident."



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring Food Bank volunteers Ellen Hazenboom (left), Sarah Mollin and Anna Mollin (front) were pleased to accept 29 colourful pillowcases presented by Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild members Claudia French, Gwen Denluck and Adele Weir.

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While breaking a mortgage and paying penalties based on the IRD can result in a break-even proposition in the short term, if you look at the big picture, you'll see that the true savings are long term – as we know that rates will be higher in the years to come. Your current goal is to secure a long-term rate commitment before it is too late, and here lies the significant future savings.

Call Margaret or Carolyn today to see how you can benefit from breaking your mortgage now rather than waiting.



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Counselling

The Christmas Season

This season may be a happy one for many but for those who have lost someone dear to them, or for those for whom it may be their last Christmas it can be a season filled with dread and heartache. 'Coping' may become the new goal for Christmas. As such, here are a few tips for coping through the holidays.

- Allow yourself to feel what you need to feel and honour the fact that grieving doesn't get a holiday.
- Be kind to yourself. Know what you can and can't handle and make plans accordingly.
- Continue to get good sleep, eat well and exercise as you are able.
- Find good supports and ask for help when you need it. This includes physical and emotional help.
- Volunteer to help others or give a donation to your favorite charity or church.
- This Christmas may be completely different than last year so stop comparing them & find new ways to make this year special and new.
- Take time for yourself, ensuring that you don't isolate too much. Find people in your life that you can be with who accept you as you are and will support you.

Be kind to yourself and give yourself some grace. If you are struggling with getting through the holidays please call me at 250-931-8762. Also visit www.ssi-healingplace.ca for more information on this topic.



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Upper Ganges Centre, 202-338 Lower Ganges Rd.

Home Maintenance

Winter has arrived!

How did you manage the winter wake-up call? If you still haven't cleared the roof valleys and gutters, it's still not too late. Melting snow and ice needs to run off fast. Blocked gutters and downspouts can back water up and cause expensive water damage. Now is the time to act.

And what about SNOW REMOVAL? Tired of swinging the old shovel around? Call us ahead of the snowfall and get on our priority list. We can clear the snow from your driveway with our machine, and salt the icy walkways. Take a felt tip marker and write our phone number on the snow shovel handle. When you've had enough - we'll take over.

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Plumbing

We are all aware that there can be issues when it comes to plumbing in the winter months, any suggestions?

One thing that is perhaps neglected as the cold weather sneaks up on us is people forget about disconnecting their outside hoses. These should be shut off and removed from your outdoor faucet since any water build up in there can create a problem when we hit freezing temperatures. Remembering simple things like this can make a big difference.

You can purchase frost-free bibs for your exterior faucets; pipe insulation for any exposed pipes that you have access to and making sure you have a heat source near your water filter systems can be three simple things that ensure a smooth winter.

A few tips for going away in the winter...visit the store to see what our "Winter Watchman" can do for you. This product can be set to alert your neighbours if your heating drops below a certain temperature by turning on a light! Knowing sooner will save you some aggravation. Another quick tip is to turn off the water source to your washer, dryer and dishwashers before you leave for extended periods in the winter. These are expensive appliances to have to replace should something go wrong in your absence.

Visit the helpful staff at Mouats to see what we can do to prepare you for the cold months.



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Mechanic

Cold weather trips require more than a well prepared vehicle

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades, etc. are a top priority.

As well as all these things, give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions, but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html.



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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

WINTER FESTIVAL

Seasonal fun at Centre School's Winterfest

Festival's 14th year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Centre School will host its annual celebration of the season with Winterfest at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga this Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free to this family event, which includes musical performances, great food, crafts and activities for the kids and a mindful gift fair where people can choose to support a worthy cause rather than take home another object.

One of the school's most important fundraising events, the 2010 Winterfest is its 14th edition and has evolved through the years to become an established and much-anticipated community gathering.

As Clare Cullen, a parent organizer for several years observed, "The highlight for me is the sense of community it brings. It's a great time for the kids and a safe place to play. They can go outside or run around and do activities, and the parents can just relax."

The Centre School is a Montessori-based program that was founded 27 years ago by Usha Rautenbach.

It combines an enriched academic program with opportunities for community building. Rautenbach's vision is still unfolding to gather in multiple generations of island children, as witnessed during the annual Advent celebration, where alumni children and their kids come back year after year to sing multicultural songs of light.

Winterfest, which is less symbolic but no less inclusive,

includes a range of fun activities led by the school's parents and older children, such as craft booths using natural and recycled activities. Tickets can be purchased to enjoy these events.

Cullen said there is always something special set up in the yurt. In the past it's been a magic cave and a storytelling venue, but participants will have to wait for the day itself to learn what this year's surprise will be.

Food is essential to most celebrations, and Winterfest is no exception. Organic, vegan fare prepared at the Salt Spring Centre's renowned kitchen will be joined by sumptuous baked goods made by parents, all at reasonable prices. Music is another big part of the day, and this year features Jim Raddysh and the Salt Spring fiddle group.

Saturday is also when winners

will be drawn for the big raffle. Prizes include gift certificates for local goods and services, as well as big-ticket items like a two-night visit to a Tofino condo, a one-night stay in Victoria with a Zodiac adventure tour, and two return trips to Vancouver with Salt Spring Air. Those who haven't purchased tickets still have time — call the school at 250-537-9130 for information.

There's no snow predicted for this weekend's event, though Cullen said with or without the white stuff, strong commitment from the school's families and teachers means Winterfest is always a magical experience.

"It's a real volunteer effort," Cullen said.

"All the parents and the staff really chip in to make a really nice event for the community, just to celebrate the season together."

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NATURE

Christmas bird count set to fly

Birders of all ages and abilities can participate

BY JOHN DE HAAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The approach of Christmas again brings the Christmas Bird Count, Salt Spring's final assault on "outdoor deficit disorder."

On Dec. 27, 100 or more hardy counters, birders both keen and amateur, will take to fields, forests and beaches to conduct a census of the island's avian populations.

The keen ones will be scouting their favourite sites a week before for rare or unusual birds they hope will make an appearance on count day.

Continuing a 111-year tradi-

tion, more than 50,000 observers across the continent will venture out, in weather fair and foul, to observe and count birds.

Frank Chapman started the count in 1900 as a way to provide an alternative to the Christmas Bird Shoot. Salt Spring Island began its own count 23 years ago under the sponsorship of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, a group whose financial support continues to this day.

In agreement with national numbers, the dark-eyed junco is Salt Spring's most numerous winter bird, with 3,201 logged in the count last year.

While the Canada goose usually takes honours on the water, last year it was the 632 mallards that came out on top.

The high mobility of Canada geese makes their numbers in any one place vary greatly from day to day. Indeed, many factors influence bird behaviour, and those who venture out on Dec. 27 will provide a holiday snapshot that may be missing some familiar faces or even contain a surprise or two.

Participation in the event costs \$5 and is open to all. SSTNC membership dues cover the fee. Bird Studies Canada members and those who are counting in backyards or at feeders need not pay the fee.

To join the count this year, contact coordinators Tim Marchant at 250-257-5015 or tim@villagecobbler.ca or John de Haan at 250-537-8329 or keoni@shaw.

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Municipal approaches to increasing the supply of affordable housing

Most Canadians are able to obtain housing that meets their needs at a price they can afford. For nearly 13 per cent of the population, however, adequate, suitable and affordable housing is either out of reach financially or attainable only by cutting back on other necessities. Governments have an important role to play in helping families and individuals access affordable housing, but they cannot do it alone; the private and not-for-profit sectors are also actively involved.

Creating affordable housing—and ensuring it remains affordable into the future—is an ongoing challenge that has given rise to innovative approaches from entrepreneurs, the not-for-profit sector and all levels of government.

Municipal governments, for example, have adopted a variety of strategies to increase the supply of affordable housing, some of which are outlined below.

Adopting affordable housing policies: Many Canadian municipalities have adopted policies requiring that a certain percentage of new construction be affordable housing. For instance,

the District of Ucluelet in British Columbia requires developers to ensure that a specific percentage of units in new developments will be affordable in perpetuity. The units are sold to households with low incomes and remain affordable over their lifetime through restrictive covenants attached to the title.

Establishing housing trust funds: Some municipalities have created a trust fund to support affordable housing. The Resort Municipality of Whistler, British Columbia, for example, created the Employee Housing Service Charge Fund to provide affordable housing for resident employees and their families. All new commercial,

industrial and tourist developments pay a service charge into the fund, which has been used to develop sites for more than 400 employee-owned townhouse units.

Providing land for affordable housing: Many municipalities support the construction of affordable housing by donating land, selling it below market value or leasing it at a nominal fee to non-profit

or faith-based organizations.

Changing zoning regulations and allowing variances: Zoning changes to permit smaller lot sizes, reduced setbacks from lot lines, infill housing, secondary suites or garden suites can increase the supply of affordable housing in a community. Similarly, allowing zoning variances on height restrictions, density and setbacks can increase density, generating savings on a per-unit basis that can be passed on to low-income purchasers or tenants.

Allowing density bonusing: Density bonusing is a tool used by municipalities to allow developers to build at a higher level of density (that is, greater floor area or number of units per hectare), in exchange for including affordable housing units in the development.

Accelerating the approval process: Municipalities can encourage developers to provide affordable housing by streamlining the approval process or fast-tracking proposals that include affordable housing units. Reducing the time and cost of the application process results in savings that can be passed on to homebuyers.

Reducing or waiving municipal fees: Some municipalities offer developers relief from development cost

charges, such as planning fees, parkland levies, and reductions or waivers of property taxes, in return for including affordable housing in their developments. Throughout Canada, local organizations,

individuals and governments are at the heart of efforts to create more affordable housing in their communities. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is there to help. CMHC's team of experts offers first-hand knowledge of approaches that

have been implemented by private companies, the not-for-profit sector and municipalities to develop affordable housing in communities across Canada. In addition to offering project-specific expertise, CMHC can help determine if a housing project is financially viable, identify resources and other potential partners, and share information on what has worked in other communities.

To find out how you can engage a CMHC expert in your project, or to learn more about people and projects assisted by CMHC, visit www.cmhc.ca/affordablehousing.





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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

PHILANTHROPY

Foundation announces latest grants

Almost \$50,000 supports 16 projects

This autumn, the Salt Spring Island Foundation received many deserving applications for grants from island charitable organizations.

As in past years, the total funding amount requested was much greater than the amount available for distribution.

The foundation is pleased to announce the recent approval of almost \$50,000 in grants to successful applicants.

In most cases, grant monies will be received by recipients only after the foundation has been provided with completion reports and invoice copies.

B.C. Epilepsy Society: To cover the costs of training resources and the travel costs of workshop leaders. The foundation is grateful to CIBC Wood Gundy's Children's Miracle Fund for assisting with this grant.

CNIB: A donor-directed grant for the purchase of specialized reading material

for the visually impaired.

Fulford Elementary School: To support Fulford School's "Fulford Forests Forever" environmental studies project.

Islands Arts Centre Society - ArtSpring: To purchase choral risers for use by local choirs and guest performers using ArtSpring as their venue.

Island Pathways: To support completion of three sections of the Ganges Urban Pathway Network: Rainbow Road from Atkins Road to the pool; Lower Ganges Road from Booth Canal Road to Wildwood Road; and Upper Ganges Road from Moby's to Churchill Drive.

Salt Spring Film Festival Society: To purchase projection screens for use at the film festival and for other society events throughout the year. The screens will also be made available to other community groups.

Salt Spring Island Community Services: To support the Women's Empowerment Group, which uses a 12-step program to help women overcome addiction and take charge of their lives.

SS Community Services: Towards the purchase of a client management software system to assist with case management tasks and track outcomes for 12 of Salt Spring Community Service's services that annually help over 800 individuals and families.

SS Community Services - Volunteer Salt Spring: A donor-directed grant to help support Volunteer Salt Spring, the island's online volunteer centre.

Salt Spring Public Library: To help with costs of an automatic disc repair system to increase the life of the over-4,200 disc collection.

Equipment can clean and repair even severely damaged discs — a huge saving in replacement costs. The equipment will also be used by Salt Spring Literacy and Salt Spring Archives.

Tuned Air Choral Society: To purchase choral binders for the Vive Voce choir.

Ptarmigan Music and Theatre Society: To contribute toward the costs of bi-weekly music sessions for approximately 30 people with physical and mental

... the SSI Foundation is proud to support the community by providing financial assistance to a wide range of the island's charitable organizations.

challenges enrolled in the GIFTS program.

SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse): To assist with the costs of a series of sexual health and healthy relationships workshops.

Salt Spring Conservancy: To help establish a new kindergarten and Grade 1 Stewards-in-Training program.

Salt Spring Hospice: To assist with the establishment of a regular program of care

and support for the caregivers of those with terminal illnesses.

Victoria Human Exchange Society for Bittancourt Manor and Grandma's House: To purchase equipment and furnishings for the houses.

The SSI Foundation distributes grants twice yearly. Any organization with charitable status that wishes to apply for one of the spring grants should submit an application before March 31.

For information about applying for a grant and grant application forms, go to the foundation's website at www.saltspringisland-foundation.org.

For those who aren't already aware, the SSI Foundation is proud to support the community by providing financial assistance to a wide range of the island's charitable organizations.

A single donation or bequest to the foundation will support a broad range of causes across the island. The foundation gives about \$100,000 to the community every year.

Who reads us?

88% of Islanders read the Driftwood each week.

-Combase survey

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

GENTLE TOUCH:

Helen Mears, manager of the Salt Spring Arts Council's WinterCraft show, arranges pieces by fabric artist Ulriek Benner in a sunlit corner of Mahon Hall. The annual Christmas show runs daily until Dec. 19.

FOOD

Christmas baking chores eased by Cookie Walk

SS United Church event this Saturday

For those with no time to bake delicious treats for the holidays, the amazing cooks of Salt Spring United Church can lend a hand.

They have organized a Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at the church on Herford Avenue.

People can choose a few or many cookies from a wide variety of homemade treats — from snickerdoodles, gingerbread men and much more.

For more information, people can call Lori at 250-931-8034.

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

Destruction: a winter's story

Fallen trees cause serious mayhem

There was a time not long ago when any natural disaster at Bold Bluff was an adventurous "lark."

I grabbed the challenge by the horns and dealt with it, enjoying the lessons nature provided that we humans in the 21st century can still be beaten by her. After all, I had my health and my abundant optimism.

Many of you might remember my horrific basement flood of December 2006 to January 2007, when four feet of water rose within 24 hours and sent my appliances floating in the basement, still attached to their electrical outlets!

I had to pump non-stop for five weeks before the drainage was "snaked" properly and then had to rip up my entire basement due to black mold. The best part of the flood was the hugs I received from concerned friends and acquaintances whenever I went into Ganges!

Friday night, Nov. 19, it began to snow just as my dog Daisy and I were going to bed.

"Daisy! It's snowing!" I exclaimed. "Come and look!" I opened the front door and we stood on the covered mermaid porch that Briony, Donald, Callum and Ronan painted years ago, and watched the tiny flakes flutter to the ground.

"I hope it snows lots tonight!" (Be careful what you wish for). We snuggled up in my Great Auntie Avis' twin four-poster bed that I have moved off the porch into my daughter's room, as my bedroom is an icicle, and slept through the night, waking occasionally to the sounds of breaking branches and falling trees.

In the morning, of course we were out of power, as was about half of the island. When I looked outside I could not believe my eyes: a foot of glorious snow covered the lawn and orchard. After boiling water for a cup of ginger tea, I put on my snow boots and opened the back door. My God! I couldn't get out! The huge yellow plum tree that we let grow wild and un-pruned had uprooted and blocked my exit. This was cause for concern.

We went out the front door, Daisy bounding joyfully in the new-fallen snow, and everywhere I trudged in my old



PHOTO BY TAMAR GRIGGS

Damaged boardwalk from the November snowstorm.



Tamar Griggs

TALES FROM BOLD BLUFF

orchard made my heart stop: The willow was down, draped over the rose arbour. The lilacs and two more plum trees were up-rooted. The huge Japanese flowering plum tree that my father planted in the 1960s and that Raj kept wanting me to prune, but I stubbornly refused because it reigned the magnificent Queen of the Orchard, was brutally pruned by nature.

Apple tree branches were snapped and hung sadly propped up on the ground. This was the worst destruction I had seen from a snowfall in the 17 years I had lived here.

However, what can one do? There was a giant mess to clean up!

Inside, I made another cup of tea on the wood stove, bundled up to sit in my icy study in my swivel chair, with feet propped up on my pine filing cabinets, and phoned my dearly loved friends in Burgoyne Valley, feeling sorry for myself, and hoping for sympathy. I got nothing but laughter.

"I'm laughing WITH you, not AT you!" he explained, and I knew it. "Here. I will let you talk to the Queen. She will have more

sympathy for you. She's baking an apple pie!"

Apple pie?!

"Hi, Queen of the Valley! Why don't you bring your pie to the Burgoyne Bay wharf and hitch a boat ride from one of the locals? I'll make you tea!" I promised.

I knew they couldn't come, but how I longed for a piece of home-made apple pie shared with friends on a snowy day.

We chatted a while, and when I next glanced out the window, I witnessed a new disaster: an old growth fir tree had up-rooted while I was on the phone and fallen over the boardwalk that links my dock to my home.

Sixty feet of my railing was smashed to smithereens, and I could not climb over the tree or under it. Instead of fun, all I saw was dollars. What is this going to cost to fix?

I phoned my woodsman guru Lloyd Rooke, who lives in Sidney and can fix anything.

"Lloyd, this is an emergency! A fir fell on the boardwalk and I can't get over or under it!"

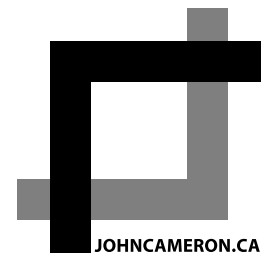
Lloyd dropped everything he had planned to do on his busy Saturday, and zipped up here by boat over Satellite Channel and up Sansum Narrows, with chainsaw sharpened and sledge hammer.

Before I could blink, he had cut the tree off the boardwalk and made it safe to travel.

I brought him a cup of hot tea with honey and milk, and a home-baked oat-apricot biscuit I had made before the power out.

"You're the national treasure of Bold Bluff! Thank you, Lloyd!"

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY

Transitions store celebrates 13th successful year

Revenue supports victims of violence

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Staff at Transitions Thrift Store are getting ready to light the candles as they celebrate 13 years in operation on Friday, Dec. 10.

A delicious chocolate cake baked by Barbara Slater will be served at 2 p.m. A sing-along led by Slater will be another part of the festivities recognizing the store's continuing success and thanking island residents for their support.

Store manager Roberta Temmel has helped make the store an attractive place to browse for moderately priced clothing, household items and books. The recent addition of a new floor has occasioned a redesign of some of the floor displays, adding a fresh look to the already welcoming environment. Prices are low but not bargain basement, so staff can be paid fair wages and programs get the funding they need.

The efforts staff and volunteers have made at the store have been met with islanders' willing patronage. Temmel said many customers check in every couple of days or more often, sometimes to shop and sometimes to get the news at this unofficial hub.

"We are so grateful to the community for what they give us and what they spend in here, because every single month is better and better for sales and donations," Temmel said.

Another part of this year's event will bring



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, Wendy Vine, Liz Forrest and Roberta Temmel at the Transitions thrift store.

the focus back to why the store exists in the first place and the important cause it serves: providing programming through Island Women Against Violence for local women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

Temmel feels the birthday celebration is a good time to remind the community about the programs its donations and spending dollars support. She recently returned from

a workshop in Vancouver hosted by the Ending Violence Association that brought home the world-wide prevalence of violence against women occurring across cultures, class lines and religions.

"The pain and the violence is so big still, it's kind of overwhelming," Temmel said, citing statistics that one in three women have suffered some form of abuse in their lifetime, often from their intimate partners.

Temmel has three adult daughters — statistically, one of them could be hurt by a boyfriend or partner.

Shockingly, as Temmel learned at the EVA workshop, abused women will suffer 17 to 35 attacks before they call for help. Transitions store revenue goes towards IWAV programs that help women make that call through the crisis line, and helps support them from there with services such as a safe house and counselling.

If anyone doubts such services are needed on Salt Spring, one need only attend a session of Ganges provincial court to learn otherwise, where a number of domestic charges are usually on the list. And as Temmel points out, the problem isn't limited to any one segment of the community.

"We don't think of violence as happening to our friends, our colleagues — but with those numbers so high, it's happening to someone we know."

Temmel is hopeful that education will help shift the socio-cultural factors that put women at risk. She credits another island organization, Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, for initiatives such as its Respectful Relationships school program that work toward that end.

Upon returning from the Vancouver conference, Temmel said: "It just made me so grateful living here where we have IWAV, we have the store, we have SWOVA . . . but we still have violence. [If we can] get people talking about it, hopefully we'll start getting small changes."

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FOCUS ON SENIORS

Home adaptations for seniors program helpful

By JOHN KURVINK

Second of two parts

For many families, it is worthwhile to bring in an occupational therapist (OT) to evaluate an elderly person's home for hazards. OTs can also identify areas where design changes can make the home safer and easier to live in.

Local health authorities often cover the cost of this assessment through their home support programs, but there may be a waitlist, as these professionals are usually in short supply. If you don't qualify for a government subsidized assessment, private-pay OTs and other elder care consultants, are also available to assist in an evaluation of the home.

Once an evaluation has been made and repairs identified, seniors, or their family, should contact Canada Mortgage and Housing and inquire about the Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence program, which provides forgivable loans to seniors who qualify. This can help offset some of the expense,

but costs can quickly add up. Seniors can also defer paying their property taxes, which can free up several thousand dollars each year in cash flow, or use a reverse mortgage to free up equity frozen in the value of the property.

When deciding if an elderly relative should remain in their home, there are many things to consider, and no two situations are the same. If the decision is made to keep an individual in their home, their physical ability and health status should be monitored as it can change quickly, and what works today might not work in the future. No matter how safe and elder friendly the home is made, at some point the medical and social needs of the person may outweigh any benefits to aging in place.

The writer is a chartered accountant and has a masters degree in health administration. The first part of this article appeared on the Driftwood's Nov. 10 seniors page.

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PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

UP AND AWAY:

Salt Spring United player Valri Cunningham is first to the ball in a 4-1 loss to Victoria A at a Div. 2 night game at Finlayson Field in Victoria on Friday.

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- Dec 9/10/11 - Jr Boys away to Cowichan Tourney
- Dec 10/11 - Sr Boys away to Isfeld Tournament
- Dec 10/11 - Jr Girls away to Parkland Tournament
- Dec 10/11 - Sr Girls away to Victoria Xmas Tourney

full schedule: www.gulfislandssecondary.ca/homeschedule.html

Meet the Team



Great Grade 9 Guards. While these girls are new to the Junior Girls Basketball team, they are not new to basketball or sports. They were all on the Grade 8 team that won the mid island championships earlier this year, and (from left) **Eliza Moat**, is thriving on the 1st place U15 soccer team, **Megan Brooke** just finished Jr. volleyball, **Jasmine Cooper** outplays her opponents at all three sports, **Cassidy Fraser** plays all three and is a ranked provincial swimmer, and **Hannah James** rides and plays soccer. See these girls in action at HOME on Thursday against Q of A.

MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys look to happier new year

SS FC continues mid-season surge

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Old Boys wrapped up a forgettable first half of the 2010-2011 season with a game they'd rather soon forget.

Player Richard Steel and the rest of the squad were well aware that last weekend's game against the fourth-place Cordova Bay Orange (6-1-4) would prove a challenge despite the Old Boys' high spirits and recent scoring streak.

"There was nothing we could do and we didn't get the rub of the green," Steel said following Saturday afternoon's match. "They were just too strong in every department."

Thanks to goals from Mike

McCormick and Matt Johnson, the Old Boys continued their offensive revival.

The problem, however, was Cordova Bay's unprecedented 11-goal explosion.

"Not much to say about it. We lost 11-2," Steel said. "Cordova Bay was an excellent side and they completely outplayed us. We did our best and it was encouraging to score twice."

Steel said the Old Boys squad is optimistic about its return to the pitch in January given that the league has plans to split the over-crowded 14-team Masters-B division. The shift will match the Old Boys against teams of a similar calibre.

"We'll be aiming for a few victories from that round of games," he said. "Our confidence will be high now that

we've started scoring again and we'll be playing teams we've already performed well against."

The Old Boys can enjoy a well-deserved holiday break until play resumes in early January.

In other VISL action this past weekend, Salt Spring FC won its second game in a row by defeating Gordon Head 3-2 on Saturday afternoon.

Jeremy Morrison scored his first and second goals of the season while Gord Akerman got his second of the year.

A two-goal showing by the visitors from Vancouver Island gave hometown fans plenty of excitement as the Salt Spring squad vied for an upset against the second-best Div. 2 team.

The win gives FC a 5-3-4 record and a two-way tie for

fourth place in its division.

The team has an opportunity to move into third spot when it travels to play a struggling Comox Valley United side on Dec. 11.

Salt Spring FC won't be back in action on home soil until the team hosts the Castaways on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 2:15 p.m.

Meanwhile, VicWest extended Salt Spring FC Alumni's losing skid to five games after downing its hosts 1-0 on Sunday morning.

Salt Spring FC Alumni (2-8-1) has been unable to find any victories lately in spite of a strong start to the season. The team travels to Victoria on Saturday, Dec. 11 with hopes of finishing off the season's first half on a winning note against seventh-place Gordon Head (1-10-2).



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SAILING

Islander named B.C. Sailor of the Year

Clarke and crew eye Olympics

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Richard Clarke heads to the 2012 Summer Games, he's not interested in showing up as a tourist.

Now that he's been named B.C.'s Sailor of the Year, fellow athletes in London have fair warning to take this star of the Finn-class circuit very seriously.

"I went to the Olympics in 2004 as a tourist, not prepared and not able to put the time in," Clarke said in a Monday afternoon interview from Miami, where he's just finished competing with crew member Tyler Bjorn.

"I qualified as the best in Canada, but really wasn't at the peak of my performance. We have no interest in going to the Olympics as tourists."

Clarke has good reason to be confident about 2012. Earning the B.C. Sailor of the Year dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Richard Clarke (right) and Tyler Bjorn have begun preparing for their serious shot at Olympic success during the 2012 Summer Games in London.

inction follows a successful 2010 season that saw Clarke win numerous international regattas, including podium finishes at the 2009 Star North American Championship, the 2010 Star Western Hemisphere Championship and at several US-IRC events.

"Last year was a 'let's see how it goes,'" he said. "We really had no preconceived ideas. We're just completely surprised about how successful it was."

Despite his and Bjorn's "rusty" performance in Miami last week, Clarke

is thrilled with news of his sailor of the year award.

Given that Bjorn was named Quebec Sailor of the Year earlier in the fall, things are looking up for the team as they search for the funding, sponsorship and support that's needed to ensure they're at the top of their game when 2012 blows around.

Though he spends up to 240 days per year on the water competing on the regatta circuit in the United States or Caribbean, Clarke, his wife Andrea and the couple's

six-year-old son moved to Salt Spring in 2001.

Clarke said his family enjoys the community's tightly knit and supportive nature along with its ever-present access to the sea.

"It so great that our backyard is our playground," he said. "We lived in Vancouver and Victoria and had great experiences, but we wanted a community."

More information about Clarke's sailing career and his journey to 2012 is available on his blog: www.clarkebjornsailing.com.

GISS BASKETBALL

Action on the courts gets rolling

Four teams at tourneys this week

Basketball season is in full swing at Gulf Islands Secondary School, with four Scorpions teams making their mark at their first games and tournaments.

The junior girls team travelled to Frances Kelsey for their first game of the season on Dec. 2 — an exciting come-from-behind 20-19 win.

The 15-member squad had formed only days before, said parent reporter Karen Hudson, and coach Donal Duncan had few opportunities to organize practice sessions due to the snow.

With baskets by Gabrielle Spiess, Jade Beauvais and Becki Steel, GISS was down 14-10 at the half, but they took an 18-17 lead at the end of the third quarter with Megan Brooke scoring and Spiess sinking a free throw.

In an exciting fourth quarter, Kelsey scored another basket, but Kayla Pultke scored for GISS with 53 seconds left to play, and the girls won 20-19, with Spiess contributing 12 points.

The girls have a home game on Thursday at 4:30 and play in a Parkland secondary tourney this week.

The juniors boys team came out on top 86-18 in their first game of the season against Stelly's secondary of Saanich.

"Even though the

score was very lopsided, both Stelly's and GISS showed incredible sportsmanship and both sides were having a great time," said coach Diane Weatherby.

GISS' junior boys team already had some strong players from last year before being joined by a powerhouse element from the 2009-10 Grade 8 travelling team from the middle school.

"We do have a talented team and will be right in there this year," said coach Diane Weatherby.

The boys are at a tournament against the "big schools" from Victoria in Cowichan this week.

• With seven returning players and a handful of keen Grade 11 players, the GISS senior boys basketball team placed second at their first tournament in Campbell River last week.

"The boys are a positive bunch that play well together," said teacher-coach Kim Chalmers. "We will be in a tough league again this year, but are sure to improve game by game."

This week they'll participate in a tournament at Mark Isfeld school in Courtenay.

• The senior girls Scorpions played hard at a Woodlands tournament last week, losing heartbreakers by two

points to two different teams — Dover Bay and Woodlands — on two different days.

But they also beat triple-A Cowichan by 18 points, and lost their opening game to Dover Bay the first time they met them.

Players of the game were Kai Fishleigh, Ashley Kilbourn, Megan Jarman and Carly Davenport.

"Although disappointed, the girls are happy to see that we are competitive with the teams that are out there and are looking forward to a fun season," said coach Tony Mason.

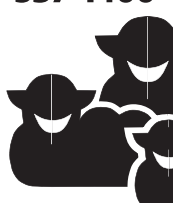
They head to the Victoria Christmas Tournament this weekend.

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