

**50<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary  
1960 - 2010



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Gulf Islands  
Real Estate  
INSIDE

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DECEMBER 15, 2010 - JANUARY 16, 2011

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# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 15, 2010 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 50TH YEAR — ISSUE 50 \$1.25 (incl. HST)



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FINE FEATHERS:** Katie Burke surrounds herself in dyed peacock feathers as she participates in the second annual Christmas Crafts & Collectibles event at Meaden Hall last weekend.

**ENVIRONMENT**

## Group acts to protect 320 acres

Conservancy closes in on epic parkland deal

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is only \$235,000 away from completing the largest land-acquisition deal in the group's 16-year history.

That's how much money the conservancy needs to wrap up a \$2.6-million purchase that will protect 320 acres of forest land on Musgrave Road near the summit of Hope Hill.

"This definitely is the biggest thing we've ever done," said Linda Gilkeson, executive director of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Conservancy staff and volunteers have worked for more than a year to secure funding partners and resolve details about the deal. Major funding from the Nature Conservancy of Canada through its federally funded Natural Areas Conservation Program, the B.C. Nature Federation (from a bequest) and private donors account for roughly 91 per cent of the property's price.

"The transaction is part sale and part gift," said Ashley Hilliard, Salt Spring Conservancy president. "The owner has held the land for a long time and always had the vision that it should be preserved as a nature reserve."

The conservancy's campaign to raise the final nine per cent of the total "went live" online on Tuesday afternoon.

Donors can double their donations of stock and secu-

PARK continued on A2

**FERRIES**

## Maintenance error to blame in ferry crash

Recommendations under review

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
AND GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A just-released BC Ferries incident information report about the Aug. 3 crash of the Queen of Nanaimo at Village Bay on Mayne Island indicates maintenance errors were responsible for the mishap.

The report found that the wrong type of dowels were incorrectly installed in the oil distribution box and subsequently fell out — one at an undetermined point before the incident — and the second one on the morning of Aug. 3.

Once the ship lost its ability to slow down, other problems included hampered communication between the wheelhouse and the engine control room, and difficulty coming up with an accurate count of the ship's passengers.

The discovery of 300 feet of crab-trap rope wrapped around the propellers may have contributed to the vibration experienced by officers in the wheelhouse, states the report, but "was not considered to be a factor contributing to the incident."

The report includes 12 recommendations for several BC Ferries executives and departments. They include suggestions for engineering inspections, improved communication between the wheelhouse and engine control room, and implementing a better system of tracking passengers in an emergency, among others.

BC Ferries media spokesperson Deborah Marshall said it's too soon to know when the recommendations will be undertaken as the report was only finalized last week.

"The recommendations are being reviewed

and then we will start with implementation plans," Marshall said.

"Some of these things may have already been done," she added.

Marshall said BC Ferries views incident reports as valuable learning tools to improve passenger safety. The need to upgrade the passenger tracking system, for example, is being taken seriously.

"It's something we're certainly reviewing. It's important to have an accurate passenger count," Marshall said. She noted that fare evaders can be a problem on the multi-stop route, making it difficult to match point-of-sale numbers with the actual physical count.

As for the revelation that the crab-trap lines,

FERRY REPORT continued on A2

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NEWSBEAT

# Conservancy makes move to protect Musgrave land

**PARK**  
continued from A1

ities thanks to an offer from Frank Arnold at the Pinch Group at Raymond James in Victoria to match gifts up to \$10,000. Another generous supporter has vowed to donate \$10,000 cash to match other cash donations.

The subject property adjoins the Capital Regional District's Mill Farm Regional Park Reserve, as well as another 178 acres of private covenanted lands to the west.

"Once protected, it will connect, and markedly extend, the area of permanently protected wildlife habitat in the most remote region of the island, becoming part of 5,980 acres of continuous greenbelt," Hilliard said.

The forested site features a four-acre lake, streams and numerous wetlands. According to an environmental inventory conducted by the conservancy, the property offers habitat for many of Salt Spring's 45 species at risk, including nine species that are currently on the provincial red list of endangered species.

"About half of the land to be acquired is in the coastal Doug-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Biologist Kristiina Ovaska conducts a survey for amphibians in the lake on the property.

las-fir biogeoclimatic zone, which is the rarest ecosystem in the province and has been rated as 'imperiled' by the B.C. Conservation Data Centre," according to a conservancy press release. "Most of the global range of this ecosystem occurs in the inner south coast of B.C., where it has been severely eroded by urban and rural development."

Once the purchase is complete, the conservancy intends to manage the site as a nature reserve, complete with public access on established hiking trails. Hilliard said trails on the property could someday form an integral link in the proposed long-distance trail across the island.

A \$308,000 endowment fund, required by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, will accrue interest for the site's ongoing management.

The Hope Hill-area project represents the conservancy's first major land-acquisition campaign since the group raised \$650,000 in 2005 to protect a 100-acre property that includes the Mount Erskine summit.

More information about the campaign and ways to donate is available online at [www.saltspringconservancy.ca](http://www.saltspringconservancy.ca) or by calling the conservancy office at 250-538-0318.

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## Errors cause crash

**FERRY REPORT**  
continued from A1

three of whom required first aid treatment, were injured in the incident. The report was released to the Vancouver Sun through a freedom of information request. It can be accessed in full at <http://www.bcferries.com/files/foi/2010-004-BCF-LAI-report.pdf>.

once identified as the probable cause of the accident, were not a factor, Marshall said the investigators have had the benefit of time to fully understand what went wrong. Four passengers and six crew members,

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Map labels: NANAIMO (Departure Bay), THETIS ISLAND, TELEGRAPH HARBOR, GANGES HARBOR, SALT SPRING ISLAND, GALIANO ISLAND, VANCOUVER, SEAIR TERMINAL AT VANCOUVER INT'L AIRPORT, MAYNE ISLAND, MINER'S BAY, LYALL HARBOR, SATURNA ISLAND, NORTH PENDER ISLAND, PORT WASHINGTON.

# Newsbeat

## Heads up!

**Christmas Market in the Park:**

Saturday, DECEMBER 18

Centennial Park, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### ISLANDS TRUST

# LUB review takes on industrial land, home business

Public comments still being accepted

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust hopes to alter the way people do business on the island and planners want islanders' help to determine what those changes should look like.

About 35 island residents got a first-hand look at some of the proposed changes in late November during a community open house to discuss opportunities for home-based businesses and industrial land uses.

"It was very interesting because people stayed for quite a long time and got really quite involved," said Susan Palmer, a Trust planner who is heading up the LUB review process.

The event was part of the Trust's ongoing effort to consider and review changes to the Salt Spring Land Use Bylaw, a process which is expected to wrap up next summer.

In the same way that discussion over the proposal to legalize suites and cottages has become a focal point for affordable housing advocates, opportunities to tweak the industrial land-use and home-based business regulations have been long awaited by many island workers.

Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling's John Quesnel was among those who turned out for the Nov. 30 event.

Quesnel has spent the past several years searching for a property to conduct his island-based metal recycling business. He is currently the target of litigation by the Trust after he was denied a temporary use permit to continue his business in 2008.

Quesnel is skeptical the LUB process will result in any positive changes, but encourages anyone who cares about preserving the livelihoods of island workers and families to educate themselves and get involved in the process.

"The more you look at the system in play you come to realize it isn't set up to create space for people to work from, it's created to hinder it," he said.

Considering the Trust's findings, many



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

John Quesnel, left, and guests at a Salt Spring Metal Recycling open house held in 2008.

of which stem from 2009's Industrial Land Task Force report, only 7.5 per cent of the island's industrial land is being used for industrial activity.

According to information presented at the open house, much of the island's available industrial land is difficult to develop because of topography, drainage systems, location and unproven water supply.

To help redress the balance, suggested LUB changes include the rezoning of legal non-conforming industrial properties and rezoning specific areas near the intersection of Rainbow and Atkins roads, near the intersection of Long Harbour and Robinson roads, as well as the gravel pit along Musgrave Road.

"The [Industrial Land Task Force] also made various recommendations with respect to agricultural industrial uses on agricultural lands," reads information supplied by Palmer. "These recommendations will be addressed in conjunction with other areas of potential change for lands being used for agricultural purposes and will be the subject of another open house during the winter of 2011."

When it comes to home-based businesses on the island, the Trust recognizes that such ventures play a key part in the island's "tradition of socio-economic diversity, self-sufficiency and private initiative."

Although no statistics about the number of home-based businesses on the

island exist, anecdotal information from the Trust's open-house session earlier this month indicates that "a significant amount of economic activity occurs as a form of home-based business."

Such initiatives can be craft studios, B&Bs, workshops, consulting offices, as well as personal and professional services.

Current LUB regulations limit a person's home-based business to a maximum of 50 per cent of a home and accessory building to a maximum of 750 square feet, a maximum of one non-resident employee and one non-illuminated sign.

Concerns identified in a 2009 survey and reiterated during the open house indicate a strong desire to increase the maximum allowable floor space and number of non-resident employees.

Implementation of any LUB changes will involve balancing results with concerns about the potential increase in noise and traffic.

"They still have to be very invisible in a sense," Palmer said.

What's proposed is the possible creation of a "two-tiered system" that will preserve the status quo for type-one properties but offer more flexibility on properties larger than 1.2 hectares (2.96 acres).

These second-tier properties would be eligible for up to 1,600 square feet of home-based business space and offer employment for up to two non-resident employees.

### Next steps

Trust staff continue to accept feedback on the proposed changes and will have a summary report prepared in time for the LTC meeting on Friday, Jan. 14 at Lions Hall.

First reading of the proposed changes to the island's LUB is planned for early 2011. A formal public hearing will be scheduled to take place soon after trustees give the proposal first reading.

For more information and comment opportunities, visit the Islands Trust's Salt Spring website at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss) or drop by the office at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road to ask for a comment sheet.

## News briefs

### RCMP quells Taser rumour

Salt Spring RCMP Cpl. Martin Beardsmore denies a rumour that one of his detachment's new officers was involved in the 2007 Taser death of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski.

"There is nobody here who was involved in that file," Beardsmore said on Monday.

Furthermore, Beardsmore noted, neither of the two officers who are slated to arrive on the island within the next several months

had anything to do with the incident.

The four officers on scene during the incident at the Vancouver International Airport were constables Gerry Rundel, Bill Bentley, Kwesi Millington and supervisor Cpl. Benjamin Robinson.

### Police seek tagger's identity

Salt Spring RCMP are seeking information regarding the identity of a graffiti tagger who escaped pursuit late Friday night.

Police officers conducting a midnight foot patrol in Ganges observed a young male "tagging" in the bowl of the skate park. He was applying the word "DEMO" with a spray bomb and a paint roller. The youth fled on foot and a pursuit ensued, but the suspect was not located.

Anyone with knowledge as to the identity of this male is asked to contact Salt Spring RCMP or Crimestoppers.

In other police news:  
• On Sunday, Dec. 12 around 5:30 p.m., police received complaints of a vehicle driving erratically

and without any lights on Long Harbour Road.

The vehicle was located swerving and being driven on the wrong side of the road. An investigation resulted in the driver, a 51-year-old Alberta male, being charged with impaired driving and over .08. He was released on a promise to appear to appear in court on Jan. 12, 2011. The vehicle was impounded.

• A 49-year-old Salt Spring female received a \$598 violation ticket for driving with no insurance when her vehicle was spotted by police with an expired insurance decal.  
• Police remind bicycle

riders and pedestrians to wear reflective clothing and/or carry lighting with them to assist motorists in winter driving conditions when narrow roadways and poor lighting can make visibility very difficult.

Drivers are reminded to allow extra time and proceed cautiously to destinations.

### Santa's Workshop needs help

As the Santa's Workshop campaign nears its end, organizers find themselves

still short of many gifts, especially for the 12- to 16-year-old demographic.

"We have 30 more families signed up for the service than last year, and donations are down," said Andrea Smith on Monday.

Gift donation boxes have already been picked up from their various locations, but anyone who wants to donate can call Head Elf Christa Wohlfahrt at 250-537-4793.

A bank account set up to receive monetary donations at Island Savings is still active and Santa's crew would appreciate anything that people could give.



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## NEWSBEAT

### ISLANDS TRUST

# Hefty hike, benefits for future trustees

Change hoped to diversify candidates

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's next Islands Trust trustees won't be working for peanuts, following a motion passed at the

Trust Council meeting in Victoria last week.

Trustees elected in the November 2011 election will earn \$28,294, significantly more than the current \$12,984 rate.

Depending on the population of other islands, the scale will range from \$8,136 for trustees on South Pender (currently at \$7,212) to \$17,615 on Gabriola (up from \$10,200). Bowen Island municipal trustees would receive \$3,200, up from \$3,092.

Health benefits arranged through the Union of B.C. Municipalities or \$1,000 in lieu will also be added to the package.

"I think it will be a big

incentive for people on Salt Spring to consider running for this job and devoting themselves to this kind of public service," said Salt Spring trustee George Ehring during debate on the motion. "It's not for me, it's not for Christine [Torggrimson], it's for incoming council members."

South Pender trustee David Greer was among the majority in favour of the idea. He said he felt being an elected official "should not be a preserve of the wealthy or people with independent means. . . Salt Spring trustees in particular deserve a remuneration that more effectively rep-

resents the additional workload they have."

Hornby trustee Tony Law spoke against the proposal. He felt that since so many island residents volunteer their time on local government committees, trustees should not expect to be fully compensated for their time.

"When I started [as a trustee] this was called an honorarium. It's now called remuneration. We had just as many issues, public interest and far less staff to help us. I see my role as being like those who volunteer in my community."

Trust Council initiated examination of the trustee remuneration about a year ago, hav-

ing trustees complete a questionnaire about their workload and hiring an external consultant to provide recommendations.

In putting trustee remuneration into perspective, Paul McKivett of James R. Craven and Associates reported that the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands electoral area directors to the Capital Regional District earn just over \$28,000, while Gulf Islands school trustees earn \$12,000 per year.

Trustee remuneration was last reviewed in 2004.

The change will add \$69,000 to the Trust budget for 2011-12, and \$207,000 for 2012-13.

## SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

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### 1 Ganges Local

Monday to Saturday				
A	D	H	C	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Meadowbrook	Lv. Hospital	Lv. Brinkworthy Place	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
8:00			8:45	8:55
10:05	10:06	10:11	10:15	10:22
12:55	12:58	1:01	1:05	1:12
2:30	2:33	2:36	2:40	2:47
4:05	4:08	4:11	4:15	4:22
6:00	6:03	6:04	6:06	

S1 Combined Routing: Trip routes via Route 5 Fernwood, 3 Vesuvius and back via 1 Ganges Local. Trip routes via hospital at 8:49 a.m.  
S2 Combined Routing: Trip routes via 1 Ganges Local, 3 Vesuvius and 5 Fernwood. Drop off only at Hospital and Brinkworthy.

### 2 Fulford Harbour

Monday to Saturday									
A	I	J	K	E	E	K	J	I	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Park & Ride: Fulford Inn	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Ar. Fulford Harbour	Lv. Park & Ride: Fulford Inn	Lv. Burgoyne Bay Rd.	Lv. Cushman Lake Rd.	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
M-F 7:10	7:16	7:23	7:27	7:30	7:40	7:43	7:47	7:54	8:00
9:00	9:06	9:13	9:17	9:20	9:40	9:43	9:47	9:54	10:00
11:10	11:16	11:23	11:27	11:30	11:40	11:43	11:47	11:54	12:00
3:10	3:16	3:23	3:27	3:30	3:40	3:43	3:47	3:54	4:00
5:10	5:16	5:23	5:27	5:30	5:40	5:43	5:47	5:54	6:00

M-F Monday to Friday only.

### 3 Vesuvius

Monday to Saturday				
A	F	G	F	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Lv. Portlock Park	Ar. Vesuvius	Lv. Vesuvius	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
M-F 6:30	6:37	6:45	6:57	7:03
8:00	8:27	8:35	8:35	8:41
12:00	12:07	12:15	12:22	12:28
F-S 2:35	2:42	2:50	2:50	2:56
M-T 2:35	2:42	2:50	3:02	3:08
3:40	3:47	3:55	4:07	4:13
S2 6:00	6:10	6:16		

S1 Combined Routing: Trip routes via Route 5 Fernwood, 3 Vesuvius and back via 1 Ganges Local. Trip routes via hospital at 8:49 a.m.  
M-F Monday to Friday only.  
F-S Friday and Saturday only.  
S2 Combined Routing: Trip routes via Route 1 Ganges Local, 3 Vesuvius and 5 Fernwood.

### 4 Long Harbour

Monday to Friday			
A	L	L	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Long Harbour	Lv. Long Harbour	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
1:15	1:25	1:25	1:35
2:50	3:00	3:00	3:10

Saturday

1:40	1:50	1:50	2:00
2:50	3:00	3:00	3:10

### 5 Fernwood

Monday to Saturday			
A	M	M	A
Lv. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges	Ar. Fernwood Dock	Lv. Fernwood Dock	Ar. Visitor Info Centre: Ganges
S1 8:00	8:13		
10:30	10:43	10:43	11:00
2:05	2:18	2:18	2:35
S2 6:00	6:29	6:29	6:44

S1 Combined Routing: Trip routes via Route 5 Fernwood, 3 Vesuvius and back via 1 Ganges Local. Trip routes via hospital at 8:49 a.m.  
S2 Combined Routing: Trip routes via 1 Ganges Local, 3 Vesuvius and 5 Fernwood.



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DEC 15 02:32	2.4	7.9	18 05:07	3.2	10.5
WE 04:08	2.3	7.5	SA 08:28	3.0	9.8
11:23	3.3	10.8	12:43	3.2	10.5
19:23	1.2	3.9	20:57	0.5	1.6
16 03:54	2.1	8.9	19 05:40	3.3	10.8
TH 05:37	2.6	8.5	SU 09:34	3.1	10.2
11:48	3.2	10.5	13:17	3.2	10.5
19:53	0.9	3.0	21:31	0.3	1.0
17 04:33	2.9	9.5	20 06:12	3.4	11.2
FR 07:09	2.9	9.5	MO 10:27	3.1	10.2
12:14	3.2	10.5	13:57	3.3	10.8
20:24	0.7	2.3	22:08	0.2	0.7
			21 06:44	3.5	11.5
			TU 11:13	3.1	10.2
			14:43	3.3	10.8
			22:47	0.1	0.3

**LIBRARY**  
**Geothermal test shows promise**  
Library heating system could set new standard

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An informal opinion offered to the library's building committee has revealed the facility's downtown site is ideal for construction of a geothermal heating system.

The proposed system is among the most prominent environmental elements of the new library building, lauded as a flagship project that will meld energy efficiency and design.

"It looks good," said Duncan Hepburn, chair of the library building committee.

The rock beneath the McPhillips Avenue site, he noted, appears to offer optimal heat transfer for the project.

Though the type of geothermal technology proposed for use in the library is commonplace elsewhere in Canada and around the world, Hepburn said he believes the system will be the first of its kind on the island.

The library's system entails the vertical transfer of air from the library building through a pipe to a depth of approximately 100 metres. As it descends, the air is heated by thermal energy held in the surrounding rock and water. Once it reaches the maximum depth, the air is channelled through a 180-degree turn and sent back to the library in a parallel duct.

Hepburn said the ground's fractured bedrock with high water content is perfect for such a system to work efficiently. The design will heat the library through the winter and offer modest air conditioning capabilities during the summer.

An auxiliary electric system has been included in design plans as a backup.

Financial implications for the project have not been identified and are subject to cost estimates that will be finalized in coming weeks.

"It's not prohibitive and we've planned on it," Hepburn said. "It's capital intensive but will save on operating costs."

Hepburn said it's premature to say how long it would take for operating efficiencies to pay for installation costs.

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# NEWSBEAT

## ISLANDS TRUST

# 'Butt-out' becomes 'consult-first'

Trust Council passes amended motion; Bowen officials agree

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Following a vote at Islands Trust Council last Wednesday, trustees will be expected to not participate in the affairs of another Trust island before "consulting" with that island's elected trustees.

The motion to amend the Islands Trust Council's Standards of Conduct document passed easily, with only four of 21 trustees dissenting at the Victoria meeting.

"My intention with this proposed amendment is not about muzzling anybody or their charter of rights or freedom of speech, for heaven's sake," said Salt Spring trustee George Ehring in introducing his motion.

He said it would simply provide "a moral compass" for trustees, noting there is no enforcement language attached to the policy.

"It's about exercising good judgement and respect and acknowledgment of local autonomy," he said.

The incident that precipitated the motion was Bowen trustee and municipal councillor Alison Morse and coun-

cillor Peter Frinton speaking about Bowen's experience with incorporation at a Nov. 18 public meeting organized by Islanders for Self Government.

Ehring told the Driftwood that Trust concerns were expressed to Morse when she spoke at an ISG event in the 2005-08 term, and were also made clear in advance of the Nov. 18 event. Ehring said it was also suggested Bowen Island Municipality staff attend the meeting rather than the politicians.

"When it happened again, I thought, 'I guess we need to amend the standards of conduct.'"

He added: "If the Galiano forest lot owners asked me to go and speak to them, I would not go," he said. "Why would you do that? Why would you get involved in somebody else's local politics?"

At the council meeting in Victoria, some trustees said they would not have supported Ehring's original motion, which suggested 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 LTC or

island municipality."

Before the issue came up for debate, Ehring submitted an amended motion that changed the end of the sentence from "unless invited to do so . . ." to "unless the elected official first consults with local trustees or municipal trustees."

Ehring said Tuesday he regretted having drafted the original language, which did not have the benefit of Trust staff input and raised Frinton's ire.

He also maintained the negative response to his proposal and media coverage were blown out of proportion.

Even Frinton said he agreed with the amended motion, while also being glad he could draw attention to the issue in the first place.

But he wondered about the origins of the "protectiveness" and "defensiveness" demonstrated by Ehring's motion.

"The Trust is a really noble organization and doesn't need to feel defensive about what it does," said Frinton. "If people say things that are incorrect, it gives you an opportunity to clarify."

Although Ehring's motion was aimed squarely at Bowen trustee Morse, she said the new wording made the poli-

cy "palatable," so she did not vote against it.

Christine Torgrimson of Salt Spring said, "I see it as a constructive policy that is grounded in respect . . . this kind of respectful communication makes a good deal of sense."

Some trustees wondered if the motion would hamper the activities of LTC chairs, who are by definition from a different island, and another minor amendment took care of that possibility.

North Pender trustee Derek Masselink voted against the motion because he found it too prescriptive, although he said he understood where Ehring was coming from.

"I think this is something that any cogent, sane person would understand when stepping onto someone else's territory."


"Do we need this policy?" asked Ehring. "I don't know. But I think it should be there to help give people advance notice about respecting our local autonomy. This is not about me trying to protect my turf. It's about all of us respecting each other's turf."

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## WEATHER

# Heavy rains cause damage to local roads

Maintenance crews on clean-up

The heavy rain that fell last Saturday night and Sunday morning caused landslides on two Salt Spring roads, but most of the island escaped the heavy flooding experienced on southern Vancouver Island last weekend.

While flood waters as high as three feet washed out roads leading to Sooke and submerged the Malahat, Salt Spring got off lightly with minor damage to Isabella Point Road and a more serious slide on Devine Drive.

Mainroad Contracting's local foreman John Charlton said culverts around the island had flooded as the result of "way too much run-off," but with the end of the rainfall things were easing up. The foreman said machine crews would be out on Tuesday to clear the Devine Drive cul de sac.

"We're pretty fortunate compared to the Malahat and some of those places," Charlton observed.

Another flood site that extends across North End Road near the north end of St. Mary Lake is the result of a beaver that has lodged itself deep within the culvert.

"It's too far to reach, so that's a puzzler," Charlton said, adding that work crews were trying to find a way to remove the animal safely.

Sunday's rainfall was a record breaker for Vic-



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

These ducks benefited from a new body of water on Salt Spring as the Ganges Campground flooded amid heavy rainfall last weekend.

toria, with more than twice the previous record of 20 millimetres measured at Victoria International Airport. Salt Spring had 25 to 30 mm as recorded by the UVic weather station at Salt Spring Middle School.

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## HOME OUT OF RANGE: AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERIES

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Schools superintendent Jeff Hopkins is optimistic about a Gulf Islands School District proposal to create affordable housing on property the district owns on Drake Road.

PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

# Best intentions face red tape, burn-out and NIMBYism

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

**I**t's unfortunate that for every successful affordable housing project on the island, there's at least two more that have stalled, sputtered or completely fizzled out.

What's reassuring, however, is the even greater number of individuals, board and committee members who continue to persevere against the odds for solutions to the island's housing issues.

Take, for example the Abbeyfield project, an ongoing saga that began as a noble effort to offer seniors' housing on the island's south end.

Billed as an initiative to provide a "warm, family-style house," one would think such a proposal would be as simple as selling freshly baked homemade apple pie at the fall fair.

In spite of several promising starts, members of the volunteer-driven Abbeyfield have yet to complete their project after some two decades of effort.

"That one probably featured all the obstacles that can get in the way," said Janis Gauthier, a housing consultant who's all too familiar with the obstacles that can cripple affordable housing initiatives.

Funding and resources, the limited capacity of volunteer-driven boards and societies, a complex regulatory environment and the ubiquitous "not in my backyard" attitude are among the most common threats to any project's success.

After nearing a deal to complete the Salt Spring Abbeyfield home on Hilltop Road, these factors convinced a key player in the project to drop out and send the project back to square one.

The prospect of finally completing the long-awaited project left volunteers and island seniors barely ahead of where they'd been years before, despite countless hours of work and planning.

"[Completing a housing project] is a long and complicated process," Gauthier said. "They all become really hard and discourage some people. People burn out."

For others, the prospect of development expenses, application and rezoning costs, property studies and utility hook-ups, without any guarantee that a project will move ahead, are enough to scare away even the most fearless of investors.

Realtors Myles Wilson and Norman Rothwell thought they had a great opportunity to provide relatively affordable housing in a modest apartment complex they hoped to build at the site of what is now a medical clinic on Kings Lane.

"We added everything up and, by the time we looked into the cost of sewer and water, it was no longer affordable to do," Wilson said of the project.

In the end, basic arithmetic killed the idea before an application to rezone the

property was ever filed.

Wilson, Rothwell and other prospective investors have yet to discover any other private-sector opportunities for entry-level housing projects on Salt Spring that stand a chance of providing a decent return on investment.

And without a profit, there's not much incentive to invest time and money.

"The problem is that we don't have any bottom end to our marketplace," Rothwell said.

"The way [this island] is going, it's going to be for the wealthy."

Rothwell said he thinks densification in and around the Ganges core, involving projects like his Kings Lane proposal, is the best way to give people a chance at stable rentals and affordable home ownership. To do that, more incentives and a degree of certainty are needed to encourage prospective investors, he added.

Take away the profit motive or lessen the load on volunteer-led groups and the playing field becomes a lot easier to navigate.

Though such ideal circumstances are rare, such is the position of the Gulf Islands School District and a nearly 12-acre property it owns beside Phoenix Elementary School on Drake Road.

What Hopkins and so many others in the district are hopeful about is that the Ministry of Education will permit the property to be "disposed of" for the creation of affordable housing.

According to Hopkins, everything is nearly in place to provide a range of rental and ownership units within walking distance of the Ganges core.

It's taken more than a decade for district staff to work through the layers of red tape and permissions, a period of time many volunteer-based groups and private sector groups would have trouble sticking out.

For Hopkins, however, the years spent working on the details have ensured the project could go ahead since the process has been followed so methodically.

"Basically we're at a place where the [education] ministry sees it," said Jeff Hopkins, the school district's superintendent. "They've all but said, 'this is going to happen.'"

Be it for the school district, the private sector or the Abbeyfield seniors housing initiatives, the process is a complex and unavoidable requirement to ensure affordable housing projects stand a greater chance of success.

According to Gauthier, the process is there for a purpose. It's needed to determine need, ensure that funds are used wisely and avoid Olympic-scale housing boondoggles that take resources away from other deserving projects.

"Putting all the pieces together is tricky. There's no doubt the process through the Trust takes a lot of time, but so do all the other pieces," Gauthier said. "The reality is that there are a whole lot of other things to look after."

## NIMBYism is everywhere — just deal with it

Everybody wants to save the world. Everyone wants their neighbour to have a decent job, access to first-class community amenities, plenty of good healthy food and a decent place to spend the night.

Almost everyone wishes the best for others in their community, so long as the sacrifice isn't too great.

The NIMBY-ism phenomenon is similar to the way in which most of us cheer on healthy economic growth and double-digit investment returns.

Everyone loves making a profit, so long as the consequences aren't too hard to live with or aren't visible on a daily basis.

Back in 2004, a Calgary-based housing consultant who worked for Housing Strategies Inc. prepared a report dealing with the very problem that everyone loves to believe doesn't exist in their backyard.

Until, that is, it turns up next door.

According to Matthew MacNeil, Salt Spring Island and its residents aren't so special when it comes to a prevalence of NIMBY attitudes.

The Not in My Back Yard issue, MacNeil wrote, is a complex and dynamic challenge that poses barriers to affordable housing projects and support mechanisms for homeless persons in communities of all sizes.

Rather than look at NIMBYism as a battle between the forces of "good" and "evil," however, MacNeil encourages people on all sides of a given debate to regard the process as a compromise that can benefit an entire community.

"A healthier view of NIMBY sees the process as a dialogue, negotiation and appreciative inquiry between competing groups in a community," MacNeil writes. "This type of approach involves relationship building, awareness building and developing creative solutions to meet the varied needs and interests of all parties involved."

An ideal NIMBY strategy for developers, MacNeil said, involves successful communication, research and community engagement.

From the residents' perspective, sharing concerns and offering ideas from early on in the process is crucial for a successful dialogue.

"Remember, there is no quick fix formula for overcoming NIMBY," he writes. "What may have worked well for one project or housing provider in a particular community or neighbourhood may or may not work for another project . . . in another community."

That, surely, is something all of us can relate to.

**A large number of rentals on the island are in cottages and secondary suites. Given that most of these rentals contravene local bylaws, exactly how many people are in such units remains unknown. Phase I of the Housing Needs Assessment indicates that many such places are illegal and/or substandard condition.**

**Numbers we do know, however:**

**30**..... Number of market rental apartment units available on Salt Spring Island.

**212**... Number of non-market accommodation units available on Salt Spring. Approximately 160, or 75 per cent, of these units are targeted to senior citizens.

**790**... Number of market-based rental units on Salt Spring, according to the 2006 Census. Most of these are in single-family dwellings.

**44**..... Percentage Salt Spring's "tenant households" that spend more than 30 per cent of their total income on rent. Thirty per cent of one's income is considered the affordability threshold throughout British Columbia.

# NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS:** Anika Otsu makes a card at Salt Spring Centre School's 14th annual Winterfest event held on Saturday.

## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# \$500,000 water question

More money required from Highland/Fernwood residents

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Work delays and project changes mean more cash is needed to cover costs for a new water treatment plant that's hoped to someday serve residents in the Highland and Fernwood Water Service Areas.

A Capital Regional District-led referendum for Highland and Fernwood electors will be held in early 2011 for permission to borrow up to \$500,000 in additional funding for the project.

"If the full \$500,000 is needed, to repay the loan over 15 years, a new quarterly user fee of approximately \$45 per water service connection would be added to the water bill for all Highland and Fernwood customers," reads a notice distributed to residents by Gary Plevin, an engineering technician with the CRD, in early December.

The request to borrow additional funds follows Highland and Fernwood Local Service Committee members' April decision to award the water treatment plant contract to Ridgeline Mechanical Ltd. for approximately \$831,250.

Work on the project stopped during the summer after a boundary issue and "engineering details" required revision and legal consultation.

CRD staff and water service area board members intend to hold an open house to answer residents' questions and concerns in early 2011.

More details about the event will be provided closer to the date.

The Highland and Fernwood Water Service Areas serve about 300 lots between the north end of St. Mary Lake and the government wharf at the end of Fernwood Road.

The Highland service area provides water to roughly 254 connections, mainly in the Highland Estates and Maliview Estates developments.

The smaller Fernwood component supplies water to the Fernwood rural development and the North Beach subdivision.

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## ENVIRONMENT

# Ruling demands DFO do more for orcas

Conservationists herald 'victory for species at risk'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A coalition of environmental groups from coastal British Columbia is celebrating a federal court's Dec. 7 decision that confirms the Department of Fisheries and Oceans failed to protect critical habitat for resident killer whales.

"This is a victory not just for the resident killer whales, but for the more than 90 other marine species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act," said Margot Venton, a lawyer with Ecojustice, in a press release after the decision.

"The court has confirmed that the government must legally protect all aspects of critical habitat from destruction. Now DFO needs to obey its own law."

The ruling requires DFO implement legally binding regulations to preserve the availability of food and the marine

environment in the killer whales' critical habitat.

"The low abundance of salmon, chemical pollution and physical and acoustic disturbance have all been identified as key threats to the critical habitat of resident killer whales, said Raincoast Conservation's Misty MacDuffee. "The court has confirmed that DFO is legally required to protect these features. Considering the whales in fishing plans is a first step toward this implementation."

The decision requires DFO use federal laws as outlined in the Species At Risk Act to protect habitat rather than rely on provincial regulations and guidelines.

Exactly what steps will be taken to protect habitat and food supplies have not been identified and will be up to DFO officials. A Pacific office rep said DFO is reviewing the decision and its options.

The legal challenge stemmed from DFO's attempt to protect the orca habitat by using

**"The government must legally protect all aspects of critical habitat from destruction."**

MARGOT VENTON  
Ecojustice lawyer

voluntary guidelines and non-binding laws outlined in a 2008 Protection Statement. Court heard that a subsequent Protection Order, issued by DFO in 2009, ignored critical habitat components.

Two distinct killer whale populations live in B.C. waters year round. The southern resident population is estimated at around 85 animals while the northern population is roughly 220.

During the summer months, southern resident pods are commonly seen in Haro

Strait and the San Juan Islands, and northern residents are often seen in the Johnstone Strait area.

Though pods have been observed in inshore waters throughout the year, some may go offshore during the winter.

Ecojustice represented the David Suzuki Foundation, Dogwood Initiative, Environmental Defence, Greenpeace, Georgia Strait Alliance, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Raincoast Conservation, Sierra Club of B.C. and the Wilderness Committee during the proceedings.

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# Opinion



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 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

## Value for money

Whenever politicians vote themselves a raise, those paying the bills are inclined to pay attention.

Last week at Islands Trust Council's quarterly meeting in Victoria, trustees from the 13 islands in the Trust federation voted not to give themselves a raise but to grant one to trustees elected in November of 2011. Of course, if they're elected to office again, the new remuneration rates will apply to them.

What's proposed makes sense. Added to base amounts for their work related to Trust Council and local Trust committee matters will be \$1.30 per constituent and per property folio, and stipends for Trust Council committee chairing and membership. For Salt Spring trustees, it means a "raise" from the current \$13,000 range to \$28,294,

**THE ISSUE:** Trustee remuneration  
**WE SAY:** Higher pay a good idea

taking them beyond the realm of a Gulf Islands school trustee and moving them up with the electoral area director to the Capital Regional District. It would be hard to argue that the increased stipend is not deserved.

Current trustees Christine Torggrimson and George Ehring estimate they spend about

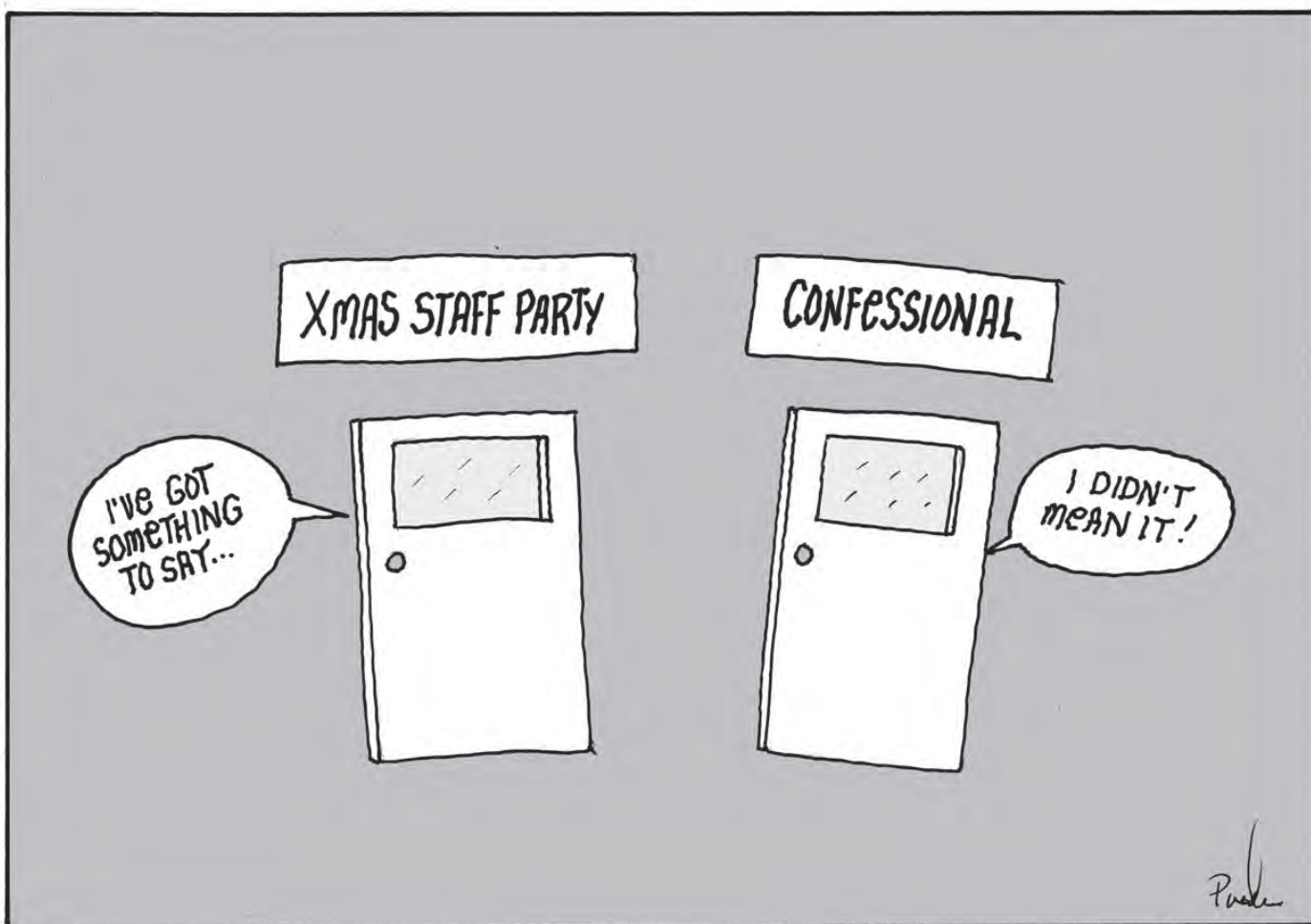
194 hours per month in Islands Trust-related meetings, excluding special or optional projects. Trustees from other islands pegged the hourly amount at between 77.5 and 101.25 hours.

Besides the on-task workload, there's the relentless public pressure. Only the most fortified of individuals can do the job without being measurably affected by the often-harsh public scrutiny and criticism, an inevitable part of any politician's life.

For many trustees, there's no real break from the job. You're identified as a trustee wherever you go. It's a full-time-plus position that's really worth much more than \$13,000 on Salt Spring, or \$10,000 on Gabriola, or \$8,500 on North Pender — the two other islands that will see substantial increases.

As one trustee observed at the council meeting in Victoria, there's an awful lot of grey hair around the council table. Yet participation in such a critical area of local governance shouldn't be the sole domain of the retired or people with enough means that they don't have to work at another job.

If all goes according to plan, Trust island voters should have more choice when they head to the polls in November of 2011, which is something worth paying for.



## SSICS is doing more with less

BY ROB GRANT

Here are 10 reasons to support Salt Spring Island Community Services:

- Community needs are increasing dramatically. Most of our clinical and counselling services, which served 650 people last year, have heavy caseloads and long waitlists. Food bank use, which indicates the challenges faced by low income and other vulnerable people, has increased by 70 per cent over the past three years. We distributed 7,000 food bags last year. As recently as five years ago Community Services had distinct slower periods, such as Christmas and summer. It has been years since we have experienced even a week when demands for service has let up.
- SSICS provides quality services. All staff meet or exceed the qualifications required for their respective work. We don't please everybody, but we track the satisfaction of people served and it is very high in all program areas. We practise continuous quality improvement based on feedback from our staff and the people we serve. SSICS is accredited by CARE, an international accreditation body for social service organizations.
- SSICS is responsive to community needs. We take action on emerging needs and priorities, whether it be taking on services when needed such as the emergency shelter and Core Inn youth drop in, supporting grassroots initiatives such as Volunteer Salt Spring or Community Justice, or bringing services to our community such as an income assistance worker and a child psychiatrist.
- SSICS belongs to the community. SSICS is governed by a community board of directors who are community residents, and employs over 65 staff and 120 volunteers who are also community residents. We are a non-profit charity with an overarching mission to make life better for individuals and families in our community.
- Seventy per cent of our funding comes from relatively stable government sources. That means that 30 per cent doesn't and

### VIEWPOINT

must be acquired elsewhere. Donations from community members made up five per cent, or \$144,000 of our total operating budget last year.

- Our stable funding is shrinking. The Vancouver Island Health Authority "clawed back" \$30,000 in mental health funding as a cost-saving measure. United Way has discontinued its core funding to agencies, which in our case means \$ 24,000 less for administrative costs.
- More is expected with less. Community Living BC has reduced the allowable administration component of contracts from 10 to seven per cent. Funding from Public Health for early childhood services has been at a fixed amount since 1997.
- SSICS strives to be financially efficient and responsible. Each year our efficiency improves as new services are added and we find better ways of operating. Over the past five years administrative staff time has been reduced from 21 to 13.5 per cent of total staff time.
- SSICS is responsible with donated funds. We follow the Guidelines for Ethical Fundraising, keep fundraising and administration costs to a minimum, and ensure every donation goes to the purpose intended by the donor. We encourage donors to specify their preference, even if it is a general donation to help us keep the lights and heat on.
- SSICS is a stable community institution with a long history and bright future. Community Services was started by community-minded islanders in 1975. Over the years it has made adjustments and offered different services, but has steadily grown to a current roster of 32 services in 10 program areas. Ten new services have been added in the past five years.

Last year 285 people made donations to Community Services in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$30,000. We invite you to join that list as it grows.

The writer is executive director of Salt Spring Community Services.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do islands trustees deserve higher pay?

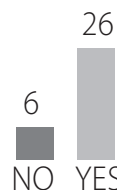
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Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is Carole James stepping down good for the NDP?



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# IslandVoices

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**  
**"[It's] not about muzzling anybody or their charter of rights or freedom of speech, for heaven's sake."**

SALT SPRING TRUSTEE GEORGE EHRLING

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### We asked: Has WikiLeaks served the public interest?



**DON SAMPSON**

*Yes. Any time the government functions in secret they're committing a crime against the people they are there to serve.*



**JULIETTE SMITH**

*Yes. I like the fact that it has stirred up the government because it makes people think about it and brings it to the public awareness.*



**DEANNA TODD**

*No, I don't think it serves public interest as the public is only getting what WikiLeaks wants us to see.*



**VERN SMITH**

*It's served the media's interest. Any information is good information. Wouldn't you rather know than not know?*



**DAVID PAINE**

*So far a lot of what's come out has been fairly trivial and hasn't been anything we didn't already know.*

## Letters to the editor

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

### Outrageous

I find the "butt-out" clause passed at the latest Trust Council meeting outrageous and ridiculous.

Outrageous because it seems a blatant attempt to stifle open discussion, debate and freedom to express an opinion. Ridiculous because the clause is such a convoluted mouthful that I challenge anyone to understand it on first reading, let alone to define what comprises a "contentious local matter!"

I had sincerely hoped that the Trust Council would not adopt this motion.

**DUNCAN ELSEY,**  
SALT SPRING

### Trustees needed reminding

I object to the inflammatory tone and content of your "Politics by invitation" editorial in last week's issue.

The Islanders for Self Government meeting in November was the second time that Bowen Island councillors/trustees were invited by ISG to speak with the clear goal of promoting the municipal option for Salt Spring, an option that was decisively rejected by Salt Spring Islanders. On neither occasion were the Salt Spring trustees given reasonable advance notice of the visits.

In my view it would have been, at a minimum, a common courtesy to let the local trustees know of the invitation to speak on such a controversial local issue.

Like many organizations, Trust Council has a code of conduct for trustees which they are expected to respect, even though it is not legally binding.

Trustee Ehring was pointing out that the code did not cover this particular situation and asked Trust Council to consider an addition to the code.

Obviously, it was felt that trustees need to be reminded of conduct that is considered appropriate. Personally, I find it reprehensible for a local trustee to be promoting a change in local governance in another area that would inevitably weaken the authority of the Islands Trust that they were elected to represent. For that reason alone, Trust Council needed to take some action, limited though it was.

At its December meeting last week, council did, in fact, approve of a policy to consult with the local trustees when participating in an event on another island. The addition to the code of conduct was approved on a 17-4 vote, with Bowen Island trustees voting in favour of it! The opposition was largely based on the question of whether such a policy was needed at all — asking why would anyone want to interfere in the local politics of another area? Good question!

As a former local trustee, I would not dream of speaking on another island on an issue that was controversial on that island. I would respect the local autonomy of the local Trust committee and decline any such invitation.

The exception is when a local bylaw reaches Trust Council for approval, as in the case of Galiano in 2008, a legislative process authorized in the Islands Trust Act.

So, let's put this issue in context. It is about respect and courtesy among elected officials. It has nothing to do with freedom of speech or charter rights. Naturally, it has been blown out of all proportion by ISG, the Driftwood and now the National Post as another unfounded opportunity in a campaign to attack the Islands Trust.

The Trust Council resolution that was approved was simply setting a standard of conduct for all trustees, not stifling them or ban-

ning public discussion of an issue.

**PETER LAMB,**  
FORMER ISLANDS TRUST  
LOCAL TRUSTEE

### Trust is broken

Call it whatever you want, but anyone who knows what is really going on realizes that the current Islands Trust is insular and defensive. The current Salt Spring trustees are threatened by even simple education on the merits and drawbacks of incorporation for Salt Spring Island.

In fact, Ehring's "mind your own business" motion points a dagger at the very heart of what is wrong with the Islands Trust in the first place: the fact that trustees from sparsely populated distant islands can make important decisions about Salt Spring's future with no accountability or responsibility. In democracy, the only true accountability

comes from having to face the electorate. It is no wonder the current trustees are being defensive — the current structure consistently fails to express the needs and wishes of the electorate. Yes, the latest reactionary, patronizing actions of the Islands Trust clearly reveal that the Trust is broken.

The time has come to break the bonds of control over Salt Spring's future. From the Salt Spring Coffee fiasco to meddling in affairs on Galiano, to muzzling discussion and dissent regarding incorporation, it is obvious. The Trust is broken. Every day more and more people come to realize that fact.

Now comes the hard part: proposing alternative solutions and creating an alternative governance model that works for all of Salt Spring.

**BRUCE CAMERON,**  
CALGARY AND SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on A11

## Diehard narcissism: is it really all about you?

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders has reportedly removed "narcissism" from its list of personality disorders in its soon to be released fifth edition. Good news. It's now OK to be a self-absorbed ego maniac.

The psychiatrists that made this call likely have a number of very good, very technical reasons why they have chosen to expunge narcissism from their manual, but I have my own theory. There are now so many of us narcissists roaming the earth that our unsavoury behaviour is considered the norm rather than the exception.

Not sure if you are to be counted as one of the legions? Here are a few telltale signs that may shed some light on the dark corners of the damned and dysfunctional.

(1) "But enough about me. What do you think about me?" A recent Facebook posting went something like this: "My son turns 10 years old today. God, how did I get so old? I don't feel 35. Am I starting to see wrinkles? Grey hair? Is it time for Botox?" Somewhere in there is a son waiting for his birthday cake.

(2) Remember, just because it happened to you, doesn't make it interesting. Facebook has become the natural feeding ground for most of the 500 million signed up to the site. If you feel an irresistible need to gather

up as many "friends" as you can on this site, and provide them all with minute by minute blow by blows of your day, your lunch menu, your moods, then you, my Facebook friend, are a narcissist.

(3) "What's in it for me?"

This national anthem of the 1980s has flourished well into this century. Are you labouring under the misconception that you and your time are so valuable that anyone chipping away at your day is either wasting your time or needs to hand-somely compensate you for your presence?

(4) If you miss the ferry, is it because the idiot in front of you was doddling along at the speed limit? Is it because your half-wit spouse couldn't help you find the car keys? Is it because the stupid school bus stopped every block to pick up brats and you were stuck behind it? If there are a thousand reasons why you are late and none of them involve you, narcissism may be rearing its self-absorbed head.

(5) For the scrapbooking, journal writing hordes out there (and for those among us who feel compelled to scribble for say, ahem, a weekly newspaper,) take out a red pencil and circle how many instances you

use the words "I," "me" or "mine." If you use them more than six times in 1,000 words, you are likely a narcissist. If you use them

six times in any one sentence, seek immediate help.

(6) Do you feel like the rules don't apply to you? Are you above the law? Are you renting out an illegal in-law suite, a vacation rental, a B&B with a working stove? Do you ride a bicycle without a helmet? Do you scoff at low-energy light

bulbs and low-flush toilets? All self-respecting narcissists will run stop signs, pass on double lines and toss back two or three glasses of wine before getting behind the wheel.

(7) "Excuse me but I think my spotlight is in your eyes." If you are constantly seeking centre stage, constantly interrupting and commandeering conversations, if you scour the "Roses" section of this newspaper looking for your name in print, welcome to Club Narcissism.

(8) "No kids, please." I am guilty of perhaps the ultimate act of narcissism — that of opting out of having children. Nothing was going to get in the way of a Sybaritic life punctuated with exotic travel, carousing and more carousing. Apparently, I am not

the only one to choose parties over Pampers. The Canadian birth rate is about at a standstill these days.

The Christmas season seems to exacerbate minor personality flaws into full-blown psychoses, which is why many of my friends choose to escape to sunnier climes rather than endure another psycho-fest of griping relatives and regifted stemware.

But Christmas is also a great time to change things up — to turn your own deranged ship around. Here's how. Do something truly chivalrous, then disappear.

Drop off a bag or two of groceries at the food bank, or make a quiet donation at the cash-strapped SPCA. Don't tell anyone about your selfless act of charity. Give something for purely altruistic reasons, rather than giving to get something in return (adulation is like crack to any card-carrying narcissist.)

Our long road to becoming human may just begin with this small act of kindness. If enough of us do it, compassion may once more become the rule rather than the exception, and narcissism will again take its rightful hallowed place in the Fifth Edition of the Manual of Mental Disorders.

[republicofsaltspring@mac.com](mailto:republicofsaltspring@mac.com)



**Peter Vincent**

### HEAD TO HEAD

# WE'RE OPEN LATE... TIL 8! Thursday Dec. 16

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# OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

## TREE TRACKERS:

Chi Chi Small Wolf, left, and Kathy Hafting are seen at Windsor Plywood at the annual Scouts' Christmas tree sale.

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## MORE LETTERS

continued from A9

### Questions

I appreciated last week's editorial in the Driftwood with the reference to the "Wikigate" episodes.

I also very much appreciated the Nov. 18 meeting with the reps from Bowen Island held here. How else was I to get the information they shared?

The recent Trust proposal about consultation made me suspicious. Would trustee Ehring have brought forth his motion if a different organization had invited the Bowen team to speak here?

**MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE,**  
SALT SPRING

### Words and deeds

On Dec. 8, 17 of 21 trustees voted to shut people up and keep their electorate in the dark. That this sort of nonsense passes Trust Council, never mind that it was proposed in the first place, is testament to the Trust's contempt for an informed citizenry.

The Driftwood's Dec. 9 website story from that meeting also contains more than a few inconsistencies between word and deed from our own trustees.

George Ehring claims he should be kept out of Galiano issues yet was a willing participant in overturning a properly passed Galiano bylaw in 2008. He has no interest in muzzling free speech, but objected to items published by the Driftwood back in July. He believes in local autonomy, but for years prevented an updated incorporation study here.

Christine Torgrimson talks of respect, but tried to dissuade Peter Frinton and Alison Morse from speaking to anyone on Salt Spring, disrespecting her own electors. She has now voted to muzzle off-islanders in future, demonstrating a fundamental disrespect for free speech.

Politicians who want to control what is said or heard or written or read? Just say no.

**NORBERT SCHLENKER,**  
SALT SPRING

### Unified alternative

In the Nov. 10 Driftwood we read of Gary Holman badgering our local CRD director Garth Hendren into accepting the silly notion that the Islands Trust land planning committee somehow encompasses the concept of local government ("Holman chides island CRD rep.") They do not.

The Islands Trust is more an ideological entity with its own specific following. The CRD director in counter-distinction, like a town council member, can be a position held by anyone, thus making our CRD director the only truly democratically elected position representing all of us in this unincorporated district. Asking the trustees and Mr. Holman to understand the subtle nuance of this distinction clearly challenges their sense of self-importance and thirst for power.

Last week that thirst for power was revealed. Trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson proactively meddled in free community discourse by attempting to discourage invited Bowen Island professionals from attending a local town hall meeting — a meeting coincidentally to discuss local governance options. Notwithstanding their lack of attendance to this issue, we now see a disturbing act in Ehring's "butt-out" proposal to Trust Council. The trustees' patronizing attitude towards the community should personally insult any inquiring minds willing to look objectively at the issue of local governance.

Folks, we are squandering millions of local Salt Spring tax dollars on this endless parade of decentralized services, each one now demanding their own

expensive tax budgets. We need a methodical governance study starting with a provincial review of the Islands Trust pronto, with clear questions asked about the limits of their powers!

To the Islanders for Self Government group, thank you — please continue your free and public town hall meetings open to all. The silent majority out here are completely dismayed by what we are seeing transpire with the trustees. It is time for a unified alternative.

**PAUL MARCANO,**  
VESUVIUS

### Community vision

I am writing in response to Jonathan Yardley's Dec. 8 Viewpoint article. I have a few problems with his letter and I'd like to point them out.

In response to the first point, a franchise is not simply a matter of "sourcing merchandise." A franchise store buys the rights to the name, advertising and buying power of a larger corporation. In exchange, the franchise owner agrees to exclusive loyalty in their merchandising, decor and expression of the parent company's public relations messages. Franchise agreements also contain a "right of first refusal" for the parent company. This means that when the Goodings are ready to move on, the store could be bought back by Mark's (a subsidiary of Canadian Tire).

As to any confusion regarding the objections raised against the proposed expansion of Mark's in Ganges, regardless of whose lease expires when, the opposition to Mark's expansion is two-fold. He is correct that there is sadness over the displacement of the four small businesses. What he has missed is the issue of diversity, pedestrian appeal and character in our downtown core. Even if none of these four small businesses continue in their current locations, there should still be four little storefronts there, not one big one.

In a place known world-wide for its unique "made or grown on Salt Spring" Saturday market, it is a natural extension to protect the locality and charm of the surrounding area. People love Salt Spring because of the forests, the farms and the "unique boutiques." Development in this area should reflect our local vision and embody our values. It should become more interesting, more unique and more pedestrian friendly. Architects are among those whose vision serves the community through their ideas for our built environment. Some 668 people have signed the petition opposing Mark's expansion in its current location. Our vision serves the community too!

**EMILY MCIVOR,**  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on A12

On  
**Sunday, Dec. 19,**  
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## OPINION

# Free speech stifling not the issue

BY GEORGE EHRLING

Last Wednesday, the Driftwood ran a front-page story that included accusations that a motion I brought to Trust Council was an infringement on rights granted to Canadians in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and that I was attempting to limit free speech.

The person quoted at greatest length in the story was Peter Frinton, a Bowen Island municipal councillor.

Just two days later, Mr. Frinton sent me an email saying that he thought the final version of the motion I brought to Trust Council, which passed with four dissenting votes, was both "reasonable and warranted."

In that short space of time, the fire went out of a hugely inflammatory issue — one that, in my opinion, never should have been kindled in the first place.

I regret drafting a motion whose original wording missed the mark of its intent, and I am grateful to Trust colleagues for working with me to improve the language of the motion that garnered the overwhelming support of Trust Council — including the

## IN RESPONSE

support of the Bowen Island trustees. I take full responsibility for its lack of clarity in the first place, but I continue to be dismayed at the way the Driftwood handled the issue.

Because I was unavailable while at Trust Council, the Driftwood never spoke with me directly about the story. Yet they turned the language of a motion that was never brought to Trust Council into front-page news, and even coupled it with a truly breathtaking editorial linking what they assumed to be my motives with the responses of various governments to the release of a quarter of a million diplomatic cables by WikiLeaks.

Politics in the Trust area are often very contentious, as many land-use issues tend to be. Our communities seem to be all-too-quick to develop polarized and hard-line positions. I find this disappointing and regrettable.

For that reason, I felt (and still do feel) that it is incumbent upon elected officials in particular to be sensitive to

the controversial issues in our various communities, and to exercise due caution before becoming embroiled in those divisive issues outside the areas that they were elected to represent. That's why you won't see me going to other islands in the Trust area and speaking publicly on difficult issues they might be grappling with. It has nothing whatsoever to do with my rights of free speech or Charter freedoms; it has everything to do with mutual respect and with understanding local sensitivities. Naturally I admit to feeling unduly assaulted when my intentions were far different from the crimes I am being accused of.

For the record, the motion that passed Trust Council, which amends our existing Standards of Conduct, adds the following clause:

"As an elected official, respect local autonomy and avoid becoming publicly involved in the local politics or controversial local issues in an area outside a local trust area or island municipality that he or she represents unless the elected official first consults with local trustees or municipal trustees."

I am a little taken aback that some of the people who support self-government on the island would find this language offensive.

Had the Driftwood waited until Trust Council debated the motion (which was on the very day the paper came out), and had they seen how non-controversial the final language was among trustees, they would have had either a different story, or no story at all. But, in my opinion at least, the Driftwood seems to think that fomenting dissent sells newspapers. They seem to think that stirring up controversy is a good thing. I ask them to take a step back and have a good look at the role they want to play in the community, and to see if their work leads toward those goals.

I have never asked the Driftwood not to criticize me for the decisions I make or the principles I hold. I have never asked anyone to stifle their free speech. Those things are not the same as showing understanding and respect for the challenges that we face collectively.

*The writer is a Salt Spring trustee.*

### Who reads us?

88% of Islanders read the Driftwood each week.

-Combase survey

### MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

## Operating room

*The following is an open letter to MLA Murray Coell:*

When you ran for office you promised that the Lady Minto Hospital would be protected and enhanced. Stakeholders, no doubt partly in response to your promise, gave generously for the expansion of the operating room. Many understood that it was to have a 15-year life expectancy. Why then are you in agreement with the Vancouver Island Health Authority's decision to close our operating room?

The statistics on which VIHA is basing their decision are suspect. We were told by VIHA that obtaining such data was too difficult. They would not provide us with raw data to verify their argument. VIHA claimed that there was an insufficient number of operations to justify our OR's continued existence. But numbers were dropping because surgical services had been limited. Neither a surgeon nor an anesthesiologist has been given privileges to work at Lady Minto. Consequently even visiting specialists cannot offer services to continue their visits.

As president of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary, I am appalled with the current philosophy that is bound to cause unnecessary hardship to Salt Spring residents. Medical emergencies frequently do not occur at convenient times. Our weather can prevent helicopters from flying and ferries from sailing, just when our hospital is most needed. Would you feel comfortable in your golden hour of need waiting for a break in the weather?

In your latest flyer you state: "The recommendations are under review and supported by stakeholders on the island." To the best of my knowledge this is not true. Many on Salt Spring are not cognizant that there is no surgeon on call at Lady Minto Hospital. Nor are they aware that in VIHA's own emergency plan the first step in the procedure is to call the sur-

geon. How do you explain this obvious disconnect?

Our state-of-the-art operating room is of little use. Now what? That equipment so lovingly donated by our residents will be shipped where?

Consequently we will have the privilege, no doubt, of attending a local private clinic currently being established with VIHA-certified doctors. We do not agree with this privatization. We need a working hospital with staff capable of handling emergencies to trauma patients, to obstetrical patients and others. There are many routine operations needed for a community of 12,000.

In conclusion I would like to quote an observation of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Take which you please; you can never have both."

**VICTORIA WOODMAN,**  
PRESIDENT,  
LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

## Preserve and protect village

Jonathan Yardley has missed the point in his "Ganges and Mark's Work Warehouse" Viewpoint (perhaps because he is the architect for the Mark's Workwear World expansion project).

It matters not if Leon is a nice guy. Yes, he is.

It isn't just about building specifications. We all agree that rebuilding needs to be done. What matters here is that we need to preserve and protect the integrity of our village. It is our village after all, and most people, young and old, that I speak with about this matter, all seem to want the same thing. Small is beautiful. Charm. Unique shops. Room for the local entrepreneur. This is also what the visitors who come here want to experience. They want to come to an island "away from it all" — away to where artists and farmers and all sorts of interesting people make their home.

For a place that has recently been hailed as a community of some of the most innovative and creative minds in the country,

surely a proposal of this impact might include the development input of more than a single man. Visitors and residents alike do not want to be reminded of shopping malls or big-box enterprises. Commercially it doesn't make sense. We need our village to be inviting for visitors to walk around and shop.

Take a look at our neighbours in Chemainus, who have developed a small-town charm that attracts a lot of commerce. We are risking completely losing any "charm" by the sounds of it. This does not feel good. It does not feel sustainable. We will lose business in the long run. Salt Spring Island will lose more than we realize. This won't be a post-card picture.

I think back to the "good old days," and like many of us who have lived here over 20 years, we see a loss of our identity as small gives way to big. We have to remember why we came here in the first place and how it was our lifestyle that attracted more people like ourselves and what continues to attract people here.

If we can protect our natural forests, can we not protect our common and shared village centre with the same ideals of diversity and long-term sustainability? Let's hope that the New Year brings in some new and positive change that we can all live with in the future.

**TEMA DAWN,**  
SALT SPRING

## Bigger issue

SOS = Save our Shops  
SOS = Save our Salt Spring  
Downtown Ganges will suffocate if a big-box store and franchise expands.

This issue is much bigger than it first appears. Excellent articles have recently appeared in various publications on Salt Spring and many of our islanders wish to express an alternate viewpoint to the one proposed. A town meeting is being organized. Please stay tuned for further information!

**MATAJI ISHAYA,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** 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



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**Winners announced in the Driftwood of Dec 29th.**

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IN SALT SPRING CURRENCY



OPINION

# Looking at the Ganges big-box battle

BY DENNIS LUCARELLI

The Ganges Big-Box Battle — four small storefronts being replaced by a national brand — reminds me of Paul Revere's legendary cry from the American Revolution, "The British are coming! The British are coming!"

No true big-box store here seems likely, given today's real estate prices. Anyway, don't we already have enough "small box" stores? Sears, for example, has a wonderfully tiny storefront that could supply every bed and large appliance on the whole island.

Not just big stuff, but almost anything else — clothing, what-have-you — can be ordered from their catalogue. That's one big-box invasion I think islanders would prefer: all the things that money can buy, without

the huge storefront and giant parking lot.

Recently I helped some friends offload a bed from Sears and bring it home. That bed didn't come in a box, but a plastic bag, actually three, including the boxspring and frame. I might call that a "big-bag" invasion except this island has long since lost that battle and the invaders, like conquering armies everywhere, seem to have married into local families.

Unlike their smaller cousins the mattress bags, which either get recycled or sit in basements until their owners move to bigger houses, these huge bags flaunt themselves in broad daylight.

Held up by a frame, far less pricey than their glass cousins, lasting a decade or two till they

are replaced, we call them greenhouses.

But the big-box battle rages on. Are the opposing cries revolutionary, like that of Paul Revere in 1775? Or are they merely a spectacle, like the 1945 victory march of Allied troops marching down the Champs-Élysées (the Parisian answer to Fulford-Ganges Road) past wildly-cheering French throngs?

Downtown Ganges may not be quite so grand as Paris, France, but I find it equally charming and, on summer weekends, equally thronged. But is the Mark's Work Warehouse revolt about an expected expansion of commercial activity, or a shrinkage of storefront charm? Any retail business aims to attract more throngs and sell more things, or thongs — we just want them to

do so with a lesser aesthetic footprint. All the while, making a profit, which all of us need to do, or have done in the past before retiring on the fruits of our past profits, or if we're lucky, a big inheritance.

But to borrow a phrase from Rodney King, can't aesthetic-footprint and carbon-footprint just get along? I've heard the cry that we build a bridge across Sansum Narrows. So those great big boxes on wheels — trucks — can rumble more conveniently into Ganges with the promise of an ever-greater selection of stuff at ever-lowering prices.

But revolutions happen, and stuff gets made. Salt Spring could have the world's first bridge made of pressed cardboard, recycled plastic and reconstituted wine bottles. I raise my glass

to Paul Revere's horse, who probably had no idea what vital role its species might play in some future, post-peak oil turnover.

*The writer is an apprentice gardener and lives near Hwu'ne'nuts, which is presently called Fulford Harbour.*

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# RANTS and Roses

## Rants

Rants to the Scrooge who decapitated then stole one of Ruckle Farm's turkeys as he roosted. Your guilt at stealing from hard-working, underpaid farmers should leave a bad taste at your Christmas dinner! Mike & Marjorie Lane, Ruckle Farm

## Roses

An overflowing Christmas hamper of roses to all of those generous Salt Springers who took the time and money to donate to our Fill the Bank food drive; with special thanks going to Imagine That Graphics, the Driftwood, TNT Signs, CFSI-FM, Salt Spring Community Exchange, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Firefighters Association. Your support and dedication to our community has made this event a huge success! Thank you, Salt Spring!

Acres of sweet wild roses to dear Tamar for the beautifully written accounts of your fine adventures at beloved Bold Bluff. K

Bushels of Christmas roses to the many volunteers who donated their time, hard work, baking and other support to make this year's artisan fair a great success. Special thanks to our wonderful vendors. Without you this annual event would not happen. The resulting proceeds are all dedicated to the ongoing maintenance of your

community hall. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful holiday from the Fulford Hall Association.

Christmas roses to supporters of the Salt Spring Dragonboat raffle, which resulted in prizes for M. McColl, A. Denton, B. Anderson, L. Sheridan, J. Clark, A. Okulitch and A. Falardeau, and raised \$405 for Salt Spring Community Services.

A huge thanks to all the parents who helped put on a fabulous Winterfest at the Centre School on Saturday! Special roses go to those who put in so much time and effort, above and beyond: Kiran, Jenn, Willow, Ania, Leeann, Juliette, Mark, Clare and Daria — the whole school benefits from all your hard work! Cheers, Erin

Bouquets of roses to Glen Grimmer and his crew for good service and material throughout the southern Gulf Islands. Cheers, blessings for the 2011 New Year. Square Foot Charlie

To Brice and Catherine, who heard and went on Friday, Dec. 3 to aide Sher on her boat in Fulford Harbour. Copper roses and warm, clean feet to all! Life goes on! Copper Kettle

Big bouquets of rich red Christmas roses to Mitch and Deb, all the choristers and musicians, et al, for your brilliant, sparkling concerts and exquisite music. For the love, light and laughter

with which you grace and gift our Salt Spring community. Shine on, bright stars. Love, K

Italian red roses to Uptown Pizza. We enjoyed seeing your restaurant and loved making our own pizzas! From SSI Preschool and Daycare

A square dance floor full of roses to Marilynne and Alan Cunningham for calling for us and teaching us some square dancing moves. We had so much fun at our Christmas party! Thank you from the Sunday school teachers at Community Gospel Chapel.

Armsfull of wild roses for Corie Johnson and her partner Kris for all their help with the Legion Crafts and Collectibles Fair, especially the fantastic sandwich boards. Also to John Moisey and the RCMP for helping us recover the one taken from Fulford.

Dozens of white roses to Embe Bakery for donating buckets of royal icing to the Grade 3-4 class at Salt Spring Elementary School to make their graham cracker houses. It was the perfect consistency for construction, and the students thoroughly enjoyed making their houses. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A sleigh full of roses for Country Grocer for their donation of food to the middle school store. Have a good Merry Christmas.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from A12

## Library report

Significant progress has recently been made in moving our new library building project ahead. Required approvals from the Islands Trust have been obtained and site testing regarding geothermal power is now taking place. Library design plans for the new building are also well underway and final design drawings should be complete by late January 2011.

The library board also recently decided to eliminate the original two-phase building process. This will significantly speed up construction, limiting the disruption to the community and complet-

ing the project a year earlier. One-phase construction means that the existing library will move to temporary quarters for approximately 14 months. A property on Jackson Avenue will serve as a temporary site for the portables that will house the library.

Site and cost constraints dictate that the temporary location will be approximately 3,000 square feet in size. This means services, collections and operations will all need to be adjusted accordingly. However, we'll be open and providing the community with basic library services during the time construction of the new building is underway.

While a definite date for the move from the current building into temporary quarters has not

yet been set, that move is expected to occur in the spring of 2011. The Salt Spring Archives will also be moving out of the current library building into their own temporary quarters.

Obviously there will be some inconveniences for both patrons and staff as we operate in temporary building. However, I feel strongly that moving to one-phase construction was the right decision, one that will significantly shorten the period construction is underway. In the interim, we will do all we can to make the temporary facility a welcoming place for both the public and our dedicated volunteers.

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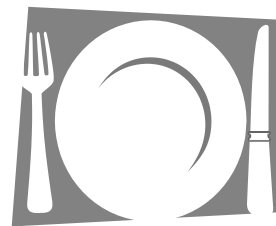
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or

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or

chocolate ganche torte

or

strawberry cheese cake

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TO START

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ENTREE

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or

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# NEWSBEAT

## SHELTER

# Cold weather shelter use exceeds last winter's rate

Community Services calls for permanent location

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's emergency shelter has only been open for eight nights this winter, but its usage is already three times the rate from the previous season.

Salt Spring Island Community Services executive director Rob Grant said 109 people have already made use of the shelter since it first opened in November, while last winter's total was 104 people over 23 nights.

According to Grant, the high demand is a clear indication the island needs a permanent, dedicated shelter with higher capacity. The 15-bed shelter is actually supplied with mats. At its peak so far this year it had 21 people arrive in one night.

"This is a temporary solution. The site is not adequate," Grant stated in written material supplied to the Driftwood.

"It barely serves as an emergency shelter and certainly not a permanent one."

Currently staff have to transform the office space of the outreach building into a dormitory and the basement area serving a mental services program into a kitchen, all at the last moment when temperatures for the night are confirmed at zero degrees or lower.

"Activating the shelter is a challenge — the physical location and other logistics make it like setting up a hotel and restaurant on a few hours notice," Grant wrote.

Shelter services do not stop at accommodation. A hot meal, warm clothing and emergency support counselling services are offered. To allow for overflow with the surprisingly high num-

bers already experienced this year, Community Services has had to perform a second set of electrical upgrades to the basement area.

Grant said that although recent renovations to the outreach building and main building's basement kitchen have made the transformation easier, it's still not ideal. But while Salt Spring's homeless are certainly appreciating the chance to come in from the cold, Grant said the overall community stands to gain by offering its support. Recent success stories stemming from the shelter's outreach services have included finding housing for one individual and addiction therapy for another.

Grant said Community Services is hoping to gain the funding and support for a permanent shelter in the near future, and will engage with other groups to help make it a reality.

# Denied 'application to amend' forces stay

Impaired driver also sentenced

## COURTDOCKET

A trial scheduled for Ganges provincial court last Wednesday failed to proceed after the Crown's application to amend the charge was denied.

In a case that first appeared on the court list early in 2010, a Salt Spring man was charged with refusal to accompany a peace officer to the detachment to provide a sample.

Crown prosecutor Basil McCormick entered the application to amend the wording of the charge to state the defendant had refused to provide a sample at a roadside stop.

The Crown had sought to make the amendment at the trial confirmation hearing the previous month, but the judge sitting that day ruled to postpone the application because defence counsel Robert Claus was not in court.

On Wednesday, Claus successfully argued that an amendment

was inappropriate at the time of trial.

Judge Robert Higinbotham concluded that the defence should not be forced to make a case on the same day as such an amendment, and that to delay the trial further would bring the matter to conclusion outside of a reasonable time frame. The Crown accordingly stayed the charges.

Also in court last week, Salt Spring resident Sebastien LaSalle received the mandatory minimum penalty after he pled guilty to care of a vehicle while impaired.

The court heard that on Oct. 15, 2010, LaSalle was observed by police driving erratically and without his lights on Fulford-Ganges Road.

LaSalle's breath alcohol analysis produced a reading of .210. Because of his clean record,

cooperation with police and early guilty plea, Judge Higinbotham issued the minimum fine of \$1,000 and a one-year driving prohibition despite the high reading.

Robin Richards was fined \$150 after pleading guilty to a breach of undertaking that occurred on Nov. 30, 2009. Richards was located by police outside his home during hours of curfew. Three similar charges were stayed.

Scott Knoblauch received a conditional sentence of six months probation and 20 hours of community work service for a shoplifting incident at Country Grocer on Aug. 12.

The court heard that Knoblauch put a noodle salad inside his jacket and walked out of the store without attempting to pay.

He then allegedly threatened to punch the loss prevention officer before agreeing to follow the officer back into the store. The community work hours are to be completed within three months.

## WILDLIFE

# Whale activity excites community

Humpback visit to harbour not impossible

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mysterious activity sighted from the Salt Spring Sailing Club last month may not have been caused by humpback whales, but growing populations in the area are cause for celebration, says a local biologist.

Sailing club member Jenny Barrio reported that she and several other people viewed a great roiling of water close to the breakwater in Ganges Harbour several weeks ago. From their distance the viewers could not tell what was in the water, but it appeared there were at least three large creatures.

"We could just see shadows of black. Whatever it was was really surging," Barrio said.

"I don't think any of us really knew what was going on out there."

Sailing club member and biologist Nick Smythe said the mystery creatures could be humpback whales, based on the fact that no dorsal fins could be seen.

Another biologist, David Denning, confirmed that humpbacks do sometimes feed in groups and could have entered the harbour.

"It would be quite exciting because they used to be here in quite significant numbers," Denning said.

Whaling stations like those that once existed at Nanaimo and the Saanich inlet caused humpbacks to almost disappear from the coast. A hunting ban went into effect in 1968, but new sightings didn't occur until 1980.

Now with conservation efforts, Denning said, humpback whales are returning up and down the coast as their populations rebuild. One humpback sighting was reported on Nov. 21 near Constance Bank, south of Victoria.

However, he said the whales have characteristic flukes and blows rising up to 12 feet out of the water that should have been visible to anyone watching at the sailing club. According to the Raincoast Research Society, one resident humpback of the Broughton Archipelago blew so loud it was heard for miles.

Other possibilities include grey and minke whales, both of which have been sighted in the Salish Sea, although their feeding behaviour would be quite different than what was seen. Denning said it's more probable seals or sea lions were feeding.

In other whale news, Denning said a brand new baby orca has been sighted with the resident L Pod. Baby L117 was photographed on Dec. 6 by the Centre for Whale Research.

Denning said L Pod seems to be sticking around for now. Usually by this time of year it has headed south to the Californian coast.

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SUNDAY Closed Dec. 26	MONDAY Closed Dec. 27	TUESDAY Open Dec. 28	WEDNESDAY Open Dec. 29	THURSDAY Open Dec. 30	FRIDAY Open Jan. 31	SATURDAY Closed Jan. 1
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# Sports & Recreation

## GISS BASKETBALL

# GISS teams hit top-four tourney spots

Teamwork coming together for hardworking Scorpions

The GISS senior boys basketball team placed second in a tournament in Courtenay this past weekend at Mark Isfeld Secondary.

The boys defeated Isfeld 59-41 on Friday and played a strong team game on Saturday, defeating Highland 70-58.

GISS met a strong Woodlands side in the final on Saturday night, said coach Kim Chalmers. Tied at half-time, the Scorpions ran out of gas in the second half.

"We had another strong showing this weekend," said Chalmers. "Our team chemistry and hard work paid off. This will motivate us as we prepare to play top-ranked AA and AAA teams at the Oak Bay tournament this coming weekend."

The junior boys Scorpions earned third place against AAA teams at the Cowichan Tournament, and missed playing for first place by one point.

The first game against Belmont was a bit rough and both teams served up more turnovers than Embe Bakery, but the boys thieved 18 steals and took the win 39-31.

The next game, against Dover Bay, was a fast-paced, nail biter of changing leads. Assisted by Justin Kopetzki, Lukas Wenzel and Tai Levitt, forward Jackson Irving joined high-scoring and rebounding Eric Weatherby (19), Martin (17) and Sweetnam (8) by putting on a 14-point clinic of inside and outside scoring and assists. This secured a 37-27 halftime lead, but in the third period Dover's passing game and board banging combined with two run ups on the score, and the period ended with Salt Spring up 48-45.

In the final period, Dover's shooting percentage climbed, but was challenged by Salt Spring's deep team play, with Eli Gold, Kyle Yun and Kopetzki dogging their opponents, until it was 60-60 with one minute remaining. A late foul sent Dover Bay to the line where one shot sealed the game.

Everything jelled for the team's final match-up against Cowichan. Despite injuries and illness, the players used each other's skills well and added 12 steals in a beautiful game.

Levitt moved from his usual game of high assists and poured in three three-point shots, three field goals, and three free throws for 18 points, while Weatherby added 13, George 10, Irving 8, Martin 7, and Sweetnam 7 for a 63-43 win.

Earlier in the week, the junior boys beat Shawnigan Lake 57-34.

The GISS girls junior basketball team travelled to Parkland Secondary in Sidney for their first tournament last weekend. They matched up against the home squad on Friday, and were 19-15 at the end of the first half with four points by Gabrielle Spiess, and Isabella Rae, Jade Beauvais and Becki Steel adding three.

Despite great playing and six more points by Spiess, the girls lost 37-33. Day two saw the Scorpions take on St. Michael's University School and the girl's teamwork dominated the first half with Spiess scoring eight points for 16-6 at the half. Spiess picked up four more points while Rae claimed the boards with 10 points for the 37-15 win.

Game three against Lambrick Park began with a 5-0 run and the girls held the lead during the game, and played tremendous defence (causing Lambrick to run out the shot clock many times). Spiess led scoring with 17 of 28 points, with Carrysa Kinnear adding six, and Rae scoring six in the fourth quarter to keep the lead. The 28-22 win gave the Scorpions fourth place in the tournament.

Results for the senior girls team's participation in the Victoria Christmas Tournament were not available by presstime.



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

GISS player Eric Weatherby (24) jumps out of a group of Belmont players in junior boys basketball tournament play last week.



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Consultant  
[markus.wenzel@investorsgroup.com](mailto:markus.wenzel@investorsgroup.com)

(250) 653-9788

The Plan by **Investors Group**  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.



## CURRENT SCHEDULE

CROSSING TIME: 35 MINS / CHECK [WWW.BCFERRIES.CA](http://WWW.BCFERRIES.CA) FOR LATEST SCHEDULES

## FULFORD - SWARTZ BAY CURRENT SCHEDULE

Sept 26, 2010 - Mar 31, 2011

LEAVE FULFORD HARBOUR	LEAVE SWARTZ BAY
6:15 am Daily Except Sundays and Dec 25 & Jan 1	7:00 am Daily except Dec 25 & Jan 1
7:50 am Except Sundays	9:00 am
9:50 am	11:00 am
11:50 am	1:00 pm
1:50 pm	3:00 pm
3:50 pm	5:00 pm
5:50 pm	7:00 pm
7:50 pm	9:00 pm

## Gulf Islands secondary school basketball

### upcoming schedule of events

- Thursday, Dec 16 - Sr Girls HOME GAME 4:30
- Dec 16/17/18 - Sr Boys away to Oak Bay Tourney

full schedule: [www.gulfislandssecondary.ca/homeschedule.html](http://www.gulfislandssecondary.ca/homeschedule.html)

## Meet the Team



**Dynamic Junior boys.** Grade ten players **Kyle Yun** (far left) and **Eli Gold** (far right) went to Provincials with the SIMS Grade 8 bball team. Kyle is known for inventive passing and dribbling. He won the 2010 Salt Spring Jr. Golf Tournament. Eli has played football and is a high level soccer ref on Island. His intensity turns up the heat on both ends of the court. Quick handed **Lukas Wenzel** (middle right) was on the successful Grade 8 Travel Team. He also uses his pure athleticism in soccer and plays on the GISS Senior boys volleyball team. **Justin Kopetzki** (middle left), another skillful soccer player, also on the Grade 8 Travel Team, comes onto the court always ready to go, and ties offensive opponents in knots with steals and speed. Both Grade 9 players, Justin and Lukas, also traveled the road to Grade 8 bball Provincials.

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from  
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and Val



*Karen Dakin*

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Thank you all for your support and patronage. We are grateful to have served the community for the past 7 years! May magic and healing continue to bring positive energy and love into your life, beyond these walls and windows.

Blessings to you.

FAREWELL SALE STARTING NOW!  
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-May All Beings Be Happy-

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**Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre**

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### MEN'S SOCCER

# Players look to rebound in 2011

Men's teams end half on losing note

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring FC capped the first half of its season on a low note over the weekend after getting blanked 2-0 by Comox Valley United.

Comox Valley's strong effort came as a shocker to its visitors, given the 10th-place team had only won two of its 12 games going into Saturday afternoon's contest.

Salt Spring, by comparison, was riding high after back-to-back wins, a sudden surge in the standings and a shot at going into the mid-season break in

third spot overall.

Though FC lacked necessary finish, the team is still in fifth place with a respectable 5-4-4 record.

Players have an extended holiday break to regroup before play resumes with a hugely important match on Salt Spring against Castaways FC (5-4-3). Salt Spring players will need a win to put some distance between themselves and a team that's only a single point behind them in the Div.-2 standings.

The two teams played to a 2-2 draw at the Castaways' Tyndall turf in early October.

In other VISL soccer action, things weren't much better for Salt Spring's FC Alumni squad on Saturday evening as the team

dropped a tightly fought 1-0 decision to rivals from Gordon Head.

The loss, which is the team's sixth in a row, concludes a lacklustre start to the 2010-2011 season. The 2-9-1 FC Alumni squad will try to rediscover its winning formula when play resumes in January.

The Salt Spring Old Boys squad had the week off as players await reconfiguration of the crowded 14-team Masters-B division. Players anticipate the change will make for more evenly matched play. The Old Boys finished the year in last spot with a hard-fought 0-9-3 record. Schedules and team placements will be completed over the holiday break.

NEWS  
UPDATES

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

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Two consecutive wins for United

Salt Spring near top of Div. 2

Salt Spring's Div.-2 women came onto Finlayson Turf strong and ready to win for a match against the Vic As last Friday night.

The final score was 4-0 for Salt Spring United, putting the team back on track after its disappointing bout against Vic West the previous week.

Team spokesperson SueAnne Donaldson said the team made its mark by capitalizing on the movement of the ball throughout the game.

"We used the width of the field and created scoring opportunities for our players," Donaldson said.

"Our defence did a very impressive job at moving the play from one side of the field to the other. They were a solid unit, allowing very few chances for the Vic As."

United's midfield started the first half by creating chances for the strikers and winning the ball in the middle. Their effort was acknowledged when Liz Wilson received a cross and scored the first goal shortly into the first half.

The second goal was created by some quick passing between LeeAnn Norgard, Carol Adam and Donaldson, who beat the goalie to put United up by two. Erica Rimmer assisted the third goal, crossing the ball in front of the net for a finishing touch by Donaldson.

A well-struck ball from Valri Cunningham in the second half occurred just outside the 18-yard box and brought home Salt Spring's fourth and final goal for a well-earned victory.

After drubbing the Vic As on Friday night, United went into Sunday's match against the Nanaimo Rangers brimming with confidence. Alexa Matheson and Tami Benoit ably shared net-minding duties.

The game began well for the home team, with Donaldson scoring the opening goal within the first 10 minutes. Salt Spring maintained the pressure, creating numerous chances, and Donaldson was soon able to make it 2-0. Though much of the pressure remained in the visitor's end, Nanaimo managed to pull one back shortly before the half-time mark. The home team regrouped and halted any dangerous advances by the visitors.

Alice Paveley and Rimmer, playing sweeper and stopper respectively, did well to clear any loose balls out to the wings. Just before half-time, Salt Spring's tenacious defending culminated with midfielder Joelle Morrison blocking a ball with her face, leaving her bloodied but no less determined.

Fans were treated to heightened action and suspense in the second half. Nanaimo had found renewed vigour and forced Salt Spring to contend with several piercing through-balls.

Although Salt Spring fought bravely to keep the visitors at bay, Nanaimo managed to squeak in two goals and temporarily grab the lead. This only served to awaken the beast, however, and Salt Spring quickly turned the tide to create more opportunities.

"Nanaimo was overwhelmed by the pressure and at times resembled salmon swimming against the current," O'Connor said.

Salt Spring's relentless attacks soon had the team level again with another deliverance from Donaldson. The third goal came from an unselfish leave by Cunningham, allowing Donaldson to notch her hat trick.

As the clock wound down, Salt Spring continued to drive Nanaimo back and with just a minute to play Morrison swung in a looping cross that Donaldson pounced on with alacrity. Moments after play resumed, the whistle sounded to end the match and a jubilant home team celebrated a 4-3 win.



# Give CONSERVANCY Salt Spring a Gift

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**With over 91% of the funding secured, we are almost there!**

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## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DEATHS

### NOREEN MARY CLARKE

nee MacRitchie



Born May 6, 1920 in Vancouver.  
 Passed away Dec 5, 2010  
 on Salt Spring Island.

Predeceased by her loving husband  
 Kenneth. She will be sorely missed by  
 her daughter Maureen Rowell(Peter),  
 son Reed and grandson Patrick.

Noreen was raised in Vancouver where  
 she loved the outdoors and sports.  
 Noreen and Ken lived in Pr. George in  
 the '50's where curling came into their  
 life and returning to Vancouver golf and  
 fishing were a passion. Five years ago  
 they moved to SSI's Meadowbrook  
 to be near their family.

The family would like to thank  
 Dr. Paula Ryan and the staff of the  
 Lady Minto Hospital Extended Care for  
 their care and love they gave to Noreen.

### News Updates

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter  
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### CARDS OF THANKS

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DEATHS

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHS



Wil and Jesse  
 would like to present

### Halia May Roland

Born June 5th 2010  
 Sister to Hayden  
 Granddaughter to  
 David and Moya  
 Niece to Jack

Photos  
 are  
 available  
 for  
 purchase  
 @ our  
 on-line  
 photostore

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### CARDS OF THANKS

### CARDS OF THANKS

### CARDS OF THANKS

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN MEMORIAM

### To my dear Jesse



Thirteen years  
 now in the World  
 of Spirit. Forever  
 will you hold the  
 sunshine in my  
 heart. With much  
 love and twenty  
 million kisses.  
 Your Mom

### DEATHS

### Beach, Mike

On Dec. 8, 2010, at  
 age 94, Mike passed  
 away peacefully at  
 Greenwoods on Salt  
 Spring Island where he  
 has resided for a num-  
 ber of years. He is sur-  
 vived by his daughters  
 Sussanne Delaney and  
 Lorraine Bishop.

A service will be held  
 in Brockville, Ont.  
 at a later date.



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS CORNER

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### COMING EVENTS

### ANTIQUÉ SALE

Collectibles, textiles, artifacts,  
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 Sun. Dec. 18 & 19 at Amber  
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 coming events for full details.

**MANDALA SKY** clothing is  
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 weekend of: Dec. 9-11 &  
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 cano, 604-868-1473.

### COMING EVENTS

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMING EVENTS

### BINGO

MEADEN HALL  
 Royal Canadian Legion

7PM THURSDAY  
 December 16, 2010  
 Early Bird, 6:30 pm

Sponsored by  
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Everyone Welcome  
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 for Salt Spring Students

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### COMING EVENTS

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMING EVENTS

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Proceeds are used to fund the Hope Project which sponsors girls of potential in developing countries who would not otherwise be able to complete secondary education.

### Margaret Fern Haworth

September 20, 1923 -  
 November 27, 2010

Fern was predeceased  
 by her loving husband  
 Frank and son Kent.  
 Survived by son Richard  
 Haworth (Cathie) of Ke-  
 lowna, son William (Bill)  
 Haworth (Alice), Salt  
 Spring, niece Sarah  
 Haworth (Rob) of  
 Squamish, nephew Wil-  
 liam Haworth (Joy) of  
 Vancouver, Linda Haw-  
 orth of Vancouver, and  
 dear friend of over 70  
 years Anne Isbister of  
 Salt Spring.

We sincerely wish to  
 thank Dr. David Wood-  
 ley and the staff of Lady  
 Minto Hospital for the  
 care Fern received in  
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No service by request  
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**WHAT'S ON**  
**PAGE B4**

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INFORMATION

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

COMING EVENTS

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berly will examine "desire" and  
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**ISLAND WHEELS  
PAGES B11-15**

INFORMATION

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

COMING EVENTS

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LEGALS

**NOTICE TO  
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IN RE: THE ESTATE  
OF AARON SAMUEL  
HANNAH-MATIN, late  
of 672 St. Charles St.  
E., in the town of Bres-  
lau, Region of Water-  
loo, Province of Onta-  
rio.  
**ALL PERSONS** having  
claims against the estate  
of **AARON SAMUEL  
HANNAH-MATIN**, late  
of 672 St. Charles St.  
E., in the town of Bres-  
lau, Ontario, who died  
on or about the 26th of  
August 2010, are here-  
by required to send full  
particulars of such  
claims to the under-  
signed administrator on  
or before the **10th day  
of January, 2011**, after  
which date the estate's  
assets will be distribut-  
ed 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  
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**Edward Matin, 17a -  
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Where private, confidential  
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501-1012 18+.

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tive 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.

**THE AWAITED** Messiah has  
Come! Visit www.loveforall.ca  
or call 1-877-994-7526.

LOST AND FOUND

**HEAVY DUTY** flashlight found  
at corner of Fulford-Ganges  
and Beddis Rd. Owner may  
claim at 250-653-9590, day-  
time.

**LOST WALKING** stick - made  
from Hawthorne. Rough look-  
ing w/unusual handle. Lost  
within last 3 weeks, either at  
store or public. Reward of-  
fered. Sentimental value. Call  
250-537-2854.

**WATCH FOUND,** Tues., Dec.  
7 near Salt Spring Books.  
Owner may claim at the Drift-  
wood.

**WEDDING RING** lost Monday,  
between Grace Point Sq and  
the fire hall. Simple gold  
band, reward if found. Email  
philip@saltspringair.com

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Perfect position for a stay-at-  
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enay area. Forward contact info  
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**CLEANING POSITION** - Lady  
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Thank you to all those that  
applied for the position. It has  
now been filled.

**Experienced Journey** Electric-  
ian needed immediately in  
Cowichan Valley. Experienced  
in troubleshooting in an indus-  
trial setting. PLC knowledge a  
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fits. Email resume to:  
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Above industry average (wag-  
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EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HELP WANTED



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

**ON CALL FRONTLINE  
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**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  
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**REGULAR WAGE RATE: \$15-\$17 Hour  
based on qualifications.**

Please email, Transition House Coordinator  
for job description: thcoordinator@iwav.org

**PART-TIME  
CLERICAL**

**Professional office has an immediate opening  
for a part-time versatile office person.  
This will be approx. 20-hrs. per week.**

You should be neat and enjoy attention to detail.  
Duties include reception, telephone, and filing.  
The position requires an organized person who  
has secretarial skills, & knowledge of MS Office.

**SEND RESUMES TO:**  
Box 6, c/o Driftwood Publishing,  
328 Lower Ganges Rd,  
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V3.



**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

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

**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  
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**All ads appear on-line at:  
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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.

INFORMATION

INFORMATION

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

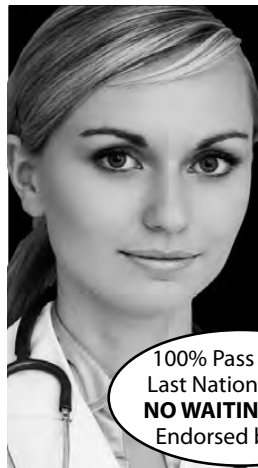
**Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation  
December 30, 2010 at 4:00 PM**  
Location: Central Community Hall  
901 North End Road Salt Spring Island, BC

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I cordially  
invite you to the annual general meeting of  
the Members of Salt Spring Island Monetary  
Foundation. At the Annual Meeting, members  
will be asked to consider and vote upon the  
following matters:

- Approval of the Report to Members from the Board of Directors;
- Approval and acceptance of the financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2010
- Election of Donn Tarris, Michael Contardi, Shoshanah Waxman, Daniel Ruane and Paula Blundell as the Directors of the Society for a one-year term expiring at the fiscal 2011 Annual Meeting of the Members.

**All members of the public are welcome.**

**SALT SPRING ISLAND MONETARY FOUNDATION**  
William E. Krebs, CA, Treasurer,  
PO Box 790, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2W3  
wk@saltspringdollars.com



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The Fernie Free Press is looking for a new leader. Serving the communities of Fernie, Sparwood, and Elkford, the award winning Fernie Free Press is seeking a Publisher to manage all facets of our successful operation in this amazingly beautiful part of British Columbia. We are seeking a motivated, dynamic individual who has a strong sales and marketing background. You must be a self-starter, view problems as opportunities and be willing to help our customers with all of their advertising and marketing needs. You will be able to manage and lead a long-standing and very capable team. You will be able to look at all aspects of our business from the ground -up approach. This position is a great opportunity for someone looking to grow their career in an exciting market that is one of the more dynamic smaller communities in B.C. Please send your resume, with cover letter and references, to Chuck Bennett, [chuckbennett@blackpress.ca](mailto:chuckbennett@blackpress.ca)

**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](mailto:sbergstrom@sd64.bc.ca). The closing date for applications is 12:00pm. December 22, 2010.

**TRADES, TECHNICAL**

**JOURNEYMAN CNC** machinist req'd for ISO 9001:2008 machine shop in Salmon Arm area. Mazak experience an asset (Mills and Lathes). See [www.accessprecision.com](http://www.accessprecision.com)

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

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**PERSONAL SERVICES**

**SUPERVISOR** Join an International Leader in Animal Welfare The B.C. SPCA is looking for that special person to take on the part-time role of Supervisor for our Salt Spring Island Branch. You have a strong history of managing people and you've demonstrated an outstanding ability to create strong working relations with the community and your business partners. You will use those skills to maintain our animal shelter operations, lead our local fund raising efforts and create great working relationships with volunteers, your community liaisons and the Island as a whole. In addition to your superior managing skills, you've always believed in the highest standards of care and welfare for animals. That's important for us to see in any applicant to be considered. You believe that excellent customer service skills are a must and you always present a professional demeanour. Your excellent computer skills will assist you in maintaining the comprehensive records of the animals in our care. You'll report directly to the GM Operations and have a strong working relationship with the Island's SPCA Community Council. You will have a valid driver's license and as a condition of employment a Criminal Record Check will be required. You do not have any animal allergies and are willing to work varied hours and days including weekends. If this position interests you, we would like to hear from you. Email your resume and cover letter (Word or PDF format), in confidence to: [resumes@spca.bc.ca](mailto:resumes@spca.bc.ca) before December 22nd, 2010. Please quote 'SPCA Job Posting-SaltSpring' in the subject line. No telephone calls please. We thank you for your interest in the B.C. SPCA, however; only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The B.C. SPCA is a Registered Charity BN 11881 9036 RR0001

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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**  
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**COMMUNITY Health Worker,** 20 + years experience has opening Saturdays or Mondays for over night, live-in or respite. Offering security, assistance with ADLs or palliative care. Caring, compassionate & professional. Bondable and registered. Wages consistent with duties. Please Call Susan at 250-710-0163.

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**THOROUGH HOUSE** cleaning provided by long time islander. Phone Kim at Harmony Housecleaning today! 250-931-1008.

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-Cambase survey

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Attn: SaltSpring Island residents, contractors & managers! I will sort, load and haul away. Construction/reno debris, tenant leftovers, household garbage, brush, yard waste. Look for the new PINK one ton/WCB est. 1993  
**Vanessa**  
250-538-8985  
I Love Hauling!

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## HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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## PETS AND LIVESTOCK

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**PETS**

**PUREBRED LAB PUPPIES**  
Absolutely adorable pups available Dec 22nd. 3 black & 5 gold. Vet checked with all shots. Price: \$750. For more information call Oriana 250-730-2730.

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Tuesday for  
Wednesday paper,  
4 pm Wed. for  
Friday paper



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**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

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# SPORTS & RECREATION



PHOTO BY DERICK LUNDY

**GAME FOR GOLF:** Disc golfers emerge after a game at a north end course.

## WRESTLING

# Rams take season by horns

Coaches optimistic

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Middle School Rams wrestling team has pinned down a strong start to its 2010-2011 season by grabbing solid performances at meets held during the past week.

"They did really well considering these are our first tournaments in years," said Tina O'Donnell, the team's assistant coach. "Our wrestlers have a lot of heart."

Five members of the 11-person squad brought home medals and the team finished in sixth place out of the 16 clubs registered in Saturday's Cougar Invitational in Chemainus.

Anita Esquivel and Karol Esquivel won gold medals in their respective weight categories. Molly O'Donnell took home a silver, while Stefan Esquivel and Alex MacKenzie each clinched bronze medals.

Saturday's success follows up on an

earlier meet where Salt Spring's young and enthusiastic grapplers locked up a third-place overall finish in Campbell River.

Molly O'Donnell earned a gold, silvers went to Ella Baker, Karol Esquivel and Victor Nahriny, and Stefan Esquivel got a bronze.

O'Donnell, who coaches alongside long-time island wrestling proponent Leon Esquivel, said she became involved after her children began to show an interest in the sport.

"I've sure learned a lot," she said, adding that she's been pleasantly surprised by the combination of speed, strength and grace the sport demands.

"We would love to have more wrestlers come out and join the team," she said. "Some of the kids have been wrestling for a while, but some are just starting out and, for a few, these were their first tournaments."

For more information about the middle school's Rams wrestling program, contact O'Donnell at 250-653-9541.

# This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor

### Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Amidst an otherwise busy time in your practical, material life, there is evidence of a spiritual stimulus shaking you, at subconscious levels at least. This process will continue this week and will linger well into the New Year. On the material end, you may undergo a bit of stress regarding your confidence levels. This will push you to commit to expanding your scope of knowledge.

### Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Desires and ambitions to increase your scope of influence are on the rise. To this end, you may want to reach out to what others can offer. Your focus may well be on business, yet it may also be in your personal/love life. You are in the mood to push yourself and others as necessary, but may not yet feel as confident yet where or how to assert your position. Improving your skills is featured.

### Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

With a New Solar round about to begin, this is a good time to take some new initiatives. Relationship fronts may be where you especially want more attention. Should you give more somehow or are there areas where you need to improve. Clearing blocks like limiting attitudes, beliefs, perceptions and self-concepts... may feel right. With a New Year coming, clear the way.

### Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

The push to concentrate, on one hand, and expand for focus, on the other is highlighted now. If you find yourself trying too hard to please others, it may be wise to take some time out. You will soon begin to take a more constructively critical approach to everything, for a while. Cultivating a deeper vision of your self, your relationships and your future is important now. Lay claim to your gifts and personal power.

### Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Setting intentions and making efforts to improve the quality of your 'message' is in the spotlight. What do you want to communicate to yourself, others, life in general? You are coming through a stressful stretch but the big energy cycle is calming down. Still, you are wise to stay focused and diligent, perhaps especially in your public/social/professional sphere. Look to the future and be willing to increase your knowledge.

### Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

The pull within, the call to venture out and the determination to have it all indicates a discernment process. This phase will continue for a while yet so stay with the program. Acknowledge quality time at home, enjoy opportunities to play and party, mingle and rub elbows then back to the den. You will feel more sporting and energetic soon. A big push is coming, so rest as you can amidst the excitement.

### Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

A rather busy schedule continues but will settle down for a while soon. This will give you the time and opportunity to tend to projects close to home. Getting things done in that zone will feel more important and perhaps easier over the next few weeks. Dealing with the anticipation and the stress of change in your lifestyle has not made it easy. Liberation is coming but often it is darkest just before the light.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

So who are you now and what opportunities are present for you? You are in a curious, if restless mood. This trend will continue for a few weeks anyway. You are wise to keep a really open mind these days. Be willing to consider entirely new possibilities. Do bring forward your skills and experiences from the past yet apply them in new directions. Center within to venture without.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Your focus and determination to take some pioneering initiatives stands to sharpen this week. With your ambitions on a steady rise you will push for the advantage. Either to offset negative returns and/or to perpetuate positive momentums you are ready to take action. Support from friends may be delayed or blocked altogether, however, so aim to act independently as necessary.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

A busy time behind the scenes continues. Hopefully, you have been able to take some time to rest and recharge your batteries. If not, aim to do so this week. You will soon come out of the gates with extra charge and determination. A disciplined approach including the will to face your fears and lay claim to your warrior spirit is extra important these days. Yet, share your plans only with those you fully trust.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Sometimes the waves are bigger than at others, like now. Whether this is a good thing is another story. While there is reason to believe you feel enthusiastic and optimistic, the events of late have probably been mixed. Either way, your stress levels have probably risen and you may be in the mood to lay low for a while. Given the season, you may have to wait so make extra efforts to manage your energy levels.

### Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Getting some extra attention, whether you want it or not, is likely now. Hopefully you do and are making the most of this window. A review of your public and professional standing may be in order now as well. If doubts arise, concentrate your focus to make plans and launch new initiatives. Yet, the time to do so is probably best left to the New Year at this point. Meanwhile, make the most of the festive season.

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# Spirit of Salt Spring

Island Star Video Owners **Tim O'Connor & John Dolman** collected donations over the last two weeks whereby customers were asked to donate \$1 and in turn received 50 cents off the price of a movie rental.

Tim & John presented a cheque totaling \$1685 to Gloria McEachern, Coordinator of Volunteers, and to Jamie Alexander, Community Worker, at the Food Bank located at Community Services, on Friday, December 10th.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits. Call Peter for details.

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# Arts & Entertainment

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**CRYSTAL BALL:** Christine Surbey holds a quartz crystal ball at Universal Gems Healing Centre, one of the booths at last week-end's 2nd annual Christmas Crafts & Collectibles Fair at Meaden Hall organized by the Legion.

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FirewoodPoetry's  
**BEATS** for Street Feet  
 For every album sold in December, \$1 will go towards warm boots for the Salt Spring Island Community Services outreach team. (They have a waiting list of people in need of footwear.)  
 See posters around town for details.  
**DECEMBER BOOT DRIVE**  
 Music for romance and dance — inspired by human connection. Released Sept. 25, 2010, FirewoodPoetry is a four-track, sultry electronic/tribal EP album produced & performed by Salt Spring Islander Trinity Forbes.  
 ONLY \$5 album for sale at TJ Beans, Island Star or online @ firewoodpoetry.bandcamp.com

Stuff a stocking (any kind will do)

**THEATRE REVIEW**

## GISS's Ash Girl actors show dynamic range

Dark themes explored in high school play

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary acting students presented another crowd-pleasing theatrical event with their production of *Ash Girl* last week.

*Ash Girl* follows former GISS and GISPA productions *Dracula*, *Wonderland* and *The Secret in the Wings* with the winning formula of putting a new spin on classic tales. This time around the story is based on *Cinderella* and given a modern, feminist shakeup by playwright Timberlake Wertenbaker.

In this retelling, *Ash Girl's* father has mysteriously left the family (consisting, like the original, of a wicked stepmother and two disgusting step-sisters). *Ash Girl* spends her time hiding in the ashes, both to escape her family's cruelty and to suffer a dark depression.

"I will stay in these ashes, melt into them," she says.

"Ashes on your head — no one talks to you. Ashes on your arms — no one touches you."

*Ash Girl* is tempted to leave her safe haven when the invitation to the prince's ball arrives, but instead she works through the night to remake the steps' gowns. Meanwhile, the prince seems equally depressed,

being an exile from his own country and not interested in meeting any princess (he finds the local girls too pale for his liking).

Complicating the drama are incarnations of sadness and the seven deadly sins, who lurk in the forest and hope to bring the humans to their downfall. They are balanced by *Ash Girl's* animal friends and the fairy in the mirror, who helps *Ash Girl* gain some confidence and accept her true desire to go and dance at the ball.

The choice of the script was a good one for the large cast, offering multiple parts and complex issues for the actors to chew on. Fairy tales have an existing seed of darkness anyway, and Wertenbaker takes that even further with a jealous attendant who might kill the prince, gender issues like plastic surgery and foot-binding, and even incest. (In a very subtle scene, the disappearance of *Ash Girl's* father is explained when he reappears to grab at her in the forest, the figure of lust stalking in the background.)

Hannah Pearson held her own in the title role, coming off as sweet and sympathetic without being too pathetic. The audience cheered mightily when her transformation in a glittering green and gold ball gown was revealed, and even more so during the final happy-ending kiss with the prince.

**ASH GIRL** continued on B3

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### ART BEAT

# Thomas comes home at Gallery 8 holiday show

Eight participants unveil treasures

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gallery 8's last show of the year is a special Christmas exhibition of eight "random" participating artists.

Viewers have until Dec. 31 to take in this colourful and multifaceted show featuring Janet Cameron, Jerry Davidson, Lynn Demers, Bly Kaye, Jan Sharkey Thomas, Dennice Stambuck, Ian Thomas and Janis Woode.

Taking up almost the entire wall facing the door as you enter the upstairs gallery, Ian Thomas instantly impresses with *Heading For Home*. More involved scrutiny will only deepen the first impression.

The 15-foot-long painting (comprising three panels) is a panoramic view of sky and a strip of sea, with two figures in a small skiff at the very forefront right of the centre panel. Heavy dark clouds dominate the view, with patches of bright cerulean peeking through. The clouds' dark underbelly casts deep shadows onto the low islets, and Thomas' expressive style includes drips of paint bleeding down from the clouds.

The scene is an active one, completely in the moment. The boaters are tiny in the overwhelming environment. They've probably experienced better weather just moments before and are hoping for a break soon, but all they have now is the reality of the present. Despite the present danger, however, Thomas invokes a sense of hopefulness and safety with his title and the breaking light.

Two flanking canvases are tall and narrow views of *The Thames at Night*. These paintings are thematically opposite to *Heading For Home* — essentially tranquil, they contrast the velvety darkness of the river with the cheery lights of human activity in the promenade and water craft.

Jan Sharkey Thomas removes the human element from her contributions, which play with



PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

Above are Jan Sharkey Thomas' playing cards; while below is Ian Thomas' *Heading For Home* painting.



contrasting two- and three-dimensional representations within single works.

A series of playing cards — the kings of each suit — are named after great historical figures but have the heads of lions. Charlemagne, Alexander-the-Great, Julius Caesar and King David are shown as realistic three-dimensional figures, each holding an animal familiar (hawk, asp, lizard and pheasant).

The kings' mantles are resolutely two-dimensional, with decorative patterning constructed on a flat plane. In purples, reds and gold with black and white, the designs are as luxurious as Russian Easter eggs.

Sharkey Thomas demonstrates a similar play between decorative patterning and apparent three dimensionality in *Carpet Cat*. The soft grey cat relaxes in the foreground on a richly carpeted ledge; the carpet takes up the entire background, rising in a shallow depth of field just behind the cat. Light is realistically cast to produce a rippled effect on the tapestry, which is filled with animal and plant forms in bright colours on a blue background.

In Janis Woode's sculpture she portrays humans negotiating overwhelming outside factors such as industry and technology. *Pulse* features a small figure in wrapped wire riding a unicycle down a rebar rod. The figure is heading toward some difficult riding ahead, as the bar suddenly takes on the sharp peaks and dips of a hospital monitoring screen.

*Lift* combines a reclaimed, rusted screw jack with a highly polished chunk of cedar. A larger

male figure operates the jack, on top of which a small female is balanced, with arms outstretched as if in embrace. The question is whether the lift is congenial.


Jerry Davidson is known for his uncanny ability to reproduce in paint scenes that appear photographically accurate. *Seated Figure* is a slight change in style in that the mixed media painting is not done in colour but in silvery grey. The woman, naked from the waist up and sheeted below, glows as if coated in mercury.

Dennice Stambuck simplifies her palette in *Red and Yellow Series #2*, and is more abstract than usual in this still life of a vase of tulips. The exercise allows her to cast blocks of colour into form. Two smaller still lifes, *Make Shift Vase* and *Arrangement with Copper Pitcher*, come to light out of dark backgrounds with items all in gold and orange tones.

Bly Kaye demonstrates her customary eye for colour in *Saskatchewan Landscape in October*. The serene composition balances warm tones with a thoughtful composition, capturing a river scene in transformation. Trees are still pale green, but shrubs and underbrush are mauve and rose, reflected in the purple horizon.

Lynn Demers, whose large bronze sculptures are warm and welcoming, shows equal delight with small-scale works in painted ceramic. Budding Buddhas are portrayed as new babies emerging from lotus flowers, or wrapped in a fig leaf.

Janet Cameron contributes some favourites, both from her sheep portrait series and her Modigliani-inspired figures.




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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## High school play pleases audience

**ASH GIRL**  
continued from B1

Aren Ludlow was equally convincing as Prince Amir. His romantic head of curls and sad eyes made for a languorous and sensual nobleman, who only wakes up when he runs into Ash Girl.

Their scene at the ball was both sweet and funny, with each breaking away after every short exchange to share their feelings with the audience.

Stepsisters Maddi Mackay and Paisley Conrad provided good comic relief as Ruth and Judith, strewing crumbs all over the stage as they literally stuffed their faces. In this play the girls are not actually interested in marrying princes but bow to their mother's pressure (played by an over-the-top Ella Bronstein).

Mackay in particular showed an admirable depth of range even within the coarse role, especially in the scene after her toe was cut off to fit her shoe into the golden slipper.

In the animal kingdom, Maya Porebska-Smith and Nicole Jory had the motions of the skittish otter just right, being "pessimists" and "always prepared for the worst." Mice Maddee Nash, Sarah Kennedy, Jonah Grindler and Thai O'Neil also showed hilarious attention to animal mannerisms.

The embodiments of sin all played their parts with considerable gusto (except Christian Stepaniuk as SlothWorm, who was suitably unenthusiastic). Linda Middleton in particular seized her character of PrideFly, delivering her lines and movements with frantic energy.

For atmospheric effect, Owen Hooper, Wesley Hardisty and Toby Kitka formed an onstage trio playing a number of evocative and period instruments.

Highlights included Kitka on saw, Hooper on slide guitar for a delta blues number and

## PUB MUSIC

## Fish &amp; Bird land at Moby's for Friday gig

Preview of new album promised

A popular B.C. folk band that triumphs with both traditional and alternative tunes performs on Salt Spring at Moby's on Friday, Dec. 17.

After a fall appearance at the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals Conference in Ottawa and a whirl-



... it was great to see  
a new crop of students  
entering the program.

Hardisty's mandolin.

Alexandra Kliaman's vocals during sadness episodes provided a chilling accompaniment.

Sami Clemente should be congratulated for costuming choices, which included Ash Girl's shapeless long dress and pinafore, the fairy's gold cocktail dress and PrideFly's glittering black body suit and bug-eye headband.

The prince looked dashing in open-necked white shirt, while his lusty attendant Paul (Zach Corley) looked suitably cheesy in a checked suit.

wind tour of the Yukon in November, the band returns home for a series of shows in Vancouver and on the islands before taking a break to prepare for the release of their third album in January.

According to the group's website, "The upcoming effort from Fish & Bird promises to be a stunning culmination of all the hard work and constant playing this band has done over the past two years

The set was simple, consisting of wall-piece cut-outs for the forest and a mesh screen at the back of the stage for the sins to exude their influence from.

The set pieces were a little tricky — at one point an actor hiding behind a piece knocked it over, but the moment was saved nicely when Ludlow casually put it back in place without interrupting the flow.

One small suggestion for the actors would be to resist taking some of these larger-than-life characters as far as they can go — the effect would still be powerful without being overwhelming.

Overall, however, the presentation was as enjoyable and entertaining as one expects from our local high school, and it was great to see a new crop of students entering the program. Their development will be a pleasure to watch.

since the release of their sophomore album *Left Brain Blues*.

"They've toured the length of the country four times in less than three years, enjoyed numerous festival appearances in summer 2010, including the Vancouver Folk Festival, and the future looks bright for this tight and talented group."

A \$5 cover charge is in effect for the Moby's show.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Thai O'Neil, left, and Jonah Grindler made perfect mice in the GISS Second Story Theatre production of *Ash Girl* presented at ArtSpring last Tuesday and Wednesday.

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# What's On This Week

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## 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.  
**Lloyd English Trio.** Live jazz every Wednesday at the Harbour House.  
**Open Stage.** Wednesdays with Stephanie Rhodes at Moby's. 8 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.

## Thurs. December 16

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Viva Voce! Carolers.** At Island Star, 6 p.m.; Pharmasave, 6:15; Old Salty, 6:30; TJ Beans, 6:45.  
**Four on the Floor.** Folk group at Moby's.  
**Vaughn Fulford.** Live at the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Open Mic.** Thursdays at The Local pub. 6 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Blue Christmas Service.** Special service at SS United Church. 2 p.m.  
**Santa & Elves.** Visiting Love My Kitchen from 5 to 6 p.m. and West of the Moon from 6 to 7 p.m. And several Ganges businesses are "open late til 8."  
**Bingo.** At Meaden Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month. 7 p.m., with early bird games at 6:30. Proceeds benefit bursaries to Salt Spring students.  
**WinterCraft.** See Exhibits, below.

## Fri. December 17

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Viva Voce!** Choir leads Christmas carol singalong at All Saints. 7:30 p.m. Food bank fundraiser.  
**Children's Christmas Pageant.** At Community Gospel Chapel. 6:30 p.m.  
**Fish + Bird.** Rock band at Moby's.  
**The Barley Bros** Live at the Harbour House Hotel.  
**Jon Bone.** Live at the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Dances of Universal Peace.** At Ganges Yoga Studio. 7 p.m.  
**Tango Practica.** At the Core Inn. 8 to 10 p.m. \$5.  
**WinterCraft.** See Exhibits, below.

## Sat. December 18

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Academy Presents ... Celebrate the Season.** Dance presentation at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.  
**DJ Shameleson.** Dance music at Moby's.  
**Greg Esposito and Bob Delion.** Live at the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Market in the Park.** At Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Cusheon Lake Christmas Carol Caravan.** Boats, canoes & kayaks go around the lake from and returning to 171 Natalie Lane. 2 to 4 p.m.  
**WinterCraft.** See Exhibits, below.  
**Salt Spring Vineyards Open House.** Holiday music, mulled wine and cookies at SS Vineyards. Noon to 4 p.m.

## Sun. December 19

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Festival of Nine Lessons.** Music and readings at All Saints. 4 p.m.  
**The Barley Bros.** Sundays at the Harbour House Hotel.  
**Joanie Kotanen.** Singer-songwriter performs Christmas songs and singalong followed by potluck at the Bethel church on Baker Road. 10:30 a.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Christmas at the Cheese Farm.** Open house & music at SS Cheese on Reynolds Road. Begins at noon.  
**WinterCraft.** See Exhibits, below.

## Mon. December 20

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Fulford Village Singalong.** Carol singing at Patterson's Market parking lot. 6:30 p.m. Plus hot dog fundraiser for Sher.

### ACTIVITIES

**Toastmasters.** Group meets Mondays at the Crofton Room in the Harbour House Hotel. 7 p.m.

## Tues. December 21

### ACTIVITIES

**ArtSpring Christmas Singalong.** At ArtSpring. 7 p.m. Bring a donation for the food bank.

## Wed. December 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Lloyd English Trio.** Live jazz every Wednesday at the Harbour House.  
**Open Stage.** Wednesdays with Stephanie Rhodes at Moby's. 8 p.m.

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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.
- **Duck Creek Gallery solstice week opening** — Friday, Dec. 17 to Wednesday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Wood and bronze sculptures, photographic prints, art prints, art cards available.
- **Pegasus Framing Gallery** presents work by the lino-cut master Richard Calver along with Bill Mayberry abstracts and hyper-realist oils by Christopher Walker.
- 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.
- **New Paintings** by Paul Bryans are now on exhibit at Steffich Fine Art.
- **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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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**PUPPET PLEASERS:** Salt Spring Centre School students present a marionette show during the school's annual Winterfest event on Saturday.

## DANCE

# Holiday treats on stage

Community of dancers celebrates at ArtSpring

Salt Spring dancers are stepping out to celebrate the season with a special evening at ArtSpring on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Beginning at 8 p.m., Salt Spring Arts Academy students and teachers will be joined by members of the dance community to celebrate the holiday season with dance.

Gumboot Dancers Jean Brouard, Cate McEwen, Tamar Griggs, Briony Penn and Robbyn Scott will perform the Red-Nosed Caribou and have also composed a special version of the Twelve Days of Christmas

(island style) to share with the audience.

Aerial artists Oria Atkinson and Kathleen Donovan plan to enchant the audience with a lovely piece choreographed to Marian Heatherdale's version of A Huron Christmas Carol.

Pointe students Ruby Bate-man and Lauren Utter will dance to the Carol of the Bells, while the academy's littlest tap dancers tap along to Linus and Lucy from a Charlie Brown Christmas.

Sue Newman's company class will perform pieces from Thoroughly Modern Millie and Nightmare Before Christmas, alongside other offerings from hip hop, tap and ballet students

and, of course, the ultimate show stealers, Snow Fairies and The Winter Storm by the Creative Kindergarten dancers.

Academy teacher Naomi Jason joins Robbyn Scott for Hallelujah sung by k.d. Lang and choreographed by Daniel McCusker in collaboration with the dancers.

Academy teachers Kristen Lewis and Sue Newman also have prepared a holiday treat for audiences and welcome special guest Lani Bascom, a student in the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts program.

The dance show is a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Arts Academy bursary fund.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids.

## CAROLLING

# Cusheon Lake community hosts first annual carolling event

Participation welcome at paddle and sing

Residents of the Cusheon Lake area are inviting the community to participate in a new holiday event that could become an annual tradition with the Cusheon Lake Christmas Carol Caravan.

Lakeside neighbours will sing carols while circumnavigating the lake in a caravan of canoes, kayaks and small boats this Saturday, Dec. 18.

Organizer Judy Ellis, manager of Cusheon Lake Resort, said people who don't want to go on the water can watch from their homes or from the public beach.

Paddlers will depart from and reconvene at the resort, where they can bring nibblies and beverages to share with their neighbours.

Ellis said that several residents came up with the idea for the holiday activity, which should strengthen a community that has already come together over lake management.

"The Cusheon Lake community has met on a regular basis for over 10 years to promote the stewardship of the lake," she said in an email to the Driftwood.

"Accomplishments have been made and the water quality in the lake has shown improvement over the years. The residents on and around the lake do care about how we all

live our lives as part of the watershed of the lake and some of us have worked towards educating the whole community in this regard.

"That the residents on and around the lake also love to have fun in and on the lake is not something that is not usually emphasized in communications and reports. Our Cusheon Lake Christmas carol singing event is a time for all of us just to have some fun."

Boats will launch from the resort dock at 2:15 p.m. Participants are requested to dress warmly and bring life jackets, in addition to snacks for sharing. Non-lakeside residents are also welcome.

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# People & Community

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**FILLING THE BANK:** From left, firefighter Ken Akerman, food bank volunteer Ellen Hazenboom, firefighter Dominique Gaudet and food bank coordinator Gloria McEachern marvel at the donations received through the fire department's Fill the Bank campaign that ran from Nov. 29-Dec. 5.

## Nutritional and "treats" are food bank hot items

*What could the Salt Spring Food Bank use over Christmas? And when people donate to the food bank, how are those donations used/distributed?*  
 — BH, Fulford



**Amy Geddes**

### YOU ASKED

READ THE BLOG AT [WWW.GULFISLANDS.NET/WORDPRESS](http://WWW.GULFISLANDS.NET/WORDPRESS)

Sardines, Corn Flakes cereal, pasta and Nut Thins were just some of the donated items in the Fill the Bank box at Country Grocer on a recent Monday afternoon. Everyone makes their best guess about what items food bank users would like to eat, but Salt Spring Community Services food bank coordinator Gloria McEachern gives insight into the high-priority items.

First off, she says: "People can never give too much food to the food bank," noting, however, that nutritious foods are always a priority. Protein items, in particular, like canned tuna, peanut butter and meal replacement items like Ensure are highly valued throughout the year.

Nutritional staples of high value are:

- Pasta products & rice
- Canned meats and fish
- Dry and canned soups & stews
- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Flour
- Breakfast cereal
- Peanut butter
- Canned/powdered milk
- Fruit juices
- Pasta sauce
- Beans & legumes
- Infant formula & baby food

McEachern says that what people don't always realize is that the food bank buys the regular "staple" items throughout the year from Salt Spring and Vancouver Island grocery stores, mostly through reclamation when items are not fit for sale in stores (dented cans, torn boxes, missing labels, etc.). Some are past the expiry date, missing ingredients, etc. so the food bank does not want to discourage people donating "newer" staple items.

But for their annual Christmas hampers, the food bank likes to include "treat-type" items in addition to the nutritional staples. Volunteers have seen first-hand from single parent and low-income families in particular, how these special items can bring some much-needed

Christmas cheer.

The food bank wish list for "treat-type" foods over Christmas are:

- Christmas cookies
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Juice boxes
- Hamburger or Tuna Helper
- Hot chocolate
- VitaSoy or almond milk
- Jam
- Crackers (Triscuits or Ritz)
- Chocolates
- Pickles
- Nuts
- Tea/coffee

Some may not consider crackers a treat, but McEachern does: "We don't give out crackers during year unless we get a special donation," she says. "Not everybody gets them."

Most donate food directly, but monetary donations are also of high value. "When we receive money," McEachern says, "It allows us to buy what we need and we get more for our money. We will give a turkey to a family, a chicken to a couple, a canned meat product to single person." Money also gives the food bank the ability to purchase items in bulk.

Food donations placed in the Fill the Bank boxes located at Country Grocer, Thrifty Foods and the Ganges Fire Hall will be used in regular Tuesday hampers, in Christmas hampers distributed on Dec. 19 and any leftovers will be put on shelves to be used throughout the year.

Those wishing to receive care packages fill out a form at Community Services, stating specifics about family size, whether or not they have children, allergies, etc. and volunteers make up the care packages accordingly based on guidelines provided by Food Banks Canada.

For more information, contact food bank coordinator Gloria McEachern

**OUR LADY OF GRACE AND ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**  
 Roman Catholic Church, 135 Drake Road  
 All Masses are at Our Lady of Grace Church unless otherwise noted:

**CHRISTMAS:**  
 Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 7 pm Friday Dec 24 (Carols 6 pm)  
 Midnight Mass, Midnight at St. Paul's, Fulford (Carols at 11 pm)  
 Christmas Day Mass, 10 am

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
 Anticipatory Mass, 5 pm Saturday Dec 25  
 Mass, 8 am at St. Paul's, Fulford • Mass, 10 am

**NEW YEAR'S, JANUARY 01**  
 Anticipatory Mass, 5 pm Friday Dec 31  
 Adoration 11 pm • Midnight Mass, 12 midnight • Mass, 10 am

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 02**  
 Mass, 8 am at St. Paul's, Fulford • Mass, 10 am

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 7:00 p.m. (level access)  
 250-537-1905  
 520 Lower Ganges Road



"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray."

**The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island Christmas Services for 2010**

**Friday, December 24th**  
 Carol Eucharists with Blessing of the Creche  
 4:00 p.m. All Saints, Ganges  
 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Fulford

**Icons, Incense, Carols & Candlelight**  
 10:30 p.m. "Midnight Mass" at All Saints

**Saturday, December 25th**  
 "And the Word became flesh"  
 11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) at St. Mark's, Central

**Sunday, December 26th**  
 "On the Feast of St. Stephen"  
 10:30 a.m. Eucharist in Celtic Christian Tradition at All Saints



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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

### WET WAIT:

Emilie Verboom waits patiently for Santa and the Christmas Ship in the pouring rain, Saturday night in Ganges. It may be all she wants for Christmas are her two front teeth.

### FUNDRAISER

## Bottle donations multiply for effect

Water for Africa donor has found a super deal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People with extra bottle recycling can put their containers to good use providing water for African communities.

The bottles won't be holding the water — instead, funds normally returned to customers of the Salt Spring Refund Centre Bottle Depot can be donated to designated chari-

ties such as Water for Africa, a group started by island resident Clare McDuff.

McDuff spent memorable years volunteering as a teacher in West Cameroon and has since then directed her fundraising efforts toward the African continent.

She started Water for Africa around 12 years ago after hearing the story of Ryan Hreljac, a six-year-old Ontario boy who started his own foundation to build wells.

The Water for Africa group sends donations to organizations that help supply water, animals, seeds and other

needed items to impoverished African communities.

As the operator of Island Farm B&B, McDuff has had opportunities to collect plenty of bottle recycling on her own.

She directs the proceeds, plus those donated by other recyclers, to organizations with matching fund programs she learns about through World Vision.

McDuff said there are often matching programs underway, and she always waits to donate funds until there is a suitable group offering to match amounts by at

least three times. A couple of Christmases ago there was one offering an amazing 12 times match.

This year she's found one that will match amounts by 18 times — which means \$50 donated turns into \$900.

"It's unbelievable — it's a fantastic opportunity," McDuff said.

"So the more people put their empties into Water for Africa, the better."

Bottle depot customers must still sort the bottles themselves.

They can then ask staff to donate the proceeds.

### CAREER PLANNING

## Youth and adults share entrepreneurial passions

Second Bridging the Gap forum held at GISS

BY SARAH HOOK-NILSSON  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

You might suppose that it is a parent who is best able to guide a young person towards a choice of livelihood. But many parents would agree that no matter how great our wish to help with these important decisions, it is often the other adults, with whom our sons and daughters may have a chance encounter, who have the most significant impact on the decisions to follow

a career path.

Last Tuesday, over 30 youth talked with nearly 20 local artists and entrepreneurs whose paths they might not have otherwise crossed and who had volunteered to attend a gathering at the high school. The conversations were about the rewards and the challenges of a career in the arts, the determination and inspiration required and the realities encountered when you start your own business. Over coffee and pastries, the talk continued about dreams, decisions, hopes and happiness for nearly two and a half hours — but according to

several of the youthful participants, it should have been longer, with more time to discuss!

The forum was the second in the Bridging the Gap series supported by Service Canada and part of the school district's Connecting Generations program.

Many of the adults in attendance reported that they were impressed by the enthusiasm and the sincerity of the youth and were reminded of "how tough it is to make a career decision."

More than one student commented that it was reassuring to see that many people have the same concerns:

"I really liked lis-

tening to the adults," said one participant. "I found it was very constructive and nice to know that they went through the same things."

And the outcome? For some of the students it included a decision to change course selection or, in the case of an adult, a renewed resolve to work on business skills. For many of the youth the experience has served to inspire them towards greater commitment, but with the benefit of an adult's hindsight.

"I will from now on keep an open mind and follow my passion but [be] able to change and react and still keep my

goals," said one student.

Opportunities for continuing conversations will take place in the New Year when smaller groups of interested youth and adults can meet for further discussion and another forum on the topic of Health and the Helping Professions.

For more information and to register, contact me at shooknilsson@sd64.bc.ca or leave a message at the high school: 250-537-9944.

**Salt Spring Island Community Services**  
268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.  
250-537-9971  
www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca  
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- \* **Let's Do Brunch:** Tuesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- \* **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- \* **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, open Thurs. & Sun. 6:30-9:30 pm. Information: ahasenfratz@gmail.com or 250-537-8970
- \* **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
- \* **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 250-537-4607.
- \* **Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4 pm to midnight at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 250-538-4840
- \* **24-hr. Crisis Line:** Toll free: 1-866-386-6323. Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**SINGERS SING:**  
Mitch Howard directs and the Salt Spring Singers sing at last weekend's annual concert at ArtSpring.



CHRISTMAS

## Tradition of Gary Fletcher's 'good idea' carries on at hall

All welcome to Dec. 25 dinner event

BY PAT BARCLAY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Not all ideas are equally good, but without a doubt, Gary Fletcher had one of the best.

Because one fall morning in the year 2000, Gary Fletcher stood up at the back of the United Church during Sunday service and said he wanted to make an announcement. Not surprisingly, everyone there that day was immediately agog.

Gary then explained he thought Salt Spring Island needed a community dinner, where people living on their own and perhaps in need could enjoy companionship and a festive meal on Christmas Day.

And he, Gary, would organize such a dinner if enough people would volunteer to help him — which they did, and the Commu-

nity Christmas Dinner has been happening ever since.

In the beginning, some 80 diners enjoyed a free turkey dinner (or a vegetarian option) at noon on Christmas Day. In the last year or two, however, the number has been closer to 200. They come from all walks of life, from island trustees to the homeless and everyone in between, of all ages, interests and backgrounds.

In this way, the Community Christmas Dinner provides the social glue we appreciate in other great examples of Salt Spring community spirit, such as the fall fair, Remembrance Day, Hallowe'en and the apple festival. In a world where so much operates to drive human beings apart, the good things we have created on this small island are a precious reminder of life as it was meant to be lived.

Fletcher remained faithful to his vision until the end of his life, which is why the United Church refers to his legacy as the Gary

Fletcher Memorial Christmas Dinner.

Following Gary's death in 2006, Florence and Graham Wiseman stepped up to organize the annual event each year until now, when Tom Mitchell took the helm.

Some 25 volunteers have been gathering donations of food, funds and time from the supportive community and the church itself. Plans for who's doing the cooking, music and decor are all well underway and this year's dinner is guaranteed to be as special as ever.

The doors of Meaden Hall open at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 25, and dinner will be served at 12 noon. With entertainment, the celebration will continue until 2 p.m.

Please note that owing to health regulations, pets must be secured outside the building. Please also tell the hitchhikers you meet about Salt Spring's Community Christmas Dinner. Like some of their predecessors, they may come to dine and return to volunteer.

Hartland Landfill 2011 Changes

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As of January 2, 2011 Hartland Landfill will increase its tipping fees to:

- \$107 per tonne of general refuse
- \$117 per tonne of waste sludge
- All other waste will be increased by \$2 per tonne

In addition to an increase in tipping fees, Product Stewardship Materials will be banned from disposal as refuse at Hartland landfill. The new disposal ban will take effect January 2, 2011. Most of these materials are accepted at the Hartland Recycling Facility and other recycling locations throughout the region. For a complete list of where to recycling these products visit [www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling).

For more information visit [www.crd.bc.ca/hartland](http://www.crd.bc.ca/hartland) or call 250.360.3030.

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Linda Koroscil

### LET'S EAT

My mother's kitchen at Christmas time always smelled wonderful, especially when she made mincemeat.

**Butter Mincemeat**

- 8 apples, chopped
- 1 lb. raisins (Thompsons)
- 1 lb. dark sultanas
- 1 lemon, grated plus juice
- 2 oranges, grated plus juice
- 1/2 c. mixed peel or preserved ginger
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. each cloves and mace
- 3 c. brown sugar
- 1 1/2 c. apple cider
- 1/2 lb. butter

Mix everything together and simmer in a heavy pot for about half an hour. Store in sealed jars and keep refrigerated. This can also be made using green tomatoes. Just add half the apples.

## Bundled-up bridge players get climatized to new setting

But Our Lady of Grace a return to origins for Irene Hawksworth

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

"The music goes round and round, Whoa-ho-ho-ho-ho-ho, and it comes out here" — are you old enough to remember?

Well, the bridge club goes round and round too. It was some 52 years ago that a young Irene Hawksworth came from Ontario to Salt Spring Island.

Soon after, she joined the Gulf Islands Duplicate Bridge Club, and the first place she played was in the Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church basement on Drake Road. Since then games have been held at the Legion, the (emptied) movie theatre at Central, the Baptist Church, Brinkworthy's clubhouse, Salt Spring Seniors, and now . . . back to Our Lady of Grace, with Irene present all along. This recent move was made so that Monday games could be held in the daytime again to avoid night driving, and they start at 12:45 p.m. now.

Nov. 29 was the debut of the present Monday afternoon duplicate. There were five full tables and the

### BRIDGETRICKS

men dominated. Bob Morrisette and John Jefferson rose to the top, with George Laundry and Vic Parks next in line. There was a lone feminine influence in third place, which was occupied by Liz and Oleh Mycyk (welcome to the club!), but the men took over again in the fourth spot where Prem Margolese and Paul Retallack got a modicum of satisfaction. The rest may have had warm hearts, but cold hands were held by cold hands, with the heating system not functioning well in the spacious basement.

Consequently, four full tables of well-bundled-up players arrived on Dec. 6. Bob Morrisette was still hot stuff, partnered this time as usual by Patricia Hewett. Next were Joanne Elizabeth and her visiting sister, Andrea Johnson from Kelowna, and in third place were George and Flo Laundry.

That bundling still proved necessary but warmer days are looked forward to. Bundle in layers, though, just in case.

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

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# ISLAND WHEELS

a driftwood guide to island transportation, sales, service, accessories and more!

NEW CAR REVIEW

## Honda raises the bar again in minivan segment

Odyssey enters fourth generation

BY LORNE DRURY  
METROLAND NEWSPAPERS  
CARGUIDE MAGAZINE

Honda has learned over the years that you don't mess with success.

For that reason there aren't any radical changes on the Honda Odyssey minivan that enters its fourth generation with the 2011 model.

Instead, what Honda has done is listen to the needs and wants of its customers and improved the fuel economy, safety, and ride and handling in the new model. In a nutshell, it's more refined and better all-round.

Minivan sales have shrunk to about half the levels of a few years ago (Canadian sales are expected to be in the 70,000 range this year), but Honda Canada executive vice-president Jerry Chenkin said the company feels there is still a market for minivans, even though many other manufacturers have abandoned the segment altogether.

"We felt it was very important to satisfy the Honda customer that really appreciates the Odyssey," said Chenkin at the launch of the new model in California.

Chenkin said Honda Canada is "cautiously optimistic" that the overall vehicle market will improve slightly in the coming year, as will sales of the new Odyssey.

For 2011, the Odyssey has a new look inside and out.

As with any minivan, it's still basically a box on wheels, but Honda has added an interesting "lightning-bolt" chrome styling element along the beltline to make it stand out from the competition, which includes the re-styled 2011 Toyota Sienna and the Dodge Grand Caravan/Chrysler Town & Country.



Honda Odyssey minivan enters its fourth generation with the 2011 model.

HONDA continued on B13

## December to Remember Event

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2011 CR-V LX 4WD  
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# ISLAND WHEELS

## 'Ultimate' family transportation

### HONDA

continued from B11

This design element, combined with a lower roofline, wider stance and better aerodynamics help take away some of the boxy look that is common in all minivans.

Honda says its goal was to make the new Odyssey "the ultimate in family transportation" aimed at Generation X and Generation Y couples that are now having children of their own.

They grew up themselves in minivans and the hope is that these style-conscious families will look at the Odyssey from an "emotional" purchase decision as much as a "practical" one.

This is truly a North American vehicle, designed, engineered and built here. It is offered in the following trim levels: LX, EX, EX-RES, EX-L and Touring with more than 50 new standard and available features that have been added to enhance comfort, convenience and efficiency.

Even with all the new features such as Variable Cylinder Management that allows the vehicle to run on six, four or even three cylinders when power isn't required, Honda has been able to hold the line on pricing.

It starts at \$29,990 for the LX, \$1,700 below the starting price for the current 2010 DX model. Prices climb to \$46,990 for the fully loaded Touring model that has all the bells and whistles at \$2,700 less than the current Touring model.

Inside is where the biggest advances have been made — particularly the increase in space for both passengers and cargo.

Most members of the Odyssey engineering team are long-time Odyssey owners and it shows in the



Spacious interior of the Honda Odyssey.

versatility this new model offers.

There is room for six adults in comfort in the three rows of seating and a seemingly endless combination of passenger and cargo combinations. The LX seats seven passengers, all others will accommodate eight.

The second row, for example on the EX and above trim, has what Honda calls a Wide-Mode as the two outside seats can adjust sideways 38 mm (1.5 in) each.

The primary benefit of that is the ability to install up to three child seats side by side. The centre seat in the second row is also considerably wider (99 mm or 3.9 inches) and it also moves forward to allow for a child seat closer to mom and dad up front.

In total, the Odyssey can handle up to five child seats, depending on the trim level.

When only two passengers are in the second row, a fold-down armrest provides three beverage holders and a tray.

If needed, all second row seats can be removed

CAR REVIEW continued on B14

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\*Model shown is a 2011 Forester 2.5X 5MT (BJ1 X0) with MSRP of \$27,945 including freight & PDI (\$1,525), documentation fees (\$395) and battery and tire tax (\$30). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. Lease offer valid on new 2011 Forester 2.5X 5MT (BJ1 X0) models. MSRP of \$25,995. Payment of \*\*\$329.13/mo. based on a 24,000 kilometre per year lease with excess charge of \$0.10/km. \*\*\*4.9% lease rate for a 48 mo. term with \$3,600.00 down. Total lease obligation is \$15,798.24. The residual value at the end of term is \$12,229.10. Freight & PDI (\$1,525), documentation fees (\$395), and Battery and Tire Tax (\$30), are included in payment. Lease security deposit & PPSA included. License, insurance, registration & taxes, extra. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. †\$500 Holiday Bonus offer applies only to lease, finance, or cash purchases for new 2011 Forester models. Dealers may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. \*\*/\*\*/†Offers valid until Jan. 4, 2011. See your local Subaru dealer or www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete details.



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# ISLAND WHEELS

## Convenience, technology

CAR REVIEW  
continued from B13

totally to produce a flat floor that might be needed if you're carrying a 4x8 sheet of plywood or drywall that yes, does fit! No need to borrow a pick up to bring that building material home from the lumber store.

Legroom in the third row Magic Seat is 28 mm (1.1 in) more roomy this time around, making it more adult friendly. I sat back there to test it out myself and I'm close to 6-foot and had no problem with legroom.

It has a 60/40 split and the seats can be easily pulled down into the floor with the tug of strap — no need even to take off the headrests.

Power comes from a 3.5-litre 24-valve SOHC V6 engine that generates 248 hp (up four hp) and 250 lb/ft of torque (up 5 lb/ft).

The Variable Cylinder Management helps conserve fuel as it works on the principle that the vehicle only requires a fraction of its available power at cruising speeds, so it runs on three, four or six cylinders depending upon power required. A five-speed automatic is standard in all models except for the Touring which has a six-speed.

The new Odyssey still handles like, well, a minivan but it is closer to what you'd expect in a sedan than ever before. With a weight reduction of 43 kg (103 lb), Honda says it will accelerate to 100 km/h in 8.8 seconds, which is pretty decent for a minivan while at the same time there is a one litre per 100/km drop in fuel consumption.

All models get 17-inch wheels, except the Touring which is equipped with 18-inchers.

Overall body rigidity has been improved by 22 per cent, according to Honda, resulting in a quieter cabin. With the audio system off, my co-driver and I both commented on the quietness of the cabin and during my time in the back seat, it was no problem speaking in normal tones with the front seat passengers.

Of course, safety is a prime concern when you're talking about a "family vehicle" and Honda expects the new Odyssey to get a Top Safety Pick and a Five-Star safety rating in the U.S. for 2011.

More high-strength steel has been used than ever before to add to the safety factor along with standard safety features like electronic stability control, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution, three-row side curtain airbags with rollover sensor, driver and front passenger side airbags, dual stage front airbags and active front head restraints.

Among the convenience features in the cabin are 15 beverage holders (10 in the base LX model), and a Cool Box at the base of the centre stack (on EX and above) to keep those beverages cool until use.

To keep the youngsters happy on those long road trips, there is a 16.2-inch ultrawide video screen available on the Touring model.

Full details on the features of the entire 2011 Honda Odyssey model lineup should pop up shortly on the Honda Canada Web site.

But if you're looking for all the bells and whistles, the Touring model is the way to go. Technology stands out here with a satellite-linked navigation system (with voice recognition), multi-view rearview camera, 650-watt 12-speaker premium audio system, rear entertainment system with the ultrawide video screen and two wireless headphones, auto-leveling headlights, third-row integrated sunshades and ambient foot well lighting.

While minivan sales may be declining, there's still no vehicle that offers such a full range of family-friendly attributes. And the beauty of the Odyssey is you can go basic with the LX or luxurious with the EX and above.

No wonder it's been the benchmark of the minivan segment for so many years. With this new generation, the bar has been raised even higher.

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# ISLAND WHEELS



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**ISLAND CARS:** Gary LeMarchant with a 1957 Ranchero.

**ON THE ROAD**

## Roadside safety and first-aid kits: gift options

Peace of mind for travelling is priceless

Christmas holiday season is fast approaching and it's time you faced the facts. Someone is impossible to buy for. Perhaps they have everything. Maybe they just want nothing. It could be a sibling, spouse, friend, parent or child.

For that impossible to buy for person, there is a perfect gift. It's a thing that many people don't have and yet all should have. It's a gift that shows your thoughtfulness, resourcefulness and most importantly, that you care for the person's health and safety.

It's a roadside safety kit, and in some cases a roadside first aid kit. What could be more fundamental to the peace your own

peace of mind that you have added some extra safety for that person while avoiding the "tie or gift card" dilemma?

This kit is for peace of mind during a roadside emergency or breakdown and can be assembled in a sealing rubber container, wrapped nicely and ready to drop into a car trunk.

### Roadside Safety Kit

- Flares
- Blankets
- Matches
- Flashlight with batteries
- An emergency cell phone
- Jumper cables
- Bungee cord
- Screwdriver
- Duct tape
- Fire extinguisher.
- Good quality pap
- Roadside-assistance contact

### Road Trip First Aid Kit

This kit is important for the person who takes much longer drives and goes on road trips:

- Anti-nauseant (Gravol)
- After bite
- Bug spray
- Bandages
- Disinfectant spray
- Anti-Bacterial ointment
- Gauze
- Pain medication
- Antihistamine
- Sun screen (SPF 30 minimum)
- Antiseptic wipes for wounds
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SOURCE: Be Car Care Aware and Car Care Canada

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## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

**CHRISTMAS VISIT:** Santa and Mrs. Claus emerge from the Santa Ship in Ganges Harbour for the annual event sponsored by the Bellingham and local Lions clubs. The ship travels through the Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands each year.

## In the embrace of Stowell Lake

First of new On the Lake columns

### ON THE LAKE

*Lakes can offer many reflections, some from the sky and surrounding shoreline, others from someone's heart and mind. Just think how many times you have stood beside a lake and fallen into a dream or recalled other times and seasons when the life of the lake brought so much to your life and the lives of those you've loved. In this poetic reflection of what Stowell Lake continues to mean to him, his family and friends, Salt Spring writer John Rowlandson offers a heartening glimpse of the importance of the lake to so many of us on the island.*

BY JOHN ROWLANDSON  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Stowell Lake is a black spot today. Taut dark cloth banked with snow. Just me and Duck here. Duck swimming, scissoring the surface tension. Me standing, conjuring summer from a frozen spell. When Duck's wake blurs my reflection, everything changes, right before my eyes.

In this sudden recollection from only eight months ago, a red wing blackbird calls out Spring! Dormant buds blossom and little greens swell in the treetops. Then, summer appears as the generous warmth of memory shucks the flattening cover of ice from shirts, towels, sand shovels and pails. Their brilliant colours cover the cement abutment like a prayer flag whose promise of well-being slows the passing traffic to a gazing pace.

It is sensational. Stowell Lake is awash in blue, though I have to admit I am a bit surprised with the transformation. Winter boots: gone. Heavy coat: gone. Socks, pants, shirt: gone. Grey hair, wrinkles: not gone! Oh, well.

But I am swimming in this most wonderful of recollections, up to my neck in this lovely lake. And over the years, my love, my kids, my friends have all been here with me.

We run and dive. We swim and float. Some of us itch. Others don't. One day we observe the conspicuous caution of an eagle. Its apprehension, then its vulnerability, when, having landed on a floating log, it

dips its wing tips into what may well be the world's largest bird bath.

Another day, at dusk, we discover a painting turtle scudding its hind legs over a shallow stone. We know it will not move the stone. But we wait for it to figure this out. And sure enough, it does not move the stone. Truths waiting to be discovered abound at Stowell Lake.

But so do possibilities as turtle claws the stone, lifts the stone, until the stone falls again. And again. So we move the stone and later see a flow of eggs fill the hole.

Look at this! A babe at the edge of our lake, lifting fists of sand to its tongue; a bounding child bellowing laughter in the shallows; an upside-down pair of feet presuming knees; a first solo swimmer on her way to second dock; a conspiracy of pencil diving youth plunging toes into ever cooler, darker strata.

And then there is the talking, from late spring to early fall. Parents and friends of parents whose lakeside visits are shaped by dips and strokes that come and go from docks to shore. A bargain struck as each departs to watch the children in between.

Exit plans well-rehearsed in advance have been forgotten once in the embrace of the lake. All I can manage is to call out to the kids, signal, point at my watch and pretend to leave. But, who would want to leave?

My children are tied to the life cycle of this lake: its being and constant becoming. They are in awe of its immortality and carry it with them as part of their own. I stand on shore with towels looped between my hands, ignored.

When Stellar's Jay scratches at my ears, I'm back on a snowy shoreline, standing at the black lake. Just me and Duck, reminded of why we are here.

*Editor's note: On the Lake is a new column with submissions by various writers celebrating the lakes of Salt Spring Island.*