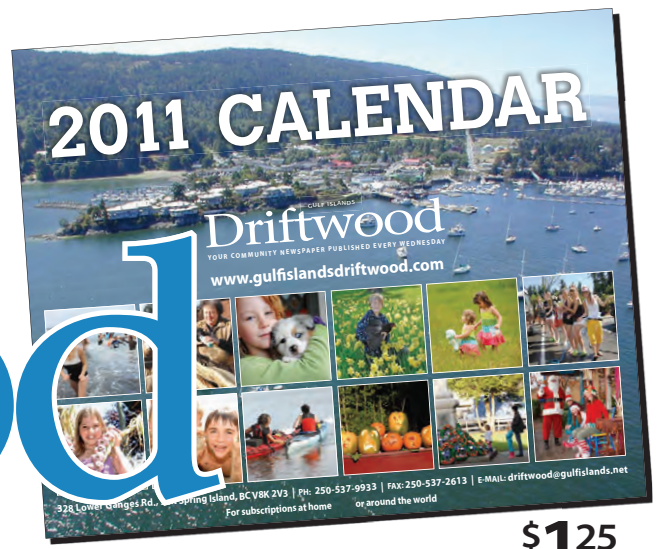




2010 Wrap
News round-up. **PAGES 17-20**

Knit Wits
Busy hands. **PAGE 15**

2011 Calendar
INSIDE



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 29, 2010 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 50TH YEAR — ISSUE 52

\$1.25
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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MISHAP: Even though it hasn't been snowing — touch wood — winter weather continues to make driving more hazardous on Salt Spring roads. This accident occurred on Christmas Eve. Helpful passersby got the occupants out of the vehicle and pushed it back onto its four wheels.

ON THE WATER

Ferry crew effects Boxing Day rescue

Man plucked from overturned 14-foot boat

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. Ferries passengers on the Queen of Cumberland weren't complaining about the delay on Boxing Day after the ship's personnel performed a marine rescue.

Ferries media relations director Deborah Marshall said the ship was contacted by Marine Communication and Traffic Services in Vancouver at approximately 10:20 a.m. Sunday morning with information that a man in an overturned boat needed assistance.

The man was located almost immediately, sitting on top of a 14-foot craft as it floated off

of Mouat Point near Pender Island.

Marshall said the Queen of Cumberland was on scene by 10:25 am, and launched a rescue boat to recover the man. He was safely brought onto the ferry within eight minutes of the launch.

Marshall said ferries staff learn to perform rescues as part of their standard marine transport training, and that situations like the one on Boxing Day provide good learning opportunities.

The crew's quick action, as well as that of a "good Samaritan" on shore who spotted the overturned boat, contributed to the man's

good condition upon recovery.

"He was looking pretty good, but they did call the ambulance as a precautionary measure," Marshall said, adding he may have shown some signs of hypothermia.

B.C. Ambulance personnel met the Queen of Cumberland at Pender Island's Otter Bay ferry terminal where the man was examined.

The rescue added only about 25 minutes total to the sailing time.

Salt Spring's Canadian Coast Guard unit was also involved in the rescue operation, arriving on scene in time to recover the overturned boat.

FRAUD

Investor speaks out on mine scam

Scandal ranked high among country's white collar crimes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A local stock trader and financial expert who lost thousands in the Southwestern gold mine scam has called the case one of Canada's most serious white collar crimes.

Salt Spring resident Ron Martin characterizes himself as being more savvy than the average investor. As the vice president of Ontario's public services union for many years, he monitored one of the province's largest pension plans. He's also traded a lot of stock personally. But like many other perhaps more naive Canadians, Martin was victim to one of the country's largest-ever investor frauds, allegedly perpetrated by fellow islander John Paterson.

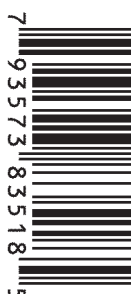
Paterson was arrested on Salt Spring and transported to Vancouver on Dec. 18, following a three-year investigation by a federal branch of the RCMP. He was charged with nine counts of fraud related to a gold mine in China owned by his company Southwestern Resources Corp.

According to the RCMP, Paterson had reported inflated findings for the mine over a period of several years. He

STOCK SCAM continued on 2

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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY PETER MCCULLY

OFF DUTY: Salt Spring's emergency service groups gathered for an open house event at the Ganges fire hall last week to celebrate another year of co-operation between the fire-rescue department, RCMP, search and rescue, ambulance service and coast guard.

Golf course meeting led to mine stock loss

STOCK SCAM
continued from 1

made millions through the fraudulently inflated stock price, and then sold off his shares before the publicly traded company went bust on the Toronto exchange.

Martin was one of the people who bought into Paterson's claim, based on a personal encounter with the geologist's wife at the Salt Spring Island Golf Club. A former journalist, Martin said he is always interested in learning about who people are and what they do. He heard all about Southwestern from Joan Paterson when he and his wife were asked to play with the woman and her friend.

"I'll never forget that conversation," Martin said. "She told me her husband was a poor business man, but a very good geologist."

Although he was never much interested in gold stocks previously, as a result of that conversation Martin looked into Southwestern.

"It looked perfectly good, so I began to buy some of the stock and trade it," he recalled, noting that analysts

backed the claim and that Southwestern was linked to Newmont Mining, one of the largest gold-producing companies in the world.

But after the stock began to slip in the spring of 2007, Martin called up Southwestern's head office in Vancouver to find out what was going on. The woman in charge of investments at the time told Martin the company regarded the low price as an investment opportunity, so he bought even more shares.

Approximately two weeks later, the stock collapsed. Share prices fell from almost six dollars to under three dollars. At that point Martin called Paterson at home on Salt Spring and asked him point blank: "Is there gold there?"

"And he said 'yes,'" Martin said. "I'm not naive, but I made a bad mistake when it came to Southwestern gold. I've never forgotten that phone call."

Shortly afterward, Paterson resigned from his position as head of Southwestern and checked into a hospital for mental health issues, according to both Martin and Vancouver Sun columnist

David Baines. The company publicly withdrew the previously announced results of the mine's gold assays and the share price declined even further.

"It looked perfectly good, so I began to buy some of the stock and trade it."

RON MARTIN
Southwestern stock purchaser

Martin lost approximately \$16,000 in the process. Paterson had sold his stocks in advance of the announcement and saved himself \$153,000 in one day, according to the the British Columbia Securities Commission.

Martin was a leading member in the B.C. section of a class action lawsuit brought against Paterson by his investors in 2008. The lawsuit was successful but recovered

only five to 10 per cent of the investments.

Martin has also been in regular communication with the RCMP over the past few years for the criminal investigation. But although charges have now been laid, Martin is not very optimistic about the impact on the country's corrupt financial world.

"In Canada I don't know anyone who has ever gone to jail over white collar crime," he said.

"The monitoring of the financial system in Canada leaves a lot to be desired."

Martin likens the scam to the recent mortgage fraud situation in the U.S. market. And although white collar crime is difficult and expensive to investigate, he said regular citizens are those who stand to lose from these crimes.

"What happened to me is not very pleasant — but what can happen to ordinary investors, who are not as skeptical as me — that's terrible."

Paterson was released from police custody with a surety for \$250,000 on Dec. 20. His next court appearance is set for Jan. 4.

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	03:54 2.3 7.5		13:23 3.3 10.8
	10:46 3.5 11.5		21:31 0.3 1.0
	18:36 0.9 3.0		
30		03	06:01 3.5 11.5
TH	02:41 2.7 8.9	MO	10:42 3.0 9.8
	05:11 2.7 8.9		14:13 3.2 10.5
	11:17 3.5 11.5		22:12 0.3 1.0
	19:22 0.6 2.0		
31		04	06:36 3.5 11.5
FR	03:52 3.1 10.2	TU	11:32 2.9 9.5
	06:47 2.9 9.5		15:01 3.2 10.5
	11:53 3.4 11.2		22:50 0.3 1.0
	20:06 0.4 1.3		
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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Polar Bear Swim

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Vesuvius Beach at 12 noon

TOURISM

Visitor traffic drops dramatically in 2010

Poor economy blamed for hard hit to Salt Spring tourism industry

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's tourist numbers saw a dramatic decrease in 2010, coming in at 17.6 per cent lower than 2009 figures.

Statistics gathered by the Salt Spring Visitor Centre show that as of Dec. 6 of this year, 34,651 people arrived at the tourist information office. That's almost 7,400 fewer people than in 2009.

Chamber of Commerce manager Paul Neale said he was warned how crazy the office could get during the summer months when he first took his position in March, but he never experienced it.

"Our numbers show a downward turn," Neale confirmed.

"We had a flat early summer and July and August never really picked up."

In fact, August fell far from meeting its reputation as the island's busiest month. Despite the return to summer sunshine, the month had 27.4 per cent fewer visitors than in 2009.

Neale said accommodations providers were those hit hardest by the drop, as the island saw more people looking for low-end stays and those coming just for day trips.

"That helps the shops and restaurants, but it doesn't help the B&Bs and hotels," Neale observed.

Kevin Bell, manager of Mouat's Trading, said, "There certainly seemed to be fewer people around and less money being spent, that's for sure."

Bus tours were the only statistic that increased, going from 21 in 2009 to 50 in 2010. But according to Neale, those visitors "tend to just wander around for a couple of hours, have lunch and then go. They're not big spenders."

And people are not coming from the areas Salt Spring's visitors have traditionally arrived from, being the Lower Mainland, Washington and Oregon, although Neale said other economies are looking up.

"The Europeans started travelling again — it didn't make up for the Americans, but it was good to have them back," Neale said.

Salt Spring's tourist woes are not unique, according to Patti Lee, manager of the visitor centre in Parksville.

"It's absolutely everyone," Lee said, adding that her centre registered 35,000 visitors in 2009 but would be lucky to reach 24,000 for this year. Other regions were



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

A crowded Saturday market in July of 2010 did not translate into strong visitor numbers overall for the year.

also hit hard: Lee said it's the first year she can remember campsites in Tofino and Ucluelet having on-the-spot vacancies.

Lee said reasons for the decrease in tourism probably include the poor weather of early summer, the addition of the HST and the overall economy.

"I'm thinking people are keeping their money close to home," she said.

Ferry costs are another factor, which for Parksville meant fewer visitors from Alberta and Ontario but more people travelling up-island for their holiday.

For the Gulf Islands, BC Ferries vehicle and passenger traffic averaged at 1.76 per cent lower in July 2010 than 2009, 4.2 per cent lower in August and 4.68 per cent lower in September. But Neale said he didn't hear visitors complaining about ferry costs.

"That didn't seem to be an issue," he reported.

Instead, Neale believes the economic recovery is not as strong as predicted.

Bell supported that assessment.

"Business is slightly down from last year, and last year we were in the throes of a recession or supposed to be coming out of it — but it doesn't seem as if the recession has let go of Salt Spring."

While Mouat's has suffered only slightly lower sales of about 1.5 to 1.8 per cent, Bell said retail businesses are having to look at many cost-cutting measures.

Strategies for improving Salt Spring's tourist economy in 2011 are being worked on now by the Chamber of Commerce tourism committee, Neale said.

"They're working on getting the message out about Salt Spring."

News briefs

Island benefactor passes

A longtime Salt Spring resident who made significant contributions to island life died on Christmas Day at the age of 96.

Jack Fisher, who had lived on the island since 1973, after he retired from a career in research and development with the MacMillan Bloedel forestry company, was known for his substantial gifts in the areas of health and recreation.

Fisher donated most of the funds for the first ultra-

sound machine at Lady Minto Hospital in 1999, in memory of his wife Margaret.

The Fisher family also gave 55 acres of land at Mount Erskine to the province of B.C. in 1976, with the intention that it be transferred to the Islands Trust when that body was granted the power to hold land. After creation of the Islands Trust Fund for that purpose in 1990, the formal transfer occurred in 1976.

Fisher was also known for his generous support for the sport of tennis on Salt Spring and sponsored the annual Jack Fisher Tournament.

More details of his life are contained in his obituary on Page 23, which also includes details about his celebration of life set for next Wednesday, Jan. 5.

GISS radio plays on the air this week

CFSI is mid-way into its series of six radio plays produced by Gulf Islands Secondary students and performed for listeners' holiday pleasure.

Every morning through Friday there will be a different production for the com-

munity's entertainment, coming on air at 9 a.m.

The remaining titles are: I Saw Myself Running on Wednesday, Dec. 29; The Thought on Thursday, Dec. 30; and GISS original student work, Nellie, on Friday, Dec. 31.

Transmitter decision still up in the air

Rogers Broadcasting's application to build a radio transmitter on Salt Spring is still a possibility with no final decision yet from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications

Commission.

Rogers' proposal is to build a transmitter to help boost coverage for its Victoria station CIOC-FM (The Ocean) broadcast at 98.5 FM. The idea has already been denied once by the CRTC, in a decision announced on March 25 of this year.

Strong opposition to the plan has come from the Gabriola Radio Society, which hopes to establish a public radio station at 98.7 FM. In its earlier decision the CRTC noted the proposed transmitter would reach as far as the Nanaimo area and "could block GRS's plans to establish a new

community radio station on Gabriola Island."

The media company reapplied Sept. 13, with plans for lower coverage figures. According to its application, the transmitter would operate at an average effective radiated power (ERP) of 15 watts for "a maximum ERP of 45 watts with an effective height of antenna above average terrain of 662 metres."

The wattage is significantly reduced from the company's previous application for a 635-watt transmitter capable of a maximum ERP of 3,500 watts at the same height.



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NEWSBEAT

DEVELOPMENT

Human rights sessions on Jan. 8-9

UBC students present papers at GISS

Is there a human right to water? Can international law protect First Nations from oil and gas development? Could one decriminalize sex work and still protect the human rights of child prostitutes?

These and other questions will be the focus of a human rights workshop at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Jan. 8 and 9. Sixteen graduate students from the University of British Columbia will present their term papers, which are being supervised by Salt Spring resident Michael Byers.

The same event was cancelled due to snowy weather when it was first set for Nov. 20-21.

"The students come from seven different countries," Byers explained. "They have a passion for social justice and human rights. They bring fresh perspectives and cutting-edge research skills to some of the most difficult issues of our time."

For Byers, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at UBC, bringing the students to Salt Spring has an important educational purpose. "Most of the students lack real world experience," he said. "By bringing them to the island, I can introduce them to the most intellectually dynamic, socially progressive community in Canada. The purpose of the workshop is to enable them to engage with — and learn from — some of the incredible people here."

Each session will begin with a student presenting their research, then move to an open discussion of their work. It will be an opportunity to pose questions, make comments and share perspectives.

"Questions around what constitutes a right, and how rights are enforced, affect us all," said Byers. "And every perspective is legitimate."

The workshop runs from 2:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9 in the multipurpose room at GISS. Islanders are encouraged to participate in all sessions, or attend a few of special interest to them. Admission is free and open to all.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

A PRESENT FOR THE HOSPITAL: Lady Minto X-ray technologist Chris Gix and Charlotte Mierau, senior clinical specialist with Philips Healthcare, model the new X-ray equipment at the hospital.

RCMP

Holiday blues occupy police during Xmas

More witnesses also sought in Nov. 14 Lee's Hill crash

Salt Spring RCMP report many seasonal incidents occurred on the island, but no serious charges on the files for the holiday week.

Police attended several personal disputes and assisted people with mental health issues who needed hospital care during the holiday, a period when fragile emotions tend to be elevated, Cpl. Martin Beardsmore said.

"It's a bad time of year for people already

suffering from something . . . It's a stressful time of year."

Beardsmore said fortunately no one was badly hurt during the incidents police attended.

Also in police news, Salt Spring RCMP continue to investigate the cause of the fatal motor vehicle collision that occurred on the morning of Nov. 14, in which 25-year-old Reid Parent lost his life.

Police say they appreciate the witnesses who have come forward so far, but have reason to believe there are other motorists who may have information that will assist in the investiga-

tion.

In particular, police would like to speak to the occupants of two vehicles that are believed to have been traveling northbound on Fulford-Ganges Road near Lee's Hill around 9:30 a.m. or shortly before. These vehicles may have been overtaken by another motorist at around this time.

Salt Spring RCMP further request that any local residents who had friends or relatives visiting the island that day who may have been driving between Fulford and Lee's Hill between 9 and 9:30 a.m. to contact the detachment at 250-537-5555.

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Regular Deadlines will apply for the Driftwood of Wednesday January 12th.

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 Silver - Best In-House Ad Campaign - "Owners' Manual"
 Bronze - Best Community Service - "Residents Card Program"
2010 Canadian Community Newspaper Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Taking stock

Well, we've made it through another one.

We made it through the year's Olympic security crackdown, survived the summer's hot dog wars in Fulford, kept our sanity through the Stark Road bunny debate and even had enough steam to make it through the Queen of Nanaimo's run in with a dock at Mayne Island.

To be sure, the year had its share of rough spots: A boating and traffic fatality, the deaths of so many prominent and iconic Salt Spring residents, the Salt Spring Coffee Company's decision to pack up and ship out, the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to nix a parkland plan for the Burgoyne Valley and, well, the list goes on.

No sooner do we get a chance to sit back and reflect on the kind of year it's been when we're flung out onto the track for another lap.

The Salt Spring Conservancy is on the cusp of completing the biggest land-protection deal in its history, the Islands Trust is set to seriously consider the limited legalization of secondary suites and cottages, there's a new library on the way, the HST campaign and recall initiative are set to continue rolling and local elections will cap everything

THE ISSUE:

New Year's predictions

WE SAY:

Around these parts, nobody knows for sure

off in November.

The essence of any community newspaper, however, are the stories that occur far away from the gnashing of teeth in the island's political arenas. On Salt Spring, these tales are the antics and adventures of the people who call Salt Spring home.

Over the past year, we've had islanders cycle across the country and down to South America. We've seen young and old raise thousands of dollars for charities of all stripes. Just this month, two young island women stood on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, while a local couple continued their round-the-world motorcycle journey.

Be it on the school board or local water districts, we all love a good political debate, admire the strength of those who speak up and applaud the rewards of hard-fought principles, but it's the unpredictability and originality of Gulf Islands residents who follow through with their commitments that really keep us going.

These are islanders' countless story gems that keep us trying to uncover the hows as well as the whys and, in the process, offer a reminder of what we can all accomplish.

Here's to a great 2011.



Taking Salt Spring's polar bear plunge

BY CINDY CLARK

Eight years ago our daughter announced that she wanted the family to participate in the Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim that year.

Things might have looked a lot different had she said that she wanted to do the polar bear swim.

"Are you kidding!" I thought. But she was completely serious, and as her ever-supportive parents, how could we possibly not be prepared to take on the challenge if our 11-year-old daughter was willing to take the plunge herself?

Vesuvius Beach was packed with plunger enthusiasts and spectators alike when we arrived that year. I remember the first person who caught my eye was sporting a striped antique swimming suit and a Viking helmet. We handed our three-year-old son off to a friend while we took our positions with the other swimmers.

I cursed the long-winded fellow on the loud speaker as I stood there on the edge of the ocean with my feet growing numb from cold. Finally, he got to the countdown and I was immediately overwhelmed with fear. And what was this other unexpected emotion? Yes, there it was — absolute pure excitement in anticipation.

In the next 10 seconds I felt more alive than I would the rest of the year. On the count of one, my husband Dion took my hand and together we stormed the ocean with the rest of the half, and soon to be fully, frozen people.

We were in-under-and-out all within the next 10 seconds. Oh my, was it cold, and I couldn't help but wonder how I was going to manage to walk back out of the ocean when I had zero feeling from my ankles down.

Surely my debut was going to end face down in the sand and stones that lined the beach between the ocean and spectators. Our daughter Olivia and her friend Auna-Beth, oblivious to the cold, continued on as if it were just another day at the beach,

VIEWPOINT

swimming about for the next 15 minutes or more. I was so impressed with my young polar bear!

The Polar Bear Swim is something we have continued to participate in every year since, and as we became more seasoned plungers we would often arrive as a family in full costume, supporting the chosen theme for that year. Dion and I have even found ourselves on one occasion taking the plunge without our children.

I am not sure why Dion continues to hold my hand and take the leap with me each year.

In fact, just last month during a snow day, he commented on how much he was not looking forward to jumping in the ocean this New Year's. (I think he says that at some point every year.) But who is ever really looking forward to the Arctic plunge? Not I. It's the countdown that fuels me with its promise of life. The plunge itself is simply the catalyst.

A few years back, while trying to prepare for the polar bear theme, we got word that the swim had been cancelled due to lack of organization.

We almost didn't go that year but at the last hour of "should we?" or "shouldn't we?" the have-to's won out and we called a few families and it was swim on! So we have been meeting with a few families for the past couple of years and holding our own countdown.

We will be out there at Vesuvius Beach again this year holding hands and counting down at noon on the first, and if you and your family would like to come and take the plunge, you are very welcome to join us. There is no theme, but costumes are always welcome on Salt Spring.

Happy New Year. Here's to feeling alive!

The writer is one of many islanders who've been smitten by Polar Bear Swim fever over the years.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

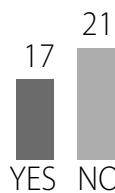
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Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should dogs be banned from Portlock Park?



Driftwood

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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The monitoring of the financial system in Canada leaves a lot to be desired."

RON MARTIN, SOUTHWESTERN GOLD MINE STOCK VICTIM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What about 2010 are you glad to leave behind?

**TIM WELLINGS**

Although I will be experiencing them for the rest of my life, I'm happy to leave the growing pains of 2010 behind me.

**KEN PARKES**

My inability to do what I want to do.

**JULIA LINNAY**

Lots of movement and traveling. I'm settling down and grounding a little bit.

**VINCENT PINEAULT**

My drunk life.

**DIANA POLMEAR**

Self-doubt.

Letters to the editor

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

Website tutorial

In the Dec. 22 Driftwood, Sharon McCollough, George Ehring and Christine Torgimson accuse ISG of posting links from its website to the infamous Ehring Bunker video.

This never happened. I ought to know, I'm the one who posts.

What I have since learned is that Sharon is holding ISG responsible for a link that was posted on our Facebook page. We do have a link to our Facebook page. She is also holding us accountable for a link ISG has to National Post's Brian Hutchinson article, where someone comments at the end and posts a link to the SaltSpringFolly site and from there the video is accessible. Come on!

For those of you who do not understand that a link

can take you to a completely new site, it can and does. ISG has links to the Islands Trust Act — that doesn't mean we wrote it.

I even make a point of having a new browser window open when one clicks on an outside link. Sharon makes other unsubstantiated claims, namely that I fail to monitor our very active site. Yes, I do, quite often, and it's a lot of work and she has no way of knowing how active it is.

George and Christine may be taking Sharon's word. I'm sure they understand the link concept. Yet George claims we removed the link that never was. All three present as fact that the links to the video are on the ISG website, not link, to link, to link . . .

ISG has been diligent in promoting respectful public debate and dialogue, and it hasn't been easy. We have one objective: to educate, to

bring accurate information to the public. That is what we strive to do through our website and our town halls.

ISG is being accused of brewing dissent and conflict. Why does Sharon McCollough find it necessary to malign ISG and make ridiculous claims about our website?

And why is passive acceptance of the status quo a more enlightened state of being than questioning and thinking? You decide.

JILL TREEWATER,
ISG WEB MANAGER

Points of view

I should like to comment on two very different points of view from the Dec. 29 paper. One is the warm and laudatory article written by a mother impressed by Jim Raddysh's commitment and dedication to the children who learn how to swim at the Rainbow Road Pool ("Life-

long gift of swimming appreciated"). I was happy to read something so positive and appreciative and it reminded me that there are some wonderful people around who behave wonderfully because they are caring and giving.

My next point is about the letter George Ehring wrote. I also congratulate him for his letter and the honesty and awareness he brought to it. Too many people are deeply ignorant of historical realities, gleaning their information from bits and pieces which present them with a picture totally divorced from what reality was like. They glibly use the word "Nazi" to describe anything that goes contrary to their point of view. A careful reading of what the Nazi party was would quickly cure them of that particular habit.

I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors (growing up in war and post-war Europe,

in France and then in Germany) and I can assure you that the word "Nazi" was not bandied about easily. It evoked such awful dread and such misery, it created so much horror for millions and millions of people, and so many people had their lives, if not cut short, at least wrecked by that time, that to use it to make a point is just beyond insensitive. So bravo, George Ehring, for reminding us all of that reality.

One can disagree politically with someone without slandering them in the process. Let us treat one another with dignity, which is what was not happening in that benighted time.

PIERRETTE WINTER,
HEDGER ROAD

It's a pun

I have been following the "Ehring bunker" nonsense and have come to the conclusion it is a red ehrring.

May we find peace on Earth and goodwill towards all at this time of year.

HERB BURNETT,
GANGES

Paint with same brush

I am finding the debate about Mark's Work Warehouse a bit petty and tiring.

If people are going to call Mark's a "big box/chain" store, then they must paint with the same brush our banks, grocery stores, Pharmasave, Home Hardware, Sears, some real estate companies, gas stations and perhaps even the post office. These are also mostly downtown and visible.

If people believe in supporting local businesses, then they shouldn't complain when one of them is successful enough to grow.

K. LEE,
MUSGRAVE ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A9

Playing fair one resolution as contentious year comes into view

It has been a few weeks now since I was not-so-gently reminded by my editor that "You know, not everyone likes your column." Not that I needed reminding.

This past year I have drawn the written ire of most everyone in the Islands Trust camp. The head of the Islands Trust, Sheila Malcolmson, declared that "I have no understanding . . . of island humanity." Certainly there is no love lost between myself and either of the local trustees Ehring and Torgimson. My screed had Briony Penn's friend Michael Wall "reaching for the bucket." Rick Laing, who seems to be one of the driving forces behind the unofficial Islands Trust fan club, cunningly dubbed "Islanders in Trust," felt it necessary to call me "a spoiled air force brat," which I am sure caused my father to reposition himself in his grave.

The latest written salvo came from the pen of ex-trustee Peter Lamb, who recently wrote that my "consistent attacks on the Islands Trust and trustees are . . . not conducive to a healthy community."

Such a generous serving of crow prompted both myself and my editor to do a little math to calculate just how many articles I have written that were critical of the Trust. Turns out since the last election in November '08, the Islands Trust has been in my cross hairs a scant 11 times by my reckoning. In that two-year period, I have written over 50 articles. Eleven Trust articles is not all that many for an op/ed writer whose unofficial job description would be "town

gadfly — an annoying little insect buzzing around the back end of the livestock."

Granted, over the two years, there have been a lot of Trust actions that have acted like a cheese grater over my brain, beginning with the hugely unpopular verdict against the Salt Spring Roasters to the most recent debacle surrounding two Bowen Island councillors' visit to our island as guest speakers at an Islanders for Self-Government meeting.

Given my written track record, one might surmise that I was on the payroll of the ISG — a lobbyist, a stooge, a puppet dancing on the end of a string. So as this year comes to a close, I want to set that straight.

I am not an active member of the ISG. (Insert old Woody Allen saw "I would never join an organization that would have me as a member.") I was once a member, but chose not to renew my membership. I disagreed with the organization's executive decision to encourage their considerable membership to vote against the "four-trustee" option, which essentially meant I disagreed with their fundamental strategy. The interesting thing is that ISG president Ken Marr and myself remain friends, notwithstanding our political differences. I wish the same could be said on the Islands Trust side.

While I have disagreed in writing with many of the Trust's decisions, I have also

**Peter Vincent**

HEAD TO HEAD

publicly expressed my gratitude and admiration to both of our local trustees for putting in countless hours and taking a lot of heat locally and nationally for standing their ground.

I have consistently lobbied for a giant pay raise for our trustees. It is appalling that the people in charge of shaping the future of this island were making less money than a part-time gas station attendant. It was great to read they have given future trustees a raise from a miserly \$13,000 to about \$30,000 with the benefits factored in.

I have also consistently taken the Trust's side when it comes to expanding the number of seats to four, the topic of ex-trustee Peter Lamb's recent piece, publicly challenging me to take up the cudgel and work together to put this back on the slate in the upcoming local election . . . to "find common ground." (Needless to say, I was thrilled to receive this olive branch from Mr. Lamb, and I emailed him a private billet doux. I have not yet received a reply, to which I can only surmise that he is choosing his words very carefully or his public exhortation was essentially rhetorical.)

But people read what they want to read. If they agree with my column, it results in a smile and a handshake at the local grocery store or coffee shop. If they disagree violently enough, it results in a scathing letter

to the editor.

Nothing wrong with that. Democracy thrives on differences of opinion and healthy debate. It is the personal attacks that sting.

Mr. Ehring knows this better than most. The recent Hitler/Ehring spoof extracted from the film Downfall is likely the most hurtful homegrown thing to ever arise from Salt Spring. It really wasn't necessary for George to play the Nazi/Auschwitz card. The YouTube piece must have hurt like hell. I can't imagine how painful this invective must have been for George to watch.

Elected officials like George and Christine (and indeed gadflies like myself) are expected to just suck it up and roll with the punches, as if personal attacks and insults are part of the job description. That may be so in national and international politics, but one would hope not so much here. After all, we shop in the same stores, our children go to the same schools, our dogs touch noses in the same parks.

We are entering an election year, and it is inevitable that the mud slinging will again get ramped up as November draws near. So here is a resolution that should be a lot easier than tossing the cigarettes. Play fair. Candidates' political platforms and track records are fair game. Personal attacks, particularly anonymous personal attacks, have no place in the Salt Spring universe.

republicofsaltspring@mac.com

HOME OUT OF RANGE: AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SERIES

» FIFTH IN A SERIES OF STORIES

Housing strategy offers hope during time of urgency

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The rising cost of home ownership over the past decade, along with the rental cycle known colloquially as the “Salt Spring Shuffle,” threatens more than young families struggling to gather a down payment for a decent place to call their own.

Whether it's the island's homeless population, working families, youth or the elderly, virtually every demographic group faces a brick wall when it comes to locking up stable, secure and affordable housing.

Given that housing issues can have an impact on school enrollment, the local labour force and even the island's reputation as a leader in the arts and culture scene, it's a challenge to find anyone who is completely immune from the island's housing woes.

A frequent refrain heard during interviews and from readers over the course of the five-part Home Out of Range series has been the warning call that if serious action isn't undertaken soon, Salt Spring will become an enclave for the wealthy, an island whose work force is shipped in from more affordable housing markets on Vancouver Island.

According to Cherie Geauvreau, a driving force behind the Copper Kettle Community Partnership, one need only watch workers coming off the morning ferries at Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius Bay to see that the shift is already at work.

Preserving the kind of community that has attracted so many newcomers while, at the same time, encouraged so many long-time residents to hang on regardless of the odds, she said, is a responsibility that falls upon each of the island's nearly 10,000 residents.

“We need to get together face to face,” Geauvreau said. “We are all responsible. No group can do it alone.”

Geauvreau, who has spent nearly 15 years working on a novel concept to house Salt Spring's homeless population, has seen plenty of opportunities get caught up in red tape.

In a climate where even working families have trouble meeting affordability requirements, she said, the island's homeless aren't doing much better. (See sidebar.)

Geauvreau's “Wagon Wheel” idea involves five or six small separate sleeping units surrounding a large communal space where residents eat, meet and can contribute to the strength of the project. The model involves on-site gardens and a mix of private and public space designed to appeal to the island's homeless and hard to house.

Whether it be the high cost of land, tenancy agreements, building codes, density restrictions, start-up costs or community apathy, the Wagon Wheel remains a project in name only.

“We could find a way to take care of this in this community. Individual groups have been wanting to do this, that and the other thing, but regulatory barriers and high fees

just stop the projects in their tracks,” she said. “We're always plugging away behind the scenes to be a voice for the people.”

Over on Lower Ganges Road, architect Wolfgang Wenzel's Suncatcher Cottages is a proposal to create 10 units of additional rental accommodation near Baker Road.

The project involves rainwater catchment, geothermal heating, passive solar design and energy-efficient fixtures and appliances.

“It's our intention to make these cottages the most energy-efficient rental units on the island,” he said. “We estimate a decrease in energy consumption of over 40 per cent compared with traditional construction.”

Given that it's been nearly 20 years since he began work on the plan, Wenzel has had plenty of time to refine his concept.

Despite his best arguments, however, he's been repeatedly talked out of his idea by planners at the Islands Trust who contend that the project stands little chance of success without a housing agreement to control who lives in the units and how much they'll pay.

“It's time to get 'er done and we are the kind of community that can do it.”

CHERIE GEAUVREAU
Co-founder, Copper Kettle Community Partnership

Given that he's not prepared to concede total control of his investment, Wenzel, who cannot afford to file an application under such uncertain circumstances, awaits some sign that local governments are willing to cooperate.

Judging from the hype surrounding the anticipated release of the island's new housing strategy in February, Wenzel and Geauvreau may have good reasons to get excited.

The affordable housing strategy seeks to identify priorities, develop implementation plans, and establish provisions for monitoring and evaluating outcomes.

It might sound like a bland process to create yet another report and use up a whole lot more paper. However, the strategy will hopefully generate enough public input to fuel real action on the ground.

According to the 2009 Housing Needs Assessment, there's no better place for that

cooperation to begin than at the local government level.

“Local governments can be active in supporting the creation of affordable housing through a number of tools and partnerships,” reads an excerpt from the document.

While the Islands Trust has the power to control land use, rezoning and density, the Capital Regional District has access to the property tax base and has applied levies to fund the Regional Housing Trust Fund for the development of affordable rental housing projects.

“These two arms of Salt Spring's local government, working towards a common goal,” the report states, “have the capacity to have an impact on the affordable housing issues in our community.”

Areas for further investigation, according to JG Consulting's Janis Gauthier, include legalizing suites and cottages, and amending land-use regulations to enable the development of more affordable housing.

For Geauvreau, the strategy represents the first time she and her Wagon Wheel concept have been included in such an analysis. She feels the housing strategy represents a crucial point in her dream to see the project through to completion, or at least embark on some kind of measurable start.

Others, like Wenzel, can only hope the strategy will create a new and more amenable environment for innovative and progressive proposals to get proper consideration without the burden of financial uncertainty and never-ending bureaucratic delays.

Geauvreau pins much of the blame for today's housing crisis, evidence of which can be seen across the country, on the federal government's decision to get out of the social housing business back in the early 1990s.

Without federal engagement, she said, the responsibility for housing and other social programs has fallen to volunteers, locally elected officials, community groups and investors to pick up the slack and produce meaningful solutions.

Based on what she's noticed over the past 20 years, the vast majority of communities have failed to get organized and fill that gap. She also noticed a growing demand from across the island to see that something gets done to bring a warm place to sleep and a place to call home within islanders' range.

“We are a community that is able enough to find a solution,” Geauvreau said. “It's time to get 'er done and we are the kind of community that can do it.”

Come February, we'll see if she's right.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Survey finds island ranks among homeless hotspots in B.C.

If there was ever any doubt about the scale of Salt Spring's housing mess, one need only look at numbers produced by the 2007 Homelessness Count.

The Greater Victoria initiative was coordinated by the Cool Aid Society in conjunction with local groups such as the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society to determine the scale of what many housing advocates view as the housing crisis' most vulnerable victims.

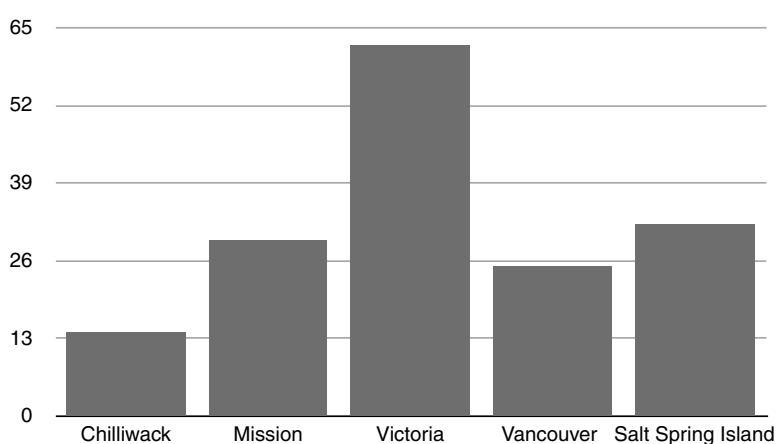
Based on data collected from hot lunch programs and the island's food bank, researchers discovered that there were “at least 32 homeless individuals on the island and an additional 30 to 50 individuals at imminent risk of homelessness or living in substantially substandard housing.”

When compared to the rest of the province, only Victoria, with roughly 62 homeless people per 10,000 inhabitants, ranks higher.

The report notes that rural communities like Salt Spring are subject to under reporting due to given that many individuals are spread out throughout “bush camps, vehicles and couch-surfing arrangements.”

Since the 2007 count, some observers believe the homeless numbers have risen even higher.

■ Number of homeless persons / 10,000 inhabitants (Homeless Count 2007)



SALT SPRING ISLAND'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTINUUM

Emergency / Cold Weather Shelter

Housing for the Homeless and/or Special Needs

Housing for those at Risk of Homelessness

Housing with Rental Assistance

Market Rentals or Entry-level Homeownership

The community-sponsored housing strategy slated for public release in February is a serious shot at resolving the full range of housing needs on the island.

Be it the need for a permanent emergency and cold weather shelter to market rentals and entry-level home ownership opportunities, all segments of the continuum are in need of affordable housing.

“Affordability is such a critical issue for everyone from the homeless, those with special needs, singles, families and seniors,” wrote Janis Gauthier of JG Consulting.

While more arduous and open ended than a focused approach, the comprehensive strategy was adopted on grounds that it is “flexible and effective in dealing with the ongoing and changing housing needs as they emerge.”

OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

FOOD FOR SANTA:

Santa jumps for joy on Christmas Eve. He was last spotted on Salt Spring at the Rainbow Road Pool, visiting with children who brought food bank items — just prior to heading back to the North Pole.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from A7

Downtown character degradation

The expansion of Mark's Work Warehouse to take over such a disproportionate portion of our downtown business frontage is very disturbing. The loss of character of such a prominent location in our business core must be discussed and regulated by an overseeing town council with an architectural review board.

Unfortunately, we don't have one! This is just one more reason why a "town council" of local-

ly elected concerned islanders should be in control of what transpires on Salt Spring.

We must be able to plan regulate and control the architectural character of our downtown business core.

Salt Spring Island must become a self-governing municipality, working together with the Islands Trust to preserve and protect our island community's destiny.

KAREN AND WAYNE TEPPER, VESUVIUS

Rare opportunity

We, the voters of the Saanich and the Islands electoral district, have, in the next federal election, the golden opportunity to introduce epochal change and

the voice of reason to Ottawa.

Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green Party of Canada, has been named as one of the 100 most influential women in the world. U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are in good company.

As we have all learned by reading Ms. May's articles regularly published in the Island Tides, she is a highly intelligent and forward-thinking environmentalist, keenly abreast of world affairs as well as the machinations in Ottawa.

Let us not miss this rare opportunity.

BETTY POOLE, SALT SPRING

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SUNDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 19	MONDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 20	TUESDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 21	WEDNESDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 22	THURSDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 23	FRIDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 24	SATURDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 25
SUNDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 26	MONDAY <i>Closed</i> Dec. 27	TUESDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 28	WEDNESDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 29	THURSDAY <i>Open</i> Dec. 30	FRIDAY <i>Open</i> Jan. 31	SATURDAY <i>Closed</i> Jan. 1
SUNDAY <i>Closed</i> Jan. 2	MONDAY <i>Closed</i> Jan. 3	TUESDAY <i>Open</i> Jan. 4	<i>Back to Regular Hours</i> Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm			

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The Recycling Depot is operated by SSI Community Services Society

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Bags of coal to those in the community who try to publicly humiliate good people with distasteful videos. J. Gelwicks

Roses

Dozens of red velvet Christmas roses to Mary Small for a job well done decorating the Legion. It couldn't have been done without you! And it looks beautiful.

Sleighs full of Christmas roses for Windsor Plywood for its generous support of Scouts and Girl Guides in the selling of Christmas trees. More roses for those who purchased their tree at Windsor Plywood. Our youth have many opportunities for camps and international travel because of this wonderful community support.

A bunch of brilliant poinsettias to the Driftwood for providing this year's carol section. You again enhanced many celebrations in song during the festive Christmas season.

Beautiful Christmas roses to Dawn for her wonderful, thoughtful, hand-

made cracker treats that went out to the Meals on Wheels clients! They were very much appreciated by one and all. Catherine

Happy holiday and New Year's wishes and a lovely thank you bouquet to our island trustees, George and Christine, for all their dedication, hard work, intelligence and good hearts. We are lucky to have you both representing our island. Friends

A rose to the good neighbour who found my truck to be without the foot brake on. You saved a nasty situation by taking the trouble to put a concrete block against the front wheel. Thank you and very best wishes for the New Year.

Copper roses to you all at Transition Salt Spring for the generous donation of six hazelnut trees for our Copper Kettle friendship garden. Forward we go. CKCP

Merry Xmas red roses to B-Side. Mel, your generous gift of new shoes made a young man very happy and step forward in fine style. Cheers! SSICS Outreach

Here are the winners for the Driftwood's holiday Gift Guide

AMARAH GABRIEL
Winner of \$250 in Salt Spring Currency

IAN RAINSFORD
Winner of \$150 in Salt Spring Currency

ANN MCPHEE
Winner of \$100 in Salt Spring Currency

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ART ON TAP: Anthony Matthews is seen with a Richard Hunt moon mask — on exhibit at Pegasus Gallery in Ganges.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo club exhibits Elements

In the ArtSpring lobby through January

The Salt Spring Photography Club brings the world inside with an exhibition in the ArtSpring lobby through January.

The Elements show begins on Jan. 3 and is accessible weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and evenings or weekends during performances.

"Elements" refers to the four elements of earth, air, fire and water, the four themes members have been structuring their photographic activities around during these last few months. Works will be available for purchase.

"We are very pleased by the number of entries for this winter show," said Bob Rogers, the first club president. "We have an abundance of work to share with the community, and are very proud and happy to be offering this quality of art to the community."

Together with founding members secretary/treasurer and vice president Tom James, educational coordinator Simon Henson and Robert Allen, Rogers helped organize the SSPC in 2008 as a group intended for the exchange of ideas and technical knowledge about photography.

"Under the leadership of these generous and visionary men, SSPC has grown to nearly 60 members with over 50 years age difference between the oldest and the youngest, and an equally wide span of photographic experience, ranging from beginners to retired professionals," states press material.

The club has three venues for sharing the exchange of ideas and technical knowledge. The first is a formal monthly meeting held every second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Vesuvius Bay Road. Meetings begin with club business, a short educational presentation, and are followed by a friendly critiques and an appreciation session of members' submitted photographs relating to that particular month's theme.

Second, the photography club website is a place where members can post their images and blogs and offer critique on other members' work.

"Lively discussions on the site have gone beyond the technical to the philosophical, and some have

even stimulated thought-provoking questions and greater creative expression."

The third venue is an informal Monday morning coffee-and-muffin gathering at 10 a.m. at the Harbour House restaurant, where "everything photographic, and sometimes entirely non-photographic, is discussed."

The Salt Spring Photography Club has become a vibrant, creative organization of individuals united in a common love of photography with an enthusiastic willingness to support and encourage each other.

"We are very grateful for this opportunity to bring our work before the community. Anyone who knows how many accomplished artists we have on Salt Spring Island will not want to miss this," said Henson.

For more information, visit the group's website at www.ssphotog.ca.

WHAT'S ON
 PAGE 12

Tree House Cafe

Join us Wednesday nights throughout the winter as we celebrate the food of different regions of the world

A Taste of India Dec 29
A Taste of Morocco Jan 5
 Check our website for different regions and menus every Wednesday

\$6 Early Bird Breakfast
 Mon-Fri Before 10am

Music this Week 5:30-8:30pm
 Thur TBA
 Fri Closed for New Year's
 Sat Closed for New Year's

Sunday-Tuesday 8am-4pm
Wednesday-Saturday 8am-8:30pm

www.treehousecafe.ca ph 250-537-5379

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
 for a
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

The work requires: site preparation for a 2800 sq. ft. portable structure, coordination of site services, and connection of the site services.

Qualified contractors are invited to pick up a Request for Quotation information package from the supervisor on duty at the library, 129 McPhillips Avenue. Packages are available now, and responses are due by January 11, 2011. For additional information contact D. Hepburn 250-653-4949

Salt Spring Island Public Library
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Host: Valdy

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CFSI 107.9 FM
 Salt Spring Radio
 Listen online at www.cfsi-fm.com

What's On This Week

www.gulfislandstourism.com/calendar.htm



Wed.
December 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Stage.
Wednesdays with Stephanie Rhodes at Moby's. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Free Rollerblading.
At Fulford Hall. 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Thurs.
December 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic.
Thursdays at The Local pub. 6 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Alumni Basketball Games.
GISS junior and senior Scorpions play a GISS alumni team at GISS. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Monetary Foundation.
AGM at Central Hall. 4 p.m.

Fri.
December 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gregorian New Year's Eve Gathering.
Music by DJs Adham Shaikh, Kreuger Singh, Gradpa Phunk, Bron Tron, Invisibling and Coi plus live jam with CICO. 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Beaver Point Hall.
Salt Spring Goodtimes Band.
New Year's Eve dance with Bill Henderson, Harry Manx, Valdy, Greg Pauker and more at Fulford Hall. Benefit for Wolf Kids and Jamie Reimer Fund. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.
New Year's Eve Party.
With Run for Cover at Moby's.
Sue Newman Band.
Music and dancing with Sue Newman and a four-piece jazz band. Harbour House Hotel. 9 p.m. to midnight.
Newfie New Year's.
A special Newfie New Year's celebration with food, prizes and fun at the Royal Canadian Legion. Members & guests. 5:30 p.m.

Fri.
December 31

ACTIVITIES

Harbour House Winemakers' Dinner.
Five-course gala meal with wine pairings from Averill Creek Winery. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. See saltspringharbourhouse.com for menu and reservation info.
New Year's Dinner at Bruce's Kitchen.
Extra-special three-course meal. Reserve at 250-931-3399.
New Year's Eve Milonga.
At All Saints By-the-Sea. 9 p.m. Info: Laura, 250-537-4077.

Sat.
January 1

ACTIVITIES

Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim.
Plunge time is 12 noon sharp.

Sun.
January 2

ACTIVITIES

No activities scheduled at this time.

Mon.
January 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

No activities scheduled at this time.

Tues.
January 4

ACTIVITIES

No activities scheduled at this time.

Wed.
January 5

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.

ACTIVITIES

No activities scheduled at this time.



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New Year's Eve 2010

AVERILL CREEK VINEYARD

New Year's Eve Winemaker's Dinner
Join us as our Chef Paul Stewart creates a 5 course gala tasting menu, expertly paired with wines from the Averill Creek Vineyard cellars by Andy Johnston, winemaker: \$95 per person. (Includes gratuity)
Dinner starts at 6:30pm.
Jazz Music by guitarist Lloyd English & his friends.
Reservations required: 250-537-4700

After Dinner
We invite all to join us as the New Year's Eve celebration will continue with music from the Sue Newman band, dancing, party favours and a midnight champagne toast: \$7.50 cover, complimentary for Winemaker's Dinner guests!

THE HARBOUR HOUSE Salt Spring

Menus at:
saltspringharbourhouse.com

CINEMA

The Chronicles of Narnia - The Voyage of the Dawn Treader — Edmund and Lucy along with their cousin Eustace are swallowed into a painting and transported back to Narnia and the magnificent ship The Dawn Treader. They join King Caspian and a warrior mouse named Reepicheep for a mission which holds the fate of Narnia itself. The courageous voyagers overcome their own greatest temptations, as they travel to mysterious islands; have fateful confrontations with magical creatures and sinister enemies; and reunite with their friend and protector, the "Great Lion" Aslan.

EXHIBITIONS

- **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.
- **Salt Spring Photography Club** presents an exhibit called Elements in the **ArtSpring** lobby space from Jan. 3 through 31.
- **Imaginary Landscapes**, an exhibit of paintings by Vancouver artist Andrew Gibbs, runs at **Market Place Cafe** through Jan. 30.
- **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.
- **Lou Ellis** shows photos at **TJ Beans**.
- 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**.

Polar Bear Swim
Vesuvius Beach
Saturday, January 1st
@ noon

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LIBRARY

20th-century poets collection gets boost at the library

New acquisitions

BY JOHN MILLS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Over the last few months the library has expanded its poetry collection by acquiring the works of many of the poets regarded as key figures in the 20th century.

The collection will now include Ezra Pound's Cantos — these long poems along with Pound's wonderful and very eccentric translations from such languages as Provençal and Anglo-Saxon, together with the work of T.S. Eliot, whose Collected Poems is already on our shelves, were major influences on the development of "modernism."

We have increased the library holdings with many of the poets of Pound's generation, for instance Marianne Moore, who deserves a place in the canon if

only for her remark that a poem "is an imaginary garden with real toads in it," and whose poetry has delighted me ever since I encountered it as a teenager; Wallace Stevens, a philosophical, meditative writer with an extraordinary visual imagination; e.e. cummings, an attractive, anti-authoritarian, anti-establishment, anti-traditional poet whose lyrical and intimate language creates a voice that is totally individual; A line of his that stays in my mind is about a politician who is: "an arse upon/ Which everything has sat except a man." We can contrast his with the quieter, conversational style of Elizabeth Bishop, whose gift for understated fantasy reaches its peak in her classic Man-Moth.

Another modernist, William Carlos Williams, in contrast to Pound and Eliot,

refused to draw on and continue the European tradition but attempted to find his inspiration in his own community — trying to "forge a reply to Greek and Latin with bare hands."

We have included Robert Graves among the modernists, not only as a fine poet but as an influential critic whose writings, along with those of Laura Riding, established a new way of talking about poetry. The Thirties, already represented in the library by W.H. Auden, will now include Louis MacNeice, whose Bagpipe Music is another of those poems that has stayed in my mind since childhood.

In the '40s you could hear new voices—Dylan Thomas' for one. His reputation these days seems to rest on Under Milk Wood and A Child's Christmas in Wales, but poems like Fern Hill, Do not go Gentle into that

Goodnight and Lament put him among the immortals.

Theodore Roethke's name has often been associated with Thomas. He has a similar bardic quality and an idiosyncratic language. I particularly like the poem that begins "I have known the inexorable sadness of pencils/ Neat in their boxes, colour of pad and paperweight . . ." a kind of office manager's lament.

The late Thom Gunn is a poet of my own generation and we have shared the same teacher, the critic Yvor Winters. Gunn projects the persona of tough, leather-clad biker imbued with a raw sensitivity with great success and, like Winters, is a proponent of the short poem written in plain style. This is not the mode of Geoffrey Hill, whose earlier poems seem to me very fine but who has acquired, through

the years, an increasing darkness of tone and complexity of language.

Ted Hughes, British Poet Laureate for many years, made his reputation with vigorous, rough poems celebrating nature and the being in touch with its underlying violence. I especially love his gentler and highly sophisticated translations from Ovid. The next Poet Laureate but one from Hughes is Carol Ann Duffy, the first woman ever to be selected for this position, and the first Scot. Philip Larkin is generally regarded as Britain's pre-eminent post war poet. I first came across him in the following lines: "Why should I let the toad work/Squat on my life? Can't I use my wit as a pitchfork/And drive the brute off?" A very good question, in my view, and if you are an undergraduate, write me an essay comparing Larkin's use of Toad to

Marianne Moore's.

I've chosen two fine American poets to represent their country's contribution to this generation. One is the ill-starred Sylvia Plath, and W.S. Merwin. Plath is well-known and for the wrong reasons — the passion and intensity of her work transcends her tragic history. Merwin has over the years

become profounder in vision and simpler in style.

This list of "important" poets is by no means intended to be exhaustive. I have left out the Beats, the New York poets and the San Francisco school for the simple reason that I don't know as much about them. We welcome your suggestions.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Valdy set to play the Legion for Newfie New Year

Limited tickets left

People who find it hard to stay up until midnight can party in another time zone with the Newfie New Year's event at Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 92.

Open to members and guests of the Legion, the evening upstairs in the lounge features a performance by Valdy from 5:30 to 9 p.m. as well as a menu of Atlantic treats.

The \$25 ticket includes hats and party favours.

A cash bar will be in operation. Tickets are available at the bar, but organizers warn the event is nearly sold out.

May hope, love, and warmth be in your heart's possessing, and may the New Year bring you and yours many blessings

Happy New Year!!!

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There's been lots of folks who have come and gone in that time, and we actually tried to figure it out - but realized Claudia was the only one who would be able to compile the names.

Claudia - you are known and loved by countless numbers of Islanders.

So after December 30th, enjoy a break from your full time duties, and we'll see you again at vacation time, when you give us a hand at the front counter!

- Your fellow Driftwoodians.



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People & Community

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FUNDRAISING

Knit Wits rise to new challenge

Dozens of 'Izzies' headed across the sea

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of knitters and sewers at the Meadowbrook seniors' residence has embarked on a novel way to honour the memory of a fallen Canadian soldier while helping impoverished orphans around the globe.

During the past several weeks, the Knit Wits have stitched together about 40 handcrafted dolls for the International Community for the Relief of Suffering and Starvation (ICROSS).

The finished dolls are about 15 centimetres long and similar in size and shape to a pair of rolled-up tube socks. Once the dolls are fully decorated, the eclectically adorned multiracial dolls make an ideal present for children of any age. The Knit Wits usually devote their sewing prowess to the creation of dolls for the SOLID boutique on McPhillips Avenue. Proceeds from sale of items go to the organization's projects throughout the African continent.

"We've been doing this for a number of years now and I've lost track of how many of them we've made," said Constance Goodall, one of the group's lead co-ordinators.

The Knit Wits mainstays are blankets and toques destined for babies and children targeted by SOLID's development projects.

The decision to expand their repertoire to include dolls, Good-



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Members of Meadowbrook's Knit Wits have contributed to a Canada-wide effort that provides orphans in developing countries with handcrafted dolls.

"We've been doing this for a number of years now and I've lost track of how many of them we've made."

CONSTANCE GOODALL
Meadowbrook Knit Wit

all said, happened when the group heard about ICROSS' use of the "Izzy" dolls to replace plastic packing peanuts and bubble wrap that accompanies shipments to aid projects around the world.

What used to end up in the trash or left on

the side of the road now brings a smile to thousands of children.

"The kids just love them," said KnitWit Shirley McIntyre. "They're sent everywhere with Doctors Without Borders and SOLID."

The Meadowbrook Knit Wits took a short break from their responsibilities at SOLID to focus exclusively on the ICROSS initiative, an effort organized by fellow-islander Mollie Colson.

The "Izzy" dolls are the legacy of Master Corp. Mark Isfeld, a member of the Canadian Military Engineers who died while participating in a United Nations-led peacekeeping mission in Croatia during the early '90s.

Isfeld's mother Carol had always made sure her son had a plentiful

stock of hand-knit blankets, hats and gloves to hand out to people he met overseas.

Carol was inspired to begin making dolls after she heard of a doll her son had recovered from a bombed-out village while on duty.

Though Carol passed away in 2007, thousands of knitters, sewers and crocheters across Canada carry on the tradition.

And Salt Spring's Knit Wits are only too happy to take part in the movement.

More information about the ICROSS-sponsored "Dolls of Joy" project is available online at <http://icross-canada.com/books.php>. The Knit Wits products are available at SOLID's McPhillips Avenue retail outlet. More information is available by calling 250-537-0863.

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New Year's Eve 2010

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New Year's Eve Winemaker's Dinner

Join us as our Executive Chef Paul Stewart and Andy Johnston of Averill Creek Winery prepare a 5-course gala tasting menu, perfectly paired with wines from Andy's cellars: \$95 per person. (Includes gratuity)

Dinner starts at 6:30pm.
Jazz Music by guitarist Lloyd English and his friends.

Reservations required: 250-537-4700

After Dinner

We invite all to join us as the New Year's Eve celebration will continue with music from the Sue Newman band, dancing, party favours and a midnight champagne toast: \$7.50 cover, complimentary for Winemaker's Dinner guests!



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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

TECHNOLOGY

Salt Spring Digital 'experiment' launches lab

Locals pitch economic vision

BY AMY GEDDES
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

He can live anywhere on the planet. All he needs is an internet connection.

Phil McCluskey, product manager at Ning, is a new breed of father-superhero. Working remotely and thus unshackled by geography, he can virtually teleport his family to any locale — hand-picking the governments, schools, community values and recreational opportunities that suit an ideal vision of “home.” McCluskey chose Salt Spring Island.

“My wife and I decided we could live almost anywhere,” McCluskey writes in an e-mail. “We wanted to live on the west coast of Canada and my



PHOTO BY AMY GEDDES

From left, Jon Suk, Suzanne Little, Phillip Reece, Margery Moore, Johan Bosman, Christopher Roy and son Magnus in the new Salt Spring Digital Lab space.

wife found Salt Spring by Googling ‘artists colony British Columbia.’”

There are more digital professionals like McCluskey who have shed their urban coils to build new lives in a Pacific coast paradise. Tucked into corners of Salt Spring Island they bang away on keyboards or Skype with colleagues in New York and China, while sheep graze in fields over the horizon of their laptops.

At a schmooze-athon at the Harbour House on Dec. 14, island “techie” ventured out from their home offices to meet their digital counterparts to take part in a growing conversation/experiment dubbed “Salt Spring Digital.” Over 70 local programmers, designers, writers, publicists, social media consultants — anyone whose work is linked with the internet — circulated in a room that also bustled with regular Green Drinks attendees. It was a marriage of

two existing groups that had been meeting separately — the SpringUp (or TweetUp) techies and Green Drinks advocates of sustainability.

What began as a “TweetUp” in Fulford in October has, in only a month-and-a-half, developed into an “experiment” with a name — Salt Spring Digital; a location — a Salt Spring Digital Lab space in Grace Point Square; some seed money from Salt Spring’s Institute for Sustainability Education and Action (I-SEA) as well as from a group of local digital professionals; and a core organizing group composed of Jon Suk, Philip Reece, Phil McCluskey, Margery Moore, Suzanne Little, Pravin Pillay, Johan Bosman, John Bateman, Rob Wiltzen and Christopher Roy.

Margery Moore, environmental software builder and I-SEA founder, explained that while some may wonder why I-SEA is interested in a

digital island economy, she sees it as a natural pairing.

“I see that a sustainable economy is a digital economy. There is an absolute link between people who work at home in their rural communities and the creation of businesses and opportunities online so we don’t have to travel.”

She says a digital economy is also sustainable from a socio-economic perspective. “We want to keep and attract a younger demographic.”

For Moore, the green component of Salt Spring Digital not only makes sense but is also what gives it a unique “flavour” versus other startup support initiatives active in B.C. like BootUp in Vancouver.

“Salt Spring is known as a greening centre . . . we have a brains trust of sustainability and green ideas and knowledge,” she says. “We can parlay that into IT services and products.”

An emphasis on social enterprise that contributes to some form of social and environmental good would be highly desirable to attract, she explains.

“We can knit together a really compelling Salt Spring package, if you will, a very tight kind of brand to attract people to come here.”

Salt Spring’s physical environment is also a key selling point.

“Business meccas don’t have to be city centres anymore,” communications and media consultant Suzanne Little writes in a Twitter post. “Virtual/digital work w/ global reach can be in beautiful remote places.”

While digital professionals like McCluskey, Moore and Little are indeed successful in business as they live out their remote-island dreams, a key component missing, however, is a central networking hub that enables them to connect, face-to-face, with fellow island professionals. Instead of having to travel to Vancouver or Victoria to connect with colleagues, attend workshops and build skills, many (as Little alludes to in her Twitter post) are asking: “Why not have it all here?”

The new Salt Spring Digital Lab location will soon host workshops, events, mentoring programs and possibly webinars that could be broadcast around the world.

When asked what he envisions a sustainable, digital economy will

look like, Christopher Roy, co-founder of the Salt Spring Exchange, says, “One example that comes to mind is small companies, island-based entrepreneurs that use internet technology and build unique products or services, they have four to five people in the company, they come here with families, their income is based on off-island sources but they live here year-round, they collaborate with others around the world and locally, they’re working to advance technology, contributing to the tax base, their kids are in school and they’re employing other people on-island, and my hope is that they are doing something with a strong social venture/purpose component, or a social contribution.”

The Harbour House event turnout itself (the largest Green Drinks had ever seen) was a testament to the burgeoning enthusiasm for the Salt Spring Digital experiment. However, the core group has drummed up only enough seed money for the next six months. Grant opportunities are actively being sought out and independent donors are welcomed to support the concept.

Anyone interested in contributing can phone the Salt Spring Digital line at 250-483-5833. Other ways to connect include joining the 65-plus members on the Salt Spring Digital Facebook group and/or attending the open house slated for January.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS — 2010

January

- Property values for the Gulf Islands dropped an average of 1.9 per cent from the year before. Assessment rolls for 2010 showed an average property value of \$407,494 versus \$415,392 in 2009. The trend differed from the provincial roll, which saw an average increase of 1.7 per cent across B.C.

- A violent windstorm that swept across the region likely caused the death of 48-year-old David Barnard, whose body was recovered from Fulford Harbour. Salt Spring emergency crews were called to the scene of a sunken 12-metre (40-foot) live-aboard fishing trawler the morning following the storm.

- The wind storm in which Barnard died also kicked up island havoc, with winds reaching 99 km per hour and gusts hitting 120 km/hr. The storm caused lasting damage to numerous island homes as trees and debris fell, and hundreds of homes were left without power. Schools closed and ferries were shut down.

- Islanders Elizabeth Yake and Jackie Rieder organized a clothing drive on Salt Spring as people around the world responded to a devastating earthquake in Haiti. The Rotary Club also fundraised for numerous Shelterboxes.



One of the biggest island controversies of 2010 — and the subject drawing the most letters to the editor — was the decision by Salt Spring Coffee Company to move its operations off-island, due to its inability to find adequately-zoned property on Salt Spring. The issue was at the root of a groundswell of anti-Islands Trust sentiment, which culminated at an Islanders for Self-Government “coffee party” on “Independence Day.” (See July section for more details.)

February

- Salt Spring’s affordable housing crisis was confirmed in black and white with the release of the Islands Trust Housing Needs Assessment. Among the report’s discoveries was that the lack of affordable housing impacts virtually every segment of the island, from the homeless to young working families and seniors.

- A rezoning application in process with the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) was withdrawn by the Abbeyfield Housing Society, putting the brakes on a longtime dream for affordable seniors’ housing in the south end of the island. Funding requirements that weren’t in line with the Abbeyfield vision ultimately caused the landowners, who had donated acreage for the project, to withdraw their offer.

- Islanders were swept away with Olympic fervour as the 2010 Winter Games got underway in Vancouver and Whistler. While many people watched the action both live and on television, others volunteered at the games, taking on various roles.

- Recreation Excellence, the group that operates Rainbow Road Pool, said in its annual report that usage of the indoor pool facility

had “exceeded all expectations.” Despite the good news, the group warned that attendance at swimming pools has traditionally dropped by up to 50 per cent during the second and third years of operation.

March

- Salt Spring residents Donald and Judy McLennan were being hailed as heroes after rushing to the scene of a fatal house fire on the mainland. The couple was staying at a house in Point Grey when they learned a fire had broken out on the second storey of a neighbouring home. Donald and his host Susan O’Reilly entered the house and were able to lead an elderly woman away to safety.

- Islanders celebrated on the streets, honking horns and waving Canadian flags, as Team Canada’s men’s hockey team beat out the U.S. team for the gold medal in an exciting overtime game.

- The island’s healthcare services received a much-needed dose of relief when the Salt Spring LTC approved a temporary use permit for a Kings Lane medical clinic.

MARCH: Islanders celebrated on the streets, honking horns and waving Canadian flags, as Team Canada’s men’s hockey team beat out the U.S. team for the gold medal in an exciting overtime game.

The two-year permit increased the maximum allowable number of physician offices in the building from two to five.

- Thirty-year-old Simon Teskey pleaded guilty to aggravated assault in Ganges Provincial Court. The charges stemmed from an incident in which he used a large knife to slash the neck of an acquaintance who had come to collect a \$200 drug debt.

- Richard Murakami was one of 45 people to be honoured with a B.C. Community Achievement Award. He was selected as a result of his “selfless acts of generosity, large and small.”

- Islands Trust Council approved a \$6.4-million budget, which included funds needed for a new legislative services manager position. The Trust’s 2010-11 budget

was slightly lower than the year previous, but property owners would be paying 4.6 per cent more than in 2009-10.

- The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) had successfully negotiated a conditional agreement to purchase 50 acres of land in the Fulford Valley. Site plans called for development of an extensive trail network, two soccer fields, four baseball diamonds, a tennis court, community garden and public washrooms.

April

- El Nino was blamed for a massive Good Friday storm that felled trees, outed power, damaged boats and resulted in ferry cancellations. B.C. Hydro called it the most destructive storm since 2006.

- Fulford Harbour Waterworks District ratepayers were asking the provincial government to order an independent professional engineering review and audit of the work done on a system upgrade managed by the CRD since 2005, which remained incomplete and overbudget.

- A local videographer was seeking legal advice after being asked to turn off his camera during a meeting of the Salt Spring LTC. Paul McGowan said he could see no reason why a member of the public shouldn’t be allowed to film proceedings of a public meeting.

- More than 60 people attended a meeting to share their concerns about PARC’s proposal to purchase and develop a Burgoyne valley parcel for a sports park. PARC eventually dropped the plan.

- Salt Spring joined other communities in the province with the arrival of anti-Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) petitions.

May

- Salt Spring Fire-Rescue Department helped avert a full-LOOKING BACK continued on A17



KIM

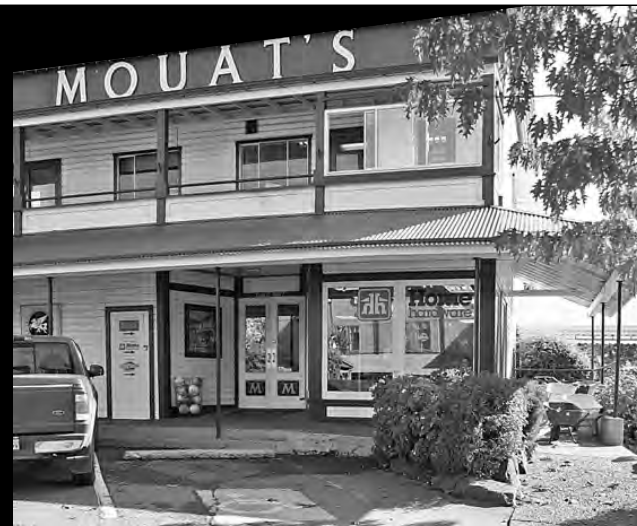


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YEAR IN REVIEW

LOOKING BACK

continued from A17

disaster at a Beddis Road heritage house, when a chimney fire spread to the attic and roof. No one was hurt and the fire at the Royal family home was contained.

• Residents of an Eagle Ridge Drive home were less lucky the following week, after a dramatic fire ravaged their house and home-based business. The fire destroyed the office of Imagine That Graphics; however, most of the family's possessions were saved before the fire spread. No one was injured.

JUNE: Ganges Gas dropped the price of gas so it became more comparable to off-island prices. The move . . . occurred just a few weeks prior to the opening of the new Mid-Island Co-op gas station, which set its prices to match those of the Duncan area.

• Plans for development of the Swanson's Pond property took a significant leap forward after the Salt Spring LTC approved a development permit for the Ganges-area housing project.

• A third structure fire in 11 days on Salt Spring destroyed a cottage on Byron Road. By the time firefighters arrived on the scene, the fire — which started in the chimney — had already spread to the roof. Debris began falling inside the cottage, where furniture ignited and the fire quickly spread.

• Salt Spring Coffee Co. owner Mickey McLeod said his company would not try to find another location on Salt Spring. Instead, he planned to move the business to Vancouver by the end of the summer.

• About 50 people were evacuated from the Rainbow Road Pool after a fire broke out in the boiler room. Pool manager Jim Raddysh used a fire extinguisher on a smokey hot water boiler before calling the fire department. Once the fire was under control, swimmers

were able to retrieve their belongings. The pool reopened two days later.

June

• Darlene Steele, alternate director to the CRD, resigned from PARC and as alternate director over a controversy involving pool fees. Steele and CRD director Garth Hendren squabbled after she recommended pool fees be increased to up to \$6.50 for adults. Hendren later called the situation an "unfortunate event."

• Limiting surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital (LMH) and redirecting money to seniors and mental health needs was the main thrust of a Salt Spring Island Health Review released by the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

• Ganges Gas dropped the price of gas so it became more comparable to off-island prices. The move was made in an effort to encourage local fill-ups and occurred just a few weeks prior to the opening of the new Mid-Island Co-op gas station, which set its prices to match those of the Duncan area.

• The body of Lorne Martin, a well-known man on Salt Spring, was discovered by searchers a day after people alerted police that he hadn't been seen for a few days.

• Island entrepreneur David O'Flynn was ordered to take his business off the street when Islands Trust bylaw enforcement officer Miles Drew asked him to cease operating his hot dog cart and beverage stand in Fulford village.

• A crowd of islanders filled the GISS multi-purpose room to voice opinions on the controversial Salt Spring Island Health Review. At least 120 people were on hand for the VIHA-facilitated question and answer period.

• The interior of a Broadwell Road home was destroyed after kitchen pots left unattended on the stove started a kitchen fire, which got out of control. Two residents of the house were taken to LMH, one suffering minor burns, the other from smoke inhalation.

July

• Frustration and discontent with the Islands Trust rolled into Centennial Park as hundreds of residents from throughout the Trust area called for a change to the way they are governed. Held July 4, and termed "Independence Day," the Islanders for Self-Government-sponsored event culminated in a "coffee party," where boxes and sacks of Salt Spring Coffee were thrown into the harbour in protest of the Islands Trust.

HIGHLIGHTS continued on A19



This structure fire on Byron Road was just one of several fires fought by local Fire-Rescue crews in the spring of 2010.

• Salt Spring's Raffi-inspired Centre for Child Honouring opened its doors with a celebration of music, food and information on Jan. 17.

• A \$700,000, 18-metre long, 3.2-metre wide security checkpoint landed on the Ganges waterfront in January. The "Scan 300" for float plane passengers was to stay parked between Mouat's mall and the Ganges Coast Guard office for the lead-up to and duration of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

• Ethel "Effie" Odlum celebrated

MILESTONES AND PASSAGES

her 100th birthday (Jan. 26) with friends and family. She died later in the year.

• Locals celebrated the 100th birthday of Girl Guides of Canada with a party at Meaden Hall.

• A new, much-needed medical clinic rose from the ashes of the destroyed-by-fire ambulance building on a site on Kings Lane.

• The Driftwood celebrated its 50th anniversary with a commu-

nity-wide party at ArtSpring.

• Long-time PARC maintenance man Martin Milner retired after 19 years on the job.

• Former Mayne and Fernwood school principal Bruce Stewart, who moved to Kelowna in 2000, died at St. Paul's Hospital of a rare blood disorder. He was 52.

• Salt Spring was ranked among one of the world's best-kept queer destination secrets, according to Queertrips.com.

• Long-time and well-known islander Ben Martens died.

• CFSI Radio celebrated its first anniversary in September.

• Salt Spring's branch of the IODE celebrated 95 years as the organization celebrated 110 years.

• Elmer Lee, a descendent of a Salt Spring pioneer family, born on the island in 1924, died in Victoria on Jan. 30.

• New Year's baby: Oliver Henry Friesen was born at Victoria General Hospital to Brent and Donna

Rae Friesen on Jan. 1 at 7:52 a.m.

• Mayana-Amadelle Raven Kaur was officially the first 2010 home birth on Salt Spring. She was born Jan. 22 at 2:43 a.m. to parents Amy Haysom and Sam Boparan.

• RCMP officer Jenn Burgoyne fulfilled a personal dream when she left Salt Spring to join the RCMP Musical Ride.

• Islanders mourned the death of Sandra Patricia Hunter, a former, long-time Salt Spring resident, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in Mill Bay.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

HEADLINE OF 2010

Could Salt Spring Island become the nut capital of Canada?

2010 HIGHLIGHTS

continued from A18

- Save Our Surgery (SOS) organized a morning of political street drama, involving the return of Lady Minto (Deb Toole) and other costumed personalities.

- Four businesses on Fulford-Ganges Road were looking for new homes after learning their spaces would be torn down in January 2011 and replaced by a new building for Mark's Work Warehouse. The owners of Acoustic Planet, Salt Spring Soapworks, Windflower Moon and Admiral's Specialty Food had received letters from landlord Leon Aptekman. The situation later sparked a small uproar in the community and a petition was launched to stop the plans.

AUGUST: One passenger was airlifted

to hospital and four others injured

after the Queen of Nanaimo

experienced "a hard landing."

- Yet another fire destroyed a home, this time at 1482 Fulford-Ganges Road. Fire-Rescue Chief Tom Bremner said the home was a "total loss, belongings and everything."

August

- One passenger was airlifted to a Victoria hospital and four others suffered injuries after the Queen of Nanaimo "experienced a hard landing" and plowed into the Mayne Island ferry terminal at Village Bay.

- Poor weather was being blamed as tourist stats for the year dipped by 12.5 and 14.6 per cent respectively in the first two quarters of 2010.

- Salt Spring Community Services received some \$80,000 in federal funding to help establish a shelter which would house 16 people during the coldest days of the year.

- Salt Spring livestock producers received a provincial grant that could equal as much as \$150,000 towards a mobile abattoir if matching funds could be raised.

LOOKING BACK continued on A20



In February and March, Olympic fever struck Salt Spring, culminating in men's hockey gold (above); while below, a coast guard vessel approaches a sunken troller that claimed the life of islander Dave Barnard in January.



TOP OF GAME

- Island teen Matthew Stubbs was named as a piano soloist with the Cowichan Consort Orchestra and Choir for a spring concert.

- Kemal Evans — a musician with Salt Spring roots — was named the B.C. winner of a high-level songwriting contest, springboarding him to the 17th annual Canadian RadioStar Songwriting Competition.

- Brian Brett was the recipient of the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Award for his book Trauma Farm.

- Rylan Gajek took first place at the Louis Sherman Competition in Victoria, winning \$500 and the opportunity to play with the Victoria Chamber Orchestra.

- GISS fiddler Wesley Hardisty took the stage twice as a performer at the 2010 Winter Games. He represented both the NWT and B.C. in two separate performances.

- Chris Howe, a GISS graduate currently attending UBC Okanagan, was named to the Canada junior men's national volleyball team.

- Billy George and Eric Weatherby were selected to represent the Vancouver Island/Central Coast zone on the U14 boys basketball team at the B.C. Summer Games.

- Singer Kaya Hunter made it to the finals of the Victoria Idol contest (set to take place in January 2011); while island youth band Wallabee Indeed made it through several cuts to the semi-finals of the Vancouver Island's Got Talent competition.

- Swim champ Marc Spiess won gold and bronze medals at the B.C. high school swimming championships.

- Richard Clarke was named B.C. Sailor of the Year.

From the Driftwood's obituaries in 2010.

Murray Burton Wynn; Kenneth Joseph Paul Bennet; Gladys Irene Lee; Rosemary Stallybrass; Dorothy Alice Blow; Mona Jewel Price; Leo Nelson Geary; Morton B. Stratton; Eduardo Canales; Johanna Mattheising; Barbara Diane Reynolds; David Barnard; Brian Swinburne; Dale Ostapowich; Bud Morton; Pamela Margaret Mowbray; Colinetta Wilson; Carrie Louise Cunningham; Reginald Denis Winstone; Alexandra Margaret Bell; Isobel Kerr; Ellen Mellstrom; John Norman Mallory Denton; William Wowchuk; Galen Alfred Jones; Arthur George Rumsby;

PASSED ON

Gordon Harvey McCrea; Arthur Pilon; Rodney Filtness; Valerie Gyves; Arthur Dale Fewings; Gwendolyn Honor (Mitchell) Lee; Elsie Olsen; Robert Ellison; Dorothy Jean Haines; Paul Anthony Tomlinson; Gladys Pushka; Florence Reid; Colbert (Bob) Marcotte; Thomas William Cross; B.A. (Jim) Hedgecock; John Gething; Mary Ann Lillian Butler; Molly Ann Frenette; Gordon Henry Ruckle; Margaret Barbara Brown; John A. Catley; Donna Mae Hogarth; Diane Hunter; Diana Martin Palmer; Neil Burton; Ella Smethurst; Paul Saun-

ders; Lorne Martin; Joanna Starke; William Arliss Hoag; Penny Hauge; Betty Galt; Mark Allan Baker; Ivan Greig Mouat; Brenda Margaret Davies; Harold Stone; Lance Trevor Davis; David Bolton; Mary Jane Hardie; James George Parker; (Howard) Denis Hunter; Jance Lynne Meikle; Ethel Odium; Alwyn Catchpole; Mickey Lee; Ben Martens; Ivar Reinhold; John William Moore; Lee Jay Cochran; Tom Wright; Laura Faulkner; Cathrine Honour Halliwell; Reg Ashwell; Elizabeth Valdez; Patricia Gladys Herchmer; Tom Volquardson; John William Reynolds; Barbara Florence Davis; Charles Derek DeWest; Pat Byrne; Shir-

ley Wynnifred Lanido; Margaret Motion; Maggie Schubart; Cornelius Laubental; Tilly Crawley; Elizabeth Dorothy Hemmings; John Gregory Oblati; Blain Allen Matthews; Cory Robert Ives; Terry Slingbery; John Gordon Montgomery; Lisa Eriksen Kellogg; Tony Winston; Barbara Maguire; Jon De West; Betty Appleton Rimmer; Jack Edison Hobbs; Roderick Edward Kitchen; William Edwin Delmonico; John David McGann; Vivienne Margaret Wain Dobell; Ib Holger Ronne; Audrey Amy Dorrell Sampson; Doreen Hamilton; Mary McCoy; Mona Jean Jones; Jack Fisher. Judith Heddle; Madeline Maria Atkins.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

LOOKING BACK

continued from A19

- Sixty-year-old Marvin Trudeau of Chemainus died from his injuries a few days after crashing into the side of Mount Maxwell in a hang glider.

September

- A graduate of GISS died in a tragic car accident near Seattle. Cathrine ("Cat") Halliwell, 25, died as a result of injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash. Halliwell was in the back seat of the vehicle, which hydroplaned and then spun out of control.

- A letter distributed to owners and operators of at least 50 island tourism accommodation units was the latest step in the Islands Trust's renewed battle against short-term vacation rentals. The letter, which targeted suspected STVRs operating as B&Bs, threatened fines of up to \$5,000 a day for anyone proven to be in contravention of the island's land-use bylaw.

A.B.C. Ferries incident

information report

regarding the crash of the

Queen of Nanaimo at Mayne

Island indicated

maintenance errors were

responsible for the mishap.

- Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell was on a list of MLAs to be targeted for recall for his part in the implementation of the HST — about two weeks after the provincial government announced it would hold a referendum on the controversial tax in September 2011.

- Salt Spring kayaker Blake Gold was among numerous people stranded on northern Vancouver Island after extreme storms, causing major flooding, hit the region. After making it back to land, Gold and two other men were stuck in the small community of Zeballos, which was cut off due to mudslides.

October

- B&Bs allegedly operating contrary to the Islands Trust's land-use bylaw would have a second chance after the Trust said it would "explore possible next steps regarding a constructive community dialogue around land-use bylaw provisions related to B&Bs."

- Salt Spring RCMP were called on to break up an impromptu fruit and vegetable market in front of Centennial Park. Ten market vendors who normally sell fruit, vegetables and prepared food items on Tuesdays

in the United Church meadow set up shop on Fulford-Ganges Road instead. However, the market contravened CRD bylaws. The group later received a two-week temporary use permit while PARC decided what to do about the situation.

- Salt Spring library board members were concerned that further hold-ups from the Islands Trust could jeopardize federal and provincial funding for a new library building.

- Friends of well-known islander Ken Rouleau rallied to his support after he was diagnosed with ALS. The community also gathered to support and raise money for Jamie Reimer, who was waiting in a Toronto hospital for a double lung transplant.

November

- Of the 28 speakers who addressed the Salt Spring LTC at a standing-room only event, not a single person spoke against a rezoning proposal for an indoor tennis facility at Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

- The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission was gearing up to work on implementing the first of a series of safety improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. A counter-petition process to raise an additional \$100,000 annually from property taxes was launched.

- The Islands Trust gave the go-ahead nod to a series of development variances and development permits, allowing the library board to move ahead with its new building in Ganges. Groundbreaking was scheduled for spring of 2011.

- A B.C. Ferries report detailing suggestions on how to operate more efficiently included the discontinuance of the Long Harbour-Tsawwassen ferry among its options.

- A tragic, single-vehicle car crash on Fulford-Ganges Road killed 25-year-old Reid Curtis Parent and left the 25-year-old female driver recovering from injuries in a Victoria hospital.

- A blast of winter shocked islanders with heavy snowfall, icy roads, widespread power outages and some of the coldest temperatures in 25 years.

- Nearly 150 people attended an ISG town hall session, featuring two municipal councillors from Bowen Island as guest speakers.

December

- Salt Spring Coffee Co. shut the doors at its Alders Road warehouse on Salt Spring and prepared to finalize its move off-island to a new facility in Richmond.

- The island was in an uproar after hearing trustee George Ehring proposed an addition to the Trust's standards of conduct that suggested trustees not become involved in controversial issues on other islands unless invited to do so by the trustees of the island in question. Ehring toned down his wording by the time Trust Council came to vote on the clause and it passed easily.

- A 56-year-old woman known to the Fulford community as Sher was rescued from her live-aboard home after suffering a stroke. Businesses and residents of Fulford later raised funds to aid her recovery.



At top, a scene from Village Bay on Mayne Island, where the Queen of Nanaimo experienced a "hard landing" in August, injuring four people; and below, Tuesday market vendors set up at Centennial Park, contrary to CRD rules.

- Newsweek Magazine ranked Green Party leader and local MP candidate Elizabeth May as among the world's most influential women.

- The Salt Spring Conservancy was only \$235,000 away from completing the largest land-acquisition deal in the group's 16-year history. That was the amount remaining to wrap up a \$2.6-million purchase that would protect 320 acres of forest land on Musgrave Road near the summit of Hope Hill.

- A B.C. Ferries incident information report regarding the Aug. 3 crash of the Queen of Nanaimo at Mayne Island indicated maintenance errors were responsible for the mishap.

- Kevin Bell, a representative of Salt Spring's largest commercial property holder, said the fire district needed to reduce the tax burden on island businesses caused by its budget policies.

- Salt Spring resident John Gregory Paterson was released from police custody in Vancouver, where he was charged with nine counts of fraud and stock manipulation.


OPINION 2010

Driftwood letter-writers expressed lots of opinions in 2010 — about 509, actually. That is the total number of letters and Viewpoint, In-Depth and In-Response pieces published last year. Opinion-expressing peaked in the five-Wednesday month of June, when the Driftwood ran 78 opinion pieces. The slowest opinion months were September (28) and January (31). The average number of opinion pieces each week was 10. Topics ran the gamut of island controversy, but the most popular issue for islanders to comment on was the plight of the Salt Spring Coffee Company, and its eventual move from the island due to an inability to find and rezone property. Driftwood readers also "ranted and rosed" at a high rate in 2010, sending in a total of 354 roses and 35 rants. Roses praised people for any number of good deeds, while the rants focused mostly on drivers, thieves and dog owners. Island crankiness peaked with the largest number of rants in September (six), November (five) and June (five). May appears the most gracious month with the most roses (41) sent then.

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SALTSPRING

Sports & Recreation

BOATING

Power squadron boating course: basics and more

Registration now on for 13-week program

With fewer people are out on their boats during the month of January, it's the perfect time to come indoors and improve boating skills.

The Salt Spring Island Power Squadron is making that easier by offering the boating course of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron beginning Tuesday, Jan. 11.

The course, which runs for 13 Tuesdays, is a general introduction to the safe handling of all kinds of boats. Topics include types of boats, boat handling, government regulations, nautical charts, aids to navigation, rules of the road, elementary chart plotting and calculations, the compass, bearings and fixes, safety considerations and equipment, lines and knots, anchoring, weather, canals, locks and boating courtesy and customs.

Participants also receive the Pleasure Craft Operators Card, which is now mandatory for all boat operators in Canada.

The sessions take place at Gulf Islands Secondary School from 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$255, which includes all course materials, the exam and a first-year membership in the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron. Space in the course is limited, so people should register as soon as possible — and by Jan. 7 in any event — to ensure a seat. Lynn Clark is the person to call at 250-537-5377.

The Salt Spring Island Power Squadron has existed on the island since 1972 and has helped train countless boaters since that time. The local group is part of a nation-wide network of 171 squadrons and has an active membership of more than 41,000 members. The CPSS, which was created in 1938, works closely with the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada to ensure the group is up to date with the latest safety standards and information.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SEA TIME: Mild December weather on Salt Spring has provided several chances for boaters to take to the water, as seen here recently in Ganges Harbour.

GOT QUESTIONS...NEED ANSWERS ON GOVERNANCE?
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7:50 am Except Sundays	9:00 am
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Gulf Islands secondary school basketball

 upcoming schedule of events
 • **Thursday, Dec 30 - ALUMNI GAMES 10:00 to 4:00**
 This years GISS Jr and Sr team members and GISS Alumni will show their incredible basketball moves on the 30th - challenging to play, fun to watch - a great way to spend holiday time. See you at the Court!
 full schedule: www.gulfislandssecondary.ca/homeschedule.html
Meet the Team



Veterans. This year's GISS Senior Girls Basketball Team is led by 3 veteran players: **Megan Jarman** (left), **Kai Fishleigh** (center), and **Ashley Kilbourn** (right). The three girls have played basketball from grade 5-12 and form the core of our team. Kai is our point guard and has a good outside shot, and gets lots of steals, while Megan and Ashley are dominant in the key, rebounding and scoring. This year we hope to be one of the top teams in the 12 team North Island League.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

BRIDGE TRICKS

Club celebrates season

Afternoon of bridge among wine and chocolate prizes

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

What were they all doing on the afternoon of Dec. 13? Christmas shopping? Wrapping presents? Festooning houses with lights? Whatever it was, it wasn't bridge except for three tablesfull of dedicated players. Happy winners were Gisela Welsh and Blanche Poborsa, with Flo and George Laundry the runners-up.

It was a very different matter on Dec. 20, with a sparkling Christmas tree greeting the six and a half tables, some sporting Mr. and Mrs. Santa hats and all in seasonal finery. It was the annual Yuletide party, complete with the traditional two bottles of wine to be won in turn by those who took a trick with a two, plus a draw for door prizes. Consequently there was a Mitchell movement with the North-South players staying put and the East-West ones moving from table to table.

Two of the energetic East-West players outshone all the rest, with Isabelle Richardson and Jean Elder leading not

only their section but gaining the top overall score. Second E/W were Flo and George Laundry (fourth overall), while Vonnice and Andy Bryant were third E/W and fifth overall.

Topping the North-South group were Prem Margolese and Paul Retallack, sitting firmly in first place and a close second overall. Vic Parks and newcomer John Flannagan were second N/S and third overall, with Irene Hawksworth and Jill Evans occupying the third N/S spot.

Because of all the celebrations to take place, only 21 hands were played, at the end of which the travelling bottle of white wine stayed with Bob Morrisette and Vic Parks claimed the red. Then the draw for more wine, chocolates or other treats took place, and lucky partners April Wright and Susan Russell each won a prize to start things off. Other winners were Patricia MacFarlane, Vonnice Bryant, Prem Margolese and Irene Hawksworth.

There will be no game on Dec. 27, but a Happy New Year will start on Jan. 3, 2011 at 12:45 p.m. in the basement of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Drake Road.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

HOLIDAY HIKE: Christmas Day walkers enjoy a stroll through the forest on the trail to Menhnick Beach.

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

January hiking schedule keeps eyes on the weather

AGM set for Jan. 27 with guest speaker John Neville

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be on Thursday, Jan. 27 at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with lunch starting at noon. The

meeting will follow a new format: light lunch, guest speaker and a short meeting. Our guest speaker is John Neville, well known naturalist and bird song recorder.

Nature Group: Footprints in the Snow: if it snows on Salt Spring. Contact Teresa if you are interested in joining an informal snowshoe outing: saltspringstudio@shaw.ca.

Hikers

Jan. 4: Zeke Blazeczka leads a moderate hike with a few strenuous sections along Burgoyne Bay toward Mount Sullivan. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Burgoyne Bay at 10 a.m.

Jan. 11: Kees Visser leads a moderate "zigzag" hike on Mount Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the corner of Fulford Ganges/Dukes roads at 10 a.m.

Jan. 18: Lynn Thompson leads a strenuous hike up Mount Prevost on Vancouver Island. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to catch the 9 a.m. ferry to Crofton. Note: the alternative route in the event of snow will be a moderate hike to Christie Falls near Ladysmith.

Jan. 25: Ashley Hilliard will lead us on a hike from Fulford to Beaver Point along the trails and byways of Salt Spring's "deep south." Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. sharp to arrange carpooling. Southenders may join at the corner of Southridge and Beaver Point roads at 10:20 a.m. Please park on Southridge.

Walkers

Jan. 4: Terry Ison will lead a moderately fast walk in the area around Ganges, if possible on trails, but otherwise on roads. Details will depend on the weather. Umbrellas can be used on the trails. Leaving ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Jan. 11: Owen Benwell will lead a walk in Ruckle Park. Meet at 10 a.m. at ArtSpring or at the entrance to Ruckle Park at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 18: John Flannagan will lead a walk through the Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve to the old rhodonite mine. Leave ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Drummond Park at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 25: Barry Spence will lead us on a moderate walk on Mount Erskine. Leave ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Ramblers

Due to uncertainty with the weather, rambles will be planned in as many dry places as possible.

Route details will depend on the weather.

Jan. 4: Mystery Walk led by the Lloyds. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Jan. 11: Mystery Walk led by George. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Jan. 18: Mystery Walk with a Mystery Leader. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Jan. 25: Walk part of the Lochside Trail along the water in Sidney with the Hardings. Plan to carpool. Meet at Centennial Park at 9 a.m. sharp to catch the 9:50 a.m. ferry to Sidney. Lunch will be in Sidney. We will probably take the 3 p.m. ferry back to Salt Spring.

New Members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or Kees Visser (president) at 250-537-5443, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

Membership Fees

The annual fees for the 2010-2011 season are now due: \$25 per person.

Please complete and sign the membership and waiver form and leave it with your cheque in the Cobbler's Box or given to an executive member at any club activity.

Forms are available for download from the website at www.saltspringtnc.ca, where you will also find more details on our activities.



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Word ad deadline:

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

LYLE BROWN

In loving memory of
our eldest son.

The family & I miss you
very much

Love Mother

THE MUSIC STOPS, AND YET

It echoes on in sweet
refrain

For everything that passes

Something beautiful
remains

S. T. COCHRANE

May 5, 1930

December 30, 2009

WHAT'S ON PG. 12

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COMING EVENTS

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Tues Jan 11. 6:30-8:00pm
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phone Osman
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sheila and Doug Gordon
present "Interfaith groups
working for Change" Sunday,
January 2, 11am at S.S.
Seniors Centre.

WOMEN WRITING MEMOIR.
6 week class begins Mon. aft
Jan. 17. (\$175-\$195) Wendy
Judith Cutler. 250.653.4286
winnie@saltspring.com

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS



JOHN HENRY FISHER

Jack Fisher passed away on
Christmas Day, 2010. He
leaves a loving and grateful
family, including children
Bob (Helen), Joan Beaty
(Len) and Dave (Ginny),
plus 8 grandchildren and 4
great grandchildren.

Born in 1914 in
Vancouver, Jack was blessed with a brilliant mind and
strong athleticism. Although he achieved honours for
his first degrees in chemistry at UBC, his passion was
the Varsity Outdoor Club. After receiving his PhD
from McGill, he distinguished himself as a researcher
and chemical engineer in the pulp and paper industry.
While working in St Catherines, he invented a method
to extract artificial vanilla from a byproduct of Ontario
Paper's pulp mill. He developed the process from the
laboratory through pilot plant to a full scale produc-
tion facility which generated much of the company's
profits for a number of years. Longing to return to his
beloved west coast, he convinced HR MacMillan that
it was time the forest industry giant had a research
division and he was the man to build it. In 1953, he
moved his family of 5 to Nanaimo where he ran the
MB research group until 1964. He then transferred
to B.C. Forest Products as Research and Development
Manager where he stayed until his retirement in 1973.
He is still remembered today for his many valuable
contributions to both production and environmental
improvement processes.

Although not a religious man, Jack had very strong
moral values that guided him both at work and
at home. He played a part in forming a Unitarian
Fellowship in Nanaimo as a community group that
reflected those values. He often referred to Gandhi,
Einstein and Albert Schweitzer as his heroes.

His retirement on Salt Spring Island in 1973 began
the happiest years of his life. At 59, he was healthy
and vigorous with much to contribute to Island life.
Together with his beloved wife Margaret, they made
many friends and loved living with nature on their
Collins Road property. Jack was very proud of the
produce from his garden, which he shared widely with
friends and family. He served a term with the Islands
Trust, became very active with the tennis association
and enjoyed the camaraderie of the "Eggheads" men's
group. Jack and Marg's generous donations for the
Jack Fisher trail, the tennis courts and Lady Minto
Hospital reflect the gratitude they felt for the Island
community.

After Margaret's passing, the family is most grateful
for the wonderful care of Dr David Woodley, the love
of Francis Antonik and family and the friendship of
Marc and Jean Holmes and neighbours Brian and
Lucille Adderley.

When it became necessary, moving a fiercely indepen-
dent man from his beloved land to communal living
was not easy. It was the wonderful staff and residents at
Heritage Place that made this possible. Jack often said,
"I'm really very happy here".

You all gave so much to Jack's quality of life, a life
well lived indeed!

A celebration of Jack's life will take place at Harbour
House Hotel Wednesday, January 5th at 2:00 pm.

HEDDLE,

Judith Gail, B.A., M.A., RPDt (retired)

died peacefully on December 24, 2010 at Lady
Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island from meta-
static breast cancer at the age of 71. She leaves her
beloved husband John to carry on Scottish Country
Dancing, walking with the Trail & Nature Club,
caring for her Labrador retriever Sandy, and giving
love and advice to their children and grandchildren.
Bob Heddle and his wife Paula of Kirkland, WA and
their newborn daughters Tesla and Cashel will miss
her dazzling smile and throaty chuckle. Catharine
Heddle and her husband Terry Lee of Toronto and grandchildren Colin (7) and
Simon (5) will miss her wisdom, exuberance, and sense of adventure, most espe-
cially when at the family cottage in Bala.

Judy was born in Toronto to Olive Lavina Campbell and Peter John (Jack)
McArthur. She was educated at the University of Toronto (Victoria College, Home
Economics, Nutrition), and took her first job teaching at the University of Tennessee,
where she supported John's doctoral studies. After a year in England and five years
in San Francisco, where Bob and Catharine were born, they moved to Kleinburg,
Ontario. She worked for the Canadian Diabetes Association and the North York
Health Department, established the Diabetes Education Centre at Doctor's Hospital,
and later managed the York Region Heart Health Program. Judy was active in the
Home & School and served as president of the Kleinburg Chapter of the Canadian
Federation of University Women (CFUW). After 33 years in Kleinburg, they moved
to Salt Spring Island, where she became a VP of the local CFUW chapter and
president of the dance club. She remained in constant touch with her incomparable
collection of friends wherever they were, and knitted her extended family together
through letters, visits, and holiday dinners.

She loved fun, friends, food, family, Christmas, literature, art, music, politics,
travel, great discussions, and the great outdoors. She expected everyone to do the
right thing. She loved churches, hymns, choir music, and the Christmas spirit of gen-
erosity. She was the proud artist of The Unfinished Quilt, almost perfected her piano
rendition of Ain't She Sweet, and was just getting rolling on her makeover of John's
office. She never stopped trying to foster a love of music in her children, and was
glad when one of them developed a love of opera. She had wonderful memories and
oft-repeated stories of her friends from her time in California, England and France,
of her very close friends in Kleinburg, and of her classmates at the University of
Toronto. All who knew her will miss her open, friendly intelligence, her enthusiasm,
and her generosity of mind and spirit.

We are enormously grateful to Dr. Sharon Allan of the BC Cancer Centre and
Dr. Robert Crichton and the staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their exceptional
care and skill, and to the many friends who brought soup, stew, cookies, and cheer
in equal measure. Donations can be made to the BC Cancer Centre or the Lady
Minto Hospital Foundation. Friends may gather at Salt Spring United Church in
Ganges, B.C. on Thursday December 30 at 3:00 p.m. or at the McMichael Gallery
in Kleinburg, ON in early January.



**Desmond is proud to announce
the arrival of his little brother, Zephyr,
born at home December 11th 2010
on Salt Spring Island
and weighing 7 lbs 9 oz.**

**Proud parents, Ingmar Lee and
Krista Roessingh of Denny Island BC,
and delighted grandparents, Ken Lee
of Salt Spring Island, Brenda and
Karel Roessingh of Victoria Highlands,
and Dr Jean Stewart of Calgary.**

**Also a very special thank you to
Salt Spring's most marvelous midwives,
especially Maggie and Jacque
for their loving assistance
at the birth.**

DEATHS

DEATHS

Atkins, Madelaine Maria

Born May 16, 1953, died peacefully in the early
hours of December 21st, 2010. She is loved and
remembered by her mother, Elizabeth Atkins,
her five siblings: Catherine (Gordon); Jennifer
(Francis); Elizabeth (David); Andrew (Colleen)
and Anthony (Colleen), Godchildren: Anthony,
Madelaine and Ryan and her other nieces and
nephews: Ralf, Margit, Neil, Ainsley, Samantha,
Amelia, Parker, Tess, Oliver and Hazel.

Maddy's early years after university took her
to Toronto and ultimately to a career as an
executive producer in television production.
More recently, Mad settled on Salt Spring Island
where she will be remembered for her volunteer
service to the community.

A service will take place on December 23rd, at
1:30 pm at St. Helen's Church, 4405 West 8th
Avenue, Vancouver, BC. In lieu of flowers,
donations may be made in Maddy's name to the
Palliative Care Unit of St. Paul's Hospital, 1081
Burrard St. Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 1Y6. Her family
expresses sincere thanks to the medical team for
their expert and kind care in Maddy's last days.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TENDERS

LYACKSON FIRST NATION Request for Proposal Notification Deadline for Submissions: January 15, 2010 The Lyackson First Nation is implementing the "Lyackson Eyes on the Island" Program One aspect of that program is the phased development of a Yurt Campground on Valdes Island. Phase one of the Yurt Campground entails the following three components: 1. Grey water management 2. Rainwater catchment or well water supply 3. All aspects related to construction of 2 yurts Contractors may submit for all or part of these three components of Phase One, please clearly identify which component(s) are being applied for in the submission. Please detail qualifications and experience in the component(s) the submission is focused on. All components must be completed/coordinated by: March 31st, 2011 The Project Details are available on the Lyackson Website: www.lyackson.bc.ca. Or you may email kathleen.johnnie@lyackson.bc.ca and salishkat@yahoo.ca for more information. Address your submission to the attention of Kathleen Johnnie, Lands & Resources Manager 9137 Chemainus Road, Chemainus, BC V0R 1K5 Lyackson does not warrant a contract will be issued as a result of this Request for Proposal.

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LOST AND FOUND

BLACK UMBRELLA found on Dec 14 at Ganges Garment Co. Claim at Driftwood Office.

FOUND ALUMINUM boat adrift on St Mary Lake. Please call Gus with details. 250-537-8730

FOUND: L22 Nikon point-and-shoot camera near Vesuvius ferry terminal. Claim at Vesuvius Cafe (735 Vesuvius Bay Road).

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

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Labourer for drywall, handyman and general labour jobs. \$20/hr. References 250-931-1393

INFORMATION

WORK WANTED

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

INFORMATION

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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MAIDS PERSONALLY "Welcome Home Services" Professional cleaning Excellent service Attention to detail ALSO: Property Maintenance Ground maintenance, power washer, patios, roofs, windows & painting Dependable - Trustworthy **NOW TAKING ON MORE CUSTOMERS** Bonded - References 250-537-1517

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

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

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Serving the Gulf Islands
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PLACING SALT SPRING: Ready Mix 4 inches thick .65 cents per sq.ft. at 6 inches .75 per sq. ft. Call 250-537-7883.

CONTRACTORS

CHECK OUT the Library's ad in the News section that describes a Request for Quotation from a contractor for the temporary library site.

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

INFORMATION

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

DRAFTING & DESIGN

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

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Vanessa
250-538-8985
I Love Hauling!

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SALT SPRING Island Recycle Depot is located at 349 Rainbow Rd. We are open Tues. through Sat., 10am to 5pm. This service is operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Please call the Recycle Depot at 250-537-1200, or Community Services at 250-537-9971 for information on materials accepted for recycling.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

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

PETS

MIRA WARRINGTON, Certified Farrier is accepting new clients. Cold shoeing and barefoot trims. (H) 250-653-2305 or (C) 250-538-7721.

PETS

5 VIETNAMESE potbelly pigs for sale. 250-537-1517.

CKC REGISTERED English Cocker puppies. Vet checked, dewclawed, wormed, micro-chipped. Ready Dec. 31, \$1500. 250-537-4962.

INFORMATION

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RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

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UPPER GANGES CENTRE, small 2nd floor office available now. 272 sq. ft. Ample parking, chair lift. Call Mary Lou 250-537-5528.

COTTAGES

COZY ONE bedroom cottage in quiet, park-like setting. \$800 per month. 250-653-4644.

HOMES FOR RENT

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

INFORMATION

Salt Spring Singers Registration

Salt Spring Singers, a non-auditioned community choir directed by Mitch Howard, will hold registration and the first spring concert rehearsal at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, at SSI Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Rd. Registration will close at 6:45 p.m., with rehearsal at 7 followed by refreshments at 8:15. All voices welcome. Call Lesley Reynolds at 537-4861 or go to www.saltspringsingers.org for a registration form or more information.

PARC OFFICES CLOSED

Dec 27th thru Jan 3rd
Open for business again
on Jan 4, 2011
Messages can be left by phone at 537-4448 or email to ssiparc@crd.bc.ca

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee 2011 Meeting Notice

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee regulates land use within the Salt Spring Island local trust area. The Trust area includes Salt Spring Island, Piers Island, Prevost Island, the Secretary Islands and Wallace Island. Local Trust Committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices are posted on the bulletin board at the Islands Trust office located at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island. The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business, such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes. The regular business meetings will be held on the following dates and venues, commencing normally at 10:30 AM unless specified:

Date	Location	
Friday	January 14, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	February 10, 2011	Lion's Club, 103 Bonnett Ave.
Thursday	March 3, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	April 7, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	May 5, 2011	Lion's Club, 103 Bonnett Ave.
Thursday	June 2, 2011	Lion's Club, 103 Bonnett Ave.
Thursday	July 7, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	Aug 4, 2011	Lion's Club, 103 Bonnett Ave.
Thursday	Sept 1, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	Oct 6, 2011	ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.
Thursday	Nov 3, 2011	Lion's Club, 103 Bonnett Ave.

Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. Visit our website at : www.islandstrust.bc.ca Contact us at (250) 537-9144

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business, such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes. DATE: FRIDAY, January 14, 2011 TIME: 10:30 am PLACE: ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Avenue Starting at noon, up to 45 minutes will be available for the public to discuss local land use matters with the Local Trust Committee. Those who wish to present a more formal petition, or make a delegation to the Committee as an Agenda item, must make a request to Islands Trust staff at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. For information about the Agenda, please call the Islands Trust at 250.537.9144.

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

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TUESDAY 10 AM

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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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

1 BEDROOM suite near town 1 bath, farm setting, W/D hook ups, NS, NP, long term, available immediately \$650. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

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

2 BEDROOM ocean view duplex overlooking Galiano. 1.5 bath, 6 appl., lg balcony, newly renovated, 1 min walk from bus and ocean, NS, Avail immediately. \$1200/mo. Call 250-537-1517

3 BDRM house, newly decorated, lake view, 1.5 baths, near Central, W/D, carport, NS, long term. \$1350 + util. 250-537-4413.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

3 BDRM, 2 bath, lovely ocean view home, 2100 sq.ft., newly renov., large garden, 2 min. to town, on quiet street, priv. fence, HW & tile floors, solarium, 5 appl., NP, NS, Jan. 1 \$1800 plus util. 250-537-8431.

3 BDRM, WD, wood stove, deer proof garden, carport, view to Vancouver Island, ren. 2005, repainted 2009, \$1000 plus util., 604-312-4831.

3 BEDROOM Near Town \$1075 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT cottage with southwest exposure in Fulford. Wood floors, decks, woodstove, loft & stream. Remodeled, beach. Long term, \$750/mo plus 1/4 util. 831-588-9576.

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

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

LARGE CHANNEL Ridge View Home, 2 bedrooms with 1 bedroom in law suite, extensive landscaping, fabulous ocean view, NS, NP, long term, available November 1. \$1995 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

MODERN, CUSTOM built cottage on 5 park-like acres. Minutes to Ganges. Perfect for single, NS, NP, person. \$775/mo., util. incl. 250-537-8938.

OCEANFRONT TOWN Home in Ganges, 2 bedroom plus office, 2.5 baths, propane fireplace, one car garage, NS, NP, avail. immediately. \$1900 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

ONE BDRM duplex, walk to Ganges, recently updated kitchen & bathroom, furnished or unfurnished. \$750/mo + dd. Avail. Jan. 15. 250-550-6455

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

SOUTH END cosy bach. suite on large, pristine acreage. Private, self-cont., skylights, wood floors, loft, partially furn. High speed internet avail. Suit mature quiet single. \$625/mo. incl. hydro. 250-653-4101 lv. message.

SUBLET, MID Jan to mid March. Beautiful, spacious, mountain view wood home on private acreage, fully furn., \$800/mo. incl. phone, internet, cable & firewood. NS, NP, (house comes with cat). Suits resp. single or couple with exc. refs. 250-930-3030.

SUNNY, BEAUTIFUL, 2 bedroom home. 1/2 year lease. \$1100 negotiable. Available summer 2011. 250-653-4505.

RENTALS

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RV HOOKUP in Walker's Hook area, water & hydro incl. NP. \$400/mo. 250-537-8969.

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STORAGE

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- 9' CEILINGS
- 24 HR. ACCESS

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MID ISLAND STORAGE
250-537-4722

SUITES, LOWER

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'LOFT LIKE'- High End, Waterfront. 1 bdrm suite with all the amenities in Fulford Village. \$975 mo, utlis incl. Call 250-653-9174.

RENTALS

SUITES, UPPER

1 BDRM self contained suite, west coast style home, 5 min. north of Ganges, bright open concept kitchen, living, area. Several recent upgrades incl. carpet, stove, & paint. Lovely spacious garden, shared laundry avail. Quiet house rules: ref's req'd. NP, NS. \$750 util incl. 250-537-5713, (Barbara).

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DRIFTWOOD'S POCKET planners are in, pick yours up, Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:30 while they last.

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30% OFF EVERYTHING
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11am - 5:30pm
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2 bdrm 2 bthrm	1 bdrm 2 bthrm
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1 bath, farm setting, W/D hook ups, N/S, N/P, long term, available immediately \$650
- 1 Bedroom Cottage**
Available immediately, long term, approx 600 sf ocean view, utilities included, shared property\$950
- 3 Bedroom Near Town**.....\$1075
- 1 Bedroom house in Vesuvius**.....\$1100
- Oceanfront Town Home in Ganges,** 2 bedroom plus office, 2 1/2 baths, propane fireplace, one car garage, N/S, N/P, avail. Immediately\$1900
- Large Channel Ridge View Home,** 2 bedrooms with 1 bedroom in law suite, extensive landscaping, fabulous ocean view, N/S, N/P, long term, available November 1st.....\$1995

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1-800-800-9492

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

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE -
New To You

Merchandise ads with items totalling less than \$200 receive a **50% discount** with your Residents Card

Deadline 10 am
Tuesday for
Wednesday paper,
4 pm Wed. for
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APPLIANCES

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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COME CELEBRATE Boxing Day Storewide Sale at **BUY & SAVE!** Big Savings on New & Like New Home Furnishings, Accessories, Beds, Mattresses; Lamps, Desks, TV Stands, Bookcases, Hall Trees, Occasional Chairs, Asst. Tables, Dinettes, L/R, B/R, D/R Furn.; Heaters, Tools & Hdwe! **BUY & SAVE** 9818 4th St., Sidney buyandsave.ca visa, MC debit

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Claudia Picks a WINNER!



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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.

ENVIRONMENT

Lake reflections rise as Intrepid Cusheon Lake Carollers make their debut

Dec. 18 carolling event brings lake health and culture into focus

BY JOHN BORST

"Okay. Let's go," someone said.

We five, calling ourselves the Intrepid Carollers of Cusheon Lake, had met on the Saturday before Christmas with the avowed purpose of carolling from the lake.

We had been watching the rain all morning and each of us came with the question, "Are we really doing this?"

The call to action stirred us to put on layers of warm clothes, rain gear and life jackets. I connected the battery heated socks given to me during a Christmas past. We trudged down to the lake and launched the canoes. With paddles and song books we set off.

The lake was overcast with dark grey clouds and the rain pelted the surface with little spreading circles. At the second house, we were met by two friends of ours standing on their deck waving to our rendition of Deck the Halls. I know something of their lives — the fact that they had been trying to sell their beautiful house and gardens. I looked around the lake at the houses among the trees and thought about the residents.

Each had moved to the lake for its peace and quiet and the wild-life. How had they made their way to the lake? I had immigrated from the States in 1975 and my partner, originating from the Manchester area of England, had lived in Africa for more than a decade of her life. What are the stories of the other lake dwellers? A map of their travels and decisions would criss-cross Canada, North America and many other countries, each with their own unique story.

What skills do the lake residents bring with them? I know a part of the answer. We have teachers here, a potter, carpenters and builders, nurses, a stock analyst, a dancer and yogist, poets, outdoor outfitters, gardeners, farmers, ferry workers, entrepreneurs, social workers and child care specialists. A rich

assortment of skills developed in a thriving society, all united by place and time. What other skills populate the lake or will move here in the future? What skills will we need in a changing world?

ON THE LAKE

As we sang the refrain to Hark the Herald Angels Sing, a flight of buffleheads streaked by 10 feet over our heads. The lake is their resting place and refuelling depot. How many generations of ducks have visited the lake on their way north or south? There is no one to tell the lake's ancient history. It must be puzzled out from science.

As our summers get hotter and longer and the fall and spring storms become more intense, how will the lake and the forest change?

The lake's birth was from a glacier on its way from Mounts Belcher and Maxwell to the sea. It must have been much deeper than it is today with sediments washing down Blackburn Creek for thousands of years, filling it to its current depth of 27 feet. I imagine the uninterrupted forest ringing the lake, the fires that sporadically blackened the green hills and the sound of axes and chain saws in the 19th and

20th centuries clearing sections of the forest.

The lake's recent history is related through stories told to the children of early lake residents. The farm at the south end of the lake was at the end of a very long driveway that had been a logging road and eventually became Cusheon Lake Road. After the war, small cabins for war veterans popped up along this driveway next to the lake. From the '50s, I have heard stories of residents at Cusheon Lake Resort taking a short cut across the lake in their cars on the winter ice. And now, the lake shore is dotted with the homes of those we have come to serenade.

And what of the lake's future? After all, the future is history that has yet to happen. As our summers get hotter and longer and the fall and spring storms become more intense, how will the lake and the forest change? Will the fish survive the warmer lake temperatures? Will the trees survive the longer, drier summers? Will the heavier rains wash ever increasing amounts of sediment into the lake? How many more homes will be built in the watershed and what stories and skills will the new residents bring with them? Time will tell, turning the future into history.

I looked into the water. The green algae that was in the lake at the end of the summer has disappeared, washed down Cusheon Creek by the fall rains restoring the lake's health and setting the stage for a new circle of life.

The rain has finally stopped and the lake is mirror-like disturbed only by the circles left by a fish jumping out of the lake to test the air. We, all sung out, pulled the canoes up on shore and headed into the warm living room of the resort. We congratulated ourselves, and, while sipping mulled wine and munching on Christmas cookies, declared that the Intrepid Carollers of Cusheon Lake will make a repeat performance next year.

The above is one in a series of On the Lake columns about island lakes contributed by various local writers.

This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastronomy.com
sunstarastronomy@gmail.com
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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Making some key power moves before the end of the year and early in 2011 is on your mind. In a variety of ways, you are interested in seeing a bigger picture. This may include international news and/or behind the scenes or inner knowledge. Somehow you want more power; whether it is knowledge, money, information, or whatever else might give you leverage and a jumpstart on the year.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

Making a big push before the year end is keeping you busy. Finishing old business and activating new projects all at the same time is on your mind. Researching and scanning for news, information, knowledge and tips is featured. You want to see a bigger picture and you also want the inside scoop. Adding key connections to your network is likely. If change is coming, you want to be aware.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Gatherings with others means a lot to you at this time and perhaps especially so this year. Exchanging thoughts and feelings may not flow so smoothly now however, so keep your mind and heart open and flexible. Giving more than usual for this time feels right and perhaps necessary. Ideally, you are in the process of building a whole new quality of intimacy and scope of freedom.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Taking new initiatives on all relationship fronts – personal, familial, social and professional – is a central theme. The overall process may feel rather heavy and may be stirring fears. Endings are likely now and will feel both easy and hard to accept. This week's New Moon will activate your new relationship status. Others will offer their support through this time, yet with a push for you to accept change.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

Bringing your dreams, ideals and creative ambitions down to earth in a practical way continues as the New Year begins. Some pretty big demands on your time and focus are emphasized. You may feel you are undergoing an accelerated learning curve. Your ability to concentrate may be challenged just now, but will get better progressively in 2011. Concentrate to take practical action.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

You are in a creative power cycle. In the big picture, this cycle is just beginning. Stepping back, you will notice that you are building upon new foundations. Financial goals and responsibilities are part of the plot, and so too are social and spiritual ones. How you interpret these is up to you. A diversification of your focus is likely as well. Identify and outline your spectrum of gifts and talents.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

Some powerful shifts, moves and events close to home continue. Somehow, you are making major changes or they are thrust upon you. At best, you are ready for new challenges and feel ambitious. At worst, you feel disrupted and afraid of the future. Change is the law and our most basic wisdom is to cooperate with it versus resist. Be aware of negative imagination which conjures fearful future scenarios and use it to create what you feel you want and need.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

This is likely a busy and eventful time for you in many ways and on a variety of levels. First, you are exploring new territory. This may be literal and/or psychological. Rising above who you 'think' you and others are and/or are not, is featured. Accepting that our interpretations and opinions are just that will help. Be willing to let go into the mystery. You can paddle, yet cooperate with the current.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

The time has come to build upon new foundations. These may well be connected to your health and overall quality of your lifestyle habits. We are all creatures of habit and so are wise to cultivate healthy ones. Such wisdom is its own reward and is not about impressing anyone. Your willingness to see yourself and the world and in the world in new ways will bring rewards. Are you ready and willing?

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

Forging ahead into new territory probably feels right now. While others are festive, you are busy planning, at least in the back of your mind. You may feel stretched with activities, yet many new thoughts, intuitions and inspirations are likely pouring in. You probably have more than your share of responsibilities. Yet they are yours and with a healthy attitude you will see that is its own gift.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

A mix of work and pleasure is keeping you busy. Social opportunities are coming in and it is probably a good idea to take advantage. Your mood for these may well shift soon as you get back to business. Yet, also allowing downtime to dream and rest and simply be will probably prove satisfying. You will be extra busy soon so take in some quality moments of peace and quiet now.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Sometimes it is good to ask who our real friends are. Ideally, you yourself are among them. Woven into this riddle is the relationship we have with our own body, mind, heart and soul. The many thoughts, feelings, intuitions and pressures coming from within constitute the basis of this inner relationship, which ideally becomes a very good friendship. Real winners find reason to like and love themselves. This will then be projected onto others...



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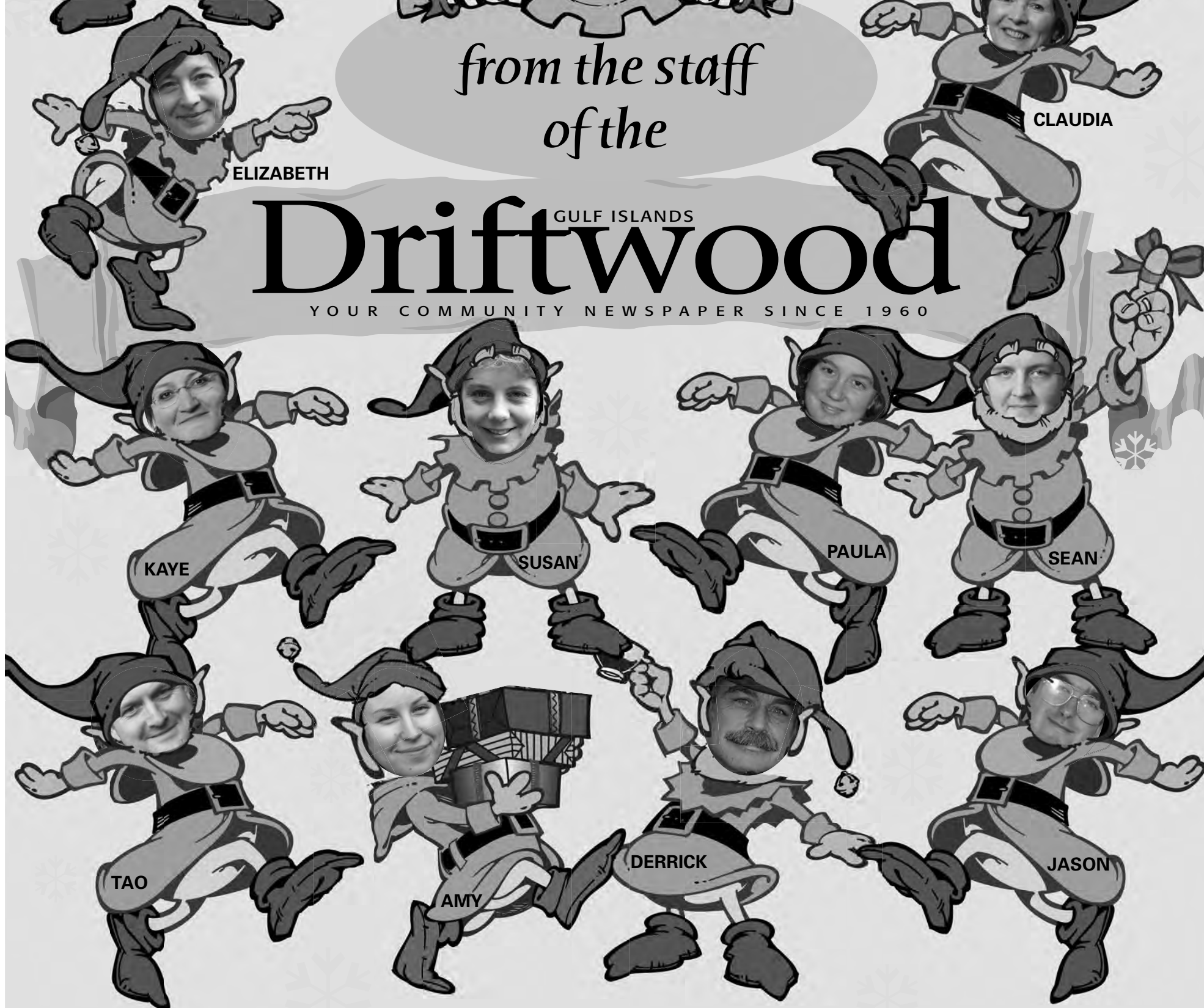
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