



Kaya Hunter
Local rocks to second place
Victoria Idol finish.
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PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

SCORPIONS' STING: Grade 12 students Eric Rothwell, left, and Noah Van Hullebush lead the cheerleading at Gulf Islands Secondary School's annual Nairn Howe Memorial Basketball Tournament held last weekend. Story, page A15.

AIR TRAVEL

Alternate seaplane air hub proposed

Cooperative venture would save passenger dollars

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands passengers travelling by air to Vancouver could see ticket prices go up by a minimum of \$24 unless sea plane operators can convince the city to change its plans.

A new development already in the works proposes to direct all sea plane traffic in Vancouver to a privately owned commercial marina for yachts and planes. The \$22-million price tag — plus 15 per cent profit — is to be recouped through passenger fares.

Eight sea plane companies acting under the Vancouver Commercial Seaplane Operators' Association (VCSOA) are objecting to the plan and have offered a cheaper and more effective

alternative, Saltspring Air co-owner Philip Reece said Tuesday.

"The city has said there will be only one seaplane base," Reece said.

"We've been working with them to convince them that they're building a terminal we don't need — it doesn't have things that we need and it does have things we don't need."

The proposed terminal site is planned for the west side of the new convention centre. Its docks will be without cover, it does not have vehicle access for taxis or passenger drop off or pick up, and it will not connect directly with public transit.

What it will have is a tiny but costly elevator, an expensive fueling station and commercial

space for shops and restaurants inside the terminal building, said Reece.

"I'm sure they'll spin off a lot of revenue, but it won't help us in any way."

Reece noted the proposed facility would be the first air terminal owned by a private enterprise not connected to an actual operator. What VCSOA is proposing in its place would be another first: a cooperative, nonprofit facility built and maintained by eight companies who in many ways are business competitors.

VCSOA would like to build its "Harbour Hub" to the east of the Seabus station, where the heliport is currently located on Portside Park. Reece said financing for the \$10-million alternative is

SEAPLANE continued on A4

CONSERVATION

Donors preserve 320 acres of land on Musgrave

Conservancy completes historic fundraising drive

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A flood of donations from island residents and a major contribution from Shaw Communications Inc. mean the Salt Spring Island Conservancy can seal the deal on a huge piece of forested land along Musgrave Road in the island's south end.

"We are extremely grateful to all of our donors and funding partners," said Ashley Hilliard, president of the conservancy, in a highly anticipated announcement on Monday. "Every gift has contributed to the success of this project."

Though the public fundraising campaign only began in mid-December, conservancy staff and volunteers spent more than a year negotiating with the owner, national environmental organizations and government agencies in order to finalize an agreement.

Fundraisers had already secured 90 per cent of the \$2.6-million total project cost before going public with the campaign to buy the 128-hectare (320-acre) parcel.

The specific amount contributed by Shaw has not been released.

"We've had a long history of investing in the communities that our customers and employees reside in,"

MUSGRAVE continued on A2

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NEWSBEAT

Deal marks conservancy's largest campaign

MUSGRAVE
continued from A1

said J.R. Shaw, the company's executive chair, in a press release issued Monday. "As a Canadian company, we are proud to do business on Salt Spring Island and to join the Salt Spring Island Conservancy in protecting the beauty of this area forever."

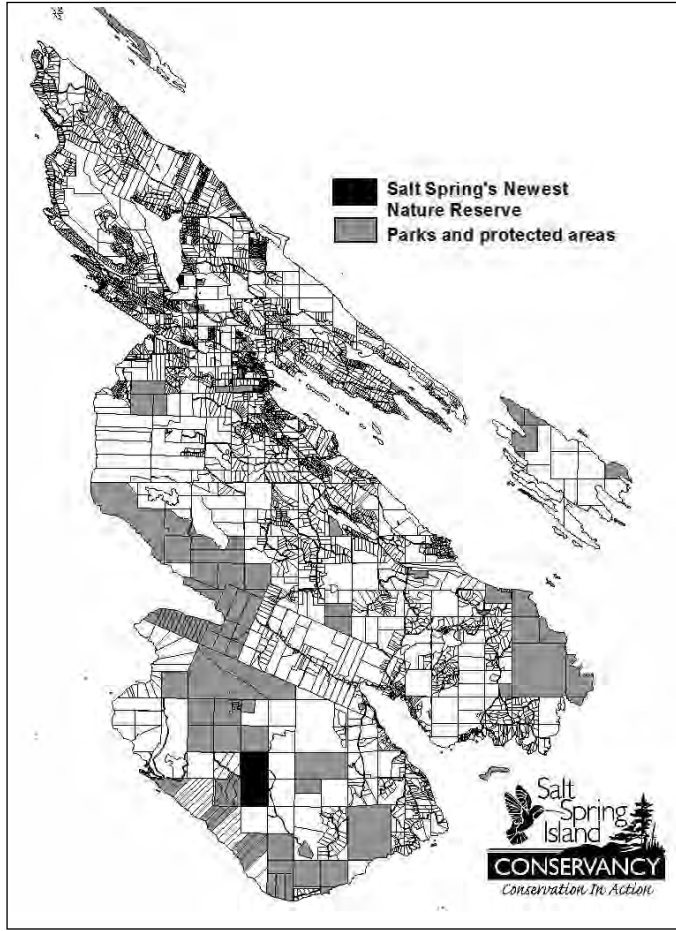
The deal represents the biggest land-acquisition campaign for the conservancy since it was founded in 1995.

Major funding for the project was awarded in October 2010 by the Nature Conservancy of Canada with support of the federal government under its Natural Areas Conservation Program.

Hilliard thanked Frank Arnold of The Pinch Group at Raymond James Ltd., who matched gifts of securities, and another anonymous donor who matched gifts of cash.

The B.C. Nature Federation was an early and key funder of the project with a contribution from a bequest and the Islands Trust Fund is contributing towards legal costs.

"None of this would have been possible without the vision of the long-time land-owner who always wanted to see the land protected," added Linda Gilkeson, the conservancy's executive director. "His estate and family have been extremely supportive and have been major financial contributors to the project from the start."



Family members, most of whom reside in the Lower Mainland, have requested that their identities not be made public. A formal dedication ceremony on the site is planned for April 30.

"It will be a major party," Gilkeson said.

The project would not have been possible without support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, both of which pro-

vided funding for staff time required over the year to bring the project to completion, Gilkeson added.

The land will be permanently protected as a nature reserve. Once permanent trails on the property are established, they will be open to the public for recreational hiking.

The ecologically valuable property adjoins a 63.2-hectare (158-acre) parcel of park reserve land owned by the Capital Regional District to the north, as well as

"It markedly extends the area of protected wildlife habitat in the southwest region of Salt Spring."

LINDA GILKESON
Executive director, Salt Spring Island Conservancy

another 71.2 hectares (178 acres) of private covenanted lands to the west.

"It markedly extends the area of protected wildlife habitat in the southwest region of Salt Spring, becoming part of a 6,000-acre continuous greenbelt extending south from Burgoyne Bay," Gilkeson said.

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

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

More information about the project is available on the conservancy website at www.saltspringconservancy.ca.

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

The Great BC ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

Wednesday, January 26

10 a.m. "Drop, cover & hold on"

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Event aspires to shake islanders out of apathy

ShakeOut drill to promote earthquake awareness

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island residents are being asked to join the nearly 300,000 people across the province who've already signed up for British Columbia's first-ever earthquake drill.

Organizers of the ShakeOut drill seek to increase public awareness of the very real earthquake hazards that exist in the province, especially along the southwest coast.

"We live in a major earthquake zone. There are several fault lines under the island that can cause trouble," said Elizabeth Zook, Salt Spring Island's emergency coordinator. "This event is about helping people become more resilient."

Zook notes that B.C. lags well behind other earthquake-prone regions in North America and around the world when it comes to earthquake preparedness. She attributes the delay to not having the person power to organize and follow through with events like next week's drill.

Based on registrations collected from individuals, schools and workplaces through the www.shakeoutbc.ca website since the program was announced last fall, however, it appears British Columbians are keen to learn more about what to do when the earth moves.

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, participants are asked to practice their "duck-and-cover" technique and establish what hazards exist in their homes or work areas.

While people have become relatively accustomed to drills for handling fire and snow, Zook said, it's important for people to understand the distinct risks posed by earthquakes.

"The best thing to do is to go under a desk and hold on to your head with your arms," she said.

Taking cover under a doorway works well so long as you're aware of swinging doors and obstacles along the way, she added.

Another thing to look out for is the potential for large objects like appliances and furniture to shift and roll during an earthquake.

Zook noted that it's also important to avoid taking cover near windows. Running outside is a good idea if there are no outdoor hazards like trees and transmission lines.

In urban areas, where falling glass and metal can be a common outcome, running into a building is a much safer strategy, she noted.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Driftwood staffer Paula Blundell gets under her desk in preparation for next Wednesday's province-wide earthquake drill.

"The thing is for people to understand the hazards, that's what this is for."

ELIZABETH ZOOK

Emergency Coordinator, Salt Spring Island

Zook will distribute information about the ShakeOut drill through the island's 51 emergency POD districts and the POD program's 105 volunteers who oversee local emergency response preparedness.

"The thing is for people to understand the hazards, that's

what this is for," she said. "The key for anybody is personal preparedness and determining what the hazards are. It lands with yourself."

Online registrants are asked to consider leaving comments about their ShakeOut experience on the website to help assess the program's success.

The ShakeOut BC drill is modelled after the highly successful California ShakeOut drill, which is in its third year. The Jan. 26 date marks the 311th anniversary of the province's last 9.0 magnitude earthquake.

More information about the event is available by contacting Zook at 250-537-7902 or registering online at www.shakeoutbc.ca.

News briefs

Time to join 4H

Registration night for the 2011 4H Community Club season on Salt Spring is on Thursday, Jan. 27.

This year the club is offering projects in rabbit, cavy (guinea pig), horse, poultry, foods and photography.

"We have excellent leaders who are super supportive," said 4H junior club member Shael Lampard in a press release.

Lampard said the Salt Spring club is very family oriented, meeting once to

twice a month for learning and games.

"We go to fairs in the summer to show our animals and we have a really cool camp out."

The Cloverbuds group for children aged six to eight will also run in 2011.

They do a variety of projects like cooking, art, crafts, public speaking (optional), as well as learning about animals and agriculture. Cloverbuds also participate in a variety of events with the junior and senior 4-H members.

New member registration takes place at 6:30 p.m. at

the Portlock Park portable. Registration fee for 2011 is \$90. New members should bring their parents, along with their B.C. medical card and birth certificate.

For more information, contact A-leader Loretta Rithaler at 250-537-1527.

An LTC nod for tennis structure

The long wait for indoor tennis' return to the island may soon be over as trustees voted unanimously to adopt a rezoning bylaw at

Friday afternoon's local Trust committee meeting.

Friday's approval of Bylaw 445 represents the second-to-last major hurdle in the Salt Spring Island Tennis Association's epic rally to complete the project.

"It's wonderful news, but it's still not the end," said Fernando Dos Santos, vice-president of the Salt Spring Island Tennis Association. "It's been a long process, but we feel the Trust has worked efficiently."

All that remains before construction on the 659-square-metre (7,200-square-foot) facility can begin is approval from

board members of the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club.

"To use a tennis expression, the ball is not in our court," Dos Santos said. "It's up to them."

Dos Santos said he can't predict when final approval could be given. If it does happen, he said, the SSTA has building and fundraising plans in place and is set to begin work on the roughly \$450,000 structure.

According to plans submitted to the Trust by the applicant, the facility will be constructed on a portion of the golf club property

between the club's cart shed and the ninth hole.

Regulations permit a structure no higher than 7.6 metres (25 feet) in height.

The SSTA assured the Islands Trust that the group is "fully committed to provide public access to the facility."

Dos Santos said rates will be in line with the between \$20 to \$24 hourly charge for courts in other communities in B.C.

"Those are the rates needed to keep the facility funded," he said. "Unlike the pool, we would be unfunded [by public money]."

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NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees bound by 'visions of the past'

Creekhouse plan highlights need for village plan

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Four small Fulford-Ganges Road businesses may be on the outs for good, but that didn't stop the nearly 10 speakers who expressed frustration, disappointment and a sliver of hope to preserve what they deem a vital part of Ganges Village.

"I'm afraid that the impression I'm left with is that there isn't very much recourse in this situation, that the bylaws are insufficient for the four small stores in Ganges and very likely for the protection of other small stores," said Emily McIvor during a local Trust committee meeting's formal delegation session at ArtSpring on Friday afternoon.

"As much as I can try to tell them what I think they should do with their property, they don't need to listen to me."

As speaker after speaker raised concerns over plans to replace a row of local shops with a two-storey, 423-square metre (4,558-square-foot) commercial building on Ganges' main drag, McIvor spent more than half an hour in the ArtSpring lobby reciting the names of nearly 700 individuals who signed a petition

against the plan.

Trustees George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson used Friday's meeting to refer the project's development permit area application "together with all correspondence received to date" to the Trust's Advisory Design Panel for advice on how the new building complies with Ganges' form and character guidelines.

"I think we basically all agree that we want to hear what the Advisory Design Panel has to say," Ehring said. "That is where we'll have our greatest discussion."

Construction of a new building at 162 Fulford-Ganges Road represents the final stage of a three-phase project that was initially approved in 1989. While the next ADP meeting might see plenty of discussion, opponents' efforts to prevent phase three don't appear promising.

Mark's Work Warehouse will occupy the new building's 234-square-metre (2,517-square-foot) first floor when construction is complete.

"As a land-use body we say, 'these are the permitted uses that are allowed on a piece of land' but we don't say who can conduct those uses on that land," Ehring said.

He asked that the debate's focus be shifted from the tenant to a discussion about maximum space limits for commercial spaces during the Trust's upcoming DPA review

process.

"I think the question of size and scale is important," he said.

The response came as little consolation to McIvor and others who pled for a halt to

"I want small stores in Ganges and I think it's your job to figure out how that's done."

EMILY MCIVOR
Opponent, Creekhouse expansion plans

expansion plans.

"I feel the preservation of small stores is possibly a community economic development issue as much as it is a design issues, however, as far as I can see, there is no mandate in the planning process for addressing community economic development issues," McIvor said.

"My position is that I would like to see small stores preserved in Ganges. I want small stores in Ganges and I think it's your job to figure out how that's done."

Trustee Torgrimson urged speakers to make their opinions known when a "village planning process" begins sometime soon.

"There are lots of different concerns expressed today and it's going to be a very big job," she said.

"We're always playing catch-up when it comes to land use planning," Torgrimson said.

"One of the most difficult things as a trustee are the limitations that are placed on us because of the visions of the past and the documents and the legislation that we have at hand and what we can and can't do and what we are empowered to do legally as elected public officials, as local government officials on Salt Spring Island."

Neither landowner Leon Aptekmann nor project architect Jonathan Yardley were on the island for last week's meeting. An engineer representing the land owner was available during the meeting.

"I want to assure everyone that what is said here will be relayed to the owner," said Bill Simpson, the project's engineer. "We are hearing what you are saying."

He said the existing structure will be demolished by mid-February and he anticipates construction of the new building will be complete by the summer of 2012.

The ADP will address the application when it meets at 3 p.m. in the Baptist Church (rear entrance of 520 Lower Ganges Rd.) on Thursday, Jan. 27. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

ISLANDS TRUST

Local trustees dodge ISG's apology request

Chair pleads for civil civic debate

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Weeks of tension between Islands Trust critics and the island's locally elected trustees were thrust upon the public stage during Friday afternoon's local Trust committee meeting at ArtSpring.

Tension mounted following the trustees' apparent unwillingness to retract alleged statements that link the pro-incorporation Islanders for Self-Government group with the now notorious Ehring Bunker video released in mid-December.

"To imply that we had some-

thing to do with this is, at best, misleading and, in fact, totally untrue," said Jill Treewater, ISG's web manager.

"I personally feel maligned by the trustees."

Treewater called upon trustees to retract and apologize for comments about ISG they made in submissions to the Driftwood, especially in the wake of the video's appearance on the Islands Trust's own Facebook site over the Christmas holidays.

Some audience members reacted to trustee Christine Torgrimson's decision to not address the matter with forced laughter and expressions of disbelief.

"Am I to understand that they

would prefer not to retract their statements?" Treewater asked the chair.

Trustee Ehring summed up his position with a curt, "I will make no comments about the video."

The dodge encouraged at least one member of the audience to get up from his seat and head for the door.

"This is a disgrace," said Norbert Schlenker before exiting the room.

A crowd of some 80 residents representing a range of island perspectives turned out to voice their displeasure or stand in support of the current LTC committee at Friday's meeting.

"These are interesting times," LTC chair Sheila Malcolmson

told the crowd before the town hall session.

"I think sometimes anonymous online technologies can make our communities seem like they are angrier places than they are, but I feel sure that they are not."

"These are the trustees that your community elected and we really need to hear what islanders are thinking about the decisions that we are going to be making over the next few months," Malcolmson added.

"We really need the benefit of everybody's views and we need everybody feeling safe saying what they have to say and we want to celebrate differences without hurting anybody else's feelings."

Operators seek public support

SEAPLANES

continued from A1

already in place. The design would incorporate the helicopter operators and accommodate potential future passenger ferry traffic.

The hub would connect directly with public transit through Waterfront Station and the Canada Line.

Reece said an architect is planning a building that would reflect the character of adjacent Gastown. And the building cost would have no effect on fares.

"A lot of people who fly with us regularly say an extra \$24 would just be too much of a dif-

ference," Reece said, adding the number is the minimum amount projected by the developer but could rise significantly.

Other considerations involve noise and safety, both of which would be improved by VCSOA's preferred location, Reece said. As a recognized leader in sea plane safety, SaltSpring Air is hoping this argument will have some sway. So far, as reported in the Vancouver Sun, authorities from Port Metro Vancouver don't share that view.

VCSOA currently has plans to meet with Port Metro Vancouver to discuss its application

for the Harbour Hub. Representatives from the organization will make further attempts to win their case at a breakfast meeting with Mayor Gregor Robertson this Thursday.

Reece said public support will also be necessary to change the city's plans.

"We're hoping people will come on side and speak out by writing to us or writing a letter to the editor to show it's to everybody's benefit, not just the small industry group."

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NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

Paramedics secure Park Drive location

Facility design subject to ADP hearing

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of Salt Spring Island's paramedic crew will be packing their bags and moving into a brand new ambulance facility at 275 Park Drive later this year thanks to a decision by trustees at Friday's local Trust committee meeting.

Trustees Christine Torgrimson and Sheila Malcolmson acknowledged that the decision was necessary given the importance of securing a long-term facility for such an essential service on the island.

"This really is an essential community service," trustee Torgrimson said after the vote.

Trustee George Ehring voluntarily absented himself from the discussion based on a concern that he may be subject to a conflict of interest.

Wendy Hall, BC Ambulance's director of facilities, said her organization has every intention of considering recommendations



Artist's rendition of the proposed ambulance station.

offered by members of the Advisory Design Panel (ADP) when it looks over the application on Jan. 27.

Trustees' decision to approve the project's development permit application was set amidst a backdrop of concerns from nearby residents who feared for the long-term safety and peacefulness of their neighbourhood.

Teresa Hitch, a Valhalla Road resident, pled with trustees and

members of the ADP to seriously consider the project's potential impact on neighbours and pedestrians who use Park Drive.

"Park Drive is used by a significant number of pedestrians," she said. "It's the safest option for people going from Lower Ganges Road to the schools."

Drivers too, she said, could face dangers when having to pull aside for passing ambulances along the

narrow roadway.

"One of the main reasons I purchased my residence in Ganges is because I can walk almost anywhere I need to go," Hitch said. "I rarely use my car but this could change if I perceive a safety issue."

Shared Services BC acquired the property for the purposes of constructing a two-bay ambulance station in 2010.

The island's ambulance crews have been

working out of rented space at a local motel since a fire destroyed their Kings Lane facility in April 2009.

Hall said ambulance drivers receive special training to avoid unnecessary conflicts with people and livestock within the immediate vicinity of ambulance stations.

Torgrimson said the ADP's comments will only refer to the new building's design.

The application will be considered at the ADP's Jan. 27 meeting at the Baptist Church at 3 p.m.

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NORTH END WATER

New water facility needed to 'maintain acceptable service'

CRD clarifies water district muddle

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Additional funds required to complete a new water treatment plant for the Fernwood and Highlands Water Service Area could cost ratepayers as much as \$45 more per quarter for the next 15 years.

The rate increase will come into effect if the water district's nearly 400 customers approve borrowing of up to \$500,000 in a referendum slated for March 2011.

Should the referendum fail, a spokesperson for the Capital Regional District concedes, funding would not be available to complete the facility as planned.

"Alternatives would need to be considered to meet legislated objectives and to maintain acceptable service to Highland and Fernwood customers," wrote Gary Pleven, an engineering technician with the Capital Regional District, in a Jan. 12 newsletter.

Exactly what those alternatives are and when they would be pursued weren't addressed.

Demands for more funds emerged when the company contracted to complete the project submitted claims for additional costs during the summer of 2010.

"Negotiations to arrive at a fair value of payment for the change of scope and delay of work have been unsuccessful to date," Pleven said.

He added that it's "now apparent that oversights in the planning and specifying of the work tendered for construction occurred and the CRD is receiving legal advice and direction in this matter."

"We need a new facility badly and this will be very nice for both districts."

SHARON BYWATER
Commissioner

Though the Fernwood and Highlands Water Service Areas each maintain authority over their respective operations and expenses, property owners from both districts voted in favour of a shared water treatment facility in March 2009.

"While the Fernwood Water Service Area plant continues to be serviceable, changes to provincial drinking water guidelines would see the local service make improvements to its own facilities in the future," Pleven said.

Funding for the project includes nearly \$1 million in provincial funds and approximately \$739,000 and \$220,500 from the Highlands and Fernwood districts respectively.

Based on current plans, the new treatment plant will be constructed on Maycock Road.

Pleven said more information about a public meeting for water service area residents will be provided in the coming weeks.

Sharon Bywater, a commissioner for the Highland and Fernwood Water Service Area, expects the funds needed to complete the neighbourhood's water treatment plant will pay off in the long run.

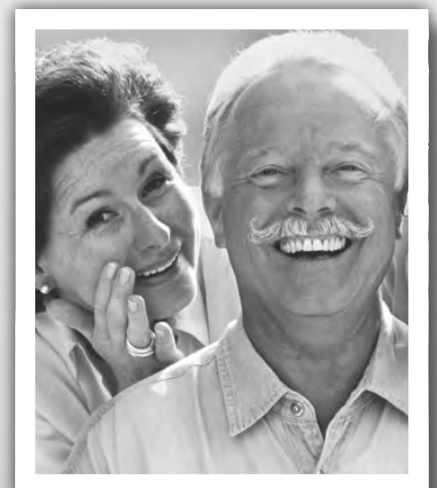
"We need a new facility badly and this will be very nice for both districts," she said. "There should be a long-term savings in operational costs."

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NEWSBEAT

HOSPITAL

Stakeholders remain divided over Lady Minto Hospital surgery closure

Doctors support VIHA decision

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While Salt Spring's Save Our Surgery committee has been working hard on its campaign to keep Lady Minto's operating room equipped and staffed for its original purpose, other island groups are speaking up to voice related concerns.

Salt Spring's physicians are the latest to weigh into the debate. In a letter to the editor published in this week's Driftwood, Manya Sadouski, president of Lady Minto's medical staff, and 14 other doctors state that they do not share the opinion of the SOS committee or believe that surgical services should be reinstated at the hospital.

Most, but not all, of the island's physicians signed the letter.

Another group that has stayed quiet for most of the campaign has ended its silence with a nod to the other side, however. The Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary asked its members earlier this month to write letters to MLA Murray Coell, following the publication of a story outlining the struggle in The Globe and Mail.

Auxiliary president Victoria Woodman said the organization decided to act "because the surgery is the heart of the hospital."

"It's not the only part, but without it so much else doesn't take place."

Woodman explained the auxiliary membership has been discussing some different approaches to what SOS is doing because the two groups have different mandates to fulfill.

One thing the auxiliary wants is a face-to-face meeting with VIHA authorities to

talk about the situation.

"I think in some ways we have more pull because of our contact with VIHA," Woodman said.

The Capital Regional Hospital District is another high-profile body to throw in its opinion during the last few months.

A motion passed by the board on Nov. 10, 2010 asks VIHA to suspend operating room repurposing activities, including selling off equipment and renovating, until it provides the board with more information about its decision.

Robert Lapham, general manager of CRD Planning & Protective Services, said the motion was passed because the capital project the CRHD invested in hadn't been fully realized.

The CRHD contributed \$1.1 million to a state-of-the-art renovation to the operating room.

"The hospital district is concerned that if the health district is participating in a capital project that the commitment is being advanced," Lapham said.

"If we build a hospital, we want to make sure it is being used."

VIHA's position on the CRHD's motion has been that it won't respond until it receives an official request from the board, which it hasn't so far.

Lapham said he would check into the situation, but his understanding was VIHA would act on the information presented at the Nov. 10 meeting.

"VIHA was at the meeting when the motion was passed, so they're very much aware of the position," he said.

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COURT DOCKET

Testimony error leads to dropped charges

Alcohol factors in convictions

A Salt Spring man's trial at Ganges Provincial Court last week ended early after a police witness made a critical error in his testimony.

The defendant was charged with care of a vehicle while impaired and care of a vehicle with an alcohol reading over .08. Both charges stemmed from an incident that occurred on Oct. 1, 2008.

Two breath tickets produced shortly after the inci-

COURTDOCKET

dent showed readings of .140 and .120. Crown prosecutor Jody Patsch was asking police witness Const. J.P. Krause questions about the alcohol readings and the equipment when the officer mistakenly defined the measurement as being millilitres, instead of milligrams, of alcohol per millilitres of blood. Patsch decided to stay both charges following Krause's failure to catch the mistake.

Alcohol was a factor in two other cases that were decided by Judge Brian Neale on Wednesday. Neale handed down an elevated fine and driving suspension to David Graves after he pled guilty to driving while impaired on Dec. 12, 2010.

Patsch had requested a fine of \$1,500 and a two-year suspension because of Graves' previous record and two breath samples of .180.

Defence lawyer Tybring Hemphill did not contest the suggested sentence on Graves' behalf. Graves, who now lives

in Edmonton, told the judge, "I'd just like to apologize to the community and the court for the poor decision made."

Tawepisim Chartrand, a 20-year-old Salt Spring man, was sentenced to one year of probation with provision for alcohol counselling and 30 hours of community service after pleading guilty to attempted theft. Chartrand admitted to trying to steal a bottle of gin from The Local liquor store while intoxicated. His probation order includes staying out of liquor stores, bars and pubs.

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Trust ramps up OCP, LUB, DPA review efforts

Suite legalization still under review

TRUSTBRIEFS

Island planners offered a sign of things to come on Friday afternoon during an update about the ongoing official community plan and land use bylaw review processes.

Planners are working flat out to incorporate new Riparian Area Regulations stipulated by the provincial government and to initiate a review of the island's development permit area guidelines in time for a public information session hoped to occur in the spring.

Among decisions being considered is a proposal by trustees to designate each of the island's 24 RAR-identified watershed areas as a DPA.

According to a staff report presented to trustees on Friday, that option would mean "all land within the 24 RAR-designated watersheds would be designated as a DPA regardless of where the actual watercourse is, accounting for approximately 60 per cent (or more) of the island's land base."

The Province of British Columbia introduced the Riparian Area Regulations as a way to encourage responsible development and help landowners conduct activities in a way that does not jeopardize valuable fish habitat.

Trustees have forwarded the RAR proposal to the Trust's advi-

sory planning, agricultural and environmental advisory committees for comment before scheduling a formal public consultation process.

In other DPA review news, trustees agreed to incorporate recommendations from the management plans for St. Mary and Cusheon lakes into a draft DPA 4 (lakes, streams and wetlands). Efforts are also underway to develop a draft DPA 6 (unstable slopes and soil erosion hazards) based on moderate and high-hazard areas as a guideline.

Industrial and agricultural lands

A representative from the island's Agricultural Alliance wants planners to broaden the scope of the land use bylaw concerning industrial and agricultural land uses.

"We are always trying to make things happen in agriculture, food security and all those kinds of things, yet we are being constantly hampered by the process and the difficulties of moving things along in the planning process," said Anne Macey during Friday's LTC meeting.

Deferral of several agricultural and industrial recommendations

due to a lack of Trust office staff, Macey said, will create more long-term troubles for agriculture on the island.

Trustees voted to forward the latest staff report to the advisory planning commission and agriculture advisory committees for further review.

Trustee Christine Torgrimson noted that staff time is at a premium, but said all efforts should be made to incorporate recommendations supplied by last year's Industrial Task Force.

"I would like some assurance that this is not just dropped," Torgrimson said.

Suites and cottages

Trust planner Susan Palmer informed trustees and participants at Friday's LTC meeting that efforts are still underway to identify potential pilot areas for a trial legalization of rental suites and cottages on the island.

"We're still in the compiling stage," she said.

Work is ongoing with representatives from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District over water usage and the Capital Regional District about legal questions relating to homeowner and tenant rights.

An analysis of the Whistler model is also being considered, though, Palmer said, "whether we want to go there remains to be seen."

NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

NOT A DOG'S WORLD: Hailey Rasmussen and Sadie are disappointed in the CRD enforcement of its bylaws that forbid dogs in Centennial and Portlock parks. CRD bylaw enforcement officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser reminds people that the no-dogs bylaw is now being enforced.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Saturna spot likely filled by acclamation

Dian Johnstone steps up to the plate

The nomination period for Saturna Island local trustee candidates closed Friday, with Dian Sandra Johnstone the only person to submit nomination papers.

In accordance with the requirements of B.C.'s Local Government Act, electors had until Jan. 18 to challenge the nomination.

Assuming there's no chal-

lenge, Johnstone will be declared elected by acclamation on Jan. 24, after which she can be sworn in as a local trustee for the Saturna Island Local Trust Area.

The position became vacant in October 2010, when former Saturna Island local trustee John Money submitted his resignation.

A by-election by voting had been scheduled for Feb. 19, but will not be required.

The successful candidate will fill the position vacated by

Money until the term ends in early December 2011.

Johnstone is retired and has been living on Saturna Island since 1998.

She had a 20-year career in tax administration at B.C.'s Ministry of Finance, and served more recently as a consultant to the World Bank and other agencies in Kosovo, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tanzania and Macedonia.

Johnstone is also an active community volunteer, serving on the island's fire protec-

tion board, the arts and concerts society, Saturna Women's Service Club, the Saturna Community Club and the recreation society board, as well as being a member of the Lions Club.

She also founded the Meals on Wheels program on Saturna Island.

Johnstone will be part of the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee, along with Saturna Island local trustee Beverley Neff and committee chair Peter Luckham.

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 Bronze - Best Community Service - "Residents Card Program"
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EDITORIAL

Sounds like a plan

News that the B.C. Ambulance Service has purchased property for a brand new ambulance station at 275 Park Drive has given an auspicious start to 2011 on Salt Spring.

Currently a residential property near the intersection with Valhalla Road in Ganges, the plan sees existing structures to be replaced by a new building with a two-bay garage and some drainage work undertaken. Provincial government funding is available for the project through March of this year.

We at the Driftwood aren't just happy because our news staff might finally be able to catch an ambulance since the site is visible from our back window. We're happy for the community's dedicated ambulance staff, who since April of 2009 have been housed in what a November

2009 Driftwood article described as "cramped and far-from-adequate quarters."

THE ISSUE:

New ambulance station

WE SAY:

Good spot, good plan

BCAS personnel, who had to endure a long and bitter labour dispute with the provincial government while also losing their last ambulance station to a fire, have so far spent 21 months in those conditions at

the Seabreeze Inne. While the motel space was thankfully made available for use, it's great to see the BCAS do what was required to alleviate a difficult situation for its workers.

Since public service uses such as an ambulance station are allowed in the applicable Residential 6 zone, a rezoning application is not required — just a development permit from the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Permit approval was granted at last week's LTC meeting, although the Advisory Design Panel will take a look at the site and building proposal to ensure it complies with Development Permit Area 1 guidelines.

As for neighbours' potential worries, BCAS staff say that sirens will not be heard at all hours of the night and day, and that ambulances will not be driven through the school zone on Park Drive unless a call comes from that immediate area. Drivers are also trained to avoid conflicts with pedestrians and other vehicles, they stressed.

Of course, this being Salt Spring, the plan could still be derailed by some obscure or bizarre technicality, so any celebration might be premature.

But let's assume that won't be the case, and that the next story about Salt Spring's ambulance station will be for the grand opening party.



Edging out the unique boutiques

BY ROSS KING

I attended Friday's Islands Trust meeting at ArtSpring to hear the deliberations on the landlord Leon Aptekmann and Mark's Work Warehouse application for demolition and redevelopment at 162 Fulford-Ganges Road.

I was much impressed by the 100 per cent rejection by public speakers of the prospect of Mark's taking over the whole block. Several hundred other signatories of the petition to this effect (read out at ArtSpring) added huge weight to the protest.

Clearly, only landlord Aptekmann and the franchisees of Mark's in Ganges want this to succeed.

That's two — for obvious reasons of personal profit for both — versus hundreds who want to preserve the unique-boutique nature of downtown for the benefit of everyone.

I had previously written a letter to landlord Aptekmann suggesting that Mark's be housed on two levels using its existing footprint (in the pleasant and appropriate style of Mouat's Clothing), leaving the rest for unique boutiques (with offices overhead).

Modern-day manners being what they are, I suppose I shouldn't expect the courtesy of a reply, but the silence says it anyway.

The Islands Trust planners' report, available at the meeting, was a gem of bureaucracy.

It drivelled on about shrubs and parking and sight-lines and compliance with this bit of minutiae in the regulations or another, while ignoring the elephant in the room: public hostility to the whole idea of prising out small shopkeepers and replacing them with a block-wide frontage of a retail

outlet whose parent company is Canadian Tire. Talk about fiddling while Rome burns!

VIEWPOINT

My invocation to the trustees was that they ignore the elephant at their peril . . . "Be relevant to the big issue at hand," not dotting the i's and crossing the t's as to landscaping and sight-lines, and contriving in the process to approve the proposal on the basis of compliance with the minutiae alone, or approval by stealth under the radar screen.

The other issue that arose during the public input session was that Ganges is short of commercially zoned space and has been so for many years.

This, apparently, is why Fields left town. Might I ask the trustees why this state of affairs persists?

Were there space available outside the downtown core, maybe Mark's Work Warehouse could build its store there.

One gets to wondering what forces are at work behind the scenes that prevent this happening. Maybe the trustees can explain that too?

In conclusion, what do we Salt Springers want? (We, if we choose, can assert ourselves here.) The profiteering of a landlord and his anchor-tenant, sacrificing the heart and soul of downtown Ganges? Or an appropriate, sympathetic development, retaining the character of downtown Ganges, that allows small retailers to flourish in a heavily tourist-oriented market?

And to trustees Ehring and Torgrimson, the rallying-cry from now on should be: "Relevance to the supervening issues!" (And I choose to bite my lip, for now, on the antonym of "relevance.")

The writer is a retired engineer.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you contributing to an RRSP this year?

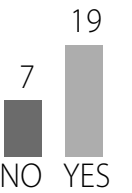
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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you following the B.C. political party leadership races?



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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"As much as I can try to tell them what I think they should do with their property, they don't need to listen to me."

EMILY MCIVOR, RE MARK'S WW CAMPAIGN

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How have you prepared your home for an earthquake?

**JEN RITSON**

We have 45 litres of water, a container with a week and a half of food and given our emergency contact information to friends and family who live out of the province.

**YAN SVENDSEN**

I haven't. I guess with today's stronger building codes we don't have to worry as much.

**ZAK CUTSHALL**

Nothing really. We're definitely due for an earthquake, but I'm not going to live in fear.

**ANDREW COPELAND**

I've bought lots of insurance.

**PEGGY MACKENZIE**

We haven't yet because we're still new residents.

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.**

Civility abandoned

Having attended the local Trust committee meeting on Jan. 14 at ArtSpring, I watched two very different dynamics at work.

On the one hand were those who directed their attention to items on the agenda when opinions and ideas flowed freely.

The atmosphere quickly changed to one of open hostility when some in attendance abandoned any pretense at civility and proceeded to badger and bait the trustees in a manner that was disruptive, vitriolic and absolutely shameful to watch.

I left feeling sick to my stomach and wondered if others felt the same way.

For shame, shame, shame.
SAM TARASOFF,
DUKES ROAD

Shaking our heads

There are a very few individuals on this island who have produced some despicable materials and posted them on various websites. They are not a reflection of what this community is about.

They attack good people personally, falsely and they do so anonymously.

Our trustees and Islands Trust supporters are the targets of these attacks, this time. For some of these people, it is very upsetting. They have worked hard for years for the good of this community.

When people bully others,

make fun, are disrespectful, and intimidate, it is never about what is best for the community. If apologies are owed, it is from these few individuals.

Good, clean respectful discussion about crucial issues is necessary and should be encouraged.

Personal, anonymous attacks solve nothing and hurt us all.

In a time when communities around the world are trying to figure out how to pull together to weather tough times, these behaviours are even more disturbing. As a community we can't let the bullies win.

And they will win if healthy, respectful debate stops and good people don't run for elected positions or stop working on behalf of our community.

Who doesn't want a caring, inclusive, thriving community free of bullies?

We certainly want it in our schools, for our children.

JEAN GELWICKS,
PETER LAMB,
SALT SPRING

Don't use F word

A friend called me last night to let me know that my name was on a proud list of Islands Trust supporters.

But the trouble was, this list had been published on a local website by "Vermiform appendix," whoever this is, and we had been designated Fascisti in a comment by Elizabeth Nickson.

Me, a fascist? I was awake most of the night, a news-

reel playing over and over in my head.

I was sitting in the darkened movie house in my small town, 13 years old, and one of the first films of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps was playing.

And there they were, those stunned, bird-like creatures, shrunken and stumbling, hardly recognizable as humans. The shock for me then was overwhelming, and still is; I'm crying now as I write about this. And who had done this to those people? Fascists and Nazis.

These two words are too horrible ever to be used as insults except for present-day persons who are guilty of crimes against humanity. They should never be used by anyone casually or

as in this case, for verbal abuse.

Personally, I've been called a lot of things: liberal, conservative, progressive, socialist, moderate, independent, communist, and even, by the present governor of the State of Arizona, "kind of a hippy." I can't complain. If you look these words up in a dictionary for the original meanings, they're not so bad.

But fascist? Never. Ms. Nickson, you owe me and all the other good people on your list a public apology. And please don't let it read like a Sarah Palin campaign speech.

A simple "I'm sorry" will do.
DOROTHY CUTTING,
PRICE ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on A11

From o'shlint to buffaced: there oughtta be a word for it

In my library, I have a book called "What's What." It's loaded with pictures and drawings of just about everything imaginable in the world and it names all of the parts which make up those things.

For instance, something as simple as a necktie actually has 10 distinct parts ranging from the "bar tack" to the "margin." The dark, smooth skin above a cat's nostrils is called "nose leather." The symbols like *#!\$#%^ which represent curse words in the thought balloons of comic strips are called "maladicta," and are divided into "jarns," "quimps," "gawlix" and "nittles," depending on which scribble is used.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, there are approximately a quarter of a million words in the English language (give or take 20 or 30 thousand). Just one of these words is "palindrome," which is defined as a word or a group of words which reads the same way frontwards and backwards. "Mom," "racecar" and "go hang a salami, I'm a lasagna hog" are three examples palindromes. And some people think of a dictionary as boring!

The last few years have seen the introduction of a whole slew of new words being recruited into the English language. Most of these new entries come as a result of the revolution in communications, information processing and social networking. You can't go more than five minutes, it seems, without hearing words like "google," "twitter" and "tweet," (although most of them sound like something you might do to make a baby giggle).

You would think that a quarter million

words would be enough. Think again. There are certain things that occur in our lives daily that we still have no name for. Nobody asked me, but it's obvious we need even more.

Have you ever been in the act of dialing a phone number, and just as you hit the last number you forget who it is you're calling.

When the person on the other end of the line answers, you exchange a few pleasantries as your brain works overtime trying to pick up enough clues from the other voice as to who you have just called. There oughtta be a word for that.

There oughtta be a word to define the tiny specks of white fluff you discover completely covering all your clothes after you put a pair of jeans with a wad of Kleenex in the pocket through both the washer and dryer. There oughtta be another word to describe the feeling that comes over you when you make this discovery. I suggest the word "O'shlint!"

There oughtta be a word for that little pile of nuts, bolts, screws and washers that are always left over after you have assembled a set of Ikea bookshelves (especially if you follow the directions to the letter). How about "skolbits?"

There oughtta be a word for that moment when you realize you have been reading that same paragraph on the same page for the last hour.

Likewise, there oughtta be a word for the feeling you get when you realize, just as the

**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

end credits are scrolling up the screen, that you've already seen this video (and didn't like it the first time either).

How about a word for when you have the sensation that you're about to sneeze and so you quickly grab a clump of Kleenex out of your pocket (yes, it's that same wad that led to "O'shlint"), but nothing happens and the sneeze doesn't materialize?

We could call this "premature a-choo-lation." And what about another word for when you finally give up waiting and put the tissue paper back in your pocket just before the sneeze explodes from your face like an Icelandic geyser ("o'shnott!!!")

There oughtta be a word for what happens to a group of empty wire coat hangers in the closet when you try to separate one from the rest ("shnargled"?). (That "sh" sound is good for emotional release!)

What about a word for the look on your face when, after piling a mountain of food on your plate at an "all you can eat buffet," you realize you can't possibly even begin to finish it ("buffaced"?). And what about how you feel afterwards if indeed you do manage to eat the whole thing ("buffaked"?)

There oughtta be a word for when you get to the ferry terminal and notice that you are the first in line and the ferry is nowhere in sight and you realize that you have looked at the wrong column in the ferry schedule.

The ferry is just beginning to unload on the other side and you are stuck in an

empty parking lot for what will seem like hours. How about "ferry-farct?"

There oughtta be a word that describes what happens when you try to feed a drawstring through the waistband of your favourite pair of sweat pants but the string gets jammed just before you get through to the other side.

Instead of pulling it back out and starting again, you spend a futile hour trying to force it that last couple of inches, and then, in frustration, take scissors to the sucker to try to cut your way through to opposite end. Even if you succeed, the sweat pants are by this time so damaged that you wind up cutting them into strips and using them to tie up your tomato plants.

There oughtta be a word for when you are trying to think of a word and you're sure it begins with a certain letter but, try as you may, the word does not come to you. You spend several days thinking of every word you know beginning with that letter and then suddenly, out of the blue, it comes to you. Not only does it not begin with the letter you thought, but it doesn't even have that letter anywhere in it.

There you have it. In some cases I've offered suggestions for possible additions to the English language club. In other instances, I've left it to you and your imagination to come up with the right words. You can send your offerings to the email address that follows this column or just walk up to me on the street, point to my shirt, and say "O'shlint!" I'll know what you mean.

thyme2001@saltspring.com

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OPINION



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
TOY STORY:
 Betty Kremer peers at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop window, which was displaying a collection of colourful toys last week.

MORE LETTERS

MORE LETTERS
 continued from A9

Tantrums

I have noticed several times, in recent Driftwood issues, people appealing for a more measured and conciliatory approach to local politics in 2011. I wholeheartedly endorse this sentiment and I was hoping to see a little moderation introduced into the discourse.

So it was with great sadness that I witnessed some appalling behaviour in the town hall section of last week's local Trust meeting.

The chair introduced the format and rules of the town hall session, which are not difficult to understand and are always the same. Several people gave good speeches about topical issues and then an angry ISG person took the mic and proceeded to intimidate the trustees. Others also heckled from the audience. This culminated in an embarrassing display of screaming and arm-waving by Norbert Schlenker. I shudder to think that, had it not been for the wisdom of the island electors at the last local elections, this glib and self-important ideologue would have been one of our trustees. It seems that many of the people involved in the ISG movement are incapable of temperate dialogue, being more inclined towards expressions of resentment and rage — probably arising from frustration that so many of us disagree with them.

There is a term for this kind of behaviour — bullying. I was pleased to observe that the trustees and staff withstood the haranguing with dignity and I commend them for persevering in what was always a thankless task, and which is surely verging on intolerable.

In his last column, Peter Vincent wrote that he looks forward to can-

didates for Trust becoming raw meat (does this remind anyone else of Sarah Palin's exhortation to "reload?"). Is this what we want on Salt Spring — local government as blood sport?

I recently wrote a letter to the editor in which I expressed a wish that Peter write less often about the Trust, because he does it so badly. It was with ironic amusement on two counts, therefore, that I read Peter's last paragraph: firstly he neatly defines himself as a fanatic — the correct quote is "one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." And secondly, that in an article in which he resolves to be more accurate in his quotations, he manages to misquote Churchill!

MICHAEL WALL,
 SALT SPRING

Food bank unique

In response to June Boe's letter "Food bank suggestions" (Jan. 12):

As a food bank volunteer for the past nine months, I just have a few comments.

I wonder if Ms. Boe is aware that people can come to the brunch program on Tuesday mornings at Community Services and fill out forms requesting the food that they want from the food bank. We do our best to fill people's requests if we have the items they ask for. People can say if they are vegetarian or vegan or need gluten-free or sugar-free food, etc. We read labels if there are special requests and do our best. We also have eggs (hard-boiled if requested), cheese and tofu.

I agree that we are generally low on fresh produce (except in the summer when we get more donations from farmers). We usually can only give fruit and vegetables to last for about two days. More donations of produce would be great, but we also do have space limitations. Our refrigerators and shelves are almost always full.

I have heard from several people that our food bank is unique — that people can ask for what they want and that we have a lot of good (and healthy) choices. And, yes, I would and do eat a lot of the kinds of food at the food bank — rice (brown and white), oats, lentils, pasta, canned beans, peanut butter, tuna, etc.

I hope that Ms. Boe might try filling out a request form to see if she can get more of her needs met at the food bank.

CORRIE HOPE FURST,
 SALT SPRING

Actions questioned

Thanks to Elizabeth Nolan for her Jan. 12 article on the closure of the Lady Minto surgery. ("Coell meeting inspires SOS group").

I am surprised by the comments made by MLA Murray Coell that "the new issue the SOS committee has is the CRHD cost share issues — they've paid for an operating room and they haven't received an operating room."

New issue? This "cost-share issue," which in addition to local taxpayer dollars, also involves about \$800,000 donated by Salt Spring residents, has been obvious to everyone, except apparently Mr. Coell, for the past two years.

During this time, Mr. Coell seems to be going round in circles. Prior to the May 2009 elec-

tion, after Dr. Preshaw's hospital privileges were withdrawn by VIHA, finding a replacement surgeon was his "top priority." Then after the election, he reneged on a promise to arrange a meeting between SOS and the Minister of Health, when VIHA announced its bogus "needs assessment." When this assessment recommended closure of the surgery, Mr. Coell supported the recommendation. In his last newsletter, he also stated that VIHA's decision was supported by all of the stakeholders on Salt Spring, which is simply not true.

Now, Mr. Coell is promising once again to arrange meetings, though again he appears to be paying lip service only, stating he does not support political interference in VIHA's decision-making. But when a politically appointed bureaucracy makes an unjustified decision, who else can we turn to but the government members who appointed them in the first place? Our community deserves better than this.

A Jan. 15 article in the Vancouver Sun about VIHA's recent cutbacks of life- and cost-saving weight-loss surgeries also makes it clear that their decisions stem from budget cuts imposed by the Liberal government. VIHA spokesperson Shannon Marshall states that VIHA cut these surgeries by more than half in 2010-11 compared

to 2008 levels because of a \$45-million (2.6 per cent) overrun on a \$1.7-billion budget. Marshall goes on to say that "VIHA's entire surgical program was over budget by more than \$2 million and it had to be reduced."

There were a number of other cuts to important health care services also made by VIHA to reduce its government-imposed budget. For provincial politicians to reduce VIHA's budget in the first place and then cite "political independence" as an excuse to turn a blind eye to resulting cutbacks is a bit much.

Finally, the Liberal-appointed, "independent" VIHA board has an uncanny sense of political timing. VIHA announced its \$45 million deficit, and the need for health care cuts, on May 13, 2009 — one day after the May 12 provincial election.

GARY HOLMAN,
 MCLENNAN DRIVE

MORE LETTERS on A13

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LIONEL G. JOHNSON
Investment Advisor

Have you noticed how low GIC and bond interest rates are? Have your investments performed well generating enough income for you to live on? Perhaps a fresh new perspective for your investments is in order!

Investment strategy must have a proactive approach and be adjusted relative to personal objectives and economic risks. The timing and weighting of these investments is very important.

The best investment strategy is one that has defensive characteristics to preserve your investment, plus has a high yield or cash flow. Some of these investments can include interest rate sensitive strategies such as bonds, mortgages and debentures. Others investments I recommend are somewhat economically sensitive but defensive in strategy including preferred shares, utilities and consumer staples such as food and health care investments.

In past recessions I have invested in real estate trusts and high-yield corporate bonds. These types of investments tend to do well as the economy improves and they generate a very high cash flow.

For clients who want potential higher rates of return, are more aggressive and accept more risk, I have recommended investments in the precious metals. Gold investment strategies can be very diverse including mutual funds, gold and silver stocks, and exchange traded funds. These strategies can also be influenced by exchange rates and may or may not require currency hedging.

Going forward into 2011, my professional opinion is to be very conservative and defensive in strategy as I feel the risks in the world economies are very high. I believe that stock market volatility will continue to be excessive as it has been for the past ten years.

Over the past five years my recommendations have mostly included Canadian dollar investments. If you are investing in foreign markets you have to consider currency hedging so as to ensure that currency losses do not negate all of your interest and gains.

Investment strategies that are based upon passive or static mutual fund type asset allocation models perhaps did not perform well including possible losses over the past ten years.

I am an Investment Advisor that is proactive in strategy and has the ability to buy all types of investments such as GICs, bonds, mortgages, debentures, preferred shares, trusts, stocks, mutual funds, and exchange traded funds. Having an advisor who calls you more often, keeps you informed and is recommending investments that are appropriate is necessary for a successful investment strategy.

- LIONEL JOHNSON, INVESTMENT ADVISOR

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The tax season will be upon us soon and we are taking this opportunity to advise you of some things to consider:

- Eligible public transit passes are entitled to a tax credit. BC Ferry fares paid by an employee for travelling to and from work, qualify for this credit but certain conditions must be met.
- **Are you claiming all the medical expenses you are entitled to?** There is a wide variety of medical expenses that qualify for this credit. However, after March 4, 2010, expenses for purely cosmetic procedures along with any related services will be ineligible.
- **Are you considering applying for your CPP benefits?** Changes to the Canada Pension Plan may impact your decision.
- If you or a family member suffers from a disability, you may be eligible for the disability tax credit.
- The corporate tax rate for small businesses remains at 13.5% while personal tax rates range from 20.06% to 43.70%. Depending on your situation, incorporation may be right for you.
- **Are you behind in your tax filings?** The Canada Revenue Agency's Voluntary Disclosures Program (VDP) is a fairness initiative that gives taxpayers the opportunity to correct inaccurate, incomplete, or previously unreported information without penalties or prosecution. You still have to pay the income tax owing plus interest. It is best to contact an accountant in these situations before the Canada Revenue Agency contacts you!

We have two locations. The Salt Spring Island branch is managed by Frédéric Lizotte, C.G.A. and Paula Wheadon, C.G.A.. Our Victoria branch is managed by Catherine McLean, C.G.A. We provide services and support to many owner-managed and family-owned businesses, corporations, not for profit organizations, estates and family trusts, and individuals in the Salt Spring Island and Victoria areas. We would be pleased to assist you with your needs.



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OPINION

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

WORKOUT WEAR:

Salt Spring United's U13 soccer team shows off new workout wear they acquired with a \$500 donation from Windsor Plywood and by team members earning the other \$500 through assisting on a construction project.



Woodburner: let's do the math

BY NOAH CLINCH

Judi Stevenson's article in last week's Driftwood ("Burning wood in any form is best avoided") sent me reaching for the calculator.

It's been a while now that I've been feeling just a little guilty about my fireplace, and she finally got me going. Despite the inconveniences of lugging, cutting, splitting, stacking and storing firewood, there are still quite a few of us in rural B.C. who value the kind of indoor warmth that comes from burning wood.

Is it just another thing that is "politically incorrect" now? How antisocial are we woodburners, really? The only way to know is to do your own energy inventory. Here are a few idle calculations based on numbers from internet sources:

I share my house with one wife and two smallish dogs. If we sealed up the house, never opening the doors and windows and plugging all draughts, then over say 120 days of winter I calculate that we would have a total conductive heat loss of about five MBTU. Naturally we use a lot more heat than that! Ignoring for a moment the fact that all the electricity we use (including those dreaded incandescent lightbulbs!) goes to add heat in the house, every year we burn at least two cords of summer-seasoned fir, which corresponds to about 50 MBTU. Most of that heat goes up the chimney. So does the CO2.

Metabolic CO2 production: Two not very active adults and two lazy inactive dogs produce altogether about 3.5 kg of CO2 every day, or half a ton of CO2 every year, just by breathing and being alive. Hmm, so for 10,000 moderately active people on Salt Spring it adds up to some 14 tons of metabolic CO2 every day. . . Hey! if we had a "save the planet day" when everyone just stayed in bed, that could save about five tons of metabolic CO2 production just for the island, and not to mention the savings from

IN RESPONSE

not driving our cars that day!

Cars and trucks and jumbo jets: So how does being alive compare with driving? Burning a litre of petrol produces 2.3 kg of CO2. Suppose your car gets, say, 10 km/litre, inclusive of idling time. This means that just driving to Ganges and back will produce around two kg of CO2. Given a winter Salt Spring population of 10,000, it might be reasonable to expect, say, 500 such trips per day. That would add another daily ton or so of CO2 to the island atmosphere, in addition to the daily 14 tons of CO2 that we breathe out. This is very likely an underestimate: no allowance is made for off-island trips, trucks, delivery vehicles, or the island bus service. To put that into perspective, think about the CO2 generated if you take off from YVR for a holiday in Mexico, say, this winter. That would be three tons of CO2 per jumbo jet passenger, and then multiply that threefold to account for the much more powerful greenhouse effect of releasing CO2 at high altitude: your cheap return trip for one person to Cancun releases the equivalent of nine tons of CO2.

Things we buy: We don't manufacture much on the island, but we consume plenty of manufactured stuff. In making something as common as an ordinary plastic bottle, half a kg of CO2 is produced. For every plastic bag add another 200g CO2. But the main thing we buy here is food and I guess everyone knows by now that the story on that is very clear — cut down right away on your consumption of factory-farmed food, and especially on industrial beef, chicken and pork! According to a Feb. 2009 Scientific American article, industrial livestock production (6.5 billion tons CO2/year) is now second only to worldwide energy produc-

tion (7.5 billion tons CO2/year) as the main global source of CO2-equivalent greenhouse gases. By contrast, transportation (including air travel) releases just a mere 5.1 billion tons of CO2 annually. Even the total CO2 cost of making just one miserable industrial cheeseburger comes to around three kg of CO2! And if you don't eat many cheeseburgers you shouldn't start feeling too smug — most vegetarians eat plenty of dairy products!

Finally, the burning question: We are lucky to live on a patch of heavily forested land. It is still recovering from being cut over in the late '50s, but reasonably healthy nonetheless. Published figures vary, but our kind of temperate-zone woodland almost certainly sequesters over nine tons of CO2 annually per hectare. The two cords that we burn is just a fraction of the annual windfall on the property, and although it releases about four tons of CO2 over the whole heating season, the trees still standing generate an overall net CO2 uptake of well over 30 tons of CO2 annually. I suspect that those figures would generalize pretty well to the whole island.

Call me insensitive, but I don't feel very bad about heating my house with wood. Making a blanket negative against any form of wood-burning is a bit like saying "Eating meat in any form is best avoided." There could be some truth in that, but personally I wouldn't want to put it that way.

Simple calculations are provocative: why not make a more complete energy budget for the whole island? For starters it should be easy to find out how much gasoline we use, and it should be possible to make a reasonable estimate of the economic benefit of the island's firewood sales. Maybe someone already did this.

The writer is a retired physiologist and a consultant.

MORE LETTERS

continued from A11

Doctors' opinion

This is to inform the residents of Salt Spring Island that the Save our Surgery Committee (SOS) does not represent the undersigned physicians of Salt Spring Island.

Furthermore, the opinions, beliefs and arguments as presented by the SOS committee and its supporters in the published media, the SOS web page and public meetings, to reinstate surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital, does not reflect the opinions of the undersigned physicians at Lady Minto Hospital.

DR. MANYA SADOUSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF;

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Thoughts & News

from Dr. Richard Hayden

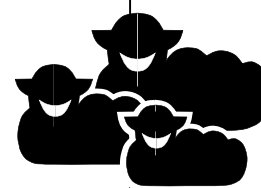
In a couple of weeks we will be moving to a new home. I have loved the house that we live in now for the the past 9 years but alas it no longer works for our growing family. It has been a while since I have had to move. I forgot how stressful it is to pack, organize and declutter. The stress makes me clench my teeth.

Many people clench or grind their teeth. It is a habit that occurs night and day. Some people can get away with it for a while but ultimately breakdown occurs at the weakest link. The weak link varies from person to person. Symptoms can show up as: teeth being worn flat, pain in the jaw joint or tension headaches in the muscles. Symptoms can often come and go or be diagnosed incorrectly.

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Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Mother Nature says she is tired of all the plastic garbage. A. James

To the person who hit and left a dying deer on North End Road (1900 block) on Thursday, 8:30 to 9 a.m.: I heard her dying screams from my house 3,000 yards away. She died in my arms. I hope you got where you were going on time. David Jackson

Roses

A bunch of thornless roses to

the heroes who helped me get my terrified chicken out of the wild rose and blackberry thicket where it had been chased by a stray dog. Thank you so much. Nancy Wigen

Roses to everyone who participated in the human rights workshop at GISS on the Jan. 8-9 weekend, especially to the staff at Thrifty's deli, and the high school custodians who went above and beyond to help us accommodate a much larger than expected turnout. John-Michael McColl

An old-fashioned wheel-barrow of fragrant white heritage roses for Chris of the Ganges Village Cobbler for your many acts of kindness following the reinjury of my arm last Thursday. Your many acts of simple kindness and your caring presence met my need for emotional and physical support when I was feeling really vulnerable. Leslie

To all the wonderful folk who put their "save-a-tapes" in #68 at Country Grocer for SOS. Thanks oodles and oodles. Save Our Surgery

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Tourney revives Howe's passion

Twelve teams sink 'em in the name of sportsmanship

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Organizers rate this past weekend's Nairn Howe Memorial Basketball Tournament a slam dunk based on avid participation from players and fans at the three-day event.

Kim Chalmers, head coach of the Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys team and the tournament's main coordinator, said enthusiasm from spectators, players, parents and coaches surpassed all expectations.



PHOTOS BY JOHN CAMERON
 Above, high scoring Ashley Kilbourn battles Carihi players under the basket. At left, Adrian Alonso is stopped by a St. George's player as Marc Spiess looks on. Meanwhile, the Saints' bench is dejected by 24 unanswered Scorpion points.

"It was definitely a success," she said. "All of the teams had a good time."

The Howe tournament is held every January to commemorate the late Nairn Howe's contribution to athletic excellence and fair play on and off the court.

Preceding Friday evening's popular tournament banquet, Nairn's spouse Bob presented a player on each team in attendance with the coveted sportsmanship award.

Grade 12 students Kevan Brown and Ashley Kilbourn picked up trophies for Salt Spring's boys' and girls' teams.

Friday night's festivities culminated in a raucous three-point shot competition in which 12 teams made up of a boy and girl from a different school go head to head against one another.

Salt Spring's Ben Hunter, along with a partner from Stelly's Secondary School, each received a three-point-contest hooded sweater

for their top-spot shoot-out finish.

"There was a neat intensity in the stands," Chalmers said. "I think fun was had by everybody there. This is a unique tournament."

Things also worked

out well on the court for Salt Spring teams as the senior girls placed second after a thrilling 67-61 final versus North Vancouver's Seycove Secondary.

The senior boys' squad finished a

respectable third in its round-robin tournament format thanks to victories against Vancouver's St. George's School and Sooke's Edward Milne Secondary.

Chalmers thanked

everyone who played a part in the tournament. She looks forward to another successful Howe tourney in 2012.

Donations from the event's concession stand will be given to the Salt Spring Food Bank.

"There was a neat intensity in the stands."

KIM CHALMERS
Organizer, Howe Tournament

Gulf Islands secondary school basketball

upcoming schedule of events

- Thursday, Jan 20 - Jr Girls HOME GAME 4:30
- Jan 21/22 - Jr Boys away to Cedar Tourney
- Tuesday, Jan 25 - Jr Boys HOME GAME 4:30

full schedule: www.gulfislandssecondary.ca/homeschedule.html

Meet the Team

Nairn Howe Spirit! The sixth annual Nairn Howe Memorial Basketball Tournament took place on Jan. 13 through 15. Eleven senior boys and girls teams, from Vancouver Island and the Mainland, participated in the event. There was a buffet style dinner for all the teams and a spirited shooting competition held on Friday night. **GISS Senior Girls** placed second, while the **GISS Senior Boys** finished third. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in making this years tournament a success! Thank you to the community for coming out and cheering for the home teams!

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MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys squad stands up to division leaders

McCormick rides two-game scoring streak

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Forward Mike McCormick began the new year in style by scoring in the Salt Spring Old Boys' hard-fought loss to the top-ranked Prospect Lake Lakers on Saturday evening.

"Prospect Lake ended up 4-1 winners, but with two of

their goals the result of unfortunate mix-ups, the game was much closer than that," said player Richard Steel.

Scoring a goal against the dominant Prospect Lake squad is cause for celebration given that the undermanned Old Boys side was outscored 46-8 before the Christmas break.

Steel said players look forward to upcoming matches in a realigned division for the second half of the 2010-2011 season.

"None of these teams scare

us," he said. "We'll be looking to get at least one point from most of them."

Players celebrated the return of Don Brown to the field after his recovery from knee surgery.

"He will bring a lot of strength and stability to the team, and is another reason we're feeling confident," Steel said.

"We've been playing our best soccer for a few years. It's now time to turn that into results."

The Old Boys' second-half

schedule has yet to be determined. Schedule updates are available online at www.visl.bc.ca.

In other VISL soccer action, Div. 2's Salt Spring FC were sidelined after their opponents failed to show up. The team next plays against Vic West FC on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in Victoria.

Salt Spring FC Alumni (2-9-1) resumes play in the Masters A division when it takes to the field on Sunday against the feeble Castaways Juniors (0-8-2) at 10 a.m.

SPORTS & RECREATION

WOMEN'S SOCCER

United combats odds to hold second-place slot

Away game ends in 3-2 win

Salt Spring United's Div. 2 women fought a successful battle against the odds, the wind and Gordon Head opponents to take home a 3-2 victory in the first game after the break last Sunday.

Team spokesperson Joanne O'Connor said although the weather was an issue, the biggest challenge the team faced was being down to 10 players. But when Tami Benoit stepped up to take on the rotating position of keeper and the rest of the team started off a solid defence, the strategy for the eventual win was on the table.

United started the game facing into

strong wind. Gordon Head scored the first goal shortly into the first half on a free kick close to United's net.

"Probably due to the wind, it curled in and just managed to sweep past Tami and into the net," O'Connor said.

The goal was a disappointment, but United managed to regroup and get into the game with a composed manner of playing.

"We just kept pushing the ball up from the defence to our lone striker," O'Connor said.

The strategy paid off when Sue-Anne Donaldson capitalized on a through-ball from Valri Cunningham, moving past several Gordon Head players to hammer it into the net.

Tying the game 1-1 gave United a valuable boost in spirit, and shortly afterward, Benoit made one of the game's most critical saves.

But close to the second half Gordon Head managed to get a second goal, which Benoit just missed despite stretching her entire body to stop the ball.

Going into the second half, United was playing with the wind and received a boost with their passes.

"Once again we stayed strong — everyone was playing really well," O'Connor said.

Halfway through the second half, LeeAnn Norgard caught a pass from Donaldson and put it into the net to tie the game at 2-2.

Benoit continued her strong game to keep out a couple of Gordon Head chances, while Erica Rimmer rocked the midfield.

United scored the game's final goal with around 15 minutes left on the clock when Norgard made a cross to Donaldson with a nice high ball.

"Sue-Anne got up for a beautiful header — she just put it over the goalie's hands," O'Connor said.

United is planning to take the confidence gained by entering 2011 with a victory to another game on foreign turf next week. United will be defending its second place ranking against the Castaways, who are currently "nipping at their heels" in third.

YOUTH SOCCER

U15 girls continue domination; U15 boys eke out win

Youth soccer action returns to the fields

The girls U15 team strengthened their first-place position with a decisive win over fourth place Juan de Fuca at Portlock Park on Saturday.

With not more than five minutes gone, the Salt Spring girls put together a tight series of passes with Brenna McIntyre setting up Abi O'Donnell, who blasted it in to make it 1-0.

The Juan de Fuca team fought hard but were unable to put together a serious retaliation and late in the half O'Donnell flew through a crowd in front of the Juan de Fuca net to put away her second goal off a perfect corner kick from Maggie Birch as

the half ended 2-0 for Salt Spring.

It didn't take long for Salt Spring to open the second half scoring as the super fast Hannah James crossed the ball to McIntyre, who carried it in, looked to each of her wingers and then took the shot herself and made it 3-0. Minutes later, McIntyre with the ball again slipped it through the Juan de Fuca defenders to Zorah Wiltzen, who snuck it in to make the score 4-0.

Again, Juan de Fuca put on a good show trying to get back into the game, but again Salt Spring was able to shut them down with strong defence and midfield work.

It was the midfielders' turn to hit the scoreboard next with

SOCCERKICKS

Jasmine Cooper setting up Sofia Pickstone for a hard drive into the lower corner, making it 5-0.

The final goal of the game came off another perfectly placed corner kick, this time from Cooper, to McIntyre, to James, who blasted it in to make the final score 6-0 for Salt Spring.

The shutout was shared by Cassidy Fraser and Eliza Moat. The whole Salt Spring team played an outstanding game, passing the ball decisively, blocking and defending with strength, stamina, skill and style.

• Almost a month since their last game outdoors, the U15 boys, aided by a troupe of U14s to fill the roster, came out a little rusty against a polished

Gorge team at Hampton Turf Saturday. When a few of the boys looked exhausted after the warm-up, and just one sub on the bench, it wasn't looking promising, observed coach Markus Wenzel.

The "play of the game" came at about the five-minute mark, with keeper Alex Graham somehow making a miraculous shinpad save, after having fallen on his back, on a Gorge blast that looked to be a sure goal.

That seemed to wake up the Salt Springers, who responded shortly after with an Eric Weatherby blast off a Justin Kopetzki corner, to make it 1-0 going into halftime.

The arrival of technical director Josip Bratanovic to the game, complete with his own brand of "Croatian Motivation," seemed to give the boys a boost

for the second half.


While Gorge tied it up off a defensive blunder that resulted in a perfect "under the bar" goal, it didn't take long for Weatherby to strike again, this time off another nice feed from Kopetzki, on an alert play started by Awstin Kaye-Finer. Salt Spring would then take

a two-goal lead, when Connor Budd finished a Kopetzki feed.

Gorge fought back and kept it close, scoring a breakaway goal to make it 3-2.

Justin "the engineer" Kopetzki got his fourth assist of the day by then putting Mark Camps in the clear, who con-

verted and made it 4-2. With about five minutes on the clock, Gorge managed to get another, despite Cody MacQueen making an heroic goalmouth jump after keeper Graham was beaten. When the final whistle blew, Salt Spring's four goals topped Gorge's three.



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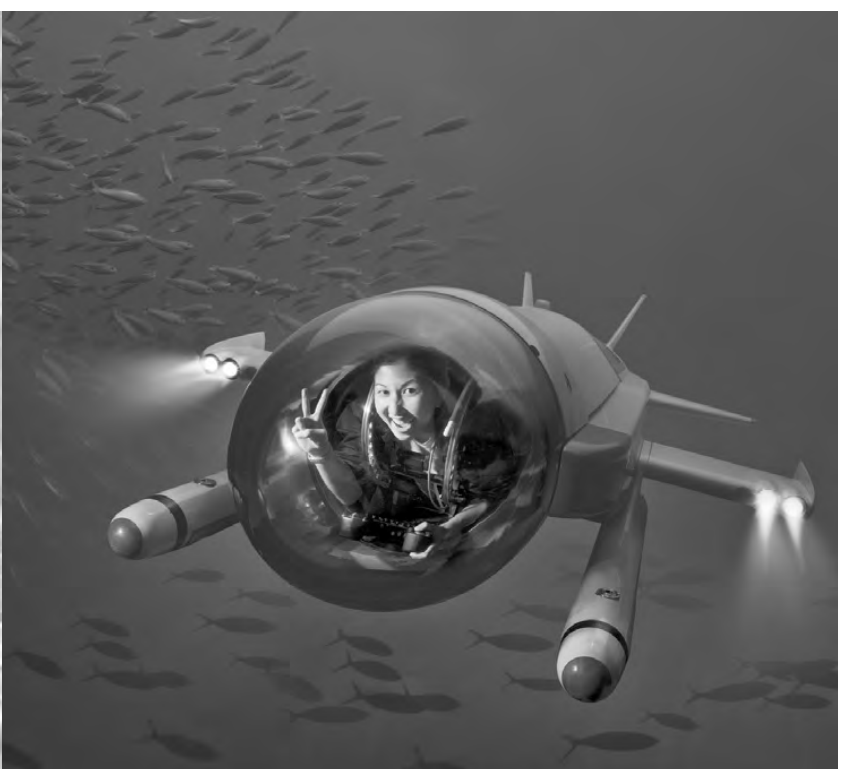


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Walford, Christina Ann



Born Aug 16, 1953 in Vancouver BC; died peacefully Jan 13, 2011. A lover of nature, nothing brought greater joy to Chris' heart than being in her garden with the birds and frogs. In her free moments Chris played the piano, flute or harp, and paddled with her dragon boat team on Cowichan Bay. Chris was an exceptional mother, loving sister and daughter, and devoted friend. She is survived by her sons Kevin and Alistair Brogan and daughter Gwyneth Born; her sister Susan, brother Jonathan, and father Maurice. The family extends special thanks to Doctors Trottershaw and Norgrove, and all the nurses, support staff, and volunteers who cared for Chris at Saanich Peninsula Hospital. A memorial gathering will be held at 1927 Barrett Drive, North Saanich on Feb 12 at one pm. Donations can be made in her memory to Somenos Marsh Open Air Classroom project.

A Celebration of Life for John Grundy

Bon Vivant and Notorious Ladies Man

Please join us at the Harbour House Hotel on January 22 at 2:30 p.m. to say goodbye to a warm soul and lovely man who left us on December 6 at the age of 82. All are welcome.

--- GANGES --- FUTURE DIRECTION ?

Are you interested in preserving the Unique Character of our Village? Come and air your views at a Village Gathering, Saturday, Jan 29 at noon, on the Fulford-Ganges boardwalk near the crosswalk.

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE RESCUE COURSE

ANNOUNCEMENT - AIR BRAKES ENDORSEMENT COURSE: April 15th - 17th, 2011 @ the Ganges Fire Hall, instructed by Front Line Fire Department Training.

To register for this class please call the SSIFR at 537-2531 or email trainingofficer@telus.net.
 Course times are Friday 6pm - 9pm, Saturday 8am - 5pm & Sunday 8am - 5pm. Registration is \$325.00 for the course, payable to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue. For further information please do not hesitate to call or email.

bcclassified.com

DEATHS

DEATHS

Share Carnegie



Aug 10, 1948 - Dec 31, 2010

I have come to speak of love, of its valleys and its hills, its tremors, chills and thrills. I have come to say I love love and I love loving love and I, surely, love the brave and sturdy hearts who dare to love.
 -Maya Angelou

Celebration of Life date to be announced. South End Potluck Party. Open Invitation to musicians, loved ones & friends. Please call Joanna Stiver at Community Services 250-537-9971 for more info or to find out how you can help.

CUNNINGHAM, William (Bill) Joseph 1918-2010

It is with sadness the family announces that Bill passed away peacefully on October 22, 2010 with his loving wife by his side. Bill is survived by his wife Agnes of 62 years, and his 3 daughters, Dawn (Mel), Dale (John) and Lynn (Chuck). He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren who are very sad to see their Papa go and 11 great grandchildren. Bill had many nieces, nephews, neighbours and friends who will also miss him very much. Bill died with grace and humour, and was grateful for the wonderful care he received by all @ the Lady Minto Hospital. He especially enjoyed his 92nd birthday celebration while in hospital. A private family graveside service was held @ the Burgoyne United Church with a "Celebration of Life" to take place October 22, 2011, time and place to be determined later.



Artist Professional Development Workshops

A pilot project of the School of the Arts presented by the SSAC

Creating Intuitively:
 Embracing the Artist Within with Gillian McConnell
Sat 29 Jan 9am-4pm
 \$100 SSAC members, \$125 non members

The 4 Keys to Success;
 in a Juried Art Competition with Alvaro Sanchez, and Jan Smith
Sat 5 Feb 1pm-4pm
 \$50 members, \$75 non members

A Picture is Worth 1000 Words:
 Photographing 2D Art with Seth Berkowitz
Sat 5 Mar 1pm-4pm
 \$50 members, \$75 non members

The Courage to Create:
 Demystifying the Artist Block with Louise Goodman
Sat 26 Mar 9am-4pm
 \$100 members, \$125 non members

Registration forms available at **www.ssartscouncil.com** or in the SSAC drop box Mahon Hall. Phone 250 537 0899

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COMING EVENTS

BINGO MEADEN HALL

Royal Canadian Legion

7PM THURSDAY January 20, 2011
 Early Bird, 6:30 pm

Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion Br. 92

Everyone Welcome
 All proceeds to bursaries for Salt Spring Students

CAN'T GO south? We will help you get rid of the winter blues for only \$5.00 per person. Join us at Mahon Hall on Saturday, January 22nd, 8:00 P.M. for a fun evening of dancing. Door prizes. (Not suitable for young children). Contact Marilynne Cunningham 250-537-5356

SALT SPRING ISLAND WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting on Fri. Jan. 21 at 7:00 pm

at The Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room

Guest speaker - **Oliver Brandes (UVic)** "Water Act Modernization" All Welcome

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Cherie and Jewel share experiences of their work "The heart of the Copper Kettle", Sunday January 23, 11 am at S.S. Seniors' Centre.

MONEY TALK PAGE A12

COMING EVENTS

Viva Voce! Community Choir

Deb Toole, director

Spring 2011 Registration

Thursday, January 20th

SSI Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Road

6pm - registration, music distribution & mingling
 7pm - 9pm first rehearsal

All voices welcome, come and learn to sing with Deb!
 For fee info or questions, please call Brenda 537-2840



Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance

Presented by

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Saturday, January 22, 2011

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ATTENTION DEREK C. HEATON formerly of V8K 2C5, 585A Horel Rd, Saltspring Is. BC. Please be advised that your goods, chattels and belongings, removed from the aforementioned address, will be removed from storage after **Monday 21 February 2011**, and you will not be able to get them back. In order to retrieve your goods, chattels and belongings you must remove them from storage before **Tuesday 22 February 2011**. To arrange removal contact Ted Cubitt (landlord's agent) at 585 Horel Road, Saltspring Is. BC V6K 2C5. 250-537-8825

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LOST AND FOUND

GLASSES FOUND outside Lady Minto Thrift Shop. Mon, Jan 10. Claim at Driftwood.

KEYS FOUND outside near the Village Cobbler. Claim at Driftwood.

LOST: GOLD heart pendant and chain on Jan 6 between Upper Ganges Village, downtown, and Grace Point Square. If found please call 250-537-4565.

LOST IN Ganges. Jewelry in a ziploc bag. \$500 cash reward if returned to owner. 250-537-9605.

MEMORY STICK found in Lady Minto Thrift Shop. Nov 28, 2010. Claim at Driftwood.

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ISLAND WHEELS
PAGE B9

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The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance

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Contact Anne Macey 250-537-5511 or annemacey@shaw.ca for more information.

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AG & CE SALES - The island's only Kubota & New Holland dealer seeks an Agricultural & Construction Equipment Salesperson. Position based out of Duncan with access to our Courtenay branch. Sales territory is Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands, vehicle provided. Base salary/commission/benefits, experience is preferred, references required. Send resume and cover letter to islandtractor@shaw.ca or Fax to 250-746-1717 (www.islandtractors.com)

TRADES, TECHNICAL

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

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Full time work in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Based in Williams Lake. Must be experienced in commercial and industrial installation and service. \$28/hr plus benefit package. Relocation assistance. Company truck, tools, phone, etc. Ph 250-398-8583. F 250-398-7983. jsnow@wisewindowsanddoors.com

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

PERSONAL SERVICES

ART/MUSIC/DANCING

DANCE CLASSES Salt Spring Arts Academy. 250-537-4294

FEMALE VOCALIST

wanted by versatile guitarist (with vocals), new to SSI. Singer wanted with the interest and dedication to put together 3 or 4 sets for performances. I am classically trained and experienced in Jazz and all popular genres (C&V, Country, Blues, R&R, etc.). An instrument would be useful but not essential. Call Alan on 250-537-9118 or (cell) 250-221-0249.

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

HELP WANTED



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Your gift today will help islanders now and in the future. The Foundation gives approximately \$100,000 to our island's charitable organizations every year.

Donations may be made through the website, by phoning 250 537 8305, or by mail to SSIF, Box 244, Ganges PO, SSI, BC, V8K 2V2.

www.saltspringislandfoundation.org

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This is a long-term, live-in position. Upon successful completion of a 3 month probationary period, the RHM will occupy a private, 1 bedroom suite on the 2nd floor of the House. RHM suites are bright & spacious, featuring a modern west-coast design, private entrance & balcony and vaulted ceilings. A modest monthly rental fee applies.

The successful candidate will be organized, meticulous, energetic & capable of following detailed instructions & recipes. Integrity, professionalism, a sense of humor, rapport with seniors & a dedicated team spirit are a must!

Qualifications for this position include, but are not limited to:

- Excellent interpersonal skills including consensus building, conflict resolution, negotiation & team building
- Exceptional culinary skills
- Cleaning skills & meticulous attention to detail
- Record keeping including inventory, ordering, incident reporting & journal entries
- Physical Fitness • Professional appearance & demeanor
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- Exceptional time-management skills
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Specific Requirements for this position:

- Current Food Safe certification
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- Current First Aid Certification preferred

Pay scale:

- Training Rate: \$15.00/hr
- Probation Rate: \$16.00/hr
- On-site RHM Rate: \$34,000/yr. plus subsidized rent & benefits package

Submit hand-written cover letter & professional resume to: Heritage Place for Seniors Hiring Committee
Mail: 120 Crofton Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2Y4
Fax: 250.537.8346 Email: manager@heritageplace.info

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

LAWYER REFERRAL Service matches people with legal concerns to a lawyer in their area. Participating lawyers offer a 30 minute consultation for \$25 plus tax. Regular fees follow once both parties agree to proceed with services. 604-687-3221 (Lower Mainland) or 1.800.663.1919 (Outside LM).

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CLEANING 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

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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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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.

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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

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HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

CLEANING SERVICES

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HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

CLEANING SERVICES

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

1066SF NOW for lease, Merchant Mews, near Ganges. Bthrm, bay door, skylights, carpeted mezzanine. Richard, 250-380-1669.

1540 SQ FT zoned Industrial 1 and can be divided. Inquiries Donna 250-537-5340

383SF AVAILABLE, Merchant Mews near Ganges. Bthrm, clean revamped. Ideal office or shop. Richard, 250-380-1669.

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

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.

1 BEDROOM mobile home, newly renovated, large addition for living room, separate laundry room & storage. Available immediately \$650 per month. Call 250-537-6860

2 BED, 1 bath, close to town, 5 appl., Avail. immed. \$1100 + util. 250-538-2323.

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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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

2 BDRM duplex unit with full bath, FS, hookup for WD, walk-on beach, NS. \$950/mo plus utilities. 604-228-8637

2 BDRM mobile. Private on acreage. WD FS, nice decks, no pets. \$750/mo plus util. Comes with outdoor cat. Avail. now long term. 250-537-9799.

2 BEDROOM avail Feb 1. Clean bright house in North End, partially furnished, all new appliances including laundry, large bedrooms, very large kitchen, 5 mins to ocean, shared satellite, NP NS, suits single or couple, 6 month lease with option to renew, references required. \$1000 per month + util. 250-931-1106.

2 BEDROOM mobile home, newly renovated, 4 new appliances, addition with laundry room & storage. Available immediately \$750 per month. Call 250-537-6860

COMFORTABLE FURNISHED 2Bdrm, oceanview, 1 min. bus/ocean, full amens. Daily/wkly rates 250-537-1517

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM SEAVIEW 1200 sq. ft. Upper 100 Hills location close to Ganges, fenced yard, lg decks, all appliances, A/T fireplace, car port, NS NP, long term, references required. \$1200 + util. Avail Feb 1, 2011. Call 250-537-4591 or 250-537-2236.

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

3 BDRM, 2 bath, lovely ocean view home, 2100 sq.ft., newly renov., workshop, large garden, 2 min. to town, on quiet street, fence, HW & tile, solarium, 5 appl., NP, NS, Jan. 15 \$1800 plus util. 250-537-8431.

3 BDRM duplex mid-island. Hardwood floors, woodstove, FS WD, garden & car port, NP NS. References. \$1100 + util. Avail Feb 1. 250-537-4319.

3 BDRM house, 1.5 baths, Lakeview, Newly Renovated, near Central, Workshop, W/D, Carport, NS, long term. \$1350. 250-537-4413.

BRIGHT 2 bedroom apartment, north end, close to St. Mary's, partial kitchen, fireplace insert \$900 util. incl. laundry, NS NP private 1 acre. simone717@hotmail.com

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM Near Town. Ocean view, electric heat, fire place, w/d, dishwasher Available immediately \$1075 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

BASEMENT BACHELOR/ette suite, washroom/shower, 300 sq. ft., close to town, private entrance, large deck, quiet, shared washer/dryer, NS, \$525 per month (includes hydro and hi-speed internet service). 250-537-8773. Available Feb 1.

BEAUTIFUL GANGES harbour view, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2100 sq. ft. furnished townhouse in adult oriented complex. End unit with attached garage. NS, one small pet ok. 1 year lease. \$2200/mo plus util. Contact Royal Property Management Ltd., 250-537-5577.

BRIGHT & CLEAN lower level suite in Vesuvius area 1 bdrm 1 bath, NS, cat ok. \$850. dansneade@hotmail.com 250-551-7444

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

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

BUILDING SALE... "ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!" 25x30 \$6200. 30x40 \$9850. 32x60 \$15,600. 32x80 \$19,600. 35x60 \$17,500. 40x70 \$18,890. 40x100 \$26,800. 46x140 \$46,800. OTHERS. Doors optional. Pioneer MANUFACTURERS DIRECT 1-800-668-5422.

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RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM Near Town. Ocean view, electric heat, fire place, w/d, dishwasher Available immediately \$1075 Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

BASEMENT BACHELOR/ette suite, washroom/shower, 300 sq. ft., close to town, private entrance, large deck, quiet, shared washer/dryer, NS, \$525 per month (includes hydro and hi-speed internet service). 250-537-8773. Available Feb 1.

BEAUTIFUL GANGES harbour view, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2100 sq. ft. furnished townhouse in adult oriented complex. End unit with attached garage. NS, one small pet ok. 1 year lease. \$2200/mo plus util. Contact Royal Property Management Ltd., 250-537-5577.

BRIGHT & CLEAN lower level suite in Vesuvius area 1 bdrm 1 bath, NS, cat ok. \$850. dansneade@hotmail.com 250-551-7444

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

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

BASEMENT BACHELOR/ette suite, washroom/shower, 300 sq. ft., close to town, private entrance, large deck, quiet, shared washer/dryer, NS, \$525 per month (includes hydro and hi-speed internet service). 250-537-8773. Available Feb 1.

BEAUTIFUL GANGES harbour view, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2100 sq. ft. furnished townhouse in adult oriented complex. End unit with attached garage. NS, one small pet ok. 1 year lease. \$2200/mo plus util. Contact Royal Property Management Ltd., 250-537-5577.

BRIGHT & CLEAN lower level suite in Vesuvius area 1 bdrm 1 bath, NS, cat ok. \$850. dansneade@hotmail.com 250-551-7444

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

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

BASEMENT BACHELOR/ette suite

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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.

SALTSPRING ISLAND Small newly renovated house for rent, 552 Rainbow Rd. Available Feb. 1st No pets No smoking \$850/month call Amber @ 250-537-1681 or 250-539-0240. igaines@gulfislands.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

SOUTH END home, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, close to trails & park. Very private, \$1200 plus util. Contact Royal Property Management Ltd., 250-537-5577.

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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STORAGE

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MID ISLAND STORAGE
250-537-4722

SUITES, LOWER

WELL APPOINTED, 2 bdrm., self-contained lower suite, in like new condition, on spectacular view acreage. Best suited for single or quiet couple. \$1275/mo. Contact Royal Property Management Ltd. 250-537-5577.

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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This Week's
Horoscope

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

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

A revolutionary momentum has been sparked under the glow of the Full Moon. Pushing through and beyond current limits and past patterns should be evident. The desire for travel and adventure is implied. If you cannot get away in fact, you may seek it out via adventure books or movies. The next month especially offer a window of opportunity to venture before a more sober cycle sets in.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

It is your turn and opportunity to be seen and heard. Whose attention do you seek? Perhaps you are an artist and getting some well earned recognition is available. Reaching out to authority figures for favours and earned rewards should meet with success. Sometimes we need a little extra push so if you feel you need it, ask and you will receive. Give instruction and be open to it now to advance.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

New realizations are coming in now. Setting your sights and focusing to realize and actualize some of your dreams is to co-create the outcome you desire. The wisdom of cooperative co-creation is as old as is Astrology, very ancient indeed. Opportunity often comes through friends and will be true for you, especially this week. Do your research; know your facts to act decisively this week.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Life includes risk; wisdom seeks to take calculated risks. Creating security is important in life and it has many levels, both within and without. Inner security implies faith which need not be blind yet faith in the unseen dimensions where soul is sourced instils courage and a spirit of adventure. Give to situations with full diplomacy and cooperation. Tune-in to what you feel you need with full honesty.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

Events, circumstances and all sorts of energies are coming in quickly now. These are pushing you to be aware and stirring a spirit of adventure. Maintaining a grounded and sober perspective is extra important now. Learning about other people, places and cultures is featured. Investments and risk ventures are a source of excitement. Opportunity is knocking and wants you to play along.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

You are a natural born scientist and your analytical skills are being activated now. New realizations coming to you from others mixed with creative strategies towards sending out a new message is implied. You are poised to enter into new territory. Making a deeper impression somehow is important to you. Sudden turns of events and returns come with a revolutionary clarion call.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

A spirit of sport and play has come out like the sun from behind the clouds. Changes in your lifestyle and on relationship fronts are imminent. These will bring opportunities and stimulation to your social life. An enthusiastic urge to go somewhere, anywhere may catch you and others by surprise. You could undergo some sort of initiation and/or enter new states, realms and places.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

The full realizations of change in your life will hit home this week. This could come as a hard blow yet it may equally spur you into revolutionary action. Rather than wait for change, be willing to move with it now. Summon the pioneer within and go forward with courage and faith. Changes in your immediate environment could bring moves and/or renovations. Trust and work with destiny.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

New realizations are stirring your thoughts and your relationships. This loop of energy is circulating and stimulating a lot of energy and action. You are in the mood to try something new. Whether it is boredom or opportunity is knocking or both, you want to make some moves and shifts. Encounters with friends new and old could prove both sobering and exhilarating as well!

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

A new wave of confidence will spur your determination this week. Ambitions vie with responsibilities and you would rather work smart than hard, yet you do want to establish a new and better norm. Taking a strategic approach now is extra important and so too are prayers and clear visualizations of what you want to achieve. Consult your inner authority to determine wise action.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

The Sun is now in your sign and brings with it a pioneering and revolutionary spirit. Your next major chapter is about to begin and has a flavour of mission to it. Steering a clear and direct course will be your most important task over the next weeks and months. Opportunities for education, adventure and play are in the mix. Yet share your dreams and plans only with those you fully trust.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Getting a lot done behind the scenes is the call now. This may include inner work as well as outer. Diets, exercise programs, healing processes and anything else that is good for you are likely and ideal choices. Exploring new opportunities for business and/or for satisfying self-expression will take on major emphasis starting this week and for months to come. Acquire new tools and techniques.

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Arts & Entertainment



TALENT

Hunter wins runner-up Idol

Performance leads to star recruitment

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Kaya Hunter made it almost to the top of the Victoria Idol contest last Thursday, winning first runner-up among a crew of talented participants at the grand finale show.

Back on Salt Spring and taking a break from writing an exam on Monday, Hunter — who turned 18 on Jan. 19 — was still full of excitement from her experience.

"It was so much fun — it was like the best night ever," she enthused.

Hunter and the 11 other finalists began their last stage of competition with a three-hour hair and make-up session. They moved on to the Chateau Victoria Hotel, were picked up for a limousine ride to the Royal Theatre, and were greeted there by the press and an adoring crowd waiting to enter the theatre.

"There were so many flashing lights — it was like we were celebrities. It was crazy," Hunter said.

The star treatment continued as performers were whisked down to their dressing rooms while the crowd was entertained by the previous contestants and tribute band Aerosmith Rock.

Hunter said she was nervous before going on because of her competitive spirit, but got good support from her accompanist Peter Taschuk. Her round one performance, an open choice, was a rendition of the John Lennon song Imagine with Taschuk playing guitar.

During the second round the finalists were required to sing a rock song with the band Sugarfix. Hunter said that because of her slow dial-up internet connection at home, she missed her first five choices from the approved list, and also thought there were 15 songs in total when in fact there were 30 to choose from. Despite the difficulties, however, she was happy with the song she ended up with — Still Got This Thing by Alannah Myles.

The contestants had just two 15-minute rehearsals with the



PHOTO BY GARY QUINN

Kaya Hunter's Victoria Idol performance led her to a first runner-up finish.

band to get their act right, but Hunter raved about Sugarfix.

"They were so professional, so much fun — I can't say enough about them. They told me to let loose and go crazy . . . so I did all that. I went totally over the top and it was so much fun."

Fellow Salt Spring resident and famed Chilliwack rocker Bill Henderson was a judge at the finale. He noted Hunter's ability to perform along the lines of a seasoned professional in the face of uncertain stage conditions.

"Kaya came back for the second round and she just rocked amazingly," Henderson said. "There was none of that 'something's not quite right.' But she had stiff competition."

Island supporters in the crowd confirmed that Hunter's performance was top-notch. John Moore, who just recently started working with Hunter in the Swing Shift Big Band, went with his wife Pip to see the show.

"Personally, we thought she was as good as the first-place

person, but there were a lot of very good participants," Moore said.

Hunter attributed much of her success to her Salt Spring support crew, including voice coach Deb Toole, music teachers Wendy and Derrick Milton and Carolyn Hatch, Kathleen Horsdal and her mother Kim Hunter.

"When I was rehearsing they all listened to my song many, many times."

Hunter also noted Taschuk's contribution.

"For me to be able to sing and know that no matter how big a breath I take, he'll be waiting to play that note, is so much more comforting than playing a track [to sing to]," she said.

Although Hunter eventually took second place to contest winner Sydney Needham, she doesn't feel robbed of anything.

Instead she calls herself honoured to perform with someone like Needham, who studies voice at Vancouver Island University.

As well, Hunter is not without prizes as first runner-up. She will get

to record a song, do a photo shoot and receive a copy of the book The Artful Songwriter.

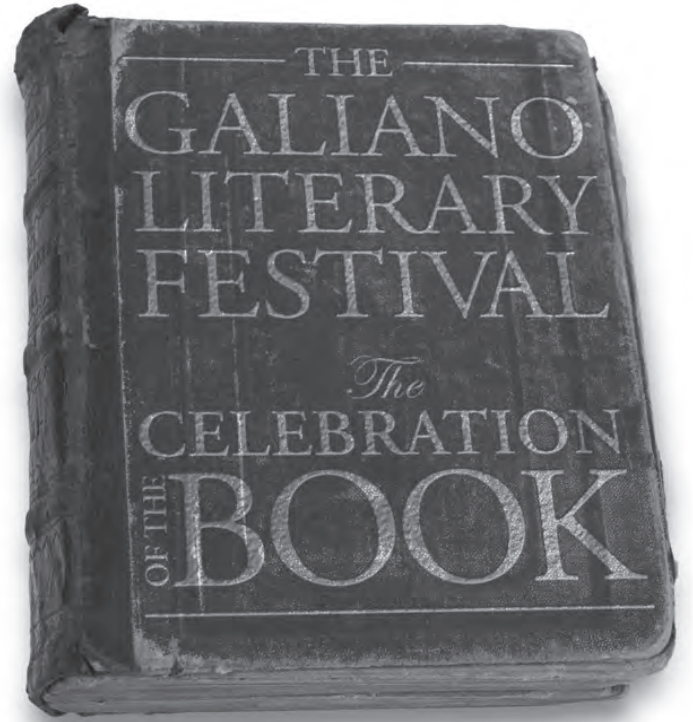
Hunter's busy schedule and diverse performing range have already seen her follow up the Idol performance with a violin solo with the Bach on the Rock orchestra last weekend, along with preparations for a "diva" performance with the Swing Shift Big Band next month.

The energetic teen does not seem fazed by the workload, however, and instead has added song-writing to her list of activities.

After the Idol performance, Hunter was contacted by scouts for singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega, who selected several of the finalists to perform as Vega's opening act when she appears at Victoria's McPherson Playhouse on Jan. 30. Hunter has been asked to bring at least two original songs with her to a meeting next week.

"So now I have to learn song-writing pronto," she said.

"It should be exciting."



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

Bass Dojo lays down healing beats

Group seeks to restore island's heart and soul

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

One of the very first things Seamus Robertson noticed when he moved to Salt Spring about a decade ago was the unfamiliar demographic blend that characterized so many island gatherings.

"What made me fall in love with this community is that you could go out and see kids dancing with grandparents," he said. "Everything was in harmony."

Robertson soon realized these multi-generational parties were becoming a rarity as people chose to cloister themselves among peers.

Many of the positive vibes that Robertson noticed upon his arrival were no longer available as some party-goers abused the privileges they and others before them had earned.

"A lot of things have gone wrong," he said.

The Bass Dojo Collective, Robertson added, is an attempt to reverse that trend.

"I've recognized Salt Spring has a need for positive and uplifting parties for everyone to celebrate in," he said. "We've lost that."

The group is a coalition of like-minded yet distinctively creative 20- and 30-somethings who seek to restore the healing and restorative aspects of responsible partying.

While Robertson concedes that the electronic beats featured at the group's events may not be to everyone's taste, the invitation is still open to anyone who wishes to experience something outside of the ordinary.

"What appeals to us may not appeal to people in their 50s and 60s, but everyone is welcome," he said.

During the team's first major event, held at Beaver Point Hall to celebrate the Gregorian New Year, organizers had a certified childcare provider and cooks, a shuttle service and plenty of folks on the



Bass Dojo member Seamus Robertson says the above image best reflects their group's healing music.

lookout for people who took their festive mood over the edge.

"We've covered a lot of bases that haven't been covered," he said. "It's not a fall down kind of party; this is an uplifting party."

Based on the Beaver Point Hall gathering's success, Robertson said, he and the other Bass Dojo collective members are set for yet another new year celebration, an event that's scheduled much sooner than you might expect.

The crew's "real" new year's bash takes place on the spring equinox in March.

"We don't actually believe in Gregorian time," Robertson said. "We are more based on Pagan, Mayan, Buddhist and ancient astrological patterns."

A key concept upheld by Bass Dojo members is a belief in the healing power of music. Bass frequencies like the ones folks are likely to hear at the group's

events, Robertson said, are known to harmonize with the natural electro-magnetic vibrations emitted by human beings.

Whereas the higher-pitched rapid-fire frequencies that characterize music like heavy metal tend to stimulate adrenaline and aggression, Robertson said, the consistent low-frequency rhythms laid out by the Bass Dojo Collective inspire and relax the listener.

Fellow Bass Dojo member Kreuger Singh, a DJ who produced and promoted large-scale events in the Toronto area before moving to Salt Spring with his young family, has studied the biochemical benefits of vibrational therapy at the university level.

When it comes to the finished product, Robertson calls Singh and the other DJs "musical alchemists."

With any luck, islanders of all ages will soon get a chance to see the conjurers in action.

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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents... **flick pick**

Piranha: devastatingly realistic

I remember seeing the original Piranha as a kid, way back in something like 1984. It was a birthday party, and I think I spent half the film hiding behind a doorway, peeking out only occasionally in hopes that this ordeal of foam and blood would finally stop. Amazingly, this year's remake of Piranha had almost the same effect.

It's spring break, and every horny, alcoholic teen from around the state has arrived in the little Arizona town of Lake Victoria to party on boats and floaty plastic things. Little do they know that a recent earthquake has exposed a vast underwater lake, freeing thousands of deadly prehistoric piranha. Chewing ensues.

The original Piranha was a production of the schlockmeister Roger Corman, and directed by Joe Dante (Gremlins, Innerspace). It mixed blatant criticism of the military and big business with satiric humour. 2010's Piranha comes from Alexandre Aja, French purveyor of gore and mayhem in films such as High Tension and the remake of The Hills Have Eyes.

Aja's Piranha goes over the top, and around again. The entire first half of the film is, essentially, jiggling female bodies. The entire

second half is said bodies getting torn apart by hungry fish. If that sounds like a great time, hey, I'm not going to stop you.

But heed this: the gore in Piranha is frequently devastatingly realistic, and Aja milks it. It's too easy to say that he thinks he's making a pure exploitation film. There's something to his treatment of flesh that evokes a twisted (er, more twisted) David Cronenberg. One scene, in which a girl's hair gets caught up in a boat's propeller, is perhaps the most gut-churningly tense thing I've ever seen on film.

Most of the film is obviously played for laughs, but in sequences like this it achieves an almost surreal quality. At times I found myself almost painfully aware of the fragility of our bodies, of how easily they are reduced to yucky paste. It's a purely existential situation, and nauseating at that.

Aja would probably laugh at my reaction. Most viewers of his film, hopped up on boobs and dismembered limbs, might too. In 1984, I could hide behind that door. In 2010, faced with a (slowly) impending middle age, the prospect of losing this mortal body is substantially more frightening. I would like to stop talking about Piranha now.

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BOOKS

Galiano Books hosts 2nd literary festival

Event expands to four day schedule

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Galiano Island will once again play host to some of Canada's most exciting authors and their readers with its second annual Literary Festival, set for Feb. 25 to 28 at the Galiano Oceanfront Inn & Spa.

Lee Trentadue, the organizer of the festival and the owner of Galiano Books, said the festival's debut in 2010 was happily successful, especially given the fact it was entirely planned and carried out within just six weeks.

"We were quite excited by it because it went really well," Trentadue said.

"The people who registered were just raving about it."

For the initial launch, Trentadue put a message out on Facebook to see if any authors were interested in attending. Within four days more than 20 had responded, and by the time of the festival close to 30 participating writers were involved.

With around 40 registered attendees from the public, the event fostered opportunities for communication between authors and readers during both formal readings and casual components such as the opening reception and the Saturday night dinner.

"It was great because it gave the authors a chance to meet some of

their fans," Trentadue said.

"It's a really intimate setting, which is nice because you get to meet and greet the authors in a really beautiful inn."

Stanley Park author Timothy Taylor was one of the writers who participated in 2010 and didn't hesitate to come back again this year. Besides the fact the organizers hosted his entire family, including his dog, he noted the festival's professional yet warm atmosphere as a definite draw.

"The readings and panels were really well set up: lots of people attending but still intimate," Taylor wrote in an email to the Driftwood.

"The whole event had an island feel, if I may put it that way — very little distance between writers and those listening."

Last time around Taylor presented a reading from an anthology to which he'd contributed. This year he will have a brand new novel called The Blue Light Project to share. He said he's looking forward to returning with new work to "the same enthusiastic group of people."

Other authors on the list include Annabel Lyon, Anosh Irani, Gurjinder Basran, John Vailant, Audrey Thomas and Meg Tilly, among many others. Participants can choose to attend readings as well as a variety of writing workshops, which this year go right into Monday afternoon for an extra day of enjoyment.

The official theme for 2011

is the Celebration of the Book, which Trentadue explained refers to the physical artifact. A special presentation on typography by graphic artist Shelley Greundler is on the list, as well as a group discussion on the value of the book through the ages and our abiding love for the format.

"There's so much talk of e-books and digital books these days we thought it was important to note the reverence of the physical book, because it's still so important to readers," Trentadue said.

The craft of writing is a sub-theme to the event, with workshops that address issues in fiction and nonfiction genres to be given by Ivan E. Coyote, Larry Campbell, Dennis E. Bolen, Ian Weir, Alan Twigg, Anne Sorbie, D.E. Knobbe and Kim Goldberg.

Tickets to the festival can be purchased now, including a full festival pass for \$150, half days for \$35 or individual sessions for \$20. Trentadue urges pre-registration so the organizers can plan more effectively, but on-the-spot registration will also be permitted.

Accommodation can be arranged at the Galiano Inn for a special conference rate, or see the island's Chamber of Commerce website for other options.

The full schedule of events, registration and information on the participating authors is available online at <http://galianoliterary-festival.wordpress.com/>.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

MUSICAL MAGIC: From left, Sam Lewis, Owen Hooper, Oscar Kempe, Clay Upex and Geoffery McFarlane finish off last Thursday night's GISS music show with a rousing rock piece.

SINGING

Gospel workshop and concert set to raise the All Saints roof

Registration for Feb. sessions needed by Jan. 25

In recognition of Black History Month in February, a workshop of African American Gospel Music has been organized for Feb. 12 and 13 at All Saints church.

The Saturday session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The Sunday session will be followed by a gospel concert called Every Goodbye Ain't Gone at 3 p.m.

Workshop leader is Gail Suderman, a vocal performance graduate of the University of Victoria, who directs the Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir and is a music educator at Kwantlen University College.

"Gospel music has become a hugely popular genre in the choral world," said Suderman. "From community choirs to university choirs, folks are loving their gospel music and taking it very seriously, not to mention having a lot of fun singing it. We spend a weekend learning and perform-

ing exciting gospel music."

As press material explains, Suderman's ability to sing and play piano in many styles makes her sought after as a vocal coach, conductor, accompanist and festival clinician/adjudicator in both vocal and choral music.

Participants will learn the music on Saturday, Feb. 12, and also enjoy a catered lunch together. On Sunday the music is memorized and polished up in preparation for the concert.

Forty participants are required to make the workshop a go, and that number must be reached by Jan. 25, so early registration is encouraged. A maximum of 50 people can be accommodated.

Suderman notes that "The workshop concert is open to an audience, many of whom get caught up in the energy of the music and find themselves singing along from the pews. Joining the workshop choir in concert are professional musicians playing drums and bass. I direct the choir from the piano and together we certainly do raise the roof!"

Cost for the workshop is \$115 for adults who register by Jan. 25 (\$135 after); and \$75 for high

"I direct the choir from the piano and together we certainly do raise the roof!"

GAIL SUDERMAN
Workshop leader

school and university students. Saturday's catered lunch is included in the fee.

The weekend will be enhanced by the presence of Judy Sims, a local jazz singer and descendant of Louis and Sylvia Stark, who settled on Salt Spring in 1859-60. Also participating will be Evelyn C. White, a Salt Spring writer and journalist, who with Joanne Bealy in 2009 published Every Goodbye Ain't Gone, a photo narrative of black heritage on Salt Spring Island.

For more information and to register, contact All Saints' church office at 250-537-2171 or ssanglican@shaw.ca.

BURNS EVENTS

Scottish dance club toasts Burns at dinner-dance this Saturday night

Pipe band also salutes bard in February

Scotland's national poet is cause for celebration at two community events book-ending Robbie Burns Day next week.

The Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club is first on the list, with a dinner and dance at Fulford Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Scottish Country Dance member Rosalind Hope said the annual event, now in its 18th year, sees the club invite friends, neighbours and community members to participate in an honoured Scottish activity and see what the dance club is about at the same time.

Observations of Burns' birthday (Jan. 25, 1759) traditionally include several elements, such as the official presentation of the haggis, which is piped in and circles the room before coming to rest for the Address to the Haggis.

Despite its reputation, Hope said, the meal that once came stuffed into a sheep's stomach is now more like a large sausage filled with oatmeal, organ meats and spices.

"Being Scots myself, I enjoy it very much," she said.

Burns' "immortal memory" is maintained with a speech from someone who reviews the poet's life and what his work has meant to him or her personally.

This year Andrea Rankin will give the address.


Also on the menu are whiskey toasts to Burns, the Queen and "the lassies."

As part of its own tradition, the club will demonstrate country dancing and invite guests to join in.

Tickets are \$35, available from Hope by calling 250-537-9997.

Coming up on Saturday, Feb. 5, the Salt Spring Island Pipes and Drums will entertain guests with a Burns night at Lions Hall, with a delicious meal catered by Dinner's Ready (Christine Godlonton).

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What's On This Week

www.gulfislandstourism.com/calendar.htm



Wed. January 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Simply Organic. Free organ recital with Don Conley. Audience members can choose favourite hymn or song for sing-along, and bring wind chimes, bells etc. for a glockenspiel. All Saints. 10:10 a.m.
Beginner Swing Classes. First of six weekly sessions at Mahon Hall. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Advanced Swing Class. First of six weekly sessions at Mahon Hall. 8:30 to 10 p.m.
Parent-Child Mother Goose. Ten-week session of singing, snack and playtime for parents with toddlers & preschool children begins at Fernwood Elementary School. 10 a.m. to noon.
UBUNTU Community Song Circle. Wednesdays at The Gatehouse, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Thurs. January 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Bingo. At Meaden Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month. 7 p.m., with early bird games at 6:30. Proceeds benefit bursaries to Salt Spring students.
Viva Voce! Choir Registration. At SS Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Rd. Registration at 6 p.m., first rehearsal at 7 p.m.
All Levels Flow Yoga with Kristen. Thursdays at Ganges Yoga Studio, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Fri. January 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Improv Home Sweet Home Show. GISS & SIMS improv teams perform at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Donn Tarris & Tess Fama. Tree House Cafe. 5:30- 8:30 p.m.
Paul Mowbray. Harbour House. 6:30- 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SSI Water Preservation Society AGM. With guest speaker Oliver Brandes from UVic on Water Act modernization. Harbour House Crofton Room, 7 p.m.
Library StoryTime. Meet the author — with special guest Margriet Ruurs. For children in early grades and preschoolers. 1 p.m. at the library.
Rollerblading. Fridays at Fulford Hall. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Tango Practica. Core Inn. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Laura, 250-537-4077

Sat. January 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance. Presented by the Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club at Fulford Hall. Doors at 5:30 p.m. Info/tickets: Rosalind Hope, 250-537-9997.
Krystle Dos Santos. Soul performer at Moby's Pub.
Sweet Water Revolver. At the Tree House Cafe. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Jazz with Lloyd English and Friends. Harbour House. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Don Carlo. Met opera broadcast at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m.
All Levels Flow Yoga with Kristen. Saturdays at Ganges Yoga Studio. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
Partner Yoga & Thai Massage Playshop. Taught by Anthea Browne at Ganges Yoga Studio. 2 to 4 p.m. Register: 250-537-2444 or www.gangesyogastudio.com

Sun. January 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. Canada's award-winning orchestra performs at ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.
The Barley Brothers. Live on Sundays at the Harbour House. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Maple Syrup Boil. With tastings, demos and live music at the Harbour House. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Park behind the hotel and come through the farm gate.

Mon. January 24

ACTIVITIES

Children's Yoga. With Kristen Lewis at Ganges Yoga Studio on Mondays. 4 to 4:45 p.m. Info: www.gangesyogastudio.com
All Levels Flow Yoga with Kristen. Ganges Yoga Studio, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Tues. January 25

ACTIVITIES

Beginner's Yoga with Kristen. With Kristen Lewis at Ganges Yoga Studio on Mondays. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: www.gangesyogastudio.com
Group Reading. With Clarity Jigme Kunga (Denise Johnson) at Wisteria Guest House B&B. 268 Park Drive. 6 to 8 p.m.

Wed. January 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

ShakeOut Earthquake Drill. "Drop, cover & hold on" at 10 a.m.
Screening of Inside Job. SS Film Fest committee shows Academy award-nominated film by director Charles Ferguson, about the global financial meltdown. The Fritz. 7 p.m.
Parent-Child Mother Goose. Singing, snack and playtime for parents with toddlers & preschool children at Fernwood Elementary. 10 a.m. to noon.
Silk Painting - Next Step. SS Painters Guild workshop led by Maureen Walker. ArtSpring. Info/register: Ann Holt at annholt47@hotmail.com

THE FRITZ MOVIE THEATRE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
 FRI. JAN. 21 - TUES. JAN. 25
 at Central Hall call 250-537-4656
 To watch the preview go to www.thefritz.ca

DUE DATE
 LEAVE YOUR COMFORT ZONE
 Starring Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis
 Plays Fri to Tues 7 pm

1 Hr 35 mins Rating: PG

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CINEMA
Due Date — Starring Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis. Placed on a "no-fly" list, and with no alternatives in sight, Peter is forced to hitch a ride with Ethan and his canine traveling companion on what turns out to be a cross-country road trip that will destroy several cars, numerous friendships and Peter's last nerve.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Photography Club presents an exhibit called **Elements** in the ArtSpring lobby space through Jan. 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**.
- **Lou Ellis** shows photos of Havana at **TJ Beans**.
- **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**.

Salt Spring Chamber Players Concert
 featuring **Matthew Stubbs**
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 ArtSpring 8 pm
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

COMEDY



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

From left, GISS senior improv team members Maddi MacKay, Owen Hooper, Paisley Conrad and Nick Slakov rehearse for Friday's Home Sweet Home show at ArtSpring.

Improv sure cure for winter blahs

Stage set for 'improvised hilarity'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you think it's impossible to mix Simon Says, a burlap sac, a bottled-up graffiti artist and a cloning machine into a four-minute skit that can crack a few hearty laughs with fewer than 30 seconds of preparation, the seven-member GISS Improv squad has plenty of surprises in store when they next take to the ArtSpring stage.

Having just come off the weekend's South Vancouver Island Cup and with its sights now set on ascending the ranks at February's island semi-finals, GISS' senior improv team headlines the Home Sweet Home Show on Friday evening.

For 10 bucks, spectators get to watch the region's hottest young improv players strut their stuff in a rare on-island theatrical event that features GISS and Salt Spring Island Middle School students.

Improv is less in your face than stand-up comedy and much less structured than a traditional theatrical performance. When done well, the result combines the best of both extremes and leaves audiences in stitches over the actors' creativity and spontaneity.

"I find that, for humour, it's not something that you have to look for or there is a strategy," said actor Jonah Grindler in a recent interview during the group's rehearsal. "Improv isn't all about making jokes. To be funny comes naturally. It will come without you even knowing."

According to Maddi MacKay, "a happy byproduct" emerges when players are in the moment and focused on the teamwork.

"It just comes out funny," she said. "It's about just doing what's in the moment and not trying to be funny, just looking at opportunity in the face and taking it."

Though players spend time rehearsing a slew of dramatic techniques and strategies behind the scenes, actors are subject to whatever comes their way when they hit the stage.

That can mean anything from working with randomly selected themes drawn from a hat or drawing from totally unscripted suggestions supplied by audience members.

"I equate it to the scale and progressions that a jazz musician might study and then put into improvisational practice with what is called for, or the way a martial artist would learn a series of routines and moves that they would employ without any planning," said Jason Don-

aldson, coach of the GISS team. "Now you've got the tools sharpened to do the job."

Part of the fun with any improv show is not knowing what to expect, even seconds before players take their positions. The real drama comes in watching how actors play off one another and challenge each other in a meandering narrative that champions wit and the absurd.

"Whereas stand-up comics come out swinging," Donaldson said, "improv players have no pressed performance obligation."

"With the honesty and sincerity of good stories and good characters and the magic of improv, where anything is possible to discover, the humour comes out of these organic moments."

The GISS Home Sweet Home Improv Show takes place at ArtSpring on Friday, Jan. 21 at 7:30. Tickets, \$10, are available at the door or through the theatre's box office (250-537-2102).

"The idea is that you don't learn to swim in the library," Donaldson said. "You need to jump into the water and, in this case, that's a live performance on Friday night."

See related video footage at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



FILM

Financial meltdown plays out on screen

One-time showing of Inside Job

Academy award-nominated documentary Inside Job has a one-night screening at The Fritz, a warm-up event for this year's Salt Spring Film Festival.

Narrated by actor Matt Damon, the film looks at the people and the relationships behind the global financial meltdown of 2008.

Director Charles Ferguson said in an interview when his film was released last fall that he wanted people to be able to understand what had happened, why millions lost their savings, their jobs and their homes.

"People are afraid of financial stories. Finance is presented as something complex.

Firstly, what happened here is not that complex and I wanted to make the story accessible to the widest possible audience. Then I wanted them to be upset about it."

Shot on location in the United States, Iceland, France, Singapore and China, the documentary traces the rise of a rogue financial industry and exposes the corrosive relationships that have corrupted politics, regulatory agencies and academia.

Ferguson picks up the narrative with Ronald Reagan's appointment of Don Regan as U.S. treasury secretary. Regan previously had been with Merrill Lynch. Bill Clinton chose Robert Rubin from Goldman Sachs to be his treasury secretary and George W. Bush went to the same corporation for

Henry Paulson.

The film argues the case that the financial crisis happened because government insiders re-wrote the rules to favour private interests at the expense of the public good.

Among the many revealing interviews in Inside Job is one with Eliot Spitzer, former Attorney General of New York State, who claimed that all necessary regulations were in place to prevent the financial crisis. The people in charge simply refused to enforce the rules.

Inside Job shows at The Fritz Cinema on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

It is a one-time-only screening and will not be shown during the festival weekend.

Admission is by donation at the door.

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Sidewalk Superintendent

The business beat of the Gulf Islands

By Peter McCully

Hastings House welcoming guests year-round

• **Hastings House Country House** Resort is now accepting reservations year round. For more than a decade, Hastings House has been a seasonal property, operating during the spring and summer months only.

The change is one precipitated by new Hastings House general manager **Kelly McAree**, along with his top-notch team, which includes executive chef **Marcel Kauer**, dining room manager **Milly Sinclair**, maitre d' **Michael Coughlin** and head gardener **Shelley Kobyłka**.

McAree's wife **Cherryann** will head the housekeeping department of the hotel, having nearly as much experience in the industry as her husband. Kelly McAree was most recently manager of the Lake Okanagan Resort in Kelowna.

The popular guest chef series Chefs Across the Water will also

be back in 2011, with an all-new line-up of celebrity chefs.

• **Island Savings'** special holiday e-card promo saw \$10,000 donated from the credit union to three regional charities.

The recipients were: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Victoria (including Salt Spring Island) — \$3,900; B.C. Cancer Foundation's Inspire the World Campaign (\$3,400); Victoria Foundation (\$1,400); and the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence's SportStart grant (\$1,300).

Islanders were invited to vote for their favourite charity and then encourage friends and family to do the same. ISCU says social media played an important part in spreading the word as islanders shared the message on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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PHOTOS BY DERRICK LUNDY

FROM TREE TO TREAT: Aaron and Paul Minvielle, who were deep in the process of maple sugar evaporating last Friday, will be attending the Big Leaf Maple Syrup Festival in Duncan on Feb. 5. at the Forest B.C. Museum. At top left, they demonstrate tapping a maple tree; at left, helper Mike Davies skims the top off evaporating sap, and above, the two are seen with the eventual finished product. This Sunday the public is invited to a free maple syrup boil at the Harbour House Hotel property. (See story, below.)

2011 SALTSRING CURLING FUNSPIEL
WHEN: Saturday, February 5, 2011 / **LEAVING:** 8:00 A.M. Vesuvius Ferry
RETURNING: 8:10 P.M. Crofton Ferry
INCLUDED: Ice and Equipment Rental, Lunch, Bus, Ferry Ticket and Prizes
AND SOMETHING NEW: Pizza for Supper / **PRICE:** \$50.00 per person
TO REGISTER: Contact Jim Pasuta at 537-9995 / **DEADLINE TO REGISTER:** February 1, 2011

FARM EVENT

Public invited to tasting party

Harbour House prepares for maple syrup boil

“... we’ve had a couple of cold snaps and then got warm again. That makes the sap come down.”

Islanders are invited to the Harbour House Hotel’s organic farm this week to celebrate a local product normally described as the liquid prize of eastern Canada.

The 4th Annual Maple Syrup Boil takes place Sunday, Jan. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where the finishing touches will be put on syrup tapped from big leaf maples found in the hotel property’s forest.

Master farmer Robert Scheres said that while maple syrup has long been an important commercial enterprise in Quebec and New England, it’s a fairly recent phenomena on Vancouver Island.

ROBERT SCHERES
Master farmer

Here on Salt Spring a few individuals have taken up the practice, which is a special interest of Harbour House owner Jack Woodward.

Scheres explained that although in the east the sap can only be harvested after the thaw begins in the spring, on the west coast the harvest season can last anywhere from November to February.

“It goes by the weather,” Scheres said. “This year has been lucky — we’ve had a couple of cold snaps and then got warm again. That makes the sap come down.”

B.C. maples hold only two per cent sugar in their sap, unlike those of the east, which have up to six per cent, Scheres said.

That means the reduction process takes much more work, with around 300 litres of sap needed to produce 1.5 to two litres of boiled down syrup. The resulting product is darker and more intensely flavoured than the eastern variety, which makes it prized by local chefs.

“People that cook a lot love it,” Scheres said.

Tastings, demonstrations, mugs of hot maple juice and live music are all part of the festivities as Woodward prepares the syrup’s final reduction this Sunday. There is no charge to enter. Guests should park behind the hotel and follow the signs to the garden and farm.

Last week Paul Minvielle was also boiling sap on his Kitchen Road property, where Driftwood photographer Derrick Lundy found him and helpers for the photographs above.

Salt Spring Island Community Services
 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
250-537-9971
 www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca
COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE FREE

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- * **Let's Do Brunch:** Tuesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- * **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- * **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, open Thurs. & Sun. 6:30-9:30 pm. Information: ahasenfratz@gmail.com or 250-537-8970
- * **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
- * **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 250-537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4 pm to midnight at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 250-538-4840
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

ENTOMOLOGY



Photos by Elizabeth Cronin are part of the upcoming conservancy talk on insects.

Insects' amazing lives at conservancy event

Linda Gilkeson and Elizabeth Cronin team up Jan. 28

BY DAVID DENNING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It's a fair way off until summer, but still a great time to start thinking ahead in preparation for some highly anticipated summer visitors — but definitely not tourists.

On Friday, Jan. 28, the Salt Spring Conservancy will host a special illustrated talk about Salt Spring's six-legged friends and foes, i.e. insects, at Community Gospel Chapel.

It will be presented by Linda Gilkeson, a resident entomologist and the conservancy's executive director, and University of Victoria biology student Elizabeth Cronin.

Their presentation called The Amazing Lives of Insects will be full of mind-boggling information about insects and will showcase Cronin's photography.

Cronin and her cameras have been getting up close and personal with local insects for the last couple of summers, and she's captured some amazing images of the wee beasts.

Gardeners, nature lovers and anyone else curious about these common but mysterious animals will enjoy this fascinating look at insect life.

Keying off Cronin's incredible close-ups, Gilkeson will explain insect behaviour, adaptations, and the important part insects play in gardens and in our varied natural ecosystems.

The Amazing Lives of Insects starts at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation.

ORNITHOLOGY

Anna's are here to stay

Sightings a sign of things ahead

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A lone female hummingbird's regular appearance outside the window of a local meteorologist and bird-watching enthusiast's island home is a sure sign of its species' proliferation in the region.

"It's the first time I've seen one come back this early and they never stay this long," said 94-year-old Robert Aston during an interview from his home overlooking Ganges Harbour.

Aston said hummingbirds normally appear at his home around the middle of March.

"Every so often they come back earlier but never this early and never for this long," he said.

Aston believes the bird is responding to the gradual warming of temperatures he's noticed over a more than 40-year stint as an amateur weather observer.

Though he's retired from his official duties as weather observer, Aston still keeps a close watch over the four thermometers strategically placed around his Douglas Road property.

"There isn't a question in my mind that for quite some time we've been getting into a

warmer trend," he said. "We've hardly seen any real frosts this year."

In fact, in a summary of 1998 weather published in the Driftwood, Aston described "an annual pattern of rising precipitation and temperatures in the region" and wondered if what was then called "the greenhouse effect" was in evidence.

Aston said the hummingbird in question seems to be attracted by several large red poinsettias placed on a table visible through the window.

"I don't have a feeder, just a large yard and some holly bushes," Aston said.

Others in the birding community attribute the Anna's hummingbird's visits to Aston's window to the gradual spread of the species' range due to the prevalence of backyard feeders.

The growth of what began as a small colony of Anna's hummingbirds near the University of Victoria campus in the late 1980s corresponds to an increase of food sources hanging in trees and on patios across southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

Information provided by the Comox Valley Naturalists Society in Courtenay states that Anna's travel widely in the fall and winter months in search of new breed-

ing territories.

When they come across locations with enough nectar and a suitable climate, they don't hesitate to move in.

Based on bird count information compiled by the CVNS, there are approximately 500 specimens in the Victoria area and 20 nesting in the Nanaimo region. Sightings have occurred as far north as Sayward and Port Hardy/

Tim Marchant, a local cobbler and ornithologist, said maps of the Anna's range produced several decades ago place the birds' northernmost distribution about 100 kilometres south of Salt Spring.

"Sightings were completely unheard of 20 years ago," he said.

By contrast, he said, participants in this year's Christmas Bird Count recorded dozens of Anna's sightings at various stations across Salt Spring Island.

Marchant said people shouldn't worry about supplying the Anna's hummingbirds with an "artificial food supply" given that the birds are generally smart enough to collect food from numerous supply points.

Easy made hummingbird solution

Add two cups of sugar to eight cups of boiling water. Stir sugar until

completely dissolved and allow to cool before adding to your feeder. Unused hummingbird nectar can be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week.

Consider placing the feeder near red plants as an alternative to using potentially toxic dyes.

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

BRIDGE TRICKS

Swanky cars reward for 'getting it right'

Afternoon games make driving less iffy

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Oprah Winfrey said, "Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right." Will she give us a car if we do

get it right? If so, maybe it's a pair of Alfa Romeos for Prem Margolese and Paul Retallack, who were right enough on Jan. 3 to take first place among the five and a half tables of bridge.

Second to them were Isabelle Richardson and Jean Elder (a mere Porsche each?), and tied for third place were the Gisela Welsh-Blanche Poborsa pair and Flo and George Laundry (four Lexuses, perhaps, although the last-mentioned might prefer a new tractor).

There was a threat of snow later in the day on Jan. 10, when there were four full tables, so only 21 boards were played instead of the usual 28 or so, making it safer to drive those swanky new cars home after the game if the snow were to arrive (which it didn't). It was a repeat win for Prem Margolese and Paul Retallack, and this time second place went to Gisela Welsh and Blanche Poborsa, with Boodie Arnott and Jacquie Stevulak returning to the fold to occupy the third spot. The rest chugged off home in assorted Civics, Corollas, Subarus, etc.

The games are now held at Our Lady of Grace church on Drake Road on Monday afternoons at 12:45 p.m. For further information, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pas-torale@shaw.ca.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SNOW DAY: Karen Smith scrambles to the top of this snow pile in Ganges as a huge dumping of snow last Tuesday night shut down schools and some businesses on Wednesday. However, rain quickly washed the snow away and island weather turned sunny and mild over the weekend.

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ENVIRONMENT

Carbon offsetting program reaps local, global rewards

Report on
Salt Spring Air/
Green Island
program

BY MICHAEL NICKELS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

I would like to thank and praise Salt Spring Air and Green Island for their effort to address their environmental footprint.

Over the last three years the airline has planted trees in an effort to consume the carbon that it emits.

As the carbon credit industry has had a lot of poor management and a suspicious reputation for dishonesty, Salt Spring Air wanted to feel reassured that the trees that were being planted on their behalf would actually

grow to maturity.

After much searching and discussion as to how to best offset its carbon, the management decided to have their trees planted at Seven Ravens Farm on Salt Spring Island.

They felt assured that the trees being planted are the best suited trees for the area where they are being planted and that the trees are guaranteed to be replanted in case they die due to drought, being damaged by a fallen tree, mangled by deer or whatever the reason.

They felt reassured about the trees being third party certified as well.

It is sometimes difficult to get trees established, so a lot of care must be taken at time of planting.

Larger trees of a three- to six-foot size are best suited as they are likely to better survive amongst the local competition and weeds.

Large holes must be dug and all the stones need to be removed before returning the best of the local topsoil, which is rich in nutrients as well as mycelium.

All the trees are organically grown in the nursery and planted without additional chemical inputs, as this is neither necessary nor carbon conscious.

Stones are returned in a circle around the tree after planting to help with recirculating

condensation water in the hot and dry summer months. The area around the planted trees must be brushed for two to three years to reduce light competition to the tree. If the tree doesn't have adequate space to grow it will be strangled and suppressed by the local flora.

As the trees grow they get further attention each year. When they're large enough they can be pruned, as this makes a stronger tree better able to withstand the heavy winter snow.

All the trees planted for Salt Spring Air undergo such scrutiny each year as they are inspected to ensure that they are growing to their maximum health and capacity.

Seven Ravens Farm also ensures that the carbon credit program has as much educational outreach as possible, as it is essential to make people aware of the importance to deal with our carbon output. Several local school groups come for educational tours each year to learn how an eco-forest operation functions and how to plant trees for the future.

We also host many university tours, have open houses for the public, offer permaculture and eco-forestry workshops several times a year and have several interns each year.

Often the interns accompany me to Afri-

ca where I have been setting up permaculture and forestry projects for 20 years. Over 7 million trees have been grown and established throughout Kenya and thousands of orphans are benefiting from food that they have been taught to grow at their schools.

Each year some of the carbon credit money goes with me to Kenya to continue supporting existing projects, as well as setting up new projects.

Last November, Salt Springer Ky Fox accompanied me to Kenya to film several on-going projects for a new upcoming documentary outlining the incredible transformation that permaculture and reforestation has had on several communities.

So Salt Spring Air's decision to support a local island operation has had very far-reaching positive outcomes.

My work has also taken me to Guatemala, Mexico, China and South Africa to work with indigenous groups and with educational groups that are interested in food security and establishing forests.

We would also like to thank other Salt Spring Island residents who have come to us for their personal carbon offsetting. For further information about carbon credit planting, contact me at 250-653-9565 or at sevenravens.com.

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NEW CAR REVIEW

No need to compromise with Subaru Legacy GT



"Say hello to the 2011 Subaru Legacy GT."

Safety, style, reliability and power

BY ROB BEINTEMA
METROLAND MEDIA
CARGUIDE MAGAZINE

The best compromises in life are the ones that others make on your behalf.

Let's say, for example, that when browsing a lineup like Subaru's, you are inevitably tugged towards go-fast cars like the WRX. In fact, your heart beats a little faster just thinking about that kind of point-and-shoot performance, the power, the turbo-whine thrill of acceleration, the rally-inspired nimbleness and agility of four wheels clawing at the corners for grip.

Ahh, but you're not a kid anymore. You need more room than a pocket rocket can provide. More family utility. More space. And maybe you'd like a little uptick of sophistication thrown in as well. A touch of class added, without losing too much of that sport sedan edginess.

Well, say hello to the 2011 Subaru Legacy GT.

Subaru brought its new, fifth-generation Legacy lineup to market last year with major revisions for 2010. This latest version of its mid-size sedan is longer, wider and taller with a stretched wheelbase, wider track and revisions to suspensions, transmissions and powertrains.

There's plenty of choice across the Legacy lineup. Selections start with a basic 170 hp 2.5i sedan in varying trim levels offered with choices of PZEV (partial zero emission vehicle) technologies and manual or CVT transmissions.

In the middle of the lineup, Subaru offers a bump up in power with the 256 hp, six-cylinder 3.6R, featuring a little more sporting oomph with a five-speed electronic direct control automatic transmission with manual mode (5EAT), blipping control and paddle shift controls.

SUBARU continued on B13

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ISLAND WHEELS

CLASSIC CARS

Love at second sight for a 1956 Thunderbird

Car column writer reunited with his Navajo Gray T-bird

BY ALYN EDWARDS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It was one of those emails that drops into your in basket from out of the blue: Navajo for sale. That would normally be treated like junk mail.

But it was from Ernie MacAulay, the retired RCMP superintendent whose wife Ruth owns the Navajo gray 1956 Ford Thunderbird that I spent three years of hard labour restoring long ago.

The note described how they were moving to PEI and wanted to sell their cherished T-Bird — fast. In my life, there is never a good time to try to scratch up the money for a major purchase. But I was interested.

The note also said someone else was looking at the car. But if they balked, well, you know . . .

Ruth MacAulay had purchased the car from the collector I had sold it to in 1989.

A lady who worked in the same Vancouver office building as she did occasionally arrived in a white 1956 Thunderbird, something that really caught Ruth's eye. She went on the hunt that ultimately led to my old Navajo gray bird.

I was 33 years old when I bought this car the first time. Now, 33 years later, the car could be mine — once again.

Think, think, think . . . Oh yes, line of credit.

Predictably, the other person



The body of the 1956 Thunderbird was taken to Snohomish, Washington for sandblasting during the complete restoration in the 1970s.

didn't come to the table and the ball suddenly landed squarely in my court. But the owners of the car were leaving in less than a week. I had better go and have a look. Love at second sight?

A test drive re-affirmed that the car had been maintained perfectly. But the exterior restoration was showing its age with paint blemishes.

Negotiations began and intensified. Before I knew it, a compromise price had been agreed to and

this car was really going to come home.

Immediately, the memories of that car began to flood in to my mind. What was my life like the day I bought this car in the spring of 1977?

Did I really know how much work the restoration was going to be? How did I feel in 1980 when I completed the restoration and took it to the first show — the Concours d'Elegance at Minter

Gardens? The emotions recalled ranged from uncertainty to outright terror to beaming pride.

The terror happened in 1975 after I naively purchased my first 1956 Thunderbird just before Christmas. I had seen the car advertised in a Vancouver newspaper.

The fact that it was owned by a lady made it even more attractive. I bought it on pure emotion. When I discovered it was so badly

rust that it didn't have a floor, I was really dismayed. I just never thought to look.

A chance meeting with a noted Thunderbird restorer from Snohomish, Washington led to the decision to sell that very poor restoration prospect and look for a better bird. The advice was to keep the rare convertible top and sell the car with the porthole hard-top only.

But the hunt for a good 1956 T-Bird to restore was proving to be a challenge. Just when I had all but given up hope, a friend who also had a 1956 Thunderbird told me he had heard of an elderly couple who wanted to sell a T-Bird stored in their garage.

It turned out the car was owned by their granddaughter who had moved away and wanted to sell it. This car was originally sold in southern California and was virtually rust free. The only piece of optional equipment missing was a convertible top and I now had one stored in my basement.

What ensued was a three-year-long, body-off-the-frame, nut and bolt restoration. When I bogged down in the middle of the job, my wonderful American friend allowed me to bring the car to his shop to access his knowledge and skill to re-assemble my car. The finished product was showroom new and stunning.

The Navajo, as he affectionately became known, was painted the rare pale Navajo Gray colour code X introduced late in the model year as an extra buyer's incentive. This 1956 Ford Thunderbird was

CLASSIC continued on B11

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*Model shown is a 2011 Forester 2.5X 5MT (BJ1 X0) with MSRP of \$27,945 including freight & PDI (\$1,525), documentation fees (\$395) and battery and tire tax (\$30). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. Lease offer valid on new 2011 Forester 2.5X 5MT (BJ1 X0) models. MSRP of \$25,995. Payment of **\$329.79 /mo. based on a 24,000 kilometre per year lease with excess charge of \$0.10/km. ***4.9% lease rate for a 48 mo. term with \$3,700.00 down. Total lease obligation is \$15,829.92. The residual value at the end of term is \$11,963.25. Freight & PDI (\$1,525), documentation fees (\$395), and Battery and Tire Tax (\$30), are included in payment. Lease security deposit & PPSA included. License, insurance, registration & taxes, extra. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Dealers may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. **/**Offers valid until Feb. 1, 2011. See your local Subaru dealer or www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete details.



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ISLAND WHEELS



The Navajo Gray 1956 Thunderbird that was restored by Alyn Edwards in 1980 was back on the market in 2010.

A nod to the Navajo

CLASSIC
continued from B10

manufactured May 3, 1956.

The firewall mounted data plate has the production code number 3EL1956. The numeral 3 is for the day of the month and E is for the month of manufacture — May. The dealer code is "L1" and 956 is the daily production number. There is only one 1956 Ford Thunderbird with the production code appearing as if it were the year of manufacture.

The elegant, highly optioned Thunderbird was delivered by the factory to Gossett-Ames Ford, Studio City, California in Greater Los Angeles. Leon Ames was an actor and his wife was actress Christine Gossett. Leon Ames would become president of the Screen Actors Guild in 1957. His Ford dealership delivered cars for the stars. Although I have the

original dealer invoice for this car, I have been unable to discover who the lucky first owner was.

What I do know is that I own this beautiful car for the second time. And it brings back a lot of memories for me. I reluctantly sold the car in 1989 after owning it for a dozen years back then. I was a television news reporter at the time and I seemed to be gone all the time with the car logging a lot of down time.

But whatever goes around comes around. And this 1956 Ford Thunderbird has come my way a second time. It's been in and out of my life for more than three decades. I think I'll have more time for Navajo this time.

Alyn Edwards is a classic car enthusiast and partner in Peak Communicators, a Vancouver-based public relations company. aedwards@peak-co.com

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ISLAND WHEELS

Family car with attitude

SUBARU
continued from B9

But at the top of the lineup, as tested here, the 2011 Legacy 2.5GT blends Subaru's inherent qualities, its boxer-engined low centre of gravity and all-wheel-drive abilities, with the lean and mean grunt of a 265 hp peak of turbo-charged thrust, channelled through a six-speed manual transmission.

And, like all Subaru models, this Legacy 2.5GT comes equipped with symmetrical full-time all-wheel drive, a performance, safety and winter traction consideration that remains rare in the midsize sedan market.

Subaru offers three different versions of their all-wheel drive systems throughout the 2011 Legacy lineup. With the GT's six-speed manual transmission, a continuous AWD system uses a viscous-coupling locking centre differential to distribute power in a 50/50 split from front to rear.

Any loss of traction or slipping at either set of wheels automatically channels more power to the opposite set.

There is a price to pay for all this fun. The top-of-the-line 2.5GT adds about \$15K to the Legacy starting price.

And the 2.5-litre turbocharged engine requires premium octane fuel. But the gas mileage, while not exactly thrifty, is acceptable, with an official fuel economy rating of 11.5/8.0L/100km. My combined average worked out to about 10L/100km.

As a premium offering, the Legacy 2.5GT comes loaded with all-inclusive interior amenities - a power moonroof, leather seating surfaces, four-way power front passenger seat, voice-activated DVD navigation with rear-view camera, voice-activated Bluetooth, and an iPod/USB-integrated premium nine-speaker Harman Kardon audio system.

The cabin is roomy and comfortable.

Despite the 2.5GT's obvious sport orientation, Parents Magazine praised the Legacy's "roomy back seat and a trunk that is perfect for stroller-toting moms and dads," factors that contributed to its selection as a top family vehicle.

A family vehicle with a bit of attitude, that is.

On the outside, hawk-eye headlights bracket an upright front grille. This turbo-powered 2.5GT separates itself from the pack with a hood scoop, balanced in back with a low-profile rear spoiler. Other sport accents include new fog lamps and folding mirrors for 2011, twin stainless steel-tipped exhaust pipes and Bridgestone Potenza RE050A Summer Performance tires mounted on Subaru's largest 18-inch 15-spoke alloy wheels.

All Legacy models come equipped with vehicle dynamics control, combining stability and traction control, along with the stopping power of standard four-wheel disc ABS with electronic brake-force distribution and brake assist.

Subaru's ring-shaped frame reinforcement safety structure built with high-tensile steel and a full suite of frontal, side and side curtain airbags have contributed to the Legacy's ranking as a Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety with similar results in European NCAP crash tests.

Other awards have included the Editor's Choice in the Family Car category by World of Wheels Magazine and Best Midsize Car in the Automotive Leasing Guide Canadian Residual Value Awards.

Building from that base of safety, all-weather security and solid value, the Legacy 2.5GT adds more power, a performance edge, and a little bit of a thrill to sweeten the everyday commute.

Not much of a compromise, after all.



The 2011 Subaru Legacy's interior (above) and engine.

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



English Ivy growing on trees at Burgoyne Bay.

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Alien plant invaders: ivy

One of the most aggressive of the bunch

The following is one in a series of articles on how to identify and manage some common invasive species on Salt Spring Island written by Jean Wilkinson, Stewardship Committee, Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

As we start a bright new year, full of promise and good resolutions, one decision we can make is to help protect the natural balance and diversity of life on our properties and this beautiful island. Our mild climate provides perfect growing conditions for a wide variety of plants, but some that have been brought here are taking over!

One of the most aggressive and problematic of

these is English ivy, which carpets large areas of the ground, clambers up trees, and smothers the native vegetation. Having been introduced to the region, it has few natural enemies or diseases, so easily out-competes other, more beneficial plants. It invades wooded areas and creates a monoculture, upsetting the balance of nature and reducing local biodiversity.

However, we can all play a part in tackling this problem. Even on snowy or rainy winter days, it's fairly easy to find and remove ivy vines. As a first priority, cut those that are growing upwards.

This will prevent them from debilitating trees and bushes or damaging structures. It will also help stop the spread of this pesky plant, as ivy usually develops flowers and seeds when it grows upwards. After the climbing vines are dealt with, start clearing away those on the ground, freeing up space for a variety of other species to re-establish and grow.

When landscaping, there are a number of alternatives to ivy that don't threaten local ecosystems and are recommended by the Invasive Plant Councils of B.C., Washington and Oregon.

It invades wooded areas and creates a monoculture, upsetting the balance of nature and reducing local biodiversity.

Many of these species also have flowers and/or provide food or shelter for local birds, mammals and insects. January is the perfect time to start removing the ivy and planning for a more wildlife-friendly, bio-diverse replacement!

English Ivy and Irish Ivy

Some quick facts about these horticultural bullies:

Identification — Hedera helix and Hedera hibernica — vigorous woody evergreen perennials. Juvenile form is a creeping ground-cover vine with leaves usually 3-lobed.

Adult reproductive form has erect, shrubby stems with diamond-shaped leaves and tight clusters of small white flowers developing into purple or black berries.

Impacts — grows densely, overwhelming native plants on the forest floor by depriving them of sunlight, nutrients and water. Climbs and smothers trees and bushes, leads to root-rot, and can topple them over with its weight. Can increase fire hazard, damage buildings and harbour pests such as rats.

Found — in moist coniferous, mixed and deciduous forests, especially near urban and residential areas.

Spreads — via seeds in the berries (distributed by birds), by underground rhizomes and by above-ground runners.

Control — Prevent seed production and protect trees and shrubs by cutting vines from a 1 metre wide band all the way around trunk and one metre out from base of each tree. This band must be kept clear, but upper vines may be left to die, especially on trees that are dead and at risk of falling. Pull or roll up vines on the ground. Use hand trowels to remove as much of the root system as possible, while minimizing soil disturbance and damage to other species. Wear gloves, as ivy sap may cause skin dermatitis.

Disposal — Dry vines and pile them up to rot on a tarp or pavement so roots won't resprout. If seeds are present, avoid spreading them and burn the vines if possible, but keep people and animals upwind as ivy smoke may irritate lungs. Stem and root fragments can regenerate in soil, so monitor the area for re-growth.

Alternatives — (* will grow in shade and **full shade, M prefers Moist conditions, D prefers Dry, DT is Drought Tolerant)

Native ground-covers: Kinnikinnick*D, DT; Bunchberry*M; Evergreen Violet**M,DT; Wood Sorrel**M; Wild Lily of the Valley**M; Wood Strawberry**D, DT; Beach Strawberry D,DT;

Taller native plants: Salal**M to D, DT; Oregon Grape*M to D,DT; Sword Fern**DT and Deer Fern**M. Non-natives: Prostrate Ceanothus D,DT; Allegheny Spurge**M; Creeping Juniper D,DT; Star Jasmine*M; Barren Strawberry**M,DT; Creeping Raspberry**M,DT; Barrenwort*M to D; Crinkle Leaf Creeper*DT; Bearberry D; Wintercreeper*M; Boxleaf Honeysuckle**M; Sweetbox**M; Climbing Hydrangea*M

More Info: Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewardship Committee, 250-537-4877; Coastal Invasive Plant Committee, www.coastalinvasiveplants.com; Invasive Plant Council of B.C., www.invasiveplant-councilbc.ca

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

ROCKING ON: Participating in a scavenger hunt are some of the 55 Girl Guides, Scouts and Sparks who took part in a Magical Winter Overnight adventure at the Farmers' Institute last weekend.

Identification: priority for cats

Less than 10 per cent of strays end up with original owners

BY LORIE CHORTYK
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

A few days before Christmas my family and I received an unexpected visitor.

A small orange kitten arrived on our doorstep, lost, hungry and determined to make her home with us.

She seemed unfazed by the presence of our three dogs, who launched into frenzied barking every time they caught a glimpse of her through the glass panels on our front door.

She blithely ignored the canine cacophony and each time we left or entered our house she made a valiant effort to push her way inside.

While my first instinct was to bring the tiny furball inside to protect her from the freezing temperature, I wanted to make sure she would be accessible if her guardians were searching the neighbourhood, calling for her.

I built a shelter on our porch to shield her from the elements and left food and water for her. We checked hourly on her welfare, canvassed the neighbourhood to see if anyone was missing a kitten and posted notices in the community.

I also left word with our local animal shelter in case anyone called looking for her.

PAWPRINTS

Sadly, no one came looking for our little houseguest and no one called the shelter to report a missing kitten.

We brought her inside where she showered us with cuddles and loud purrs.

She was so affectionate and eager for attention that it seemed unlikely she was a feral cat.

But because her guardians had made no effort to identify her — she had no collar tag, no microchip or tattoo — we could not return her to her home.

Several days later I took the kitten to the SPCA, where she was given a medical exam, was spayed and tattooed with an ID number and was quickly adopted into a new loving home.

While the situation ended happily for her, I can't help but wonder why she was alone outdoors in freezing temperatures or if there is a family out there missing this adorable little creature.

Last year, the BC SPCA rescued more than 10,000 stray cats and kittens. Only 900 were redeemed by their guardians, while the majority were adopted into new homes.

By contrast, 65 per cent of dog guardians redeemed their animals.

This startling difference is because few cat guardians bother to identify their cats so they can be returned if lost or make

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the effort to look for them when they go missing, assuming that they will "show up" some time.

In addition to the thousands of lost or abandoned cats who are turned into animal shelters in B.C. each year, thousands more fall victim to starvation, disease, predation and injury. This is a completely preventable tragedy.

If your cat doesn't already have identification, I urge you to make it one of your New Year's resolutions to ensure your pet will have a quick and safe journey home in the event he or she gets separated from your family.

For more tips on how to keep your pet healthy and happy in 2011, visit spca.bc.ca.

The writer is the general manager of community relations for the BC SPCA.

AGRICULTURE

Salt Spring's agricultural alliance seeking paid and volunteer aid

Food security means 'hard work' needed

The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance is looking for some help with upcoming projects.

The group needs an individual familiar with the application process for temporary use permits to prepare the documentation and arrange for any technical studies needed for the

mobile abattoir's first site.

"This is a part-time paid position, starting as soon as possible," said Margaret Thomson, chair of the Salt Spring Livestock Producers group.

The job is being advertised for the first time this week, she said, noting that notices about other positions related to agricultural infrastructure will follow, both in the Driftwood and through farming and commu-

nity mailing lists.

Thomson wants to alert potential candidates to the urgent need for skilled help with important local agricultural projects.

"If supporting local food production is important to you please consider responding to the ad or getting involved as a volunteer," she said. "Greater food security is possible, but it will be hard work!"

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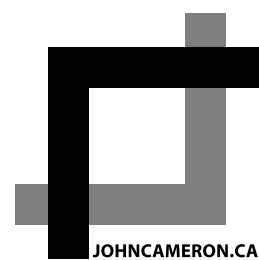
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