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# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 52ND YEAR — ISSUE 11 **\$1.25** (incl. HST)

**WILD WEATHER**

## Windstorm crashes the islands

Ferocious gusts cause property damage and knock out power

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

High winds lashed much of Salt Spring and the outer Gulf Islands during a Monday morning storm that disrupted travel plans, toppled trees, tossed debris across island roads and left nearly 10,000 Gulf Islands BC Hydro customers in the dark.

On Tuesday afternoon, Hydro crews were still busy trying to reconnect power to an estimated 500 customers without electricity on Salt Spring. Several hundred more customers who live off smaller roads and in hard-to-reach corners on the outer islands were also still without power.

"The storm caused a lot of damage to our equipment up and down the east coast of Vancouver Island," said Ted Olynyk, a spokesperson for BC Hydro. "We have downed lines, fallen trees and broken lines."

Olynyk said crews worked a 16-hour shift to get most islanders back online by midnight on Monday. Information on the BC Hydro website indicated power would be restored to all but the Gulf Islands' most remote areas by late Tuesday afternoon.

He said 9,400 BC hydro customers on the Gulf Islands lost power, mostly on Salt Spring and Galiano islands. Nearly 100,000 customers lost power on Vancouver Island.

Staff at the Ganges Canadian Coast Guard station spent much of Monday morning in Ganges Harbour tending to a slew of incidents involving small crafts and larger vessels.



PHOTO BY JOHN CADE

The Kollar family's chicken house on Sun Eagle Drive falls victim to the windstorm that raged overnight Sunday to Monday. The chickens were rescued, says neighbour John Cade.

**STORM** continued on 2

**TRUST COUNCIL**

## Trustees quash policy review idea

Decisive 22-3 vote at Gabriola Trust Council meeting

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Representatives from 13 Local Trust Areas who met on Gabriola Island last Wednesday voted down a costly multi-year proposal to review the Islands Trust's Policy Statement.

"I can't support this option and I can't support it

because it just simply makes no sense to me," said Gary Steeves, a trustee from North Pender Island. "It makes no sense from a financial point of view, it makes no sense from a social point of view and it makes no sense from an institutional point of view."

"From a financial point of view, \$433,000 is ridiculous and I haven't found hardly anybody who's said 'go ahead, that's a really good expenditure of half a million dollars.'"

Steeves was among 22 trustees who cited strong public opposition, high costs, lack of resources and

a long list of local priorities among reasons not to conduct the review.

"We're going to spend three years to wipe out a huge amount of our ability to do things that our communities need; to protect land, to protect water, to protect shorelines, to do the kind of stuff that people sent us here to do," Steeves told trustees before the vote.

Salt Spring's two trustees, George Grams and Peter

**POLICY** continued on 7

**GOVERNANCE**

## Minister Chong hears study requests

Delegations make separate cases in Victoria

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's three elected officials made good on a big election promise Monday.

Capital Regional District director Wayne McIntyre and trustees Peter Grove and George Grams met with Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, in Victoria to formally request funding for a governance study for the island.

"It was positive, I thought," said trustee Grams about the meeting.

Grams and Grove cited a growing demand for a governance study as demonstrated by November 2011 local election results, where more than 70 per cent of electors voted for "pro-study" candidates.

They also made points about operational and fiscal challenges of government on Salt Spring, the lack of representation on an island of more than 10,000 people and the island's continuing economic decline.

McIntyre made a separate presentation to the minister and her staff.

Three Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce members — president Robert Steinbach, vice-president Pat Preston and director Ken Byron — also met with Chong and two ministry

**GOVERNANCE** continued on 2

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TH	05:53	2.7	8.9	19	04:37	3.2	10.5
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16	02:27	3.2	10.5		21:55	1.2	3.9
FR	07:48	2.7	8.9	20	05:06	3.1	10.2
	11:06	2.8	9.2	TU	11:02	1.9	6.2
	19:07	0.8	2.6		16:37	2.7	8.9
17	03:20	3.2	10.5		22:38	1.3	4.3
SA	09:03	2.5	8.2				
	12:38	2.7	8.9				
	20:11	0.9	3.0				

## NEWSBEAT



A sailboat that crashed on the rocks near Grace Point is one of the storm's unfortunate victims.



Mike Windsor of T&T Tree Services deals with a tree that blew over and ripped out a fence near Ganges.

# Emergency crews go all out to respond

### STORM

continued from 1

Leading seaman Paul Reynolds said numerous vessels were reported to have dragged anchor or broken loose from their moorings. Some were blown against rocky shorelines or other vessels, while others crashed into and damaged private docks.

In one case, Reynolds said, a small live-aboard cabin in Ganges Harbour was blown over and sank.

The storm passed without causing any reported injuries.

Nick Boychuk, owner of Eagle Eye Marine Services at the Ganges Marina, said he reckons winds in the harbour were blowing as fast as 55 knots (103 km) per hour with two-

metre (six-foot) waves.

"It's not nice," Boychuk said after returning from a trip to the harbour during the storm's peak on Monday morning.

The high winds cancelled sailings on 15 routes operated by BC Ferries, including vessels travelling out of Vesuvius and Long Harbour.

On land, winds are reported to have reached gusts between 100 and 115 km/h. The blustery conditions kept police and the Salt Spring Fire-Rescue department occupied for much of the day.

Mike Windsor, who works for T&T Tree Services, was still busy tending to downed trees and blocked roadways long after winds subsided on Monday afternoon.

"It was quite the storm," he said. "We had two trees on houses, probably looked

at four trees on driveways and had lots of blowdowns."

Elizabeth Zook, the Capital Regional District's emergency program coordinator for Salt Spring, said fallen trees are reported to have destroyed several cars and damaged properties throughout the southern Gulf Islands.

"The storm was pretty wicked and it came in fast," she said on Tuesday afternoon.

Although impressed with support provided by POD programs in many neighbourhoods, Zook said the storm demonstrated a need for greater education about threats posed by damaged power lines.

"We had a lot of blown transformers and downed power lines," she said. "The main concern for me is that people understand wire safety. We need to connect better."

# Economy, governance raised with minister

### GOVERNANCE

continued from 1

staff members as a separate delegation.

They emphasized the economic struggles the island has faced in recent years and how it has been hurt by lack of access to government funds and programs for municipalities, such as the Working Communities Grant Program.

"The current system of government on Salt Spring, with no local municipal government, appears to be a major impediment to the chamber's efforts to strengthen the local economy," the chamber letter states.

Although the letter to Chong outlined how a lack of municipal status stymies local economic development, Steinbach stressed Tuesday that "We're absolutely not advancing for a municipality, only for the study so we can all choose."

Both he and Preston said new information is needed so islanders can make an informed decision about governance.

"What people think now is not based on any current information," Preston said.

One option trustees Grams and Grove floated is undertaking an update to the 2001 and 2002 documents completed by Sussex Consultants, rather than a more expensive full-blown, start-from-scratch study.

### "What people think

now is not based on

any current

information."

PAT PRESTON  
Vice-president,  
SS Chamber of  
Commerce

Unfortunately, the house was sitting on Tuesday and Minister Chong could not reach the Driftwood during her only available opportunity to call.

Like Grams and Grove, Preston and Steinbach felt the meeting was a positive one and that they were heard by the minister.

"She didn't say 'no,'" observed Grove.

"I certainly felt her response was that the request wasn't going to sit on a shelf for a long time," said Preston.

She said the chamber urges people who would like to see a governance study to write letters expressing that sentiment to Minister Chong.

Cliff Jones, vice-president of Islanders for Self Government, said he was pleased to hear the meeting had taken place, especially because Grams, Grove and McIntyre were party elected on a mandate to ask for a study. He was also heartened by the support from the Chamber of Commerce, which he said has not always been forthcoming.

Peter Lamb, a former trustee who has been a vocal opponent of pursuing incorporation in the past, also responded favourably to the request being made.

"It's probably time to have a study, as long as it's a broad-based governance study," he said.

He was, however, surprised that the chamber was the only other group represented.

"It seems inappropriate to go lobby the minister with only

one group from the island."

While the elected officials and chamber had arranged their meetings with Chong separately, Preston said the minister thanked them for being able to attend at the same time to make the best use of her time.

A governance study was last requested in October of 2009 by previous trustees Christine Torgimson and George Ehring, and CRD director Garth Henderson. They were told no provincial funds were available for such a project and wouldn't be until 2012 at the earliest.

Salt Spring voters rejected an incorporation vote in a June 2002 referendum by a 70.2 per cent margin. Voter turnout in the referendum was 49.8 per cent.

Check the Driftwood's website at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for an updated story including Chong's comments.

Links to delegates' letters may also be available.

Post your comment to this story online at  
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# Newsbeat

## Heads up!

**SS Local Trust Committee:**

Thursday, MARCH 15

Lions Hall, 9:30 a.m.; town hall at noon

### FEDERAL POLITICS

# Petition network plan aims to reboot democracy

Online petition an effort to combat political apathy

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island woman hopes to invigorate the political process by giving Canadians a one-stop online site to post, view and track federal government petitions.

Despite a minimal budget and little fanfare surrounding the launch of [petitionsnetwork.ca](http://petitionsnetwork.ca) last month, Vivian Chu's new website has already attracted some interest from engaged citizens across the country and got the attention of at least one well-connected federal politician.

According to the parliamentary petition process, a member of parliament is entitled to read a constituent's petition if it is signed by at least 25 people. Given that a petition can be read each time it receives the required number of signatures, Chu figured it made sense to create a place where concerned citizens could network among themselves to share petitions and broaden the scope of their efforts.

"Important issues will rise to the top," she said.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO  
Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May is supporting Vivian Chu's initiative.

"People can download different petitions and take ownership of them."

By enabling more MPs from more parties to present petitions in Parliament, Chu hopes the network will improve the likelihood of a petition's success.

So far, there are 12 petitions available on the website. They touch on issues such as a call to stop the Northern Gateway pipeline, increased protection for Jasper National Park, creation of a National Affordable Housing Program and long-term core funding to the CBC. Any of these can be downloaded free of charge and circulated in any riding.

At the top of the list is Chu's own petition that

seeks implementation of a more efficient petition tracking system, which is essentially what inspired her to create the site.

Whereas the process of initiating a petition is fairly straightforward, Chu has long had a problem with the lack of information about what happens to a petition once it gets presented in Parliament.

During a recent discussion with Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May and her friend Sam Miller, Chu was alarmed to hear most petitions end up "lost in the void."

**"There's a potential for thousands of petitions."**

VIVIAN CHU  
Founder,  
[petitionsnetwork.ca](http://petitionsnetwork.ca)

"The average person like you and I have very little access to the whole wording of a petition," she said. "If you happen to sign a petition at a meeting and you walk away, there's no way you can track it unless you know the name of the



Petitionsnetwork.ca screen shot. The website has been initiated by Vivian Chu of Salt Spring.

petitioner or the MP who will present that petition. "You walk away and there's no easy way to track it."

Chu believes a proper petition tracking system would make it easier for petitioners to follow up on their efforts and encourage more people to initiate petitions of their own for causes they hold dear.

The idea for her website came to her after Chu began circulating copies of her petition to friends in other ridings.

"I thought, 'what if I got other MPs involved? What if I got my friends in Vancouver gathering signatures to their own?' Then I thought, 'what if I posted this online?'"

It didn't take long before Chu recognized

the potential for a site like [petitionsnetwork.ca](http://petitionsnetwork.ca).

"I came to the realization that, if it really takes off, I may not be able to handle the workload," she said. "There's a potential for thousands of petitions."

Chu soon discovered she isn't the only one with plans to engage more citizens in the petition process. On the very same day she launched the website, Chu heard about Burnaby-Douglas NDP MP Kennedy Stewart's effort to modernize the petitions process.

Stewart, who's spent 20 years as an academic researching ways to increase voter turnout, proposes to amend legislation to facilitate electronic petitions and implement a more com-

prehensive tracking system.

"While petitioning has been a central part of parliamentary practice for centuries, modern technology now provides an opportunity to enhance this tradition in a way that pulls more citizens into the political process," Stewart states on his website.

The move is hoped to empower frustrated citizens, such as those who made up the 2011 occupy movement, to enact meaningful legislative change.

Stewart, who met with Chu on March 2, proposes widescale changes that would take Chu's initiative even further by acknowledging online petitions. It's difficult to say how long it could be before the proposal is considered in Parliament, although Stewart hopes action might begin within weeks.

In the meantime, Chu said, the [petitionsnetwork.ca](http://petitionsnetwork.ca) will keep doing its part to encourage greater civic responsibility one signature at a time.

Chu can be reached at [petitionsnetwork@hotmail.com](mailto:petitionsnetwork@hotmail.com).

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

## News briefs

### Realtors on the move

Salt Spring Island's real estate landscape experienced a big shake-up last week and this time it was the realtors, not homeowners, who were on the move.

Eight realtors who worked under the Royal LePage Salt Spring Realty banner have announced their intentions to begin work at Pemberton Holmes

Real Estate.

A new Pemberton Holmes office will be located in the Grace Point Square complex to accommodate the branch's team of 15 realtors.

Russ Crouse continues to operate the Royal LePage Salt Spring office, which will relocate to an upper level office in the Grace Point Square complex.

Crouse congratulated his "top-notch team" on their decision to join the Pemberton Holmes crew.

Long-time Royal LePage administrator Gail Beattie will remain with the company.

Royal LePage Salt Spring Realty and its antecedents have served Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands since 1928.

### Rufous arrivals

Seasoned hummingbird expert Jean Brouard spotted the first Rufous hummingbird of the year on Monday.

Brouard saw the bird feeding on flowering currant at 8:05 a.m., "in the middle of the storm," at his Roland Road property.

### Trust passes 2012/13 budget

Islands Trust Council members meeting on Gabriola Island last week passed a \$6.8 million budget for 2012-2013, a decision that will result in no

increase to property taxes for the coming year.

The budget covers the costs to maintain current levels of local and federation-wide services, as well as adding a part-time bylaw enforcement officer, according to an Islands Trust press release.

The approved budget supports ongoing work to bring Local Trust Areas into compliance with the provincial Riparian Areas Regulation and sponsor public engagement efforts

about affordable housing, groundwater, shoreline protection and food security.

Only four written comments were submitted to the Trust between Feb. 10 and March 1. All expressed support for keeping tax rates as close to zero as possible.

Islands Trust taxes range between 10 and 20 per cent of total property taxes across 13 Local Trust Areas and the Bowen Island municipality.

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### News from the day...Mar. 16, 1972

#### FOUR DOGS SHOT

Four dogs were destroyed last week after being caught chasing sheep. Beddis Road farmer shot two dogs on his property and RCMP despatched two animals found worrying a ram on Canal Road. Fred Haywood identified the animals and police destroyed the dogs owned by Bruce Hildred and Sharon Robinson.

7AM - 10PM DAILY

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## NEWSBEAT

### PARK MAINTENANCE

# Fulford Harbour brush clearing alarms some south-end residents

Work meant to deter garbage, fires

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island residents who have been outraged by brush removal at the head of Fulford Harbour are calling the situation the equivalent of a clear-cut and demanding a community consultation process for similar projects in the future.

Work undertaken by Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission maintenance staff last week removed a large swath of blackberry bushes and grass between Fulford-Ganges Road and the beach immediately across from the Fulford Inn. The work has created an open view to the water from the road and changed a familiar landscape for many harbour users.

"It's really odd and it's really devastated," Isabella Point resident Serge Stone said.

"It's basically ground zero there — it's just sickening. It really is very disturbing."

"It just looks awful. It looks terrible. I just wonder why they did it," said Tyyler MacDonald.

Stone, MacDonald and others have pointed out the area's importance as wildlife habitat for birds and for otters that use a small outlet stream next to Fulford Creek for cover when accessing the water.

"I've spoken to at least 15 people and they're all upset about it. Why didn't they have a community meeting? Why weren't people informed?" MacDonald asked.

Those responsible for the work have said that other community members were in fact the driving force behind the project. PARC manager Kees Ruurs said the Fulford Hall Committee, which manages Drummond Park, asked the commission to remove the invasive material last fall, in



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Andrea Metzger surveys the recently cleared area across from the Fulford Inn on one of her regular walks on the beach.

part because of people drinking on the beach.

"There's a fair amount of inappropriate use of that area," Ruurs said.

"By eliminating some of that brush that type of use will be reduced."

Ruurs added PARC staff were aware of the otters and the oystercatchers in the area, but he did not believe the clearing work would harm either species. He noted nothing was done to the outlet stream itself, while oystercatchers don't nest in blackberries.

Howard Fry, a member of the Fulford Hall Committee, clarified, "It was more about dumping garbage there. And there seems to be a recurrence of people lighting fires and leaving them burning, which freaks people out. The community was fed up and asked if PARC could do anything about it."

MacDonald was not satisfied with this explanation, saying, "What's their ultimate goal, just not to let people drink beer down there? It would be better to get rid of the problem people individually."

Environment Canada has marked the Fulford Creek estuary area as a sensitive zone for shore birds and dogs are not permitted on the beach. However, the region is not a designated protection area by the Islands Trust, and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy has no special stewardship projects there.

According to information published in a letter to the Driftwood in 2007, Drummond Children's Playground is not a public park. It was donated to the community in the 1960s, to be looked after and managed by the Fulford Hall Committee on behalf of the community's children. FAC contracts PARC for its maintenance.

The beach area near the creek has been annexed to Drummond Park.

"To tell you the truth, I think it looks better," said park user Andrea Metzger, who frequently visits the beach area with her six-year-old son. "The blackberries were pretty messy."

### COURT

## Inconsiderate driver nets fine

In Ganges court

Salt Spring's Ronald Godlonton was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine in connection with violating the prov-

ince's Motor Vehicle Act. Godlonton, who was born in 1974, was found guilty of driving without reasonable consideration in Ganges Provincial Court on

March 7. The incident occurred in April of 2010.

In other court news, a 47-year-old Salt Spring man was issued a suspended sentence after

he pleaded guilty to criminal harassment. Court ordered John Fair to serve a nine-month probationary sentence as a result of the Oct. 21, 2011 incident.

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# NEWSBEAT

## MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

# Trustees consider NMCA expansion

New boundary could encompass Gabriola

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust has reopened a discussion that could lead to an expansion of the Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area's proposed boundaries.

Trustees representing the Trust's 13 Local Trust Areas lent conditional support to a delegate's proposal to expand the NMCA's northern boundary around Gabriola Island and into the Nanaimo River Estuary. Meeting at last week's Trust Council meeting on Gabriola Island, trustees voted to have the matter discussed further by executive committee members and staff to ensure coordination with neighbouring or overlapping local governments and First Nations groups.

Last fall, provincial and federal governments confirmed plans to proceed with an NMCA that encompasses much of the

waters between Cordova Bay, north of Victoria and the southern tip of Gabriola Island.

Laurie Gourley, a spokesperson for the Mid Island Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative, said recent discussions with government representatives show a willingness to consider a "last-minute expansion."

"This is kind of the last kick at the can to get this boundary extension," he said.

Gourley said expansion of the NMCA is needed to promote sustainable opportunities and protect the region from pressures of a rising population.

"In our opinion, bigger is better in the case of this proposed NMCA," Gourley said. "The end result is to create a clean bio-diverse and self-sustaining habitat that supports a wide variety of fish and marine life and provides economic benefits that will create dividends for the long-term needs of coastal residents."

Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove suggested the proposed expansion is a good start.

"I'm ashamed to admit that I didn't know that Gabriola was not included, but my question is 'why stop there? Why not go further up?'" he said.

**"This is the last kick at the can to get this boundary extension."**

LAURIE GOURLEY  
MISSI president

Similarly, trustee Andrew Stone from Bowen Island said a similar NMCA plan could be considered for the Howe Sound area.

"I sense that there is actually political will in the region that is growing perhaps exponentially, if not on a logarithmic scale . . . to actually have a Howe Sound area built into

the conservation area," he said.

Trust Council chair Sheila Malcolmson said the current boundaries were developed after nearly a decade of public consultations throughout the region.

"This is certainly a serious consideration for council that fits with some of our previous work," she said.

On Salt Spring, the NMCA surrounds the island with the exception of Ganges Harbour, Long Harbour and most of Burgoyne Bay.

NMCAs offer protection to marine environments under the National Marine Conservation Areas Act. According to information from the Georgia Strait Alliance, the act is intended to protect marine biodiversity and habitat by establishing ocean areas that are managed for multiple uses but protected with environmental objectives.

More information about the proposed boundary extension is available on the MISSI website, [www.missimidland.com](http://www.missimidland.com).

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## ENERGY

# Smart meter opponents ready to fight BCUC's dismissal decision

Groups seek smart meter moratorium

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Opponents of BC Hydro's continuing installation of smart meters in homes across the province do not intend to stop their fight against the controversial program as a result of last week's British Columbia Utilities Commission decision to dismiss their injunction request.

Members of the Coalition to Stop Smart Meters and Citizens for Safe Technology announced plans to appeal the commission's position on Friday, one day after BCUC issued the decision. The groups want BC Hydro to suspend any further smart meter installations, an initiative the groups say threatens democratic, civil and human rights in the province.

Andrea Collins, a Salt Spring resident who works closely with

both groups, said she's disappointed but not surprised by BCUC's announcement.

"We kind of expected this and we planned to appeal this right from day one. We are not going to give up and we are not going to give up," she said.

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities, along with 34 independent municipalities in B.C. have called for a moratorium or the ability to opt out of the smart meter program.

Collins said BC Hydro, the BCUC and the provincial health officer continue to ignore mounting evidence that indicates a cautious approach should be taken on the smart meter issue.

"You have to start to wondering who is really calling the shots," Collins said on Monday. "It certainly doesn't feel like a democratic decision."

Health officer Dr. Perry Kendall has stated that electromagnetic fields such as those emitted by

smart meters do not constitute a health threat at current exposure levels.

According to BC Hydro, "smart meters communicate for an average of one minute per day and the exposure to radio frequency over the lifetime of a smart meter is equivalent to a 30-minute cell phone call."

The BCUC turned down the groups' request for an injunction on grounds the smart meter plan complies with all relevant sections of the province's Clean Energy Act.

"The decision came as the BC Hydro smart metering project nears the halfway mark of installations with widespread customer acceptance of the meters and their benefits," reads part of a BC Hydro press release that followed Thursday's BCUC announcement. "BC Hydro has installed over 890,000 new meters to date, which represents just under half of its 1.85 million customers."

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Province urged to aid rural cycling

Trust Council joins cycling advocates

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council has joined a growing number of local governments that want the provincial government to spend more money to promote rural cycling infrastructure in B.C.

"Lots of us have encouraging statements in our official community plans [for bike paths]. As we know, we can't fund or build bike paths, but we can encourage other agencies to do that," said Trust Council chair Sheila Malcolmson

at the March 7 meeting.

All 25 trustees who met at last week's Trust Council session on Gabriola Island voted for the proposal, introduced by Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove. The motion seeks to encourage the province to "broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas."

The decision comes fewer than four months before Salt Spring hosts approximately 1,500 cyclists and cycling enthusiasts from around the world as part of the Velo Village event from June 21 to 23.

In an address to trustees during the meeting's town hall session, John Rowlandson, a spokesperson for Island Pathways and lead coordinator of the festival, said organizers hope the event will inspire local cycling initiatives for tourism operators as well as commuters on Salt Spring, other Gulf Islands and beyond.

"We need to take this starting point and grow it not only through the Gulf Islands but across British Columbia because we all understand that, given our climate and given our resources, investments in cycling infrastructure are really one of the pathways to a sus-

tainable island life," he told trustees. "The only thing that stands out in a significant way is that rural communities have little way of supporting infrastructure."

Several communities have forwarded similar motions to the province.

"We are not alone in this," Rowlandson said. "All of these places are agreeing that making investments in rural cycling infrastructure is not only an important but an essential ingredient in a world where there's not enough room for more cars."

More information about the Velo Village event is available at [www.velovillage.ca](http://www.velovillage.ca).

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## NEWSBEAT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**NEWEST QCS:** Salt Spring natives Jack Woodward and Mary Mouat smile for the camera after receiving their Queen's Counsel designations from the Attorney General at a dignitary-filled ceremony at the Hotel Vancouver on March 2. Woodward is a specialist in First Nations law and wrote Native Law, a leading text on aboriginal law in Canada. He started Woodward & Company in 1988 in Victoria. Mouat is a leading B.C. family law practitioner with the Quadra Legal Centre in Victoria. She was among legal experts consulted for the province's recently passed Family Law Act. As a volunteer, she led the B.C. Law Foundation in 2009/10.

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### SURVEY

# Critical community needs survey on tap

Salt Spring Island Foundation aims to help the island

Islanders will be asked to identify Salt Spring's most critical needs and issues facing the community when the Salt Spring Island Foundation launches an online survey on March 15.

The survey will be available until April 15 and is intended to provide island charitable organizations and the Salt Spring community at large with information that will assist in planning programs and services.

The survey results, which will be published in June, will enable the foundation and other funding organizations to make granting decisions that consider the priorities set forth by members of the community.

As explained in a press release, "Since the foundation distributes over \$100,000 in grants annually, it is crucial that it effectively supports organizations that respond to our most pressing community needs."

The survey also invites responses

from members of Salt Spring's not-for-profit organizations about the challenges they face in delivering services to the community. This information will better enable the foundation to plan initiatives such as the spring 2012 workshop series, which is designed to assist not-for-profit groups and is co-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Salt Spring Community Education and Volunteer Salt Spring.

The last community needs survey was undertaken in 2008 by the foundation and representatives of other community organizations.

"It identified eight critical service issues. In order of priority they were: housing; mental health; children, family and youth; poverty; transportation; alcohol and drug abuse; homelessness; and recreation. Since 2008, many exciting new initiatives have been undertaken by Salt Spring's active not-for-profit community and more are underway; however, many challenges remain."

To complete the survey and make their voices heard, people should go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/SSI-Foundation](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SSI-Foundation).

## Keep Smiling...



### THOUGHTS & NEWS

I have a crooked sign in front of my office.

from Dr. Richard Hayden

It was hit by a car some time ago.

Oddly enough no one ever mentioned the sign when it was upright yet now I am told about it all the time.

In the grocery store, at Foxglove, even one day as I'm running along the road at top speed a driver slows down (they didn't need to slow too much though) and tell me I have a crooked sign.

Now I don't want to fix it. Everyone notices it and that is the point of a sign. (sorry Warren)

It does make me think though. We do notice things 'out of place'.

Does your smile have a 'crooked sign' that you would rather have go unnoticed. Do you have a tooth that is being noticed because of a missing filling or fracture? Is there some other out of place thing in your oral or general health that has become noticeable?

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### RCMP

# Errant driver picks up 24-hour prohibition after visit to ditch

Artistic grad pranksters still at large

Salt Spring police issued a 24-hour driving suspension to the driver of a vehicle that ended up in the ditch near the Fernwood Dock on North Beach Road on Friday evening.

Police who attended the scene at about 6:30 said the driver was uninjured and the truck sus-

tained minor damage in the incident. They said the driver exhibited signs of impairment. RCMP impounded the vehicle.

In other RCMP news, Salt Spring officers are trying to track down whoever is responsible for "tagging" the Gulf Islands Secondary School's gymnasium doors

with the words "GRAD 12." The vandals left hand impressions on the gym's outside wall. The incident was reported to police by school maintenance staff at 1 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6. Police believe the white paint used by whoever is responsible may have been transferred to their clothing during the incident.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact the local RCMP office by calling 250-537-5555.

### RCMPREPORT

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT

# Journal-writing workshop puts focus on self-care for women

Intimate circle explores journalling

Women can learn how to write to nurture themselves and stir their souls at an end-of-March workshop called Journaling as Self Care.

Led by life coach Emma-Louise Eley and writing teacher Wendy Judith Cutler, the workshop runs Sunday, March 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in a beautiful cedar yurt in the serene south-end of the island overlooking the ocean.

"The workshop title explains that taking the time to write in a journal is in itself an act of self-care and in the workshop

participants will explore what self-care looks like and means individually, identifying needs and nurturing practices, developing compassion and creating time to care for ourselves," explains a press release. "Exercises include writing prompts, guided meditation, coaching exercises and supportive sharing."

Space is limited to ensure the intimacy of the circle. The cost is \$85 to \$100 (sliding scale) and tea, snacks and handouts are provided.

For more information and to register, contact Eley at 250-537-2250 ([emma@simplicitylife-coaching.com](mailto:emma@simplicitylife-coaching.com)) or Cutler at 250-653-4286 ([winnie@saltspring.com](mailto:winnie@saltspring.com)).



## NOTICE OF AGM SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Annual  
General Meeting (AGM)

of the  
Salt Spring Island  
Fire Protection District

will be held on  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

at the  
Ganges Fire Station  
(105 Lower Ganges Road)

commencing at  
7:30pm

Fire District ratepayers are encouraged to attend.

# NEWSBEAT

## SPEAKERS

# Conservancy speaker Wade Davis awes ArtSpring crowd Friday night

Anthropologist, author says Canada at crossroads

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As a boy, Wade Davis can recall visits to Salt Spring Island where he would strap a pair of roughly hewn logs to his feet and apprehensively hang onto the lead as an eccentric quasi-relative would tow him across Ganges Harbour.

The sputtering fishing vessel never topped five knots, but its captain insisted the exercise was all part of a training regimen that would prepare the young Davis for a career as an astronaut.

Davis never made it into outer space, but he has been just about everywhere else in a career that's encouraged many to describe the Vancouver native as a real-life Indiana Jones.

In a life of exploration that has put him in touch with the world's most breathtaking sites, isolated peoples and curious traditions, Davis returned to the island Friday evening to raise awareness about a special part of the

globe he's called home for the past 25 years.

"Tonight, this will not be a story of Tibet or the Amazon. I won't be taking you to life amongst the Inuit in the high Arctic or amongst the Tuareg in the sands of the Sahara. This is a story of my own backyard," he told a capacity crowd at ArtSpring, where the audience overflowed into the gallery space for a video feed of the talk.

The place Davis calls his backyard is home to the Stikine, Skeena and the Naas rivers, it's home to towering peaks and more than 300 glaciers, an abundance of wildlife and powerful First Nations traditions.

The Sacred Headwaters may not rank as high as many of the other great wonders Davis has had the privilege to explore and write about, but that may only be as a result of the region's remoteness. Like so many parts of Canada's north, Davis said, it's a place many Canadians like to talk about but few ever visit.

"Isolation has always been the saving grace of this country but, now, isolation could become its doom," he said. "You hear so much of the Enbridge pipeline, Keystone

and the Tar Sands, but at one level these are just elements of a series of mega-development projects that have always floated over the north."

Soaring demand and the rising price of commodities over the past decade have encouraged gas and mining firms from Canada and around the world to descend upon the region's vast mineral wealth.

**"Isolation has always been the saving grace of this country, but, now, isolation could become its doom."**

WADE DAVIS  
Author, *The Sacred Headwaters*

As the prospect of industrial development has grown, so too has a movement that opposes plans for the province's northwest. As one of the region's highest-profile residents, Davis has traded tribal bonfires for college amphithe-

atres and sophisticated urban performance centres to speak about his home with whoever wants to listen.

The pitch is summed up in *The Sacred Headwaters*, a book he created with help from nine of the best nature photographers on the planet. Davis hopes the efforts of his tour, which visited Salt Spring in conjunction with a Salt Spring Conservancy fundraiser, will mobilize Canadians to realize how development is changing the northern landscape and the lives of people who have lived there for millennia.

"Canadian people are feeling the shame of Copenhagen. Canadian people are feeling the shame of Durban," he told the crowd. "Canadians are seeing a country where the kind of rhetoric that we've grown used to hearing in the United States has somehow infiltrated our own discourse. I think this is a really challenging moment for Canada. We really are asking ourselves what kind of country we want to be on every single level."

More information about the Sacred Headwaters region and Davis' book is available at [www.sacredheadwaters.com](http://www.sacredheadwaters.com).

# Amendments to Policy Statement an alternate plan

POLICY  
continued from 1

Grove, also voted against the plan. Their decision comes after islanders spoke strongly against a Policy Statement review at a March 1 meeting at the Harbour House Hotel.

Prior to their decision, trustees received more than 52 pages of correspondence from Trust-area residents, the vast majority of which expressed concern or opposition to the project.

In its defeat of the proposal, Trust Council rejected a \$250,000 Canada Gas Tax Fund grant that would have absorbed more than half of the project's cost.

The Policy Statement was adopted in 1994 and has been amended on four occasions, most recently in 2002. The 30-page document is a guide for Local Trust Areas to create their own land use bylaws and official community plans.

During the previous term, a majority of Trust Council trustees expressed a need to update the policy by "filling in the gaps" when it comes to issues like climate change, marine protection, affordable housing, "connectivity in environmental protection" and food security.

Only three trustees, including Bowen Island's Wolfgang Duntz, voted to pursue the review.

"The challenges which this region and the rest of the world are facing now are different than the challenges we perceived 30 or 35 years ago and I would say the Islands Trust would risk to fail in their mandate if they would not be as diligent and responsible to address those other challenges as they have successfully dealt with preserving the environment and the ecosystems," he told trustees.

"You will face the same problems we are facing [on Bowen Island] and I don't see anything in the current policy statement right now that would help you address those challenges."

As an alternative, trustees voted to have the Trust's executive committee work with staff to determine a list of strategic priorities that could be considered in future amendments to the Policy Statement. A proposal will be presented to trustees at the June Trust Council session on North Pender Island.

"Let's press on assuming that this is something that can be done without involving a great deal of costs," Grove said.

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# Opinion



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EDITORIAL

## Mind over money

It's never easy to turn down a gift, especially those of the six-figure variety that are handed out by the federal government in the form of Gas Tax Fund grants.

Despite the lure of a \$250,000 incentive to move ahead with the Islands Trust's Policy Statement review, trustees voted overwhelmingly against the proposal during last week's quarterly Trust Council meeting held on Gabriola Island.

Except for three lonely supporters, representatives sitting around the Trust Council table rightly conceded a move to review the Trust's guiding policy stood to cause much more harm than good.

Even with the federal grant, trustees readily admitted the three-year project could easily

run over its anticipated \$450,000 budget and become an untimely boondoggle that ties up staff time and local Trust committees' abilities to deal with pressing island-specific issues.

Furthermore, a decision to delve into the Trust's guiding document at a time when the local government agency has borne much of the frustrations of the ongoing economic slump felt across the islands could only inflame an already tense political scene.

If that wasn't enough, strong opposition to the project here on Salt Spring — where the island's two trustees represent approximately 40 per cent of the total Trust population — guaranteed a minor uprising and talk of the Trust's democratic deficit if trustees had voted to pursue the review.

A week before trustees met on Gabriola Island, more than a few islanders had already painted the review as a blatant attempt to distract islanders and detract attention from the possibility of a provincially funded governance study to consider incorporation on Salt Spring, an accusation the Trust officials denied, of course.

Even with the prospect of all that trouble, trustees acknowledged the full-scale review wouldn't even guarantee creation of more affordable housing or more efforts to mitigate climate change.

Common sense, it appears, can't be bought.

**THE ISSUE:**

Trust Policy Statement review

**WE SAY:**

Common sense prevails



## St. Mary Lake is a top concern

BY PETER GROVE

I have recently attended a number of seminars and reviewed numerous reports on the subject of the water quality of our lakes on Salt Spring. This is a subject that concerns many of us (it should concern us all) and the problems appear to be getting worse. Poor water quality was among the most frequently raised issues during the election campaign last year. There are calls for more studies, but surely by now we have gathered enough information to justify new action.

Biologist John Sprague, Ph.D., has concluded that the main cause of problems on Cusheon Lake is watershed erosion and runoff, with a lesser but important contribution of nutrients from septic fields. Many septic systems are old. Many are close to the lake and some are even covered at periods of high water. Erosion will hopefully be reduced through implementation of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR), a provincial requirement. The septic tanks and fields are another issue for which a solution must be found.

Richard Nordin, Ph.D., a biologist who was formerly a lake scientist for the province and later taught at the University of Victoria, recently concluded at a presentation he made on the island that the chief culprit in St. Mary Lake is an excess of the nutrient phosphorus recycling from the sediments. These nutrients feed the algae. He notes that the aerators have certainly helped by getting oxygen down to the lower layers of the lake in the summer, thereby keeping nutrients in the sediment.

Nordin believes that the blooms are worsened by the

**VIEWPOINT**

existence of perch in St. Mary Lake. The species is foreign to the lake, and eats more than its fair share of the zooplankton that ordinarily crops down the algae that cause us so much trouble. He recommends doing what we can to reduce the number of perch, possibly through a netting program and by removing the catch restrictions on anglers.

**The septic tanks and fields are another issue for which a solution must be found.**

Next on the list of culprits on St. Mary Lake, and also a serious problem, are the septic tanks and fields, many of which, Nordin states, are 50 years old or more and are poorly maintained. Without going to the huge cost of installing a sewage system around the lake (which would be ideal), the older septic systems need to be replaced with newer and more effective technology and we must ensure that all systems are pumped out regularly and properly inspected.

Clearly there is a cost to this. There will be an even greater cost to our community if we do not act. Common sense dictates that we must now put our efforts into dealing with the septic tanks and fields, and the sooner the better.

I understand that the CRD is developing plans to deal with these issues and your two trustees will be as supportive and helping as set by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, which will play a key role in finding solutions.

While we can't expect to fix the problems overnight, we must plan for the future and put in place systems and procedures that will protect our water.

*The writer is a Salt Spring trustee.*

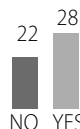
**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Is it time for a Salt Spring governance study?**  Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Will the Northern Gateway Pipeline go ahead?**



## Driftwood

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# IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"We really are asking ourselves what kind of country we want to be on every single level."**

WADE DAVIS, AUTHOR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked: How do you pass the time when the power goes out?**



JOSEPH CASSIDY

*Not a whole lot, sleep or read a book.*



LAUREN CHARLTON

*We stoke up the fire, light some candles and enjoy the peace and quiet.*



PATRICIA CALVERT

*Playing iPad Scrabble and all of the other games until the batteries run out.*



LEALA DEPLEDGE

*Play games, get together with friends and eat cold foods.*



DUFF GOODWIN

*We had the woodstove going, cooked some food and played Monopoly by candlelight.*

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less.

Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication.

Read and reply to letters online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) under the Opinion tab.

### Out to lunch

I'd like to comment on last week's Salt Spring Says question.

Whoever asked "What do you think about the teachers' strike?" surely didn't try very hard to get a representative cross-section view from our community.

Naturally, staunch NDP faithful and union members will line up for the teachers; the former towards a political end and the latter for a pay raise when the "me too" clause kicks in. Seems like another politically motivated bias, similar to the HST debate and rejection. Cut off your nose to spite your face.

I work in the construction industry and the last three years have brought a 40 per cent drop in income. No raises here, or benefits. No paid leave, for any reason.

I would normally employ

three to five skilled workers at a rate of pay similar to a teacher's salary. Like most people their income would go right back into our community in one way or another. This past year I employed one person only. Many families in the construction industry are struggling to make ends meet. Some are leaving the island. This is a shame.

Teachers are demanding a 15 per cent pay hike, up to 10 days of paid leave for bereavement, for anyone they know, and God knows what else. Does the BCTF really live on the same planet as I do? Are teachers not embarrassed by the demands of their union?

Class size and composition is a valid concern and should be addressed in a mature and respectful manner, however, for the teachers to wrap themselves in the flag of "students' best interests," while their "ask" is so unreasonable,

discredits their profession. As for the BCTF, they are out to lunch and have misread the general public.

I'll end my comments with a spelling bee for the BCTF: can anyone spell Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland? **ROBERT LANGEVIN,** SALT SPRING

### Service for taxes?

I received the little missive from the Capital Regional District re the 2012 parcel tax levy to cover the cost of maintaining Fernwood Dock. While I think keeping the dock in good repair is a good thing — I don't have a boat and will never use it.

I pay my property taxes every year and wonder what I am paying for. I don't have children in school; I don't have public water or sewage or garbage collection. I don't

have street lights, or a fire hydrant in close proximity to my property. The road I drive on every day is in atrocious condition, and they don't plow said road when it snows.

So, I ask, what are my tax dollars getting me? Like the rest of us I guess we just pay for the privilege of living in our own homes and the ever increasing costs of doing so.

**MAGGIE GABEL,** SALT SPRING

### Expensive propaganda

Truer words were never spoken by a trustee than at last week's public discussion over whether to spend further tax revenues on redefining the Trust Policy Statement.

Newbie trustee Peter Grove points out a succinct reality that the Islands Trust has come to face after all these years: "We need to know who

we are, where we're going, where we've been and what we want to do over the next five, 10 and 15 years. This is an opportunity to do that."

Unfortunately, continually rewriting the Trust Policy statement in between rewrites of our gargantuan community plan has pretty much been the bulk of the Trust's work ethic, an ethic that has without conscience squandered millions of our dollars for very little practical accomplishment beyond frustrating the needs of a growing community.

In all their attempts to get it "right," to stay relevant, the entity we see today is an Islands Trust still searching for who they are and what purpose best justifies their existence. With all their pretense at public discussions around spending yet another \$400,000 on the pure intellectualism of a policy statement it is coincidentally a timely amount that reflects what the Beddis Water District ratepayers could use to bail themselves out from a \$503 tax hike. Islanders have an opportunity here to contrast just where our priorities should be and why the diversity of a true municipal town council would better reflect those priorities!

Oddly enough, we may actually be witnessing an Islands Trust realizing, all by themselves, why they are impotent to effectively deal with the broad spectrum of governance issues under their limited land use planning committee mandate.

All we are seeing here is an anonymous Trust staff request for funds to further propagandize the public into endorsing the status quo.

**PAUL MARCANO,** CHURCHILL ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

## Seniors security like being a sardine in a can

You've got to give credit to Stephen Harper, our illustrious 22nd prime minister. As keynote speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland back in January of this year, he pretty much let the cat out of the bag by implying he intended to put a halt to the "free ride" older Canadians were getting on their Old Age Security (OAS) pensions.

Although there has been no official announcement or legislation put forward, political pundits agree that Harper wants seniors to "suck it up," roll up their sleeves and remain in the work force for at least a couple of years longer than the present age of 65 when they now can begin collecting their OAS pensions.

Seniors have nobody to blame but themselves. Both men and women are living an average five years longer than they did in 1967, the last time the plan was overhauled. With the average Canadian life expectancy now topping off at just over 80, who can blame Mr. Harper for expecting seniors to take a little "ownership" of the problems their longevity is causing to fiscal management.

Nevertheless, you have to feel sorry for someone approaching retirement age. It must feel like running an exhausting marathon race and then, just as you're about to reach the end, they move the finish line a couple of kilometres farther away. It's like that old relic of a 1950 Massey-Harris tractor you keep swearing you're going to junk but then end up squeezing one more season's planting out of her by patching her back together with some bal-

ing wire and a few choice cuss words. It doesn't take much of a stretch of the imagination to project that not too far in the future, someone will be thinking "only three more years and I'll be 105 and finally be able to retire and collect my pension."

At the same time as the government is considering extending the minimum age for the Old Age pension, the powers that be are encouraging senior "wannabes" to drop out of the work force with the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) early retirement incentive. Under this scheme, those who choose to can receive up to 70 per cent of their allowable pensions at age 60.

I wish the government would make up its mind. Does it want boomers such as me to stay in the labour force longer so it can delay having to pay us our pensions? Or would it rather we retired early so as to free up jobs for younger (and probably more energetic) workers?

It's pretty clear what generations X, Y and Z have to say on the matter. "So long and good riddance. Step aside and give the next generation a chance. For years you've been clogging up the job market. You've been creaming all the best positions and leaving the dregs for us. All the while you've driven up the cost of housing beyond the reach of anybody born after 1970. Now we'll be paying for your health care until we drop ourselves. Still, get out of the way and don't let the door hit you on the way out."



**Shilo Zylbergold**

**Nobody asked me but**

birth certificates claim. Hey, we did it when we were 17 and carried fake ID so we could sneak into bars while still underage, so why not now when we're at the other end of the spectrum. We might have to augment our natural aging process by mixing a little "White Out" in with our Grecian Formula and by reversing some of our facial Botox injection procedures.

On the other hand, there are those among us who are not yet ready to be put out to pasture. We see ourselves as viable and contributing members of the work force and we resent being forcibly "nudged" to the sidelines. We watch those ready to sweep us aside and we taunt them with cries like "Bring it on!" or "If you want my job, you'll have to take it from my cold, dead hands." After all, not just any young punk can stand at the front door of a Walmart and greet customers like they were long lost relatives. It takes skill and experience to make that phoney smile look authentic.

Wait a minute. Wasn't the Old Age pension supposed to be a security blanket we had wrapped around us to protect us from the uncertainties of our twilight years? Wasn't it created as a safety net to protect the old

and vulnerable from "free-falling" to the very depths of economic depravity?

Instead of providing a safety net, what we're getting is a government who acts more like one of those fishing factory ships hauling a humongous drag net along the bottom and scooping up anything and everything it can freeze, process and put up on the shelf. We're getting about as much security as a sardine once it has been put in the can.

Nobody asked me, but there must be another way to deal with the OAS conundrum without having to screw around with retirement age. Why not consider people approaching "seniorhood" as a commodity? We could be exported to the Pacific Rim market like raw logs. Think of all us geezers who, as it is, head down to Arizona and Mexico for months at a time. This way the government wouldn't have to worry about us coming back (and, besides, it would do wonders for the trade balance). Of course, there's still the issue of how we would survive without pensions, but that would be some other country's problem.

So, what'll it be for us aging boomers? Should we stay or should we go? Do we hang in there one more season like that old farm tractor, or ride off into the pension sunset in a blaze of high-fibre and prune juice glory?

Judging by Mr. Harper's recent statements, it seems he would like us to stop making such a nuisance of ourselves and just disappear altogether.

*thyme2001@hotmail.com*

## Teachers taking a stand

### What does legislation mean for students?

- \$100 million in budget cuts for education next school year
- no improvements for students with special needs
- larger classes for Grades 4–12 next year
- continued conflict between government and teachers



**82%** of British Columbians say it's important for teachers to have a contract that establishes specific learning conditions, such as maximum number of regular students, and the maximum number of special needs students per classroom.

**Show your support**—You can help your kids by urging your school board, your MLA, and the minister of education to fund schools and respect teachers.

**Kids matter Teachers care**

A message from the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association

## OPINION

### MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

### Beddis water subscribers want answers

*The following is an open letter to Salt Spring CRD director Wayne McIntyre:*

The past few weeks have been hard for all concerned. Handled wisely the fiasco and the complete elimination of the Beddis electors' right to approve borrowing to complete the next part of the water system could have been avoided.

Beddis electors have expressed concern over the potentially dangerous leaking tank at Lautman Road and have done nothing to delay necessary work. The work has not started although this tank became an emergency back in October 2011.

In retrospect we understand some of what's happened and some of the reasons CRD and the commission decided to borrow on an emergency basis. It is clear that decision ought never to have been made without informing the electors—particularly when that decision resulted in the revoking of the electors' legislated right to approve borrowing.

We understand staff needs freedom to deal with true emergencies. Emergency borrowing powers must never be used as a means to remove the electors' rights, although that can be a consequence. When those rights

are sacrificed for public safety, information and notice need to be provided to electors within a reasonable time. And when an emergency does result in the removal of electors' rights, that should never become the pretext for extending the loss of rights beyond the immediate emergency.

Much anguish could have been avoided among Beddis electors had necessary information been posted in a timely way. And it may have been possible to limit the emergency borrowing at the outset and to give the electors some say in the remainder of the necessary borrowing. That opportunity has now passed and can't be brought back. To move forward let's ensure the community is kept fully informed and that their other outstanding concerns are addressed:

We need your commitment that all legally publishable information concerning the Beddis Water Service will be accessible to electors on a website. This does not restore our lost right to vote but it lets us keep track of developments.

The estimated cost to complete the work is more than many of us can afford. Please add a direction to find as many achievable cost savings as possible to the job description of whichever (preferably local) professional engineer is hired to prepare construction drawings and review the work.

And please advise us where CRD gets the authority to keep collecting parcel tax and other revenue from us for loans that are already

paid out.

To begin winning back community trust, please give us relevant information in a timely way. The items we've asked for here are a good place to start.

**ZWANETTE PEREBOOM,  
ANN WHEELER,  
MICHAEL FRIEDMAN,  
BEDDIS WATER SERVICE  
SUBSCRIBERS**

### Scrabble

Thanks to our community's enthusiastic participation and generous donations the Grand(m) others to Grandmothers Scrabble Fundraiser has been a tremendous success.

We are thrilled to be able to send over \$10,000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The money raised goes directly to projects supporting African grandmothers whose families have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to the Salt Spring Inn, Clubhouse Bar & Grill, Country Grocer and Thrifty's, Island Savings, Salt Spring Books, Laura Temmel, our schools, as well as Braehaven, Meadowbrook, Heritage Place and Extended Care at Lady Minto for the wonderful support.

The Salt Spring Grand(m)others always welcomes new members. An inclusive group, you don't have to be a grandmother or even a woman to join! Call me for more information.

**JILL TARSWELL,  
SALT SPRING**

MORE LETTERS continued on 11

# Building a brighter future in a stronger BC.

These are challenging times in the global economy. But with BC's enviable record of strong fiscal management, we can continue to make investments that matter to British Columbians while maintaining low taxes and controlled spending.

This is exactly what Budget 2012 delivers.

- Increased funding for health care, with \$1.5 billion in additional funding by 2014/15
- \$4.7 billion a year in block funding for school districts, plus a 3-year \$165 million Learning Improvement Fund to support teachers aiding students with special needs
- Almost \$3 billion in new capital spending in hospitals, schools, post-secondary institutions, roads, and other infrastructure

Budget 2012 also supports families and individuals.

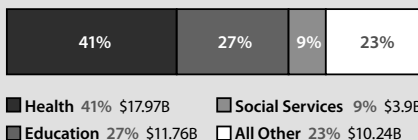
- Families will be able to claim up to \$500 – per child, per credit, per year – for any eligible sports or arts program
- Up to \$1,000 a year in tax credits for seniors or family members sharing a home, to help cover the cost of renovations that allow seniors to stay independent longer
- A new First-Time New Home Buyer's Bonus, making first-time buyers who purchase newly built homes eligible for a personal income tax credit of up to \$10,000
- Effective April 1, 2012, the current HST rebate threshold for new home purchases increases to \$850,000. Purchasers will be eligible for a provincial HST rebate of up to \$42,500

Budget 2012 keeps BC's economy strong in the midst of uncertainty in the global economy.

British Columbia. Canada Starts Here.

#### INVESTING IN PRIORITIES

2012/13 Expenditure Budget Totalling \$43.87B



For more details on Budget 2012, visit [www.bcbudget.ca](http://www.bcbudget.ca) or [www.bcjobsplan.ca](http://www.bcjobsplan.ca)



THE BC  
JOBS PLAN



## OPINION

## Students give hope for positive change

BY DOROTHY CUTTING

Bill McKibben is coming to Salt Spring Island to talk at the GISS gym on March 27.

His presentation will be titled Notes From the Front Lines of the Climate Change Fight. Author of Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet, he is one of the world's leading environmentalists, as well as an effective activist and a distinguished journalist and author. But he's also a teacher, and maybe it's this quality that most motivates and defines him.

Back in 2006, not long after renowned climatologist Dr. James Hansen testified that the world had "less than a decade" to prevent really dangerous global warming, McKibben and a small group of U.S. college students started a movement to demand action on climate change. It became known as Step it Up 2007, with 2000 rallies in all 50 states.

In late December of that year, James Hansen offered a simple, straightforward and mind-blowing bottom line for the atmosphere of our earth, 350 parts per million of carbon

## INDEPTH

dioxide. Bill McKibben's response was to form a new organization, which he called "350.org." I remember thinking at the time, "How's this going to work? How can anyone teach people to understand that a number can be so important for their survival? People don't relate to numbers." How wrong I was.

I had underestimated McKibben's ability to organize, energize and inform. Getting to work right away, he and his team made plans for creative actions and open campaigning to take place all over the planet. By June of 2008, the 350.org website was up and running, and McKibben's mission to teach the world the importance of bringing CO2 emissions back down to a safe level of 350 ppm or lower had begun.

With team building, leadership workshops, local victories, etc., the campaign would become the biggest mobilization on climate change to that point in history, with a network

over 100,000 strong across the world. On the October 2009 global day of action, in the lead-up to the Copenhagen Climate Conference, there were 5,200 simultaneous rallies and demonstrations in 181 countries. One of these events was right here in the GISS gym, with over 400 people attending.

Recently, in November 2011, McKibben and the 350.org team formed a circle of 12,000 around the White House in an ongoing effort to stop the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. To quote from a post at 350.org, "Around the world, people took action in solidarity with the protesters in D.C. Some folks might see this as a Canadian or American fight — but it's not. The Alberta Tar Sands marks the location of the second largest pool of carbon on the planet — this is a global fight."

And now, at a talk at the GISS gymnasium sponsored by the great students from the school's government, EAGER and Leadership groups, Bill McKibben is making a special trip to come here. This event is also co-

sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, the Salt Spring Forum and other community organizations.

I feel lucky to have been able to sit in on some of the event planning sessions, and I've certainly enjoyed working with the GISS students. They've shown real understanding of the issues of sustainability and climate change, as well as good organizational skills, and have given me great hope for positive change.

McKibben's talk on March 27 will begin at 1:15 p.m. and end at 3 p.m. This is primarily a student event, and for them, admission is free. But everyone is welcome. We do urge you to get your tickets early, though. Admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, with Conservancy and Forum members getting in for \$10. Tickets are on sale at Salt Spring Coffee, Salt Spring Books, Salt Spring Air, Moutat's, and Morning-side Organic Cafe, Bakery and Bookstore.

The writer is an environmental activist based on Salt Spring.

## MORE LETTERS

## Film to watch

To understand the who, how and why of 9/11, you must understand the 1995 Oklahoma bombing.

I am donating my copy of the documentary A Noble Lie to Island Star Video. Please watch and discuss.

KEN ROULEAU,  
SALT SPRING

## Sign of the times

Last Thursday, March 8 was International Women's Day and as I think about the powerful movie/documentary that was shown at our provocative local film festival, Miss Representation, it is very much a sign of the times for women worldwide.

Girls, boys, men and women could all learn something from watching how much damage is driven into us through the media. My husband found Miss Representation on the Oprah channel, watched it and came up from his "man cave" to talk about it. As a man who has learned to respect and value the women in his life, he nevertheless was made aware of the many brutally damaging "sound bites" we are all exposed to by the mainstream media on a daily basis.

Let us all celebrate the upcoming feminine festival of Estrus on the first full moon of spring, this year occurring on April 6, by remembering the rightful place of women in a truly civilized society.

CAROLINE HICKMAN,  
SALT SPRING

## On efficiency

I have the greatest admiration for Robert Bateman's views on the environment, but his statement that "more efficiency will inevitably lead to disaster" may be true for the cod and for hunters and gatherers, but is certainly often very welcome to others.

My mother would never return to her coal-fired stove nor to the all-day Monday spent with the family wash, and she loved her efficient modern home.

My father remembers the dangerous and filthy conditions in factories, mines, farms and in the

forest during the '30s. Thanks to efficient changes, much of this is in the past.

My 1956 Chevy only got 12 miles to the gallon while my present vehicle — bigger and vastly better equipped — gets over 30. Surely Mr. Bateman recognizes that this increase in efficiency is better for the environment.

While we could argue that our society is often, if not usually, wasteful and greedy of our resources, do we really want to return to the living standards of the past? And what past? If we go back to pre-industrial times, then we die on the average at 45, most of our children would not survive childhood, our food would be monotonous if not hazardous and, for most, our lives would be dull and brief.

The idyllic view of past pastoral life is pure fiction. Just be thankful we live when we do and for most at a standard of comfort and safety that could only be dreamt of by our forefathers.

Instead of being critical of all innovation and efficiency we should welcome that which is of value and only reject that which is of damage to us and the environment.

JOHN N. MYERS,  
CORMORANT CRESCENT

## Environmental connections

In response to Bob Bateman's "Efficiency is destructive" letter in the March 7 Driftwood, I knew Crawford "Buzz" Holling very well as he was one of my six classmates in honours biology at the University of Toronto.

I was best man at his wedding to his first wife Joan Rowley, another classmate. I kept in touch with Joan but lost touch with Buzz, who became head of an environmental lab in Florida. I had no idea he had had such a distinguished career in the field of ecology till another classmate, Ann Falls in Toronto, wrote several years ago that Buzz had won the \$250,000 Volvo Prize for his ecological work and that he was on his way to Stockholm to receive his prize.

Another concern I share with Bob Bateman is the little contact young people, especially pre-adolescents, have with nature, with too much time spent at computers (Twitter, Facebook etc. and video

games).

Concerned parents should make sure their children go exploring in fields, forests, streams, seashores etc. Two weeks in a summer camp is not enough. They would be amazed to discover lots of interesting facts about mammals, birds and other animals, including all the fascinating creepy crawlers and the differing vegetation in their environments.

A pet peeve I share with Bob is when you hear or read "birds and animals." Birds are of course animals, and why the correct term, "mammal" for raccoons, seals etc., is not used is a mystery. Another error is when ecology is used when the word environment is correct.

JACK HALLAM,  
BRINKWORTHY

## Depleted stocks

I've just read Robert Bateman's March 7 letter and am reminded of my old father-in-law's remark, told to us one evening a year or two after the end of World War II.

His name was John ("Jock") Wood and he came from a family of fishermen. The words I clearly recall were "The fishing went down when the Danes brought in the draggers."

Compare that to the words I read, long ago, written by the captain of a fishing boat in the days of sail about fishing off the Grand Banks east of Newfoundland. "The fish were so plentiful they slowed the progress of our ship."

If you don't believe me, look it up, but what I write is the truth!

IAN C. THOMSON,  
WINNIPEG, MAN.

## Cycling

After reading an article a couple of weeks ago by Jean Gelwick ("Let's build on the power of a wave," Feb. 29 Driftwood), it prompted me to comment on it.

Lopez Island certainly has the wave and every motorist does it. We have been to Lopez several times and feel safe and welcome there.

My husband and I have been cycling from Corbett Road out to Scott Point on a regular basis for seven years. We too enjoy the Salt Spring wave and the wide berth the motorists give us along our route. Thank you, Salt Spring.

INA CURRAN,  
CORBETT ROAD

## ISLAND COMFORT QUILTS

## Quilting Bee

Sunday April 1, 2012  
9:00 am — 4:30 pm  
Farmers' Institute Hall

## Volunteers Needed

Quilters for making quilt tops  
Sewers for making bags.  
Helpers to pin, tie, iron etc.  
Helpers for setup Sat. Mar 31 4:30  
Helpers for takedown Sun. Apr 1 4:30

Phone: Marguerite Lee 250 537 5302  
Or email: islandcomfortquilts@shaw.ca

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NOTICE  
MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL  
TRUST COMMITTEE  
MA-TUP-2011.1

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 921 of the Local Government Act. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 17, Section 9, Mayne Island, Cowichan District, Plan 15114.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a residence located at 774 Charter Road on Mayne Island to be rented to the public on a short term basis as a short term vacation rental. The permit could be issued for up to three years and the owner may apply to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for up to an additional three years.

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing March 8, 2012 and continuing up to and including March 19, 2012.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 922(5) (c) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Mayne Island, B.C., commencing March 8, 2012.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the Planner, Gary Richardson at (250) 405-5157; for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867 before 4:30 p.m., March 19, 2012. Written comments may be mailed to Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8; faxed to (250) 405-5155; or emailed to information@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., March 19, 2012.

The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee may consider the issuance of the permit at the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee Meeting being held at 1:00 p.m., March 21, 2012 at Mayne Island Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Road, Mayne Island.

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

Kathy Jones, Deputy Secretary

# Arts & Entertainment



Join us for an evening of murder, wit, back stabbing, comedy and lots of fun!

Salt Spring Community Theatre presents

## Murder By Membership Only

a COMEDY  
by Tawnee Spink

**Mahon Hall**  
16, 17 & 23, 24 March 8 PM  
Sunday 18 March 2 PM  
•TIX: \$15 Salt Spring Books•

**Tree House Cafe**  
www.treehousecafe.ca

*A Taste of India*  
Saturday 5-9pm

**Early Bird Breakfast**  
Special \$6.50  
Mon-Fri 8-10 am

**\$10 Burger & Beer**  
Friday 5-9pm

**This Week's Music**  
Friday - Billie Woods  
Saturday - St. Patty's Day with The Black Velvet Band

**All day breakfast 7 days a week**  
Open Sun. to Thurs. 8am-4pm and Fri./Sat. 8am-9pm  
Telephone: 250-537-5379 Next to Mout's in Ganges

**JAZZ**

## Fantastic Alberta jazz ensemble and Quebec saxophone veteran perform

Karl Schwonik Quartet and Rémi Bolduc are at ArtSpring this Thursday

Anyone who believes that the only music that comes out of Alberta is country and western is in for a surprise when the Karl Schwonik Quartet plays ArtSpring on Thursday, March 15.

Schwonik may have been born on a farm near Gwynne, Alta. and brought up on fairly predictable musical fare, but the moment he finished high school he hit the road as a jazz drummer and never looked back.

That road led him from the Banff Centre, where he was the youngest participant ever in their long-term career residency program, to two Western Canada Music Awards for Jazz Recording of

the Year, to performances at Carnegie Hall and the John F Kennedy Centre. He has received the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta's Emerging Artist Award and sits on the board of directors of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

"One of Canada's most brilliant musicians" is how professor Jeremy Brown of the University of Calgary department of music describes him.

Not only that, but Schwonik is still in his 20s and legally blind to boot.

As if the musical accomplishments of Schwonik's jazz ensemble weren't enough, the evening will also feature the participation of Rémi Bolduc, widely recognized as the greatest alto sax player in Canada.

As biographical website material notes, "Hailing from Ste-Hyacinthe, Que., Bolduc started play-

ing in the jazz clubs of Montreal at age 15.

"A few years later, big band leader and composer Vic Vogel took notice of the then 19-year-old musician and immediately praised his new protégé by saying that 'he plays like the devil!'"

Since then he has played clubs across the country and in New York, Paris, Geneva, Tokyo, Shanghai and Peking.

"For lovers of jazz this will be an evening to remember," says ArtSpring executive director George Sipos. "Brilliant young musicians from Western Canada and a renowned veteran from Quebec. Our theatre will swing for sure."

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre at 250-537-2102 or online at [www.tickets.artspring.ca](http://www.tickets.artspring.ca).

They cost \$23 for adults and \$5 for youth.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Drummer Karl Schwonik is set to wow an ArtSpring audience along with his quartet and Quebec saxophone great Rémi Bolduc on Thursday, March 15.

**1+4 : Karl Schwonik Jazz Ensemble avec/with Rémi Bolduc**

**CD Release Tour** featuring Karl Schwonik - Drummer Rémi Bolduc - Saxophone Janick Duro - Trumpet Chris Andrew - Piano Kofi Hutchinson - Bass [www.karlshwonik.com](http://www.karlshwonik.com)

**Thursday, March 15 8:00pm**

Tickets \$23 General Youth \$5 plus HST

**ArtSpring Theatre**  
100 Jackson Ave  
Salt Spring Island, BC  
Call (250) 537-2102 for more information or visit [tickets.artspring.ca](http://tickets.artspring.ca)

**CONCERT**

## Famous André Laplante plays Liszt, Ravel and Bach Tuesday

Rare chance to see Juno-winning pianist in concert on Salt Spring

One of the greatest pianists Canada has ever known visits ArtSpring on Tuesday, March 20 for a 7 p.m. concert.

Quebec pianist André Laplante has been honoured in almost every major competition over the years, from the International Tchaikovsky Competition to the Sydney and Long-Thibaud Competitions. He has won several Juno awards for his recordings and has performed around the world from Carnegie Hall to China. In 2005 he was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his contributions to classical music.

He is known widely as a specialist in the music of Franz Liszt and Maurice Ravel. At his ArtSpring concert, Laplante will play Liszt's monumental *Les Années de Pèlerinage*, as well as works by Bach, Mozart and Ravel.



PHOTO BY PETER SCHAFF

André Laplante at ArtSpring Tuesday.

"In recent times," says ArtSpring executive director George Sipos, "we have presented some amazing young pianists near the beginning of their careers — Joyce Yang, Di Wu, Mariangella Vacatello. This time we get to hear from one of the world's seasoned virtuosos, someone whose talent has been compared to Ashkenazy, Horowitz and Rudolph Serkin."

The 7 p.m. start, unlike the

more customary 8 p.m., is to allow for a reception with the artist after the concert in the ArtSpring galleries. Country Grocer will host the food and drink at the reception to allow Salt Springers to get to meet Laplante informally.

Tickets for the recital are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre (250-537-2102 or online at [www.tickets.artspring.ca](http://www.tickets.artspring.ca)).

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**IT'S A MYSTERY:** Amber Tuttle rehearses for Murder By Membership Only, a comedy whodunnit presented by Salt Spring Community Theatre March 16-18, 23 and 24 at Mahon Hall. Theatre-goers are promised bodies, mayhem, comedy and wit galore as nine women gather to celebrate their mystery writers' club, with murderous results.

## DISCO NIGHT

# Disco is back; boogie is alive on Sat. night

A night of fresh local talent ready to bloom at Beaver Point Hall

A St. Patrick's Day celebration with a twist is coming to Beaver Point Hall this Saturday night.

Showcasing a variety of local talent, from the vocal stylings of Feather to Fire to the sultry moves of burlesque dancers Creme Burlesque and the musical meanderings of electronic music artists, the March 17 Disco Discovery night also features special off-island guest, Neighbour, who hails from Calgary and specializes in disco-dub-funk.

"The sounds of disco have heavily influenced

the current house music movement, which has brought a new energy to the dance floor," explains a press release about Disco Discovery. "This influence has inspired a retro resurgence of funky feel-good music. Having stood the tests of time, disco is a style that will be a lasting favourite, and for good reason."

Local DJs The Prodigal Sun and Indigo Matter have been playing various shows together over the last few years. Once in a while they team up and create a disco and their mutual passion for boogie emerges and moves the dance floor, building upon past performances on the coast.

This time they are honoured to invite

their favourite producer and co-founder of Homebreakin' Records, the disco funk champion of the west coast, Neighbour — AKA Matt Dauncey.

Neighbour has made a name for himself across Canada, as a headliner at various festivals, including the ever-popular electronic music festival Shambhala.

"Having recently returned from Brazil, his knowledge of music and experience within the global electronic scene will set the tone for the event. Combining live guitar and synth to his sets, it's a DJ experience not to be missed."

Tickets are \$20 at the door.

The show runs from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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## CHOIR NEWS

# Viva Voce! makes change official

BY BRENDA DIXON  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Applause burst out at a recent Viva Voce! rehearsal when choir members unanimously voted in favour of changing the choral society's name.

"We felt it was confusing to operate using the name of Tuned Air when our choir is called Viva Voce!" explained society chairperson Pat Davidsen.

The long lived and well loved Tuned Air has made the shift to its new identity: Viva Voce! Choral Society - Salt Spring Island.

Debby Toole muses fondly over the past three years directing Viva Voce! It was serendipitous when she was asked to be artistic director. Tuned Air was in a tenuous state; the choir had a sudden need for a new director and membership had plummeted.

It was the right time for Deb; her experience and education qualified her for the job. But it was her love of teaching that drew her to the position. She'd taught voice for 20 years and directed school choirs, but this was her

first adult choir. "I was thrilled and excited," Deb recalls, "I was ready for the challenge of working with a group needing an injection of enthusiasm."

Each season Deb asks the choir to reach just a bit further as she prepares a repertoire she feels is appropriate for the group of 55 voices. And as their sound improves, she finds her hands are "a bit less tied" in selecting the next program.

"Exploration is key... it's important to discover and share new ideas. Choral music is magic that way; it's an infinite source of challenge and joy and new possibilities. I believe a choir sings only as well as their own understanding of the music; it's my job to make sure my singers have a clear and cohesive understanding that allows them to deliver to our audience."

The research of music and planning of rehearsals, workshops and future programs requires much of her time, but Deb finds the rewards well worth it.

Grateful for the last three years and for the

way everyone keeps showing up on Thursdays, Deb looks forward to the next seven years of her 10-year plan before passing the baton to a successor.

There's much to do before then: plans for a youth choir are in the works; workshops held each season invite musical mentors such as John Trepp (last season) and composer Brian Tate (this season); sight singing classes improve singers' learning technique; sectional rehearsals focus on each group's issues.

Out in the community, the Viva Voce! Christmas Carolers have been a great success, and this year a short summer rehearsal session in June is planned to prepare for the local celebration of Canada Day. A core of dedicated volunteers work hard to help organize and raise the much needed funds to make it all happen.

Aspirations for the future include singing with an orchestra and participating in choral festivals afield. And of course, there's this sea-

son's spring concert in the works right now: A Sense of Place is the first of three in a Canadian composers series. It will feature Viva Voce's first commissioned work, This Canada, by Brian Tate.

The legacy Tuned Air leaves is more than memories. Pianist Chris Kodaly has accompanied the choir since "practically the beginning" and is considered a treasure. Several of the original members are still singing: John and Margaret Beardsell, Jacqui Severn and Cathy Young have hardly missed a season in over 25 years.

It's been said that one way to judge the health of a community is by the number of choirs it supports. Salt Spring is clearly in fine shape, and this choir plans to be around for a long and creative future. Viva la Viva Voce!

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### HIGH SCHOOL TALENT

# GISS teens head to improv nationals

Island squad wins online wildcard competition

Members of the Gulf Islands Secondary School's improv squad will be packing their bags for the nation's capital in April after winning the Canadian Improv Games' National Online Wildcard contest on March 4.

GISS' online video submission beat out Courtenay's GP Vanier Secondary by seven

points to top the nine-team competition.

This will be the third year Salt Spring has sent a team to the annual improv tournament and festival that features the country's best acts. The five-day event, held at Ottawa's National Arts Centre, gives performers a chance to compete against other top-ranked teams by night while they attend workshops and clinics by day.

GISS coach Jason Donaldson said this year's team has a really good chance to make the

finals. The 2012 squad comprises James Twaites, Nick Slakov, Jonah Grindler, Matt Beaver, Jacob Mulder, Gillian Sellman, Paisley Conrad and Maddi Mackay.

Before team members catch their flight, they need to raise at least \$12,000 for the trip. A special "fun-raising" event has already been scheduled for ArtSpring on Friday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Shows are also set for Mayne and Pender islands, with details to be announced.

"Thank you for your consideration and for supporting these talented young people in their quest for the national championship in the Canadian Improv Games," Donaldson said in a press release.

Tax receipts for donations are available for cheques made payable to G.I. Educational Trust with GISS Improv in the memo line. They can be dropped off at or mailed to the school board office at 112 Rainbow Rd. (V8K 2K3) or email Donaldson at [jdonaldson@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:jdonaldson@sd64.bc.ca).

### LIVE MUSIC

## Two bands set to pack them in at Moby's

Lindsay Bryan, Maurice and Carmanah

Music fans can look forward to a great weekend at Moby's with Carmanah playing Friday night and Maurice headlining on Saturday.

Carmanah is a folk-rock band hailing from Victoria. According to

Victoria music blog Magmazing, Carmanah "pretty much stole the show" at a recent Sugar Nightclub multi-band evening. "What struck me most from their set was the lone lady in the band. Laura Mitic plays fiddle, guitar, flute and has a flawless voice."

Both the internationally known Maurice and his Saturday opening act

Lindsay Bryan have ties to Salt Spring. Bryan, an acoustic folk rock indie performer, graduated from Gulf Islands Secondary School in 2005.

Jean-Paul Maurice was raised in Victoria and some of his family members live on Salt Spring.

Maurice participated in Music BC's Peak Performance as one of the

top 20 finalists in 2011, and also released his second full-length album — called *Songs in Sea* — last fall.

As press material explains, the new album still possesses the innate pop sensibilities that are Maurice's calling card, but it is entirely independently made and self produced, having been recorded in a cabin, a

bedroom and a basement. Maurice's debut 2010 album, *Young People with Faces*, was by contrast produced in a high-end Hollywood studio.

Music begins at 9 p.m. on both nights with a cover charge of \$5.

Wednesday Night Live, the weekly open stage, is also on March 14 and 21 from 8 to 11 p.m.

# FUNDING FOR STUDENTS, NOT FOR WAGE HIKES.

The BCTF is demanding a 15 per cent wage hike and other benefits that would cost \$2 billion and raise taxes for BC families. Virtually all other public sector unions have settled for no wage increases.

It's unacceptable that schools are disrupted and that students and their families are inconvenienced over an unreasonable salary demand in difficult economic times. The union is making claims and demands that simply don't add up.

BCTF CLAIMS AND DEMANDS	FACT
The union wants more paid time outside the classroom – sick leave for teachers on call, expanded bereavement and discretionary leave.	The government wants more time for teacher training and to ensure that Pro-D days really are for professional development.
The union says all teaching positions should be selected on the basis of seniority.	The government supports seniority but qualifications must also count so that math teachers teach math, and science teachers teach science.
The union says that teachers who perform poorly in evaluations will be dismissed – 'one strike and you're out'.	The government wants to support teacher improvement through a standardized evaluation process.
The union says that government refuses to negotiate.	There has been over a year of negotiations and 78 full bargaining sessions.
The union says that class size limits have been eliminated.	Class size limits will remain in place on all grades across BC.
The union says that BC has 700 fewer special needs teachers.	2100 new teaching assistants have been hired since 2001. And, with a new \$165 million <i>Learning Improvement Fund</i> , we will hire more.

It's time to focus on what matters most in education – BC's students. That's why we are focused on per-student funding which is at an all time high, not on wage increases.

We all want to do more to make BC's education system even better. It's the driving force behind *BC's Education Plan* that teachers, parents and students are helping to shape.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## YOUNG TALENT

## Island ballet student off to B.C. finals

Montreal program audition is also pending

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Middle School student Julia Schack is just 12 years old, but she already has a keen eye on the steps she needs to take to achieve a dream career as a ballet dancer.

As the recent winner of her age category at the Cowichan Music Festival, Julia is on her way as the region's representative at the provincial level at the Performing Arts B.C. festival in Nanaimo in May.

She's also been selected to attend the Vancouver Ballet Society's Spring Seminar over spring break and has made it through the first stage in an audition process for a place at the École supérieure de ballet du Québec in Montreal. Julia started out with a "Mommy & Me-type class" in Calgary and then progressed to taking all sorts of classes, including tap, jazz and modern dance — but it's classical ballet that she really loves.

"I really like doing big jumps, and I like all kinds of music, but I'm not a big fan of the more modern stuff," she said.

The Nutcracker and Cinderella are more appealing than new choreographed works



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ballet dancer Julia Schack has qualified for provincial championships in May.

done by Ballet BC, for example.

Keeping up with her passion means a tight schedule for Julia and her family, who moved to Salt Spring last July. She attends Carlson's School of Dance in Duncan three or four times each week, often returning home on the 9 p.m. ferry, and also does classes at the Salt Spring Arts Academy with Lisa Hall and Naomi Jason. "Which is good, but just not enough," she said.

"Luckily Julia does well in school, so she has time to do dance," her mother Connie Cudrak said.

"We came here and thought we'd be doing less driving than in

"I really like big jumps, and I like all kinds of music, but I'm not a big fan of the more modern stuff"

JULIA SCHACK  
Ballet dancer, 12

Calgary, but we're doing more."

One advantage, however, is that in B.C. there are festivals that cover not just music but performing arts,

including dance, providing opportunities for advancement that don't exist in Alberta.

Julia's participation at the Cowichan Music Festival earned her an award and a bursary, as well as a spot in the upcoming provincial competition. She was one of just three people in her age category, but as Cudrak explained, fewer participants by no means guarantees a spot.

"If the adjudicator doesn't think you're good enough to go to provincials, they don't recommend you to go, even if there's just one kid in the category."

Qualifying for the month-long program in Montreal this summer is another marker of Julia's progress. The program is itself a second-level audition: if she passes, she'll be invited to take a place at the dance school for the next 10-month program starting in September. If that happens, it will mean living at a Catholic boarding school attached to the dance school, but Julia is more excited than apprehensive at the thought.

"I would miss my parents, but I really enjoy ballet, and when you're there all the people have the same passion so they're really relatable and it's easy to make friends," she said.

Julia has been disappointed once before. She made it to the second step of a similar audition process for the Royal Winnipeg

Ballet last July, but was told at the end of the month that her shoulders were too wide.

Her family realizes professional dancers have to deal with body image issues, but they also want to support Julia as far as she'd like to go. Sometimes schools are looking for a particular physique in their dancers; other times, they could be predicting, and hence preventing, a future physical problem.

Julia is hopeful but quite pragmatic for a 12-year-old.

"I'd like a career out of it, but I know ballet careers aren't long, and it's hard to get a job as a ballet dancer," she said.

If it doesn't work out she's interested in something to do with math or genetics. She definitely plans to attend university.

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Adults \$20 (or a table of 8 for \$140)  
Seniors \$15 Students \$5

## SIMPLY ORGANIC

## Simply Organic celebrates spring season March 21

Baroque and 20th-century works

Spring is busting out all over at the March 21 version of Simply Organic at All Saints By-the-Sea.

"The revitalization of nature re-awakening into new life, and the songs of the animal kingdom will be expressed on the pipe organ like no other instrument can express," says accomplished organist Don Conley about the organ music he is preparing for next week's audience.

He invites music lovers to "come hear the masters of the Baroque period such as Rameau, Couperin, Vivaldi and Frescobaldi, as well as

some 20th-century composers — anything the pipe organ can imitate that echoes the cries of spring."

Conley took over the Simply Organic program in the fall of 2008 after the popular Anglican Church organist Barry Valentine was no longer able to continue his weekly recitals. It now runs the third Wednesday of each month from September through May.

"Conley is a master of this instrument and charms his audience through his vast musical knowledge expressed with a gentle, wry sense of humour," states a Music Makers press release.

The free performance begins at 10:10 a.m. and is followed by a freshly baked muffin and coffee for \$2.

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## Wed. March 14

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Wednesday Night Live.**  
Open stage at Moby's. 8 PM.

## Thurs. March 15

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Karl Schwonik Jazz Ensemble.** With Remi Bolduc. Five of North America's finest jazz musicians. 8 PM. Garry Oaks wine-tasting at 7 PM. ArtSpring.  
**Open Mic Night.** Live music at The Local. 6 PM.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Skeleton Heads Kids' Clay Class.** With Tracy Harrison of Creative Fire Studio. 10 AM. www.artbyharrison.com.  
**SS Community Economic Development Commission.** Public welcome to watch the meeting. School Board Office. 4 PM.  
**SS Local Trust Committee.** Public business meeting. Lions Hall. 9:30 AM; town hall begins at noon.  
**SSI Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Program.** Growing and preparing flax for making linen. Visitors welcome. Multi-purpose room. ArtSpring. 10:30 AM.

## Fri. March 16

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Billie Woods.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 PM.  
**Brad Prevedoros.** Live music. Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM  
**Murder by Membership Only.** A comedy by Thomas Hishchak performed by SS Community Theatre. Mahon Hall. 8 PM.  
**Carmanah.** Folk-rock at Moby's. 9 PM

**ACTIVITIES**  
**CORE Awakening!** First of a series of 8 adult playshops led by life coach Leah Hensel. ArtSpring. 10 AM. Info/registration: 250-537-0895 or www.LeahHensel.com.  
**Cuban Cars Kids' Clay Class.** With Tracy Harrison of Creative Fire Studio. 10 AM.  
**Drawing Nature.** Spring Into Nature spring break program for kids aged 6 to 11, led by Paul Burke. Library annex. 1 PM.

## Sat. March 17

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Disco Discovery.** Electronic music artists, Feather to Fire, disco-dub-funk DJ Neighbour and Creme Burlesque dancers. Beaver Point Hall. 8 PM.  
**Waltz/Tango/Polka Night.** SS Chamber Orchestra and Choir presentation of Johann Strauss waltzes, polkas and tangos. Fulford Hall. 7 PM.  
**English and Van Wyck.** Live jazz. Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM.  
**The Barley Brothers.** Salt Spring Inn. 6 PM.  
**Maurice.** With opening act Lindsay Bryan at Moby's. 9 PM.  
**St. Patty's Day with Black Velvet Band.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 PM.  
**Murder by Membership Only.** See Friday's listing.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Ivy Bash at Mouat Park.** Community work-bee to remove ivy and help restore native vegetation. Bring work-gloves, clippers and pruning saws if you can. Mouat Park parking area. 10 AM.

## Sat. March 17

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Scaredy-Cat Vase Kids' Clay Class.** With Tracy Harrison of Creative Fire Studio. 10 AM. www.artbyharrison.com.

## Sun. March 18

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Diana English.** Live music. Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Smallmouth Bass Presentation.** Recent research on smallmouth bass in Cusheon Lake and other B.C. lakes. Lions Hall. 3 PM.  
**Special Hawaiian-themed Service.** Songs, chant and local history with Cathy Roland, Rev. Elaine Hyde-Mills and Rev. Richard Stetson. Hawaiian refreshments and music to follow. All Saints Anglican Church. 10 AM.

## Sun. March 18

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Unitarian Fellowship.** Singing communion, songs of light and peace from around the world. SS Seniors Centre. 11 AM.  
**Murder by Membership Only.** See Friday's listing. Mahon Hall. 2 PM.

## Mon. March 19

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Surfer Dudes Kids' Creative Clay Class.** With Tracy Harrison of Creative Fire Studio. 10 AM. www.artbyharrison.com.  
**SSI Fire Protection District.** Public trustees meeting at the Ganges fire hall. 7:30 p.m.

## Tues. March 20

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Andre Laplante Concert.** One of the world's great Romantic piano virtuosos performs Liszt, Debussy and more. ArtSpring. 7 PM.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Horsely Mugs Kids' Clay Class.** With Tracy Harrison of Creative Fire Studio. 10 AM. www.artbyharrison.com.  
**Drop-in Texas Holdem Prize Night.** At The Local. Sign up at 6:30 PM.  
**Central Community Hall.** Board of directors meeting at Central Hall. 7 PM.

## Wed. March 21

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Simply Organic.** Baroque and 20th-century compositions performed by Don Conley on the pipe organ at All Saints Anglican Church. 10:10 AM.

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- The Vow** — Married five years, a young couple's relationship is challenged when the wife, Paige, is seriously injured in a car crash that leaves her in a coma. When she wakes up, her husband tries to win her heart again, but not only does she not recognize her husband, but her last memory is of being engaged to her ex-fiancé. The Vow is a clean-cut, modern drama with an unashamedly old-fashioned emphasis on the nature of true love. Starring Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Salt Spring Painters Guild Art Show** runs in the ArtSpring lobby space through March.
- Fernwood Road Cafe** owner **Jennifer Shaw** displays photos of some of the beautiful sunrises of the winter at the cafe through mid-March.
- Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art** presents an exhibition of Inuit sculpture through March.
- Samantha Sanderson and Khadejha McCall** exhibit work at Island Savings until mid-March.
- The Salt Spring Photography Club** will be having an exhibition featuring members **Cliff Kelly** and **Wendy Rosier** at **Country Roasters Cafe**, in **Country Grocer**, through March.
- Barbra Edwards** shows paintings at **Marketplace Cafe**.
- Avril Kirby** shows *The Colour of Winter*, photographic images celebrating winter on Salt Spring, at **Penny's Pantry** through March.
- The Porch Gallery** is open Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. at the home of **Mother Tongue Publishing's Mona Fertig & Peter Haase**, 290 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Featuring work of **George Fertig, Jack Akroyd, Irene Hoffer Reid, Wim Blom, Ina D.D. Unthoff, Gary Sim, LeRoy Jensen, Gordon Caruso** and **Peter Haase**.
- See **Lyman Whitaker's** wind sculptures at **Grace Point Square**.
- See the sculpture garden outside of **Mahon Hall** in Ganges.

## Waltz/Tango/Polka Night

with the SS Chamber Orchestra and Choir

Fulford Hall  
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# People & Community

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**

## GISS student earns CIBC 4-H award

Danica Jensen is inaugural winner on Salt Spring

Salt Spring's Danica Jensen has earned a \$5,000 scholarship for university from CIBC.

In its inaugural year, the CIBC 4-H Post Secondary Education Scholarship was created to help rural youth in their final year of high school pursue their educational dreams in any field of study.

Jensen's award is one of only three offered Canada-wide.

Jensen, a Gulf Islands Secondary School Grade 12 student, is aiming for a career in veterinary medicine and will be attending the University of Victoria this fall to start her Bachelor of Science degree program.

"I was ecstatic when I found out I won the scholarship," she said.

"I'd like to say money isn't everything — but it is, and this will make a huge difference. Veterinary is a long, expensive road, and this will really impact how far I'll be able to go. It's awesome."

CIBC Ganges branch man-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Danica Jensen, left, is congratulated by Salt Spring 4-H leader Loretta Rithaler as part of a photo-filled celebration at the Ganges branch of the CIBC on March 7. Jensen, who hopes to have a career in veterinary medicine, was awarded one of three Canada-wide \$5,000 CIBC 4-H Post Secondary Education Scholarships in the program's inaugural year.

ager Derek Tamboline presented the scholarship last week at a special event held at the bank.

Steve Meston, senior vice-president of CIBC's commer-

cial banking division, said CIBC is committed to serving the needs of rural and agricultural communities across the country.

"For over 50 years, CIBC

has been a proud supporter of the Canadian 4-H Council," he said. "We're delighted to support the education of young leaders in our rural communities."

### NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

#### THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on April 17th, 2012 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, TWO trustees are to be elected, to serve for a period of three years each.

Nominations of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed, seconded, with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office, 761 Upper Ganges Road, at or before 12:00 noon, March 28th, 2012.

#### NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the Improvement District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office.

Trevor Hutton  
General Manager

**KIDS' ACTIVITIES**

## Clay classes on this week

Tracy Harrison leads new series of popular sessions for spring break days

Before she heads off to Camaguey, Cuba for an invitational international clay symposia, local clay artist Tracy Harrison is offering island children a chance to get their hands into clay and make some fun things.

Skeleton Heads, inspired by a recent

trip to Mexico, is first on the list of classes starting Thursday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Inspiration from her last trip to Cuba is evident in the Cuban Cars class slated for Friday, March 16.

Students aged seven to 14 will also have the option of making 2X4 scarecat vases (March 17), surfer dudes (March 19) or horsey mugs (March 20).

Cost is only \$25 per student per class. See Harrison's website at [www.artby-harrison.com](http://www.artby-harrison.com) for more information.

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

## AGRICULTURE

# Permaculture transforms Kenya



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Josephat Barasa and his family in the Butula District of Western Kenya, along with visitors from Seven Ravens Nursery on Salt Spring. The nursery is holding a March 15-17 sale to support permaculture projects in Kenya, as described in the excerpts from a letter from Barasa, published below.

Teacher-farmer describes impact of Seven Ravens input

**BY JOSEPHAT BARASA**  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

We are located in Butula District of Western Kenya, where my family moved to settle on this farm in 2009.

Having had a very humble beginning, we gradually grew trees for shade provision, and utilized the land unwisely, which is typical in our country.

Fortunately, a turn of events began to take shape in November the same year. It all started when I met Michael Nickels from Salt Spring Island, as he returned to Kenya to do a transformative permaculture gardening project at my local primary school, Bukati.

As a teacher in the same school and a local peasant, I knew absolutely nothing about Michael or permaculture. I simply saw Michael as a stranger who had just come to do and talk about the usual things. The first week of restless work on the school yard was done and still I grasped nothing. But within me was an inner voice pushing and urging me to move much closer, and this was evidently the right voice.

Within no time, I found myself right beside Michael and others, constructing water swales. Day after day I worked physically, moved around with Michael looking for banana suckers, assembling organic manure, collecting seeds, etc.

The more I worked the greater the knowledge I gained until the

larger picture of permaculture eventually dawned in my mind.

After one month of work on the school grounds, I realized the need to change myself, the community and my entire country through permaculture.

The following year, 2010, I began to transform my own family farm and worked tirelessly on the school grounds as well. The harvest results and proceeds surprised many. I quickly developed a passion in my heart that has become long-lasting to reach out to individual peasants, schools and organizations.

In November of the same year, Michael visited our country again, this time with Ky Fox filming and photographing as part of his team. Through their advice and support I was able to increase my land from the original two acres to three.

For the last several years now, our three-acre piece of land has become a permaculture garden demonstration centre in Butula district. We do a wide range of permaculture projects that have not only increased tremendously our income but also changed our entire lives. We are producing more food than we need. The excess is sold and money used to establish other food and resource projects.

We are currently having more than 10 projects on the same farm, and our farm has now become a basket of food in my community in the following disciplines: we raise bananas of high quality, we produce and multiply sweet potatoes, indigenous vegetables, tomatoes, onions, squash, etc., we keep chickens and sell eggs in our newly built shop. We keep dairy

animals and get milk for the family and for sale. We use manure to renew the fertility of our land and we sell the excess.

We raise thousands of tree seedlings in our small nursery each rainy season. We harvest rain water and regularly redirect channels to the farming fields. We give permaculture knowledge to many with consultations and research.

I have also transformed four other local primary schools with similar knowledge, and I have been able to transform over 20 individual farmers in Butula District. The students in my school and others have equally been transformed. These students have gained competent knowledge in organic farming, tree nurseries and other permaculture-related projects. A good number of them are able to sell what they now produce at home to pay school fees and provide for their basic needs, and to support their poor parents and extended families.

We are on a mission to get support from well-wishers and friends to enable us to establish a permaculture school in our district. The school will equip many more peasants and students with permaculture farming methods.

We want to sincerely thank the following people for their generous support thus far: Michael Nickels and his family, Ky Fox and his family, Cate Dewey, her family, and her Children of Bukati Foundation of Canada, and the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island.

*A March 15-17 spring tree sale at Seven Ravens Nursery will help fund primary school permaculture projects in Kenya.*

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

## A Sweet Treat



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**MAPLE MAGIC:** Soleil Peers gets her first taste of just-boiled maple syrup at the Harbour House Hotel and Organic Farm's annual maple syrup boil and open house held Sunday. Free tastings, music and farm tours were all part of the fun.

### CHILDBIRTH

## Doula collective offers pre- and post-partum birthing support

Belly Buddies session on tap March 21

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Doula Collective is showing how a term that originated as the ancient Greek word for "a woman who serves" can apply to modern women and even men, with an ongoing series of events being held at the Family Place.

In current parlance, doulas are non-medical support people who women can hire to augment family and spousal support before, during and after childbirth. Acting alongside midwives, doctors and nurses, they offer the birthing mother information and emotional and practical support — the kind of continuous care once offered as a matter of course by the other women around her.

"Our goal is just to build community. It comes down to having the support to have a positive experience [around birthing]," collective member Rebecca Nygard said.

Doulas include many special areas of knowledge in their practice and members of the Salt Spring group have diverse qualifications: in addition to doula certification they have skills in homeopathy and herbology, massage, yoga, teaching and aromatherapy. They work with families to edu-

cate them on what happens during a birth and how the doula can fit in, and to develop individual support plans.

According to DONA, the international professional association of doulas, studies have shown that outcomes are more positive when doulas attend births. That includes shorter labours, fewer interventions and the successful establishment of breastfeeding (see www.DONA.org).

In addition to their individual services, members of the Salt Spring Doula Collective offer prenatal classes and information sessions in partnership with the Family Place. Programs include the six-week Wholistic Prenatal series, which begins with yoga for pregnant women and ends with an education session for women and their birthing partners.

Events like the Dads are Doulas Too workshop held last weekend provide practical tools specifically geared toward labour support. Shannon Cowan, who teaches the prenatal series with Nygard, explained that whether a woman is going into a birth with her baby's father or with a female friend who may have given birth herself, the hands-on, interactive classes allow birthing teams to discover what will work best for the individuals involved.

"The teachings of how to be a doula can be universally applied," she said, noting exercises help

partners learn what kinds of encouragement to use and how to respond to signals.

"It's so helpful to go through the process in advance, to discover what are the best ways to communicate."

If the father is involved, Nygard added, the prenatal classes can help him become part of the experience instead of being just a witness.

"Women generally do a lot of research going into it. Dads might get a little of that trickle-down stuff, but this is an opportunity for them to learn more in a hands-on way. It's not just theoretical, it's applied," she said.

"Going into it feeling prepared can have a huge effect on families, and I've seen couples really bond in that experience. It's kind of romantic."

Coming up next at Family Place on Wednesday, March 21 is the monthly Belly Buddies information session. Doulas facilitate discussion on a wide variety of topics related to birth. This month the focus is "bodywork for better births" led by massage therapist Angie Conrad.

To register for the workshop or other prenatal classes at Family Place, call Johanna Stiver at 250-537-9176.

More information on the Salt Spring Doula Collective can be found at www.saltspringdoulas.com.

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

## SPIRITUALITY

# Karen Armstrong lecture livestreamed at United Church

Acclaimed What is Religion? lecture

BY PAT BARCLAY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Karen Armstrong is one of the best-known writers in the world today, and the list of honours she merits continues to grow. Notable among them is the TED Prize of \$100,000, awarded in 2008

for her proposal to create a Charter for Compassion. The charter's main message is that religion is about behaving differently, and the best guide for this is the Golden Rule — which, as Armstrong points out with some relish, was first taught by Confucius.

By 2009 the charter was successfully completed, prepared co-operatively online by people of all faiths from around the world and drafted by a multi-faith, multi-

national council of thinkers and leaders. Described as "the best idea humanity's ever had," the charter is a document that transcends religious, ideological and national differences, and summons each of us to make a lifelong commitment to live with compassion. (Read more about it at <http://charterforcompassion.org/share/the-charter>.)

Last May, London Ont. became the first "compassionate city" in Canada. In Chile, four cities have

joined the list. Here in B.C., Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue is hosting a city-wide "conversation on compassion" with Armstrong from March 19 to 30. Her visit marks the launch of the Greater Vancouver Compassion Network, which aims to connect civic leaders with civil society in respectful, collaborative relationships that will foster compassionate work in community with others.

Armstrong's 12-day visit to Vancouver will include several public events, one of which directly affects Salt Spring: her long-sold-out public lecture, What is Religion? will be livestreamed on a 5 x 9-foot screen, upstairs at the United Church at 7 p.m. sharp on Thursday, March 22.

Armstrong is a truly remarkable speaker. Admission is by donation (suggested: \$10 to help cover costs, or whatever people can afford).



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**FOCUS ON SENIORS**

**Care for the caregiver a crucial issue for Salt Spring families**

**Who takes care of the caregiver?**  
It's a very important issue for Salt Spring families contending with dementia, since caregiving can be physically and emotionally stressful. "One of the most important things you can do to support someone with dementia is to take care of yourself," says Christin Hillary, the Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s regional support and education coordinator. "By acknowledging and addressing your own needs, you will be better prepared to provide effective care and support."

**Some self-care tips include:**

1. Set realistic expectations for yourself. Take one day at a time.
2. Get help. Don't try to do everything by yourself.
3. Look after yourself. Talk to someone who is willing to listen. Continue to participate in activities you enjoy. Learn relaxation techniques. Get some exercise, even

if it's just a quick walk around the block.

4. Make regular appointments with your doctor. Let them know if you are concerned about your stress level.
5. Participate in the Alzheimer Society's free support and information group on Salt Spring.

For more information contact Hillary at 250-382-2052 or [chillary@alzheimerbc.org](mailto:chillary@alzheimerbc.org)

The support group serves as a place to exchange information, support and friendship with others whose lives are affected by dementia.

A forum for sharing practical tips and strategies for coping with the disease, it also provides an opportunity to decrease feelings of isolation and loneliness, and to find a positive outlook on things without being misunderstood.

For more information on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, visit the society website at [www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org).

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# PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

## ISLAND HISTORY

# Living history of Hawaiian settlers shared at All Saints

Songs, stories and refreshments this Sunday

The Hawaiian history and heritage of Salt Spring Island will be honoured and celebrated with a special service in the Anglican parish at All Saints By-the-Sea this Sunday, March 18.

Beginning at 10 a.m., Cathy Roland, a descendant of early Hawaiian settlers on Salt Spring, will be present to share songs and chant as well as give some history of Hawaiians in our

region. The congregation and All Saints' choir will join in service music under the direction of David Storm that comes from the Roman Catholic Parish of Malia Puka O Kalani (Mary, Gate of Heaven) on Hawaiian Reserve lands near Hilo on the "Big Island" of Hawaii.

"Music is an excellent medium to help us enter the world of another culture and share in the tradition and spiritual insight of that culture," states a press release from the church.

"We will also connect with Anglican heritage in Hawaii that began when the Church of England was invited to send a bish-

op to the kingdom of Hawaii by King Kamehaha IV and Queen Emma in 1860."

The service will be led by Richard Stetson, rector of the parish, and the Reverend Elaine Hyde-Mills, who lives on Salt Spring but previously resided in Hawaii.

Everyone is welcome to come to the unique celebration of islanders' living history. Hawaiian refreshments will be served after the service for a donation and the Rolands will offer music and story during the refreshment time.

"Aloha e komo mai," they say, or "Welcome!"

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In the last few weeks, we've had a number of service calls from customers in dire straits. Failed contractors, blower motors, circulating pumps, condenser fans, timers, you name it they all mean the same thing in the end; the homeowner or business goes without the comfort or refrigeration they rely on. It can often take a day or more to get the right replacement part for an appliance or heat pump here on Salt Spring. Repairs can be costly if the warranty has expired. While it's true that most mechanical systems will have failures, why not take the time to have proper maintenance done annually to prevent unnecessary inconvenience and downtime? Spring is almost upon us and many of you will use this time to "air out" and freshen up your homes. Don't forget to replace or clean your air filters, HRV filters, cores, and thermostat batteries. Did Daylight Savings mess up your setback schedule? You'll also want to clean in and around your outdoor heat pump units. Better still, call **Outer Limits Sheet Metal Ltd.** and have one of our trained and qualified HVAC/R service technicians come over to properly inspect and maintain your heating, cooling, or refrigeration equipment. Perhaps you've been considering a heating system upgrade or retrofit? Whether it is Trane, Lennox, Daikin, Mitsubishi, or Fujitsu, we are authorized and familiar with most manufacturers' brands and can get the job done right!

  
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**My Mom is a retired senior who is getting confused with all her tax mail, how can I help her assemble everything she needs to file her 2011 taxes?**

  
 CAROL BURBIDGE-JOHNSON

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 250 537 2561 or cell 250 537 6524

**Counselling**

**What is Complicated Grief?**

  
 ELSJIE HANNAH

Grief is a natural process that we go through when we lose someone close to us through death. It becomes complicated when we become stuck in the grieving process and we can't seem to move forward. This is sometimes due to the nature of our relationship with the one we have lost. If we have unresolved issues or if we had a very close relationship with that person we can sometimes become stuck in our grief. The nature of how our loved one died can also complicate the grieving process. Treatment of this type of grief honours the fact that grieving is a normal process and one that cannot be circumvented. It also looks at the unresolved conflict that the bereaved person may have and the possible trauma experienced as a result of their loved one dying. With the help of a qualified and experienced grief counsellor a person who is experiencing complicated grief can work toward becoming unstuck, moving forward in the grief process and re-engaging in life. The best thing we can do to honour the memory of our loved ones is to move through the grief process and become whole again. The best thing we can do for ourselves is honour the unique qualities of our grief and have patience with ourselves through the process. If you are struggling with grief I invite you to call.

**The Healing Place**  
 Counselling Centre

Here you'll find a supportive, safe environment where you can talk openly. Together we can help you find new ways for living fully. All concerns are welcome. Reduced rates available for children.  
**PH: 250-931-8762 | [www.ssi-healingplace.com](http://www.ssi-healingplace.com)**  
 Upper Ganges Centre, 202-338 Lower Ganges Rd.

## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.** A group of about 25 islanders gathered at the Heiwa Garden in Ganges on Sunday, March 11 at noon to commemorate the first anniversary of the devastating 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck part of Japan's Tohoku region.

## Thank you, Eileen, wherever you are

"Writing is easy. All you do is just stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead." — Gene Fowler



Arthur Black

## WIT &amp; WHIMSY

I owe it all to Eileen. That's what I tell people when they ask me what motivates me as a writer — specifically, what makes me get up in the morning and try to do it all over again.

Some people think there must be a magic ritual, or a formula or a secret prayer that makes the words come, but I tell them no, it's all because of Eileen. Haven't seen her in 30 years. Can't even remember her last name, but she keeps me writing.

Most writers have much more exotic stimuli to get themselves stoked. Hemingway wrote standing at a desk. Norman Mailer preferred to write in a loft which he could

only get to by clambering, Tarzan-style, up a rope. I know a guy who writes mystery novels and claims he has to do the first draft long-hand on pads of yellow legal paper using a fountain pen and green ink — while lying in bed surrounded by pillows. Loony? He's written four best-sellers.

Victor Hugo was weirder. The author of *Les Misérables* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (the novels, not the sappy musicals) started his working day bare naked in a room with only a desk, a sheaf of paper, a pen and a pot of ink. He forbade

his servants bring him food or clothing until his writing for the day was finished.

Maybe he was just working up to sappy musicals because some composers make even loopier demands on their muses. Richard Wagner employed his pet dog "Peps" as a musical coach. Wagner would hit a difficult patch, summon his pooch to the piano and play until the dog howled in anguish. Wagner would take the hint and change to tune to Peps' taste.

The famous Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen was inspired by hatred — hatred of his rival August Strindberg. Strindberg really was a tad insane but that's another story — the point is, Strindberg attacked Ibsen in print, branding him a plagiarist among other things. Ibsen responded by buying a painting of his enemy and hanging it on the wall overlooking his writing desk.

"I cannot write a line," Ibsen said, "without that madman standing and staring down at me with those crazy eyes."

That rings a bell for me.

Decades ago, when I was starting out as a writer I had a comfy little gig delivering a weekly radio commentary for a CBC radio show that played to rural Can-

ada. My contact was Eileen, a sweet and thoughtful editor/producer on the radio show I worked for. She greeted me cheerily every week and invited me into the studio to record my piece. It paid well and all I was required to do was fill two minutes and 45 seconds with a few scripted words and remember not to burp when the mic was on.

Then, one week, I couldn't think of a topic. The words wouldn't come.

Well, so what? It happens, right? Eileen would understand. At air time I ambled into the studio, Eileen looked up and said "Hi Arthur — what have you got for us this week?" Nothing, I said. Couldn't come up with an idea.

Somebody must have turned up the air conditioning. The studio became suddenly very chilly. "You've got nothing?" hissed Eileen.

But it wasn't her words, it was her eyes. They had gone from a blissful blue to gunmetal grey. From Anne of Green Gables to Adolf Hitler.

At that moment a message was imprinted in my DNA: If you ever want to see these eyes again, just miss a deadline. Haven't missed a deadline since.

arblack43@shaw.ca

## NATURE

## The great blue heron — a special treasure on Salt Spring Island

Rainbow Road holds island's only remaining active colony

BY LAURA MATTHIAS  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Great blue herons — listed federally as species of special concern — are a much-loved, majestic bird species on the B.C. coast.

Over the years, though, heron populations have unfortunately been in decline, which is also true for herons on Salt Spring. If we want to continue to co-exist with them here, it's important to understand their needs.

Our island's last breeding colony is located in the small, forested area behind the Rainbow Road pool. It is surrounded by houses, fields and open area behind the pool. The colony is also adjacent to the proposed community gardens and other projects being considered by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has been monitoring heron colonies on the island for several years. In 2011, there was only one known active colony remaining that successfully produced chicks, and it is the Rainbow Road colony. A few other small colonies with few nests in other locations had no breeding success in the last few years.

Standing up to one metre in height with a two-metre wingspan, the great blue heron is the largest heron species in North America. These coastal herons are recognized as a distinct subspecies, *Ardea herodias fannini*. During winters the herons are solitary. In breeding season they nest in large colonies, with sometimes over 200 nests.

They need mature forested patches in either deciduous or coniferous trees, such as red alder, bigleaf maple, western red cedar and Douglas fir. Heron colonies are usually found within three kilometres of their food source — eelgrass beds where they hunt for small fish. Herons can also take frogs, salamanders, snakes, small mammals and invertebrates.

Loss of mature, undisturbed forested areas with nearby food sources is a constant threat to great blue heron populations. Heron scientists have established that only half of heron eggs laid each year survive to become fledged chicks, and only about 20 per cent of those chicks survive their first year in the wild.

Early spring is a very sensitive time — when herons are returning to their colonies. Breeding pairs may court and nest-build for up to a month in early spring (mid-February to late March).

Hérons lay three to five eggs in March or April, and incubate them for about 27 days. The parents rear their chicks for another 60 days before they are ready to fledge. This means that the breeding season may extend from mid-February to early August. Depending on climatic and ocean temperature changes, timing can fluctuate from year to year.

At any time in the breeding season, disturbances such as machin-

ery noise or other loud noise may cause herons to temporarily leave the nest. When the adults leave a nest for a short period, predators such as eagles, ravens or crows may prey on eggs or chicks. Her-



PHOTO BY TODD CARNAHAN

Great blue heron.

ons may also abandon a site due to local noise and disturbance. This may have been what happened when an island heronry failed a few years ago, shortly after some trees on an adjacent lot were felled.

... we as a community should be aware of the heron colony on the pool property .....

At the Rainbow Road site, the herons would likely be accustomed to the neighbourhood noise level around them when they moved into the site. However, additional disturbances, particularly loud noises at the sensitive early stages of the breeding season, (as early as mid-February), could cause them to abandon or avoid re-nesting at all that location.

As there are a number of proposed activities upcoming within close proximity of the heron colony on the pool property, we as a community should be aware of the importance of using extra caution during the heron breeding season. It is important to avoid disturbances that might cause them to abandon their nests, particularly by not walking in the forest under their nests. It would be a tragedy — and most likely an irretrievable loss — to displace the last breeding colony of this special bird on our island.

If you see any active heron nests on the island this spring, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy would be interested in hearing from you (250-538-0318).

The writer is a biologist with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

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## Salt Spring Photos

A daily Salt Spring Island photo at:

SaltSpringPhotos.com



## News Updates

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**By telephone** 250-537-9933 or 310-3535  
or fax 250-537-2613

**By email** to classifieds@gulfislands.net

**By post** to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,  
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

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### Driftwood

**PUBLISHED WEDNESDAYS**

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

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**DISPLAY ADS**  
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**DEATHS**    **DEATHS**    **PLACES OF WORSHIP**    **COMING EVENTS**    **COMING EVENTS**    **COMING EVENTS**    **COMING EVENTS**    **INFORMATION**

**Jocelyn Hocking,**  
longtime Saltspring resident, died peacefully at home in Victoria surrounded by family, on February 28, 2012, aged 92. The family thanks Juliet, Nelia, Margaret, Dianna, and Victoria Hospice for their loving care. Jocelyn's friends are invited to a Celebration of Jocelyn's Life, to be held in the Inter-faith Chapel in the Finnerly Gardens on UVIC Campus in Victoria, at 1:00 on Saturday March 17. In lieu of flowers, donations please to the Nature Conservancy of Canada or BC SPCA.

**Joseph Manuck**  
AUGUST 19, 1925 - FEBRUARY 27, 2012



Born in Tek Nemce, Czechoslovakia, died Salt Spring Island following several years of declining health. Survived by his wife Terri, 2 sons Donald and Gary, one grandchild Tracy (Evan) and numerous family and friends in both Canada and Slovakia. Predeceased by his parents, both brothers and his daughter Janice. At his request cremation entrusted to First Memorial and Celebration of Life to take place at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Fulford Harbour, May 19, 2012 followed by a luncheon at Fulford Hall. Thank you to Dr. S. Barclay and all the wonderful staff of Greenwoods, Lady Minto Hospital and Home Support for your kind care during Joe's last years.

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
11 am at the SS Seniors' Centre. Alternate spirituality. Child care available. Saltspringunitarians.com

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMING EVENTS**

**G.I.S.R.A.**  
Gulf Islands Seniors' Residence Association

**A.G.M.**  
Saturday March 24, 2012 10am Meadowbrook Lounge

**IN MEMORIAM GIFTS**

**CALL FOR ENTRIES 10TH ANNUAL**  
Kitty Coleman Woodland Art & Bloom Festival. Fine Art and Quality Crafts Juried Show. Presented in a spectacular outdoor setting May 19-20, 21 Applications for Artists are available at woodlandgardens.ca or phone 250-338-6901

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SSI SEARCH & RESCUE**  
April 3, 2012 at 7pm Search & Rescue Hall 261 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

**IN MEMORIAM GIFTS**

**REMEMBER...**  
a loved one with a gift to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's Memorial Gifts program

135 Crofton Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1T1  
tel: 250-538-4845

**PLEASE INCLUDE:**  
• Name of your loved one  
• Name & address of next of kin so we can notify them of your gift.  
• Your name and address for tax receipt



**LadyMintoHospitalFoundation**  
[www.ladmintofoundation.com](http://www.ladmintofoundation.com)

**COMING EVENTS**

**COMING EVENTS**

**All's Asian Treasures**  
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**COMING EVENTS**

**BASIC FOODSAFE** Friday, March 16 from 8:30am to 4:30pm, \$70. Harbour House Hotel. Call Sheri 250-537-1883 to register.

**FABULOUS FLEA MARKET**  
March 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fulford Hall. Table rentals 8' - \$20, 4' - \$10. Delicious home-made food available. Info 250-537-5482.

**PIANO TUNER** coming to Salt Spring, Mar. 28 - 31. Book appt. 604-732-7863 or silverwoodpianos@shaw.ca [www.silverwoodpianos.com](http://www.silverwoodpianos.com)

**MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Central Community Hall Society  
Tues., March 20, 2012 at 7 pm  
Public Welcome!

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Sun. March 18, 11 am at the SS Seniors' Centre. Join us in a singing communion, songs of light and peace from around the world. This is a family friendly event with child minding available. Check us out [saltspringunitarians.com](http://saltspringunitarians.com).

**COMING EVENTS**

**Safe Trailing Clinic**  
Clinic with Crofton Horse Transport on March 17 at the Farmer's Institute from 9-4.  
Pre-register by email: [trish@croftontransport.com](mailto:trish@croftontransport.com) or by phone: 1-877-246-4355  
Lunch will be provided.



**Betty "Jean" Stark**  
AUGUST 1938 - MARCH 2012



Jean was born in Blanaevon, South Wales. She leaves to mourn husband of 44 years Peter, daughters Sarah (J.B.) and grandson Wyatt, and Helen (Kevin). She was predeceased by granddaughter Ashlyn and brother Jim Parker. In England she was a midwife for many years, having delivered 1400 babies. The family then moved from England to Salt Spring in 1981 where they made many friends.  
Sincere thanks to the wonderful nursing staff at Lady Minto and especially Dr. Manya Sadouski and Dr. Paula Ryan. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

**YOGA WITH DOROTHY**

**MONDAY: 4:30pm - 6:00 pm**  
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd  
Level: All levels

**TUESDAY: 5:00pm - 6:00 pm**  
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd.  
Level: Slow Flow for tired bodies!

**TUESDAY: 7:00pm - 8:30pm**  
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd  
Level: All Levels

**WEDNESDAY: 9:00am - 10:30am**  
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd  
Level: All Levels

**WEDNESDAY: 5:15pm - 6:30 pm**  
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd  
Level: On-going Beginners!

**THURSDAY: 4:30pm - 6:00 pm**  
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd.  
Level: All Levels

Visit my website [santoshayoga-retreats.com](http://santoshayoga-retreats.com)  
250-653-4655 or 537-7675

**WEDNESDAYS ON-GOING BEGINNERS!**  
A great place to start or re-start your practice. Don't delay, start today!



**Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society**  
with Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee and St. Mary Lake Stewardship Committee present

**New Research on Salt Spring Fish**

How much do you know about the fish in our lakes and streams? Although largely unseen, fish are part of the larger ecosystem that includes the streams and forests around them. Come hear about this vital part of our natural environment.

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00 pm at the Lions Hall**  
**Interactions of Smallmouth Bass on Native and Stocked Fish in Cusheon and BC Lakes**

U.Vic M.Sc student Martina Beck will report on her study on ecosystem effects of bass in Cusheon Lake and other B.C. Lakes. There will also be a presentation by Matthias Herborg of U.Vic.

**THE LADY** who took the pony cart from Hedger Road. Please call 250-537-2855.

**LEGALS**

**ANDREW HATCHEN:** Take notice that the Salt Spring Mini Storage will be seizing and selling the contents of your locker to pay for rent in arrears. You have until March 21, 2012 to pay your arrears or make other satisfactory arrangements for payment. Ph #: 250-537-5888.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**

Re: The estate of **WALTER FLOERCKE**, Deceased, formerly of Greenwoods Elder Care, 133 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia V8K 1Z9.

Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of **WALTER FLOERCKE**, are hereby notified under section 38 of the *Trustee Act* that particulars of their claims should be sent to the Executors at Box 414, Ganges P.O., Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2W1, on or before April 12, 2012, after which date the Executors will distribute the estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims of which the Executor then has notice. James Pasuta, Solicitor for the Estate of **WALTER FLOERCKE**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**

NOTICE is hereby given that Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of **Paul Sanson White**, also known as Paul Sanson White Jr., Deceased, who died on the 8th day of October, 2011, are hereby required to send them to the Executor, Paula Seanna Morrison, care of Wendy L. Everson Law, 307-2453 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, British Columbia before the 11th day of April, 2012, after which date the Executor will distribute the said Estate among the parties entitled thereto, having regard for the claims of which she has notice.

By: **Wendy L. Everson**  
Barrister and Solicitor  
Wendy L. Everson Law  
#307 - 2453 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC V8L 1X7

**LOST AND FOUND**

**DEAR LONG** Harbour BC Ferries employee, I left my black gortex mittens in a car of kind young man who gave me a ride to Burgoyne Bay from the Spn Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour ferry. He works for BC Ferries at Long Harbour and drives a Suzuki forsa or Chevrolet sprint I believe. Please contact me at: email: mayaherzog@gmail.com or 250-661-5380. Thanks so much!

# DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES  
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PERSONALS**

**DATING SERVICE.** Long-Term/Short-Term Relationships, free to try!!! 1-877-297-9863. Live intimate conversation. Call: #7878 or 1-888-534-6984. Live adult toni. Call: 1-866-311-9640 or #5015. Meet Local Single Ladies. 1-877-804-5381. (16+)

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**INFORMATION**

**Thinking of volunteering somewhere?**  
Check out opportunities at:  
[www.volunteersaltspring.com](http://www.volunteersaltspring.com)  
or phone Gloria at 250-537-2054

**COMING EVENTS**

**LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SOCIETY**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meeting March 26th, 1:30pm  
Lion's Hall - Elections -

**INFORMATION**

**salt spring island FOUNDATION**  
Connecting your giving with island needs

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

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

[www.saltsspringislandfoundation.org](http://www.saltsspringislandfoundation.org)

**RECREATION FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation is receiving applications, from qualifying community organizations, for funding to assist with parks and recreation related projects, which provide additional recreation facilities, equipment, services or programs that benefit the community. Funding is usually awarded on a one-time basis, but under certain circumstances may be applied to ongoing programs. The deadline for the current applications is Friday, March 30, 2012.

Application forms are available on our website [www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc) or at the PARC office. Call 537-4448 or email [ssiparc@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssiparc@crd.bc.ca).

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Salt Spring Natureworks is looking for someone that has the same passion and commitment to beautiful, delicious and fresh produce as we do. A person that can manage the responsibilities of receiving, cleaning, prepping and displaying the incredible produce we are known for. This is a full time, 5 day a week position. Please contact Lawrence at 537-2325, [ssnatureworks@shaw.ca](mailto:ssnatureworks@shaw.ca).

**TRAVEL**

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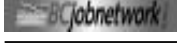
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**INFORMATION**

**TRAVEL**

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An earthmoving company based in Edmonton Alberta requires a full time Heavy Duty Mechanic for field and shop work. We require Cat Dozer/Deere excavator experience. You will work a set schedule for days on and off. Call Lloyd @ 780-723-5051

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**BENWEST LOGGING LTD.**  
Heavy duty mechanic required immediately. This is a fulltime camp job. Shift is 14/7. Experience with fat trucks, hydraulic and cable equipment is preferred. We offer competitive wages and benefits. Email resume to [office@bwlog.ca](mailto:office@bwlog.ca) or fax to 250-287-4342.

**TRADES/TECHNICAL.** Journeyman electrician / residential and commercial service. Commercial exp. an asset. Must have own vehicle and tools, be able to work independently. Competitive wages. Submit resume to [jware@telus.net](mailto:jware@telus.net).

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**2 BDRM** mobile home, \$700/mo. New appliances, WD, 2 decks. Avail. Apr 1. \$625/mo. Call 250-537-6860.

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## RENTALS

### HOMES FOR RENT

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### HOMES FOR RENT

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**2 BDRM mobile home.** New appliances, WD, 2 decks. .... Avail. Apr 1. \$625/mo.

**2 BDRM mobile home.** New appliances, WD, separate laundry & storage area. Covered deck. .... Avail. Apr 1. \$700/mo.

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1 bedroom, 1 bathroom (shower only), W/D, electric & wood heat, shared property, cat okay, N/S, long term ..... \$725

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## DEADLINE FOR TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY IS 2:00PM TUESDAY

## This Week's Horoscope

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

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
With spring right around the corner your engines are revving. Yet the actual gunshot will not come about until the new season actually begins. Still, your focus is sharp and you are ready to ride. Use this window to ensure all systems are 'go'. When they are, you can relax into the moment and enjoy the sensations or your rumbling engines.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)**  
It is likely that due to a long series of diligent efforts you have secured a pretty solid base. Yet you may feel blocked somehow. This is a good time to step back to reflect and review. This will not deflate your ambitions; rather it will allow you to celebrate and enjoy your successes. Use this opportunity to plan and prepare.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
It is likely that you have been getting some extra attention of late. Meeting new people, the start of new friendships and initiating key connections are all featured. This has been an important period of advancement and you may yet be able to squeeze out a bit more. Now, tune-in to a fresh batch of dreams that are beginning to brew in your mind.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
Seeing the bigger and perhaps the deeper picture continues. Either prompted by or activating reconsiderations of what constitutes security, this cycle of influence will be with you for many years to come. This will stir religions, spiritual and even mystical orientations. Who and what holds the power you seek? Such questions are leading you into new territory.

**Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)**  
Committed to a creative journey, the need to get new tools and techniques and to take some calculated risks is urging you on. Deciphering what to do and how to direct this lead may require the support and guidance of others. This is sparking a soul searching journey. Patience with your self and the process is encouraged.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
Exploring a wider range and scope of relationships continues. Some of your objectives are likely very practical while others lean more to ideals and principles. This is a time of consolidating foundations and clarifying priorities more than it is one of expanding fronts. However, that time is approaching. For now, focus especially on healing and reconciling any relationship concerns.

**Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)**  
Paying extra attention to the overall quality of your health and that of the quality of your lifestyle patterns continues. Disruptions and

stresses on relationship fronts over the past couple of years may have thrown you off your center. If so, the time is right to step back and assess if you have reacted negatively. Intend to assert a new normal in your daily rhythms with health in mind.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)**  
A creative imaginative cycle is drawing to a close. Have you made the most of it? There remains some time to do so but you better act now. There is reason to believe that you have entered a fog of dreams which are not serving your best interests. Alternatively, you are working with a turbulent current and are paddling towards happier waters.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)**  
Changes close to home are requiring that you pay extra close attention. It is likely that these are challenging your confidences. Giving more to the situation is probably required. Sober planning and action is required. Do not lean on the past now. Do tend to all unfinished business if you want to be on track when spring catapults you into new directions.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)**  
A busy cycle continues to lead you here and there. At best you are stimulating inspiring connections and at least reviewing key investments. A self-discovery process is part of the plot. You may feel that you have lost touch with the person you once knew yourself to be. Exploring and cultivating previously hidden talents is a promising sign.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)**  
Reviewing your priorities continues as a central theme. Who are you at this stage of your journey and what do you feel you want and need? Concentrating upon such questions will become more evident this week. Deciphering what are your genuine needs and liberating yourself from external influences that could steer you in the wrong direction remains important.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)**  
Taking a series of pioneering leads continues. At worst, you may not feel like you are standing on solid ground. This is a call to exercise your imagination and visualization powers. This classic form of practical magic requires that you get clear on your dreams and desires, then sit back, relax and visualize your ideals coming to fruition.

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# Sports & Recreation

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## SWIMMING

# Swimmers get set for new season

Stingrays registration event on April 2

Young swimmers can jump into the Stingrays' summer swim season with a registration event set for Monday, April 2.

"They will start with the crawl but they will learn to fly with the Salt Spring Stingrays Summer Swim Club," states a press release from the club, which is for kids aged seven to 18.

A competitive youth swim club, the Stingrays provides the opportunity for kids to develop important, lifelong swimming skills and so much more.

"Make new friends from across Vancouver Island, build self-confidence, learn mentoring skills and achieve a high



Stingrays member Cassidy Fraser "flies" through the water. Registration for the 2012 season is just around the corner.

level of fitness. It is also super cross training for your winter sport."

Swim team can be a big commitment if participants want it to be.

"It is a competitive

swim club — but you get to choose how competitive. The program offers something for every level of swimmer and brings positive results, not just in terms of swimming,

but also in overall health, fitness and confidence."

The swim season runs May through August.

The April 2 registration event is at Rainbow Road Pool from 5 to 7 p.m.

For information, phone 250-537-0881, contact Sylvia Andress at Sears in Ganges any time in April, or send an email to [ssi.stingrays@gmail.com](mailto:ssi.stingrays@gmail.com).

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#### Salt Spring Island

##### Cooks

You will prepare and cook menu items, perform cleaning duties and assist in the other areas of the galley as required. Minimum qualifications include a 1 year culinary arts program and two years' apprenticeship.

##### Customer Service Attendants

You will prepare and serve a variety of food and beverages while ensuring the cleanliness of the interior passenger and crew areas of the vessel. Food Safe Level 1 or HAACP Certificate is required.

#### Galiano, Mayne and Pender Islands

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You will provide cleaning, routine maintenance, and security for the terminal, while assisting with vessel loading, unloading, and docking. You participate in safety drills; perform routine inspections; and identify and report security breaches and potential hazards. In addition, you update files and manuals; maintain activity logs; and provide information and assistance to customers. A valid BC Driver's License is required. Operation of a fork lift may be required.

Please email your resume, quoting position title, to [erswb@bcferries.com](mailto:erswb@bcferries.com) or fax to 250-656-5817.



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We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## EXTREME SPORTS

# Salt Spring Mudders aiming to prove they're tough enough for summer weekend 'suffer-fest'

Gruelling obstacle race course in Whistler beckons

BY KAREN CURTIN

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

A new endurance challenge called the Tough Mudder has captured the interest of a growing number of Salt Springers. This adventure sports company hosts events all over North America and will be setting up on the ski hills of Whistler on June 23-24.

The Tough Mudder consists of a gruelling 10-mile journey through 20 to 30 obstacles designed by British Special Forces. Touted as "the toughest event on the planet," it attracts thousands of people willing to test their mettle in a variety of creative ways, such as crawling through mud, slithering through tunnels of icy water, climbing walls, creeping under barbed wire and enduring jolts of electricity.

A little crazy? Not according to the locals signing up for this "suffer-fest."

The event promotes camaraderie more than competition; therefore, most people are going as part of a team, helping each other out in the difficult moments. The website, [www.toughmudder.ca](http://www.toughmudder.ca),

shows video footage of past Tough Mudders in slow motion, movie-style action that suggests a larger-than-life event of epic proportions, something that would inspire people who are looking for a life-changing experience.

Local Salt Spring gym Living Strong is sending a team and challenges others who have not signed up yet to make the commitment.

"I kept hearing about

the Tough Mudder from

a few of my gym

members and decided

that we should stop

talking about it and

just do it ourselves."

SHEENA BULL  
 Owner, Living Strong

When asked why she and her all-female staff are choosing to participate in this kind of event, owner Sheena Bull

answered, "Well, I kept hearing about the Tough Mudder from a few of my gym members and decided that we should stop talking about it and just do it ourselves."

The team invites other participants on the island to train with them on Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m., meeting first at the gym on 120 Herford Ave. There is no charge for the meet up, as the team will be out anyway, enduring hill repeats and other such challenging workouts in preparation for the event.

For more details, call the gym at 250-931-5483 or email [livingstrong@shaw.ca](mailto:livingstrong@shaw.ca).

"We hope to find out just how large the Salt Spring contingent will be. On the website, there are hundreds of teams heading to Whistler, but it's difficult to find out where they are from," says Bull.

Anyone who does the Tough Mudder will be tested physically and mentally in ways that resemble military training, but the ultimate focus is about overcoming one's real or perceived limitations... enduring when it seems impossible.

The prize at the end is an orange sweatband and a beer, but the stories of the event (and the after-party) will be ongoing.

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## GOLF

### SS golf club set for fresh 2012 season

Upgrades and renovations greet golfers eager for spring play

BY APRIL WRIGHT  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A new restaurant, extended fairway drainage, high-quality winter greens and the start to construction of a new tennis facility make the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club a hive of activity — and golf.

"The drainage system completed in 2011 has made a huge difference for winter golf, the greens are in better shape than they have been in years," said

Steve Marleau, the club's general manager and head professional. "While there are wet spots, the course is in very playable shape and we actually have regulars out every day.

"It's a great time for a relaxed game. Winter rules are in place and it's advisable to wear your old shoes, but the course is imminent-ly playable."

Players have their pick of tee-times at the moment, but that might soon change when the regular season begins in April. Meanwhile, golfers can still get \$5 off green fees with a Salt Spring Residents' Card until the end of March.

The club has made extensive renovations to the res-

taurant over the winter and welcomes its new caterers, Jim Burrows and Mitch Steeves, to a notched-up food and bar service.

Members have already been wowed by early samplings off the new menu, which ranges from chef's avocado prawns to pulled pork and burgers.

There's also a new takeaway counter for golfers who are making the clubhouse turn.

Meanwhile, permits and leases have made the indoor tennis court a reality. Heavy equipment is preparing the site for the arrival of the steel structure in late April. Asphalt surfacing and painting will follow, with an "official" opening

set for Oct. 1.

"We've got tennis members joining the golf club and golf club members dusting off their tennis racquets at the prospect of having it all on one site," Marleau said. "We can see some excellent youth dual-sport development camps at the club next season."

Doug Fraser, president of the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club, said it's going to be an excellent golf season with the upgraded greens and fairways adding many extra weeks of play and clubhouse enjoyment for both green-fee players and annual members.

"Now," Fraser said with a smile, "we're going to tell the tourists."

## SOCCER

### Old Boys fall short to Castaways Sunday

Salt Spring United hosts double-header

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys battled through rain, sleet, snow and sun in a closely fought Sunday afternoon loss to Cordova Bay.

"The Old Boys

played really well and extremely bad," said team spokesperson Graham Tweddle in his post-game report.

Matt Johnson and Rainer Funk scored for the Old Boys, who came out on the losing side of the 3-2 final. Antonio Alonso was named the Old Boys' "man of the match" for his "stellar performance" at mid-field.

Tweddle said Cordova Bay was unfortunately "gifted" the first and winning goals.

"The team talk at the final whistle was if we could only stop passing to the other team," he said. "Maybe we can try that next week for our home game."

The Old Boys will try to regain their footing in the team's second-to-last game

of the season, against the Athletics 50 squad on Sunday morning at 10:30 at the GISS field.

In Vancouver Island Soccer League action, Salt Spring FC is off until March 31.

The Salt Spring United women's team is back in action this weekend with two home matches. United hosts a league game on Saturday and

will follow up with a Stephanie Shergold quarter-final cup match against the Castaways on Sunday. Both games begin at 12:30 p.m. at Portlock Park.

Top ranked Salt Spring Alumni (13-1-2) travels to Vancouver Island where they will take on third-place Bays United (11-4-3) on Sunday afternoon.

# Gulf Islands secondary school basketball

## Thanks!

The Scorpions basketball season was successful on so many levels and we couldn't have done it without the kind help of so many... **Coaches: Tony Mason, Donal Duncan and Lee Gordon, Kim Chalmers, Diane Weatherby.** The **Driftwood** and the **ad sponsors** for bringing the schedule ads to the community. The generous support of the **GISS athletic sponsors** and of our GISS athletic director, **Stacy Mitchell**, GISS principal, **Judy Raddysh** and the **GISS staff** who supported the players with understanding of missing classes for travel. Our fabulous **referees** including **Myles Wilson** who manages the officiating so well. **GISS students** who volunteered their time in helping at the score table for home games and cheering for us in the stands. The **building service staff** - who keep the gym ready for play. **Kristi Spencer** at Plant Services for juggling the gym scheduling. And the truly amazing support of **the families of the players** who drive to competitions, cheer for us, organize things, and so much more. ~ And to **all of the Scorpion basketball players**, we are proud of each of you for your tremendous efforts both on and off the court! You exhibited amazing sportsmanship, and thank you for the talented hoop action. It was a fabulous 2011/2012 GISS basketball **spirited season!**



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The **Residential Construction Performance Guide** is the newest online resource available on the provincial Homeowner Protection Office website at [www.hpo.bc.ca](http://www.hpo.bc.ca). It explains how homes covered by home warranty insurance should perform.

Every new home built for sale by a licensed residential builder in B.C. is protected by mandatory third-party home warranty insurance. It's the strongest system of construction defect insurance in Canada.

"For most consumers, buying a new home is one of the largest financial investments they will make. So it's essential that homebuyers can make that investment with confidence, knowing that they will not be faced with additional expenses to repair defects after they move in," said Tony Gioventu, executive director of the Condominium Home Owners' Association and an advocate for consumer protection.

This simple, practical guide is easy to use. It outlines more than 200 possible defects that are searchable online. This includes the most common defect claims that might be submitted under a home warranty insurance policy - from windows that malfunction, to driveway or interior concrete floors that have cracked, to siding that has buckled.

Designed primarily for conventional low-rise, wood-frame homes, the guide also provides some helpful guidelines for the common property of multi-unit buildings. Builders can also use the guide to help ensure that they deliver high performance homes.

## SPORTS &amp; RECREATION

## HOCKEY

## Island boys' hockey teams aiming for top B.C. titles

Hard work pays off for devoted hockey kids

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A trio of Salt Spring youngsters will soon be lacing up their skates and taking to the ice during the provincial championships next week.

Chris Akerman and Kyle Topping, who are both 12 years of age, will take part in the AAA peewee-level championships in Langley from March 18 to 23. Nick Boyd, who plays at the AAA midget level, travels to the Okanagan.

The kids are among a small but devoted group of island youths who travel to Duncan or Chemainus several times a week for some

ice time with teammates on the Cowichan Valley Capitals peewee and midget squads.

The trip sometimes means waking up well before dawn to catch a private speedboat to the arena and back before school begins. Besides the early morning and after-school practices, players join the team for regular season matches that take place in communities across Vancouver Island.

Derek Topping, a local realtor who coaches the peewees, said making sure the kids get to practice and games has been made possible with help from the dedicated group of parents.

"We're pretty much all involved one way or another," he said.

The peewee team, which finished its

regular season with an impressive 17-3-0 record, qualified for the provincials earlier this month with a 6-3 victory against the Victoria Racquet Club Kings.

"It should be a good provincials, but it's going to be tough," Akerman said. "We just need to shut a lot of their players down."

During Vancouver Island Hockey League midget-level play in late February, Boyd scored once to help lift his Cowichan Valley team past Nanaimo and qualify for next week's provincial tourney.

Because there is no national-level championship tournament available to either team, players are fully cognizant that next week is when they've got to lay it all on the line.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Cowichan Valley Capitals peewee hockey team is getting ready for the provincial championships in Langley after the team won the Vancouver Island district title. Salt Spring's Chris Akerman is the goalie on the right and Kyle Topping is fourth from the right in the top row holding the banner. Derek Topping of Salt Spring (not in the photo) is the team's coach.

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## RUNNING

## Runners fare well at tough NS challenge

Rick Laing and Matt Cecill attend North Shore Dirty Duo Trail Race

snowline to boulder-strewn downhill bike trails to calf-deep mud pits.

Large numbers of women compete and do well in endurance running sports and comprised 40 per cent of Saturday's participants, said Laing.

Two islanders took on the North Shore Capilano mountain trails on Saturday, competing in the Dirty Duo Trail Race.

Rick Laing ran the 25-kilometre route in two hours, 46 minutes to finish 15th out of 91 runners, and Matt Cecill finished second of 36 in the challenging 50-kilometre race in an amazing time of four hours, 21 minutes.

The course ranged from Grouse Grind-type climbs past the

As one of the event's oldest competitors, Laing ran it for "a laugh" and training for the Vancouver Marathon in May.

Cecill and his friend Dave Melanson, who both grew up on Salt Spring, are planning to run the infamous Leadville 100 Miler on Aug. 19. It takes place two miles high in the Colorado Rockies and is considered to be the most gruelling trail run on the continent.

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