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Island Wheels
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Young @ Heart
An island guide for the 50 plus **INSIDE**

YOUNG @ HEART AN ISLAND GUIDE FOR THE 50 PLUS

Services
With a focus on island seniors

Passions
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Friendly visitors need volunteers

Reflections
Val Haight's take on the golden years

Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, March 21, 2012 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 52ND YEAR — ISSUE 12 **\$1.25** (incl. PST)



IVY BEGONE: Jean Wilkinson of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's stewardship committee puts English ivy into a pick-up truck as part of the Ivy Bash event at Mouat Park Saturday. Another ivy-removal work party takes place at the park this Saturday, with volunteers welcome to help out.

PHOTO BY JEN MACLENNAN

ISLANDS TRUST

LTC video censors prompt outcry

Legal advice cited as reason for omissions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Less than two months after the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee authorized the official videotaping of its public meetings, rumblings of discontent have begun to arise over a decision to omit the delegations and town hall session from a recording of the Feb. 23 meeting.

In a formal delegation to the March 15 LTC meeting, Salt Spring resident Tom Varzeliotis called for an investigation into why a decision to censor the video was made and asked the Trust to apologize to Salt Spring residents for what he considers an affront to democracy.

"Basically what I asked for is at least for an apology not only to me but to all the people of Salt Spring, and the [LTC members] stood there like columns of salt," Varzeliotis said on Monday afternoon.

The Trust argues that comments made by three speakers during the Feb. 23 delegations and town hall session in response to the tendering of a Riparian Areas Regulation mapping contract contained defamatory statements that, if disseminated through a Trust-sponsored website, could prompt legal action against the Trust.

LTC VIDEO continued on 2

CANADIAN CULTURE

Raffi tackles hockey violence in song

On Hockey Days debuts March 26

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Changing the way Canadians feel about their national winter sport may not be easy, but Salt Spring Island singer, songwriter and child-honouring advocate Raffi Cavoukian has never been one to turn his back on a worthy battle.

In a soon-to-be-released song entitled On Hockey Days, Raffi celebrates all that is good about Canada's game with a hope to raise awareness about the serious toll fighting has taken in professional and amateur rinks across the country.

"Hundreds of thousands of families are

involved in amateur hockey — amateur means for the love of it," Raffi said. "This song is about the fun of hockey, the winter game loved by young and old."

The song's March 26 release on iTunes coincides with a rising tide of concern by parents and league administrators across Canada and the United States about the level of hockey violence and the prevalence of life-altering concussions on young players.

"I agree with hockey great Ken Dryden and Canada's Governor General: fighting has no place in hockey," he said.

The song's release follows a recommendation by an expert panel that includes former

NHLers Eric Lindros, Jeff Beukeboom and Alyn McCauley to ban fighting and "unsportsmanlike hits" from all levels of the game.

"Fighting is one of the known causes of concussion, and may result in the related long-term complications," states part of the panel's summary, presented during the London Hockey Concussion Summit in January. "Fighting can cause needless death."

At the heart of Raffi's crusade is a belief the game can be remade on principles of respect without losing its fast-paced and action-packed appeal or potential revenue from

RAFFI HOCKEY continued on 2

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WE	11:32	1.7	5.6	SU	06:49	3.0	9.8
	17:35	2.8	9.2		13:36	1.0	3.3
	23:18	1.5	4.9		20:58	2.9	9.5
22	05:51	3.1	10.2	26	01:55	2.3	7.5
TH	12:02	1.5	4.9	MO	07:09	3.0	9.8
	18:27	2.8	9.2		14:11	1.0	3.3
	23:56	1.7	5.6		21:54	2.9	9.5
23	06:10	3.0	9.8	27	02:40	2.5	8.2
FR	12:32	1.3	4.3	TU	07:30	2.9	9.5
	19:17	2.9	9.5		14:49	0.9	3.0
24	00:35	1.9	6.2		22:54	3.0	9.8
SA	06:30	3.0	9.8				
	13:03	1.1	3.6				
	20:06	2.9	9.5				

NEWSBEAT

'Potentially defamatory' comments gone

LTC VIDEO
continued from 1

A note that accompanies the Feb. 23 LTC video on the "saltspringvideo" YouTube site states "the video recording of the meeting has been abbreviated due to concerns that some comments made during the Delegations/Town Hall session are potentially defamatory."

The note continues to state "the Islands Trust reserves the right to refrain from posting video of any individual who uses profanity, makes derogatory remarks about another individual, or makes comments that may be defamatory."

According to LTC member George Grams, the decision to cut out a por-

tion of the Feb. 23 video "is an administration issue, not an LTC issue."

"Some of the comments made during the town hall session we were advised by Linda Adams [Islands Trust CAO] were defamatory. The definition of that term is, apparently, that those comments could be injurious to someone's reputation," Grams said on Tuesday morning.

Adams said the Trust made the decision to remove the contentious material based on legal advice.

Whereas fleeting comments made during a meeting's town hall session are often soon forgotten, Adams said, distribution of potentially defamatory comments publicly over the internet for perpetuity is a much more serious matter.

She said a full report on the video pilot project will be presented at an upcoming meeting of the Salt Spring LTC.

As far as Varzeliotis is concerned, the decision to censor the video not only undermines the principles of free speech and democracy, it runs against the very purpose of videotaping the meetings to make them available for people who cannot attend in person.

"The moment it was said this goes into the public," he said. "It does not matter what is said if it is said in a public meeting."

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

Pacifying the game urged in new Raffi song

RAFFI HOCKEY
continued from 1

fight-crazed fans who like their hockey rough and raucous.

"What's really exciting to consider is what's already happening in the amateur rinks. Maybe it doesn't take generations — maybe the time has come," he told the Driftwood on Tuesday. "The lack of fights in European

hockey tells you that the game doesn't need it and we know that from the Olympic experience as well." Sales of On Hockey Days through iTunes will benefit the Centre for Child Honouring.

A video for the song will be released on YouTube and posted on the Centre for Child Honouring website on March 27. The song launches on iTunes in the



RAFFI CAVOUKIAN

United States on April 3.

Raffi waded into the public debate about violence in hockey earlier this year, even challenging the views of CBC hockey commentator Don Cherry. A blog post at www.child-honouring.org elucidates his views. "Pacifying the game would have tremendous positive impacts for Canada's hockey families, officials, and the fans. Come on Canada, we can do this. Stand on guard for our kids, and for the game we love. For a smart hockey culture and a society that loves its young."



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gov't. study answer to come within 2 months

Minister Ida Chong confirms strength of delegates' points

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

B.C.'s minister in charge of community development says she should know within a month or two whether her ministry will fund a governance study for Salt Spring Island.

Ida Chong was responding to three delegations who met with herself and staff on March 12 in Victoria to request funding for a governance study that could lead to a referendum and changes in the island's local government structure.

Capital Regional District director Wayne McIntyre and trustees Peter Grove and George Grams were fulfilling election campaign commitments they made to pursue such a study.

Chong, the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, told the Driftwood last Wednesday that she heard what both the elected officials and Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce representatives had to say.

"Clearly the three newly elected officials were convincing in stating they believe they got elected on a promise to

bring this issue forward to me," she said.

"I said I would have staff take a look to make sure there was substantive reason to look at changes... it has been 10 years since we last had a look at this."

"That's a good enough distance from the last time and [the delegates] do feel things have changed, and the economy has changed a lot."

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 staff members as a separate delegation last Monday.

Chong said a study should cost no more than \$50,000, and could even be as inexpensive as \$25,000. As raised by trustees Grams and Grove in their presentation to the minister, updating previously completed Salt Spring restructure studies from 2001 and 2002 is an option.

Chong said a vote could take place in a year's time if a study goes ahead.

A request from previous trustees Christine Torggrimson and George Ehling, and CRD director Garth Hendren made in October of 2009, was rejected.

In June of 2002, Salt Spring voters defeated an incorporation vote by a 70.2 per cent margin.

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

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WATER WOES

Beddis area residents feel pinch of rising water taxes

Water costs leave residents searching for alternatives

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The prospect of another hefty parcel tax increase has encouraged more than a few of the Beddis Water Service District's 138 subscribers to think outside the box and develop alternative ways to ease the burden.

During a water district meeting on March 2 in front of a capacity crowd at Fulford Hall's OAP room, residents spoke in desperation about their efforts to conserve water by not watering their gardens, limiting water use inside the home and collecting rainwater to reduce the shock of their regular water bills.

As happens in other water service areas, even those who can reduce their monthly consumption must still pay the yearly parcel tax by virtue of being "connected" to the system.

For Wildwood Drive resident Ann Wheeler, the parcel tax requirement means she's on the hook for a water bill as high as \$100 a month even though she relies almost exclusively on rainwater collected in a 6,000-gallon tank she installed about two years ago.

Although her interest in water catchment stemmed from a desire to live lightly on the earth, the system has begun to prove itself as a way to circumvent consumption

tolls placed on the district's water. "It avoids the small user fee," she said.

At least two other households on her street have installed similar systems and there's talk of more across the district as ratepayers brace for another round of tax hikes.

According to plans approved at the March 2 meeting, a Vancouver Island Health Authority order to bring the Beddis Water Service District's infrastructure into compliance with drinking water guidelines gave commissioners authority to borrow up to \$460,000 to upgrade the neighbourhood's substandard infrastructure without holding a referendum.

Based on a staff report presented at the meeting and available on the CRD's website, the \$460,000 price tag could result in a parcel tax increase of up to \$503 for property owners in the Beddis Water Service District.

BWSD District commissioner Simon Wheeler — no relation to Ann — points out the \$503 figure is a "worst-case sum" based on a CRD budget forecast and a six per cent annual interest rate. He said a more realistic interest rate, given today's market conditions for municipal borrowing in B.C., is 3.6 per cent. The difference means ratepayers would owe an additional \$422 on their parcel tax until the debt is repaid in 2019.

"This is still too much and we will be trying to work out more accurate figures as the estimates for work are refined," Wheeler said.

Although at least two residents at the meeting expressed their plans to leave the district and escape the parcel tax by means of a boundary adjustment and proof of alternative potable water supply such as a well, the Capital Regional District has yet to receive any applications.

"Needless to say we are frustrated and disappointed with what's happened," said Don Stevens, a Creekside Drive resident who served as a water service district commissioner when the utility joined the CRD in 2004.

"We were literally out of money," he said of the board's decision to join the CRD as a way to access funding for water system upgrades. "We went ahead believing everything would be fine."

As headlines and letters to the editor in recent months suggest, things are not all right as upgrade projects continue to suffer delays and unforeseen budget overruns.

Stevens says he has yet to hear of anybody forced to sell their property as a result of the additional tax burden, but figures between 60 and 70 per cent of the people hooked up to the district's 132 water connections are "very concerned" about where things are headed.

As for the others, he added, many are simply unaware of what's going on.

He said residents have already endured a nearly 100 per cent tax increase since joining the CRD in 2004 with virtually no returns to show for it except for a trail of expensive water system components.



Beddis Water District Service area.

In spite of frustrations coming to a head across the Beddis Water Service District and in other CRD-led water providers, Stevens said, he believes the solution rests not in striking out on one's own but rather coming together as a group to get problems addressed efficiently.

In a bitterly ironic twist, the district will have little choice but to raise parcel taxes even higher as it struggles to replace revenue from sagging user fees.

Stevens encouraged Beddis area residents to fill water district board vacancies and consider strategies to prevent a recurrence of the type of follies that have cursed the district for the past eight years.

To that end, the water district has set up a new website, designed to share information and viewpoints between the water district and ratepayers. It can be accessed at <http://beddiswater.com>.

News briefs

Mother Tongue award

A Mother Tongue Publishing book is a finalist for a B.C. Book Prize this year.

The Life and Art of Mildred Valley Thornton by Sheryl Salloum, which is the fourth book in Mother Tongue's Unheralded Artists of B.C. series put out by the Salt Spring-based publishing company, was nominated for the prestigious Roderrick Haig-Brown Regional Prize, which recognizes the book that contributes most to the enjoyment and understanding of B.C.

Salloum's book *Underlying Vibrations: The Photography and Life of John Vanderpant* is a previous B.C. Book Prize finalist,

and in 2011 Gurjinder Baran's novel *Everything Was Good-bye*, also published by Mother Tongue, was a B.C. Book Prize winner.

The book is available locally at Black Sheep Books, Salt Spring Sound, Salt Spring Books and The Porch Gallery (open Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m.).

Fire board candidates announced

Four candidates will seek a three-year term on the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District's board of trustees in an election to be held ahead of next month's AGM.

Elizabeth Zook joins

incumbents Grant Eckberg, Richard Hannah and Bruce Patterson in the run for three vacancies. The list of nominees was revealed at Monday evening's monthly fire district meeting.

Voters will head to the polls between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, April 16. An advance poll will be open on Wednesday, April 11 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Both polling stations will be in the Ganges fire hall training room.

Eligible voters must be Canadian citizens, over the age of 18, have resided in B.C. for at least six months and own property within the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's boundaries.

A Q&A with each of the candidates will be pub-

lished in the April 4 Driftwood and posted online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

Skeena Queen off

An old friend will be returning to Fulford Harbour for a short visit next week.

The Bowen Queen will be the replacement vessel for the Skeena Queen for approximately five days beginning Friday, March 30 as the Skeena undergoes a drydocking survey and inspection.

Commercial customers are advised that vehicles over 10,000 kg GVW are restricted to centre lane loading only on the Bowen

Queen. As a result, available commercial vehicle capacity will be reduced while the Bowen Queen is in service. The maximum width of overheight vehicles on the Bowen is 3.074 metres (10.1 feet).

An alternate route for commercial customers is the Vesuvius to Crofton route, which could also impact the Howe Sound Queen's capacity on that route.

Ferry fares up

BC Ferries fares are rising once again on April 1, in accordance with approval granted last spring.

Prices will rise by 4.15 per cent on average on all routes across the fleet. As an example of a typical

increase, the current car and driver fare between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay will rise from \$41.40 to \$43.15.

"Fare increases are required due to the rising cost of operating and capital expenditures coupled with lower than anticipated traffic levels," says BC Ferries.

Enbridge rally

A contingent of islanders is heading for the Monday, March 26 rally in Vancouver to protest against the Enbridge oil pipeline planned for northern B.C.

People can contact Ora Cogan at the Salt Spring No Pipeline Coalition to RSVP or to get more details at oracogan@yahoo.com.

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NEWSBEAT

ISLANDERS ABROAD

Crash curtails dream bicycle journey

Salt Spring cyclists recovering from severe injuries

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring woman has been released from a New Zealand hospital after two weeks spent recovering from a long list of injuries sustained during a dramatic cycling crash on Feb. 28.

Mary and Peter Freeman were less than a day's journey from completing their 3,200-kilometre cycling tour through New Zealand when disaster struck as the couple rode their two-person bicycle down a steep roadway near the town of Cromwell, about 150 kilometres northwest of Dunedin.

Peter, who was at the helm of the tandem bicycle, said the trailer towed behind their bike began to wobble as the pair travelled down the hill at speeds of up to 85 km/h.

"I have only a few fragmentary memories of the incident," he wrote in an email. "I remember the trailer starting to sway from side to side. I remember braking and that making it worse. I remember releasing the brakes in hope that it would stop swaying but it did not."

Before he lost consciousness by the side of the road, Peter was fortunately able to flag down the occupants of a passing vehicle who called emergency personnel.

"I remember the sound of the bike and us hitting the road. I remember pushing myself up onto my side and seeing my wife lying unconscious on the road beside me. I next remember standing up, trying to see the vehicle coming over the crest of the hill towards us, trying to push my helmet back



Mary Freeman in New Zealand before the Feb. 28 crash that put her in hospital with serious injuries.

out of my eyes, where it had been shoved forward and down over my face.

"My next memory must have been a long time later when I came to with many people hovering over me," he said.

A witness interviewed by a local newspaper said the pair "were groaning in pain, and did not know they were in New Zealand."

Mary was flown to Dunedin Hospital in a rescue helicopter where she was admitted to intensive care and treated for a broken

pelvis, broken ribs, a broken clavicle, a neck injury, a collapsed lung and a gash on her forehead that required 50 stitches.

Peter escaped the crash with a fractured elbow, a couple of injured fingers and severe abrasions.

"I'm in pretty good shape now," he wrote. "I'm back running, though sucking air a bit until my previous fitness returns."

The couple has checked into a Dunedin hotel where they continue to recover. The couple intends to see a bit more of New Zealand by car before eventually traveling to Australia.

"Mary's stitches are all out and her abrasions are in the final stages of healing," Peter said. "She now is waiting for the six-week point in her healing when she can remove her neck brace and her broken pelvis, ribs and clavicle will be in the spongy bone phase of mending. She is walking about 50 metres a few times a day."

Peter, 60, and Mary, 58, are veterans of several long-distance cycling expeditions, including journeys across Canada and southeastern Australia. The retired couple lives near Musgrave Landing on Salt Spring's south end.

The Freemans expressed praise for the emergency responders and well-intentioned citizens who have helped them make it through the past few weeks.

"People have helped in many ways, providing clothes for free, giving us discounts on things we had to buy, a Canadian family who took me in to their home so I had a place to stay after I was released and while Mary was in hospital," Peter wrote.

FEDERAL POLITICS

Green party convention volunteers meet on Sat.

Helpers needed as Sidney hosts August 2012 event

With the Saanich-Gulf Islands Green Party hosting the party's biennial convention in Sidney in August, a huge crew of volunteers will be needed.

This Saturday, March 24, the party and Green Party leader Elizabeth May will hold a meeting for potential convention volunteers.

"Many openings exist for local volunteers to be involved, not only in helping with the actual events but more importantly with the organization and planning," states a press release.

People with event-planning experience are needed to help organize:

- the Friday evening meet and greet;

- the plenary speakers;
- the Saturday evening gala;
- the running of an on-site sandwich bar, coffee shop and bar service;
- coordination of a billeting service;
- a delegate package;
- an expo/trade show area.

The convention will focus on resolutions and party policy, but there will be various opportunities for public involvement in workshops, plenary speaker sessions and the Saturday evening gala concert.

To attend this Saturday's organizational meeting, send an email to saanichgulfland@greenparty.ca with a subject line of "Convention Volunteer."

The time and venue will be provided once they know how many people plan to attend.

LOCAL MEDIA

Driftwood makes finals for six national paper awards

Best all-round among top-three nominations

Canadian Community Newspaper Awards 2012 finalists were announced this week, with the Gulf Islands Driftwood nominated for top-three positions in six categories.

The paper will finish first, second or third in the relevant circulation categories for:

- best all-round newspaper;
 - best front page;
 - outstanding reporter initiative (Sean McIntyre and Gail Sjuberg for their August-September 2011 series on incorporation);
 - best historical story (a June 2011 Elizabeth Nolan article about First Nations history in Ganeges);
 - best photo essay (the 2011 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication);
 - best coverage of the arts (based on five samples of coverage from 2011).
- Winners will be announced at a CCNA gala as part of the Ink + Beyond national newspaper conference in Toronto on April 27.
- The Driftwood has also been nominated for four prizes in the 2012 B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Ma Murray Awards, including best in its class.

Norm Elliott of Permasteel Group Receives Apology

Apology/Retraction

In an article published in the March 5, 2012 online edition of the Flying Shingle, this newspaper republished certain comments made by Ms. Kim Johnston concerning James Savage of Permasteel Corporation.

The Flying Shingle takes this opportunity to unreservedly retract and withdraw these comments including any allegations that James Savage or the Permasteel Group is unprofessional and has provided misleading information to the public, in breach of various professional codes of conduct. The Flying Shingle further apologises for any embarrassment that may have been suffered by James Savage or the Permasteel Group as a result of these comments.

Assurance and undertaking

The Flying Shingle News Ltd., and its directors, officers, employees, and agents hereby provides the Permasteel Group with its assurance and undertaking that it will not repeat the publication of the comments about James Savage and the Permasteel Group referred to in the March 6, 2012 letter from Fasken Martineau, their file # 241471.00018/14198, or publish defamatory words about James Savage or the Permasteel Group in the future.

March 9, 2012
Dated

Chris Bowers
Chris Bowers, Editor/publisher
Flying Shingle News Ltd.,
by its authorised signatory

NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust hosts suite legalization talks

Enforcement issues also arise at meeting

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Staff at the Islands Trust's Salt Spring office have announced plans to host a series of public events on March 31 and April 4 to discuss the prospect of legalizing secondary suites on the island.

The community meetings are the latest step in a four-year effort to consider legalization of suites as a way to address the island's affordable housing shortage.

Staff have proposed legalization of suites on a trial basis in pilot areas that consider potential impacts on traffic and water usage. Staff have also put forward an option to legalize all island suites that exist if and when a bylaw is passed.

News of the meetings follows comments from Islands Trust

enforcement staff which state the prevalence of illegal suites that do not meet health and safety standards on the island is likely to continue unless the Salt Spring Island LTC implements a "proactive enforcement policy."

According to bylaw enforcement officer Myles Drew, such a program would "require significant enforcement resources," including funds for additional enforcement staff, legal advice and court actions.

"Additionally," Drew writes in the Feb. 29 staff report, "the Salt Spring Island LTC must be aware that enforcement action against suites will result in persons being 'turned out' of their homes. Effective proactive enforcement action will likely affect the ability of some home owners and suite occupiers to afford housing. Such an enforcement program may cause controversy."

According to a survey con-

ducted by Trust staff in 2011, more than 50 per cent of renters surveyed said they live in a secondary suite.

Bylaw enforcement staff are currently investigating 16 unlawful housing files on the island. This total represents about 35 per cent of the island's active bylaw enforcement files, excluding short-term vacation rentals.

Although rental of secondary suites contravenes the island's land use bylaw, Drew confirmed there are "many more unlawful dwellings in existence."

"Unlawful suite owners know they face the possibility of enforcement action, but this threat seems to have had no deterrent effect," he said.

During a public meeting at Lions Hall on Thursday, Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members George Grams and Peter Grove asked bylaw

enforcement staff to provide details about costs and implementation of proactive enforcement.

Anyone who would like to attend the secondary suites public discussion is asked to notify the local Trust office at 250-537-9144 or ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca. A package of background materials will be provided to participants ahead of the meeting.

"We want to have as informed a discussion as possible," said planner Justine Starke.

The Saturday, March 31 event is at Gulf Islands Secondary School between 2 and 4 p.m. The second event will be at the Fulford Community Hall seniors centre on Wednesday, April 4 between 6 and 8:30 p.m.

The spring 2012 Islands Trust backgrounder on secondary suites can be downloaded at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/lubproject2010suites.cfm.

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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire district reluctant to put cart before horse in new hall planning

Board promises thorough public discussion in due course

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Extensive public consultation about a new Ganges fire hall is premature until the fire board gets the green light to use a portion of gifted land on Lower Ganges Road, according to Salt Spring fire trustees.

"We have taken the position that our critical task for the moment is securing this piece of property. Without the property and the appropriate permissions to build on it, we don't have a project," said fire board chair Michael Schubart at Monday night's fire protection district meeting. "We could do a lot of public consultation, but it would be very theoretical until we have a site to build on."

The remarks arose in response to an audience member's concern about the lack of public discussion about a new hall and what will be done with the Ganges fire hall if and when a new facility is built.

"I wonder about efforts to

engage the public more about what it is you're hoping to do with the fire hall, what it is that seems to be needed in terms of the size, the type, the budget and, for that matter, start getting input from the community itself before you proceed down the road for a lot of planning," said Julia Lucich. "I'm reminded of the debacle the Islands Trust encountered last year with the Riparian Areas Regulation where they had basically proceeded without having good community consultation and then the community was up in arms."

"We can't say how or what yet, but we will do it."

RON CHAMNEY
SS fire trustee

Fire trustees hope to receive a decision about their application for non-farm use of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve from the province's Agricultural Land Commission within the next month. Approval is required before the fire department can accept a two-acre property near

the corner of Atkins and Lower Ganges roads from Brinkworthy Properties Limited. Any decision to proceed with construction of a fire hall is subject to ratepayer approval for the borrowing of funds needed to pay for the building's construction.

Trustees announced the board's intention to establish finance, building and communications committees specifically for the fire hall project once the ALC approves the application.

Board member Ron Chamney said the district intends to host public workshops, discussions and open houses after ALC approval is granted.

"We can't say how or what yet, but we will do it," he said.

The proposed emergency services centre would replace the Ganges fire hall, a facility that fire trustees consider inadequate, outdated and unsafe. The new building could be between 12,000 and 16,000 square feet and house Salt Spring Fire-Rescue and potentially other island-based emergency service organizations such as Search and Rescue and the emergency operations centre.

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NEWSBEAT

AGRICULTURE

Sheep breeders get latest news on Gulf Islands Spinning Mill Co-op

Hope for a rejuvenated enterprise

BY MARGARET THOMSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring Sheep Breeders met last Monday evening for a talk by John Fulker about the Gulf Islands Spinning Mill Co-op.

He explained how in 1999, he and a group of local fibre enthusiasts bought new wool processing machinery from Mini Mills of Prince Edward Island. The equipment was designed for cottage industry-scale production and was quickly found to be unsuitable for a business that needed to work five days a week to make a quality product and cover expenses.

The mill is located on the grounds of the Farmers Institute, adjacent to the Recycle Depot, in a building that it has used rent

free in return for ongoing repairs and maintenance. Since the very beginning it has been difficult to attract and keep even the minimum number of directors required by the B.C. Co-operative Act. Keeping to the required meeting schedule for shareholders, once a year in March, has been even more challenging. No shareholders meetings have been held or financial reports sent out for at least five years.

At the outset the purchasers of the 200 shares on offer were fibre producers, but many others, who had the well-being of the agricultural community at heart, bought shares without any intention of going to meetings or becoming involved in management. Their purchase was strictly a gesture of support.

The original directors put in much of their own money to keep the business afloat, until all except Fulker dropped out. He has continued to work at

improving the machinery's output, with notable but still insufficient increase in output. The machinery simply cannot cope with the wool from certain sheep breeds or produce the quality of preparation needed for fine spinning, so the emphasis has of necessity been on coarser, heavier uneven yarns which are a novelty and fashion item and sell well. They are profitable if the fibre is donated or sold very cheaply to the mill, so this has been subsidizing the mill's operation.

Only about half its capacity is available to fibre producers who want to add value to their wool and sell privately as a farm product. The mill is now open only 18 hours a week. Salt Spring producers have been turned away because their orders are too big or the wait time too long. Local wool is being trucked to Alberta while distant customers use this facility. The current second and

third directors live in Victoria and the Okanagan, leaving day-to-day running of the mill entirely to Fulker and two part-time employees.

Several sheep breeders offered to update Fulker's list of shareholders so that a meeting can be called soon, to look at whether the present business structure can be made to work or the Spinning Mill Co-op dissolved and replaced with something new. A businessman who is relatively new to the island is willing to provide money for an industrial-grade carder and pin drafter, but only if there is a business structure and plan that he is convinced will succeed over the next decade, and if the community has shown strong support.

For more information about the Salt Spring Sheep Breeders Group, contact Jenny McKee at mckee.shambles@gmail.com. Further meetings about the mill will be announced.

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News from the day...Mar. 23, 1972

M'AIDEZ MAY DAY HE ASKS

May Day is going to be a May Day to remember. Ask Bob Foulis...he'll tell you! That's his call sign. "M'aidez! M'aidez!"

Mr. Foulis is organizing the May Day activities in Ganges this year for the Chamber of Commerce.

Starting early, the chairman of the May Day committee has already asked for entries for the May Day parade and for volunteers to help with the day's program.

The celebrations will be held in Ganges on May 20, the Saturday of the May 24 weekend.

May 24 falls on May 22 this

7AM - 10PM DAILY ISLANDERS SERVING ISLANDERS SINCE 1972

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Toastmasters hold first level of international speech contest

Public welcome to event this Monday at Catholic church

As an audience always sharpens the competitive edge of contestants, Salt Spring Toastmasters members are inviting the public to the local component of the 2012 International Toastmasters Speech Competition on Monday, March 26.

Beginning at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Drake Road, Salt Spring club members will vie

for first place and the opportunity to proceed to the next competitive level.

Judging will be done by members of the Duncan Toastmasters Club, who will be travelling to Salt Spring especially to fulfill that role.

"The contest involves two components, the speech competition and the evaluative competition," explains a press release from the club.

"Salt Spring Toastmasters often choose topics that are of interest to the local community, such as contestant Laura Patrick's choice to speak on participating as a community volunteer. Kathryn Holm,

a veteran Toastmaster and contestant, will be speaking on the topic of coping with fear and chronic illness."


The evaluation competition involves the club's newest member, Dori Somerset, who will deliver a test speech upon which several contestants will prepare an evaluative response of two to three minutes of speaking time.

The club extends an invitation to guests who would like to attend the contest and become informed about the educational and practical benefits of developing leadership and public-speaking skills.

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HEALTH

Relief in sight for chronic pain sufferers at Mar. 26 session

Register now for Arthritis Society of Victoria speaker at Meadowbrook

and learn different methods of coping with chronic pain in an active way.

While sufferers do not have to be afflicted with arthritis, Taylor, who is known to be a dynamic speaker, does reference that particular disease.

The workshop is coordinated by Salt Spring Community Wellness Programs and is run by the Arthritis Society of Victoria.

Monday's session is free to attend, but people must register in advance either by calling 1-866-414-7766 or sending an email to registration@bc.arthritis.ca.

The acclaimed Chronic Pain Management Workshop is coming to Salt Spring on Monday, March 26, with registrations now being taken.

Carrie Taylor, director of the Arthritis Society of Victoria, will lead the workshop from 1 to 3 p.m. at Meadowbrook.

The session will help people understand the principles of pain management

NEWSBEAT

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Salt Spring blooms with full menu of special events unfolding in April

Visitors and islanders can take in arts, food and culture, recreation and more

Branching out from last year's first Salt Spring Blossom Festival, the island's Chamber of Commerce is promoting an entire fun-filled month of largely free activities in April.

Arts and culture events, eco-adventures, live music, culinary treats and shopping at the island's famous Saturday market await visitors and islanders.

April 5 signals the start of the month-long "bouquet" of events. Sponsored by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and the Salt Spring Arts Council, the Easter Art Show and Tour will kick off with a gala reception at historic Mahon Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Featured artist Tom

Duquette will attend, local artists will be present to discuss their art and live music will help celebrate the start of the sixth annual event.

Saturday, April 7 is the first day of the popular Saturday market, and the weekend will include Easter egg hunts at various locations, a kids' Budding Artist Day at Mahon Hall, and stories and songs will be featured at West of the Moon in downtown Ganges. Many restaurants will have Easter dinner and brunch specials.

April 13 to 15 is the Blossom Festival Weekend with farm and garden tours, a special brunch at Salt Spring Vineyards, the annual open house at Foxglove garden centre, the opening of Rainbow Road Allotment Gardens and a Masquerade Ball at the Harbour House on April 14 from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Salt Spring will mark Earth Day Weekend (April 21-22) with the inaugural Spring



Delicious, freshly prepared island food will again be part of the 2012 Blossom Festival.

Kite Festival, a special party in Centennial Park, Ganges Harbour clean-up and beautification, the year-end Stagecoach Theatre School show and a variety of farm and garden tours.

Special weekend "stay and play" packages including

accommodation and meals, kayaking, whale-watching, golf, day hikes as well as spa, yoga and wellness treats will also be available.

People can learn more at www.saltspringchamber.com or call the chamber at 250-537-8320.

AGRICULTURE

Yard debris collection day returns

Bring Your Branches Day runs next Saturday at two Salt Spring locations

The Salt Spring Golf and Country Club at Central and Hope Hill Farm at 235 Musgrave Rd. will be the two host sites for the next Bring Your Branches Day on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizers are expecting lots of branches from the recent windstorms, and tree prunings and brush are welcome too. Material must be clean with

no invasive species (blackberry, broom and gorse etc.), and no contaminants such as stones, plastic or garbage. The material must also be small enough to go through a chipper, so stumps and large-diameter logs are not acceptable.

The first Bring Your Branches Day was held in February and netted about 60 yards of material in Ganges and another 18 yards at Hope Hill Farm, reports Elizabeth White, one of the organizers.

"Everyone was very happy with the results, although the weather could have been more cooperative. This month Hope Hill Farm encourages south-

enders to engage in a little friendly competition with the north island and increase the south-end tally."

Branches dropped off at the golf course on March 31 will be chipped and donated to the new community allotment gardens behind Rainbow Road Pool.

Bring Your Branches is part of a larger effort by the Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance, supported by funding from Vancity Credit Union, to increase the amount of compost available to island growers.

For more information, call White at 250-537-2616.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees defer Star Barks permit decision to give neighbours notice

TUP sought for bylaw compliance

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee has deferred consideration of a temporary use permit application needed to keep the Star Barks pet supply store in compliance with local bylaws.

The extra time means neighbours can be brought up to speed on the proposal's latest developments.

Residents who live near Star Barks, at 1429 Fulford-Ganges Rd., will soon receive notification of the property owners' application for a three-year TUP application. The new TUP request, which replaces the owners' original application for a 60-day permit, is needed to accommodate the property's primary commercial use on industrial (In2) land.

The application is a result of an attempt to comply with a bylaw enforcement investigation conducted by the Islands Trust.

Trust staff insist the three-year TUP is required to give the property owners enough time to go through the rezoning process.

"I think three years makes more sense," said trustee George Grams at the LTC's March 15 business meeting. "That area is in transition, there's going to be an abattoir by that time and the three years gives us an opportunity to examine the rezoning application."

"That area is in transition."

GEORGE GRAMS
Salt Spring trustee

A staff report presented to trustees at the meeting notes the land's industrial zoning and surrounding uses, such as the abattoir facility, conflict with official community plan objectives "which favour a rural residential land-use pattern" in the

area.

"Should the LTC want to approve the application and issue the TUP, it should do so with deliberate awareness that the use conflicts with the OCP designation," reads a March 8 staff report.

"Frankly, were I a neighbour, I think I'd be more concerned with having an abattoir next door than a pet food store, but that's done and it's been approved," Grams said.

The proposed TUP would limit the scope of the property's retail sales to "pet and livestock supplies" and the retail space's floor area to 1,600 square feet.

Notice of the new TUP will be circulated to neighbours and posted in the Driftwood in accordance with Local Government Act requirements.

The owners of Star Barks operate under a 10-year lease with property owners Barb and Strick Aust. The business employs five part-time and one full-time staff members, according to the Trust staff report.



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EDITORIAL

Reason for optimism

With the last ballot in local government elections only counted four months ago, it was heartening to hear last week that significant steps had been taken to acquire a governance study for Salt Spring Island.

Trustees George Grams and Peter Grove, and Capital Regional District director Wayne McIntyre had campaigned on a promise to seek such a study for the island. But with all the time and effort it takes to get up to speed and running in such demanding positions, though, few people were probably expecting to see such prompt action.

Approval and funds for such a study must come

THE ISSUE:

Salt Spring governance study

WE SAY:

Action taken so far a welcome sign

through the province's Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. As an interview with the Driftwood indicated, its minister, Ida Chong, clearly heard the delegates' reasoning. As well, having held the portfolio in the past, she is more up to speed on the island's governance history than some other

Liberal ministers who've held the post in the last few years. Whether that translates into approval for study funds will depend on what ministry staff determine and recommend in coming weeks.

People might want to quibble with the fact the elected officials were in Ms. Chong's office at the same time as a local Chamber of Commerce delegation, but the chamber had followed up on its own letter to the ministry and already arranged a meeting to discuss Salt Spring's governance status and the economy. It only made sense for the busy minister to hear the different takes on the same issue at the same time.

While the Grove and Grams, and McIntyre delegations covered a range of problems the current structure aggravates, the Chamber of Commerce was able to bring the stagnant local economy's perspective to the picture. It would be folly to blame our lack of centralized local government for the economic decline of recent years, but it should not fall to a non-publicly funded body like the Chamber of Commerce to be the only organization willing and able to do something about it.

We look forward to hearing the community minister's response to the island's governance study request.



Positive CRD water changes in sight

BY WAYNE MCINTYRE

This is a response to the open letter to myself from three Beddis water subscribers that was published in the March 14 Driftwood.

For the benefit of all Salt Spring water commissions and the community as a whole, I felt it useful to outline some of the actions taken in the last three months to address longstanding Salt Spring water management issues.

The issues around quality, delivery, quantity and cost of water are indeed complex and have existed for many years and many are understandably frustrated with the apparent lack of progress. It would be nice but not realistic to suggest that there is a quick and easy fix. From my brief time in office, with a steep learning curve on water issues, I have a perspective that it is critical to work together to take steps to not repeat the mistakes of the past and deal with the issues on many levels.

The past three months have been a time of intense personal education. I have attended almost all water commission meeting, all Salt Spring Water Council meetings and have taken steps in conjunction with commissions, local and off-island staff and others to address water management on Salt Spring from operational, tactical and political perspectives.

Operationally, steps have been taken to action recommendations made last fall by the SSI water commissions working group. Victoria CRD staff have been more engaged in addressing the recommendations and a new on-island staff support organization will be formally in place on April 2 and the new CRD general manager, Kees Ruurs, has provided some support already, has hired a new parks manager and is in the process of hiring a senior project engineer who will work and live on Salt Spring. At the very least it is expected that the new organization will provide timely and consistent on-island support primarily for water and sewer projects.

Tactically, water management has been given a higher profile at the CRD. I pushed to have water management as a key strategy in the CRD's new strategic plan and it will be included with waste manage-

VIEWPOINT

ment. At the January CRD board meeting I was appointed to the Union of B.C. Municipalities small water systems working group and attended my first meeting on March 13. It has proven to be a good forum to compare

what is happening across the province in the management of small water systems: delivery, quantity, quality and costs as well as possible regulatory changes. The contacts made will be invaluable and information from this working group will be shared with the community.

Politically, in addition to the efforts over the months and years from the individual commissions, it was recently announced by the provincial government that a new local government audit department will soon be in place to monitor policies, practices and costs as well as deal with queries from the public. Regional districts will be under the auspices of this department.

Salt Spring was fortunate enough to have three delegations present to Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Ida Chong, on March 12. As one of the delegations, I brought Salt Spring water issues to the attention of Minister Chong and her assistant deputy minister Julian Paine.

As far as specifics for the Beddis community to be fully informed, formal commission agendas and minutes are posted on the CRD website and commissioners have committed to further develop the Beddis website as a timely and comprehensive communications tool.

In addition, at the March 2 Beddis 2012 budget meeting the motion passed included reference to project cost controls and other elements of project management. The motion was reviewed with CRD staff prior to it being passed to ensure their support. Future meetings can be coordinated with the commission and held with subscribers to outline some of these actions in more detail and to listen to suggestions.

As a realistic optimist I believe all parties are looking forward to positive changes in both the process and results. I am certainly committed to doing my part to make this happen.

The writer is Salt Spring's electoral area director to the CRD.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the B.C. teachers' position?

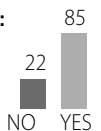
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Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is it time for a Salt Spring governance study?



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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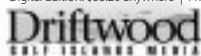
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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Someone who can do a lot with a little. Someone who stops to smell the seaweed."

DEFINITION OF A SALT SPRING IDLER, FROM THE SS FOLK CLUB

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How do you know spring has arrived on Salt Spring?



IZADAURA GODCHILD

The birds are singing, the sun is shining and now I can't find any parking.



CORA AND REX BAILEY

Weather changes quickly and the robins come out.



AMBER MACARTHUR

When the flowers are out and the trees are all in bloom



GARY MACHELL

When it gets warmer than this.



ALIX WHITFIELD

It snows on the hummingbirds.

Letters to the editor

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

Small is beautiful

Of course anyone would agree with John Myers that conveniences and comforts humans have created through the centuries are a benefit to mankind ("On efficiency" letter, March 14).

In my piece in the Driftwood on "efficiency" the week before, I oversimplified for brevity. I should have said that too much development in the cause of efficiency has led to large, unstable and "unresilient" industrial systems that are vulnerable to collapse, or have negative unintended consequences writ large. Nature in the overall picture is actually very efficient because variety keeps many options open.

The cod fishery has its parallel in the financial collapse of 2008 — too much technology combined with greed and not enough common sense. If the house of cards is too big the collapse becomes devastatingly widespread. Small is beautiful and efficiency is not a good reason to tie us to a massive smart meter grid.

On a related topic raised by John Myers, yes, life is more convenient now than in my grandparents' time. They lived in the late 19th century before the age of oil. We are now at peak oil. If you follow the work of Jeff Rubin (Why Your World is Going to Get a Whole Lot Smaller) or British author Rob Hopkins (The Transition Handbook: Moving From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience) the lives of my grandchildren, when

they are my age (81) will be more like my grandparents' than they will be like ours.

The end of this century may not be quite as convenient as we have it now, however, it may be more meaningful and neighbourly. No condition is permanent.

ROBERT BATEMAN,
SALT SPRING

Teachers support overblown

Looking at the March 7 edition of Salt Spring says, it appears that five out of five people are endorsing the teachers' strike.

Is this a fair view of general public sentiment? I don't think so. I think it's just a coincidence. Well over half the people I've talked to say that the teachers are amply

and well paid for what they do and should go back to work!

JIM MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

Editor's note: Salt Spring Says is conducted by accepting the answers of the first five people willing to participate, regardless of their views.

No quick fix

This is a response to Peter Grove's Viewpoint in the last issue of the Driftwood regarding St. Mary Lake.

Like trustee Grove I have been attending various formal and informal sessions on the quality of St. Mary and various contributors to the problem, as well as heard from many residents, commissions, suppliers and businesses. While there are a variety of views, the consistency

is that there is a serious problem and that it needs addressing; sooner rather than later. On a personal note, I walk the trails on Channel Ridge and looking down at St. Mary Lake is not a pretty sight!

In trustee Grove's article as well he says: "Next on the list of culprits on St. Mary Lake and also a serious problem are the septic tanks and fields..."

The CRD has a septic monitoring program in place that to date Salt Spring has not subscribed to, but I have had initial discussions with the CRD staff on the program as has Angus Mitchell, the chair of the St. Mary Lake Stewardship Committee and a member of the Salt Spring Water Council board. Angus and I plan to meet with CRD staff together to discuss the program,

including costs, time to implement and experiences of other CRD local governments with the program. Once this review is completed a plan can be discussed with the community.

As trustee Grove stated: "Clearly there is a cost to this." There may indeed be a much greater cost of not taking action and I am appreciative that the two trustees: "... will be as supportive and as helping as they are able."

St. Mary Lake, as many other water issues on Salt Spring, is not a quick fix, but we need to start and continue the process of taking action.

WAYNE MCINTYRE,
SS CRD DIRECTOR

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Canada's days on moral high ground are over

Ah, to be in Russia, that bastion of democracy! On March 4, Russians went to the polls and gave the nod for Vladimir Putin to take the helm for another six years. There were "irregularities."

In Chechnya province, there were many more votes than there were eligible voters. In fact, 107 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots. Mr. Putin garnered all the votes save one.

Given that not so long ago Russian forces pretty much bulldozed the entire province to ferret out "dissidents," Putin's rock-star popularity in Chechnya is even more mystifying. And that YouTube video showing some big, gap-toothed Russian lump of a man stuffing ballot after ballot into the polling box? It's nothing, really!

Here at home, our own federal election irregularities just won't go away — in fact, just the opposite. The so-called robocall scandal is picking up momentum. Elections Canada is now investigating some 700 complaints of phone calls across the country that misdirected voters to nonexistent voting stations. As the truth unfolds, it appears that all parties with the exception of Elizabeth May's Green Party are equally guilty of dirty tricks, possibly criminally dirty tricks. The flagellates are falling all over themselves with contrition and apologies.

The world fully expects a Russian election to be fraught with criminal tampering, but Canada? Times have changed. There was a time when Canada was seen as that great Utopian multi-cultural shining beacon. There was a time when a Canadian abroad received preferential treatment — upgraded rooms, generous

meal portions, better cigars. There was a time when Americans would stitch Canadian flags onto their backpacks and lapels when heading to Europe. No more. Over the past 10 years, our global reputation has tanked. Not so, you say? Let's review.

Where to begin? Let's start with the Dudley Do-Right, "always get their man" Royal Canadian Mounted Police. You know, one of the forces that took more than nine years to nail Robert Pickton, the monster convicted of butchering six women and suspected of 43 more murders — a killing spree as worthy of international horror as any of the thousands of ghastly executions carried out by the Mexican drug cartels.

And speaking of "Roberts," how about Robert Dziekanski, the poor sod who died in the arms of the RCMP at Vancouver International Airport after being tasered multiple times — a death that has rightfully caused a diplomatic furor between Poland and Canada? The Mounties always get their man? They don't do too badly getting their women either, as four female mounties have brought formal charges of sexual harassment and abuse against the force, and many more are keeping quiet rather than suffer public humiliation.

Sexual abuse? Where should I start? Shall we talk about the Boy Scouts of Canada, where there have been 24 made in Canada lawsuits for sexual abuse, with more complaints buried



Peter Vincent

HEAD TO HEAD

until they were pushed to open their books? And how about the men of the cloth? From coast to coast, Roman Catholic priests have been pilloried for their disgraceful behaviour at First Nations residential schools and in the back rooms of churches across Canada.

Even our most Canadian of pastimes, ice hockey, has been torn apart. The one-time Hockey News Man of the Year coach Graham James — busted for sexually abusing his players, including one of the best to play the game, the Calgary Flames' Theoren Fleury.

And who can forget the international black eye we sustained last year when thousands went to the streets of Vancouver lighting up police cars and looting the downtown stores after the Canucks lost to Boston in the Stanley Cup final? Vancouver, home to the 2010 Winter Olympics, where a young Georgian slender crashed and died on a purportedly unsafe, poorly protected downhill run on the opening day. Vancouver, where 100 perfectly healthy sled dogs were slaughtered by Outdoor Adventures because business had slowed down when the Olympics left town.

And who can forget all those images of fluffy white baby seals being clubbed to death with big spiky sticks, which prompted seal pelt bans around much of the world? In a 2006 interview, the Beatles' Paul McCartney said "Canada is known as a great nation, but this is

something that leaves a stain on the character of the Canadian people..." No kidding.

Like Omar Khadr, the Canadian kid languishing in Guantanamo for 10 years despite the protests of international groups such as Amnesty International and our own judicial system recommending he be brought home.

That black hole in northern Alberta, known as the Alberta Tar Sands? The Keystone pipeline, a project approved by the Harper government but vetoed by the American government as being too risky for the environment? Talk about a role reversal. The U.S. out-greening Canada? Not to worry, the latest project is to lay a pipeline across northern Alberta and B.C. to get the oil to Prince Rupert and on to China, a proposal that is leaving First Nations groups and international watchdogs shaking their heads.

Don't get me wrong, I love my country and wouldn't move for love nor money, but those halcyon days where Canada could claim the moral high road are long gone. Those days where we would sniff our noses at the United States and declare "Gawd, just look at those people!" — those days are gone.

The robocalls, the negative ads, digging up dirt about a political opponents — it's now just another day at the office. We can no longer look in mock horror at the political, social and economic carnage taking place in the U.S., Russia, or any other country you would care to name. It is the new face of democracy, and it's a world portrait that includes us.

republicofsaltspring@mac.com

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

- Counselling Services:** Short-term counselling for adults, youth and families.
- Alcohol and Drug Program:** Prevention and treatment service is free and confidential.
- Family Place:** Baby Talk & Breastfeeding Support: Mon. 10:30-12
 Stay & Play Drop-In: Fri. 10-1 & Tues./Thurs. 12-3
 Parent-Child Mother Goose: Wed. 10-12, Fernwood Elementary
- Let's Do Brunch:** Tuesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, open Thurs. & Sun. 6:30-9:30 pm. Information: ahasenfratz@gmail.com or 250-537-8970
- Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
- Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover, 250-537-4607.
- Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4 pm to midnight at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 250-538-4840
- 24-hr. Crisis Line:** Toll free: 1-866-386-6323. Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.

OPINION



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

WEARING OF THE GREEN: These black-and-white photos don't show it, but John Dolman, left, and Tim O'Connor wear bright-green leis, and Tim sports a tiny green Irish hat and "Kiss me I'm Irish" button, while young Clare Matheson dons a giant green hat in Ganges on St. Patrick's Day Saturday.

BCUC appeal

The recent decision by the B.C. Utilities Commission to dismiss our legal complaint against BC Hydro's "wireless program" was not a huge surprise when you realize that 34 municipalities (representing almost 2 million people) are calling for a moratorium and being ignored, and that Dr. Perry Kendall says he can find "no evidence of harm" even though the WHO recently classified the radiation from smart meters as a class 2B carcinogen.

The BCUC response states that "there is insufficient evidence to prove that the Clean Energy Act didn't prescribe 'wireless meters,'" but as our lawyer David Aaron states in his legal complaint:

1. Wireless capabilities are not necessary to fulfill the prescribed requirements under the CEA and

the regulation. Wireless capabilities exceed the prescribed requirements.

2. Neither the CEA nor the regulation explicitly requires BC Hydro to install a wireless system. If the legislature intended BC Hydro to implement a wireless smart metering system, it would have explicitly outlined that requirement in the regulation due to the serious public interest concerns.

Hydro/BCUC is also denying the ZigBee chip (the snooping component) will be used to collect personal data and sell it to corporations. But they know as well as we do that appliances with reader chips are the next generation of appliances, designed to operate with your smart meter. And that pretty soon we'll be required to "change-out" our old appliances to ensure we are all hooked up like lab rats.

Add soaring bills into the mix and a provincial government that doesn't

care and we are left with no choice but to appeal the BCUC's decision and protect our analogue meters using whatever means are necessary.

ANDREA COLLINS,
 SALT SPRING

Clean-up looks good

Good for the Fulford Hall committee in overseeing the clean-up in front of the Fulford Inn. It looks much better.

The article in your last paper reminded me of years ago when Capt. Drummond donated the property that is now called Drummond Park to the children of the community for a playground. I remember the men of the community going in and cleaning out the blackberries and removing all the debris and old machinery and evening out the ground to prepare the property to be a safe place for the children to play. I also remember after they had done all the work cleaning the area, which took a lot of work and a lot of their time, instead of thanking them for their efforts a letter from a newcomer was sent to the Driftwood, complaining about the area being "bulldozed flat."

Of course, all property does look less desirable when it is first prepared for better and more useful purposes. Maybe if we all did a little raking and picking up of the garbage, broken glass and debris, and brought our ideas we could develop a lovely little area for everyone to enjoy.

As for the blackberries, there's plenty of them on the island for birds and whatever to live in. Blackberries are not natural to the island and are an invasive plant.

I don't know why you would write such an article as you did in last week's paper that certainly is not the feelings of most of us.

DARLENE O'DONNELL,
 FULFORD

Skeena congrats

Those who quibble at the operations of the B.C. Ferry Corporation should have been at the Fulford

ferry dock on March 12 for the 7:50 a.m. sailing of the Skeena Queen.

The infamous "weather bomb" was blowing full strength up the harbour and the ferry was approaching her berth; it was only by consummate shiphandling that she was docked safely.

Next, the professionalism of the deck crew was shown by the ease with which power was supplied by the ferry to powerless Fulford to enable the terminal ramp to be operated.

Intrepid passengers were then treated to a voyage on the boisterous waters and a first-hand display of the ferry's seaworthiness as she was navigated to Swartz Bay via the back route, going backwards (or so car passengers might have thought, as their cars seemed to be facing the wrong way on deck), until Swartz Bay was reached and lo and behold they were facing the right way to drive off.

The really scary part of the trip? Barrelling down the Pat Bay highway at 90 km/hr in the double-decker #70 express bus.

Well done, Skeena Queen.
KEN MACKENZIE,
 SALT SPRING

Behind farming

As relative newcomers to the island, we were very impressed with the support we received from islanders for our struggle with the assessment authority over our farm status. We thank the Driftwood for picking up on the story published in the Feb. 22 paper.

Last week, our two-year battle to regain complete farm status was successfully resolved. We are glad to report that the assessment review panel saw all the arguments we presented at face value, and common sense was allowed to prevail. We feel it is important to share some of this with our community.

We have a property that has two different zonings, A1 and Rural. The BC assessment authority had removed farm classification from the 11 acres of our property zoned Rural. At the review panel, we

sought that our farm status be reinstated without any split classification, for many reasons; these include erosion control, contributing habitat, farm activity that includes a major composting plan and the virtual inability to subdivide the Rural-zoned area in question. Our main argument was the simple fact that activity, not zoning, determines farm status.

The BC Assessment recommendations from the Farm Assessment Review Panel do not allow for split classification on either ALR land or non-ALR land, as long as it meets the criterion in relation to the amount of property being farmed and the amount of income generated by that property. We believe it wasn't until we pulled out the dictionary definition of "property" that the panel understood that the BCAs main argument to require both zoned areas to qualify for farm status was invalid.

We worked very hard to build a strong submission to the assessment review panel, and we would like to thank all of those fellow islanders who supported us. Each little bit was a great contribution. Special mention goes to trustee George Grams and Trust planner Kristen Aasen, whose listening skills, patience and strong letters of support proved the Islands Trust has its heart in the right place in regard to farming on Salt Spring.

We may not be completely out of the woods yet, as our conversation with the assessor included reference to the value per acre of our land being dramatically increased. If they raise it as much as they implied, we could not generate the revenue per acre required to retain our farm status. When we mentioned this to the assessment review panel, they told us this was out of their jurisdiction. If anyone out there knows how to battle that impediment to farming, let us know!

Thanks again to a community who stands behind farming and local food production.
CHARLES GROSEN,
INGA MICHAELSEN,
 MUSGRAVE ROAD

Salt Spring Island Public Library

NOTICES

The annual general meeting of the members of the Association will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday March 29, 2012 at the Lower Hall of the Salt Spring Island United Church, 111 Hereford Avenue, Ganges.

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval by the members of the Association present at the annual general meeting to be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday March 29, 2012. The full text of the proposed resolution will be posted in the Temporary Library, 118 Jackson Ave., Ganges, between the publication of this advertisement and the annual general meeting.

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OPINION

RANTS and Roses

Rants Roses

A speedy rant to the mindless, heartless, dangerous driver who hit and killed the large, domestic long-haired cat about 1:20 p.m. on March 15 in the southbound lane of Fulford-Ganges Road, vicinity of Salt Spring Way. The sun was out, the road was dry, clear, a long straight stretch. There were few cars to impede your haste. Nevertheless, despite a clearly visible, obvious family pet in your path, making its way directly towards the side of the road to your right, you managed a perfect strike. You then sped off, leaving it fully stretched out in the middle of your lane, forcing the next driver(s) to either swerve into the oncoming lane (or into the ditch) to avoid running over it, or to run over it, or to stop traffic in order to remove the results of your behavioural, intellectual and moral turpitude. M. Stevenson

Whoever dented and scraped the back passenger door of my maroon Mazda Protege parked at the side of Pomodoro Pizza, then left the scene of the crime, "Karma will eventually get ya" — guaranteed. Jonn Ashlie

Beautiful roses to Barbara Arnett for painting a "beautiful bike" and to Greg, Donna and Ian for donating old bikes to Velo Village. Call 250-537-4859 or 250-653-0015 to volunteer to be a painter or donate a bike. Jean

A lovely bouquet of roses to the gentleman who found my sweet old wrist watch and was thoughtful in taking it up to the library. I would like the opportunity to thank you in person. Joyce Sharpe

To all the nurses at Salt Spring Island Health Unit, my sincere thanks for your friendly and professional care in treating my sunburnt leg. I will be much more diligent when next in the sun! Dorothy Weston

A rose, albeit a wet rose, to the crew of the CG cutter Nadon and the Coast Guard Auxiliary who went out into the teeth of the March 12 storm to check on all the boats in the harbour and the bay off Centennial Park to see if anyone was in distress.

An acre of B.C. dogwood blossoms to all

the amazing folks who patrolled Mouat Park recently when Clipper and Sophie took an extended walk-about (10 hours). Thanks to all our 8 a.m. gang and everyone else — friends, strangers, disc golfers — who were all walking and calling the wanderers home to base, the parking lot. Very overwhelming. The parking lot was manned all day with plans to take shifts after dark if needed. Special thanks to Susan and Daisy, who were with me all day. Wendy and Sonny May (possible concert pianist), to Ken, Doggins, Skapa, Tiga and Jasper, Jean and Louie. Susan brought Clipper in at 3:30 p.m. and, just before we had given up, Jean, Louie and Susan brought a very scared and tired Sofie in at 6:25 p.m. Thank you all for your support, kindness and caring. Janet W

Herb roses to whoever had the outside group in the St. Mary Lake area and left behind all that amazing soil. It was a bit of work packing it all out of the bush but it's enough to do all my veggie starters this year, thanks. By the way, I also packed out all your garbage too! Phil Bysher

A bouquet of smiling children's faces for all our sponsors of the My Drawing Our World — Images of Child Honouring art exhibit, booklet and posters. Thank you to Bob and Judy Weeden for the yummy apple juice, Embe for delicious cookies, TJ Beans for taking care of our coffee hounds, Colleen of Salish Sea Chocolates for the decadent Crow Bar chocolate, Joanne and Ben of Arrigado Sushi for the beauti-

ful maki rolls, Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer for the generous donations of food for our receptions, Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply for the beautiful bouquet of roses and Mouat's Trading Co. and Windsor Supply for the calendars. Thank you to our volunteers Tai Goodenough, Vivian Chu, Laura and Gwen Patrick, Margaret and Ron Mackenzie, Carl Borgstrom for your help with the exhibition. And thank you to the Salt Spring Foundation for sponsorship of the booklets of children's art work, Island Savings Credit Union, Mouat's Trading, Windsor Plywood, Thrifty Foods, Sandra Smith, Crofton Bed and Breakfast, and the Best Western PLUS Emerald Isle in Sidney for sponsorship of the workshops, to Barnyard Grafix for printing discount of the booklets, posters and backing sheets for the artwork, and Gallery 8 and ArtSpring for art show sponsorship. A special thank you as well to the Gail Sjuberg and staff at the Driftwood for printing the children's work and photographing and printing press releases. And most importantly to the children and teachers for the opportunity to make art together and learn about the principles and vision of Child Honouring. Tracy H

most dramatic transformation from her usual wonderful self into the demanding Mrs. Sturges in Murder by Membership Only. Ann, you are a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Hugs. Marit (Hester)

A bucket of Dutch tulips and a big heartfelt thank you goes out to Sandi (Heritage Place), nurse Ian and the emergency services for their quick response when my mom Rita was in distress. She is her old self again. Elly & Dave

Herb roses to whoever had the outside group in the St. Mary Lake area and left behind all that amazing soil. It was a bit of work packing it all out of the bush but it's enough to do all my veggie starters this year, thanks. By the way, I also packed out all your garbage too! Phil Bysher

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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

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Or email: islandcomfortquilts@shaw.ca

While in Vietnam, make sure you don't order the mutt-on

I have just come back from Ho Chi Minh City where I have seen many amazing things, including Ho Chi Minh himself.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

What's left of Uncle Ho (his mummified corpse) reposes on display in a gargantuan, graceless mausoleum in the centre of the city. I saw other amazing things — pagodas, sacred caves, water buffalo placidly plodding through rice paddies, sylphlike sampans, graceful as eyelashes, skimming the surface of canals and rivers.

But I think the most amazing thing I saw in Ho Chi Minh City was motorbikes. Motorbikes are to the Vietnamese today what the automobile was to North Americans in the 1950s. Times ten.

In Saigon alone (nobody other than government flunkies call it Ho Chi Minh City) there are four million motorbikes. That is not a misprint. Four million. Virtually every Saigon family owns at least one. It functions as the family station wagon does for us. Again — times ten.

It is not uncommon to see a family of five on one motorbike, the youngest wedged between the handlebars, the rest hanging on any way they can. It is also not uncommon to see motorbikes carrying multiple bags of animal feed, freakishly high tiers of lumber, a refrigerator (I'm not making this up), 20-foot step-ladders, butchered hogs, mattresses, aluminum doors, toilet bowls.

And — Culture Shock 101 — crates stuffed with live animals — including puppies.

Saw this myself from a bus outside Hue — a little Honda putt-putting along, one rider, with a dozen wooden crates full of what looked like Akitas or Huskies, weaned, maybe three months old, lashed down and teetering behind him.

And you just know they weren't heading for the Hanoi Obedience and Agility Dog Trials.

Unpalatable fact: South East Asians eat dog — or some of them do. It's an old tradition bound up with beliefs about the merits of dog meat as an energy booster and an aphrodisiac.

The natives are aware that canine entrees on the menu would make tourists nervous if not hysterical, so you don't see escalope de poodle or barbecued border collie advertised, but if you go to an obscure Thai or Vietnamese restaurant that caters to locals you might come across a dish called, ironically enough "pad krapaw."

That's um, stir-fried dog meat with basil leaves.

Eating dog meat is, I'm delighted to report, a disappearing feature of Southeast Asian life. It's a cuisine phenomenon mostly restricted to working-class clientele. Kids in school are being taught that it's not cool to eat pets — and in any case it's relatively expensive, dogs being rarer than carp or chickens.

Did I try it? Get serious. I'm a bourgeois North American geezer. I'm so reactionary I seldom even buy sushi — unless I'm fishing and I run out of bait.

Besides, I knew if I indulged I would have to avoid eye contact forever with a Bearded Collie and a Golden Retriever/Border Collie cross back home.

Still, I didn't raise a fuss when I saw unfamiliar, possibly pooch-oriented entrees on the odd South East Asian menus. Wouldn't do for me as a Canadian to get too holier-than-thou over animal cruelty. I remember two other times when I saw cages of animals crammed together and stacked in tiers.

In one case the cages were stuffed with battery hens on a factory farm in southern Ontario; the other time was a barnyard crammed with tiny, windowless plastic cubes on a farm near Vancouver. The cubes were the only home that veal calves, brusquely separated from their mamas, would ever know.

South East Asians can't teach North Americans much about cruelty to animals.



SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING FOR TRUSTEES

ELECTION BY VOTING

Public Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District an Election by Voting is necessary to elect, for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 16, 2012 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2015, to fill the offices of three (3) Trustees on the Board of Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District and that the persons nominated as candidates at the Election and for whom the votes will be received are listed below:

TRUSTEES - three persons to be elected:

Surname	Given Name	Residential Address
ECKBERG	Grant	226 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7
HANNAH	Richard	2059 North End Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1C9
PATTERSON	N. Bruce	2914 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2P3
ZOOK	Elizabeth	111 Lawnhill Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2C8

VOTING DAY for the election of Trustees will be open on Monday the sixteenth (16th) day of April 2012, TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT at:

GANGES FIRE HALL, Regular Training Room
AND SUCH VOTING PLACE SHALL BE OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF Eleven (11:00) A.M. and Five (5:00) P.M.

ADVANCE VOTING for election of Trustees shall be open on Wednesday the eleventh (11th) of April 2012 TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT between the hours of eleven (11:00) A.M. and four (4:00) P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall, Regular Training Room.

Given under my hand at Ganges, B.C. this twentieth (20th) day of March 2012.

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

You are qualified as an Elector if you are:
A Canadian Citizen
eighteen years or older on Voting Day
a resident in the Province for at least six months before Voting Day
an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District an authorized agent, designated in writing as the said agent, of a Board or Corporation that owns land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners are entitled to vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis. Please note that when checking the list of owners provided by the B.C. Assessment Authority the multiple ownership of some properties may not have been recorded. If the property that is being used for voting purposes is held in multiple ownership it is recommended that the persons intending to vote bring suitable identification, as listed below, to avoid any inconvenience.
If you are not on the List of Registered Electors you may register on Voting Day providing you produce two pieces of identification, one of which has your signature, preferably with pictorial identification, e.g drivers licence, and documentation proving ownership of the land for which you are owner, e.g tax notice, assessment notice or duplicate certificate of title.

Arts & Entertainment

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ON STAGE

Bedtime stories raise improv funds

Adult-content show runs at ArtSpring next Wednesday

BY GAIL SJURBERG
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior improv team has a whole troupe of community supporters, including some talented storytellers participating in a fundraiser for the team on Wednesday, March 28.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring, Bedtime Stories for the Damned will see true stories for mature audiences shared by island "celebrities," along with musical interludes.

Bob Twaites of Phylax Circus fame is organizing the evening, which sees storytellers Arthur Black, Jan Rabson, Sue Newman, Murray Schoolbraud, Henry Baade, Shilo Zylbergold, Therin Gower, Bob Twaites "and shocking mystery guests" tell tales about

affairs of the heart, brushes with greatness, true crime and other intriguing topics.

"Some of the people will be amazing professional voices and some will be your friends and neighbours," said Twaites.

Tickets for Bedtime Stories for the Damned are only \$12.

Twaites says the March 28 event is aimed at adults. They are of course also welcome to attend the senior team's Friday, March 30 FUNdraiser at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring, which will also include a What's in the Box? mystery raffle.

The GISS senior improv team, coached by teacher Jason Donaldson, is off to compete in national championships in early April. They and their supporters are working hard to raise the \$12,000 needed to make the trip to Ottawa.

According to Twaites, who coaches the junior improv teams and is helping with the senior team's fundraising efforts, some \$1,000 was



Bob Twaites, Bedtime Stories for the Damned organizer, mans the applause meter at an improv event earlier this year.

raised through recent shows and workshops offered on Mayne and Pender islands.

As well, all monies received through the Gulf Islands Educational Trust up to \$2,000 are being matched by a generous local donor. Cheques to the GIET, with "GISS Improv" written on the memo line, can be dropped off or sent

to the school board office at 112 Rainbow Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2K3, or email donaldson at jdonaldson@sd64.bc.ca.

A raffle with fabulous prizes is also underway, and the team will have a table at the March 31 B Side Bash 10-year celebration at Beaver Point Hall.

FOLK CLUB

Salt Spring Idler Contest debuts at 15th Gumboot Gala Monday

Best dressed, least stressed; Valdy, Bill and friends

The 15th annual Gumboot Gala is stepping out on Monday, March 26 with a double dose of contests to celebrate island life.

Valdy and Bill Henderson will host the Fulford Hall evening, as usual, and welcome several of their musical friends at the fun-packed evening of song, stories, prizes and surprises.

"Henderson and Valdy will stretch their genres and flex their musicianship to the limits on Monday night. This they will do by playing all manner of musical styles (any genre counts as folk music as long as 'folks like it') and by playing a few instruments

with which they are only somewhat familiar," explains a press release about the evening.

There will be prizes for the "best dressed" — meaning "some form of funky, imaginative and gumbooted costume," as well as a new competition for the "least stressed" called the Salt Spring Idler Contest.

A Salt Spring Idler is defined as "someone who can do a lot with a little. Someone who stops to smell the seaweed. Someone who understands that idling is an opportunity to turn off your engine, notice the quiet island space and take it all in. We honour Salt Spring Idlers for producing less static and more electricity.

"Since the stress-reduced lifestyle of Salt Spring is both wonderful and frankly the envy of

the rest of the country, the club felt it was high time that this was formally celebrated."

To select the winner of the Salt Spring Idler Contest, teleported directly from India to the folk club stage, will be one of the Geezers' favourite guests and a deep island resource, none other than — Swami Mahatma-coat.

Tickets to the gala are available for \$20 in Ganges at Salt Spring Books and Acoustic Planet and in Fulford at Stuff & Nonsense.

The show begins at 7 p.m. with doors open at 6:15 (and 6 p.m. for season ticket holders).

People can come early and enjoy a delicious dinner and delightful dessert in the lovely ambience of white tablecloths and candles, along with the great sound of good old Fulford Hall.

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Prizes: The least stressed
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Monday March 26 Tickets \$20 available at:
 Fulford Hall Acoustic Planet
 Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00) Salt Spring Books
 Show starts 7:00 Stuff and Nonsense
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EXHIBITION

Gordon Wright presents My Life on SSI

Island life on canvas in March 24 show

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Gordon Wright moved to Salt Spring in 1975, he and his wife sought a tranquil escape from the city.

The idea was to find a healthy, out-of-the-way kind of place where he and Barbara, who suffered from severe arthritis, could heal by reconnecting with their natural surroundings.

"It was either the island or more of Vancouver, which didn't seem like too much of a smart thing for her sake," Wright said, during a recent interview in his room at the Lady Minto Hospital's acute care ward.

It didn't take long before the island's rural character and unique cast of inhabitants gave Wright the endless inspiration that let him spend years assembling an artistic portfolio that has grown to recount the

story of his life on the island.

"I think many Salt Springers are very abstract in their observations of the world around them," he said. "It's a strange little private world which we live in. I don't know how much reality there is in this place, but it's reality for the people who live here."

Aside from many Salt Spring Island-inspired landscapes, Wright's latest works have evolved to take inspiration from the sun, the moon and the universe beyond our own solar system.

Leaning against a wall in his hospital room are two personal favourites: Set Archernar III and Set Altair IV, colourful abstract depictions of two distant suns.

"These will be worth big money someday, but right now I'm accepting offers," he joked.

Thirty-seven years after his move to the island, Wright is preparing to host his first art exhibition in Ganges this Saturday. The one-day show will feature the full



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Longtime islander Gordon Wright is holding an art show on Saturday.

breadth of Wright's creative efforts.

The idea to display his works comes from Wright's daughter-in-law, Jenny, who sought to show friends and fellow island residents what's been cooking in his studio for the past several years.

Many of Wright's works are a result of wandering along island hiking trails. In nearly four decades of rambling, Wright has come

to know many of the island's best and not-so-well-known trails and viewpoints. A personal favourite, he said, is a little-used track between Maxwell Lake and the top of Mount Maxwell.

Wright's work combines his observations of earth and sky during those walks with whatever mindset he's in when he picks up the brush.

"I've painted a whole variety, some are realistic, some are surrealistic and

others are more abstract," he said. "I'm not trying to paint any real thing in the world. That is to say a picture occurs based on whatever my life was like at the time."

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the My Life on Salt Spring exhibition at the Salt Spring Health Centre (130 McPhillips Ave.) on Saturday, March 24 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The artist will be in attendance.

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FUNDING FOR STUDENTS, NOT FOR WAGE HIKE.

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.

Teachers care about their students. Parents care about their children's future.

LET'S PUT STUDENTS  ST



BCEDPLAN.CA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

ST. PADDY'S DAY SPECIALISTS: Black Velvet Band members brought Irish spirits to the Tree House Cafe on Saturday night. From left: Jane Squier, Briony Penn, Harry Warner and Jo Lundstrom.



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regarding plans for our Beddis Road property

CELEBRATIONS

B Side Bash on March 31

Creativity and community converge

B Side Clothing is celebrating its 10th anniversary with good music, an awesome light show, fabulous dancers and good company at Beaver Point Hall next weekend.

Doors for the all-ages show open at 8 p.m. and performances begin at 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 31.

Performing brand new original beats off his soon-to-be-released EP is Vespers, who fuses technology and live instruments in his creative innovations.

"Vespers blends the soulful, funky sounds of live tenor saxophone over top of bass-heavy West Coast glitch music," says a press release from B Side's Mel Divers.

Ten-year beat master extraordinaire MaDD HaTTR will also perform his turntable trickology, and Fritz the Cat will bring his first-ever performance to Salt Spring.

"Co-founder of Perception Events, one of the most successful production labels based out of Vancouver, this up-and-coming talented artist will turn any beat into audible candy for your soul."

Cream Burlesque, "the creative and innovative dance troupe of the year," will also take the stage, as well as the GoGo Dancers.

Following the store's youth-supportive philosophy, a concession and raffle ticket sales will help the GISS Improv team fund its trip to the national championships in Ottawa in April.

Advance tickets cost \$16 at B Side or \$20 at the door.

VISUAL ARTS

Big questions tackled by OXO

Opens March 31
at ArtSpring

The long-awaited inaugural exhibition of the OXOgraphy Collective of Conceptual Artists opens at ArtSpring next Saturday, March 31.

Formed three years ago, Gillian McConnell and Anthony Matthews have worked independently and collaboratively to produce an enticing body of work.

In the exhibit, the artists aim to explore "what is art" and how "art can be determined, defined and realized" in the hands of the artist.

Having previously co-organized the Easter Art Tour, the artists have stepped down from that

role to be able to present their own work, which will encompass the tour weekend. The OXO show runs daily until Wednesday, April 11.

"This exhibit is about the branding of OXO, the presentation of our graphic and philosophical identity," explains press material. "Visitors to the exhibit can expect a dynamic experience, with painting, video, sculpture and graphics, all presented as a unified whole."

A reception will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 5 until 8 p.m., and an artists talk on Tuesday, April 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The group's attention-grabbing OXO road signs have appeared in the past week.

Murder, Wit, Nastiness, Fun, and — Whodunnit?
Murder by Membership Only – Mahon Hall March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24



Islands Trust

Secondary Suites – Land Use Bylaw Update

THE SSI LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO A PUBLIC DISCUSSION!

We have heard from the community that Secondary Suites are part of the solution for helping resolve the affordable housing dilemma on Salt Spring Island:

85.2% of homeowners surveyed agree the SSI Community would benefit from legalized suites;

50.7% of renters surveyed live in secondary suites;

We have also heard that water and septic concerns are among the key issues to resolve.

The Salt Spring Official Community Plan says to permit secondary suites incrementally and to limit the overall number of suites in order to monitor the impacts.

Islands Trust staff have proposed Pilot Areas to allow suites in some areas of the Island as a first step.

Staff have also recommended legalizing all suites (even outside of the proposed pilot areas) if they already exist at the time a bylaw is passed.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Saturday, March 31 2012 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
At the GISS Multi-purpose Room
(Gulf Islands Secondary School, 232 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island)

Wednesday, April 4 2012 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
At the Fulford Community Hall Senior's Centre
(2591 Fulford Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island)

PLEASE R.S.V.P.

Islands Trust Salt Spring Office 250.537.9144

Background Information Package provided with RSVP
More information is also available at:
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/ss/lubproject2010suites.cfm>



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE REVIEW

Audience laughter attests to success of SSCT Murder show

Two more shows only at Mahon Hall this weekend

BY TANYA LESTER
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A whodunit that works is wonderfully entertaining.

Murder by Membership Only, a comedy by Thomas Hischak, running at Mahon Hall for its final weekend on March 23 and March 24, is a great example of how community theatre works very well.

The set (thanks to Lolly B, Julianna Slomka and David Holt) exudes the classic murder scene sitting room setting: burgundy and gold drapes, shelves full of books and a comfortable couch.

What you do not expect is the play opening with a hot song and dance routine from the entire female cast. With lines about murder hurting the conscience less if you "try a two-some or a threesome" according to Mrs. Plimpton (played by Vera Algoet), the tone is set for an evening full of laughs.

Suzanna Laine's directing skills are apparent in the talented actresses' exaggerations of their lines and their stage moves. This is the key to good comedy.

If words could kill, jibes from the murder mystery writers — played by Marit McBride, Sue Walker and Ann Stewart — would have murdered almost everyone on the set. (Anyone who is a murder-mystery expert will realize that filling the play with authors of this genre is

a flash of genius that would impress even Agatha Christie, "the queen of crime.")

Less competitive and more gracious is Andrea Rankin's interpretation of the French murder mystery author called Madame LeCoq. Her accent is charming in her role among her more "cut-throat" colleagues. There is a nice balance here.

The pinnacle of British classist snobbery is reached when Octavia Sturges (played royally by Ann Stewart) drops her pen so her assistant acted by Randie Clark (who plays the role of grovelling underling with exactitude) has to crawl on the floor to retrieve it.

There are lots of juicy surprises as the play moves on to its conclusion.

The characters also include a journalist (played with a good believability by Amber Tuttle), an American murder mystery author (played by April Russell, who hilariously goes on and on as if she is writing a murder mystery while she is actually among the others "in real life" at the Orczy Club) and the maid to kick around.

The latter, played by Lolly

B, gets hers back a bit in her humourous style of serving milk and clunking sugar cubes into the others' tea cups. Come to think of it: so does an American. (Go to the play to find out why.)

There are lots of juicy surprises as the play moves on to its conclusion.

More than one of the actresses, who must remain nameless so as not to give away a key element of the plot, displayed great skill at convulsing and toppling over onto the conveniently placed couch.

Lighting on the set was tricky as the characters wandered and scurried around in the nooks and crannies of the stage. This was well done by Bobby Magee.

An added nice touch was piano playing during parts of the show by Ken Lee. (Who knew that Lee counts this among his many talents?)

It has been a dark and stormy winter on Salt Spring Island. If you have not seen this play yet (or would even like to go again), Murder by Membership Only will provide many much-needed laughs by an entire cast of intelligent actors who know how to do humour under the guidance of a fine director.

The remaining shows of this Salt Spring Community Theatre production begin at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24.

Pick up tickets at Salt Spring Books or at the door. They cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for those under 18 years old.

(Disclaimer: If the reviewer failed to provide a correct name or plot line, please do not murder her.)

ART EDUCATION

Behind-closed-studio-door talk offered by artist Sheila Norgate

At ArtSpring on March 29

A Gabriola Island artist is visiting Salt Spring next week with a spell-binding presentation called I Never Met a Blank Canvas I Didn't Like.

"Vincent Van Gogh once told his brother Theo that whenever he saw a blank canvas

staring him in the face he just slapped some paint on it," Sheila Norgate recounts in a press release about her Thursday, March 29 talk.

"How does one begin when meeting up with the blank canvas (or score, or manuscript): and then once underway, what keeps us to the promise we made when we started out? What keeps us return-

ing again and again to try and make sense (or not) of what is emerging?"

Norgate will "mud-wrestle" with these and other pressing questions in "a stirring and intimate 'warts and all' look at what really goes on behind the closed studio door" as she leads her audience through every step in the creation of recent paintings.

"It's like being a fly on the wall without getting paint on your pants," she says.

Norgate's presentation takes place at ArtSpring beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$12 and are available through ArtSpring.

For more information about the artist, see www.sheilanorgate.com.

LITERARY EVENT

Novelists Horsdal and Jordan hold evening of literature at Lions Hall

Families, history and new beginnings explored

Islanders are invited to a literary evening tonight, March 21, as authors Rosa Jordan and Marlyn Horsdal present Family, History and New Beginnings at Lions Hall.

Jordan's novel called The Woman She Was is described in press material as "a deeply moving novel that explores the aspirations, hopes and fears of contemporary Cubans, as well as the real dangers that they still face."

Jordan, from the B.C. Interior, is co-author of two travel guides to Cuba — Cycling Cuba and Cuba's Best

Beaches — among other books, and her first novel, Far From Botany Bay, won the One Book One Kootenay award for 2011.

Horsdal will read from her debut novel Sweetness from Ashes. As author Audrey Thomas states about the book, "Is there a family on earth that doesn't have a secret? In this fine and ambitious debut novel, Marlyn Horsdal explores the nature of secrets and feuds through the examination of a particular family when they are forced to travel across Canada and finally meet relatives they know little or nothing about."

Horsdal is a publisher, editor and writer. In 1984, she co-founded Horsdal & Schubart Publishers, and ran the company until it sold in 2002.

The March 21 event begins at 7 p.m.

People & Community

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

GARDENING

Expert helps island gardens grow with troubleshooting 'town hall'

This Saturday at Lions Hall with Linda Gilkeson

BY CAROLE LESLIE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

There's an old gardening quip that says gardeners learn by trowel and error.

On Saturday, March 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Lions Hall, Transition Salt Spring is hosting Get Ready For Your 2012 Garden — A Troubleshooting Town Hall with Linda Gilkeson to help us root out the error part.

If you've ever wondered why your spinach always goes to seed or why you can't grow great beets, your questions will be answered.

Gilkeson will help kick-start the garden season with lots of practical tips and mystery solving facts. No zucchini last year, the tiniest cauliflower ever? Gilkeson has help for that too. "Sometimes what we think is a pest problem is actually a weather problem," says Gilkeson. "We need to know the cause of the problem before we can solve it."



Linda Gilkeson

She's heard the most common garden problems over and over again in the many classes and talks she offers throughout B.C. Her talks are peppered

with humour, rounded out with slide illustrations and fuelled by her passion for organic gardening.

There will be lots of opportunity to ask questions and share gardening discoveries. Admission is by donation.

Gilkeson has been gardening on the coast for 25 years. With a Ph.D. in entomology, she has worked in both the private and public worlds.

She is the author of Backyard Bounty, Year Around Harvest: Winter Gardening on the

Coast, and West Coast Gardening: Natural Insect, Weed and Disease Control.

Linda is a regular instructor in master gardener programs and offers workshops and talks on organic gardening and pest management for community education programs, garden clubs and other groups.

If people have a particular question they want addressed at the March 24 session, they can email her ahead of time at gilkeson@shaw.ca.

ZEN

Meditation session leads to peace

All levels of meditators invited to event

"If we are unable to find tranquility within ourselves, it is useless to seek it elsewhere." So wrote Francois de la Rochefoucauld, a French nobleman in the 17th century.

"Did he know he would be quoted to reflect Zen teaching in the 21st century?" asks a press release from the Salt Spring Zen Circle group. "Probably not, but like many folks, he may not have been

aware that it is basic to Zen teaching that the path of liberation and awakening lies within every person and is available to everyone each moment of our lives."

For a few directions on the path, people are invited to attend Salt Spring Zen Circle's Monthly Half-day Meditation. It is open to all, from beginners to experienced meditators. Instruction is available for those new to the practice, and those who attend will be provided cushions or chairs for use during periods of meditation.

The sitting is at 210 Cedar Lane, from 7:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Sunday, March 25.

Periods of sitting and walking meditation are included as well as a dharma talk by Peter Levitt, a Zen teacher who has been practising for almost 40 years.

There is no fee but donations for the teacher are gratefully accepted, as he receives no other form of remuneration.

For more information or to register, call Simon Rompre at 250-537-1721.

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 7:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, TWVO 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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Be Part of Your Community!
Apply To Join an Advisory Committee.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee seeks advice from, and taps into the expertise of residents wishing to work on advisory committees. As community leaders and volunteers, we value your time and your ability to contribute.

The Committee is now receiving applications from interested community members to fill upcoming vacancies.

Our committees include:

- Advisory Planning Commission
- Advisory Design Panel
- Advisory Environment Committee
- Advisory Agriculture Committee

All applicants must be electors and residents of the Local Trust area.

If you are interested in participating in any of these committees, we invite you to apply in writing. Please provide a statement of interest, relevant experience and qualifications. Please identify the committee(s) for which you like to be considered. Applications should be addressed to:

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE, ISLANDS TRUST
1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8

Further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of advisory committee members as well as an application form may be obtained at the Islands Trust office, by email request through ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca, or on the Islands Trust website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca/tc/ss/default.cfm. We can also be reached at 250-537-9144.

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There are five rental models of west coast residential design; all are ground level; each has a private garden patio, and all are wheelchair accessible. The sunny location, next to Lady Minto Hospital and across from Country Grocer, is very convenient.

Heritage Place has a Hospitality/Respite Suite for a 3-90 day rental that is perfect for recuperation, seniors visiting, giving a caregiver a break, trying out seniors living, or for an emergency situation. Last minute reservations are sometimes possible.

We have vacancies and there is no obligation in being on our wait list. Come and see what is so special about Heritage Place!

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FOCUS ON EDUCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Co-op education prepares students for tomorrow's jobs

March 19 to 23 is Co-operative Education Week in B.C.

Study time for water engineering technology student Dave Swityk could mean hitting the books on campus at Okanagan College. Or it could mean a day on the job taking groundwater samples or stream gauging, or perhaps core logging at a mine site in northern British Columbia.

Co-op programs connect post-secondary students with paid on-the-job work experiences related to their fields of study. Each co-op program requires the student to complete a certain number of work terms and a certain number of academic terms, leading to a certificate, diploma or degree at the undergraduate or graduate level.

By the time Swityk gets his diploma in water engineering technology, he will have completed four academic semesters and three work semesters.

As a co-op student, Swityk has worked with Knight Piésold Consulting.

"Since being here I have been doing groundwater sampling, well development and steam gauging. This job is exactly the career I was looking for."

Co-op programs give students the opportunity to make some money while they apply their classroom studies in a practical environment, and the work experience establishes connections which help them land jobs once they graduate. The students meanwhile bring new ideas and perspectives to the workplace, and employers get a chance to take a good long look at potential future employees.

Currently, 17 B.C. public post-secondary institutions are running about 174 unique co-op programs in a wide range of areas from business administration, computer information systems and biotechnology to automotive service, economics, kinesiology and creative writing.

To promote awareness of the

value of co-operative education, the Province has proclaimed March 19 to 23, 2012 as Co-operative Education Week.

Why It Matters

Over the next decade, more than a million jobs will be available in British Columbia and three-quarters of them will require some post-secondary training. Co-op education programs make post-secondary education more relevant by giving students practical work experience related to what they're learning in class, better preparing them with the skills and connections they need to fill high demand jobs in British Columbia.

Quick Facts

- In 2011:
 - Approximately 10, 280 co-op placements were made by B.C. public post secondary institutions, an increase of 2.3 per cent over 2010.
 - More than 4,700 employers hired co-op students for work terms.
 - 65 per cent of work placements

were in the region local to the institution.

- 67 per cent of placements were in the private sector.
- The average monthly salary for co-op students was \$2,580.87.
- More than 360 placements were with the provincial government and more than 1,600 placements with provincial agencies in positions as diverse as communications, forestry, engineering and business administration.

Where?

B.C. universities that have co-op programs are: Capilano University, University of the Fraser Valley, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Simon Fraser University, Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, University of Northern British Columbia, University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University.

B.C. colleges that have co-op programs are: Camosun College, Douglas College, Langara College, North Island College, Okanagan

College, Selkirk College. British Columbia Institute of Technology also has co-op programs.

The Association for Co-operative Education British Columbia/Yukon is a provincial non-profit organization that promotes co-operative education to both employers and students.

Learn More

• To hire a co-op student or learn more about co-operative education programs in British Columbia visit the Association for Co-operative Education (ACE) website at www.co-op.bc.ca

• For more links to co-operative education sites, visit WorkBC at http://www.workbc.ca/career_pathways/learning/explore_learning_options.htm

• For information on post secondary-education in British Columbia and links to post-secondary institutions visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/aved/index.html>

Article and info contributed by B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education.

TEACHING

National teaching award nomination bestowed on Centre School teacher

Kate Richer appreciates validation

A Salt Spring Centre School teacher has been nominated for the prestigious national Prime Minister's Excellence in Teaching Award.

The school's senior class teacher, Kate Richer, who has taught at the school for seven years, has met qualifications in five areas of teaching, including "innovative and exemplary teaching practices, student skill development and student achievement and participation," explains Salt Spring Centre School material



Kate Richer

about the announcement. "Award winners will be chosen in 2012, and recipients

will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Ottawa to share best practices and be honoured by the Prime Minister."

Richer is naturally pleased about the nomination, which was made by school principal Carol Bremner.

"I always feel so much respect and appreciation from students, parents and administrators on a day-to-day basis," said Richer. "Just to be recommended for this award feels very validating of what I am trying to achieve in the classroom. I feel honoured to be included among the ranks of so many wonderful educators who are worthy of this kind of recognition."

Richer has taught various

grade levels, ranging from three through six, in her time at the school.

"She has developed and implemented the project based, service oriented, Leadership Program for students in the intermediate class. This program empowers students to make a difference in the world in which they live."

The federal government program will see up to 15 certificates of excellence for the national level, including a financial award of \$5,000, and 50 certificates (and \$1,000) at the regional level.

All winning teachers receive a certificate, a PMA pin and a letter of congratulations signed by the Prime Minister.

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BURSARY

Back-to-school bursary offered for mature islanders wanting to pursue health-care education

Hospital auxiliary aims to make a dent in Gulf Islands' health-care worker shortage

The Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society is introducing a new bursary this year to support a mature student from the Southern Gulf

Islands who wishes to register in a course of study in a health-care field.

The bursary, valued at \$2,000, will be awarded to an individual who left secondary school at least five years ago and who wishes to obtain the skills needed to re-enter the workforce at a higher level in health care.

The bursary is intended to support

improved employment for a resident of the Southern Gulf Islands and may also help in a small way to alleviate the growing need for health-care workers on the islands.

Application forms and criteria are available for pick-up at the front desk of the Thrift Shop, located next to the Driftwood office at Upper Ganges Centre.

The applications

and information may also be obtained by writing to the Scholarship Committee, Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society, 135 Crofton Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1T1.

Deadline for submission of application forms is March 31.

More information about the bursary program can be obtained by calling 250-653-4927.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

AWARDS

Salt Spring architect earns award for cruise ship terminal

Past and present influence design

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Checkwitch Poiron Architects, a newly formed architecture firm with an office on Salt Spring, has been awarded the 2012 Commercial Wood Design Award from WoodWorks B.C., an initiative of the Canadian Wood Council.

Architects Ben Checkwitch and David Poiron have proved they are an exciting creative force to watch with their very first project as a firm, the new cruise ship terminal at the Nanaimo Assembly Wharf. The sweeping modern form with elements of steel, glass and wood is completely contemporary yet speaks to the port's past as a shipping centre for the logging industry.

Checkwitch, who used to practice in New York but has lived on Salt Spring for the past four years, said the project is the probably the most important one he or Poiron have taken on as individuals and has been an important establishing mark for their new company.

"It was great to be recognized as Checkwitch Poiron right when we were starting off," he said.

"I was surprised by the number of people and the caliber of architects and engineers that were present [at the awards ceremony], so it was great to be recognized in that room."

The architects had just 12



Interior and exterior shots of the award-winning Nanaimo cruise ship terminal building.



months after winning the contract to complete both the design and the building itself, with the terminal set to open for passengers in May 2011. Checkwitch said Wood definitely played an important role in the design of the building, both as a material in itself and for its link to the past.

"The assembly dock was used for the shipping and processing of wood — there were three sawmills on the site — and the design speaks both to Nanaimo's past and its future, as a logging town that's looking to a new way to improve the economy."

"Wood is a material anyone can relate to," he added. "It's warming, and a natural place to go to for passengers to feel welcome."

On the local front, Checkwitch Poiron has created a schematic design as one possible avenue of development for the new owners of the Salt Spring Island Resort on

Bullock Lake. According to their website, the design goal was to create an environmentally sustainable and financially feasible plan to restore the site.

Upcoming projects include a boathouse for the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club on Long Lake. The architects are both also working on personal projects: Poiron is finishing up his house in Nanaimo and Checkwitch is building a cabin on Secret Island with help from local builder and mentor, Ian Mott.

The firm has recently opened a third office in Vancouver.

FAITH

Benedictine weekend highlights special events at All Saints church

Father Martin Brokenleg leads varied program

A weekend conference on the ancient monastic rule of St. Benedict will be held at All Saints By-the-Sea this weekend as part of the Anglican parish's program for personal and corporate spiritual growth this Lent.

The program will be led by Father Martin

Brokenleg from Victoria, a well-known Anglican priest in the region who also founded a group of Benedictine canons where members follow the rule of St. Benedict and share a life of prayer together, but do not live in formal monasteries. He will lead the group into an appreciation for the balance of work, prayer and relationships written of by St. Benedict in the 6th century and consider how it applies

to our lives today.

The Benedictine weekend begins with an introductory gathering on Friday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. that will end with night prayer (also known in monasteries as "compline").

On Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m., the life of several Benedictine monastic communities will be shared.

At 12:15 p.m. a simple celebration of the Eucharist will be held

in honour of the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord. Everyone is invited to bring a brown bag lunch and eat together following the Eucharist and sum up the day with Father Brokenleg, finishing at 2:30 p.m.

Registration in advance for the conference is by phone at the Anglican parish office (250-537-2171) or by e-mailing ssanglican@shaw.ca. The registration fee is \$10.

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SS United's Joelle Morrison gets the ball as her team runs away with another victory, 4-1 over Gorge on Saturday.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Salt Spring United Division-2 women advance to semifinals

Team tramples opponents in double header

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring United gave hometown fans plenty to cheer about over the weekend as the team trounced visitors in a pair of important matches.

First up for the women's Division-2 team was a regular season match against Gorge on Saturday afternoon.

Salt Spring jumped ahead on an early goal from Alice Pavley, who connected with a well-timed pass from Mardon Dary. Moments later, Jenny Langdon caught some fortunate bounces to give United a two-goal lead.

Sue-Anne Donaldson secured a three-

goal advantage by scoring a beauty just before halftime.

"She got on the end of a nice pass by Joelle Morrison and then fired it into the top corner with a bit of zip on it," said team manager Jordon Morrison in his post-game report.

Donaldson went on to score her second goal of the match to give the home team an insurmountable lead midway through the second half.

Tami Benoit's bid for a shutout was dashed as Gorge made a too-little-too-late effort to regain some dignity in a game that ended 4-1.

On Sunday, the women showed no sign of fatigue as they dumped the Castaways Over 30-A Squad 5-1 to seal a spot in the Stephanie Shergold Cup semi-finals.

Ashley Swinton

"They pulled one back to make it 4-1, but we quickly responded after that to squash any hopes of a comeback...."

JORDON MORRISON
 SS United spokesman

scored twice and Rhea Davidson got another as United put the game out of reach well before the end of the first half.

Donaldson scored her first of two second-half goals soon after

the break to effectively seal the victory — but the game wasn't over yet.

"They pulled one back to make it 4-1, but we responded quickly after that to squash any hopes of a comeback with a pretty goal. Joelle Morrison played a ball for Davidson that their keeper came to clear, and Davidson blocked the clearance and crossed it in for Donaldson, who was at full stretch to get a foot on it and smash it into the net," said Jordon Morrison.

Salt Spring United gets set for another double-header weekend as the women host a regular season match on Saturday and travel to Victoria for a semi-final cup bout against the Lakehill Reds on Sunday afternoon.

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RUNNING

Sneakers continue romp

Rick Laing crosses finish line despite lost shoe

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Not even a blown running shoe was enough to stall the Salt Spring Sneakers' rising fortunes during a half-marathon event in the Comox Valley on Sunday morning.

In an act of whole-hearted determination, Salt Spring's Rick Laing dipped a foot into the world of barefoot running by completing the final several hundred metres of the 22-kilometre event with a single shoe.

Laing's perseverance earned him a second-place finish in the M60-64 race category with a time of 1:32:49.

Richard Hayden topped the Sneak-

ers' two-runner contingent by crossing the finish line in 1:22:39. His time was strong enough to finish in 26th position among the race's 431 competitors. Hayden placed fourth in the M45-49 race category.

"Sneakerland must congratulate and thank our two stalwarts who ventured up for this gruelling event," said Sneakers team member Lynn Thompson after Sunday's race.

The stellar runs helped the Sneakers maintain a 10th-place standing in the Vancouver Island Race Series' 2012 season. The team's next event is a 15-kilometre race in Merville on April 1.

Individual point standings compiled over the past six races indicate Laing can win his age category by a wide margin if he participates in the VIRS' April 1 and April 15 events.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

LONDON OLYMPICS

Olympic fever gets cooking with Richard Clarke dinner

Five-time Olympian to host gourmet fundraiser at Auntie Pesto's on April 13



Canada's Olympic star-class sailing team member Richard Clarke, of Salt Spring Island.

Sailing fans and sports enthusiasts can expect to eat like an Olympian during an upcoming fundraising event for Richard Clarke's journey to the 2012 Summer Olympic in London.

Only 40 tickets for what's billed as an "intimate evening of stories and gourmet food" at Auntie Pesto's Cafe in Ganges are now on sale for the April 13 event.

"Richard will be telling plenty of tall tales from the Olympic trail and will have an exciting video presentation," said Andrea Scanlan, Richard's spouse and fundraising coordinator.

The event will include time

Clarke leaves for London, England in July.

More than 150 individuals have paid up to \$50 per person to have their names printed on the hull of Clarke's Olympic Star sailboat. The campaign to reach 2012 names in time for the games is being organized through www.getonboard.ca. Tax-deductible receipts are available for donations made to the cause.

The effort is still about \$85,000 short of its \$96,000 goal, but the fundraising team is optimistic that, as Olympic fever builds, more people will become aware of the situation and help out where and when they can.

Middle and high school students will also get a chance to see, hear and speak with Clarke about his extensive offshore and Olympic sailing experience during a special general assembly in April.

for discussion and participants' questions. Tickets for the dinner cost \$100 each and are available through ArtSpring.

The evening is among several fundraising initiatives in store for islanders before

MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys regain winning ways as Alumni FC clinches top spot

Alumni plays final home game of the season on Sunday

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys shut down their opponents early and never looked back as players cruised to a 1-0 victory against the Athletics 50 on Sunday morning.

"The Old Boys had a change of strategy," said team spokesperson Graham Tweddle in his post-game report. "Instead of giving up early goals, we defended in numbers."

With the game locked in

a scoreless draw at the half, Mark Aston finally gave the Old Boys the lead in front of home-island fans at the GISS field.

In spite of several close calls throughout the second half, the Old Boys persevered to claim a well-deserved win.

"Mike Davis was a constant threat with his brilliant runs to the corner flags, causing all sorts of trouble for the opposition's defence," Tweddle said.

The Old Boys' final home game of the season is against the Cowichan Masters on Sunday morning at the GISS field. Kickoff is set for 10:30 a.m.

In other men's soccer

action over the weekend, Salt Spring's Alumni FC clinched top spot in its division with a decisive 2-0 victory against Vancouver Island Soccer League rivals Bays United on Sunday.

The victory gives Alumni a 14-1-2 record with two games left to play. Alumni plays its final home game of the season against second-place Westcastle United (13-2-4) on Sunday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Division 2's Salt Spring FC men's squad hosts its final game of the season on Saturday, March 31 at 2:15 p.m. at Portlock Park against Powell River.

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- Carlos Manzano: 215, 155.
- Jim Beck: 148, 140, 192, 143.
- Stuart Elliot: 188.
- Scott Jessey: 151, 175.

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2011 Award Winners



The Association of BC Forest Professionals recognized the following individuals at our recent conference and AGM.



Honourary Member – Glynis Horel, PEng, FEC

Glynis Horel was given the ABCFP's highest honour for her work creating practice improvements that have led to enhancements in the stewardship of all forest resources. Glynis' knowledge in watershed and riparian zone management has led to better construction and maintenance of forest roads, advancements in the management of sensitive slopes, and improved management of riparian areas and streams.

She regularly shares her knowledge with forest professionals, ENGOS, First Nations, government and industry. She is never content with what she knows and is continually learning and studying to improve her knowledge.



Honourary Member – Gordon Prest

Gordon has dedicated 50 years of his life to forestry in BC. He spent 25 years working for the BC Forest Service ending and then switched careers to work with Aboriginal forestry students. He left a lasting legacy in the form of laddering programs between Nicola Institute of Technology forestry programs and forestry degrees at UBC as well as his personal mentorship of at least 20 Aboriginal RPFs.

After he "retired" from paid employment, Gordon continued to care for BC's forests and Aboriginal peoples through his work on the ABCFP council as a lay member. He was instrumental in fostering relationships between the ABCFP and Aboriginal groups around the province.



Forest Technologist of the Year – Jonathan Lok, RFT

Jonathan was presented with this award due to his dedication to his company, community and the profession. In addition to his successes running one of the largest forest management consultancies in BC, Jon helped his community to be named the Forest Capital of BC in 2010. Jon is a director on several boards, including; the North Island Community Forest, the Port McNeill Marine Rescue Society and the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce.

Professionally, he was instrumental in ensuring Registered Forest Technologists (RFTs) were accepted into the ABCFP as equals and served as the ABCFP's first RFT president.

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DEATHS	DEATHS	CARDS OF THANKS	COMING EVENTS	COMING EVENTS	INFORMATION	INFORMATION



DORINNE MAVIS DENTON

Dorinne Mavis Denton (Koots) died March 13, 2012, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. She is remembered as a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who unfailingly supported her family through both good times and bad.

Dorinne was born in Sylvan Lake, Alta. She attended Hollingshead Business College of Alberta in 1952. From 1953-1955 she covered the Prairie provinces, direct selling for Grolier Co. of Vancouver, as well as Book of Knowledge encyclopedia. After marrying John Denton from Vancouver she stayed home to attend to her responsibilities as homemaker and mother from 1956 to 1961. Dorinne worked for the Haney Gazette before the family moved to Australia in 1963, where she helped John with his franchise business. The Dentons returned to Canada in 1966 and in 1973 she took the receptionist course at Vancouver Tech. Following that, she helped run Denton Farms Equestrian for more than 30 years.

Dorinne was somewhat of a surrogate mother to the many 'horsey' girls and boys who had the privilege of visiting her homes in Southlands in Vancouver and later on Saltspring Island. A consummate hostess, she was always quick to offer coffee, goodies and cheerful counsel. Dorinne and John were heavily involved in the equestrian community in Maple Ridge, Vancouver, Langley and latterly Saltspring Island. They were among the early proponents of developing a homegrown sport horse industry and their broodmares produced many fine competition horses.

She is survived by daughters Laura (David Schmidt) and Lynne (Mark Hughes), grandchildren Robert Cable (Doris) and Patricia Denton, great-grandchildren Lance, Maximo and Roxanna, sister Bonnie, sister-in-law Norma, nieces, a nephew and special longtime friend Desmond Champion, as well as her beloved dog Oreo.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (palliative care), where Dorinne received such compassionate and loving care in her last days. Special thanks also to Dr. David Woodley, Dr. Crossland, Sue Banks and the Saltspring Ambulance Service.

Thank You
The family of Katie Gardner would like to thank all of the staff and nurses at Greenwood for their special care and kindness.

COMING EVENTS

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Dr. Frederick P. Waugh, BSc, MD 1923-2012

Surrounded by family, Dr. Fred Waugh died on March 15, 2012 at Lady Minto Hospital. He was 88. Fred was the youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Waugh of Carberry, MB, and husband of Dorothy J. Waugh (Friskin) his devoted and loving wife, who has been at his side for 59 years.

He will always be remembered by his five children, Jane (John), Robin, Keith (Kristin), Clive, and Liam Waugh, as the finest of fathers. He was the best of granddads to Jilian, Jake, Samuel, and Hunter; Anne and Colin; Brendan, Andrew, and Nicole. In addition, their great-granddad will be missed by Ava and Hazel. He was predeceased by his brothers Perry, Jack, and George. His sister, Mrs. Frances Fasken (nee Waugh), cherishes her brother and continues to live in Barrie Ontario. He is also remembered by many nieces and nephews, former colleagues, neighbours, and friends.

Fred grew up in Carberry MB, and, after several years of military service during the Second World War, he received his MD at the University of Manitoba in 1953. In the middle of the 1950s, he began his 40 year association with the Winnipeg Clinic. Throughout his career he showed passionate dedication to the practice of medicine. As part of his work in occupational medicine, he travelled extensively to interesting places all over the world, including parts of Canada's north.

He retired from his practice in 1994; he and Dorothy moved to Salt Spring in that same year. He was a well known volunteer in many roles within several organizations, both in Winnipeg and within the Salt Spring community. His service was very generous to the parishes of St. George's Anglican Church, Crescentwood, in Winnipeg, and to the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island. Fred also had lifelong interests in gardening, painting, art appreciation, antique collecting, and music of all kinds. He enjoyed camping and cottage life, particularly at Austin Lake, ON.

Cremination has taken place. The funeral was held on Tuesday March 20th 2012 at 1:00 pm at St. Mark's church.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Reznick and the staff of Lady Minto hospital for the quality of their care, and their sensitivity and kindness.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS



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Bye bye. Bye bye.

In loving memory of

Doris Phillips

April 22, 1922 to March 5, 2012

Doris Bennisson was born in Cheshire, England on April 22nd, 1922. When she was 18 she went to war, and in 1943 she married her darling Hughie and became Doris Phillips. Soon she discovered her true calling and became Mum. The family moved to Ontario in 1958, and in 1980 settled in Fulford Harbour on Saltspring Island, where they stayed. During all these years Doris worked a special magic on all whose lives she touched, forming bonds of the spirit that will never be broken. Doris broke the bonds of pain on March 5th at Lady Minto Hospital. Now she can be with us all, wherever we may wander.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Extended Care and to Fran and Debbie, who learned to love Doris in the hardest times. A celebration of her life will be held in April.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

Re: The estate of **WALTER FLOERCKE**. Deceased, formerly of Greenwood 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



News Updates

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DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

classified@gulfislands.net

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

BRING YOUR BRANCHES!

Saturday, March 31; 10 am to 2 pm

TWO LOCATIONS:
South Island:
Hope Hill Farm 235 Musgrave Rd.
North Island:
SSI Golf & Country Club, 805 Lower Ganges Rd.

Branches and clippings wanted for composting by island farmers.
Clean up your yard and help island farmers.

CLEAN MATERIAL ONLY

YES	NO
✓ YES branches	X NO invasive species (blackberry, gorse, broom etc.)
✓ YES trimmings	X NO stones, plastic, garbage
	X NO food waste

If you have more than a pickup truck of branches, or for more information, please call 250-537-2616

Bring Your Branches is part of the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance's Pilot Composting Demonstration Project. Funding support provided by Vancity.

BCSPCA

Join the BC SPCA Salt Spring Island Branch on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 for our Annual General Meeting. New and old members welcome! We will be electing members of the Community Council, as well as conducting any other branch business.

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012
Time: 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Portlock Park Community Room
145 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island

For further information on the meeting or to obtain a copy of the draft agenda, please email us at saltspring@spca.bc.ca or call 250-537-2123.

The BC SPCA is a non-profit organization funded primarily by public donations. Our mission is to prevent cruelty and to promote the welfare of animals through a wide range of services, including cruelty investigations, emergency rescue and treatment, sheltering and adoption of homeless and abused animals, humane education, advocacy, farm animal welfare, spay/neuter programs, and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation

LEGAL NOTICES LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO MODIFY LIQUOR LICENCE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider a Resolution to provide input to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch on the addition of a new licensed area for 124 Upper Ganges Road (Moby's Pub). The purpose of the application (SS-LCB-2012.1) is to increase the liquor primary license and cancel the food primary license for the pub.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is expected to consider the proposed licence change at its regular business meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2012 beginning at 9:30 AM at Hart Bradley Hall (Lions Club), 103 Bonnet Avenue, Ganges. Please refer to the posted agenda available on the Islands Trust Website <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/lc/ss/agendas.cfm> at the beginning of that week for an indication of where this application is to be placed on the agenda.

Enquiries or comments concerning this application should be directed to Robert Steinbach at Mobys.ca (124 Upper Ganges Road, talktous@mobys.ca or 250-537-5559) and Caitlin Brownrigg at the Salt Spring Island office of the Islands Trust cbrownrigg@islandstrust.bc.ca or 250 537 9144.

NEWS UPDATES

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INFORMATION

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INFORMATION

Salt Spring Singers Community Scholarships

Salt Spring Singers community choir is offering two \$400 scholarships to members of the Salt Spring Island community who wish to pursue music studies. Preference will be given to candidates who intend to study voice and/or are members of a community or school choir.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday, April 10, 2012. For more information and an application package, please go to www.saltspringisland.org/scholarships.html or call Rosemary Wallbank at (250) 537-4398.



salt spring island FOUNDATION

Connecting your giving with island needs

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

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

www.saltspringislandfoundation.org

INFORMATION INFORMATION



Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society

Announces a new **\$2000⁰⁰** "BACK TO SCHOOL" BURSARY

Recipients must be mature students pursuing a career in a health related field. Information and application forms available at the Thrift Store located at the back of the Upper Ganges Center next to The Driftwood.

FOR INFORMATION CALL 250-653-4927

What do YOU think are Salt Spring's most critical needs?

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is conducting the 2012 Community Needs Online Survey from March 15 to April 15 and invites responses from all islanders, including members of the island's not-for-profit organizations. The survey results will enable the Foundation and other funding organizations to make granting decisions that consider the priorities set forth by members of the community.

To make your voice heard, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/SSIFoundation or visit our website at www.saltspringislandfoundation.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 or at the PARC office. Call 537-4448 or email ssiparc@crd.bc.ca.



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COMING EVENTS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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APPLY NOW: Pennywise Scholarship For Women to attend Journalism certificate course at Langara College in Vancouver. Deadline May 30, 2012. More information: www.bccommunitynews.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Please join us for a reading by authors

Marilyn Horsdal Rosa Jordan

Sweetness from Ashes Family History New Beginnings

TONIGHT! MARCH 21, 7 PM LIONS HALL

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INFORMATION

INFORMATION

INFORMATION

NOTICE OF 2012 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS OF THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes. Starting at noon, up to 45 minutes will be available for the public to discuss local land use matters with the Local Trust Committee. Those who wish to present a more formal petition, or make a delegation to the Committee as an agenda item, must make a request to the Islands Trust staff at least 14 days in advance of the meeting.

Regular business meetings are scheduled for:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday April 5	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday April 26	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday May 17	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday June 7	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday July 5	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday August 2	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday August 30	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday September 20	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday October 11	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday November 8	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday November 22	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
Thursday December 13	9:30 AM	ArtSpring, Multi-Purpose Rooms, 100 Jackson Ave.

The proposed meeting agenda is usually available one week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office or on our website. Please note that correspondence received from the public about general matters may become part of a meeting agenda that is published online. Visit our website at www.islandstrust.bc.ca Contact us at (250) 537-9144

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MODERN UPPER suite in Vesuvius. Approx. 300sf. Forest views, on bus route, walk to Vesuvius Ferry, hydro & water included, suit single person only, N/P, NS, avail immediately, long term. \$600. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

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2007 FORD F-250 Super Duty, auto, V10, 4x4, Air, Tilt, Cruise, \$17,500. 250-537-7559 or 250-537-8396.

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MASSAGE CLASSES. "Fusion Works" includes hot stones, Thai, Balinese massage. 3 day intensive, this March. 2 day "Thai on the Table". 3 day "Traditional Thai Massage" Kristie Straarup R.M.T. 250-537-1219, www.academyofmassage.ca.

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

Salt Spring Photos

A daily Salt Spring Island photo at:
SaltSpringPhotos.com

This Week's **Horoscope** by **Michael O'Connor**
www.sunstarastronomy.com
sunstarastronomy@gmail.com
1.888.352.2936

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The New Moon in your sign will activate your focus. You will feel the desire to take some key initiatives and perhaps make a few important investments. The biggest challenge stands to know what these are. Preparing the ground for future prospects is likely, yet the bulk of your focus will be upon planning and visualizing.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)
The desire and perhaps even the need to take some time out are in focus. You may feel inspired to attend to small projects and perhaps engage in some socializing, yet avoiding big projects and events will prove appealing. Sharing dreams and quieter time with friends will prove most satisfying. Yet, your ambitions will be brewing all the while.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
Some activation in the friendship department is likely to produce some festive occasions. With a new season underway someone has to stir things-up. Yet, you are also in the mood to try it safe. Gatherings with family and close friends could be the ticket. That could be the ideal opportunity to get an early start on spring cleaning. Now, who to enlist to help...?

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
The time has come to be more assertive. This may take others and even you by surprise. Feeling confident about your ideas and choices may not be so easy yet you will feel moved to try. Family and or friend time will prove extra important. Yet, you will have to take the lead.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)
You have entered a complicated period that could leave you feeling a little lost. There will be some adventure, however, which will keep things interesting. If you have plans to make, do it now unless you can wait until mid April. Do gather whatever tools and techniques you feel you need even if investment in required. Above all, go easy on yourself.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
The time has come to do some extra investigative work. Taxes, debts, investments, inheritances and/or litigation are all likely categories. Spiritual, philosophical or other scholarly studies could also prove extra appealing. What constitutes fairness, justice and balance in general will prompt your focus into the deeper reaches.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)
Something new is being activated in your relationships. While significant others are likely involved, the emphasis is upon the relationship you have with your own self and sense of individuality. This is prompting you to dig beneath the surface. The good news is that there is gold in there. The tricky part is that these riches are linked to others.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)
Changes in your lifestyle will be sparked by this New Moon. Some of these may come about as if suddenly. You may still not feel as though you are standing on solid ground and may not for a while yet, so remain patient and flexible. Positively, definite signs of improvement and increase in your relationships give reason to be grateful.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)
The time has come to take some creative leads. Many ideas are running through your mind, but taking action is another issue. The time is right to at least take some preliminary measures. Knowing what you want is a good first step. By the time of the Full Moon anyway you will ideally have taking key risks and measures to initiate a plan of action.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)
Some shifting and shaking can be expected close to home over the next few weeks. No body will have to ask or tell you since you will act independently. If you feel blocked, family members will likely hear about it. Yet it is probably your own subconscious fears that are in the way. The key is to give yourself permission to do what you feel you want and must.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)
Many new thoughts and perceptions will be activated by this lunar cycle. Making efforts to be understanding of and understood by significant others could pose some challenges. Seeing through and beyond surface realities will bring rewards. Things are not always what they seem and if you have any doubts, take your time to probe for answers that have a future.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
This New Moon will spark you into action. It may feel like you have been climbing a slippery slope lately. A general distrust or lack faith in others or concerns about their impressions on you may be holding you back. These are likely unfounded and a good way to find out is to be more direct in your communications. Get clear on what you want and act upon it now!

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ISLAND WHEELS

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

NEW CAR REVIEW

Lexus proves going green isn't all sacrifice

RX 450h 2012 hybrid sport luxury SUV

BY NEIL MOORE
METROLAND MEDIA
WHEELSTALK.COM

I've always considered the hybrid SUV a bit of an oxymoron.

You know, like jumbo shrimp, civil war and educational TV.

Seriously folks, if you're really concerned about fuel consumption and carbon footprint, is a two-ton-plus truck the best option?

Sure we all have groceries, kids and sports teams, but I can think of several compact hatchbacks able to haul a family of four (or five) along with two or three hockey bags.

And if you're still stuck on a hybrid, how about the Prius?

The way I see it, big hybrids — especially luxu versions like the Lexus RX 450h, my tester for the week — are a way for the well-heeled to assuage their guilt. At least some of them.

The "h" stands for hybrid, but even the non-battered RX models don't come cheap. Starting just below \$45,000, the

well-equipped base RX 350 can climb to nearly \$63,000 if you want the full-blown tech and luxury treatment.

The hybrid, on the other hand, begins at \$59,700. And it is even more loaded than the entry RX 350, so you're not paying nearly \$15,000 just for the sake of going green.

The RX 450h is powered by a 24-valve DOHC 3.5-litre V6 with dual VVT-I. The same engine as in the RX 350. But whereas in the non-hybrid, it delivers 275 hp and 257 lb/ft of torque, it only puts out 245 hp in the 450h.

But don't feel cheated. This powertrain works together with Lexus Hybrid drive, which includes three high-torque electric motors: two in front and one in rear. Depending on your power requirements, these seamlessly cut in and out when needed.

Together, the gas-electric combo provides 295 net horsepower. It may not rock your world, but with the electric motors providing nearly instantaneous torque, the RX 450h takes off plenty quick when you stomp on the pedal.

Even with the added weight of the hybrid powertrain — the 450h weighs

LEXUS continued on 27

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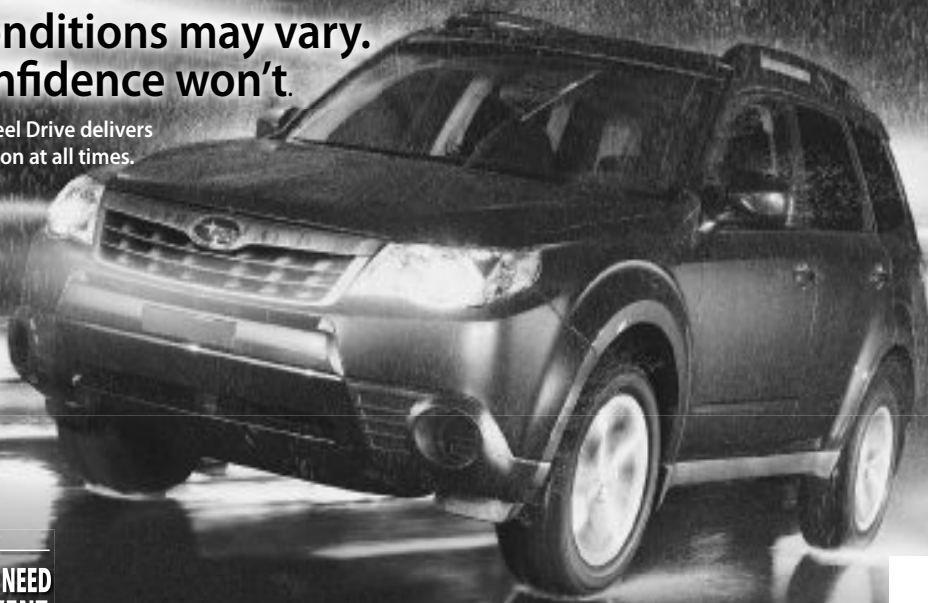
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*Model shown is a 2012 Forester 2.5X SMT (CVT) with MSRP of \$30,015 including freight, PDI, \$319.95 destination fee, license, taxes, title, and registration. Actual MSRP may vary. **0.9% finance and lease rates available on all new 2012 Forester models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Dealer credit rates may be necessary. **Offer valid until April 3, 2012. Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for 40 mph frontal offset, 31 mph side-impact and 20 mph rear-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). A "Good" rating obtained in all three crash tests plus a "Good" rating in a new roof strength testing and the availability of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) (Vehicle Dynamics Control) achieves a 2012 Top Safety Pick. Based on ALG's 2012 Residual Value Award for any mainstream brand.

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**MSRP is \$19,135 including freight and PDI of \$1,295. For all offers, license, insurance, applicable taxes and registration are extra. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer trade may be required. #limited time lease offers based on a new 2012 Civic Sedan LX SMT model FB2E4CEX. Lease example based on a new 2012 Civic Sedan LX SMT model FB2E4CEX. Lease example based on a new 2012 Civic Sedan LX SMT model FB2E4CEX available through Honda Canada Finance Inc. 1.99% lease APR for 48 months O.A.C. Monthly payment, including freight and PDI, is \$179. Downpayment of \$2,817 OAC. First monthly payment, environmental fees and \$0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$11,409.09. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance charge of \$0.12 / km for excess kilometre. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer trade may be required. *7/yr. Offers valid only for British Columbia residents at BC Honda Dealers locations. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. Visit www.bchonda.com or see your Honda retailer for full details.