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Gay-Johnson family on Food Network TV show.
PAGE 23

Agri-Culture!
PAGES 18-21



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 52ND YEAR — ISSUE 9 **\$1.25** (incl. HST)

EDUCATION

Teachers dispute hits the streets

Protest, LRB ruling and provincial legislation rolled out in 24-hour period

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. teachers received conditional approval from the Labour Relations Board to strike and saw the province take that right away all within a few hours on Tuesday.

Education Minister George Abbott tabled legislation under the Education Improvement Act to extend the teachers' previous contract without a raise. They will have until June 30 to negotiate a settlement with help from a mediator, but individuals will be fined \$475 per day and the union could be fined \$1.3-million per day if a strike occurs.

Teachers have been working without a contract since June 2011 and have participated in job action since school started last September. At issue are a proposed 15 per cent wage increase, class sizes and class composition with respect to special needs students.

B.C.'s "net zero" mandate requires public sector contracts to hold the line, so wage increases are only possible through loss of other areas such as benefits.

The LRB ruling had given teachers permission to walk off the job for three consecutive teaching days providing they gave two days' notice. With teachers voting on whether to take advantage of the option up to today (Wednesday), it is not known whether they will be able to strike before the government legislation is passed.



Gulf Islands School District teachers hold signs as they walk along Lower Ganges Road Monday afternoon as part of province-wide union action to push a contract settlement.

PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TEACHERS continued on 2

OLYMPIC DREAMS

Sailor Clarke seeks 2012 teammates

Final push for Olympics gets sponsors on board — literally

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring sailor Richard Clarke and his teammate Tyler Bjorn are hoping they won't be the only two on board when they sail their Olympic dreams to the podium this summer.

In fact, they're looking for 2012 people to join them in Weymouth, England.

The new additions will be there in name only, an innovative new fundraising idea that puts local heroes' names where corporate sponsor logos usually go. For just \$50 a pop, or \$25 for people under 19, donors will see their names go down in history as being part of an Olympic dream.

This will be the fifth time Clarke has participated in the Olympic Games, only the 16th Canadian to compete in as many. He and Bjorn are currently ranked sixth in the world in their class. But as close as they come to being star athletes, they have not secured the interest of major

well-heeled sponsors.

"Guys from other countries have big corporate logos on their sails, and Richard's got a Canadian flag," Clarke's wife Andria Scanlan said.

"Athletes get very little support by big business in Canada."

Since quitting his job two and a half years ago to devote himself full time to the Olympic dream, Clarke has relied on private savings and smaller donations to make that dream a reality.

OLYMPICS continued on 4

FIRE Byron Road cabin goes up in flames

Chimney fire spreads quickly in small residence

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue could not arrive in time to save a small cabin on Byron Road after a chimney fire rapidly spread and engulfed the entire building Monday afternoon.

Fire chief Tom Bremner said the cabin's resident heard a noise and then noticed the fire in the chimney's wood stove, which almost immediately spread to an interior wall.

The man did not have a phone but left the building to alert neighbours. The dry and cedar-shingle-covered structure burnt down to the timber beams within about 15 minutes.

Firefighters remained on scene to keep the fire from spreading to other structures on the property. A bus parked directly beside the building was also destroyed.

The cabin's resident, Pat Dickson, was treated for minor smoke inhalation on site and also spent Monday night at Lady Minto Hospital for observation, said property owner Tracy Stibbards.

"I'm just grateful that Pat is OK," she said Tuesday.

FIRE continued on 2

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NEWSBEAT

Local teachers cite service cuts and classroom issues

TEACHERS

continued from 1

Acting in anticipation of the legislation, Gulf Islands teachers joined those across the province in conducting lunchtime strategy meetings and staging an after-school protest on Monday.

Local teachers attending Monday's protest said the wage increase is not the bottom line. Service levels, funding cuts and escalating requirements for special needs students in classrooms and teachers' participation in the new education plan were listed as top concerns.

Gulf Islands Secondary teacher Bo Curtis was teaching the last time B.C. teachers had a negotiated contract, in 1994. He said teachers were out in protest because they were fed up, "Because we're about to be told [by the government] 'Not only are we not going to negotiate, we're not even going to talk about negotiating anymore [because] we've got all the power, we're the big guys.'"

Curtis said district teachers have enjoyed a good relationship with local administration and trustees, but even at the local level there has been no movement.

"It feels a little foreign to be doing this on Salt Spring, but it feels very

frustrating to be told, 'We can't do anything because our hands are tied.'"

Jim Lightfoot, a teacher at Fulford Elementary for 25 years, said he's witnessed the erosion of services year after year, which makes it difficult to help the kids teachers are there to support.

"It's frustrating to have a government that wants to act unilaterally. We need to have a conversation of compromise, and that's what I don't see. I don't see that willingness."

Sarah Kerrigan, a kindergarten teacher with two young daughters of her own, said she was shocked

when full-day kindergarten was implemented without additional support for teachers from educational assistants.

"They go from a one to eight ratio in preschool to one to 22 in kindergarten," she said.

"I don't think people realize how challenging it is to keep 22 kids cared for during a full day."

Kerrigan said when she started teaching 10 years ago on Galiano Island, there was funding for an early success program to help all students get on the road to reading by Grade 1. That funding has now been redirected to help fund special needs hours because the ministry

isn't providing adequate means.

"With the bottom 10 per cent not getting that support, I feel like I'm failing," Kerrigan said.

The Education Improvement Act includes legislating a new fund to address class size and special needs support, with \$30 million extra promised this year, \$60 million next year and \$75 million each year after that. The B.C. Teachers' Federation has said that amount is too little.

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FR	06:56	2.8 9.2	MO	09:20	2.5 8.2
	09:35	2.8 9.2		13:34	2.8 9.2
	18:20	1.0 3.3		20:50	0.9 3.0
03	03:05	3.0 9.8	06	04:23	3.1 10.2
SA	08:20	2.7 8.9	TU	09:47	2.3 7.5
				14:43	2.9 9.5
				21:31	0.9 3.0



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

At top and left, prayer flags make an unusual backdrop for fighting fire at a Byron Road property on Monday, while above, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue personnel replace an oxygen tank.

FIRE

continued from 1

"It's unfortunate, but thank you so much to the firefighters for responding so quickly."

In addition to Monday's structure fire, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue has attended eight chimney fires in 2012. Three of those, including Monday's fire, occurred in the past week.

All other incidents were contained with minor damage.

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Newsbeat

Heads up!

Trust Policy Statement Meeting
 Thursday, MARCH 1
 Harbour House, 5 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT

Parks Canada launches Russell Island biocell project

Project highlights low-impact solution for contaminated sites

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A unique technique to restore a contaminated site on a Parks Canada property south east of Salt Spring Island proves big changes don't always require big footprints.

"If we can go in and clean things up without introducing any harmful elements that's a good thing," said Janet Mercer, an environmental assessment coordinator at Parks Canada.

The site in question is on Russell Island, a property within the Gulf Islands Natural Park Reserve about 200 metres off Salt Spring near the entrance to Fulford Harbour.

The island is known as the former homestead of Maria Mahoy, a strong, resilient and independent island pioneer born to Hawaiian and First Nation parents in 1855.

Since Parks Canada bought the property in 1997, Russell Island has become known to many

as a premier destination for picnickers, paddlers, beachcombers and history buffs.

Many of those who've travelled to the island's original homestead property, especially in the summer, may also be familiar with the stench of gasoline and diesel fumes that emanates from the site's former fuel tank and generator station.

"It just stinks and that doesn't set a very good example (for people who visit the Parks Canada properties)," Mercer said.

Mercer initiated what's become known as the biocell project in 2011 thanks to federal funding provided to support the remediation of contaminated sites across the country.

Because the extent of the site's contamination is limited to hydrocarbons, the property was ideal for a process that relies on naturally occurring bacteria in the soil to do much of the clean-up work.

By placing all 11,000 kilograms (25,000 pounds) of the contaminated soil in a very large kiddie-pool-like basin, adding nitrogen, stirring regularly, and covering for several months,



Biocell treatment area at Russell Island.

the bacteria break down carbon atoms in the contaminants. If everything moves along as planned, Mercer said, the pollutants should be fully broken down in less than a year. When the process is finished, the soil will be transferred back to its original site, and the biocell rolled up and taken away.

For hard-to-reach and fairly sensitive sites like Russell Island, Mercer said, the biocell approach is an ideal way to cut down on expenses and disturbance to surrounding vegetation. Furthermore, she added, the process not only avoids the costly and time-consuming process of transport-

ing contaminated material elsewhere, it also precludes having to ship in soil, which can often lead to the introduction of invasive species.

"In most cases they'll just dig it all up and replace it with clean soil but, because it's on an island, if you take it off you have to bring something back on," she said. "The idea of treating it on site was the least invasive and the best option from an ecological perspective."

Of the four contaminated areas identified on Parks Canada's southern Gulf Islands' properties, Mercer said, only the Russell Island site was eligible for the biocell because of



Fuel stand on Russell Island where fuel had been stored in the past.

its lack of any metal contaminants.

"If that area had a lot of metal, a recommendation may have come back that it wasn't feasible to clean up with the biocell," she said.

Apart from the technique's limitations, Mer-

cer said she is thrilled to be part of Parks Canada's modest yet meaningful effort to restore a part of the Gulf Islands unique ecosystem while setting an example to show how contaminated sites on public and private lands can be managed more effectively.

News briefs

FOR THE RECORD

Faulty reading of Islands Trust website material led to a mistake in last week's editorial about the Trust Policy Statement review. The Trust proposes to spend \$133,000 of its reserve funds in total over a three-year period, not a total of \$400,000 as stated, plus a \$250,000 Canada Gas Tax Fund planning grant. The gas tax funds could also not be spent on other infrastructure projects since they come from a different category of the Canada Gas Tax Fund.

• Also, in a Page 3 photo of Stewards in Training stu-

dents, the names should have read, from left, Aaron Elsser, Jason Headrick, volunteer Tom Mitchell, Paul Charowsky and Mana Lief.

Dry grad fundraiser

The annual BC Liquor Stores dry grad fundraising campaign kicked off on Feb. 25.

Until March 31, Ganges and Pender Island BC Liquor Store customers can donate \$1 or more to support dry grad celebrations for the Gulf Islands Secondary School class of 2012.

Chocolates are given to customers in recognition of their donation.

Last year, BC Liquor Stores customers throughout the province contrib-

uted a total of \$512,604 in support of dry grad events.

The program is now in its 12th year and has raised more than \$3.9 million toward alcohol-free graduation events in B.C.

The World to drop anchor again

The planet's largest privately owned yacht will return to Salt Spring waters this summer when The World anchors off Ganges Harbour.

The collectively owned cruise ship hosts 165 luxury apartments. Residents live on board and spend the entire year circumnavigating the globe, choosing a different itinerary each year.

The World is scheduled to stop at Salt Spring on the evening of July 14 en route to the northern coast. It was last seen here in June of 2009, when it anchored for two nights in Captain's Passage.

Arson attempt on Isabella Point Road

Salt Spring RCMP discovered a failed arson attempt when they attended the scene of a break and enter on Isabella Point Road on Saturday.

Members from the local detachment determined that a culprit or culprits had broken into, ransacked and

attempted to set fire to a cottage located at 110 Isabella Point Rd. They secured the residence overnight and an Island District RCMP forensic specialist examined the scene the following day.

Fingerprint and DNA evidence was recovered. There were no injuries and the cottage received only minor damage. Police do not believe that the crime was a random event but that the victim was targeted.

Members from Salt Spring Fire-Rescue are assisting local police in determining the cause of the fire. The matter remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Salt Spring RCMP at 250-537-5555.

In other police news:

• On Friday morning police received a report of a vehicle driving erratically from Ganges toward Vesuvius. They located the vehicle on Vesuvius Bay Road and stopped the female driver. Police found she had not consumed any alcohol but likely became impaired after consuming a large amount of Ativan. Police are considering charges of driving while impaired by drugs.

• Police are requesting information from anyone that may have knowledge of a break-in and theft to a boat tied to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club dock on Scott Point. A propane furnace, electric heater and signal flares were taken on Sunday, Feb. 26.

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NEWSBEAT

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PHOTO COURTESY THE REIMER FAMILY

PASSED THE TEST: James Reimer, a Salt Spring Cystic Fibrosis sufferer who received a double-lung transplant in Toronto in May of 2011, works out at the gym as part of his recovery process. Reimer's mother Kathy reports that James' latest check-up found "his new lungs are functioning perfectly, with no injection or rejection present." She also said he has gained more than 30 pounds since the transplant. James turned 28 on Feb. 23 and should return home on March 10. A community trust fund was set up for the family to help pay for an 18-month stay in Toronto while waiting for the transplant.

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The Ministry of Environment has requested the CRD to appoint a Public and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to help facilitate the development of a new Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan.

To form the committee, we are seeking representation from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including private sector waste management service providers, non-profit organizations, businesses focused on waste diversion, the environmental community and the general public.

Participation is voluntary. Members will be asked to commit to meet for up to three years. The deadline for applying is March 12, 2012.

For the complete committee composition list and application, visit crd.bc.ca/ptac.



www.crd.bc.ca

Making a difference...together

Local 2012 Names campaign flies



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD CLARKE

Richard Clarke, of Salt Spring, and Team Canada teammate Tyler Bjorn participate in a Star-class race in Perth, Australia late in 2011. In an effort to raise the remaining funds needed to participate in the London Olympics this summer, a "2012 Names" campaign has been launched. Donations will see contributors' names painted on the duo's boat.

OLYMPICS
continued from 1

Training some 300 days a year, he and Bjorn are currently in Spain where con-

ditions are supposed to reflect what they're likely to find in Weymouth at the end of July.

"We are here training with current gold medalists from Great Britain who have a staff of eight — we feel lucky to have our coach with us. It feels a little bit like David taking on Goliath, but we Canadians are used to that," Clarke reported in a press communication.

Scanlan has headed up fundraising efforts on her own until the recent arrival of another sailing enthusiast on Salt Spring, Mark Strongman. Strongman has since offered his services free of charge and helped come up with the 2012 Names campaign. If it succeeds, Clarke will have the \$98,000 he needs to bring him and his boat to the games.

"It's a very Canadian thing to do."

ANDREA SCANLAN
For Star-class
Canadian sailing team

"We've realized it's the neighbourhood, it's the small guy that supports us," Scanlan said, noting Paul Large at Country Grocer and Lis and Shawn Walton at Auntie Pesto's are key local business supporters so far.

"We don't want to tap out our community, but we're very attached to the community. We thought maybe if we get enough of the small guys..."

Anyone who has already contribut-

ed to Clarke's campaign will get their names on his sloop's stern. New donors who contribute to www.2012names.com or www.getonboard.ca will also see their names accompany Clarke and Bjorn as they fight for a spot at the podium. Scanlan said batches of stickers will be printed every couple of weeks leading up to the games, and photos will be sent out.

Scanlan requests that anyone who cannot make a donation themselves pass on the information to someone else.

"It's a very Canadian thing to do," she said. "You know, it takes a village."

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NEWSBEAT

ELECTION FRAUD

Robo-call talk returns focus to Saanich-Gulf Islands riding

2008 experience called precursor to widespread interference

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The "robo-call scandal" and its sweeping allegations of voter suppression across multiple Canadian ridings last May is bringing new attention to possible election fraud in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding in both 2008 and 2011.

MP Elizabeth May has said members of the riding are among those to complain about calls directing them to nonexistent polling stations during the May 2, 2011 federal election. Adding that to complaints about automated robo-calls and third-party advertising that the Liberal Party of Canada registered with Elections Canada in 2008, May has deemed Saanich-Gulf Islands the pilot project for a wider campaign of voter suppression now thought to include some 38 Canadian ridings.

Briony Penn, the Liberal candidate who lost to Conservative Gary Lunn in 2008, said the case appears to reflect a systemic willingness by the Conservative Party to use dirty tricks at election time — a practice that could have been checked prior to the 2011 vote if

Elections Canada had not dismissed the evidence from 2008.

"It's actually insulting in a whole variety of ways. It's an insult to the Canadian public, it's an insult to Canadian democracy," Penn said.

Just before the 2008 election, local NDP supporters received a recorded message urging them to vote for that party's candidate, Julian West. West had in fact dropped out of the race after a nudity scandal, but had done so too late to have his name removed from the ballot. The source of the calls was manipulated to appear to come from a NDP fax number. West ended up with 3,667 votes.

Legal opinion suggested the calls were illegal, contravening Criminal Code sections 371, 372 and 403, as well as Section 482 of the Canada Elections Act. The act states "Every person is guilty of an offence who . . . (b) by any pretence or contrivance . . . induces a person . . . to vote or refrain from voting for a particular candidate at an election."

The RCMP did not agree that criminal charges should be pursued, while Elections Canada concluded its action in 2009 with no charges.

"Our investigator found no one who had actually been influenced in their vote because of the phone call, nor was he able to identify the source or the person or persons who actually made the calls," a

letter to the Saanich-Gulf Islands Liberal riding association explains.

Penn believes that whether anyone was influenced to change their vote or not is not the point.

"It's to do with a major breach in democracy. It never would have happened if they'd investigated," she said.

Another serious complaint, which Penn feels is perhaps of even greater concern, alleged Lunn's campaign had circumvented the election spending limit by creating a number of phony third party organizations, whose advertising amounted to an extra \$12,000. If that was the case, she said, Lunn was elected illegally in 2008.

"It's great that it's coming out now, but so sad that we had to go through a whole other election campaign," she said of the alleged election fraud.

"What's not being described is the heartbreak — people who devote their lives and their finances to democracy and get blown away with lies and cheating.

"But I think on a positive note it's wonderful [the truth is coming out] and I hope every Canadian stands up and says it's enough."

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust defends issuing mapping contract to SS 'advocacy group'

Citizens suggest potential conflict

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Like almost everything related to the Riparian Areas Regulation, issuing a watershed mapping contract to an environmental advocacy group caused a splash at Thursday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting.

But the Islands Trust says no controversy is necessary in this case.

The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society was awarded the contract to do mapping of the Cusheon Lake and St. Mary Lake watersheds to determine exactly what lands should be subject to the province's Riparian Areas Regulation.

The work was precipitated by a November 2011 LTC decision to do some on-the-ground mapping in response to public concerns about the provincial government's Riparian Areas Regulation being applied unnecessarily far and wide on Salt Spring.

But local developer Eric Booth told the LTC's town hall meeting that he felt there was "obvious bias and conflict of inter-

est in the matter of the RAR mapping contract [being] awarded to the ISSES."

His main point was that because ISSES and its executive director, biologist Kathy Reimer, are hired by property owners to do RAR assessments, that they would benefit from a larger land area being deemed subject to those assessments and regulations. "It is a given that the larger an area identified as 'fish habitat' or 'potential fish habitat' the more RAR studies will be required by property owners, many of which will fall ISSES' way."

Island resident John MacPherson expressed similar concerns in a separate presentation.

In response the meeting heard from planner Stefan Cermak that stipulated Islands Trust purchasing procedures were followed. He had prepared and sent the request for proposals to five qualified environmental professionals who had done RAR assessments on the island in the past. Responses were received from ISSES and Madrone Consulting, a company with an office in Duncan.

"The [Madrone] quote was way out of the park,"

Cermak said, noting the firm stated it was unable to do all of the work required within the \$14,000 budget and was in effect 1.5 times higher than the ISSES quote.

Planner Cermak later clarified that the process is a technical, not a subjective, one.

"It really involves a person walking up a stream with a GPS and submitting the results to the Islands Trust."

Assumptions that anyone getting the contract would be able to increase the RAR-applicable area are "totally off," he said.

He also said some people mistakenly believe that "potential fish-bearing streams" should not be RAR-applicable when detailed wording in a RAR schedule states otherwise.

But at the meeting, trustee George Grams said he did not feel it was in the LTC's best interests to engage advocacy groups on a consultancy basis, since issues of transparency, accountability and objectivity necessarily arise.

"I think it would be less objectionable if they had been engaged as professionals," he said.

Trustee Peter Grove agreed with his colleague. He said a number of people had expressed

their concerns to him about this issue, and he thought the Trust should try to get out of the contractual obligation.

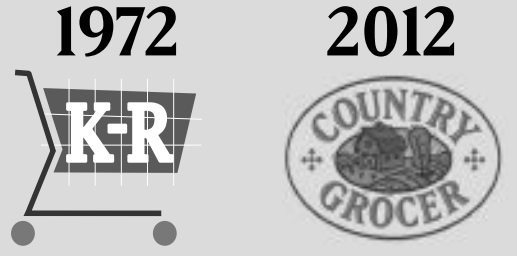
"I'm really uncomfortable about this and concerned about it."

Cermak said that Philip Grange, a RAR-trained qualified environmental professional who has done previous local watershed mapping and is winding down his Grange Engineering and Associates business, will be the main person doing the work.

Trust regional planning manager Leah Hartley said that purchasing policies are designed to avoid conflicts of interest and LTC chair Sheila Malcolmson stressed that LTCs do not have the ability to effect the outcomes of contracts let by the Islands Trust.

"It's not meant to be a political decision as to who gets work," she said.

Grams and Grove said they understood that but felt something should be done to ensure a similar outcome doesn't occur in the future. Malcolmson thought procedures could possibly be changed so that LTCs might look at and provide input to contract criteria in advance of an RFP being issued.



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News from the day...Mar. 2, 1972

EFFECT OF LUMBER GIANT

What is the likely effect of the British Columbia lumber industries entering the real estate market?

This question was considered by the Salt Spring Island Planning Association on

Monday evening. McMillan-Bloedel have announced plans to convert their forest lands into residential property. The company holds large acreage on Salt Spring Island as well as Galiano.

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WHAT'S ON
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NEWSBEAT



PHOTO BY LARRY MELIUS

ESCAPE: School District 64 bus driver Julianna Slomka leaps out of a bus during a practice evacuation drill held with Salt Spring Fire-Rescue last week. A theatrical smoke machine was used while drivers got on their hands and knees in zero visibility to try to find any children left on the bus in the event of an accident involving a fire.

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MEDIA

Driftwood a finalist in B.C. best-in-class

Paper up for three other awards in annual Ma Murray competition

The Gulf Islands Driftwood has been nominated for four top-three awards in the 2012 Ma Murray Community Newspaper Awards competition for B.C. papers.

From entries submitted for the 2011

calendar year, the paper was nominated in the general excellence class for its circulation category; for best photo essay (for the Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication); best special publication (for its Fall 2011 Aqua magazine); and in the sports photo category (for a John Cameron photo of a longboarder).

An annual event of the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Asso-

ciation, the first, second and third-place awards will be distributed at a Ma Murray awards gala in Richmond on April 14.

The Driftwood has been in the top three in its circulation class in B.C. competitions 24 times in the past 33 years.

Winners in national competitions held by Newspapers Canada will be announced in the next two months.

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

Imagine if... from Dr. Richard Hayden

you couldn't eat your favorite foods. If you couldn't speak properly or even smile at others without being self aware. Imagine not being able to laugh.

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FARMING

Agricultural Alliance plans for new Beddis community facility

Ideas bountiful for Slegg-donated site

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local farmers and others interested in promoting agriculture on Salt Spring joined together one recent Sunday to brainstorm a bushel of possible uses and implementation strategies for a new produce storage and distribution centre.

"Storage is a big problem for farmers who have all of their produce ripening at the same time every September and October," Tony Threlfall of the Farmers' Institute said after the event.

"Most farmers don't have storage or walk-in coolers — this will extend their marketing term into the next spring rather than dumping them all on the market at once."

Creating a community facility for produce storage and distribution was identified as one of three key needs for expanding agriculture production and sustainability on Salt Spring under the Area Farm Plan.

The Agricultural Alliance, assembled to implement the AFP and now nearing completion of another primary goal with the establishment of a community abattoir, is looking to the produce centre as its next project. A long-standing land-use application by Slegg Lumber that has just had its first reading with the Islands Trust will hopefully provide the space and some necessary infrastructure for getting started.

The location at the heart of the discussion, a Beddis Road property that will potentially become Slegg Lumber's new headquarters on Salt Spring, could not be much worse for farming. The north-

facing piece with steep banks is the site of a former quarry and a saw mill, levelled with fill that has been contaminated by decades of industrial use.

Finding a productive farming use for the property, a portion of which lies within the Agricultural Land Reserve, might therefore seem either laughable or tragically misguided. Ironically, the proposed rezoning deal to allow development of the site could pave the way for island farmers to grow Salt Spring's agricultural base.

Slegg has agreed to donate .6 hectares (1.5 acres) of the site to the Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance, in return for the Agricultural Land Commission's agreement to exclude land from the ALR portion. A new zone that permits mixed agricultural and industrial use will be applied to the entire piece.

Slegg will additionally construct a 90-square-metre (970-square-foot) building to lock-up stage for the agricultural community's use and provide \$40,000 to the organization for operating costs. An existing outbuilding will also go to agricultural use.

The Agricultural Alliance steering committee has been working on ideas for the future project since last spring, helped in part by a Vancity Envirofund grant. The recent brainstorming session was the first step in getting stakeholders' reactions to the idea.

"There was definitely enthusiasm for the process," reported Anne Macey, chair of the Agricultural Alliance Steering Committee.

"There were lots and lots of suggestions as to what the centre could be used for."

In addition to temperature-controlled storage, farmers have identified flash-freezing, washing and

processing facilities as requirements to supplying local restaurants and grocery stores. Only six per cent of the produce consumed on Salt Spring is currently grown here; with access to prep areas and the ability to supply washed and mixed salad greens and pre-chopped vegetables, that number could improve greatly.

A commercial kitchen that people could rent time in to prepare value-added foods such as sauces and preserves was also raised as a possibility.

Other ideas included having a greenhouse where people could lease space and that would use the heat produced by the cold storage; permanent indoor and outdoor markets for wholesale and retail sales; and an equipment depot with items like bean shellers and dryers for rent.

During the round-table discussion, local producers came up with ideas for equipment specific to apple storage and processing; a centralized, cooperative CSA box program; a hub for a farm labour pool; and a seed-oil processing facility, among others.

Macey said the next step is for members to sift back through all the information gathered and come up with some priorities among the various needs and wants. Included will be ideas on how to organize the operation, whether as a cooperative or as a society that is set up to administer the facility. The committee will then take what they've found back to the farmers for another session.

"I definitely think it will change the farmers' ability to supply this local market," Threlfall said.

"We should have the ability to supply all the root vegetables for the whole island for the entire year."

NEWSBEAT

ISLANDS TRUST

March 1st info meeting seeks input on Trust Policy Statement review plan

Staff and trustees provide background information

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Islanders are invited to learn about the Islands Trust's plan to review the Trust Policy Statement at a meeting at the Harbour House on Thursday, March 1.

Islands Trust staff from Victoria and Salt Spring trustees Peter Grove and George Grams will host the meeting from 5 to 7 p.m.

If more than 140 people show up, a second session will be held on Friday, March 2 beginning again at 5 p.m.

The Trust's director of Trust area services, Lisa Gordon, will be on hand to explain the process and answer questions, and people are encouraged to provide their feedback on whether they believe the project should proceed.

Due to receipt of a \$250,000 planning grant from the Canada Gas Tax Fund, doing a comprehensive Policy Statement review over a three-year period

is not anticipated to result in increased property taxes. Some \$133,000 in total is expected to be spent from Trust reserve funds to complete the project, Trust Council chair Sheila Malcolmson clarified last week.

In fact, she said, a .7 per cent budget increase for the 2012-13 year is proposed in two different scenarios — one with and one without the Policy Statement review. (A third option has the review proceeding but no funds allotted to "backfill" staffing, she said.)

Malcolmson also stressed at last week's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting that the \$250,000 gas tax grant is from a different pot of money than the usual infrastructure grants, so no one should be concerned that bike path projects, for example, will be losing out.

"Don't get hung up on the money getting spent on something else," she said.

Still, she added, Trust Council must decide if it wants to take on a full Policy Statement review at this time.

The current Policy Statement was

adopted in 1994 and has received four amendments since then.

According to Trust materials, the 30-page document "spells out policies under three main goals: environmental protection, resource stewardship and sustainable communities. Bylaws adopted by all local Trust committees and island municipalities must be consistent with the Policy Statement.

"Since the Policy Statement was adopted, communities have changed, new issues and challenges have emerged and a review of the Policy Statement is overdue," Malcolmson said in a press release last month.

Trustees will decide at their March 6 to 8 quarterly meeting on Gabriola Island whether or not to proceed with the three-year project.

People wanting to know if a second Salt Spring info meeting will be held Friday due to over-capacity on Thursday can send an email to ggrams@islandstrust.bc.ca and they will receive an auto-reply message with the answer, or check the Driftwood website at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com in the News section.

LAND USE

Fraser ALR exclusion application sent on its way to provincial body

Trustees soften original compensation wording

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The first Islands Trust regulatory step in creating a light industrial and commercial business park at the corner of Atkins and Rainbow roads has been taken.

On Thursday the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee agreed to forward an application for land reserve exclusion of a 1.81-hectare (4.47-acre) parcel to the provincial Agricultural Land Commission.

Whether the land will be excluded from the Agricultural Land Reserve is the ALC's decision alone.

Property owners Noella and Mike Fraser aim to create a strata-title commercial/industrial park on the land currently zoned Agriculture 1 and containing their residence and home-based auto-repair business.

The Feb. 23 LTC meeting entertained a detailed discus-

sion about one aspect related to an ALR exclusion. The Agricultural Advisory Committee had recommended the application be forwarded to the ALC with support from the LTC, "based on fair and equitable compensation to the agricultural community of Salt Spring."

Trustee George Grams suggested that wording be changed to "provided fair and equitable compensation is considered for the agricultural community of Salt Spring," and his colleagues Peter Grove and Sheila Malcolmson agreed.

"When you read [the original wording] it makes it look like you are expecting something significant . . . and that is not the case," said trustee Grove.

Kelly Gesner of Landworks Consultants, representing the landowners, had made it clear the agricultural community should not expect the kind of compensatory amenity seen in the Slegg Lumber rezoning application if the Frasers' land is excluded from the ALR.

"The Frasers can't buy property to put into the ALR, or

to make a financial donation . . . the agricultural potential of the property is so low they shouldn't have to make a major contribution," she said.

Slegg Lumber has donated .6 hectare (1.5 acres) of land, a new building, \$40,000 in cash and use of an existing building related to its ALR-removal application.

The Frasers' proposal meets policy B.3.3.2.10 of the Salt Spring Official Community Plan, which stipulates removal of up to two hectares of ALR land for industrial uses can be considered by the LTC in the Rainbow and Atkins road area.

A number of letters of interest and support have also been submitted to the Islands Trust regarding the light industrial/commercial park plan.

In order for the development to occur, it would also need a successful Islands Trust rezoning application (with both land use and official community plan amendments), a development permit, and bare land strata subdivision approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.



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Free Seniors Information Forum



Maintaining your Brain And Delaying Dementia

ArtSpring Gallery

Monday March 5 2 – 4 pm
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Refreshments provided

Presented by Irene Barnes – Dementia Care

RN BSN GNC(C) CPMHN(C)

Clinician Educator Author Consultant Dementia Coach

'This is an exciting and daunting time. Every day there are advances in understanding how the brain works, in the development of medications and in ways of enhancing lives. Caring for someone with dementia is not easy and with all the advances in medicine, there is no cure. As the number of seniors living longer increases, so does the risk of developing dementia. By giving meaning to the behaviors of the person with cognitive changes, the family and the caregivers are enabled to enjoy the time and the skills that the person still has. As a "dementia coach" I see my role as someone who speaks for the person with cognitive changes, who provides some meaning for the behaviours of the person in care, and to provide support for caregivers and family members who are at high risk for depression and exhaustion. It is important that people access the information and support of available community resources. The best gift that anyone can give to the person they are caring for is their own good health.'

Among the topics to be discussed:

Your Brain / What is Dementia / Difficult Decisions / Self Care

A Question and Answer period will follow the presentation

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 Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islands)
2011 Canadian Community Newspapers Association Awards
 Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life)
 Gold - Special Section (Driftwood 50th Anniversary)
 Bronze - General Excellence | Bronze - Ad Design (Soapworks)
 Bronze - Special Publication (Gulf Islands)
2011 BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Exercising freedoms

The Salt Spring Forum's bid to become the island's pre-eminent venue for new ideas and debate has been rapid and assured.

It began just a year and a half ago with a couple of salon evenings held in people's homes and reached unparalleled heights over the weekend with its first festival, Words Without Borders.

Created to tie in with Freedom to Read Week, the festival tapped into resident authors' network of connections and managed to bring some serious star power to the rock: authors Esi Edugyan, Charles Foran and Carmen Aquirre, CBC host Shelagh Rogers, activist Brigitte DePape and bad-boy blues poet C.R. Avery among them.

Community involvement in the project helped ensure the event's success, with 19 volunteers including the nine-person organizing committee working behind the scenes, 24 local sponsors helping underwrite costs and five venues playing a part.

THE ISSUE:

Words Without Borders fest

WE SAY:

An excellent start

Although Friday evening's panel didn't really flow and audience members stated opinions instead of asking questions, organizers were quick to learn from their mistakes and remedy the structure for Saturday's discussions.

It's hard to say which of Saturday's events can be crowned as the festival's highlight, with so many delightful and truly hard-hitting moments. Susan Musgrave's desert-dry delivery and Foran's heart-warming portrait of Mordecai Richler as a family man, the tragic realities of women everywhere as delivered to a privileged but well-intended audience, and the differing opinions of three writers deeply moved by their experiences in Afghanistan all had unique impacts.

But it was the Afghanistan panel that brought home a truth which Foran raised Friday night: namely, that Canadian political factions are spending more and more time talking only to themselves. Terry Glavin's anger over what he calls the betrayal of the Afghan people gave new dimension to the complexity underlying an impossible situation, and if some don't agree with him, it was nonetheless critical to hear that perspective.

If words are to be allowed to expand beyond borders and reach their full power, we need to foster opportunities where different and even uncomfortable ideas can be expressed and exchanged. Kudos to the Salt Spring Forum for doing that in a great inauguration to what's sure to be come an annual event.



Trust wants Policy Statement views

BY GEORGE GRAMS

Peter Grove and I invite you to attend a town hall meeting to discuss the proposed Islands Trust Policy Statement review at Harbour House hotel on Thursday, March 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Peter and I will be there to listen to community views. Lisa Gordon, director of Trust area services, who prepared the package of information available online (<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/tc/polstreview.cfm>) will also be available to answer questions.

The Policy Statement review, if it proceeds and is adequately funded, will include a participative democratic process on each island.

As your trustees, we are committed to consulting with you in depth, and representing your views to Trust Council. On March 1, Peter Grove and I will certainly listen carefully to gauge whether there is local support for a review. If you prefer to submit your views in writing, please email policyreview@islandstrust.bc.ca by noon on March 5.

The purpose of Thursday's meeting is to provide a forum for members of the community detail what we would like to see as the outcome — that debate would occur during the review itself. As part of Thursday's discussion, we should explore the potential benefits that might accrue from undertaking the review, and any reasons for not doing so.

During the election I campaigned on the need for the Trust to revisit its mandate and to determine, with community support, whether there was a need for that mandate to be redefined. I believe the Policy Statement review offers such an opportunity.

VIEWPOINT

It is important to realize the gas tax grant is being offered to the Islands Trust only for this project.

A \$250,000 grant from Canada's Gas Tax Fund makes it possible with considerably less impact on property taxes.

It is important to realize the gas tax grant is being offered to the Islands Trust only for this project. We cannot accept the funds and use it for other purposes, worthy as some of those purposes might be. If we decide not to undertake the Policy Statement review, we would lose the grant.

The meeting room in Harbour House has a capacity of 140. We will have seating for 100, with some standing room. If we are over capacity, we have made provision to hold a second town hall meeting on Friday, March 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the same venue.

Please note that meeting will only take place if we are over capacity on Thursday, March 1.

I will set up an auto-response email announcement at ggrams@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Islanders emailing me at that address on March 2 will receive an auto reply advising if the second meeting is necessary.

Trust Council's decision about proceeding with the review will happen on March 7 on Gabriola Island. We would benefit from community input before coming to a decision.

Please note that the March 1 town hall meeting is not a local Trust committee meeting and we are not able to discuss Salt Spring Island local planning topics. Peter Grove and I are hosting this meeting as members of Trust Council.

The writer is a Salt Spring trustee.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the Trust review its Policy Statement?

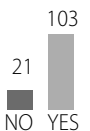
Yes No

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:

Farmers market at the fire hall - yes or no?



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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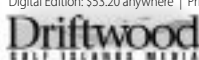
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IslandVoices

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We've realized it's the neighbourhood, it's the small guy that supports us."

ANDRIA SCANLAN, FOR CLARKE/BJORN SAILING TEAM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What do you think would help revitalize downtown Ganges?



LISA SLIOWSKA

More advertising and awareness on Vancouver Island about what Salt Spring has to offer.



PETER TERRELL

We need an open-source entertainment venue for adult musicians to play and collaborate and perform.



MARIANNE BANMAN

I would love to see more parking for bicycles and cyclist-friendly paths.



DON SAMSON

Tear down the fire hall and put in a parking lot.



GEOFFREY LEVY

Build more sidewalks and pedestrian pathways.

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.

Excoriate the extremism

If as Warren Buffet says, "bandwagon investors make their own truth," then I would naturally extrapolate from that that "bandwagon believers make their own truth" as well and if we bring that chicken home to roost we can see what we are up against in our local politics, particularly environmental changes and the general belief that close to \$7,000,000 worth of Islands Trust bureaucracy is somehow protecting our environment without even the purchase of one acre of land to preserve.

That they would suggest increasing the budget on one hand and yet suggest spending a further \$400,000 (\$133,000 in reserves and a \$250,000 gas tax grant) in a navel-gazing exercise to explore a trite policy statement is ludicrous.

It all adds up to an extremism that we need to excoriate by seeking to contain the Islands Trust to its simple land-planning mandate. Writing long, reasoned letters to Trust Council is useless when they openly admit that they are simply playing a numbers game of counting the yeas and the nays as to whether the public is accepting or rejecting their proposed budget increases.

Needless to say, they should take that proposed policy statement discussion and subtract it from their tax requisition and somehow begin to explore ways to trim their insatiable squandering of our tax dollars on this endless ideological fixation on the environment and how it changes like every other aspect of the universe we know and love.

PAUL MARCANO,
SALT SPRING

Statement exercise worthwhile

I'd like to take this opportunity to contribute to the discussion raised by Elizabeth Nickson in your letters column ("Big Trust bureaucracy" Feb. 15).

As a new trustee from a smaller and more rural island, I am wary of stepping into a local dispute, but Ms. Nickson seems to misunderstand the subject and purpose of the proposed review. The review (if it is approved by Trust Council meeting on Gabriola Island March 6 to 8) will be of the Trust Policy Statement alone, and not a review of the Trust as a whole, or any other part of it.

The Trust Policy State-

ment is the heart of what the Islands Trust, Trust Council, the Executive Committee and each of the 13 local Trust committees is supposed to be concerned with. It is meant to be the statement of what is important about the Trust area, and what should be preserved, protected, encouraged or discouraged. Each of the above parts of the Trust can be held to the contents of the Policy Statement in what they are to do, and particularly in each official community plan and land use bylaw.

The Trust Policy Statement was drafted in the early 1990s, and has been slightly revised several times since then. Last year a task force of trustees recommended that the now-current Trust Council do a complete review of the Policy Statement, with full

public consultation. Trust staff applied for and were successful in being awarded funding for this project that will, as I understand it, cover most of the cost. The public on each of the Trust islands, and the B.C. public generally, will be involved in reviewing and revising the Policy Statement over the next year or two.

This is an opportunity for each of us connected to the Gulf Islands in the Trust area to participate in the review process, and make sure that the revised Trust Policy Statement captures what they value and want protected.

I understand that there is bad feeling toward the Islands Trust, but even its critics should inform themselves and take part in their local land use government. This will be an opportunity for individuals and

groups to influence and be involved in revising and drafting, and adopting the very statement outlining and defining that government's purpose — and it is being funded by taxes paid only partially by Islands Trust area taxpayers.

When concerned individuals share their hopes, fears and desires about future community developments, they stand a much better chance of getting what they collectively desire, and also gain an understanding of other views and opinions that make up the diversity of their island.

Being involved — sharing and listening together — builds a community.

PETER JOHNSTON,
LASQUETI ISLAND

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Thinking outside the circle at four-way stop

By now, you've had a couple of weeks to acclimatize yourself to the new four-way stop signs at the Central intersection. For years, this particular corner has been a "hub of confusion" and the site of a few serious accidents as well as a truckload of fender-benders.

It's no real surprise that the intersection has been so controversial and dangerous. Not only is it the vortex of tennis track, and soccer activities at Portlock Park, but it also lies a stone's throw away from the Fritz movie theatre, a fire hall and two churches. Add to that the almost hourly traffic stemming from cars racing to and from the Vesuvius ferry and you've got a "perfect storm" for an accident waiting to happen.

There are still many who propose that a traffic circle or roundabout for the intersection would have made more sense. This way, instead of having to come to a full stop, vehicles could just have woven and blended their way seamlessly through to whichever direction they were heading.

Anyone who knows Salt Spring, however, knows that "seamless" is not one of our best subjects. You would think that with all the great minds living on this island, with brains that can actually decipher dangerous cargo ferry sailing times and diurnal tide tables, that somebody could have come up with a more imaginative alternative. Surely, there must be someone who can "think outside the circle."

Perhaps something a bit more complex than a silly old circle would be more in line with the way we think here. A 12-sided

dodecagon leading up to a geodesic dome-shaped pedestrian overpass would be more our style. How about putting a giant expressway clover leaf at the intersection with attached concrete ramps and collector lanes?

Right now, however, we seem to be stuck with these boring old four-way stop signs. There may be general rules for these intersections, but there are also a few customized for this island. There's the "Intimidation Rule," for one, which says something like, "I don't care if you got to the stop sign first; don't even think about pulling your puny, lime-green Smart Car out in front of my bad-ass black Dodge Ram pickup." Another is the "Grandfather Rule," which explains objectively that "I have the right of way because my grandparents homesteaded this valley a century ago."

Let's take a closer look at the official laws regulating the right of way at a four-way stop intersection. First of all, one is required to come to a complete stop a full eight metres before arriving at the sign. Assuming that anyone here knows how much eight metres is exactly, wouldn't a stop at the liquor store to pick up a case of Lucky easily qualify as the stop you made before getting to the sign?

When it comes to who actually has the right of way, we're getting into an area that makes the Salt Spring Official Community Plan sound as simple as "see Dick run." The difficulties in interpretation arise when two

Shilo
Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

vehicles arrive at the intersection at exactly the same time. The law says that the vehicle going straight has the right of way over the one turning left. If both are going straight, there shouldn't be any problem unless they both drive straight into each other (in which case the first one to call a

tow-truck has the right of way).

If, however, the two cars stop at an angle perpendicular to each other, then it is the vehicle to the other's right that can proceed first (unless it's a Tuesday, Thursday, dangerous cargo day, or there is a tide over 9.8 feet).

The expression "to the right" means relative to the other vehicle. This, of course, invokes Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity. To put it simply, say you leave Cincinnati on an 8:15 northbound train travelling at 85 km/hour while your cousin catches a Greyhound bus from Albuquerque exactly 15 minutes later. Which one of you will arrive at the Central intersection first? Like I said, it's easy if you put relativity and the Laws of Thermodynamics into the equation. (All bets are off if one or the other vehicle is moving at the speed of light.)

A question arises if all four vehicles arrive at the intersection simultaneously. Imagine you are looking at the situation from above (God does this a lot when there's nothing better happening). As you can see, each vehicle is to the right of somebody else. Who has the right of way?

One argument is that they all do and so what we have here is the makings of one hellu-

va good Demolition Derby reality television show. On the other hand, one could argue that nobody has the right of way, in which case the vehicles must sit there in a state of eternal suspended animation while traffic backs up all the way to the Fulford ferry (which nobody in Fulford will notice because that's what it looks like any time there's a ferry coming in).

If it turns out you do get pulled over by the police for not coming to a full stop or for proceeding through the intersection out of turn, you might try one of the following excuses:

My wife is having a baby (well, actually, it's my ex-wife and she lives in Winnipeg but I told her I would send her my heart).

I've just visiting her this medication to my husband before the ferry leaves (well yes I know it looks like an ordinary package of Tums, but his eyesight is bad and it seems to work for him).

I know it didn't look like I came to a full stop, but technically my speedometer needle was touching "zero" (and besides my starter motor is on the blink and you wouldn't want me stall out and block traffic).

I'm just visiting here from Alberta and we never have to stop there for anything.

Well, that just about covers the topic. No matter how you felt about the problem beforehand, now you are an expert on everything you need to know about four-way stop signs. Nobody asked me, but I think we'll survive this latest attempt to propel Salt Spring into the real world. Now about those traffic lights . . .

thyme2001@hotmail.com

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMANS

FLUSHING OF WATERMANS WILL BE
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
AND FRIDAYS -
MARCH 6 - APRIL 27, 2012

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.



SMOKE ALARMS

FOR EVERY...
*Salt Spring senior,
physically disabled, and
persons on fixed incomes.*

These folks will be pleased to hear that the Salt Spring Island Fire/Rescue (SSIFR) and Salt Spring Island Rotary are introducing an exciting new partnership, to ensure these individuals have working, (battery operated) smoke alarms in their homes.

Salt Spring Island Rotarians, created the vision, and have funds to initiate the program this year. SSIFR firefighters will respond to installation requests where they can ascertain the safety needs of people requesting alarms and will install or service battery operated smoke alarms where required.

Site visits will also enable firefighters to help resident's assess their overall home fire safety. Working Smoke Alarms will save more lives than firefighters ever can, and since May of 2010, all homes in British Columbia are required by law to have working smoke alarms. Salt Spring Rotarians and the SSIFR looks forward to helping make our island a safer community.

If you require a request form or additional information, please contact Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue at 250-537-2531 or visit our website, www.saltspringfire.com for an online request form.



NOTE: This program is not designed to replace the responsibility that landlords have to their renters to provide working smoke detectors.

OPINION

Smart meter survey and canvassing

BY CHRIS ANDERSON

Joke of the season: the U.S. FBI had a long overseas chat with senior U.K. police recently about the most urgent international security issue of the day — cyber security and hacking. Problem is their top secret conversation was being hacked!

If anonymous “hacktivists” can toy with any such well-fortified agencies, how safe could a computer-controlled wireless “smart” grid be if less-altruistic hackers decide to bring it down, leaving us all in the dark?

As experts warn, there is no government, no bank, no company, no so-called smart grid that cannot be interfered with or destroyed by hacking. Experts tell us that a centralized, wireless smart grid is a big, juicy target for cyber attacks — and that it's getting more vulnerable. Once destroyed it could take years to reconstruct. Meanwhile we would enter another dark age without electricity. Are we really okay with this?

“Attacks on U.S. computer networks have become relentless in recent years and have cost defence industries an estimated \$1 trillion in lost intellectual property, competitiveness and damage.” (NY Times, Nov. 15, 2011).

The vulnerability of a wireless, international smart grid is proven each time formerly invincible departments or corporations fall victim. The growing list includes the Canadian defence and finance departments, the IME, the CIA and Pentagon, numerous banks, major arms and other manufacturers, and major oil companies. And recently we see “hacktivists” airing the pro-internet-spying Conservative government's extremely dirty laundry. Is nothing sacred in this new world of cyber warfare and espionage?

Information technology scientists warn that changing our electrical system into a centralized, inter-connected smart grid is fraught with hidden risks.

Ross Anderson, professor in security engineering at the University of Cambridge computer laboratory in his recent study called “Who controls the off switch?” warns of “. . . a new strategic vulnerability,” and “. . . information security problems of a kind, and on a scale, that energy companies have not had to face before.

From the viewpoint of a cyber attacker — whether a hostile government agency, [or] a terrorist organization . . . the ideal attack . . . is to interrupt . . . citizens' electricity supply . . . Until now, the only plausible ways to do that involved attacks on critical generation, transmission and distribution assets, which are increasingly well defended. Smart meters change the game.”

This grid insecurity factor is among many reasons that so many informed citizens are blocking and locking their power meters and rejecting what thoughtful analysis reveals is smart only for the utility. So far, 33 and counting local governments, including our own governing body and the Union of B.C. Municipalities, are calling for a moratorium on this wasteful plan that saves no energy, compromises privacy, damages equipment and causes huge bill increases for customers.

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine recently joined the chorus of scientific advice to scrap the smart metering initiative due to concomitant health concerns from massive increases in electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exposures.

Many of us researching this over the past year find no

redeeming reason except for corporate efficiency and profits for this new, hackable smart grid. From smart meters there is no real benefit for customers who have had no democratic say in the imposition of what many see as “Orwellian” technology.

These digital meters provide constant monitoring of our energy consumption patterns using continuous two-way communication between the utility and every home and business. Furthermore, meters will be able to communicate with electrical devices within the residence to gather consumption data, and to identify and control certain devices remotely without consumer intervention — all via EM radiation.

Smart meter negatives are well publicized. The main defect is that EMR — finally admitted to be a cause of cancer by World Health Org. (May 2011) — is emitted constantly 24/7, from the meters, from the area-wide WiMAX antennas, and eventually from transmitter-equipped appliances.

No amount of spin and lies by Hydro or Health Canada can bridge the gaping divide between their claim that smart-metering is safe, and the adverse physical symptoms suffered by so many around this technology.

Yes, the electrical grid needs improvement; but why should we accept the high risk, higher-cost plan promoted by Hydro? Efficiencies can be accomplished safely, in a wired manner at distribution hubs rather than homes.

Personal energy monitoring is possible without adding to our already-excessive EMR burden and losing our privacy. Ever-increasing EMR already causes serious damage, from cell and cordless phones, RF trans-

mitters, wireless gaming and internet etc. But smartmetering imposes constant, involuntary radiation exposure — especially harmful for those most at risk: babies, children, the immune-compromised, the elderly, and those with medical devices and implants.

Keeping our community free of smart meters depends on an informed citizenry that will download and mail in refusal letters, and barricade and lock their wireless-free meter, as so many B.C.ers are doing. A critical mass of aware citizens who take action can halt this profit-driven, corporatist agenda.

An information/action meeting will be held in Ganges: Thursday, March 1, 7 to 9 p.m., at the United Church, 111 Herford Ave. Special guest speaker: Josh Del Sol, who is producing Smart meters - The Film, will present an exclusive preview of sections of the documentary and other material.

We will also advance plans for canvassing a large sampling of island homes in an effort to counter government propaganda flooding our media at great taxpayer expense. As we build toward a critical-mass resistance, we lessen the need to physically prevent installations by peaceful civil disobedience.

During canvassing, an informal survey of island opinion about smart metering will also be conducted on behalf of the Stopsmartmeters.ca Society: the provincial initiative petition group planning to take this issue to an HST-like referendum. Based on survey results, the group hopes to work with us to keep the island free of hazardous, hackable “spymeters.”

The writer is a member of Gulf Islanders for Safe Technology.

MORE LETTERS

Book sale news

Community Ed and Salt Spring Literacy have had close ties from the very beginning. Judi Francis, co-founder of Community Ed, was also one of the original Salt Spring Literacy board members. Both societies had similar goals and dreams: community members helping other community members learn.

Whilst Community Ed ran the group classes teaching everything from computers to watercolour, Salt Spring Literacy offered free one-to-one tuition for those learning the more traditional educational skills, such as reading, writing, science or maths. Community Ed's decision to donate \$10,000 to Salt Spring Literacy was extremely flattering and we truly appreciate that Community Ed respects and values the work we do.

We are also equally honoured and grateful to take over the annual Giant Book Sale. This beloved community event is also an astonishing fundraiser and will help to ensure Salt Spring Literacy's programming continues. The generous \$10,000 donation and the proceeds from future Giant Book Sales will be used to run our core programming.

Currently over 175 learners are enrolled for one-to-one tuition. And the Giant Book Sale will also help keep our free book program well stocked!

In order to continue the success that Community Ed had with the Giant Book Sale, we would like to ask the community for help. The most pressing need is for a space which throughout the year we can use to sort the books ready for storage. (We are also needing storage too!) If anyone in the community has a basement, garage, or out building with a separate entrance so volunteer book sorters can come and go without disturbing anybody, and if you would not mind being the Giant Book Sale HQ, please get in touch.

Thank you so much.
RACHEL SCOTT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SS LITERACY

Film festival's vision

The 13th annual Salt Spring Film Festival is underway this weekend, March 2-4.

The social activists who pioneered the film festival called it “Our Island, Our World.”

The idea was that the films would act as an inspirational and educational tool to motivate our community to come together and to change itself and the world for the better.

In the original concept, the social justice bazaar participants were just as important as the films. They were there to focus and channel the inspiration and motivation inspired by watching the films. Their purpose was to help festival film viewers find the perfect place to invest their energy and make

real change, fresh from seeing the variety of moving, informative and inspiring documentary films.

The festival was meant to bring the community together, nourish their minds, spirits and bodies with the best films and food that they could offer, and then send them out to work on the great challenges facing our island and our world.

The event they envisioned was essentially a festival of generosity. All are welcome to come and feast on the delightful food, film and opportunities for service offered at the festival.

MELISSA SEARCY,
SALT SPRING

Robo-call news

One of the bigger news stories brewing this week is the alleged voter fraud carried out during the federal election campaign April/May of last year. As the story goes, known Liberal Party supporters in possibly a few dozen ridings were targeted by calls informing them that the location of their polling station had changed, purposely sending them to the wrong place. These were evidently ridings where it was going to be a close contest between Liberal and Conservative votes.

Needless to say this activity is highly illegal and whomever is responsible will certainly be facing jail time, if caught. The implication could also mean that as a systematic operation, it's possible that the top levels of the Conservative party were aware of it.

There are a few things leaving

me stumped, however. Firstly, why would those voters not double check with Elections Canada before voting? And failing that, if said voters proceeded to the “changed” location only to find a closed and locked building, why not then revert back to the original polling station? Are people really that naive and lacking curiosity? Are so many people really willing to give up that easily?

Why trust some unknown, random caller during the election campaign? That's like getting a phone call telling you you've somehow won a cruise liner vacation, and all you have to do to claim it is to hand over your credit card information over the phone. Yet people still get scammed by this trick.

I know I sound like I'm blaming the victims here, but really . . . scammers can only win when people are gullible or stupid. Where are the street smarts? Just about everyone was aware how high the stakes were — yet so many voters in so many ridings were duped.

Also, why is all this information only coming out now? I find this rather strange. Why was this not headline news the day after the election?

I hope those responsible do go to jail, even if it leads to top officials. But I also hope that the electorate smartens up. Unfortunately, somehow I think that's asking for too much.

DAVE CAMPBELL
DON ORE ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 12

OPINION

A sea cruise? OK, but just this once

How about a sea cruise, she says to me.

I can't believe you said that, I say to her.

She knows how I feel about cruises. We've weathered enough of them — the Caribbean, Panama, north to Alaska. I think we've conclusively established that I am not prime Cruise Material.

Sea cruises press a variety of no-no buttons for me. I try to avoid enterprises that involve casinos, tuxedos, bingo, 24-hour-a-day dining opportunities or beverages bedecked with miniature umbrellas.

Such undertakings lead to heartburn, impromptu conga lines, the notion that lampshades make irresistible headwear and the occasional slap in the chops.

Then there's the hazard of strolling Gypsy violinists sawing Lady of Spain into your ear while you sit at a dinner table surrounded by extras from a production of Cabaret — obsessive-compulsives, blowhards,



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

drama queens, pedantic oenophiles and — yeah, cruises are not a good fit for me.

Why a cruise, I ask her. Why not a dogfight with Michael Vick? A pub crawl in Somalia? A jolly bout of gout?

She doesn't respond to my ripostes, merely slips a brochure into my lap. It's entitled Cruises to Classical Civilizations.

Oh My Gods.

Dozens of them, actually — Greek, Roman, Mycenaean, Minoan. This cruise starts in Athens, then hopscoches up the Dalmatian coast dropping anchor at places I've only dreamed of (Corfu, Dubrovnik,

the Kornati Islands) — and landfalls I can't even pronounce (Monemvasia, Nauplia, Katakolon). It terminates in the canal-laced, fairy-tale city of Venice.

Over 14 days passengers visit such bucket list destinations as Olympus, the Acropolis and the Palace of Diocletian. Don't know your Essenes from a hole in the ground? No sweat. Experts are on board delivering lectures about the history of the places you're seeing each day.

But a cruise is still a cruise, right? Umpteen thousand passengers milling around with their charge cards hanging out; platoons of Uriah Heepish flunkies in white jackets, each with a Mick Jagger leer and an open palm.

Wrong. The Aegean Odyssey, the brochure tells me, is petite, even intimate, as cruise ships go. Tipping is flatly verboten, you dine wearing what's comfortable and with whoever you please among your 350 fellow passengers.

Three hundred and fifty? I've

been on cruise ships that carried that many wine stewards.

The ship lacks night club shows, but features a well-stocked library. You can't find a bingo hall but there is an outdoor pool, a spa and a fully-equipped gym.

Or you can go ashore and tread in the footsteps of the ancients (shore excursions are included in the package price). For hopelessly hot-wired passengers there is a small internet room. On the other hand there's also a yoga class each morning on an open deck under the Mediterranean sky.

It sounds too good to be true. I'm going for it.

What sold me was a letter from a Canadian client quoted in the brochure. "No bingo, no casino, no photographer, no chorus line and no Baked Alaska! Need I say more?"

Not as far as I'm concerned. How do you say "All aboard" in Greek?

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RANTS and Roses

A shop full of roses to all the health workers who helped Jay during his time on Salt Spring. These include all the pharmacy staff downtown plus the Beacon home care workers. My special thanks to the caring staff at Lady Minto and all the wonderful homecare nurses. More flowers to Drs. Preshaw, Woodley and Ryan, who gave Jay four more years. It was Jay's and my good fortune to come under the care of Dr. Jan MacPhail when we came to the Gulf Islands. Dr. McPhail never ever gave up on Jay and, along with her fantastic support team of Joan and Carol, were always ready to try to improve his life. To these women there are not enough roses nor words to express how grateful I am for your support. Peggy Nixon

Sweet-smelling alfalfa to Star Barks farm supplies for your generous one per cent donation of sales to our local farm-to-plate abattoir! "Food security starts at home."

A living rosebush full of blooming roses for Jennifer Abbott, whose kind offer to contribute the proceeds from two full-house screenings of her wonderful movie "I AM" at The Fritz will help support Raffi's Centre for Child Honouring and also Seven Ravens Farm Permaculture Projects at Kenyan primary schools. For those unable to attend the screenings, "I AM" has been made available at Island Star Video and the library, and is highly recommended!

An armful of Valentine roses from Bandedemonium to all those enthusiastic guests — dancers and listeners — who turned out to make Swing Shift's Songs for Salt Spring Lovers a great success. Thanks as well to our many volunteers (you know who you are) and those local businesses who donated: Country Grocer, Harlan's, Salt Spring Inn, TJ Beans and Pomodoro's Pizza. See you next year! JM

Beautiful roses to Kelly and Sandy Hyslop for so generously offering me a ride home from the Long Harbour ferry when my ride home was late. It would have been a long detour for you, but you insisted. A big heartfelt thank you. Dominique M

Roses to Blaine at Johnson's Automotive for going way beyond the call of duty to get my car back on the road in time for me to attend my grandchild's first birthday celebration off-island. WK

Beautiful roses to the beautiful people like Roberta, Kathy, John and Venonika, who donated to Velo Village's Beautiful Bike program this week. We could still use a few more. We are also looking for donations of oil-based paint with which to paint the bikes. Call 250-537-4859 or 250-653-0015.

Little Red Schoolhouse roses to Ian Marcotte for bucking and delivering a load of log

rounds to our school and to Chris Muscat for chopping and stacking it all. You're the best! Thank you so much for your generous donations. In appreciation from the families, children and staff of Little Red

A shelter full of wildflowers to my amazing co-workers at the In from the Cold shelter. Eve, Naomi, Tim, Jamie, Barbara, Alisha and Sharon: all your endless support and good cheer goes a long way here in the community we serve. Thank you all so much. Donna Dunnigan

The art room at Gulf Islands Secondary School recently received a large-scale scanner and photocopier from Apple Photo when they replaced these machines with new ones. The art room staff and students are looking forward to exploring the creative possibilities of this equipment. Thanks, Apple Photo. Peter Legun, GISS art teacher

A dozen beautifully painted roses to Richard Murakami for the wonderful job he and his crew did restoring my truck after I rolled it over

a bank over Christmas. I will try not to bang it up again, Richard. And a plea to people not to bang their doors into the newly painted truck. GM

Spring roses to TJ Beans for giving a free coffee to all Salt Spring Island Library volunteers last Friday, and for their support of the island's hardworking volunteers and our local library.

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I would like to say "Thank You" to all my former and current clients with whom I have had the great pleasure knowing during my time at the Driftwood these past three and half years. Also big hugs to the wonderful Driftwood staff I have come to know and love. I have made the decision to spend more time with my family, and will therefore be leaving the Driftwood as of February 29th.

Take care and I look forward to seeing you around town!

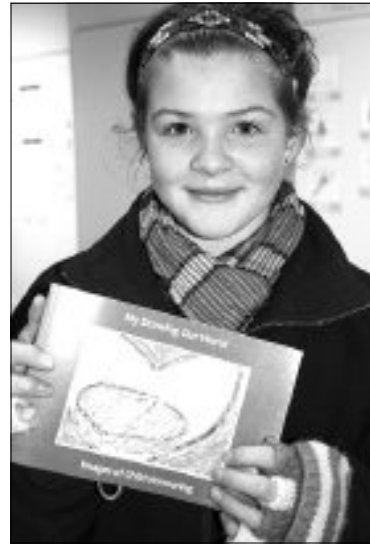


OPINION



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

PRINCIPLE EXHIBIT: The My Drawing Our World project wound up at ArtSpring this week with an exhibit of artwork from the Centre for Child Honouring-sponsored event. Above, from left, are project coordinator Tracy Harrison, one of the young participating artists Zyon Aven-Picard, and Raffi Cavoukian, founder of the centre. At right is Sophie Kornelsen, whose "conscious parenting principle" drawing was chosen for the cover of the book. For a video and more info about the project, see www.childhonouring.org.



Capital Regional District

Notice of Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel 2012

- Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Fulford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Malliview Estates Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Second Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Sewerage Service (Pender Island)
- North Pender Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Lyall Harbour / Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

Take Notice that the annual sitting of the Local Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Capital Regional District, Room 651, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, British Columbia to hear appeals against the aforementioned 2012 parcel tax rolls.

The Local Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

A copy of the complete rolls will be available for inspection at the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm M-F and the Ganges Building inspection office, #206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (above the Post Office), Ganges, BC from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm M-F, commencing February 29, 2012.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 29th day of February, 2012.

Diana E. Lokken, CMA
General Manager, Corporate Services
Capital Regional District

Let's build on the power of a wave

BY JEAN GELWICKS

Have you ever cycled on Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands?

If you have, you know they are the best model of a cycle-friendly island. Lopez Islanders make their visiting cyclist feel extraordinarily welcomed.

That they are the flattest of all the San Juan Islands is definitely a draw, but this is not what makes the place feel so friendly. They have lots of bike racks, a great bakery, a washroom in the centre of town and a map of the island, but these are not the answer either, as many other places, including Salt Spring, have the same. What they do is so simple and it does not cost a single cent.

They wave. That's it. Just a simple wave. Every cyclist they encounter gets a friendly wave. The wave varies. It can either be a full-blown wave (using the entire arm and hand) accompanied by a large

INDEPTH

smile, all the way down to a simple one-finger wave, (with the driver's hands still on the steering wheel) and a nod of the head — and everything in between — but there is always a wave.

At receiving your first wave you think, "That was a nice person." As you cycle on and receive a few more waves you think, "This is an extremely friendly island" and then it dawns on you — everyone waves at cyclists. Why?

Well, they are most likely a friendly lot to begin with, but it is also good for business and the kind of business they want to actively encourage. They want people to leave their cars at home and come to their island on bikes. They like that their downtown does not get clogged up with parked cars and that traffic

does not get out of hand.

They know every cyclist will end up in their bakery, coffee shop, restaurants and accommodations. It is good for business and good for the environment at the same time. They like their reputation and they like perpetuating it.

I am wondering, could Salt Spring do the same? Can we make it a part of our culture to say, "Thank you for cycling to our island and please come again?"

Velo Village will be happening on June 21 to 23 on Salt Spring and we are hoping to attract many visitors to our island on bikes. People who are interested in rural cycling issues will be attending the VV conference, some will be coming to see the working bike demonstrations and others will come to join in on the fun bike ride.

We want these visitors to leave happy, return to visit again and tell all their friends how courteous and

friendly Salt Spring Islanders are.

One thing we are doing for Velo Village and to make our visitors feel welcomed is placing a number of "beautiful bikes" on our main roads into Ganges as well as on the route of the Velo Village fun ride.

This is an idea we stole from Lopez Island. They use painted bikes for their very fun Tour de Lopez ride in late April.

We still need more used bikes, people willing to paint bikes, used oil-based paint and people willing to have a bike in the front of their property from June 1 to 23.

If you can help with any of these things, call 250-537-4859 if you live on the north end or 250-653-0015 if you live on the south end — and start waving.

The writer is a member of Island Pathways and the Velo Village organizing committee.

MORE LETTERS Alternative

Are you tired of your forced exposure to music-like products performed by wanna be porn stars with their electronically mutilated voices designed to simulate the sound of tone-deaf, helium breathing munchkins?

Do you long to see dance moves that are not a cross between pole dancing and epilepsy? Are you bored of simulated music feed, designed for the musically illiterate, with attention spans of less than a minute — music for people who can only recognize a two-second musical pattern after it is played 100 times consecutively?

Are you bored of the same old four chords, the same five instruments? Would you like to hear music that isn't 4/4? How about performers who don't need auto tune

microphones?

Do you find it annoying that the word "alternative" is used as code for the latest version of sounds marketed as music to poseurs, sounds devoid of melody and harmony, performed by egocentric thugs and strippers with a penchant for trite and obscene lyrics who possess instrumental talents rivalling that of an inebriated cat walking on a keyboard?

Musicians critics seem to think a beautiful melody is unhip; great musicians have long recognized that "hip" is that limited state of mind best suited to the professional critic. There are so many beautiful melodies waiting to be heard by new ears.

If you long for a musical night out, full of elegance, manners, community spirit and beautiful music, then be ready for a Viennese Waltz Night, March 17 at Fulford Hall. A musical alternative for the decidedly unhip. **DERRICK MILTON, SALT SPRING**

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Arts & Entertainment

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Words Without Borders

Salt Spring Forum's first literary festival feeds island hearts, minds and bodies



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Carmen Aguirre, author of *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter*, which won the latest Canada Reads contest on CBC radio, with Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, who was a last-minute moderator of the Women on the Edge panel at Mahon Hall on Saturday.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Charles Foran, right, author of major non-fiction award-winner *Mordecai: The Life and Times*, chats with Esu Edugyan, author of 2011 Giller Prize-winner *Half-Blood Blues* (turned away from camera, left) and her husband Steven Price, who is also a writer, holding their baby at the South End Literary Brunch at Beaver Point Hall.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Brigette DePape, the former Senate page who made headlines for holding up a Stop Harper sign in the Senate last year, performs part of a work-in-progress 'Rogue Page' play at the Speaking Out evening on Friday.

Words Without Borders By the Numbers

- 7 events at 5 venues
- 16 writers, panelists and moderators
- 19 volunteers
- 24 local sponsors

See our related editorial, Page 8

More photos at facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood; and at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Well-known Victoria writer Susan Musgrave reading at Beaver Point Hall during the literary brunch.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Murray Brewster, author of *The Savage War: The Untold Battles of Afghanistan*, at the Saturday night panel event at ArtSpring.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Performance poet Maggie Ulysses, who closed out the festival Sunday night at Mahon Hall along with C.R. Avery.

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5 shows at Mahon Hall March 2-10

directed by: **Nadine Wright**
 featuring: **Christina Penhale** **Victoria Mihalyi**
 by Marsha Norman

The Pulitzer Prize winning drama
'night, Mother

(To see contest rules click on CONTEST on our website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

What's On This Week

www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar



What's On - the go!
Scan this barcode with your smartphone to download, instructions below.

Thurs. March 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Bingo at Meaden Hall. Legion Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser. Early bird games at 6:30 PM.

ACTIVITIES
Smart Meter Info/Action Meeting. With guest speaker Josh Del Sol, who is producing Smart Meters - The Film. Salt Spring United Church. 7 PM.
SSI Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Program. Bi-monthly business meeting. Multi-purpose room. ArtSpring. 10:30 AM.
First Thursday Gallery Talk. Fraser Hope leads an Inuit sculpture identification night at Pegasus Gallery. Refreshments. 6 PM.

Fri. March 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Stop the Enbridge Pipeline. Dinner, speakers and dance at Beaver Point Hall. A wholesome dinner at 6 PM will be followed by speakers. Then dance with Ora Coogan and The Barefoot Thieves at 9:30 PM.
Ramesh Meyers. Live music at the Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM.
Vaughn Fulford. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 PM.
'night, Mother. Mad as a Hatter Production of the winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Stars Christina Penhale and Victoria Mihalychi. Mahon Hall. 8 PM.
The Boy Jimmy. Gulf Islands Secondary drama students present student written, directed and performed play. ArtSpring. 7:30 PM.

Fri. March 2

ACTIVITIES
StoryTime at the Library Annex. Fairy Tale Magic with Nixie. Join us for stories, rhymes and fun. SSI Library Annex. 1 PM.
World Day of Prayer. 2012 World Day of Prayer service to be followed with Malaysian-themed refreshments and gathering for all faiths. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 1:30 PM.
Salt Spring Documentary Film Festival. 13th annual festival at GISS. Opening Gala with The Girls in the Band. 6 PM.

Sat. March 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Delhi 2 Dublin. Vancouver electronic band with special guest DJ Joshua James. All ages. Fulford Hall. 8 PM.
English and Van Wyck. Live jazz. Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM.
Indigo Kids. Live band from Vancouver. Moby's. 9 PM.
Nick Suss and Laila Garsys. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 PM.
Peter Prince. Live music at the Raven Street Wood Fire Cafe. 6 PM.
The Barley Bros. At the Salt Spring Inn. 6 PM.
'night, Mother. See Friday's listing.
The Boy Jimmy. See Friday's listing.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Documentary Film Festival. 13th annual festival at GISS. 10 AM to 6 PM. See www.saltspringfilmfestival.com for schedule; or pull-out paper schedule in last weeks Driftwood.

Sun. March 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Voca Me Presents Kassia. Stuttgart's Voca Me ensemble presents the music of the 9th Century Byzantine composer Kassia, the earliest known female composer. Pre-concert chat at 1:30 PM. Concert 2:30 PM.
Diana English. Live music at the Harbour House Hotel. 6 PM.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Documentary Film Festival. See Saturday's listing. See Friday's listing, except the time is at 5 PM.

Mon. March 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Nathan Rogers. Nathan Rogers sings songs of his father Stan Rogers with four piece band. Fridas Villa co-presents with ArtSpring. 8 PM.

ACTIVITIES
Maintaining Your Brain and Delaying Dementia. A Seniors Information Forum in the ArtSpring gallery led by Irene Barnes. 2 to 4 p.m. RSVP to Heritage Place, 250-537-8340.

Tues. March 6

ACTIVITIES
Scrabble Fundraiser. Drop-in games support Grandmothers-to-Grandmothers fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 PM.
Who Speaks for Wolf? A special presentation by Gary Allan on the importance of wolves in the ecosystem, along with his wolf-dog Tundra. Salt Spring Elementary School. 7 PM.

Wed. March 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Patricia Flannagan. Vocalist performs music of Scotland for Music & Munch at All Saints. Free recital followed by optional lunch for \$5.50. 12:10 PM.

Carlos Del Junco & the Blues Mongrels. Blues, New Orleans second-line grooves, swing, Latin, hip-hop and more. ArtSpring. 8 PM.

ACTIVITIES
Annual Memorial Lunch and Bridge. Fundraiser for Options for Sexual Health aka Planned Parenthood to maintain clinic. Fulford Hall. 12 PM.
Scrabble Fundraiser. See Tuesday's listing. Salt Spring Golf Club Bar & Grill. 6 to 10 PM.

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CINEMA

- My Week with Marilyn** — Michelle Williams shines in My Week with Marilyn, capturing the essence of Marilyn Monroe while working on the set of 'The Prince and the Showgirl,' the film that united Sir Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe, who was also on honeymoon with her new husband. Nearly 40 years on, the diary account of The Prince, the Showgirl and Me was published, but one week was missing and published years later as My Week with Marilyn — this is the story of that week.

EXHIBITIONS

- Fernwood Road Cafe** owner Jennifer Shaw displays photos of some of the beautiful sunrises of the winter at the cafe through mid-March.
- Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art** presents an exhibition of Inuit sculpture through March.
- Samantha Sanderson and Khadejha McCall** exhibit work at Island Savings until mid-March.
- Barbra Edwards** shows paintings at Marketplace Cafe.
- Robert Prince** shows relief pieces at Penny's Pantry.
- The Porch Gallery** is open Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. at the home of Mother Tongue Publishing's Mona Fertig & Peter Haase, 290 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Featuring work of George Fertig, Jack Akroyd, Irene Hoffer Reid, Wim Blom, Ina D.D. Uthoff, Gary Sim, LeRoy Jensen, Gordon Caruso and Peter Haase.
- See **Lyman Whitaker's** wind sculptures at Grace Point Square.
- See the sculpture garden outside of **Mahon Hall** in Ganges.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CONCERT PREVIEW

Nathan Rogers performs dad's songs

Folk music show at ArtSpring March 5

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The music of late folksinger Stan Rogers is one of the ties that binds Canadians together, whether it's a table of patrons at an Irish pub in Montreal bursting into a rousing rendition of Barrett's Privateers or the prime minister referring to Northwest Passage as one of the nation's unofficial anthems.

Salt Spring audiences will have the chance to hear these songs take on a new life when Stan's son Nathan Rogers visits ArtSpring with his band on Monday, March 5.

Though Stan unfortunately died in an airplane crash in 1983, Nathan has grown up to become a respected folk singer in his own right. With two critically acclaimed albums and a couple of European tours under his belt, plus a number of engagements in Australia coming up this spring, he has lately embarked on a concert tour with an entire



Nathan Rogers visits Salt Spring for a show of Stan Rogers music at ArtSpring on Monday.

program devoted to his father's work. Joining him are Trevor Mills (son of Stan's producer, Paul Mills), guitarist and singer-songwriter J.D. Edwards and virtuoso mandolin and fiddle player Andrew Bryan.

When asked why he decided to set aside his own work for a spell and take on his father's legacy, Rogers explained he is now secure enough in his own musical identity to perform the songs that have always deeply influenced him.

"I was pleased with the way my albums have been received, I've toured internationally, and my new project Dry Bones is going full

steam ahead," Rogers told the Driftwood last week. "My own career seems to be doing just fine, so the timing just seemed right to do this now."

Just four years old when his father died, Rogers has found connecting with Stan's legions of fans to be an emotional and rewarding experience. Highlights of the tour so far have included a sell-out show in the singer's hometown of Winnipeg, where fans packed the West End Cultural Centre to the gills and showed their enthusiastic support.

"It's been very special," Rogers said. "The Canadian pub-

lic has taken this music very personally and has a very emotional connection to it. It's been really amazing to be a part of."

Rogers said the reason Canadians continue to find his father's songs so meaningful is they contain a message and sentiment that's even more relevant today than when Stan first wrote them.

"They appeal to a working-class ethic that's still alive and well in this country today, and I think that's what people respond to. Folk music and songs about work and songs for working-class people have always been intertwined. I think that's what makes folk music folk music, at least in North America."

One of the rewards of the tour has been the opportunity to bring some of Stan's lesser-known gems into public exposure. Of course the big hits are still part of the program, but audiences shouldn't expect to hear a musical impersonation, even though Rogers can't help sounding and looking a lot like his father. His strategy is to approach the songs with honesty.

"What we're not

doing is creating a jukebox scenario," Rogers said.

"These aren't reproductions of Stan's work, note for note, sound for sound, but part of the organic process the work has taken on.

"At the same time we respect the original recordings and the original meaning. We try to find a balance."

Nathan Sings Stan comes to Salt Spring as a co-presentation by ArtSpring and Frida's Villa. Tickets are \$22 in advance or \$25 on the day of the show, and \$5 for youth.

See www.artspring.ca for details.



News Updates

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FABRIC ART

Stitches presents quilt trunk show with Catherine Nichols

Visiting artist shares work at March 9 event

A well-known fabric artist and educator is set to visit Salt Spring next week with a public trunk show as one of her activities.

Catherine Nichols has exhibited and taught in North America and Europe individually and as a member of SIX, a U.K.-based textile group.

While registration for a two-day textile illustration course is full, everyone is welcome to a power-point presentation and trunk show at Lions Hall on Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 at the door.

According to a press release

from Stitches, which is sponsoring Nichols' visit, the show will include many of her quilts, including some current work to be exhibited later in 2012 as part of the release of the Th3fold Journal #6.

Nichols was born in Vancouver and grew up on the Queen Charlotte Islands where the tradition of oral history influenced her quilt making. Much of her work is inspired by the nature and stories of the Pacific Northwest.

She is a well-known painter, writer, quilt-maker, teacher and one of the founding members of the Th3fold journal group. She holds City and Guilds diplomas, is a member of the textile group SIX, the Surface Design Association and a tutor for the online courses

offered by Design Matters in the U.K.

Her workshops include patchwork and quilting techniques, sketchbooks and journaling, life drawing and textile manipulation.

The two-day course being led by Nichols is not the first weekend retreat offered by Stitches.

"In 2011, we held three events, which brought 15 visitors each time to the island," said Stitches owner Karen Tottman. "We rent the Lions Hall for the venue, and provide accommodation at the Salt Spring Inn, Sea Breeze Inne and local B&Bs. We find that many visitors choose to stay for additional days and visit other businesses and locations on the island."

RECITAL SERIES

Love of Scottish music reflected in next music & Munch concert

Patricia Flannagan on March 7

In June of last year the delightful songstress Patricia Flannagan made her debut in the Music and Munch series with an entrancing program of folk music of Scotland.

She returns to All Saints next Wednesday for a much-anticipated second engagement.

Flannagan comes about her love of Scottish music not through blood but through marriage. Her husband, John Flannagan, though of Irish lineage traces his Scottish connections back to the mid 1700s when the Flannagan family emigrated from Ireland to Scotland.

Though relatively recent to solo singing, Flannagan has been choral singing for many years, particularly with the popular female chorus Women of Note, and in recent years with Jim Stubbs' Bach on the Rock Chamber Choir.

The program she has chosen features ballads such as Silkie, Mary Hamilton and the Terror Time, but also includes a lament, some clap-along numbers and sing-along choruses, plus "even a very cheeky piece where the woman comes out on top."

The free March 7 presentation at All Saints By-the-Sea begins at 12:10 p.m. and is followed by an optional delicious light lunch prepared by the Anglican Caterers for \$5.50.

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Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama

'night, Mother

by Marsha Norman

featuring: **Christina Penhale**
Victoria Mihalysiat **Mahon Hall**
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE THEATRE

Devastating choice unfurls in Pulitzer-winning drama

'night Mother opens this Friday night at Mahon Hall

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The decision to end one's own life can be an emotional stealth bomb: a quiet, private and desperate conviction that culminates with shock waves of grief that ripple outwards to include family, friends and community.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama 'night Mother, by Marsha Norman, being staged on Salt Spring for two weekends beginning Friday, March 2, imagines a different scenario. The one-act play is formulated on a decision that is not kept private and reasons that are clearly delineated in advance of the act as a mother attempts to deal with that decision and change the outcome after her daughter announces her terrible choice.

"I've never seen anything like this here — it's stand-out, edgy dark humour. It's exhilarating," said Victoria Mihalysi, one of the show's two stars.

Mihalysi is best known locally for her fantastic Flying Dreams aerial arts productions, but has turned more towards acting in recent years. Her play The Dharma According to Fifi allowed her to reveal a talent for comedic timing. Now in her role as the desperate mother Thelma, she'll be demonstrating the full range of her abilities.

The disturbing, moving and at times deeply funny play is directed by Vancouver-based actor Nadine Wright, and also stars Christina Penhale, an actor who has been making her name on the community theatre scene. Penhale has

convincingly tackled some meaty roles in recent years, including the mathematical genius Catherine in another Pulitzer winner, David Auburn's Proof. Most recently she was the affectionate ghost Maudie in Daddy's Girl.

The first time Penhale and Mihalysi came across 'night Mother was in scene work with Wright around a year and a half ago. Something about it

for several years.

As Mihalysi says, "It's a hard play to take home with you," but having the support of a theatre veteran behind them has helped draw out an honest understanding of the work.

"Nadine pushes me in directions I would never go to voluntarily, and it's fascinating to explore those facets of oneself," she said.

Although the entire play takes place within the context of a dysfunctional relationship, Mihalysi said the threat of suicide is a catalyst for that relationship to finally change.

And despite the dark nature of the subject material, audiences should not be scared off. The drama has stood the test of time ever since it first won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983, with very few changes even to the language required.

"It's like weaving a tapestry of all the threads of lives together and how that culminates in the final moment of the show. It's a fascinating experience," Mihalysi said.

"It is a deeply moving experience, and I think people are drawn in to share that experience. And I think Salt Spring Islanders are adventurers in every sense of the word and it will appeal to them."

The play opens at 8 p.m. this Friday at Mahon Hall, with subsequent performances March 3, 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. and a 5 p.m. show on Sunday, March 5. Tickets are available in advance for \$15 at Salt Spring Books or will be \$17 at the door.

The Driftwood is also running a contest for two free tickets, with several winners possible. Tell us who you would like to take to the play, and why, in 50 words or less. Send entries to contests@driftwoodmedia.com.

"I've never seen**anything like this****here — it's****stand-out, edgy****dark humour."**

VICTORIA MIHALYSI
Actor

made them want to return to the material in greater depth.

"It's a really in-depth growing experience, more than I realized," Mihalysi said of the play's challenges.

"I'm used to comedy and slapstick, and this is not, but it's an emotional roller coaster instead of a physical one. Aerial [work] gets the adrenaline going, and so does this."

Relying as it does on the interaction of just two characters, the play demands a lot of its actors, both on the stage and off. Penhale and Mihalysi already have a solid working relationship both with each other and with Wright that will be invaluable in bringing such intense material to the stage, having participated in intensive workshops through Wright's ACT2 acting studio

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1 Sunday, March 4 – 2:30pm
VOCA ME

Five amazing singers from Stuttgart bring us 9th Century Byzantine music from Kassia, the world's earliest known female composer.



2 Monday, March 5 – 8:00pm
NATHAN ROGERS

Stan Rogers' son, an accomplished musician in his own right, pays musical tribute to his illustrious father, one of the greatest folk musicians Canada has known.

3 Wednesday, March 7 – 8:00pm
CARLOS DEL JUNCO & THE BLUES MONGRELS

Canada's best blues harmonica player and his band play a seamless fusion of New Orleans grooves, swing, Latin, hip hop and swampy roots rock.



4 Thursday, March 8 – 8:00pm
THE ELMER ISELER SINGERS

One of Canada's best known professional choirs carries on the high standards of vocal music set by the late, legendary Elmer Iseler.

Tickets for all performances are available now from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre 537-2102 or online at www.tickets.artspring.ca

DVD REVIEW

The Thing ventures into uncertain remake territory with a prequel

Ah, the remake — always a contentious subject. When a remake of John Carpenter's horror/sci-fi smash The Thing was announced, fans did the typical whine-and-grumble show.

"Remakes suck," they said, and while this assertion is true a good 82 per cent of the time, a lot of them had clearly forgotten that the 1982 version is in fact a remake of 1951's The Thing From Another World.

Imagine the confusion when it was revealed that Matthijs Van Heijningen Jr.'s version was in fact a prequel, taking place only days before Carpenter's.

Confused? To be honest, don't worry about it. If you've seen Carpenter's ver-



Jason
Tudor

FLICK PICK

son, you've seen the only one you need, because the latest is bland and boring.

It's Antarctica, 1982. Scientists at a Norwegian outpost discover a massive spaceship buried under a glacier and dig out a chunk of ice beside it that holds a frozen alien body. Of course, they bring the body back, and it promptly busts out of the ice and starts digesting scientists.

Kate Lloyd (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), an American paleontologist brought

down specifically to look at the alien, quickly and correctly discerns that the alien is capable of taking on the form of any life-form it kills. Now everyone's in a pickle. Who's human? Who's an alien?

Ugh. Who cares. The 2011 The Thing parrots the plot of the 1982 version, but fails to evoke any of the latter's claustrophobic paranoia, absurd humour or bleak postmodern cynicism.

And it most certainly doesn't have Kurt Russell, instead giving us the bored-looking Winstead's vague impression of Ellen Ripley.

Honestly, the only fun I had with 2011's The Thing is

the anticipation of how its ending compared with the 1982 version's beginning, and even then it fails to deliver until the very (very) last minute. What a waste.

I'm not against prequels, but unless you're going to do something interesting with the material, don't even bother.

A remake of Carpenter's film, complete with a re-imagined version of its throbbing electronic score, self-aware gore and bleakest of bleak endings, would be fascinating in the right hands. What we've got instead is yet another cash grab by Hollywood that fails to even remotely deliver, and now we have to wait another 30 years.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTSPRING CONCERTS

ArtSpring presents 'mini music fest' with four shows

Voce Me, Nathan Rogers, Carlos del Junco and Elmer Iseler Singers



Acclaimed blues artist Carlos del Junco and his band is at ArtSpring on March 7.

Four amazing performances in five days seems almost too good to be true, but that's what's coming up at ArtSpring between Sunday, March 4 and Thursday, March 8.

The programming starts with a Sunday matinee by Voce Me — five singers from Stuttgart who perform Byzantine music by a previously neglected early composer.

"Kassia lived in the 9th century and predated Hildegard von Bingen by several hundred years," explains an ArtSpring press release. "She may well be the world's first known female composer. Within the context of her time she was an independent woman who determined her own paths in both music and spirituality."

The next day, on Monday evening, Nathan Rogers, son of the late Stan Rogers, visits ArtSpring to pay musical tribute to his father. Nathan Rogers is an accomplished

musician and songwriter in his own right, but on this tour he plays and sings the music that made Stan Rogers an unchallenged icon of Canadian folk music till his untimely death in 1983. (See story on Page 15 of this paper.)

Then on Wednesday, ArtSpring welcomes blues harmonica virtuoso Carlos del Junco with his band The Blues Mongrels. Born in Cuba but now living in Toronto, he is the recipient of endless musical awards including numerous Juno

nominations. Del Junco is our country's undisputed master of the 10-hole diatonic harmonica. Simultaneously sophisticated and raw, his playing blurs the boundaries between blues and jazz.

To bring the five days back to vocal music, ArtSpring welcomes The Elmer Iseler Singers on Thursday, March 8. This is one of Canada's longest-standing professional choirs, founded in 1979 by the late Elmer Iseler and now conducted by Lydia Adams. For several decades, especially on CBC radio, the choir set the gold standard for choral singing in Canada.

How did all this richness and variety come to be together in five short days in March?

"Call it either chance planning, or inspired planning," says ArtSpring executive director George Sipsos. "The huge variety of styles in these four programs gives us a concentrated dose of just how diverse musical traditions and sensibilities can be. In the wake of Salt Spring's literary festival and

film festival, think of it as a mini music festival."

Tickets for these four events, ranging in price from a high of \$28 to a low of \$5, are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre at 250-537-2102 or online at www.tickets.artspring.ca.

Details about the programs, including video and audio links, are posted on the ArtSpring website.

"In the wake of Salt

Spring's literary festival and film festival, think of it as a mini music festival."

GEORGE SIPOS
ArtSpring executive director

ACTIVISM

Anti-pipeline fundraiser flows Friday night at Beaver Point

Speakers, food and music organized by Ora Cogan, Jade Rosen and helpers

A group of younger adults is organizing a STOP the Northern Gateway Pipeline fundraiser at Beaver Point Hall this Friday night, March 2.

The event's purpose is to raise awareness of the threat of the Northern Gateway pipeline Enbridge is proposing to build from the Alberta Tar Sands to Coastal British Columbia.

Proceeds will go to The Dogwood Initiative and Pacific Wild.

"Enbridge wants to build the Northern Gateway Pipeline to transport the world's dirtiest oil from the Alberta Tar Sands to Kitimat, B.C.," states a press release. "From Kitimat it would be shipped on super tankers through the

Great Bear Rainforest — the largest intact rainforest in the world — en route to China and the U.S.A.

"The pipeline would cross a thousand rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and potential landslide areas.

Live music with Ora

Cogan, The Barefoot

Thieves and Meatdraw.

"The tanker route is a labyrinth of islands, an area that is prone to stormy weather and difficult to navigate, even for smaller vessels. If the project would go through, 225 super tankers would run each year.

"Considering these conditions and that Enbridge has been responsible for approxi-

mately 804 oil spills already, it would not be a matter of if but when there would be an oil spill."

The March 2 evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a vegetarian winter feast of soup, chili and salads for only \$8, followed by a raffle with awesome donations from local artists.

At 7:30, speakers Collette Heneghen from Pacific Wild, Jessica Brown (Heiltsuk First Nation), Briony Penn (Salt Spring-based scientist) and Celine Trojand (The Dogwood Initiative) will take the stage, followed by the showing of the documentary film *Oil in Eden*.

Live music begins at 9:30 p.m. with Ora Cogan, The Barefoot Thieves and special guests Meatdraw.

Tickets cost \$10 in advance and are available at Acoustic Planet, Salt Spring Sound, Salt Spring Books, B-Side and Island Escapades, or \$12 at the door.

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ART APPRECIATION

Inuit sculpture explored

First Thursday talk at Pegasus Gallery

The Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art will host a special Inuit sculpture identification night on March 1 as part of its ongoing and popular First Thursday gallery talks.

Held on the first Thursday of each month, the informal and engaging talks are meant to create dialogue and understanding of art-related subjects from the perspective of art appreciation and collecting.

This month the session leaves the coast and heads north into the land of the Inuit with special guest speaker and noted Inuit art collector Fraser Hope, who lived and worked as an educator in the North for 20 years.

"Have you ever wondered what the

symbols and numbers on the bottom of stone carvings mean?" asks a press release from the gallery. "Fraser will be on hand to translate and help identify the artist.

"Baker Lake, Arviat, Pangnirtung, Gjoa Haven. We have heard of these places, but where are they really? Who are the people who live in this vast landscape? Why does the carving from one place differ from that of another? Join us to explore the unique art of the Inuit."

Identifying Inuit begins at 6 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. at the gallery, which is located seaside at Moutats.

Light refreshments will be served. An exhibition of Inuit sculpture continues through the month.

Call the gallery at 250-537-2421 or visit www.pegasusgallery.ca for more info.

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AGRI-culture!

Chanticleer chickens and rooster peck about at Fulford farm.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring homesteaders bringing back heritage poultry breed

Chanticleer chickens get fans on Fulford area farm

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A breed of chicken that originated at the Abbey of Notre-Dame du Lac in Oka is finding new relevance as Salt Spring Island breeders take on the project of bringing back the heritage stock.

Heritage breeders and backyard farmers have both taken a liking to the bird, which was specifi-

cally created to withstand Eastern Canada's colder temperatures and to produce both meat and eggs. A Cisterian Trappist monk called Brother Wilfred developed the unique strain by combining Dark Cornish, White Leghorn, Rhode Island Red, White Wyandotte, Columbian Wyandotte and White Plymouth Rock breeds over a 10-year period beginning in 1907.

The Quebec government designated the Chanticleer as a provincial heritage animal in 1999, and to this day, most of its breeders can be found in Ontario and Quebec. There may be as few as 2,000 birds remaining.

Janis Gauthier and Ken Damer are more recent converts to the Chanticleer's good qualities. Gauthier, known for her consulting work around affordable

housing, had been thinking about raising chickens at her Burgoyne Valley home for some time when she learned about the breed from heritage poultry farmer Margaret Thomson.

"They're bred to be hardy and self-sufficient," Gauthier said.

"They tolerate the cold well — they have very small combs so they won't freeze."

The dual-purpose birds enjoy a reputation as good layers throughout the year, and are a decent size for the stew pot. Roosters can reach up to nine pounds in weight.

Gauthier and Damer currently host around a dozen birds, having lost most of their original flock to minks that live near Fulford Creek.

"They like to eat chickens and we did not properly seal our coop," Gauthier explained. "They are sneaky, they are smart and they are tenacious — they'll come back again and again. They kill them, drink their blood and leave the carcasses for you to find in the morning. It's a horrific scene."

The couple now has portable (and mink-proof) coops that Damer constructed. The coops can be moved around to different parts of the garden along with a portable wire fence, so in the summer the chickens can go to work taking out bugs and weeds in designated garden areas. The manure can be composted and put back into the garden.

In winter when there's nothing in the garden to damage, the birds free run. Gauthier lets them out as close to dawn as possible and is there to lock up the coop when the chickens return again at dusk.

Damer is currently working on building his own automatic door opener/closer that works with a light sensor.

"So we can actually go out for dinner some time," Gauthier laughed.

The Chanticleer is an amiable breed. Gauthier and Damer kept their largest rooster (another four went into the pot), and although he does a good job protecting the flock he doesn't try to attack people or other animals. The chickens get along equally well with the farm's two dogs, who were trained to think of them as part of the family pack, as they do with a resident duck who hangs around each summer.

Gauthier and Damer will be building the flock back up to 30 birds with

the arrival of new chicks this spring. With two coops they can keep the mothers and chicks in one house and the rest in a separate coop. They imagine they will increase the flock again and possibly add other heritage breeds in the future, but would have to build more separated housing to keep the lines pure.

Besides helping the garden and the incomparable goodness of farm fresh eggs, Gauthier said chickens provide an unexpectedly joyful source of entertainment.

"I spend more time watching and talking to the chickens than I'd like to admit. They've got personalities — the way they run around and scratch, they behave like kittens sometimes. They're just really fun to watch."

Islands Heritage Livestock, the B.C. chapter of Rare Breeds Canada, explains commercial considerations have endangered heritage breeds: "Older breeds now exist in very small numbers, often in groups remote from each other, making breeding a difficult challenge and inbreeding a great danger."

Gauthier has sold some of her chickens' fertilized eggs to other people wishing to raise Chanticleers and sees that as a growing practice when her flock increases. To avoid inbreeding her flock will benefit from new breeding stock found by Thomson, who sources fertilized eggs from places as near as Cedar and as far away as Kamloops.

Thomson's main chicken order for this year has already been made and will be arriving in early March. After those eggs are hatched, some will be fostered for the eight weeks it takes to tell the sex for those who only want females. After that, Windrush Farm's main activity will be raising heritage turkeys, but Thomson is open to calls from anyone interested in supporting heritage breeds. She can be reached at 250-537-4669.



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SALT SPRING



AGRICULTURE

GRAPE VARIETALS

Island-bred vines raise glass to sustainable wine making

Salt Spring's Paul Troop propagates truly local vines

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In a league where heavy hitters like Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot hog much of the liquor store's real estate, it's often hard for little guys to make an impression.

Lesser-known varieties like Chenin Blanc, Viognier, Semillon and Gamay have broken through with New World popular appeal, but much of that can be attributed to centuries of tradition and commercial success in the European market.

For grape varieties produced in British Columbia, a region where viticulture and the winemaking tradition date back little more than half a century, making a splash takes patience, skill, luck and plenty of perseverance.

"It's an addiction," said Paul Troop, the owner of Salt Spring's Omega Vines, the only Canadian commercial vine propagation operation west of the Niagara Peninsula. "Everybody here [in North America] has just said 'let's just try to do what everybody else has done,' but this is taking it towards a more historically regional path."



Paul Troop of Omega Vines with pots of rootstock.

out the complete lack of disease on a row of as-of-yet-unnamed four-year-old specimens. The vines, he said, never have and may never need to get sprayed, even with organic fungicides.

Troop, who has had a passion for sustainable vine viticulture for as long as he can remember, started Omega Vines as a way to offer growers access to grapes that can contend with Canada's challenging growing conditions and stand up to diseases unlike any other.

Through a partnership with Valentin Blattner, a Swiss grape breeder, Troop has introduced a handful of Blattner hybrids that may someday be the toast of the winemaking industry.

"It's better than organic. It's disease resistant," Troop proclaimed.

Although production and sales of organic wines have surged in recent years, Troop isn't convinced all wines deserve the credibility conferred by their organic status.

Sure, wines can be organic, but Troop says that often means using exhaust-spewing farm machinery to spray significant amounts of organic fungicides.

In an industry where costs incurred to control fungi and diseases

can account for up to 15 per cent of a vineyard's annual operating budget — even on organic operations — it's easy to see why more grape growers across Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and even Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and even Newfoundland have been filling orders with Troop.

Grafting is done every spring and Troop ships thousands of young plants to clients across Canada before summer.

"It's amazing how many go out," he said. "I started Omega to make the best choices available to local growers and it's all Salt Spring born and Salt Spring made. These vines have never been sprayed and this is part of what our whole objective has been."

"It's a philosophic as well as an economic vision, looking for varieties that reduce the amount of fungicides that are required."

As more winemakers learn the subtleties of Blattner-style grapes like Petite Milo, Epicure, Cabernet Libre and Cab Foch, wine drinkers have begun to take notice — and that is a sure way to get the Old World stalwarts to slide over and free up a bit of shelf space down at the neighbourhood wine shop.

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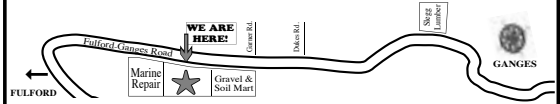
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"It's better than organic. It's disease resistant."
PAUL TROOP
Omega Vines

Since 2003, Troop has aspired to lay the groundwork for New World viticulture by grafting countless vines with rootstock he obtains from Oregon. Every so often Troop happens upon a keeper — something like Petite Milo, an award-winning pink grape that's perfectly suited to cool coastal climates. The grape, which lends itself well to making wines of Alsatian or Germanic Riesling styles, has been successfully cultivated and processed by a number of wineries throughout B.C., including Salt Spring Vineyards, where Troop has worked as a winemaker since 2002.

On a recent tour of his outdoor "laboratory" on Lee's Hill, overlooking the Burgoyne Valley, Troop is quick to point

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE BOOKS

All the Dirt digs out the goods

New book shares tales from the (organic) family farm

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fear of the office cubicle, a commitment to being outside and an aversion to always having to find time for the gym can be real incentives when it comes to pursuing a worthwhile and satisfying career.

Problem is, such lofty goals are often easier spoken than met.

A little more than a decade ago, however, Heather Stretch got an opportunity to pursue those very priorities when some acquaintances asked if she'd like to oversee a small farm on the Saanich Peninsula.

"[The former owners] said, 'Hey, do you want to be a farmer?' It had never occurred to me, but I thought 'wait a second, this might be perfect.'"

As her 12th spring on the farm looms around the garlic patch, Stretch is among a growing crop of young farmers who've returned to the land and begun to shake things up in the world of organic farming.

"It was kind of a lot of a leap but, as I've done it, the broader social, political and environmental implications have become apparent," she said.

In a collaborative effort with fellow Saanich Peninsula farmers Rachel Fisher and Robin Tunnicliffe, Stretch helped start Saanich

Organics, a successful cooperative vegetable-marketing business that operates in the Victoria region.

Their combined experiences, along with stories of their families and the state of organic farming, are the subjects of *All the Dirt: Reflections on Organic Farming*. The book offers readers an insightful and inspiring look into the lives of three organic farmers with plenty of local flavour — including sections on deer fencing, the reign of the slugs and coping with exhaustion.

Tunnicliffe, the owner of Fiesty Field Organic Farm, said she became involved with the book project after accumulating plenty of those we-could-write-a-book-about-this moments during tours, workshops and the daily routine on her small working farm.

"Writing the book gave us a good chance for sober reflection because, although farming is very rewarding and sometimes romantic, it's immensely challenging and a little scary as a committed career choice because there isn't the security that comes with more conventional jobs," she said. "This book is an honest reflection of our farming enterprise."

Fisher, the owner of Three Oaks Farm, is a firm believer in the learn-by-doing mantra. Her history on the land offers a quirky string of unconventional circumstances, mostly the result of the many hardships young farmers face when trying to secure a piece of land on which to follow their passion.

Things began in "the bender," a domed structure crafted out of tree boughs and tarps that was modelled on an English squatter shack. Fisher lived in the structure, built on a five-acre property owned by a generous family, for two years as she experimented with market gardening — an experience she describes as "a blissful introduction to what was to come later for me, as a full-time farmer, businessperson, property owner, and parent."

It was on the Saanich Peninsula's Redwing Farm, where her wooden pallet-floored kitchen required a two-by-four to keep the horses out, that Fisher eventually saw the progressive, stimulating and financially heartening promise of organic farming.

"It held promise of being rooted on the land and producing something of value with my own hands," she writes. "I dearly wanted to succeed."

As much as *All the Dirt* charts the success of three organic farms and their families, it doesn't gloss over any of the challenges faced by today's farmers.

Limiting factors like access to land, capital and markets, poor farming infrastructure, an "oppressive food safety regime" that hinders small farmers from effectively marketing their produce, public expectations for cheap food and Victoria's lack of a permanent indoor downtown market are still part of the daily grind.

All the Dirt is published by Touchwood Editions.



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FUNDRAISER

Scrabble players invited to drop in for fundraiser

Others can donate to Grandmothers to Grandmothers benefit for the Stephen Lewis Foundation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Grandmothers to Grandmothers group is back with its major fundraising event of the year with a series of drop-in Scrabble games starting Tuesday, March 6 in support of the Stephen

Lewis Foundation.

People of all levels and all ages are invited to come for an hour or two and play a game in a casual setting, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Salt Spring Inn on March 6 and 8 and from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Salt Spring Golf Club Bar & Grill on March 7 and 10.

"You don't have to be good. It's just for fun and it's a way to raise money," Grandmothers to Grandmothers member JoAnn Gainor explained.

"Just come. There's people to play with and a donation jar."

The Salt Spring group is part of a nationwide initiative to support the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in sub-Saharan Africa. What started in 2006 as an appeal to grandmothers living in the Toronto area has since grown to include 240 member groups who have raised more than \$10 million so far.

For those who aren't familiar with the foundation, Lewis started the charity in

2006 to help communities that have been almost destroyed by HIV/AIDS, following a visit to the region as the United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Administered by Lewis' daughter and boasting a low overhead, the foundation has since brought \$50 million to the region stretching from Ethiopia to South Africa. Projects are developed by the people who actually live there and are monitored for effectiveness.

"If you've heard him speak, it's just heartbreaking," Gainor said.

"When [Lewis] went and saw what was happening he was just devastated as a human being.

"In some of the smaller villages an entire generation got wiped out, and there were just old women and orphans left. The grandmothers were the only thing keeping the children from starving, under horrible conditions."

Just a few of the programs initiated to



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Sisters Linda, left, and Lila Rudachyk take part in a Valentine's Day Scrabble tournament hosted by the island's Grandmothers to Grandmothers group at the Salt Spring Inn as a warm-up to the series of games and events occurring around the island from March 6 through 10.

date include music therapy; a hospital to reconstruct women's bodies after they have suffered horrible rapes and a village where they can recover and receive counselling; payment of school fees and uniform fees so children can attend school; a medicare program allowing grandmothers to access health care for

their families; and a mentoring program for families without elders where children are raising their younger siblings.

Although the original idea was a simple one — grandmothers in Canada helping their African counterparts — the organization has grown to become much more inclusive. Salt Spring members may

be grandmothers, but they may also be "grand-others" — men, people too young to have grandchildren and people with no kids at all.

"All of us have heard those stories and seen some of the films," Gainor said.

"What his emphasis seems to be is, people are making a difference. Just a small amount from the

Grandmothers and the Stephen Lewis Foundation has made a big difference for a lot of people."

The Salt Spring group has raised more than \$20,000 since it first organized in 2008. Now with the scrabble games and a silent auction taking place at the golf club on March 10, its members are hoping to send a lot more.

People who attend the drop-in games will be eligible for small prizes, with categories such as youngest player, oldest player, lowest score and highest score.

No registration is required.

Anyone who would like to donate something to the auction or learn more about the Grandmothers to Grandmothers group can call Gainor at 250-931-6830.

GAMES AT A GLANCE:

March 6 and 8 — SS Inn, 2 to 4 p.m.

March 7 and 10 — SS Golf Club Bar & Grill, 6 to 10 p.m.



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ENVIRONMENT

GISS students host Bill McKibben on March 27

Author, 350.org founder

Student leaders at the Gulf Islands Secondary School have joined with the Salt Spring Forum and the Salt Spring Conservancy to bring author environmentalist Bill McKibben to the island for a presentation at Gulf Islands Secondary School on March 27.

The event takes place from 1:15 to 3 p.m. and will be open to GISS students

and the public.

Time Magazine called Bill McKibben "the planet's best green journalist" and the Boston Globe said in 2010 that he was "probably the country's most important environmentalist." He is the author of a dozen books, starting with *The End Of Nature* in 1989. His latest book is *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*.

McKibben is the president and co-



BILL MCKIBBEN

A press release explains, "This is a spe-

cial opportunity, not only for the students at the high school but also for the members of our community to hear such a prominent and influential environmental author, journalist and activist. It will be an event not to miss."

Tickets are \$15 (\$20 at the door) and free for GISS students. Tickets are at Salt Spring Coffee, Salt Spring Books, Salt Spring Air, Mouat's and Morningside Organic Café.

STEWARDSHIP

Invasive plant drop-off dates set for broom, ivy

Eco-Reality taking material

The Salt Spring Conservancy has organized an environmentally friendly and sustainable way to dispose of Scotch broom and English ivy — for free.

Eco-Reality Co-op Farm at 2172 Fulford-Ganges Rd. has agreed to take loads of broom and ivy to use as feed for goats and to chip as mulch for gardens.

Drop-off events will be held on the first and third Sundays of March, April and May from noon until 4 p.m.

People need to call Jan or Carol Steinman at 250-653-2024, let them know how much material they have and schedule a drop-off date.

"We're really pleased to find a use for broom and ivy, as they're both very widespread and problematic on Salt Spring," said Jean Wilkinson of the SS Conservancy's stewardship committee.

The drop-off project is a follow-up to invasive plant drop-off events held the last two years by the Conservancy with support from PARC and the CRD.

"If any other farmers, particularly those in the north island area, can use this plant material, we'd love to hear from you," added Wilkinson.

She can be reached at 250-537-4877. For more information on methods for controlling and removing invasive plants, see the Conservancy website at www.saltspringconservancy.ca.

Spirit of Salt Spring



From right, investment advisors Morna Collis and Carol Hall, who operate the wealth management practice for RBC Dominion Securities on Salt Spring Island, present a cheque for \$1,500 to Salt Spring Tennis Association president Erica Ross. The funds are the company's generous donation to a new indoor tennis facility to be built on the SS Golf & Country Club property.

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

Call Gail Sjuberg for details.

Driftwood
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

FOOD/TV

Salt Spring mom, daughters featured on TV cook-off show



PHOTO COURTESY THE FOOD NETWORK

From left, Suzanne Gay, Catherine Kennedy, Elizabeth Gay and Carol Johnson "show their mussels" for the Food Network's new show called Family Cook Off. Their episode airs on Thursday, March 8.

Family connects for Golden Frying Pan competition

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring woman and three grown daughters have put their cooking skills to the test for a new Food Network series called Family Cook Off, premiering Thursday, March 1.

"It was more exciting, nerve-racking and harder than you can imagine, because you always have some anticipation when you're cooking a special meal for family and friends, but to be on TV, on a stage, it was a rare experience," said 61-year-old hobby farmer Carol Johnson.

Participating together as the Gay family (a last name they once all shared), Johnson and her daughters Catherine Kennedy (38), Elizabeth Gay (42) and Suzanne Gay (29) all enjoy cooking. Family members living on Salt Spring at Johnson's Sunflower Farm enjoy making homemade artisanal breads and sauces from the veggies and herbs grown in the small market garden.

But it's Kennedy, the daughter living away from the farm on Prince Edward Island, who really takes the art of cooking to another level.

"Catherine and Suzanne have a fantasy of having a cooking show, and when we go on vacation together and Catherine

cooks, it's like a cooking show every night," Johnson said.

"She's quite famous among her friends on PEI for being a cook and loving to be in the kitchen."

Once Kennedy heard a new Food Network program was looking for participants, there was no way the women weren't going to bid for a spot. A video they filmed on the Salt Spring farm helped secure their place as one of 24 intergenerational fami-

"The interesting part was the

East-West fusion."

CAROL JOHNSON
Family Cook Off
participant

lies from across the country willing to put their skills on the line.

The half-hour program, which will run in back-to-back episodes Thursday nights at 9 and 9:30 p.m., pits two four-member teams in an outdoor cook-off set in Vancouver's False Creek. Each family team comes up with its own menu for a main course and dessert course, in each case including a set ingredient.

Breaking into pairs for each round, each pair has only 20 minutes per round to prep, cook and plate a complete dish and accompaniments. Celebrity judges Trish Magwood and

Anthony Sedlak decide who walks away with the Golden Frying Pan, bragging rights and \$1,000 worth of groceries.

Working with the mandatory ingredients of chicken for the main course and lemon for dessert, the Gay family prepared Thai curry chicken with rice noodles, followed by lemon- and saffron-poached pears with Greek yogurt and edible flowers.

"The interesting part was the East-West fusion," Johnson said of the training period, "because I was in PEI with Catherine on vacation and we spent a lot of time in the kitchen, while Suzanne and Elizabeth practised here on the farm."

While the results of the competition cannot be divulged before their episode — called Show Me Your Mussels — airs next Thursday, March 8, Johnson said the experience was definitely a rewarding one. She found it fascinating to see how a TV show is put together from behind the scenes, and enjoyed meeting the competitor family from the North Shore — although she notes that other family lives close together and hers is stretched 3,000 miles apart.

"The people were awesome and it was a pretty amazing family reunion," Johnson said.

To learn more about the show, and to access to the full recipes the Gay family prepared, look for Family Cook Off under Shows at www.foodnetwork.ca.

SPEAKERS

Salt Spring Elementary PAC hosts 'wolf man' Gary Allan and Tundra

School presentation gets rave reviews

A retired lawyer and advocate for wolves will be on Salt Spring this week giving a presentation on why the animals need

greater protection. "Who Speaks For Wolf is my journey to educate the public on canis lupus and to promote conservation efforts to provide protection for this wonderful, misunderstood animal," Allan explains on his website.

"It is a way for the wolf's voice to be

heard and acknowledged."

Allan is the owner of two wolf-dogs. Tundra, an 85 per cent wolf female, will be an important part of the event.

"For the past three years, I have been conducting presentations on wolves for schools and community groups. Tundra is

the star of the show as she gently interacts with the students and public," Allan writes.

The event takes place Tuesday, March 6 at Salt Spring Elementary School, beginning at 7 p.m.

Admission is by donation. Coffee, tea and desserts will be available. The event is a PAC fundraiser.

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

FILM FESTIVAL

Clean Bin Project filmmakers present zero-waste lifestyle

Just one of many documentaries at GISS from March 2 to 4

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Information and inspiration are two unspoken themes underlying the 13th annual Salt Spring Documentary Film Festival, with a myriad of fascinating films that show viewers something new, and perhaps prompt a few changes in thinking or lifestyle as a result.

Topics at the March 2-4 event may be as radical as *If a Tree Falls*, the story of one of America's most wanted "ecoterrorists," or they may demonstrate how people withstood racism and sexism to achieve supreme artistic work, such as *The Girls in the Band* or *Women Art Revolution*. They may supply a gentle source of wonder and inspiration such as in *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*.

The Clean Bin Project, screening on Saturday afternoon with filmmaker Grant Baldwin and partner Jen Rustemeyer in attendance, belongs to the genre that could actually provoke a change in your daily life. The fun and light-hearted film begins with the couple's challenge to live a zero-waste life for one year and in the process brings home some truly scary facts about packaging and waste in today's world.

The winner of multiple film festival awards, what seems to have surprised people most about the documentary so far is how good it is.

"We tried to do a documentary that was unlike a majority of films — to take what could be a boring and heavy subject and make it kind of fun," Baldwin said.

Featuring beautiful camera work and catchy background music, along with the appealing, candid young couple themselves, the documentary begins with

parameters of the project: buy no material goods at all, buy nothing consumable that has extra packaging, and reduce overall waste to the zero point to avoid contributing to landfills.

During a recent phone interview from Vancouver, the couple described their individual challenges. As a self-employed filmmaker and a musician producing music for films and TV, Baldwin found avoiding new electronic gadgets the most difficult. Rustemeyer was more apt to miss shopping for clothes, especially as she works in an office.

But beyond the humour there are some sobering facts. An interview with Captain Charles Moore, the scientist who has analyzed the plastic garbage island in the Pacific Ocean, lends weight and credibility to the overall message.

Moore is the founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation and the author of papers such as *A Comparison of Plastic and Plankton in the North Pacific Central Gyre*, a study that determined plastic outnumbered plankton six times. That was in 1999. Now the number is closer to 30 to one.

As Baldwin says, Moore's insight answers an important question.

"A lot of people said, 'I think it's really neat what you're doing, but why?'"

"A lot of people said, 'I

think it's really neat

what you're doing, but

why?"

GRANT BALDWIN
Clean Bin Project

As the challenge went on, however, it "absolutely became all about food." Charming and quite funny scenes show them eschewing shopping bags on countless trips to the grocery store, trying to buy bulk cheese and even trying to order a sandwich without toothpicks.

Students who have seen the film have been shocked that Rustemeyer went so far as to make her own deodorant and toothpaste and switched over to reusable feminine hygiene products. But as she explains, "It's all part of a continuum, so it doesn't seem like it's extreme. It's all about small steps: you try something, that becomes normal, you try something else."

Audiences will cringe in sympathy as Baldwin scrapes his face bloody with a dull razor blade,

Baldwin and Rustemeyer have stuck with their aggressive recycling and composting program, and while they occasionally buy things now that the official project is over, there's a lot they've learned to live without.

"Our life's not worse because of it — we'll be okay without straws," Rustemeyer said.

The Salt Spring Film Festival takes place at Gulf Islands Secondary School and opens with a gala screening of *The Girls in the Band*, Friday at 6 p.m.

Films are by donation, but viewers should be aware that a new policy requires everyone who attends to be a member of the film festival society.

One dollar of a viewer's donation covers festival membership. Participants just need to fill out a membership card and place the contact information portion in one of the membership boxes located near the entrances. Don't forget to bring membership cards back on subsequent days.

A full schedule of films can be found online at www.saltspringfilmfestival.com, or see the pull-out section in last week's Driftwood.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Ed gets set to open new chapter in its island history

Society's funds and book sale disbursed to other groups

press release from the society.

Before resigning, the board decided to donate the monies raised from the book sale to benefit five local organizations, to be used solely for educational purposes. After a great deal of discussion, it was decided to allocate the money as follows: \$5,500 each to Salt Spring Hospice, the Salt Spring Film Festival, the Salt Spring Arts Council and the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning; and \$10,000 to Salt Spring Literacy.

The year 2012 has heralded new changes for the Salt Spring Island Society for Community Education — also known as Community Ed.

The old board has stepped down, and a new board has stepped up. Patsy Siemens, Lynne Johnson, Michelle Kay, Pat MacPherson and Denis Russell have resigned, and Jacquie Stevulak, Anne Williams and John Binsted have taken their places until the next AGM in September.

"It's a time for new ideas and new directions," explains a

Johnson).

"We are excited at the prospect of how these unexpected gifts will be used in providing new educational opportunities for our community."

"In recent years the way that community education has been delivered on Salt Spring has shifted so that today instructors, often in avocational areas, provide courses directly to their client groups and in their own facilities. However, in this tight knit and largely self-sufficient community, there will always be the further need to build capacity in critical areas such as community planning and ensuring the availability of the necessary skills to manage and sustain those organizations

that deliver important community services."

In the coming months, PARC, together with the Salt Spring Foundation and Volunteer Salt Spring is going to be running a series of courses to help develop critical skills for not-for-profit boards and members. These courses will cover the basics of financial management, securing funding, social enterprise and ensuring organizational sustainability.

"At the same time the new board of Community Ed will be looking at ways to continue the organization's legacy of helping Salt Spring to build on its innate abilities and to grow as a thriving and vital community."

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

ALIEN PLANT INVADERS

Periwinkle targeted as Gulf Islands invasive species

The following is one in a series of articles on how to identify and manage some common invasive species on Salt Spring Island written by Jean Wilkinson, Stewardship Committee, Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

In the Georgia Basin, common and greater periwinkle have unfortunately escaped from many gardens and spread into nearby woods and riparian areas, negatively impacting local plant communities and habitats.

This Eurasian import has long been popular as an evergreen groundcover because it grows rapidly, has attractive blossoms and tolerates a wide range of conditions. Some garden columnists claim periwinkle allows other plants to survive and grow through it, but in this region (and many other parts of the world) it becomes a dense monoculture if left unchecked. A few jurisdictions have banned it, and some B.C. nurseries no longer carry periwinkle due to its invasive nature.

Because it tends to overrun

garden beds, excess plants are often thrown onto compost piles and into natural areas, where periwinkle poses a serious threat. New colonies can grow from small plant fragments, forming thick mats that choke out native plants, prevent re-generation of trees and shrubs, and diminish local biodiversity.

Everyone can help reduce the negative impacts of invasive species by controlling infestations. Check the wooded areas and edges of your property as periwinkle (or other alien plants) may be invading from your neighbour's lot. If you grow periwinkle, please ensure that it doesn't spread to wild spaces by planting it in an area contained by concrete or similar barrier, and use extra caution when disposing of cuttings. Carefully consider how it could spread if you were to move from the property, and resist the impulse to give plants away.

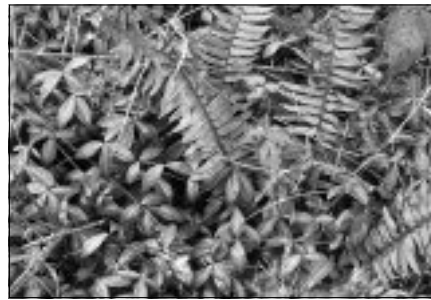
Periwinkle can be removed quite easily when the ground is damp (see below), and spring is the best time to do

this. Afterwards, plant native species or non-invasive alternatives (some suggestions below). Persistence is required, but you'll know you've helped protect native vegetation from an alien plant invader!

Common and Greater Periwinkle FACTS ABOUT THESE HORTICULTURAL BULLIES

Identification – Vinca minor and Vinca major. Perennial evergreen groundcover with trailing, somewhat woody stems up to two metres long. Shiny, oval variegated or dark green leaves are opposite. Flowers have five petals that form a tube at the base, and are violet to blue or white. Greater periwinkle has longer, arching stems and leaves to five or six cm; Common has smaller leaves and stems growing closer to the ground.

Impacts — Out-competes other vegetation for sunlight, moisture and nutrients, and can form large dense mats, killing native plants, preventing growth of tree and shrub



Periwinkle among sword ferns.

seedlings and altering habitats.

Found — In shady and sometimes sunny areas on slopes, along watercourses and on the forest floor, spreading from original plantings or garden refuse. Especially vigorous in damp areas, but can survive very dry periods.

Spreads — Stems root easily wherever a node or joint touches the ground; occasionally plants also produce viable seeds.

Control — Focus first on removing patches adjacent to or invading natural areas. Cut plants during active growth in early to late spring. Pulling or mowing the vines will control their spread but may result in abundant re-growth; repeated cutting will eventually kill the plant. For best control dig out the roots, but be careful not to loosen soil too much, especially near streams. Stem and root fragments will resprout, so regularly monitor the area and repeat treatment

as necessary.

Disposal — Take to landfill. Or dampen all plant parts, put into heavy black plastic bags, seal, place in hot sunny spot, and turn occasionally till plants rot and turn to mush. Once absolutely dead, contents can be put into compost pile.

Alternatives — (Grows in *Sun, +Part Shade or #Full shade, M prefers Moist soil, D prefers Dry, DT is Drought Tolerant):

Native: wild ginger + # M; piggy-back plant + M; coastal strawberry *+ D; kinnikinnick *+D; wood sorrel + # M; evergreen violet + # M,DT; small-flowered alumroot *+ # M,DT; Non-invasive non-native: Christmas box or sweet box (Sarcococca hookeriana)*+ # M, D.

More Info: Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewardship Committee 250-537-4877; Coastal Invasive Plant Committee www.coastalinvasiveplants.com; Invasive Plant Council of B.C. www.invasiveplant-councilbc.ca

PARC NEWS

Spring recreational activities and new leisure guide just around the corner

Pick up hiking trail maps and bring invasive plants to Kanaka Road

PARC
POSTINGS

Most of the winter might be behind us which means it's time to get outside again.

You can pick up a map of some of the hiking areas at the PARC office at Portlock. Then try out some trails you may not have been on before. The PARC trail crew will be back at work by mid March. If you see anything on a trail that needs to be repaired, please call us at 250-537-4448.

Climbing the
Ladder

You may have already learned from this newspaper that the Parks and Recreation department is looking for a new manager. Our current manager, Kees Ruurs, is moving onward and

Grants for Groups

The Spring 2012 deadline for PARC grants is March 31. Twice a year PARC gives out several small grants to clubs and organizations involved, one way or another, in parks and recreation. Take a look at the CRD/PARC website to see if your club or organiza-

tion might be eligible for one of these grants.

Leisure Guide
Listings

The spring Leisure Guide will be coming out in April. If your club or organization is in that guide, make sure the information we have is current. And if you are planning any special events between April and September let us know (250-537-4448) and we'll put that in the guide as well. But we need all this new information by March 15 so we can get it to the printers on time.

Saturday Market
Starts

The first Saturday market this year will be on April 7, Easter weekend. If you are a vendor, make sure you renew your permit. The market manager (Rob Pingle) will gladly answer any and all questions about the upcoming market season. Contact

him at Marketinthepark@crd.bc.ca.

Invasive Vegetation
Drop Off

The Parks and Recreation Department, working with the SSI Conservancy, has arranged a day every week when people can dispose of invasive vegetation. Starting Feb. 24, every Friday there will be a location at the end of Kanaka Road where people can drop off blackberries, broom and other invasives. Starting on April 7 a second day per week will be added with the site then being open every Friday and Saturday.

Pool Activities

The early spring brings all kinds of new activities to the pool, with fitness classes, a swim challenge and other special classes and activities. Contact the pool at 250-537-1402 for details.

You can also ask to be added to the pool's email list.

FAITH

Our Lady of Grace hosts World Day of Prayer 2012 this Friday

Annual event has Malaysian theme

People of all faiths are invited to attend a special service at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church to celebrate Malaysian concepts of peace and harmony and 2012's World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 2.

"World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together the first Friday of March to observe a common day of prayer each year," a press release explains.

Women's groups at the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic and United Church Parish-

es of Salt Spring coordinate the event (which welcomes women, men and children). In 2012 participants will join in spirit with the women of Malaysia to pray under the theme "Let Justice Prevail."

The prayer service begins at 1:30 p.m. and will be followed by a Malaysian-themed gathering with refreshments.



pho-tog-ra-phy
see also: www.johncameron.ca

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- 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. 10:30-12:30 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 Walk:** 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
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INFORMATION

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INFORMATION

INFORMATION

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weaknesses. Join us for our
next information session!
Thursday, March 1st,
12:30-2:30pm @ EAS #200-
3200 Shelbourne St, Victoria,
BC

INFORMATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT
#64 (Gulf Islands)
A regular meeting of the
Board of Education
will be held at the
Pender Islands School
Wednesday
March 7, 2012
at 1:00 pm
Public welcome!
To view the agenda for this
meeting, please refer to:
[www.sd64.bc.ca/
board_meetings.html](http://www.sd64.bc.ca/board_meetings.html)

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

INFORMATION

The Annual
General Meeting
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*Salt Spring
Arts Council*
will be held at
Mahon Hall
114 Rainbow Road,
Ganges on Saturday,
March 10, 2012
at 3:00 pm
To elect Directors, receive
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COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

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COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

**STOP
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ACTION MEETING**
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The Film"
**Thurs. March 1,
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TUESDAY: 7:00pm - 8:30pm
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd
Level: All levels
WEDNESDAY: 9:00am - 10:30am
The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd
Level: All levels
WEDNESDAY: 5:15pm - 6:30 pm
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd
Level: **On-going Beginners!**
THURSDAY: 3:00pm - 4:00 pm
The SS Centre, 355 Blackburn Rd.
Level: **Slow Flow for tired bodies!**
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**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 request 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 March 15	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave.
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

**ASTROLOGER MICHAEL
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Spring Island from March 6 to
9. In-person readings. Evening
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to Salt Spring
to talk about ALL his
ideas,
including cross party
cooperation.
Friday afternoon,
March 9th
Exact time & place TBA

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND OTHERS**
Re: The estate of
WALTER FLOERCKE,
Deceased, formerly of
Greenwoods Elder Care,
133 Blain Road, Salt
Spring Island, British Co-
lumbia 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 Ex-
ecutors at Box 414, Gan-
ges P.O., Salt Spring Is-
land, BC, V8K 2W1, on
or before April 12, 2012,
after which date the Ex-
ecutors will distribute the
estate among the parties
entitled to it, having re-
gard to the claims of
which the Executor
then has notice.
Janet 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 Ex-
ecutor, **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 Ave-
nue, Sidney, BC V8L 1X7

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LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: WINTER HOODY in new condition, outside Harbour Food Market. 250-931-7426.

LOST: BLACK & white male cat, answers to "Bondi" in the Beadie Rd./Price Rd. area May be wearing a collar with yellow phone number. Very friendly, much missed. Please call 250-537-4655.

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ASPHALT PAVING Personnel required: Paving contractor in Kamloops area requires Foreman and personnel for Asphalt Lay-down. Applicants should have minimum 1 years' experience in commercial and residential paving, although candidates with construction experience will be considered. Training and benefits will be available to the successful applicants. Please forward resume to: paverswanted@yahoo.ca.

ASPHALT PAVING Personnel Required: Paving contractor in the beautiful BC Interior requires paving personnel for all aspects of Asphalt Lay-down. Applicants should have minimum 1 years' experience in Highway, commercial and residential paving, although candidates with construction experience will be considered for training. Please forward resume to: paverswanted@yahoo.ca.

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Salt Spring Island Abattoir
Custom slaughter and processing of red meat and poultry

The SSI Agricultural Alliance is now looking for Expressions of Interest and creative proposals from individuals, groups or other entities who are interested in running ongoing operations of the abattoir as well as anyone interested in being part of the operating team for this exciting new local food venture. Deadline March 15th.

For more information contact: annemacey@shaw.ca or mail to SSI Agricultural Alliance 106 Old Scott Rd. SSI V8K 2L6

HELP WANTED

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY
MINUTE TAKER

The Islands Trust is seeking individuals to take minutes for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. The successful candidate will preferably be a resident of the island and will be responsible for taking minutes of meetings including regular business meetings, public information meetings, advisory committee meetings and public hearings. Tasks may also include posting and delivery of public hearing notices. Evening and weekend work may be required.

Applicants should be able to scribe, short-hand, speed-write or type a minimum of 60 words per minute. A good working knowledge of computers and MS Word is required. Candidates must be bondable and have good listening, written and communication skills.

The hourly rate is: \$18.93. Please contact the Islands Trust office at (250) 537-9144 for further information. Resumes can be delivered to:

Islands Trust
1-500 Lower Ganges Road, SSI, BC V8K 2N8
Attention: Claire Olfing, Planning Secretary
or emailed to ssinfo@gislandstrust.bc.ca
Applications will be received up to March 12, 2012.

BCjobnetwork

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LEMARE LAKE is accepting resumes for the following positions:
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• Line Machine Operator
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WESCO LUDIC - division of Sun Media, requires Full-time Heatset/Coldset 1st & 2nd Pressmen, 15 unit Goss Community. Competitive rates and benefits. Email resume: et@webcoleduc.com.

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2 BDRM Designer Cabin near central, for long-term rental. Full kitchen, bath, W/D, in-floor hgt. N/S & N/P \$975 + util. Markus, 250-653-9799.

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HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

2 BDRM house with large office, modern, ocean views & beach access, near Ganges. Short or long term, semi furnished, electric heat and wood stove. Avail April 1st. Suit responsible couple or small family with refs. 1480 NS. 604-251-3508.

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TERRIFIC SPACE, fully furnished, 1 bdrm suite, private entrance. Cable TV, high speed wifi, WD access, electric heat, covered deck, 5 min to Ganges. \$750 incl. 250-537-7072 lv message.

RENTALS

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MODERN UPPER suite in Vevusius. Approx. 300sf. Forest views, on bus route, walk to Vevusius Ferry, hydro & water included, suit single person only. NP, NS, avail immediately, long term. \$575. Contact Island Explorer Property Management 250-537-4722.

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WHAT'S ON
page 14

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

NINTENO GAME Cube plus games and two controllers. There are about a dozen games; Paper Mario, PacMan Battle, Sonic, and more. \$40. 250-537-7436.

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3 PIECE SET, sofa, love seat and recliner. Good condition, \$500 obo. 250-537-5737.

GARDEN FERTILIZER/ horse manure for sale - Call 250-537-7320 for prices & delivery options.

BACHELOR SUITE, \$550. Walker Hook, 250-538-5521.

20" SANYO TV and Philips DVD player. Work fine, excellent for kids room or spare room. \$50 for both. 250-537-7436.

\$50 Cash Refund

GULF ISLANDS OPTICAL will refund 1/2 the cost of your eye test up to \$50 with your purchase of a complete set of prescription eyewear (cannot be combined with other offers)

NATHAN CULLEN, candidate for the national leadership of the NDP, is coming to Salt Spring, March 9th, 1:45-3:15, United Church, lower hall. Coffee, tea and sweets will be served. Everyone is welcome

Lancer building,
323 Lower Ganges Road,
250-537-2648

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

This Week's
Noroscope

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

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The urge to retreat vies with extra demands on your time and energy. Handling this complex pattern gracefully could prove challenging. This is a call to go with the flow and relax on trying to push your self, other and situations against the grain. If you do your efforts will likely backfire and create frustration and conflict. Intend to ride out the winter peacefully.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Quality time spent with friends remains a priority. Sharing dreams is the high side, yet unravelling misunderstandings may also be necessary. What we want, feel and need does not always blend with that of others. Then there is the timing factor. Beware the inner child taking a tantrum. Efforts to be understanding of your self and others is an ideal goal now.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

You stand to be in the limelight now. Hopefully you are getting the attention you want. If not, ask especially authority figures or perhaps for the guidance and support of angels. Closer to home, the time has come to get to the bottom of things. Meanwhile, making new connections and perhaps even new friends is in this interesting mix.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

A whole new world has likely opened for you over the past year or so, but if this is not evident you may be feeling a little lost and confused. Are you lingering longer than is ideal in your comfort zone? We all have a destiny and tuning into it means being in the flow. Otherwise, we might just plough ahead determined to survive, resisting the gift of change. Either way, it is time again to take some calculated risks.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)

Matching your goals and ambitions with enthusiasm and action continues. The solution lies in stepping out of the protective shell and reaching out to others. Yet, be willing to pace yourself and let the momentum build slowly and surely. This trend will continue until mid spring anyway. Do continue to build upon new foundations especially in your career.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Rich and meaningful exchanges with others are a central theme now. These stand to have spiritual overtones. Meanwhile, a growing determination to improve in one way or another continues. Ideally your focus is geared towards increasing harmony with others and to create a smoother overall flow. A willingness to try new methods or create new angles will bring rewards.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

A focus on health continues. This may include establishing a more wholesome routine. At deeper levels, clearing past attachments, regrets, resentments or any other emotional issues may be what you really need. Being here now is healthy but it is easier said than done. Genuine gratitude is a key to achieving this. Let go and let god and give thanks and you will feel renewed.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

Creative waves continue to wash in. These are accompanied by an increase in your social life. Yet, it remains important that you give more now than you expect to receive. Meeting interpersonal challenges with understanding and integrity will go a long way now. Be careful of over idealism and expectation, yet do bring your imagination fully to the fore.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

Shifts and changes close to home are gaining your attention. It is time to think about the future more deliberately. New foundations beckon. The pace of change will accelerate over the next few months. This will have a noticeable impact on your relationships. Simply getting mentally and emotionally ready is a good start. Trust this flow and work with it!

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

Multiple streams of ideas are flowing in your mind now. Among them is the desire to create more beauty and/or harmony in your home. It is up to you to take the initiative here. Yet, you may also feel the need to take your space. Be careful of sending mixed messages. All efforts to explain where you are at and what you feel you need and want to those that matter will dissolve confusions.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)

Knowing what you genuinely want and need continues. You may sometimes feel as though prior foundations are eroding. What constitutes your power and how you express it is changing. Now is the time to accept and work with this change. Do not expect to fit easily into the world. Tailor your approach and attitude to align with your unique gifts, skills and aspirations.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Taking new leads and initiatives continues. Acquiring new tools and skills is part of the plot. Meanwhile, some challenging interactions with partners are likely. Resolving misunderstandings and confusions may feel extra important. Be willing to share what you think and feel openly and honestly; once you do hurt feelings and misunderstandings will clear.

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PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

UNDETERRED: Aidan Haigh scoots past his opponent in a 5-3 loss to Peninsula in U13 cup play on the weekend.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Over 30s split double-header

SS United play Saanich Fusion Storm next

Salt Spring United Over 30s action has been bracing over the past month, including a move from league play into cup play and an unusual double-header over the weekend of Feb 11-12.

A game against Vic Scottish on Feb. 11 ended with a convincing 4-0 final for Salt Spring, as the opposing team was unable to endure the pressure delivered by scorers Liz Wilson, Manya Sadouski, Jeanie Gray and Sue Anne Donaldson, who was on loan from Div. 2.

Unfortunately, Salt Spring did not fare as well against second-place team Bays United the next day, losing 2-0.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, United saw its first round of play for the Frank Leversedge Community Cup and emerged as a team to watch out for with a 1-0 final against Juan de Fuca's Div. 3B players.

"We started strong, but got caught back on our heels for a little over 30 minutes of the first half," said Sue King in a post-game report. "We weren't connecting with one another and some nerves may have come

into play. There were a lot of battles one on one for the ball and it seemed we kept getting the calls against us. Our defence played a strong game, excellent coverage and support.

"At about the 35-minute mark we got the break we needed. A strong through-ball from Robin Little, centre defence, split the other team's defence and their goalie was forced to come out and cut down the angle. Speedy striker Liz Wilson played it beautifully.

"It was our best scoring opportunity and we made it count."

King said she was impressed with the effort and determination that United continued to demonstrate in the second half. Lots of feisty battles for the ball again seemed to be called mostly in the opponent's favour.

"There were a few dangerous free kicks for Juan de Fuca which our defence and keeper Kym Bellavance played well," King said.

King said Juan de Fuca didn't give up, and a last-minute scoring opportunity by them was foiled by a spectacular save by Bellavance.

Next up in cup play, United plays Saanich Fusion Storm Div. 3B at home on March 4.

RUNNING

Sneakers running group stays on track for Cobble Hill race

The Salt Spring Sneakers are maintaining their edge as part of the island region's running elite after a 10-kilometre race at Cobble Hill.

The 149-point increase achieved Sunday could make the club one of the top 10 teams of the Vancouver Island Race series.

Andrew Haigh scored 20 points for the club as the first-place runner among 20 participants

in the men's 55-59 group. His completion time of 38:53 brought him to the finish line 37th out of 383 contestants overall. Haigh was also his club's fastest sprinter.

Team member Rick Laing was close behind with a completion time of 41:46, earning him the honour of being first in his M60-64 category and 80th overall. Eric Van Soeren placed eighth

in the same category at 47:48, bringing home 13 points.

Karen Curtin placed well in the women's 40-44 group, coming in fifth among 18 competitors and earning the club 16 points with a finish time of 48:45.

Racing in F55-59, Sabine Georgy earned 14 points and finished seventh out of 18 with a

finish time of 53:25. Team member Catherine Bennett came up close behind less than a minute later and placed ninth, earning another 12 points.

Other Salt Spring Sneakers were Lynn Thompson, Greg Taylor, Janice Dickie, Marion Young, Julie Van Soeren, Jean Southgate and Kim Young.

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THE BC JOBS PLAN

Gulf Islands secondary school basketball

Meet the Team



GISS Teamwork. Many contribute to the success of the Gulf Islands basketball teams. It is through team effort of players, coaches, parents, and community, that the students can attain so much from the experience. This week we would like to recognize our coaches who we have the good fortune of leading our youth.

Senior Boys Coach - **Donal Duncan**, teacher/coach.
Senior Girls Coach - **Tony Mason**, teacher/coach.
Junior Girls Coach - **Kim Chalmers**, teacher/coach.
Junior Boys Coach - **Diane Weatherby**, community coach. And our athletic director, **Stacy Mitchell**. Thank you for your many volunteer hours and dedication! (Seen in the above photo, on the court the Junior Boys exhibit team play with the precision of a behind the back pass which sets up the shooter to score)

Thank you Donal, Tony, Kim, Diane & Stacy.
Your commitment to youth sports is greatly appreciated.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

March sees busy schedule for hikers

Jasper and Wells Gray park presentations also on tap

Trail & Nature Presentation

Thursday, March 29: Backpacking the Skyline Trail in Jasper National Park presented by Lynn Thompson at 7:30 p.m. in the lower hall of the United Church on Hereford Avenue.

Travel the famous Skyline Trail with three Trail and Nature Club members. The rugged 45-km trail is largely above the tree line. It rambles through extensive meadows of flowers, crossing high passes where snow remains year round and through the habitat of marmots, bears and mountain caribou. Kees, Lise and Lynn will be present to relate their experiences.

As an added bonus, Lise has included pictures from her guided trip in Wells Gray Provincial Park last fall.

Thompson is a retired science/math teacher with a passion for the outdoors — particularly the mountains. His photography hobby makes it easy to

relive hiking adventures. He has been an active member of the Trail and Nature Club since his arrival on Salt Spring 16 years ago.

Hikers

March 6: The tide is right for Andrea's "sea to sea" hike across the north end of the island. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at 10:05 a.m. at the parking area near the Christmas tree where Sun-set meets North End. This is the beginning of the Jack Foster Trail.

March 13: Charles Kahn leads a moderate hike on Mount Erskine. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m.

March 20: Mary Hof leads a moderately strenuous hike up Cobble Hill Mountain on Vancouver Island. Carpool from Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to make the 9:10 a.m. ferry to Crofton. Meet the leader at the Cobble Hill rest area near the Valley View shopping centre at about 9:40 a.m.

March 27: Kees Visser leads a long, moderate hike with a few steep sections on Hope Hill. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

Walkers

March 6: Bryan Adderley leads a mystery walk. Carpool at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

March 13: Marcelle leads a walk in Burgoyne Bay to Daffodil Point. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at the Burgoyne triangle at 10:15 a.m.

March 20: Anke Smeele leads an off-island walk to Glendale Gardens/Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, leaving on the 9:50 a.m. Fulford ferry.

Those wishing to share rides should meet by 9 a.m. at ArtSpring.

Group entrance fee to the gardens is \$5.50 per person. Bring own lunch to eat there or share a later pub lunch at the Prairie Inn on the way back to Swartz Bay.

Return possibly on the 3 p.m. ferry.

March 27: Jacqueline Thomas leads a walk in Ruckle Park by the water to Bear Point then back to the park headquarters, skirting the farm area. A few steep rocky sections.

Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to meet at the first car park on the right, after the farm, at 10:20 a.m.

Ramblers

March 6: Frauke's choice! Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

March 13: Ramble with Bill and Marilyn Harding on Epron Road (off North End Road). Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch.

March 20: Ramble with Sterling and Maureen MacEachern. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

March 27: Ramble with Harold Page in the Burgoyne Bay area. If the weather is poor, an alternate ramble will occur. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch.

New Members

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

Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at our website at www.saltspringtnc.ca.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

GISS basketball players swallow tough losses at island championships

Junior boys end season 4th on Vancouver Island; seniors take 7th

Last weekend at the Vancouver Island championships in Duncan, a determined GISS junior boys Scorpions team earned the rank of number four for all of Vancouver Island. And, it was only a matter of two points in the final game that kept the school from capturing a berth at the coveted junior provincials for the first time.

"With a season record of 20 wins and four losses (and three of those to Lambrick Park), including play versus triple- and double-A teams from the Vancouver and Victoria area, the Scorpions' teamwork, dedication, talent and discipline put the team on the map with coaches and programs alike," stated a parent report about the team.

After a hard opening loss against Lambrick (66-51), despite impressive scoring by Eric Weatherby (19 points) and Grade 9 player Luke Hylands (12), the team knew they had to win the next three games to make it to the provincials. They responded with a resounding 60-27 win vs. Cowichan, with Weatherby (19), Tai Levitt (13), Billy George (11), and Hylands (8) at the fore, before their next fierce contest versus the south island's number-two team, Oak Bay.

Fortunately, Levitt's three pointers (12 points) continued raining down, and Lukas Wenzel's powerful inside play and scoring (12) was accompanied by the reliable Weatherby (9), George (9), and Hylands (6) in a 48-40 win, with Wenzel, Hylands and Weatherby dominating the boards.

"In order to beat nemesis Lambrick in the battle for the provincial spot, coach Diane Weatherby changed

strategy to deal with Lambrick's talented guard and height (6'7", and 6'6"). The Scorpions led the first three quarters by 21-17, 37-34, 42-41, thanks to Weatherby's driving score (18), Wenzel's inside moves (14), Levitt's uplifting three pointers (12), with playmaker George (8) and Hylands (4) never letting up. Add heroic inside battles and rebounds by Wenzel and Hylands, George's relentless court management, and brief but intense play by the injured Justin Kopetzki, and the picture is complete.

"Unfortunately, after George bulletted the ball to Levitt in the corner with two seconds to go, Levitt's elbow got clipped as he launched a final three pointer, and George's follow-up attempt to score in the final three tenths of a second with a valiant half-court attempt could not secure the win. Lambrick won 56-54.

"It should be noted that throughout, the players in supporting roles on the bench exemplified team cohesion and spirit."

The GISS senior boys team was also disappointed to not advance to provincial finals after a seventh-place finish at the Vancouver Island championships held at St. Michael's University School in Victoria.

On Thursday, the GISS senior boys faced a tough opening match against the number-one team representing the north island, Ladysmith.

"The Scorpions worked hard, but ended up giving up a lead in the closing minutes to drop the game 67-70," reported teacher-coach Donal Duncan.

"On Friday morning, they got surprised by the Highland boys, who came out fighting to avenge a tough first-round loss to St. Michael's. Highland took an early lead and held it the entire game for a 61-46 win over the Scorpions."

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