

The Driftwood has changed its look for 2013. We hope you enjoy it!

Year in Review
2012: The year that was
PAGES 9 - 16



GULF ISLANDS *Happy New Year*
Driftwood

Wednesday, January 2, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 1



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

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SEARCH & RESCUE

Marine rescue exercise set for Sunday

Public welcome
to watch from
Fernwood Dock

The seas of Trincomali Channel will be full of drama on Sunday, Jan. 6 as Salt Spring Island's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 hosts a search and rescue exercise.

Members of the public are invited to observe the action from Fernwood Dock from 1:30 p.m.

Organized by Station 25's newest coxswain, Nic Futter, who passed the Canadian Coast Guard's Rigid Hull Inflatable Officer Training course in October, the exercise will bring together RCMSAR stations from Salt Spring and Pender islands, Ladysmith and Brentwood Bay, as well as the Ganges Coast Guard base.

Futter has planned a series of scenarios that will test the skills and teamwork of the crews as they rotate through each task. Skills practised on the day will be recovery of a subject from the water using different techniques, patient assessment and transfer to a vessel from a beach, patient transfer from vessel to vessel and various operations with



PHOTO BY CLIFF KELLY

The Pender Island-based Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue inflatable vessel and the Canadian Coast Guard's Cape Naden vessel participating in the 2012 SAREX in Trincomali Channel.

the 47-foot Coast Guard vessel.

RCMSAR 25 recruited six promising new members in September 2012 and a number of these will be part of the local crew on Sunday.

"RCMSAR 25 values this training and team-building opportunity with the Ganges Coast Guard and neighbour-

ing RCMSAR stations and our location makes us perfectly suited to bring the various participants together," states a press release from Station 25.

"Crews enjoy being part of a SAREX because they have the opportunity to learn new skills, refine old skills and observe techniques used by others. The visiting stations

are also looking forward to training with Ganges Coast Guard."

Vessels on the water will radio in to Victoria Coast Guard radio to inform them that they are training in the Trincomali area and can be tasked at any time if needed by Joint Rescue Coordination Centre.



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WE	08:49	3.5	11.5	SA	10:10	3.4	11.2
	15:25	2.1	6.9		17:48	1.2	3.9
	19:20	2.4	7.9	06	01:13	2.5	8.2
03	01:39	1.3	4.3	SU	03:56	2.4	7.9
TH	09:15	3.5	11.5		10:41	3.4	11.2
	16:13	1.9	6.2		18:35	0.9	3.0
	20:56	2.3	7.5	07	02:53	2.8	9.2
04	02:16	1.6	5.2	MO	05:17	2.7	8.9
FR	09:41	3.5	11.5		11:17	3.4	11.2
	17:00	1.5	4.9		19:22	0.6	2.0
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FUNDRAISER

Spelling bee challenge returns

Team registration due Jan. 18

Gulf Islands Secondary School's athletics and sports program is bringing back a popular fundraising event with the second annual Salt Spring Spelling Bee set for Friday, Feb. 1.

Community teams have until Jan. 18 to register for the event, with an exciting evening of intellectual combat to look forward to and serious bragging rights on the line.

"Last year saw the first

Salt Spring Spelling Bee become a huge success, with Lady Minto fighting off the challenge of five other community teams to be crowned the 'Brains of Salt Spring' and take home the much coveted trophy," said organizer Richard Steel.

"We are expecting competition to be even stiffer this time as revenge is sought and new teams set out to claim the title for themselves."

The fundraiser will help reduce costs for GISS athletes. The athletic program and sports teams (apart from cur-

ricular PE) receive no funding from the government. Consequently for programs to run, athletes are charged a fee to help cover uniform, ferry travel and gas costs and tournament registration fees.

This time around the coordinators are looking for eight teams of between six and eight players to face off in the bee. Each team will need to raise a minimum of \$400 to enter and all proceeds will go to the GISS athletic program. In return, spelling bee teams will receive prizes donated by local busi-

nesses, gourmet food from the GISS cafeteria program and an evening of brain-teasing fun.

In addition to spelling, a general knowledge and a math component will spice things up. Teams will be registered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Supporters and audience members are welcome at the event, with a number of questions open to all and prizes up for grabs.

For more information and to register a team, contact Richard Steel at richardsteel@shaw.ca.

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Spelling Bee Registration Deadline:

Get your team together and register by Jan. 18 for Feb. 1 GISS athletics fundraiser.

A LOOK AHEAD

New year brings major priorities into focus for leaders

Governance, fire hall and economy beckon for 2013

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With a new year freshly underway, it's a perfect time to canvas the streets to discover what some of the island's prominent public figures have to say about the year that was and what's in store for 2013.

"As the new year approaches, it's time for reflection of what we have done and anticipation of what is to come," said Peter Grove, a member of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.



PETER GROVE

From the Islands Trust's perspective, 2013 has the potential for lasting effects as work moves ahead on a governance study to examine what local political structure is best suited for the island.

The names of up to nine governance committee members will be announced by mid-January and the group's recommendations are expected by the fall, Grove said.

"It will seek input from the community in order to decide whether or not to recommend an incorporation study to the Minister [of Community, Sport and Cultural Development]," he said. "The public engagement piece is extremely impor-

tant and the committee's main responsibility."

As the governance assessment continues, LTC members will face decisions to legalize secondary suites, implement the Riparian Areas Regulation and work alongside other government agencies and community groups to manage water quality issues in St. Mary Lake.

That will include representatives from the Capital Regional District, where director Wayne McIntyre has stressed a need to create a lake action plan in conjunction with the province and Vancouver Island Health Authority as a top priority for 2013.

George Grams, Salt Spring's other locally elected LTC member, is ready to move ahead with work to regenerate the island's villages and obtain more details about the need for industrial land, while also striving to engage more people in the political process.



GEORGE GRAMS

"Our economy is still very weak and needs bolstered by means that ensure we safeguard our natural environment," he said.

As the island faces the prospect of large-ticket items, like a new fire hall in Ganges and

a water treatment plant on St. Mary Lake, Grams said public participation is important.

"People get involved in political processes once they realize their voice makes a difference," he said.

"That less than 200 out of an island population of over 10,200 voted in the elections for fire commissioners is a real disappointment, bearing in mind the fire department's budget is bigger than the Trust's [on Salt Spring]. Equally, I'd like to see more community involvement with the likes of our water improvement districts. Nine million dollars, for example, is to be spent on a new water treatment system for St. Mary Lake.

"We are continuing to be more proactive, especially with events. We can't just sit here, we've got to do something."

MATT STEFFICH
SS Chamber of Commerce president

"When sums of this magnitude are to be spent on necessary infrastructure upgrades, it's right and proper that rigorous scrutiny be applied to procurement policies and that we get best value from our tax

dollars."

Matt Steffich, owner of Steffich Fine Art and the new president of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, said he looks forwards to working with elected officials and others in the community to ensure Salt



MATT STEFFICH

Spring can stay ahead of the competitive tourism market.

"We've got to make it worth the ferry ride," he said.

Since the economic downturn began in 2008, Steffich said he's observed a greater degree of cooperation between community groups, business people and political bodies. Whereas groups didn't need to work together when times were good, recent collaboration has got people from disparate sectors co-operating to keep the island on the tourism map.

Steffich said he hopes events like the chamber-led Sip and Savour, Salt Spring Blooms and Canada Day celebrations will encourage more people from the southern Vancouver Island region to hop on a ferry to visit the island.

"We are continuing to be more pro-active, especially with events," he said. "We can't just sit here, we've got to do something."

Much activity is certainly underway at Salt Spring Fire-Rescue, where chief Tom Bremner summed up a successful 2012 by highlighting the department's purchase of a new Euro-



TOM BREMNER

paid-on-call members to 54 people. The department's complement of seven staff firefighters remained constant.

Looking ahead to 2013, there's no doubt the department's greatest task will be to build momentum for construction of a fire hall to replace the aging Ganges facility.

Bremner said other priorities include providing a top-notch public safety service, ensuring firefighter safety and promoting the department's role in the community.

He asks that everyone start the new year by making sure smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in homes and businesses are present and working.

"Stop from time to time and look around to better understand and review the safety challenges you have," he said. "Develop options about how to lessen losses in the event of emergencies by communicating with each other in a proactive, not reactive, manner."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Rare white Christmas

The Christmas Day storm that resulted in the island's first significant snowfall of the season offered children young and old an additional reason to celebrate the holidays last week.

Less fortunate were people in the estimated 30 households spread across the island who lost power after the storm sent trees falling across BC Hydro power lines. Outages along Musgrave and Sky Valley roads were limited to a few hours on Dec. 25, though residents along Mount Maxwell Road are reported to have

been without electricity for up to nine hours on Christmas Day.

The same storm left more than 6,500 customers without power across southern Vancouver Island and wreaked havoc with travel plans as icy roads made driving hazardous.

Assessment highlights out today

BC Assessment will release information about changes to property values across the province today (Jan. 2).

Highlights of property assessment changes in 50 communities will be

issued in news releases and posted on the agency's website at www.bcas-assessment.ca.

The website will also contain statistics and general information about the 2013 Assessment Roll, the top valued properties in British Columbia and top valued properties by regional breakdown.

Property owners will start to receive their 2013 property assessment notices by mail in early January.

They will also be able to use the free "e-valueBC" search tool on BC Assessment's website to compare their property assessment to those of other property owners.

Salt Springer named to Order of Canada

Part-time island resident Fred Martin joins an A-list of Canadian citizens after being named to the Order of Canada over the weekend.

Fred Martin, a retired lawyer who splits his time between Salt Spring and Edmonton, was honoured for "his long engagement in support of equal rights, notably his work helping the Metis Settlements General Council achieve self-governance," according to a press release issued by the Rideau Hall press office on

Dec. 30.

Martin is among 91 additions to the Order of Canada made on Sunday. The distinction is awarded twice a year to celebrate outstanding achievement, dedication to community and service to the nation. The Order of Canada is widely acclaimed as the country's highest civilian honour.

Lost hikers

A pair of lost hikers in Ruckle Provincial Park avoided a chilly night in the woods thanks to the help of 11 ground Search and Rescue volunteers who located the couple on Sunday at approximately 8 p.m. in a remote and densely forested section of the park.

The man and woman,

believed to be in their thirties, are from the Vancouver area and unfamiliar with the island. The pair had been trying to reach Merganser Pond when they veered off trail and wound up in the park's less-used western region. The onset of darkness and challenging terrain led the couple to contact 9-1-1 for assistance.

Fortunately, the couple was well equipped and knew exactly what to do when they realized they'd lost their way, said GSAR manager Chuck Hamilton. Having a well-charged cell phone, additional warm clothing and water, he said, averted what could have been a much more serious situation.

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• Town Hall • 5:30 – 7 pm • Comm. Ctr., 493 Felix Jack Rd.

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POLITICS

Adam Olsen makes first Green step

Partnership and sustainability named as key goals

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Central Saanich councillor hopes to become one of the region's contenders in the provincial election next spring, with a bid for nomination as the Green Party candidate announced by Adam Olsen in December.

A two-term District of Central Saanich councillor, Olsen was born and raised on Tsartlip First Nation lands in Brentwood Bay. He is a small business owner, partnering with his mother and sister in Saanich Fusion Knitwear, and a communications consultant who's worked with the Victoria Salmon Kings, the Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of B.C. and the UVic Vikes. Most recently he was a consultant in First Nations housing, developing community housing policy and facilitating training sessions across the country.

Olsen has already started getting to know Gulf Islands constituents — he was recently on Pender Island meeting with a group working toward sustainable transportation and trail networks. But he pointed out that as a member of the Tsartlip First Nation, the riding's boundaries are similar to the traditional Saanich territory.

"I look forward to getting to

know our neighbours on the islands as much as possible. I'll be visiting a lot," he promised.

"On the peninsula we have three separate municipalities working together to make a very strong unit," he added, noting the economic, environmental and social connections stretch across the water as well.

Olsen is currently chair of the Planning and Development Committee in Central Saanich, and represents the district on the Regional Housing Trust Fund and Peninsula Agricultural Commission.

Having worked on federal Green leader Elizabeth May's campaign to win the Saanich-Gulf Islands seat, Olsen said his multi-level political experience, together with the party's framework and platform, bring an exciting possibility for real change.

"As the Green Party candidate, one of the things I'm most excited about is doing some deep meaningful consultation with the residents of the area," Olsen said.

He described community meetings, town halls and information gathering sessions, which May has made a point of participating in, as being important tools for acting on constituents' needs.

"The Greens are unique in this — they allow the representative to bring the message of the people they represent into the house. I think this will be really critical going forward," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY ADAM OLSEN

Adam Olsen is the first candidate to enter the provincial Green party race for Saanich North and the Islands.

"People really want to see their representatives representing them . . . where the rubber hits the road, and that is in the legislature."

As a municipal councillor, Olsen has worked across political boundaries on issues such as stormwater and run-off management to protect fish habitat. He worked closely with Islands Trust chair Sheila Malcomson to get the issue of derelict boats on the federal and provincial agendas.

Sustainable economic growth, increasing agricultural production and working toward greater food security are issues he sees as being consistent across the entire Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands area.

"I'm keenly interested in seeing if we can increase the viability of the [agricultural] product and if we can regain some of the

processing locally," Olsen said. His own business makes use of locally sourced wool in fashionable knitwear. He said having local abattoirs and facilities for freezing vegetables, for example, would also help increase year-round sustainability.

While Olsen still has to win the Green Party nomination, at this time he's the only one in line for the bid. The nomination meeting is tentatively scheduled for the third week of January.

"I'm extremely excited about the upcoming few months. I've had a tremendous amount of positive feedback and comments," he said.

Olsen invites anyone who would like to get to know him better to contact him for a chat. For more information, see his website at www.adamolsen.ca or call 778-426-1000.

D.W. Salty makes Driftwood debut

New column gives focus to island streets and lore

less streets and roads. As I look down those streets, I often wonder what their stories are . . . and that's what this column is about.

But how to tackle it was my first dilemma. I have decided on a couple of things: first, I am going to go through the streets alphabetically. I know what you're thinking — brilliant right? Sometimes I amaze myself. Second, I am, without a doubt, going to need help to make this work. That is where you come in, so please help me.

I am asking for any information you can pass on to me about these interesting streets and roads. How did they get their names; who are the interesting people who live or have lived on them; what secrets do they have; do they harbour any famous businesses, haunted houses or peculiar sites? Send me

on my travels so far I've noticed how big the island is. It seems to be filled with end-



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF SALT SPRING

anything you've got by emailing the info to: dwsalty@driftwoodgimmedia.com.

I hope this column will provide us with some consumable knowledge that we will carry with us for years to come and can pass on to those seeking informed about our remarkable rock.

So to begin . . . In my short time here I have already learned most streets commemorate some islander who lived nearby or developed the land, and some other names are thematic.

The first street I began to research seemed so fitting to this new column and begin-

ning of course with an A, it's Acheson Road, named after Miles Malcolm Acheson. Miles and Hannah Acheson lived in a large house, which is located on Acheson Road and still referred to as Acheson House.

Acheson started Salt Spring's first news sheet produced on the island, a Gestetner-style newspaper called The Spotlight in 1950. According to Charles Kahn's book, Salt Spring - The Story of an Island, Acheson published The Spotlight for approximately three years until his health deteriorated.

Other interesting newspaper facts include: Woody Fisher and his wife Barbara (Bobbie) started the Salt Spring Island Driftwood in 1960. The Salt Spring Island Driftwood merged with the Gulf Islands paper (being published on Galiano Island) in 1966 to form

the one and only Gulf Islands Driftwood, which was purchased by Frank and Barbara Richards in 1967 and is still owned by their family members!

If any readers or new fans could send me more information on Acheson Road or other interesting facts about any of Salt Spring's streets or roads, I would be mighty appreciative.

P.S. Oh, and just one more thing . . . in case you haven't had a chance to pick up Valdy's new CD, Read Between the Lines, it is now available at Salt Spring Sound, next to the new library.

See you on the streets of Salt Spring!

D.W. Salty is the Driftwood's new otter mascot and "junior reporter" who will be seen out and about while researching his Streets of Salt Spring column.

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ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT

EARTHQUAKE

Boxing Day tremor rattles Salt Spring Islanders

Magnitude 3.3 quake recorded near Sidney

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A late-night Boxing Day rumble many islanders could have easily mistaken for post-Christmas indigestion turned out to be the effects

of a 3.3 magnitude earthquake.

"If the lady next door had been home, I would have wondered what she hit the wall with," said Claudia French, who felt the quake as she was getting ready to fall asleep at her home near Ganges. "If it had happened 10 minutes later, I would have probably been asleep and not have felt it."

Apart from tipping over a small picture frame on her bookcase, French said, the burst of two short-lived shakes left no visible damage in its wake.

According to Natural Resources Canada, the quake occurred at 10:36 p.m. on Dec. 26. The earthquake originated approximately 57 kilometres beneath the sea floor in Haro

Strait and about 13 km east-northeast of Sidney, B.C. near Washington State's San Juan Island.

"There are no reports of damage, and none would be expected," reads information on the Natural Resources Canada website.

Salt Spring resident Gary Quiring was pouring wine at a holiday party when the tremor began.

"Felt a rumble under the loud music, thought 'ooohh earthquake?'" he wrote in an email.

Anyone who experienced the tremor is encouraged to fill out a brief questionnaire available at the Natural Resources Canada website. Shaking was felt throughout the Gulf Islands, Cowichan Valley, the Saanich Peninsula and the San Juan Islands.

COIN COLLECTING

Bateman coins excite collectors

One-kilogram gold coin sells for \$69,000

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Judging from a series of collector coins released by the Royal Canadian Mint earlier this year, the work of Salt Spring Island-based artist and naturalist Robert Bateman has left a major impression on the coin collecting world.

"Anything with Robert Bateman is a gem and the first series out will be a collector's item," reads a comment posted on the RCM's website by a collector from Alberta.

At less than \$100, it wasn't long before the limited-edition \$20 fine silver coins adorned with one of Bateman's bull moose images sold out.

"Anything with Robert Bateman is a gem and the first series out will be a collector's item."

ROYAL CANADIAN MINT WEBSITE

"This coin is fantastic. The detail is superb," wrote a satisfied coin buyer from New Jersey. "I love all the wildlife coins coming out of Canada."

The \$20 silver coin is but one in a series of Bateman moose coins that includes a \$200 pure gold coin, a \$250 fine silver "kilo" coin and \$300 platinum coin, among others. Because of their metal content and status as desirable collectors' items, the coins are being sold through the RCM for between \$2,250 and \$2,700.

"Never owned a Bate-

man print, and now I have a Bateman coin," wrote another buyer from Edmonton.

For die-hard collectors who've got access to a small mint of their own, there's also the exclusive 30-mintage fine gold moose coin based on the artist's iconic work called The Challenge. The majestic one-kilogram coin measures 10 centimetres in diameter and is available for \$69,000.

The mint's series of Bateman coins celebrates the Canadian Wildlife Federation's 50th anniversary. The coins are part of a broader effort, launched by the RCM this past summer, to honour Canada's national symbols and stories.

"The choice of themes and symbols by which we can celebrate Canada is as broad as its geography and the mint is delighted to offer its customers at home and abroad a continuous variety of finely crafted collectibles," said Ian Bennett, the mint's president and CEO, in a press release that accompanied the coins' release. "Canada's historic, cultural and natural heritage is one of our greatest national treasures and it is fitting that the Mint continues to preserve these priceless elements of our identity on so many captivating collector coins."

Other coins in the RCM's latest collection feature works by the Group of Seven and national symbols such as British Columbia's Cariboo gold rush, rhododendrons and wolf cubs. A full selection, including pictures of Bateman's moose coins, can be viewed online at www.mint.ca.

Bateman was also honoured in 2012 by receiving a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Coins depicting moose images of Salt Spring painter Robert Bateman include the \$2,500 gold coin with the originating painting in the background. The coins were created by the Royal Canadian Mint to mark the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

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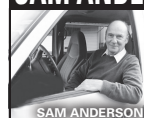
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OPINION



Gold - Coverage of the Arts | Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SS) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander) | Silver - Front Page Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre & Gail Sjuberg for incorporation series) | Bronze - General Excellence | Bronze - Historical Story (Elizabeth Nolan for First Nations history)

2012 Canadian Community Newspapers Association Awards
 Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SS) | Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron for longboarder) | Silver - General Excellence | Silver - Special Publication (Aqua magazine)

2012 BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Dawn of a new year

As wonderful and magical as it may appear in the movies, Christmas comes loaded with heaping servings of expectations, deadlines and other pressures that can send even the most hardy of holiday souls returning to the egg nog.

To make things even more exciting this year, the lead-up to the holiday season was festooned with premonitions of the world's pending doom as the suddenly omnipresent Mayan calendar counted down the end of days.

With all that behind us and everyone set to crack open their reliable and readily available Gregorian editions for another year, tension shifts to a different style of pressure and expectations, those which are self-imposed by the resolutions we set for ourselves at the launch of each new year.

THE ISSUE:
New Year's resolutions

WE SAY:
Dream big

When it comes to resolutions, there are the classics: like resolving to take out the trash before it overflows, not drinking directly from beverage cartons (especially at work) and remembering to roll up the car window before it rains.

Then there is the loftier class of aspiration, like bettering society or reaching personal goals. Who among us, after all, hasn't vowed to start a new year by becoming more socially engaged, spending fewer hours on the sofa, or getting to know the "new" neighbours?

On an island where so much is accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism and working together, it can be argued that the beginning of a new year represents an unsurpassed recruitment opportunity for any of the hundreds of island commissions, committees, boards, societies, non-profit organizations and advisory groups that work behind the scenes to keep this island afloat.

Anyone in need of an opportunity to make good on their commitment need only open the island's Lions directory to view the choices.

Thankfully, what's most important isn't necessarily how faithful we are to the resolutions we make but that we continue to make them. By striving to make changes in ourselves, we acknowledge our ability to refine and improve our perspective on the world, our family lives, workplaces and broader community.



VIEWPOINT by Nomi Lynn

Taking stock of island car stops

What's a car stop? Some of you may already know — and may have used them. Yet, still many more of us haven't heard about them.

A car stop is a safe place for people to stand, and for cars to pull over, in order to share more rides, thereby reducing Salt Spring Island's greenhouse gas emissions and making more efficient use of island vehicles. Car stops have been used on Pender and Mayne islands with much local pride and success for several years.

Introduced on Salt Spring in early summer 2012, car stops are intended to complement our bus system, which does not yet serve every area of the island. Car stops make it easier and safer to carpool and give rides to others, which expands our sense of community and is good for the environment. If you're driving alone, adding just one other passenger instantly doubles vehicle fuel efficiency and halves GHG emissions, compared to taking two cars. The Salt Spring Car Stop Pilot Project is supported by the Salt Spring Transportation Commission, Capital Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Mainroad South Island Contracting.

The idea of Salt Spring joining the other Gulf Islands in their award-winning carbon emissions reduction program had its roots in an earlier ride-share group called LINK, and hitch-hiking has been an island tradition ever since the first car arrived. Transition Salt Spring and the Earth Festival Society, with help from the transportation commission and the Lions Club, got the ball rolling and the signs installed. So far there are two routes: one along Cusheon Lake and Beddis Roads, and the other from Ganges to Fort Street along Robinson Road.

Now we'd like to hear from you. What do you think? Are you using them? How often? What has your experience been? Have you made

any new friends? We invite you to share your stories and/or photos with us about using car stops. Send them to carstopssi@gmail.com.

We have a website at carstopssi.blog.com, where you can find out more information, leave comments, and watch the Car Stop Song & Dance video. This video was made to promote the car stops in general, and also serves as a starting point for our application to the CRD to participate in their Ready, Set, Solve program.

Ready, Set, Solve (www.crd.bc.ca/readysetsolve) is a fun, applied-learning challenge focused on getting post-secondary students to help solve small but real climate-related challenges that exist in the Capital Region. Students apply their knowledge and passion to solve a real community issue related to climate change. That project will serve as a chance to win prizes such as tuition and book store credits. We, as the host organization, get some valuable assistance in tackling the task of getting more people to utilize the car-stop program. In this way, we're working to meet our goals of lowering our carbon footprint as an island, as well as creating a safer, more neighbourly community.

Even off-islanders are getting involved. So please join in and share this information with your friends, your family, your visitors. Help promote the use of car stops, share your ideas with us and when it's ready, please take the usage feedback survey being developed now. That data will be compared to a pre-car-stops survey. Until then, try the car stops for yourself, as a rider or driver. Song and dance optional.

The writer is a long-time islander, hitchhiker and car-stop proponent and the SS Transportation Commission rep on the SS Climate Action Council.

Even off-islanders are getting involved.

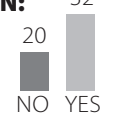
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Do New Year's resolutions have value?

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: 32

Do you like Salt Spring's new library?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
 "People get involved in political processes once they realize their voice makes a difference."

SS LTC MEMBER GEORGE GRAMS

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:

What's your New Year's resolution for 2013?



JUDY RITCHIE

I haven't quite settled on one, but to just be fitter is a good start.



PAULINE BEAUVAIS

To quit smoking, I'm just on my way to the store to buy some seaweed snacks. If that doesn't work, I'll try kale chips.



BOB QUART

I never make New Year's resolutions because I don't keep them.



DOUG ROBINSON

I don't make them. I just like to carry on and hope the new year brings good things.



ROGER WEBBER

To lose more weight through diet and exercise.

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.

Bravos for library

Thanks to our wonderful new library, I spent my holiday week doing one of my favourite winter activities, reading.

For many years I have followed CBC's Canada Reads program. This year I am happy to report that our local library has all five Canada Reads books.

I was able to easily check out several of them as soon as the library re-opened, with help from the friendly volunteers, especially Gail. The new hold system and

self check-out makes it even easier.

Bravo to our community for making the new library a reality, and special thanks to the library board and building committee.

See you in the library and happy reading in 2013!

ANNA HALTRECHT,
NORTH END

Runoff problems

The slope of a property on Old Divide Road appears to have been stripped completely down to Fulford-Ganges Road, bringing us to the subject of last week's editorial:

"The Ganges Hill torrent."

Remedial efforts at this site have followed with spraying of fertilized lawn seed onto the lower portion of the slope, but the heavy rains cut a large channel right through that.

I recall the same problem occurred a few years ago when the Bishop's Green development was being constructed, with major sediment and runoff changes.

The same thing of course occurs on every slope whenever habitat is disturbed.

Nutrient loading and bottom sedimentation in St. Mary Lake is historically the result of a well-known problem.

Had I been faced with the challenge of the Old Divide site, I would begin by asking how much is enough. There is a consequence to buffering and filtering runoff, especially on lower slopes adjacent to other land use requirements. Disturbance should be staged successively, year by year, allowing vegetation to anchor and stabilize.

Confer with local road maintenance staff, or whoever is located below you on how best to channel consequent runoff to existing drainage capacities.

RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING

Time to brag

An informed citizenry is a pre-requisite to democracy.

At its Dec. 13, 2012 meeting, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee gave a sympathetic ear to an application for the reconstruction of the collapsed Ganges "seawall" south of the boardwalk gazebo. ("Ganges shoreline improvements sought," Dec. 24 Driftwood.)

As it happens, on Nov. 4, 2010 I brought a delegation expounding on the unsightly and perilous remains of that collapsed "seawall." The then LTC gave it a fake enthusiastic reception, followed by its

undivided inaction up to now.

It is sad that we and the tourists had to endure for the intervening two years this mess; I am relieved that no one was hurt and pray it will not happen until it is fixed.

I am proud that I brought it before the Trust and sad that the Trust stood apathetic in the intervening years. I am sad that the Trust stifles involvement in public affairs.

The Ganges "sore-line" problem would have been fixed a long time ago if it could not be hidden.

TOM VARZELIOTIS,
BOOTH CANAL

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Credit card case needs British cop treatment

"We know there is something happening on Salt Spring. What we don't know is when it happened or where it happened and in what fashion."

That's the quote that appeared a few weeks back on the front page of the Driftwood. Do you remember the context to the quote and the issue to which it related? Was it the first appearance of the four-way stop signs at Central? Did it refer to the design and location of the new public library? Was it the CEO of BC Ferries commenting on feedback from the public for improving service to the Gulf Islands? Or could it have been a visiting professor emeritus in anthropology from UBC reporting on a recent study on the possibility of the existence of intelligent life on Salt Spring?

The truth is that the quote came from a spokesperson for the RCMP and it was made in response to the recent spate of incidents involving credit card fraud on the island. Apparently, starting Nov. 19, Salt Springers have reported multiple cases where their credit cards have been compromised and unauthorized purchases have been charged to their accounts. The obvious scams have involved from 15 to 20 credit companies and the illicit activity has been described by authorities as an "uptick of considerable nature."

An uptick of considerable nature? Whoaaa! What makes me think that maybe our local constabulary may not be giving the matter serious enough consideration?

Let's take a closer look at what's going on. Local citizens have been finding purchases on their monthly statements that they have definitely not made. Some of these transac-

tions have occurred in far-away places ranging from Lansing, Mich. to Baden Baden, Germany. Somebody charged over \$3,000 in electronics at a Best Buy in Pennsylvania. Even in nearby Vancouver, more than \$800 in gasoline was purchased on a compromised credit card in less than 48 hours. (How is that possible unless the culprit was driving a gas-guzzling Hummer?)

To add insult to injury, many of the victims of this credit card fraud have had to endure the embarrassment of having their local purchases refused at the till after swiping because their credit limit had "maxed out." There have even been examples of card holders who have gone to the trouble of destroying their compromised cards, applying for replacements, and then finding out that their new cards have been illegally "hacked" as soon as they were activated.

Nobody is really certain how these fraud crimes are being perpetrated. One theory is that the fraudsters have access to cheap and easy-to-acquire "chip readers" that are able to steal information from new credit cards which have been embedded with interactive chips. This kind of information theft can occur from a distance of several feet and can be "snatched" through wallets, purses and backpacks. In other words, you can get your pocket picked without actually getting your pocket picked.

One method you can protect yourself by



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT...

is purchasing a specially lined wallet that blocks any possibility of somebody accessing the chip on your credit card. Some people are even jerry-rigging their wallets and purses with tin foil and duct tape (which has led to a run on rolls of both materials at the local hardware and grocery stores).

Are the police doing enough to quell the fears of the Salt Spring public? Perhaps my wife and I have been watching too many British police dramas and murder mysteries lately. It's possible that crime series like New Tricks, Life on Mars and Inspector George Gently have given us an unrealistic expectation of how police detective work is supposed to proceed.

In these shows, nobody ever throws their arms up in the air and declares that nothing can be done to stop any "uptick" in criminal activity. No, on the contrary, the investigators break into immediate action the moment the crime is discovered. First, the crime scene is secured and scads of yellow police tape are stretched out to cordon off the area. Specialists are called in to scour the terrain and uncover seemingly trivial evidence which will in time prove essential for a conviction. Forensics will unearth DNA and other tell-tale clues while criminal psychologists will find behavioural patterns and establish personal profiles of the suspects. Witnesses are screened and alibis checked. Finally, after all this investigative legwork is accomplished, everybody under suspicion is hauled into the questioning room and grilled by a "good cop/bad cop" tandem

until a confession is extracted.

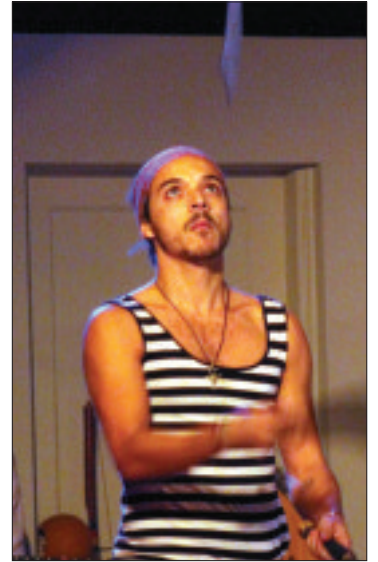
So how does the investigation of Salt Spring credit card fraud stand up to the rigours of British crime solving? Let's just say our local detectives have not exactly been "maxing out" their alternatives for getting to the bottom of this scam. As a matter of fact, even though over 200 of our own dear citizens have been dinged in one way or another, the detachment has asked people to refrain from calling in additional reports of card fraud. The explanation offered for why this investigation has been stalled and stymied so far is because the credit card companies are refusing to cooperate.

One has to wonder what Inspector George Gently would do if he found his investigation of this criminal activity stonewalled in a similar fashion. Somehow, I don't think he'd be spouting "please" and "thank you" to anybody who posed an obstacle to getting down to root of the problem and bringing the criminals to justice. No, he'd be squeezing those credit company CEOs by their PINs so hard, they'd be begging him to take their statements.

Nobody asked me, but if there is a silver lining in this dark cloud of credit card fraud, it lies in the perks you get when you max out your card. Think about it: how many free air miles do you suppose you will earn when someone in the Republic of Djibouti purchases a fleet of spanking-new, top-of-the-line Bentley Mulsanne touring sedans on your nickel? You could probably charter your very own Lear jet and take all your friends along for a wild weekend in Baden Baden.

thyme2001@hotmail.com

A Night at the Circus



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

ENTERTAINING: Members of the Evolutionaries Circus Troupe perform as part of a full-moon performance arts event called TWIST — The World is Still Turning (in reference to the Mayan calendar prediction of the end of the world on Dec. 21) — held at Mahon Hall on Friday night. From left are performers Fallyn McLeod, Adrianna Bloomquest and Joseph Dubuc-Lavoie.

MORE LETTERS
continued from 7

Aggression

How much do 65 F-35s cost? Stephen Harper and his government have finally lost all credibility with his lack of honesty in the fighter jet fiasco following the KPMG report on the real costs.

This stealth fighter is designed for “shock-and-

awe” bombing, not for defence.

Canadians are not aggressors; we do not support military aggression in other countries. We do support our sovereignty, and should be consulted about the role we want our military to have.

The escalating military expenditures under Harper must be curtailed. These are at the expense of the Canada we cherish, the country with universal

health care, well-funded educational options, and support for the vulnerable and for seniors. Harper needs to step back from his distortion of Canadian priorities!

**L. BALL,
SIDNEY**

Gifts from the heart

“I give to you and you give to me” were Valdy’s words to us at our carol

sing-along and Christmas dinner in Lady Minto Extended Care Unit.

On Monday, Dec. 17, the residents, loved ones, friends, staff and volunteers gathered as a family to welcome our favourite troubadour for a day of fun, enjoyment and much more.

The lounge in ECU glistened with the beauty of its decor and our hearts were aglow as Valdy sang his very own Christmas

on the Coast song. With his trademark step as he swings across the floor, we smile and look at Valdy in awe and wonder.

To quote one ECU resident, “Valdy is my friend and he always sings this for me.”

He continues to lead us with many of the traditional Christmas carols, adjusting the key to accommodate us. We join in as best we can.

Valdy brings something

very special to the unit. The blessings of Christmas come from the heart and are received by the heart. It is in this spirit that we experience joy and happiness in his presence.

Valdy touches our lives, and if only for a brief moment, all is well, and our frailties are forgotten.

**MARGARET MACKENZIE,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR,
ECU,
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Driftwood

Still getting mixed messages about peeing

I’m having a wee problem with the 16th letter of the alphabet. You know — the one between “O” and “Q.”

Right . . . it’s “P” or more specifically in my case, “Pee.” Peeing is something I’ve done several times every day of my life but I’m still getting mixed messages about it.

When I was a kid I risked anything from a dressing down to a cuff upside the head if I didn’t wash my hands immediately following the deed. This taught me that urine is a dangerous substance and a threat to my health and well-being.

Then I found out that Mahatma Gandhi drank the stuff.

Really. He downed a glass of his own urine every morning. Couldn’t have been too toxic — he died at 79.

And not just Gandhi. Ancient Romans brushed their teeth with their own urine to brighten their smiles. French in the Renaissance wore scarves soaked in urine to ward off strep throat. The Chinese have



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

practiced urine therapy for a variety of maladies for centuries. It’s advocated in the Hindu scriptures where it’s known as amaroli. Even the King James Bible promotes urine therapy (“Drink waters from thy own cistern” Proverbs 5:15).

Not just the ancients either. Moises Alou, the one-time Montreal Expos star claimed he pees on his hands to prevent calluses. Madonna confided to David Letterman (and his audience of millions) that she pees on her feet to alleviate athlete’s foot.

So which is it — a foul body “waste” product or the golden elixir of life? Some medical specialists still consider it a potentially danger-

ous commodity, but don’t try to tell that to Old MacDonald down on the farm.

Turns out I’ve been neglecting my garden by not peeing on it. I know a rose grower in my neighbourhood (no names to protect the piddler) who anoints his rose bushes on a regular basis. He says his personal daily blessing results in luxurious prize-winning blooms year after year. Agronomists in Finland claim that a combination of urine and wood ash resulted in a whopping 400 per cent increase in tomatoes, and a report in the Washington Post credits the application of human urine for a fantastic increase in cabbage yields.

Makes sense when you think about it. Urine is rich in potassium, nitrogen and phosphate — just like those bags of fertilizer you pay an arm and a leg for at the gardening store.

Mind you, urine is also highly acidic so you have to apply it judiciously. Fortunately for males the dispens-

er is, um, flexible. Professionals advise applicators to “keep moving,” so to speak.

Reminds me of the story I heard in an English pub years ago. Seems Lord Grantham, a local member of the aristocracy, had been shot by an irate husband.

“What did he do?” I asked the bartender.

“He was walking in the garden with Lady Cynthia, the other man’s wife,” he said.

I pointed out that that a mere walk in a garden with another man’s wife seemed harmless enough.

The bartender polished a glass. “Yes,” he said, “but you see, it was snowing. During the walk Lord Grantham paused to relieve himself. They found his name ‘written’ in the snow.”

I allowed as how that was eccentric, frivolous and possibly tasteless — but hardly a shooting offense.

The bartender shook his head, leaned in and whispered: “You don’t understand. The signature was in Lady Cynthia’s handwriting.”

2012: From tragedy to triumph and a four-way stop

January

- Salt Spring resident Robin Wood was shot and killed during a home invasion in the small Mexican coastal resort town of Melaque. Arvid Chalmers, a fellow islander who witnessed the incident as it took place in his home, said Wood was shot as he attempted to deter two thieves. The suspects were arrested several days after the incident at a local bus depot.



PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

Robin Wood, the Salt Spring Islander who had moved to his beloved Mexico, was shot and killed while visiting his friend Arvid Chalmers in Melaque.

- Island RCMP officers located the truck involved in a Christmas Day 2011 hit-and-run crash at Salt Spring's "Central intersection." Kristin Norget sustained serious injuries and faced a long road to recovery as a result of the incident. Although police found the 1992 Dodge pickup that was involved in the incident, officers were unable to find any evidence to prove who was behind the wheel when the crash occurred.

to Salt Spring from the Yukon, in a single-vehicle incident along Fulford-Ganges Road. Laura Rann would eventually plead guilty to driving without due care and attention under the province's Motor Vehicle Act for her role in the crash that killed her friend on Nov. 14, 2010. She was sentenced to an 18-month driving prohibition and 40 hours of community service.

- Amber Ogilvie took the helm as publisher of the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper and Driftwood Gulf Islands Media. Ogilvie's experience included 26 years with Sun Media operations in Ontario, Alberta and B.C.

- Video cameras began rolling at Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee meetings as part of a two-month pilot project to promote increased openness and accountability in local politics. Low viewership and high costs encouraged LTC members to replace the video recordings with an audio-only service later in the year.

- Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members issued John Quesnel, the owner of Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling, a one-year reprieve to help the long-time island resident bring his business into compliance with local land-use bylaws. LTC members have since indicated they intend to revisit the matter during an LTC meeting in early 2013.

- A pair of Eurasian collared doves was reported to have been spotted for the first time in Salt Spring's annual Christmas Bird Count. Although the species has expanded rapidly across North America since the animals were introduced to Florida during the 1980s, the north end sightings proved a source of great discussion for many of the more than 100 volunteer bird watchers who participated in the count.

- Charges were laid against a 26-year-old Victoria woman in connection with the death of Reid Parent, a carpenter and musician who had moved

- A Supreme Court of British Columbia judge cleared former Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee members of conflict-of-interest allegations raised by a group of 15 island residents in late 2011. The allegations arose after the elected officials were members of three island societies but had not declared a possible conflict of interest before votes at the LTC table to fund those groups. An appeal was launched by a smaller group of island residents in June 2012.

- Owners of property next to the Salt Spring Island Rod and Gun Club launched a lawsuit to seek punitive damages and a permanent injunction to suspend all shooting activities at the club's Long Harbour Road site.

- A ferocious winter storm resulted in the death of Richard Legallou, a 61-year-old man who was living on his sailboat in Ganges Harbour.

"The wind was absolutely incredible, said Sgt. George Jenkins. "I've never seen anything like it before."

Legallou was reported to have fallen off his boat and drowned during the Jan. 22 storm.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring emergency services personnel and bystanders try to revive Richard Legallou, who fell off his boat in Ganges Harbour during a Jan. 22 storm. Legallou did not survive.

February

- Parks and Recreation manager Kees Ruurs was promoted to the newly created position of Capital Regional District senior manager for Salt Spring Island. The move was part of the CRD's attempt to provide island-based support for wastewater and water infrastructure, transportation, economic development and parks and recreation.

- A four-way stop was installed at the "Central intersection." The move, initiated as a result of a Christmas hit-and-run crash and historically high crash volumes at that spot, caused a stir as islanders adapted to the new traffic pattern.

- Salt Spring's official population reached 10,234 inhabitants, according to data released by Census 2011. The number of island residents rose six per cent between 2006 and 2011.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Brian Pickford of Mainroad South Island Contracting in Victoria, left, and Dale Johnson of the Salt Spring branch, install stop signs and other signage needed for the new four-way stop at Central.

YEAR IN REVIEW continued on 10

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Prayer flags, smoke and firefighting foam make an eerie sight at a Byron Road fire in March.



PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

Orcas take a tour through Ganges Harbour, giving some people a front-row show seat.

February, continued

- The final piece in the patchwork of protected properties along the south side of Mount Maxwell was purchased following a \$1.2-million fundraising campaign led by the Nature Trust of British Columbia. The property is the largest contiguous area of protected Garry oak woodland in Canada.

- Teachers hit the streets in February as part of their ongoing efforts to reach a contract deal with the province. The strike was brought to an end when the province introduced back-to-work legislation within hours of the strike notice.

- The federal government's "robo-call" controversy reached the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding as Green party MP Elizabeth May raised allegations of voter suppression tactics used during the 2008 and 2011 election campaigns.

- Words Without Borders, the Salt Spring Forum's first literary festival, inspired the hearts, minds and bodies of island participants.

- A Feb. 27 chimney fire

destroyed a Byron Road cabin. The occupant, Pat Dickson, was treated for minor smoke inhalation on site and taken to Lady Minto Hospital for observation.

March

- A Beddis Water Service District commissioner resigned in disgust as ratepayers were asked to swallow a \$503 per year tax increase.

"I have no confidence in the process," Don Church told his fellow commissioners during a public meeting at Fulford Hall.

The decision to proceed with the parcel tax followed the Vancouver Island Health Authority's issuance of a compliance order to proceed with infrastructure upgrades without voter approval.

- Islands Trust Council voted at a council meeting on Gabriola Island to not spend \$433,000 on a multi-year project to review the Islands Trust Policy Statement. The proposal had prompted considerable public opposition to the expenditure.

- Salt Spring's elected officials met with Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, to request

funding for a governance study for the island. Trustees George Grams and Peter Grove and CRD director Wayne McIntyre said the meeting was a positive one. A delegation from the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce also made a separate presentation to Chong and her staff.

- Led by Cindy Toutant, the community rallied with fundraisers to help carpenter Don Sandberg and his family after Sandberg was discovered to have a life-threatening brain tumour. A successful four-hour operation took place just four days after the diagnosis.

- A March 30 fire destroyed most of a home in Maracaibo Estates. Just as Salt Spring firefighters were finishing their work on that site, a second fire call came from Rainbow Road, where a pair of oven mitts left on top of a stove in self-cleaning mode ignited.

- The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee hosted its first public workshop for islanders to discuss the possibility of legalizing secondary suites in some areas of the island — with special attention paid to avoiding areas with scarce water resources.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Celia Pech and Howard Atkinson get busy at the new allotment garden on Rainbow Road.

April

- Islander Rita Burbulevicius travelled to Kenya to deliver an impressive collection of goods donated by members of the Salt Spring community, including funds to purchase 200 goats for HIV-positive mothers.

- A pod of orcas made a rare visit to the Ganges Harbour. Six of the cetaceans, including a newborn, entered the inner harbour after feasting on seals at Second Sister Island.

"They were very playful coming in, doing belly flops, in a good mood after their lunch," reported Ian Gidney,

owner of a local wildlife tour company.

- The Fritz Movie Theatre bid adieu to film and ushered in the era of digital projection with a screening of *The Lorax*.

- Nearly \$1.5 million in funds from the province and Capital Regional District were awarded for construction of bike lanes and roadside pedestrian improvements included in the North Ganges Transportation Plan. Work on the upgrades along Lower Ganges Road between Atkins Road and Kingfisher Cove began in early December.

- Edna Gatt, a 91-year-old

island woman, succumbed to her injuries and died after she was struck by a fuel truck at the Salt Spring Mid-Island Co-op gas station as she made her way from the gas station store to her car in the gas bar.

- Islanders dug into a new community gardening project next to the Rainbow Road Pool. The garden offered 36 plots to aspiring local food producers of all ages.

- Lorraine Brewster became the new manager of Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission, replacing Kees Ruurs who was promoted to the position of CRD general manager for Salt Spring.

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Tent caterpillars: the number one scourge of the year

May

• Family members of “Baby Kaiya” reached out to the Gulf Islands community to find the 16-month-old girl a new liver. Kaiya’s great aunt Jane Harrison was eventually confirmed as a positive match for donation and a successful transplant took place in Edmonton in September.

• Close to 250 Salt Spring residents convened on Centennial Park for the Black Saturday rally on May 5. The climate change awareness event was the largest island demonstration in recent memory.

• Members of the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs group had mixed feelings on changes being made to the Coastal Ferry Act. Government legislation opened the way for probable service cuts — which became the subject of a series of public consultation meetings held in November and December.

• Warmer temperatures caused a reversal of the usual trend by keeping swimmers out of St. Mary Lake when microcystins in the water reached levels considered to be dangerous to recreational users.

• Tent caterpillars at the peak of their population cycle caused panic and disgust across the island.

• The local branch of the BCSPCA teamed up with Salt Spring’s Parks and Recreation Commission to offer a pilot “doggie daycare” at the Saturday Market.

• Salt Spring resident Jennifer Lannan celebrated Immigration Canada’s surprise capitulation at an appeal hearing session. Lannan, who was fighting the rejection of her Nigerian-born husband’s immigration application, had arrived in Vancouver armed with important information and the in-person support of MP Elizabeth May.

June

• A Salt Spring girl had a bizarre encounter with a bear on her way to class at Salt Spring Middle School. The bear approached Joanna Lussenburg on the Churchill Trail and rubbed against her shoulder for several minutes before heading back into the bush.

• A mysterious rodent that turned up dead at a Salt Spring residence was identified as a native muskrat, and not the invasive South American coypu, as first feared. But both species were confirmed to have island populations.

• Sea Capers returned to the island after a six-year break with help from Jack Rosen of Island Escapades. Popular events included a sandcastle contest and a build-your-own boat race.

• Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members again postponed making a final decision on whether to allow John Quesnel’s metal recycling business to continue on Rainbow Road.

• Island petitioners announced their decision to appeal a Supreme Court of British Columbia ruling that rejected a conflict of interest suit against former LTC members George Ehring and Christine Torgrimson.

• Up to 500 cyclists enjoyed workshops and entertainment related to rural cycling over the June 22-24 weekend during the Velo Village conference held on Salt Spring Island and centred at ArtSpring. BC Ferries’ first ever bicycle-only sailing saw the Skeena Queen carry 250 cyclists from Swartz Bay to Fulford for Velo Village conference events. A bicycle parts art exhibit was also a big hit.



A full-up ArtSpring bike parking lot for the Velo Village conference.

PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Tent caterpillars were the source of much angst in 2012.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Islanders carry a black oil pipeline in the Black Saturday climate change awareness event in Ganges on May 5.



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Eve Green participates in the Build-a-Boat contest and Sea Capers coordinator Jack Rosen organizes the kayak demo. Rosen, of Island Escapades, spearheaded the revival of the once-annual festival.

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PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD CLARKE

Salt Spring resident Richard Clarke and his teammate Tyler Bjorn training abroad to represent Canada in the Star-class sailing event at the London Olympics.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Fulford Day returned to its previous fine form, including the Pie Ladies booth manned by, from left, Alex Russell-Jones, Sonja Kornelsen, Clea Mihalik, Liz Heslop and Eleanor Brouard.

July

- B.C. teachers voted to end a year of job action and reluctantly ratified a new collective agreement with the government set to expire in June 2013. Students had gone without report cards and some extracurricular activities during the 2011-12 school year as a result of the dispute between the B.C. Teachers' Federation and the provincial government.

- Shell Canada commenced the first steps in determining whether environmental remediation would be necessary at the site of its former gas station and service centre on McPhillips Avenue.

- The remains of an extinguished sparkler ignited tinder-dry brush on the cliff between Hastings House and Moby's. Firefighters praised the quick action of off-duty Hastings House sous chef Nick Trehearne and Moby's bar manager Jesse Anderson, who noticed the flames and tackled the area with a garden hose until help arrived. Trehearne learned the next day he had incurred a radial fracture in his leg during the events. The fire was extinguished without spreading to the nearby restaurant and lodging units.

- LTC members voted to fund a \$7,500 peer review of a Riparian Areas Regulation mapping study completed by the Island Stream

and Salmon Enhancement Society earlier in the year.

- Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, announced his decision not to seek re-election in the May 2013 election. He had been the area's MLA for four terms, beginning in 1996. Coell, whose first career was in social work, began his years in public service as a Saanich municipal councillor in 1984 and also served as Saanich mayor for six years.

- Fire trustee Mary Gillies announced her decision to leave the board in order to concentrate on her business, and changed her mind two days later when firefighters helped save her dry-cleaning company from an accidental blaze. Fire chief Tom Bremner said Gillies' action in following recommendations made by the fire department's inspection team earlier in the year — including keeping fire doors closed at night and having extinguishers on hand — greatly contributed to keeping the fire restricted to one room.

"I am very grateful to the fire guys, and that's the main reason I'm going back to the board," Gillies said.

- Island character Peter "Tex" Holmes, often seen hitchhiking around the island with his walker in later years, died in hospital in Victoria at age 83.



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Peter Holmes, AKA Barney or Tex, died in July.

August

- Five-time Olympic athlete Richard Clarke and his teammate Tyler Bjorn raced for the podium in Star-class sailing events at the 2012 Summer Games but settled for a 12th-place finish. Clarke's team included fellow Salt Spring resident Shawn Walton, who took a break from his restaurant Auntie Pesto's Cafe to act as Clarke and Bjorn's personal chef for three weeks.

- Salt Spring's annual Slasher longboarding race on Aug. 11 attracted 50 participants and 200 spectators. The event was the source of some community controversy when organizer Adrian English reported the misappro-

priation of \$600 worth of hay bales that were used to line the road and were promised to a local farmer after the event. A group of residents later admitted to taking the bales. They said it was their usual practice after preceding races to help clean up the streets and add to their gardens.

- A rare lightning storm ignited brush fires at two North End locations. A stump that was struck at Channel Ridge on Aug. 7 smoldered overnight before crews could reach the area and extinguish it. Another fire that flared up on a lawn near Sunset Drive was quickly extinguished the same night.

- Salt Spring's first raw and living food festival, organized by Jim Maurice and Chris Gay of Rawsome Living Food, found fantastic success with all seats at Raw on the Rawk conference events selling out in advance. Speakers, panels and demonstrations took place at the Harbour House Hotel from Aug. 10 to 12.

- Volunteer commitment helped Fulford Day make a triumphant return after being on hiatus for one year.

- The RCMP launched an investigation into residential construction on Grace Islet. First Nations groups, including Penelakut, Tsartlip and Cowichan members, alleged the property owner had illegally altered an archeological

zone under the Heritage Conservation Act. The provincial government later denied a Penelakut Tribe request to preserve the islet as memorial parkland to honour the final resting place of the area's First Nations peoples.

- The island made provincial headlines when the cancellation of the Salt Spring Apple Festival was announced, with crop failure due to poor weather and tent caterpillars cited as the reason. Members of the Tuesday Farmers' Market and Radical Roots Production Company then decided to use the situation and the now-available weekend of Sept. 29 and 30 to introduce the first Salt Spring Farm Tour, emphasizing both the fragility and bounty of local agriculture.

- Four cases of C. difficile were reported at Lady Minto Hospital's acute care wing. No deaths resulted.

- Former Salt Spring resident Anthony Richard Verhagen received a \$500 fine in Ganges Provincial Court for a driving incident that took place in February. Verhagen was rescued from his truck after driving off a 10-metre embankment on the side of Walker Hook Road. Alcohol was said to be a factor, but impaired driving charges were not pursued because of the amount of time that elapsed between the incident and RCMP testing.

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PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring Abattoir Society members Jean Brouard and Margaret Thomson in the clean and shiny new abattoir.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Pioneer Village resident Ray Phillips with signs forbidding the installation of BC Hydro smart meters by Corix installers.

September

• A Sidney area boater was charged with driving without due care and leaving the scene of an accident after hitting a zodiac-style dinghy in Montague Harbour on Galiano Island, causing its male occupant to fall into the water. He was hospitalized as a result of his injuries and later released.

• Eighteen-year-old Ryan Plambeck was killed and his passenger — Calder McCormick, 17 — badly injured after a single-vehicle car crash on North End Road in the wee hours of Sept. 16. Salt Spring RCMP said the vehicle had been stolen and that alcohol was a factor in the crash.

• A potential island-wide disaster was prevented when Galiano firefighters and civilians fought a fire at an unoccupied waterfront home on Trincomali Channel. The home bordered an ecological reserve and dry conditions could have seen the blaze spread without quick action to prevent it.

• The Salt Spring Rod

& Gun Club faced another threat with a noise bylaw amendment proposed by the Capital Regional District. If passed, the amendment would restrict shooting to between 5 and 7 p.m. on weekdays between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, and at no time on Sundays or statutory holidays. Currently, firearms can be discharged between 9 a.m. and sunset daily. The club also faced a civil suit from neighbours Brian Milne and Jean Barakett, which had been filed in November 2011.

• Salt Spring's new abattoir opened on Sept. 28. The \$400,000 facility was funded by a \$150,000 provincial government grant and the rest by the community. It was set up at 1447 Fulford-Ganges Rd. on a three-year temporary use permit from the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

• School District 64 superintendent Jeff Hopkins announced his intention to resign in March 2013 in order to start his own private school in the Victoria area. Hopkins had been superintendent in the district since 2006. Lisa Halstead, the current

director of instruction, was later announced as Hopkins' replacement.

• Centre Court, an indoor tennis facility operated by the Salt Spring Tennis Association, was opened at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club property on Sept. 29.

• Ron Stepaniuk was named the new general manager of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District after the retirement of Trevor Hutton. Stepaniuk had worked for the district for 26 years.

October

• The newest phase of the Partners Creating Pathways' Lower Ganges Road pathway, including Bogie Bridge, was officially opened on Oct. 2.

• Ferry travel was expected to cost four per cent more in each of the next three years following a price-cap decision announced by B.C. Ferry Commissioner Gord Macatee on Oct. 1. While the four per cent amount was about double the inflation rate, it was much less than the 8.23 per cent the ferry corporation had originally

looked for.

• The provincial government announced it would fund a governance study for Salt Spring Island. At a cost of \$80,000, the project would look at the island's current governance structure and assess the implications of municipal incorporation.

• The Mark's Work Warehouse store in Ganges suddenly closed on Oct. 15, less than a year after moving into a new building constructed by property owner Leon Aptekmann. The Mark's parent company had given notice to terminate its franchise agreement with business owners Brian and Heather Gooding due to lack of sales volume, and the Goodings decided to shut down early. As of the end of the year, renovations were underway to create up to five separate spaces for rent.

• Opponents of BC Hydro's smart meter program faced off against Corix installers as the company attempted to install meters on 6,000 Salt Spring properties beginning on Oct. 22. By the time the installation period was complete, an estimated 12 per cent of property owners on the island had



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring CRD director Wayne McIntyre cuts the ribbon on Centre Court, the new indoor tennis facility.

refused the controversial meters.

• Salt Spring RCMP arrested four individuals allegedly responsible for a spate of farm stand thefts and acts of mischief.

• A Supreme Court of B.C. judgement released

Oct. 29 found that West-coast Vacations did not violate Salt Spring's land-use bylaw through its reservation service for short-term vacation rental properties on its website. The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee had petitioned for an injunction against the local company.

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PHOTO BY RONN EDMONDS

The Kings Lane bowling alley (and site of Ganges Yoga Studio for the past couple of years) was demolished over the Christmas holidays in preparation for the property's development for healthcare facilities.

November

• A Nov. 13 B.C. Court of appeal decision denied a Salt Spring resident and B.C.-wide group the right to appeal a B.C. Utilities Commission ruling, shattering hope for smart-meter opponents across the province. Andrea Collins and Citizens for Safe Technology Society had asked for leave to appeal the BCUC's dismissal of a complaint against BC Hydro on grounds that it did not have jurisdiction over the Clean Energy Act.

• The Agricultural Land Commission denied a request for Mike and Noella Fraser to exclude 1.8 hectares (4.5 acres) of their Atkins Road land from the Agricultural Land Reserve for use as a light industrial park.

• At least 200 Salt Spring residents reported being victims of credit card fraud through November. The incidents affected holders of cards from several different financial institutions, with charges showing up across North America and in Europe. Without co-operation from the credit card companies, which had not been forthcoming, Salt Spring RCMP were unable to determine if a local person or persons was responsible for the fraud.

• The B.C. Ferries public consultation process about how to save \$26 million in operating costs over the next four years and sustain the ferry system in the long term got up to full speed in November. The process initiated by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and facilitated by the Kirk & Co. Consulting compa-

ny saw some 40 public meetings held in communities up and down the coast and invitations to provide input online or in writing.

• An emotional event took place at Galiano Community School as Mary Ohara, who was interned with her Japanese family during World War II and unable to continue her schooling, was given her high school diploma. The diploma presentation itself was a surprise, and made by Ohara's grandson Reed Oishi.

• Nov. 24 was the final day of service for the temporary Salt Spring library and annex on Jackson Avenue as volunteers and staff prepared to move to the new building on McPhillips Avenue. The temporary spot had been in place since July of 2011 while the new library was built by general contractor Knappett Projects Inc.

December

• About 100 islanders interested in the health of St. Mary Lake came to hear presentations from and ask questions of an expert panel at a forum organized by the Salt Spring Water Council and held at Community Gospel Chapel on Dec. 1.

• Sixty-five people turned out to the first open house held Dec. 3 to discuss plans for a new Ganges fire hall. The facility, which could also be home to the Salt Spring Search and Rescue and Emergency Operations groups, is envisioned to be 18,000 to 19,500 square feet in size and cost between \$4.75 million and \$6 million to build.

• Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Marsha Moreau was one of many volunteers required to move the Salt Spring library's contents from its temporary location on Jackson Avenue to the new McPhillips Avenue building (seen on the front cover of this issue).

agreed to put more resources into getting accurate maps of streams on Salt Spring Island for enacting the Riparian Areas Regulation. A staff report estimated the cost to be between \$85,000 and \$120,000.

• A Supreme Court justice dismissed a claim for \$50,000 in damages plus nuisance made by the provincial highways ministry against Eric Booth and Salt Spring Ventures Inc. related to flooding that occurred in the Swanson's Pond area five years earlier.

• The new \$7.25 million Salt Spring Public Library quietly opened its doors on Dec. 20, garnering rave reviews for its design, ambiance and services. A Dec. 21 Magic Santa show was the first activity held in the children's area. The building was designed by Chang Holovsky Architects Inc.

• Islands Trust Council came out strongly against further ferry fare increases and service cuts in its formal response to the provincial government's ferry consultation process.

"As fares go up, ridership goes down, and as ridership goes down, fares go up yet again," wrote council chair Sheila Malcolmson. "As services get cut, coastal economies weaken further. This cycle of decline has to stop and the root of the problem lies with chronic provincial government underinvestment."

• An island icon disappeared with the demolition of the Kings Lane bowling alley in late December. Following rezoning approval granted by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee earlier in the year, the site will be developed for healthcare-related uses to match the adjacent Kings Lane Medical Clinic.

At the top of their game in 2012



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring's Pee Wee girls softball team pulled off a surprising fourth place finish at B.C. championships.

Some individual and team highlights in sports, community service, the arts and business in 2012

- Salt Spring's Greyston Holt earned a spot among the cast of Alcatraz, a TV series that began airing on Fox Television.

- GISS theatre students got rave reviews for their performance of Homer's The Odyssey at ArtSpring.

- Local musician Shane Hooper made the top 10 list in a province-wide teen band contest.

- Lady Minto Hospital spelling bee team members were crowned "island intellectuals" after winning top spot at a spelling bee fundraiser. The inaugural event raised \$2,000 for GISS athletics.

- Gordon English was celebrated as a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow during a surprise ceremony at the Harbour House Hotel. The award, among the club's highest honours, is given to members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Rotary Club and its projects.

- The Salt Spring United women's soccer team finished its season in top spot as play wrapped up in Division 2 action of the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association. The win automatically promoted them to a tough Division 1 for the 2012-13 year.

- Twelve-year-old Salt Spring Middle School student Julia Schack finished atop her age category at the Cowichan Music Festival in March. The honour qualified Schack for an appearance at a provincial competition in Nanaimo in May.

- Danica Jensen earned one of three national \$5,000 CIBC post-secondary scholarships. Jensen began a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Victoria in September. She said she would like to eventually become a veterinarian.

- The Gulf Islands Driftwood earned 11 national and provincial top-three awards in annual competitions held by the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association and Newspapers Canada organizations.

- Island gymnast Darby McIntyre soared to a second-place finish during the B.C. Artistic Gymnastics Championships in North Vancouver. The 12-year-old athlete achieved a near-perfect score of 13.3 in a category that involved bars, balance beam, vault and floor competition events.

- The Gulf Islands Secondary School's improv team, led by coach Jason Donaldson, earned a top-10 spot at a national competition in Ottawa. The team's trip was made possible, in part, with help from businesses and individuals from Salt Spring, Mayne and Pender islands who contributed more than \$12,000 in just three weeks.

- The Salt Spring Sneakers running club earned a 12th place finish among the nearly 60 teams registered in the 2012 Vancouver Island Race Series. The little team that could was propelled by many strong efforts, including Rick Laing's first-overall finish in his M60-64 category. Laing also finished first in his category at the BMO Vancouver Marathon.

- Eva Olynyk was among one of 20 fortunate students across Canada who received a scholarship valued at up to \$70,000 from Toronto Dominion Securities. The funds, awarded as a result of outstanding community leadership, allows for

up to \$10,000 in tuition and \$7,500 in living expenses for each year of a four-year degree.

"Getting the scholarship opens up a lot more doors," Olynyk said in an April interview that followed the announcement.

- A powerhouse squad of U17 boys soccer players won the District Cup in Colwood by pulling off a miraculous comeback victory against Peninsula.

- Salt Spring FC sealed top spot in Division 2 of the Vancouver Island Soccer League. The achievement earned the team a spot in the league's competitive first division for the 2012-13 season.

- Salt Spring author Brian Brett was named as the ninth recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence. Brett, the author of Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life and many other celebrated works of prose and poetry, received the \$5,000 prize for his writing and cultural accomplishments, according to jurors.

- Fourteen-year-old Jordan Topping was selected to play with the Tri-City Americans during the Western League bantam draft in May. The league is considered a crucial stepping stone on the road to professional play with the NHL or European leagues.

- Grace Morgan, the track and field star who was GISS's top female athlete of 2011, made her mark at the University of Alaska Anchorage by ranking third in the Canadian junior women's division.

- A Salt Spring home designed by Patkau Architects and dubbed the Linear House earned a Governor General's Medal in Architecture.

HONOUR ROLL continued on 16

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Roy Kaighin was one of several Salt Spring residents to receive a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal over the past year.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Julia Schack finished atop her age category at the Cowichan Music Festival in March, earning a spot at a provincial competition in May.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Greyston Holt joined the cast of Alcatraz, a TV series that began airing on Fox Television, and starred as a young Wyatt Earp in the TV movie Hannah's Law.

HONOUR ROLL

continued from page 15

- A Salt Spring home designed by Patkau Architects and dubbed the Linear House earned a Governor General's Medal in Architecture.

- Farley Cannon scored a fourth-place finish in the national Chess Challenge, which took place in Halifax over the Victoria Day long weekend.

- Cella Rikwerda received the United Plant Saver 2011 Medicinal Plant Conservation Award at an event held in Williams, Oregon.

- On June 13, Anne Macey was named an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award winner for her work on Salt Spring's Area Farm Plan and the campaign to build a local abattoir.

- Viking Air founder Nils Christensen was inducted into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame on June 14.

- Gus Oliveira completed the 715-kilometre Yukon River Quest after having to withdraw from the 2011 race due to injury.

- An underdog Salt Spring Pee Wee girls' softball team placed fourth at the provincial championships in June.

- Gulf Islands swimmers who took home medals from the provincial championships Aug 18-19 included Pender Island's Allison Wood (gold in Div. 8 100m backstroke) and Salt Spring's Cassidy Fraser (silver, Div. 6 100m butterfly). Both girls were also part of silver medal relay teams for their divisions. Erin Wamsteeker of Salt Spring joined Wood in earning the silver relay medal for Div. 8. and also took the bronze for her butterfly stroke. Lylyl Kennedy of Salt Spring received the bronze medal for Div. 4 breaststroke.

- Salt Spring residents receiving Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals at various times in 2012

were Christine Hunt, Richard Murakami, Jill Wheaton, Robert Bateman, Pat and Rosemarie Keough, and Roy Kaighin.

- Salt Spring orthotist and orthopedic technician Barbara Poerschke won a Mid-Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council award as lead designer of the "fin grip," an ergonomic hand-grip for forearm crutches, presented at a gala event in Nanaimo.

- A book from Salt Spring-based Mother Tongue Publishing was nominated for a prestigious 2012 City of Vancouver Book Award. Claudia Cornwall's biography titled At the World's Edge: Curt Lang's Vancouver made the shortlist in September.

- A sell-out crowd attended Salt Spring's first roller-derby match. Held at the GISS gymnasium, some 400 people came to the event hosted by The Committed, with guests Salish Sea Rollers and Eves of Destruction.

- The Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild celebrated its 40th anniversary with special exhibitions at ArtSpring.

- The Seventh Annual Business Excellence Awards saw awards given to: New Business, Rawsome Living Foods Cafe and Juice Bar; Non-Profit Group, BC SPCA, Salt Spring Island branch; Tourism Business, Salt Spring Vineyards; Agricultural/Farm Business, Sue's Park Drive Stand; Green Business, Moby's Oyster Bar and Marine Grill; Outstanding Customer Service, Ganges Village Cobbler; Young Entrepreneur (Under 25), The Resistance band; Small Business (Under 15 employees), Salt Spring Metal Recycling; Business of the Year (More than 15 employees), Salt Spring Inn.

- Wesley Hardisty's debut CD 12:12 won the Best Fiddle CD Award at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards event in Winnipeg.

- The GISS senior boys soccer team finished ninth in B.C.

at the AA high school finals in Burnaby with a 3-1-1 record. It was teacher-coach Doug Pearson's last trip to the provincials as a soccer coach as he announced his plan to coach a different sport in 2013.

- The Scorpions' senior boys volleyball team capped an amazing year with a fifth-place finish at AA-level provincial championships held in Kelowna. The GISS team, coached by Kellie Booth, beat all of its opponents at the tournament except for the eventual gold-medal winner, Langley Christian school.

- Saanich-Gulf Islands MP and Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May was honoured by being voted the Parliamentarian of the Year by her fellow MPs in the House of Commons on Nov. 21.

- Long-time Salt Spring Islander Sandy Robley of Sunset Farm was named Rural Woman of the Year by the South Vancouver Island District Women's Institute.

- The nascent GISS sailing team wrapped up its season by taking first and second place in the final regatta of the year.

- The Salt Spring Fire Rescue department doused its competition in two Christmas-related events. It won Best Overall, Best Use of Lights and People's Choice awards in the annual Light-up decorating contest sponsored by the Driftwood and the Christmas on Salt Spring group, and also won an award for Best Decorated Antique Fire Truck in the Westshore Truck Light Parade, which took place on Sunday, Dec. 16.

- A project spearheaded by Michael Ableman of Salt Spring earned two prestigious awards. The SOLEfood Farm in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside won a Brownie award from the Canadian Urban Institute for best large-scale use of brownfield land, as well as the Real Estate Foundation's Land Award.

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EXHIBITIONS

Storefront artworks enliven Ganges

Arts Council project has wide representation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Christmas lights and seasonal displays make Ganges an enjoyable place to look at each winter, but this December village windows had even more to offer than usual with the transformation of empty Creech-house retail space into a storefront gallery.

While holiday shoppers could marvel at gingerbread houses and elegant ornaments on one side, on the other they were treated to a chain of mini exhibitions. Installed at the invitation of building owner Leon Aptekmann and through the organization of the Salt Spring Arts Council, guild groups, galleries and individual artists were happy to take up the opportunity.

Displaying the contributions also provided challenges. Artists/groups had to provide their own lighting and work around the backdrop of ongoing construction. The Salt Spring Island Basketry



Christmas Rush by Tom Gilligan.

Guild gets top marks for meeting the challenges to create a cohesive and beautifully composed window gallery. The use of a bamboo window blind as backdrop blocks off the construction and ties in perfectly with their baskets' natural materials, while cedar and fir boughs provide more screening and a festive touch.

The baskets are well-lit with track lights and ropes of Christmas lights, and displayed on shelves at several depths to make use of perspective and space. Lovely pieces by guild members Judy Goodman, Donna Cochran, Joan Carrigan,

Susan Brown, Heather Martin-McNab, Melanie Thompson and Debbie Magnusson appear to their best advantage.

Ilse Leader demonstrates her strong fashion sense with her display of knitwear brought up close to the window space. Unique items like a fringed sweater jacket, ruffled scarves and even dog sweaters are placed together in a harmonious collection.

Windows that work well by combining pairs of artists include the understated beauty of LeeAnn Norgard's ceramics with carbon pencil drawings by Cristina Goia. Norgard's

botanical-inspired designs, such as champagne flutes in matte cream glaze and a mossy green bowl, allow the focus to rest on form. Goia's drawings have a vintage feel with their soft scenes and cream matting. Each artist suggests a quiet power underlying the calm, reflective work.

Lloyd Nicholson and Ken Ketchum of Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art also make a good match-up, with Nicholson's acrylic on plexiglass screens bringing forward a warm glow in tones of peach, cream and rust. Ketchum's scanography provides a more formalized partner that complements Nicholson's abstract work, like the focusing of a kaleidoscope. The gallery also provides the pairing of Lorne Shantz and Dawn Davies, who revisit their recent joint show with a charming display of sea scenes.

Salt Spring Pottery Guild member Kuno Egger made an excellent choice in his selections, with bold graphic designs cutting through the glare of a front-facing window. Black and terra cotta lidded pots are marked with carved lines

in white, which include traditional patterns and those that look like secret code.

The more challenging work of bringing together individual contributors for the show allowed several artists to shine. Catch Fire is an eye-catching sculpture by fibre artist Jaime Murdoch with bands of bright copper wire enveloping the dry fuel of bamboo sticks and leaves. A starburst of sticks and curled flames create a dynamic sense of life. Murdoch combines other unusual elements in Spinning the Wheel of the Dharma, a collage piece that includes drawing, a cork wheel and a twist of wool moving from unspun to a fine yarn released by the wheel.

Tom Gilligan offers a relieving interpretation to the term Christmas Rush. Repeated images of a spray of bullrushes silhouetted against a bright light source produce the same effect as Christmas lights on a dark night. Each of the six panels has a different jewel-toned background.

The Creechhouse art exhibition will continue to Jan. 5.

EXHIBITIONS

Photo Club at ArtSpring lobby

20+ members to show new work this month

A group of members from the 100-strong Salt Spring Photography Club will show new work at the club's annual show at the ArtSpring lobby through January.

Press material promises the show will be as varied as its exhibiting contributors: Anna McColm, Avril Kirby, Bill Gardam, Bob Rogers, Chris Dixon, Cliff Kelly, Curt Firestone, Doug McMillin, Elehna de Sousa,

Harold Bailey, Jacqueline Sutton, Joanne Montrichard, Judy McPhee, Margaret C Benmore, Maureen Milburn, Patricia Page, Pauline (Fifi) Doucette, Rachel Page, Simon Henson, Susan Bachelor, Sylvia Beech, Tom Gilligan and Wendy Rosier.

Image types will include still lifes, nature/wildlife shots, close-ups, macros, landscapes and portraits in full colour, black and white and everything in between.

The club is open to photographers of all levels of experience. Members must live on Salt Spring.



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what's on this week



Wed. Jan 2 **Fri. Jan 4** **Mon. Jan 7**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Stage With Richard Cross.
Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild.
New members and visitors always welcome. Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Salt Spring Baptist Church. 7 p.m.

Thurs. Jan 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Epiphany Concert.
An Octagonal Musical Society presentation featuring pianist Matthew Stubbs, plus Jim and Laurie Stubbs, Adrian Dolan, Zavalennah, Carol Brown and friends. At Ted and Carol Brown's home. 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to octamuse@gmail.com.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Barley Bros.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Board Games Night.
Coordinated by Bryan at Thrive Lifestyle and SS Coffee Co. 6 to 10 p.m.

Sat. Jan 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Sitar With Phil.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
12th Night of Christmas Vespers. All Saints. 5 p.m.

Sun. Jan 6

ACTIVITIES

Marine Search & Rescue Exercise.
Public welcome to watch exercise in Trincomali Channel off Fernwood Dock. Fernwood Dock. 1:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Toastmasters public speaking group meets Mondays at the Catholic Church, lower room, 135 Drake Rd. 7 p.m.



Wed. Jan 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Dance Show.
Term-end production of high school dancers at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

The Not-So-Recent History of Salt Spring Island.
Presentation by Dr. Hugh Greenwood, retired professor of geology at UBC, about the evolution of SSI rocks and terrain. A SSI Historical Society event. Tea and coffee to follow. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.



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

THE HOBBIT AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY 165min Rating: PG Final 2 shows Wednesday Thursday January 2nd and 3rd 7:00

SKYFALL 2hrs 25 min Rating: PG Friday January 4th to Tuesday January 8th 7:00 ...Sunday 3 matinee and 7:00

get noticed board

The new free place to list your fitness class or regular group activities of any kind.

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Published in the first Driftwood of each month!

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www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our new online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

we want to be YOUR go-to-place for everything happening on Salt Spring

CINEMA

- The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** — Bilbo Baggins is approached by the wizard Gandalf, to join a company of dwarves led by legendary warrior Thorin Oakenshield. They must reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor, which was conquered by the dragon Smaug. The journey takes them through treacherous lands and ultimately leads Baggins to find a magical gold ring tied to the fate of all Middle-earth. *Special notes: The theatre cannot accept any passes for The Hobbit.*
- Skyfall** — A smart, riveting action thriller, one of the best 007 films to date. Bond's loyalty to M is tested as her past comes back to haunt her. As MI6 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** features Peter Allan, Heide Van Impe, Ken Ketchum, Dawn Davies, Lorne Shantz, Bob Rogers and Saltspring Fancy.
- Rachel Vadeboncoeur** shows mixed-media and glass works at Island Savings.
- Salt Spring Photography Club** members show work in the lobby of ArtSpring through January.

Participating photographers are Anna McColm, Avril Kirby, Bill Gardam, Bob Rogers, Chris Dixon, Cliff Kelly, Curt Firestone, Doug McMillin, Elehna de Sousa, Harold Bailey, Jacqueline Sutton, Joanne Montrichard, Judy McPhee, Margaret C Benmore, Maureen Milburn, Patricia Page, Pauline (Fifi) Doucette, Rachel Page, Simon Henson, Susan Bachelor, Sylvia Beech, Tom Gilligan and Wendy Rosier.

- A Part, Apart** — an exhibition of photographs by Avril Kirby — runs at the Harbour House Hotel.
- Alura Gilbert** shows photos from Kenya at Fernwood Road Cafe.
- Photographic Improvisations** — Second Set: Haida Gwaii Composites and Another Havana by Michael Wall show at Café Talia through January.
- Steffany McAren** has paintings hanging at Penny's Pantry.
- Salt Spring Photography Club** member Margaret C. Benmore shows images at Country Grocer Roaster Cafe titled Hollywood comes to the Salish Sea, inspired by a trip to the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney.
- Carol Adam** shows her artwork at Salt Spring Books.

GISS Dance

Term-end show at ArtSpring
Wednesday, Jan 9th & Thursday, Jan 10th • 7:30pm

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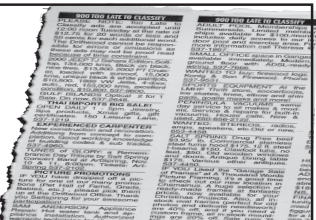
Well, we can't change gas prices or ferry fares, but we can bring back the **"TOO LATES!"**

Effective immediately, the TOO LATES deadline is 2pm TUESDAY

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CONSERVATION

January: a new calendar and a new start

Editor's note: Each month in 2013, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy will submit a Nature's Calendar column to the Driftwood.



NATURE'S CALENDAR

BY BOB WEEDEN
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

To build something new, first take apart something old.

Just for fun, let's make perfume from stones.

At Ruckle Point's steep foreshore you stand on sandstones formed 100 million years ago, give or take a week. The smooth, brown-grey ledges, comfortable underfoot, have cracks which flood with water in December rains.

Sometimes, in January, dense, cold air from B.C.'s interior rushes down the Fraser Valley and rides the breezes under a brilliant moon to send shivers onto Salt Spring Island. Water in the sandstone cracks freezes, expands with huge force, and deepens old fissures

while starting new ones. Bits of stone flake off.

Winter rains slowly dissolve the chemical bonds gluing crystals together. Salts, oxides and clay minerals are released.

Now the velvet moss grows thick and green, inviting us to caress it. Where the hair-like false roots of moss meet the rock the exchanges between rock and moss create complex acids that speed up the weathering process.

Every rock has a memory of the extreme pressures that stuck it together. These old, latent forces are greatest deep in the rock. At the surface the only thing that

counteracts this inside-out force is the weight of the atmosphere. Anything from the outside that weakens the bonds of surface crystals is helped by a final push from inside. Pop!

Grain by grain, flake by flake, the sandstone ledge crumbles. The pieces accumulate in cracks and hollows. To become soil they need the remnants of life.

As sure as death and gravity, organic crumbs will come. They will be fragments of storm-tossed kelp, feathers from preening ducks, bits of wind-pruned branches, wisps of grass, leaves from the arbutus and Garry oak that grow on uplands just over your shoulder.

They will be clams, dropped by famished gulls, which bounce into deep crevices. Oh, yes, and otter poop, forgotten crusts from picnics — let's just call it Gai's dandruff.

Old rock has combined with old life to make soil. To work our miracle we need



PHOTO BY CHLOE SJUBERG

The rocky shoreline of Ruckle Park in December 2012.

only seeds, the commonplace marvel that bridges the generations of flowering plants. Among the flow-ers that will grow here on the salty hem of our island are the exquisite blue-eyed Mary, pink sea-blush and hardy golden stonecrop.

In spring each seed will send a fibrous hand downward and a green shoot skyward. Water and nutri-

ents will flow within them. From that busy elemental traffic from earth to heaven, quickness to death, history to prophesy and ever back again, will come perfume from stones.

The Salt Spring Conservancy is selling its 2013 Stewards In Training Nature Calendar as a fundraiser for its programs.

ISLAND HISTORY

Geological history on tap at Greenwood talk

SS Historical Society event next Wednesday

It may surprise some people that the evolution of Salt Spring Island is an historical story.

But it does fit perfectly into the Salt Spring Historical Society monthly presentation schedule on Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Hugh Greenwood, a retired professor of geology at UBC, will spin a tale about the evolution of the rocks and terrain

of Salt Spring Island.

Greenwood's talk will be illustrated with slides of maps, rocks and hills, and lightly spiced with accounts of meeting land-owners during the process of his mapping the geology of the island. Our story con-

tinues, but at a rate that is hard to perceive on a human time scale.

The meeting at Central Hall will begin at 2 p.m.

All are welcome to attend. Tea and coffee follows the presentation.

FAITH

12th Night service at All Saints

Readings, dancing, music

The magic and mystery of the 12th Night of Christmas will be celebrated again this year with a Vespers on Saturday, Jan. 5.

Beginning at 5 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church, readings from scripture, congregational song, and contemplation both in words and silence will all be part of the evening.

The All Saints Dancers will offer a newly choreographed piece meditating on the Star of Bethlehem. Rasma Bertz and friends will add ancient and ageless music to the mix.

Readings of poetry by the 20th century Church of Wales priest R. S. Thomas, the contemporary theologian Walter Bruggemann and the current American poet Kate Farrell will

also be included.

In Christian tradition, Christmas is far from over on Dec. 25. It is only just beginning with festivities continuing through to the Feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 6, one of the longest festival periods of the Christian calendar.

As the Rev. Richard Stetson explains, a variety of customs are associated with 12th Night in different cultures and times, music and even Shakespeare's play.

"The word Epiphany signifies a showing forth or revelation and the feast day celebrates the appearance in Bethlehem of the wise ones from the East with gifts for the Christ Child as the story is related on Matthew's Gospel."

Epiphany liturgies are at Jan. 6 at All Saints at 9:30 a.m. and at St. Mark's Church at 11:45 a.m.

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COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROGRAMS

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Coordinator: Sharon Glover 250-537-4607

January 2013

The Resolution Month!
 (Yours could be to help our community in some way...)

Salt Spring Seniors needs more Volunteer Drivers!
 If you are 55+, drive your own car, and have some spare time, WE NEED YOUR HELP to take seniors to various appointments on and/or off island. To learn more, please call Anne John @ 250-537-2323.

Calling on Women to help Women!
 Wellness Programs is seriously needing more friendly women to host at the Screening Mammography Clinic when it comes to Salt Spring... spring & fall visits. Shifts are about 3 hours long and the task is to manage the simple paperwork and great arriving women, to remove this load away from the technicians...easy, helpful and only once or twice a year. Can YOU help? Please call Sharon Glover at 250-537-4607 to learn more and volunteer! (Many thanks to the 3 wonderful new women who have already offered their help!

Blood Pressure Clinic - all welcome! FREE!
 NEXT on Monday 29 January from 10:00 - noon at friendly, inviting Salt Spring Seniors

Happy New Year!

COMMUNITY FUNDS

Sip & Savour aids local groups



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce president Matt Steffich and manager Janet Clouston present Sip & Savour donation cheques to Maggie O'Scalleigh and Adina Hildebrandt of StageCoach Theatre School, left, and to Sue Earle of Island Natural Growers.

Donations benefit theatre school, farmers

Island Natural Growers and StageCoach Theatre School received a financial boost from the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce last month when they were awarded partial proceeds from Sip & Savour Salt Spring 2012.

Chamber of commerce president Matt Steffich and general manager Janet Clouston presented donations that totalled \$1,500 to the two organizations during the group's Christmas mixer at Shipstones on Dec. 13.

"It is our pleasure to give to these important groups who are both doing great things in our community," Steffich stated in a press release.

Island Natural Growers representatives Sue Earle and Anne Macey received the funds on behalf of farmers, growers and food producers on Salt Spring. ING is a chapter of Canadian Organic Growers and manages the Tuesday Farmers' Market, among

other local farming initiatives.

"It is gratifying to see more people aware of the importance of local food production and food security," Earle said.

"This grant will go towards educating farmers and would-be farmers and deepen our understanding of sustainable farming on Salt Spring."

The Sip & Savour contribution to StageCoach Theatre School went to the Rising Star Grant Fund offering theatre programs to children and youth. The non-profit society is dedicated to first-class instruction in the dramatic arts. Directors Maggie O'Scalleigh and Adina Hildebrandt were on hand to receive the cheque.

The Sip & Savour festival is hosted by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Tourism Vancouver Island, local business owners and volunteer food and wine enthusiasts from across Salt Spring.

The third annual event is scheduled for Sept. 7 and 8, 2013.

Attention New Salt Springers!



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WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

Editor's note: We goofed and neglected to print the winners of the Grades 2-3 category of our Christmas story writing contest in our Dec. 19 or 24 issues of the paper. Here they are now — Girl Christmas by Dylan Rouselle, and Santa's Reindeer Get Sick by Sonja Reynolds.

GIRL CHRISTMAS

BY DYLAN ROUSELLE
GRADES 2-3 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

It all started on the night before Christmas. A girl named Angelene is 16 years old. Her mom and dad sent her to get groceries.

When she was done and came out she did not know where to go because it was snowing

so hard that she couldn't see. She was lost. It was getting darker and darker so she waited and waited.

Then she saw something in the snow. It was a puppy and its name is Rufus.

He was really cute. He was running in a circle, then he got tired. Angelene put Rufus in her bag. Then she took a flashlight

out of her bag. She lit it up but she could still not see.

But she could see something in the sky.

"Is it the moon?" said Angelene.

But it was not the moon. It was Santa.

He was smiling at her. He laid his sleigh down and invited Angelene in to his sleigh.

"Can you help me

deliver presents?" said Santa.

"Yes, yes I will. Do you have room for a dog?"

"Of course I do. Let's go."

But Rufus woke up. He was surprised.

"We're done."

Santa dropped Angelene at her house and Angelene had a new pet.

Santa's Reindeer Get Sick

BY SONJA REYNOLDS
GRADES 2-3 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Santa's reindeer were feeling very sick. Santa could not deliver gifts for Christmas so he asked the Easter Bunny to deliver the presents with Santa's help. So the Easter Bunny said OK.

The Easter Bunny had just quit his job delivering Easter eggs because he wasn't getting paid well enough. Santa told the

Easter Bunny he could get a lot of carrots if he would help.

The Easter Bunny was excited to work for Santa as a Santa bunny. The Easter Bunny phoned Santa and asked Santa to give each child an Easter egg with their present. The Easter Bunny made Easter eggs and carrot canes for each child.

Santa was very happy and with the Easter Bunny jumping from roof to roof they deliv-

ered all the gifts to the children, but the children felt sad that the Easter Bunny was not going to deliver eggs anymore so they phoned the Easter Bunny and asked him to come home from the North Pole.

The reindeer started feeling better and helped deliver the Christmas gifts again and the Easter Bunny went back to delivering eggs and everyone was happy again.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

SSI Historical Society
Regular Meeting

2:00pm Wednesday Jan. 9, 2013

At Central Hall; Dr. Hugh Greenwood

"The not-so-recent history of Salt Spring Island"
A geological view of our history.

HELP PRESERVE SALT SPRING ISLAND HISTORY,
MAKE A CHARITABLE DONATION
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Tea/coffee to follow the meeting. All are welcome.

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Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

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Tip of the Week:

As is customary, I write an overview for each sign for the upcoming trends and themes for the year. I also do a longer version which is posted on my website. So the following is the short version of the Horoscope for the Year – 2013. From the perspective of Numerology, when added to a single digit, 2013 = 6, which is called the 'Universal Number' for the year! While there are many calendars, this is the one we use and is the most commonly accepted calendar in the world. Because we all agree that it is 2013, the symbolism of it actually works! This illustrates our co-creative participation in life, which occurs at collective as well as individual levels. 6 is the number of harmony and beauty. Many managers have this number strongly emphasized in their numerology chart. It is also a number of culminations. In other words, number 6 represents the flower in full bloom or the ripe fruit on the vine. As a 'growth cycle number' 6 refers to a process of prioritization, time management and important decision making. As a consequence of making such important decisions, certain relationships, personal, professional or otherwise, will deepen while others, due to time restraints or simply to lack of interest or value... will end. So, we can expect 2013 to be one in which we experience many new developments which will become evident to everyone.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

A steady pace of change that began in the last quarter of 2012 will continue and even accelerate in 2013. The process you are in may be described as a metamorphosis. Yet, unlike the caterpillar becoming a butterfly, you can and do have a say in the outcome. Tune-in to the changes that are happening, decide how you envision the ideal result and cooperate with the process.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

2012 was likely a very busy one for you and the same will largely be true in 2013. In the bigger picture, this is a window offering a go-ahead and/or get-ahead theme. If this has not begun for you yet, there remains time. Perhaps you are not as clear and focused as would be ideal to capitalize. Hold a vision for a brighter future that you can commit to.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Bringing your dreams down to reality will continue in 2013. A learning curve is implied, yet its timeline will reach all the way to 2015. So, patience with the process is important. Learning from someone or undergoing an apprenticeship makes sense. Your health is also a corner stone theme and is linked to the learning curve. Dovetail both for best results.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

A creative wave is washing in and will continue throughout 2013. This is your opportunity to do something that reveals your creative leadership. The more inventive you are the better. This is a call to embark on new roads. If you do look back, do so only to take the best and bring it forward in a fresh way. Plan and prepare now then launch near or after your birthday.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

You have arrived at an important juncture. The time has come to confront your fears – the ones hiding in your subconscious. Basically, they are standing in the way of you actualizing a fuller measure of your creative potential. It may be necessary to step away from the limelight for a while, to go within and do this 'inner work'. Decipher what is your 'gold' then intend to defeat the fear dragons.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

2013 represents an important and dynamic learning curve. The early signs of what you will be learning have likely already been revealed, especially since September. New leads and directions and a pioneering approach are implied. The sooner you can clarify what is implied the better, so work to achieve this now. Yet March is the probable official start month.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

You are in a foundation building process. The challenge includes clearing away the old foundations. These may be literal as in actual renovations, yet they may also be or at least include habitual beliefs, perceptions, attitudes and/or behaviour patterns. Investments of time, money and focus will be required.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

A rising desire to take some bold initiatives will continue throughout 2013. The biggest challenge includes determining your direction. The future is the basic answer. This means you are ready for new experiences. A change of lifestyle that began about 2 years ago is a good area to look for answers. Ask: what constitutes the high road?

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

A process of building upon new foundations will continue in 2013. Deliberate action and efforts are implied. To this end you are experiencing an exciting and inventive cycle that will continue for the next several years! Yet, there is also a theme of 'letting go and letting God', in the mix. Balance a healthy measure of deliberate action and acceptance of endings.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

2013 will prove to be a pivotal year for us all, and perhaps for you especially. Making the most or earned rewards from the past, cleaning up the mess of 'bad' choices and organizing your efforts to direct your energies to projects and causes that genuinely feel meaningful are the complex line-up. Clean and tie-up loose ends and prepare for expansion in June.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

You have arrived at a steep ascent to power. Deliberate effort and steady discipline is implied. Like climbing a great mountain, it is important that the segment that 2013 implies leaves you feeling strong and confident for the even steeper sections in 2014 and 2015. Patience is also extra important now. Keep showing-up then take it one step at a time.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

A summons from your higher mind has been sounded. It is calling upon you to establish a more refined and healthy balance. By doing so you will both be able to access your intuitions more quickly and clearly and you will be ready for bigger opportunities and challenges to come. In 2013 intend more regularly to be still and silent to listen within, and take note then deliberate action, Arjuna!

getnoticed board

The free place to list your regular group activities of any kind.

Send your submissions to news@gulfislands.net or drop them off at the Driftwood office. Published in the first Driftwood of each month! Brought to you by Saunders Subaru.



WEDNESDAY

STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the SSI Baptist Church (rear door), 7 to 9 p.m. New members welcome. Info: stitchdimension@gmail.com; or Janet Rothwell, 250-537-7606.

GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month for discussion and sharing at the Mormon Church, 7 p.m. Info: claudia2@shaw.ca; 250-537-2588.

every WEDNESDAY

BOOMERFIT at Fulford Hall, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a variety of class formats for optimal fitness and fun; led by certified personal trainer, trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN for parents and their kids aged 0 to 6 at Family Place. Sign up weekly at Family Place, 1 to 3 p.m.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE is open at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Info: 250-537-9573.

YOGA with Dorothy Price. At North End Fitness from 7 to 8 a.m., and at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm, 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

LEVEL 1 YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 10:30 a.m. AND 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets at the house behind Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Drake Road at 11:45 a.m. Do YOU have a problem with food? Join us!

PERFORMANCE DANCE CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 5 to 6:30 p.m. Multigenerational expressive dance suitable for dancers of all levels leading up to Lobby Dance performances in winter/spring 2013. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com.

PILATES CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility and long, lean muscles, strength and endurance. 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea, 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

SENIORS STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY classes with Tricia at South SS Seniors, Fulford Hall annex, 9 to 10 a.m.

SENIORS CHAIR YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. If interested, contact club president David Waddington at 250-537-0854 or via email: David@Waddington.ca.

STAMPS GROUP meets at SS Seniors Services, 10 a.m.

SWING DANCE PRACTICE at the Core Inn, third floor. For all levels. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

TAEKWONDO CLASSES in the studio space above Elements Home Design, 6 p.m. Info: Paul Mazzei, 250-931-8887, gyatso5@gmail.com.

VIPASSANA MEDITATION with Heather Martin at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm, 7 to 9 p.m.

YOGA LEVEL 1 with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7 p.m. Call 250-653-2411 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

ZUMBA TONING class with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio, 4 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

SS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION meets on the third Thursday of the month at the school board meeting room from 4 to 6 p.m.

every THURSDAY

AL-ANON meets at Our Lady of Grace church on Drake Road from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racquet and non-marking gym shoes. 8 to 10 p.m. \$3. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

BRIDGE LESSONS at SS Seniors Services, 10 a.m.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE is open at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: 250-537-9573.

FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES with Betty-Lou Lake. All Saints lower hall, 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Focus on balance, strength, flexibility. Target group is boomers and up. Info: blake@telus.net; 250-537-1638.

FUSION BELLY DANCE with Kaia Mitchell at Still Point Yoga Studio, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by Fusion Belly Dance Choreography at 7:45 p.m.

MEN'S YOGA with Ken Katz at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

MIXED LEVELS YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

PICKLE BALL at Fulford Hall, 1 to 4 p.m. \$5. Instruction and equipment provided. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579, hafiz@softlinedesign.com; Leonard, 250-653-4424, wordish@shaw.ca.

SS WOMEN'S AA closed meeting Thursday nights at OAP wing of Fulford Hall.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN. Come for a bowl of soup! Parents and kids ages 0-6. Toy Library open. Family Place, 120 Park Drive, 12 to 3 p.m.

VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at North End Fitness from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. (with babysitting available) and at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

every FRIDAY

BOOMERFIT - FULFORD HALL, 9 to 10 a.m. Enjoy a variety of class formats for optimal fitness and fun; led by certified personal trainer, trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.

BRIDGE at SS Seniors Services, 1 p.m.

COFFEE TIME at SS Seniors Society, 10 a.m.

ENERGIZE YOGA with Suzanne Tremblay at Still Point Yoga Studio, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Begins Jan. 11.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Still Point Yoga Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681; anna@bonesforever.com

LEGION MEAT DRAW at the Legion, 5 p.m.

MAH JONG at SS Seniors Services, 12:15 p.m.

MIXED LEVELS YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea, 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

RESTORATIVE YOGA with Suzanne Tremblay at Still Point Yoga Studio, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Begins Jan. 11.

STAY & PLAY drop-in for parents and kids 0 to 6 at Family Place, 120 Park Drive, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Light lunch provided.

TANGO PRACTICES at the Core Inn, third floor, 8 to 10 p.m. Info: ssi.tango@gmail.com. Resumes Jan. 11.

every SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME Pancake Breakfast for kids and their dads at Family Place, 120 Park Drive, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Time for dads and their kids to meet, eat and play together.

LEGION MEAT DRAW at the Legion, 5 p.m.

YOGA VINAYASA/FLOW with Sarah-Jane Smith at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

every SUNDAY

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racquet and non-marking gym shoes. 7 to 9 p.m. \$3. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

KARMA KLAS yoga at Still Point Yoga Studio, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free (with donations gratefully accepted).

PICKLE BALL at Fulford Hall, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$5. Instruction and equipment provided. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579, hafiz@softlinedesign.com; Leonard, 250-653-4424, wordish@shaw.ca.

RESTORATIVE/IMMUNE SUPPORT class with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 9 to 11 a.m. Check with Celeste for exact Sundays the class is offered.

SALTY DOGS AGILITY CREW meets at 988 North End Road, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Info: www.saltydogs.ca or contact Diane Alton-Kaighin at saltydogsagility@yahoo.ca.

TAI CHI CHEN & YANG STYLES. All levels class at Seven Stars Tai Chi Club, 210 Cedar Lane, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Osman, 250-537-5667.

MONDAY

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT trustees hold public meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Ganges Fire hall, 7:30 p.m.

SALT SPRING PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION generally meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Portlock Park Portable at 5 p.m.

every MONDAY

BEGINNERS/LEVEL 1 YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

BONES FOR LIFE MOVEMENT CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 2 to 3 p.m. A comprehensive exercise program to increase strength and agility through dynamic movement and weight-bearing activity. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com.

CHES at SS Seniors Services, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lessons from 11 a.m. to noon.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Still Point Yoga Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd., 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@salspring.com.

LIFE DRAWING every Monday at the Core Inn (third floor), 1 to 3 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121. Drop-ins welcome.

PILATES LEVEL 1 CLASS at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 11 a.m. to 12 noon. This class is designed for people new to Pilates and those wanting to work on deepening their understanding of Pilates. Info: Anna Haltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea, 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

READERS' THEATRE at SS Seniors Services, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SENIORS YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

TAEKWONDO CLASSES in the studio space above Elements Home Design, 6 p.m. Info: Paul Mazzei, 250-931-8887, gyatso5@gmail.com.

TAI CHI CHEN STYLE. All levels class, including beginners, at Seven Stars Tai Chi Club, 210 Cedar Lane, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: Osman at 250-537-5667.

TOASTMASTERS public speaking group meets Mondays at the Catholic Church, lower room, 135 Drake Rd. 7 p.m.

THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Core Inn 2nd floor, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.

UBUNTU Community Song Circle with Barb Slater at Still Point Yoga Studio, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

VIJNANA YOGA with Cathy Valentine at The Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA CLINIC: Back Care with Celeste Mallett at Still Point Yoga Studio, 4 to 5:15 p.m. Info: 250-537-2444. Series runs from Jan. 7 to Feb. 11.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Valri Cunningham at Still Point Yoga Studio, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.

TUESDAY

PROBUS group for retired professionals/business people meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Meaden Hall at 10 a.m., with special guest speakers each time. Info: Bruce Eggertson, probus.ssi@gmail.com

SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Portlock Park portable, 4 to 6 p.m.

every TUESDAY

ART GROUP meets at SS Seniors Services, 1 p.m.

CHES CLUB meets at SS Seniors Services, 7 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS with Alice Friedman at Still Point Yoga Studio, 5 to 6:15 p.m. Resumes on Jan. 8.

FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES with Betty-Lou Lake. All Saints lower hall, 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Focus on balance, strength, flexibility. Target group is boomers and up. Info: blake@telus.net; 250-537-1638.

KUNDALINI MOVING MEDITATION from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and ECKHART TOLLE PRACTISING PRESENCE from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.

LOST CHORDS CHOIR meets at SS Seniors Services, 10:30 a.m.

PICKLE BALL at Fulford Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m. \$3. Instruction and equipment provided. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579, hafiz@softlinedesign.com or Leonard Greig, 250-653-4424, wordish@shaw.ca.

SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall, 7 to 9 p.m. Or phone Chuck Hamilton, 250-537-6601.

TAI CHI Yang style all levels class, including beginners, at Seven Stars Tai Chi Club, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: Osman at 250-537-5667.

YOGA CLINIC with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, Focus on Arthritis from Jan. 8 to Feb. 12, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

YOGA VINAYASA/FLOW with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Slow Flow... for tired bodies! SS Centre of Yoga, 5 to 6 p.m.

ZUMBA GOLD with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio, 1 to 2 p.m.



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Frazer, Col. John L.
(RCAF) O.M.M., M.S.C., C.D., M.P.

Colonel John (Jack) Loughton Frazer slipped the surly bonds of earth at 1122 hours on December 17th, 2012. Jack passed away after a brief illness in Victoria BC, with family at his side. Born in Kamloops on December 20, 1931, Jack leaves behind his wife of 56 years, June, son Bradley (Susan) and daughters Lee Valentine (David) and Kimberly Mann (Kelly) as well as many friends from around the world. Jack was predeceased by his son Drew in 1984 and grandson Paul in 1998. Jack was a loving and supportive Opa to Scott (Amy), Spencer, Marites, Lindsay, and Rodel and Great Opa to Bella.

Jack was a proud member of the Canadian Forces, spanning the years 1951 to 1986 where he attained the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Order of Military Merit, Meritorious Service Cross and the Canadian Forces Decoration. While in the RCAF, Jack commanded several different units and squadrons in Canada, the US and Europe, and flew a variety of aircraft including the F86 Sabre and the CF 104 Starfighter. In 1954 he became a member of the Fireballs aerobatic team performing air shows throughout Europe. He was selected to join the RCAF Golden Hawks aerobatic team in 1961. In 1983 Jack was posted to Zimbabwe where, as Military Attaché, he was accredited to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Botswana. In 1985 while on a routine visit to Uganda, a coup d'état occurred. Jack met with the British High Commission in Kampala and assisted in organizing the evacuation of the citizens of ten western nations from Uganda to Kenya. For his actions, Jack was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross by Governor General Jean Sauvé.

In 1986 Jack and June returned to Canada and retired on Salt Spring Island. On Salt Spring, the Frazers were regular supporters of Legion Branch 92 and patrons of the Chemainus Theatre. The annual April 1st RCAF celebration, inspired by Jack, was a cornerstone of their social calendar, as it brought back so many memories of a great career. Retirement also meant extensive travels including many cruise and barge holidays and of course his beloved SPAADS and 104 Association reunions with his former fellow fliers.

As a Reform Party member, Jack was elected Member of Parliament for Saanich-Gulf Islands in October 1993. He served as Defense and Veterans Affairs Critic and Deputy Whip and sat on seven Parliamentary Committees during the 35th Parliament. His Private Members Bill establishing the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal was passed into law in 1997.

Retiring from politics in 1997, Jack was appointed to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board after which he retired for the third and final time.

Jack was subsequently awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to his country.

Celebration of Life will be held at 443 Squadron Hanger at Victoria Airport on January 24, 2013 at 1300 hrs.

Donations in memory of Jack can be made to the Salt Spring Island Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92.

PRET, DISPOS ET CAPABLE




Gordon K. Munk
 1938 - Dec. 12, 2012

It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Gordon K. Munk, loving husband, brother, father, grandfather, and friend, on December 12, 2012. Gordon was born in Thorsby in 1938; he spent most of his youth in Breton, AB. Gord completed his Mining Engineering degree in 1961 at the University of Alberta. Celebrating 48 years together, Gordon and Margaret married in 1964, and raised their two boys in Edmonton. Following a successful career at Northwestern Utilities, Gord and Marg retired to Salt Spring Island in 1996. He is survived by his wife Margaret, sister Linda Hein (Dan), two sons Kevin and Trevor (Jill), grandchildren Sydney, Samantha, and Stephan, and extended family.

Gordon's thoughtful, kind nature will be remembered by his family and many friends. He was a gentleman in the true sense of the word.

A memorial service was held December 17 on Salt Spring Island.



BEA CARR
 July 11th, 1923 - December 19, 2012.

Dates, events, homes and wars chronicle Bea's life but love, joy, passion and grace are the milestones of her passage. Beatrice Marion Roberta Aylott was born in Whitechapel in the east end of London. She was born within the sound of Bow Bells, a true Cockney. Her parents, Nelly May Aylott (nee Stonehill) and Frank George Aylott had 6 sons and 3 daughters. Bea's sister, Stella, the last remaining member of the Aylott family, continues to live in England. During W.W.II Bea worked and struggled through the Blitz in London. She married John Carr in 1946 and had two sons, Roger and Richard. In 1967 the family moved to Canada and Bea became a manager and purchaser for Ladies Fashion and Makeup at Sears. Her energy and vibrancy charmed all who met her and inspired those who worked for her. In 1982 she and John retired to Salt Spring Island where she was part of an energetic circle of friends and ran The Ladies Auxiliary at Lady Minto Hospital. As health and ferries made Salt Spring living less tenable, Bea and John moved to Brentwood Bay and eventually Sidney. Bea's failing health necessitated residing in Extended Care at Saanich Peninsula hospital since 2011. Recently her husband John joined her in residency there. Despite impeccable care and lashings of love, Bea left us on the morning of December 19th.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A granddaughter in Sweden wrote:

"The world has lost a fighter, but heaven gained an angel. -Rest in peace grandma! We will never forget you..."



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Lady Minto Hospital Foundation
 www.ladmintofoundation.com

IN MEMORIAM



NAIRN HOWE
 APRIL 30, 1957 - DECEMBER 25, 2005

**Cancer is not so powerful!
 There are so many things it cannot do...**

*It cannot cripple love.
 It cannot shatter hope.
 It cannot corrode faith.
 It cannot destroy peace.
 It cannot kill friendship.
 It cannot suppress memories.
 It cannot conquer the spirit.
 It cannot silence courage.
 It cannot invade the soul.
 It cannot steal eternal life.*



News Updates

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?
 SEE PAGE 18

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES
TUESDAY 10 AM

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS



Maureen and Peter Rowell are pleased to announce the arrival of their second great grandchild Jake William Shade on December 15, 2012 to parents Kara and Keith Shade, a brother for Isla and grandson for Sheena & Reg Kirkham.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

Your gift to the Heart and Stroke Foundation will help support life saving research and education in heart disease and stroke.

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PETS

PETS REMEMBERED



Mustang
February 23, 1996 -
December 20, 2012

Yes, Jack Russell's do go to doggie heaven. Mustang departed peacefully.
We love you and miss you, Sweetie

Ruth & Jaguar



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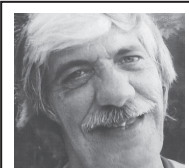
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DOUG UNDERWOOD
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MEETING BOARD of directors of Central Community Hall, Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7 pm Public Welcome.



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WRESTLING

Salt Spring grapplers ready to tackle 2013

Young island club eyes most successful year yet

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Starting off the new year on the mat against a roster of players like Xena, El Martillo and the Assassin is what competitors who take on Salt Spring's wrestling team can look forward to during a two-day bout in Kamloops next week.

After the disappointing cancellation of December's War on the Floor competition at Simon

Fraser University in Burnaby, Salt Spring's promising squad of middle and high school-aged wrestlers look to launch 2013 with the same momentum that characterized much of the team's success during the past year.

"Again the little David we call Salt Spring came and again the giant Goliaths went down," reads part of the team's weekly newsletter.

During the final competition of 2012, the Cougar Invitational held in Duncan in early December, a complement of 11 Salt Spring wrestlers proved they've got all the right moves to match

their intimidating aliases. The team brought home a healthy haul of nine medals, including two gold, four silver and three bronze.

Hamish "The Warrior" Supina wrestled to his first gold medal with an awe-inspiring performance over his opponents in the 41-kilogram class. In the 38-kilogram boys class, Stefan "El Chivato" Esquivel destroyed the opposition with a combination of speed, agility and strength.

"What can be said about the performance of our Chivato? Maybe awesome, devastating and fast," reads the team's

newsletter.

Silver medalists were Jorel "El Tigre" Anderson, Anita "Bambi" Esquivel, Sebastian "The Assassin" Howe and Kevin "El Toro Rojo" Marr. Coming up with bronze medals were Jimmy "El Halcon de Oro" Beck, Karol "El Verdadero" Esquivel and Trent "The Fox" O'Donnell.

The team has been training hard under head coach Leon Esquivel to improve fitness and technique in anticipation of their journey to the B.C. Interior, where wrestlers will compete in the 2013 Western Canada Age Class tournament on Jan. 11 and 12.

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A terrible time to be watching hockey

2014 Sochi games an unexciting prospect



Patrick Cwiklinski

OFFSIDE

You know what sucks? Waking up to watch a hockey game at one o'clock in the morning.

Yet here we are — three Canadian games deep into the 2013 IIHF World U20 Championship and even the most dedicated circle of hockey fans eager to watch their respective countries claim victory on the international stage are tired.

Literally. Don't get me wrong, the hockey's been great as usual. The best and brightest young talents from all over the world facing off against each other is something all

fans look forward to on Boxing Day in addition to discounted NHL memorabilia.

Unfortunately, in some ways, this year's tournament is being hosted by the city of Ufa. Yes I had to Google that and yes it is close to the Republic of Tatarstan, which I had no idea existed until a few days ago — pardon my geographical ignorance. In plain English, it's somewhere in Russia.

Now I have absolutely

nothing against the Russian people. I like their winter hats, women and vodka, among other things, but the fact that I have to get up so damn early to watch Canadians beat on Germans has got me in a bit of a mood lately.

It's not their fault they're 12 hours ahead of our west coast Pacific time, blame that on some British guy in Greenwich during the 1800s. They can't magically change time and make it more accessible to watch the games for us North Americans, but it did get me thinking.

Sochi 2014.

Yeah, remember those upcoming Winter Olympics in Russia the NHL was threatening not to take part

in? I can see a few reasons, one of which is that North American television audiences will likely not be waking up at weird hours of the morning or night to watch winter sports, no matter how good they are, because people still have things like jobs and schools to go to.

Remember the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan? Me neither, partially because I was seven years old, but mainly because of the ridiculous schedule and Canada's embarrassing hockey performance there even with the likes of Wayne Gretzky, Steve Yzerman and Patrick Roy.

I hate making disastrous predictions, but I don't see Sochi being much of a North American televi-

sion network hit and that's hardly news to anyone. The point is we as Canadians shouldn't condemn the Russians just because their time is significantly and inconveniently ahead of ours.

Come on, those guys had to suffer through Salt Lake City and Vancouver in a span of 10 years, so now it's time for us to make some sacrifices and support whatever patchwork of NHL players ends up representing Canada in 2014.

Thanks for letting me vent. See you in Sochi — or at least at some wonderful bar that will keep its doors open for those poor, unfortunate souls watching the games on two hours of sleep.

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

January activities detailed for hikers

Hikers

Jan. 8: Kees Visser will lead a moderate but long hike from Peter Arnell Park to Bryant Hill Park and looping back. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at 10:15 a.m. at the top of Stewart Road behind the barrier.

Jan. 15: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderate hike to Christie Falls (Ladysmith) and possibly beyond. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to carpool on the 9:10 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

Jan. 22: Ashley Hilliard will lead a moderate hike in Ruckle Park. Expect wet trails. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at the entrance to

Ruckle Park at 10:05 a.m.

Jan. 29: Explore Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park in a moderate hike with Jean Gelwicks. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the Burgoyne parking lot at 10 a.m.

Walkers

Jan. 8: Marcelle Roy will lead a moderate walk in the Burgoyne Bay area. Meet to carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the bottom parking lot of Burgoyne Bay at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 15: Marjie and Brian Radford will lead a walk on Mount Maxwell. The route will depend on the weather. Look for an email nearer the time

or phone Brian. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Jan. 22: Walton Langford will lead a walk to Kings Cove in north Ruckle Park. Meet to carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the lower end of Meyer Road (off Bulman Road) at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 29: Bryan Adderly will lead an umbrella friendly road walk on the west side of the island. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Ramblers

January Rambles: Rain or shine, the Ramblers will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in Centennial Park. The weather will determine the group's destination.

AGM

The AGM is at Community Gospel Chapel on Jan. 24. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. The meeting will start at 12:15 p.m. followed by a presentation by Lynn Thompson on Hiking at Lake O'Hara, Yoho National Park with four members of the club.

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. More information is at www.saltspringtnc.ca.

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