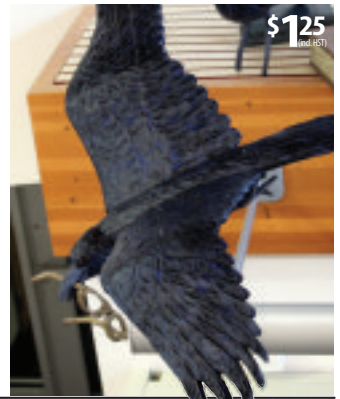




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# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 2

PROTEST

## Idle No More works up Salt Spring

National movement hits Centennial Park

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More than 100 people assembled in Centennial Park on Saturday afternoon to sing, dance and speak out as part of Idle No More demonstrations across Canada.

"This time is a time of awakening. Those ancient cultures that are rooted in the earth, sea and the sky... are coming back. The ancestors are coming back to the world," said Dan Miller, coordinator of Salt Spring Island's Idle No More movement, to an enthusiastic gathering of supporters.

"This is why we should honour the young ones and the children among us and, in my mind, that's what the Idle No More movement is really all about, contributing to the health and longevity of the chain of generations of all our bloodlines for all time to come."

Idle No More began in late 2012 as Canada's First Nations voiced opposition to the federal government's controversial bills C-38 and C-45. What began as a protest against the perceived erosion of environmental protection and First Nations land rights has captivated the spirit of Canadians from diverse cultural backgrounds who oppose policies enacted by Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

Saturday's cross-Canada protests formed the largest day of action to date in the movement's short history.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Signs, drums and smiles were part of Saturday's Idle No More rally in Centennial Park. For more photos, see the Driftwood's Facebook page. For a video, see our story at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com).

IDLE NO MORE continued on 2

PROPERTY VALUES

## Assessed values drop for GI property

Second year in a row

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Property owners across the Gulf Islands can expect big changes when they open BC Assessment notices being delivered to mailboxes across the region.

The average assessed value of residential properties in the southern Gulf Islands dropped approxi-

mately 4.1 per cent between July 1, 2011 and July 1, 2012, according to the latest figures released by BC Assessment. The average value of a home in the area dropped from \$530,000 to \$508,000 during the latest assessment period.

On Salt Spring Island, changes for non-waterfront properties ranged anywhere from a seven per cent drop to a three per cent increase. Waterfront properties dropped between five and eight per cent while lakefront properties rose by up to two per cent.

"The majority of residential homeowners will observe a modest assessment change compared to last year's assessment roll," said Reuben Danakody, an assessor with BC Assessment, in a news release that accompanied the 2012 figures. "A significant number of properties in the region are actually decreasing in value."

ASSESSMENTS continued on 2

HEALTH

## Noro enters week 3

Greenwoods programs cancelled

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Staff and patients at Salt Spring Island's Greenwoods care facility are on high alert as a norovirus outbreak at the complex nears its third week.

Since it was detected before Christmas, the virus has forced staff to cancel all holiday programming and regular activities at the care centre.

The facility's approximately 50 residents are encouraged to stay in their rooms for meals, treatments and other services to avoid spreading the virus further.

The infection peaked on Dec. 26 when 25 staff members and 21 residents showed symptoms of the gastrointestinal virus. Since the outbreak erupted, approximately 31 residents have contracted the illness.

The latest case involved a Greenwoods employee who was sent home after showing symptoms late Monday afternoon. That means the complex's "active outbreak" status will stay in effect until Friday afternoon at the latest.

The outbreak has taxed staffing resources during what complex-care coordinator Ryan Gibson deemed the worst possible time for an infection of this nature.

NOROVIRUS continued on 2

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# Protest movement 'just getting started'

**IDLE NO MORE**  
continued from 1

"We're just getting started," Miller said. The weekend's two-hour protest in Ganges featured an intergenerational mix of island-based environmentalists, social justice advocates and concerned citizens who showed support for the nationwide movement.

"There's not a lot of First Nations faces in this crowd and it speaks to the movement that's going on in Canada," said Adam Olsen, a Central Saanich councillor who is in the running to become the provincial Green party candidate for Saanich North and the Islands.

"This is more than just about First Nations.

Folks, this is about all of us. People are starting to understand that this is about all of us and it's just the beginning of us embracing each other, the diversity we have in our communities and the cultural diversities that we've got here in Canada.

"It's time for us to embrace one another and move ahead together as a people."

The Jan. 5 event was the second Idle No More gathering held on Salt Spring. The latest turnout far exceeded the three people who met at the same spot on a rainy Dec. 21.

"Let's become aware as a people to live as naturally and beautifully on the land as we can," said speaker Sally Sunshine. "The Idle No More movement at this

time is so exquisitely mind blowingly beautiful. The people of this land are standing and we're standing with them; it's incredible."

Amid interludes of samba beats, flute playing and Gaelic song, speakers called upon Canadians to ask the federal government to revisit parts of its contentious new legislation.

"I'm open to other points of view, I'm not closed-minded," Miller told the supportive and vocal audience. "Let's get some ideas on the table, but let's not single-handedly rule the land from the [Prime Minister's Office]."

"This is not a dictatorship and I'm really concerned about the way they're abusing the majority."

Many participants attended Saturday's rally with traditional drums, while others hoisted signs and banners that decried the federal government on topics that included First Nations rights, the fossil fuel and pipeline sector, and fish farms.

"We are all branches grown from the same roots," said Mike Wolf, a member of the Blackfoot First Nation's Wolf Clan who spoke on behalf of his national chief Bill Crazy Bear. "This is the time when the era of the world killers comes to an end."

For more information about the local movement, see the group's Facebook site, Idle No More Salt Spring Island: Solidarity with First Nations.

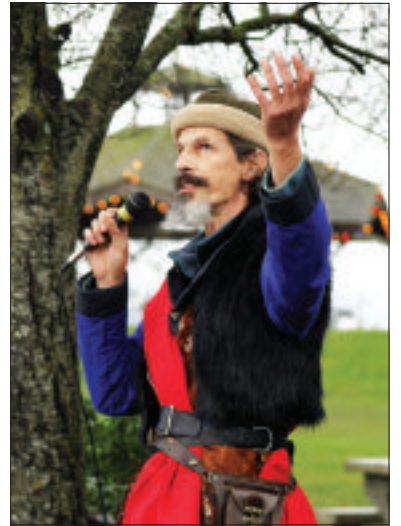



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring Idle No More coordinator Dan Miller addresses the crowd at Centennial Park on Saturday. See our story at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for a video clip of the event.

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JAN 10	05:17	3.4	11.2
	09:23	3.0	9.8
	13:49	3.4	11.2
	21:42	0.1	0.3
JAN 11	05:54	3.5	11.5
	10:26	2.9	9.5
	14:47	3.4	11.2
	22:27	0.1	0.3

## Property value appeal deadline Jan. 31

**ASSESSMENTS**  
continued from 1

A property's assessed value establishes the basis for annual property tax calculations. In most cases, the value is based on real estate sales and market conditions in a given area.

The news has property owners like Salt Spring's Erin Jory wondering about the broader consequences for the island.

"The only concern I have is whether this reduction by the Assessment Authority reflects the overall reduction in market values for homes and property on Salt Spring and, if so, is this a bad thing for the economy and housing market?" she said.

Jory hopes to see a corresponding reduction in her property tax, but realizes the final figure depends on mill rates set by various government bodies.

"It will be interesting to see what the tax

notice says in June," she added.

Danakody said the property market has shown signs of further decline since properties were assessed at the beginning of July.

Anyone who feels their notice contains errors or doesn't accurately reflect the market value of the home as of July 2012 should contact the BC Assessment office at 1-866-825-8322.

Jan. 31 is the deadline for filing a notice of complaint.

## Norovirus rates at highest level since 2006

**NOROVIRUS**  
continued from 1

"The thing that sort of got us through was the staff and how incredible the staff were," Gibson said. "Those that didn't get sick were amazing and those who did get sick came back as soon as they could."

"We just couldn't have done it without the staff banding together."

One case of norovirus has been identified at the Braehaven assisted living complex. The resident has been isolated and regular programming and meal services have resumed after a brief disruption last week, Gibson added.

Norovirus is commonly spread in winter through contact with infected persons, touching infected surfaces, or consuming contaminated food and beverages. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, often accompanied by chills and muscle pain.

Because elderly people are especially susceptible to the virus, staff at healthcare facilities are asked to head home when they show signs of infection. They are asked not to return until they've gone symptom free for at least 48 hours.

"While norovirus may not pose a serious threat to most healthy individuals, it may have a severe impact on the elder-

ly," said Shannon Marshall, a spokesperson for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. "The violent impact of vomiting alone is very severe."

The best way to avoid the virus is through frequent hand washing and to stay clear of outbreak areas.

"It's highly contagious," she added.

The rash of norovirus cases on Salt Spring coincides with a surge in reports across British Columbia and many other parts of the world. Cases reported across the province since November and December are, at between two and three times average levels for this time of year, the highest they've been

since 2006, according to Natalie Prystajeky, a pathologist at the Provincial Health Services Authority's Microbiology and Reference Laboratory.

Although the current strain is especially virulent, Prystajeky said there's no reason for public alarm.

"It's a big year, but it's not unusual," she said. "Every two or three years, a new strain will emerge."

Since individuals infected with previous strains of norovirus are not immune to the current virus, the number of potential victims is at an all-time high globally.

No advisory has been issued for Lady Minto Hospital.



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# NEWS BEAT

**Heads up!**  
**Salt Spring Local Trust Committee**  
 Thursday, JANUARY 10  
 Lions Hall, 9:30 a.m.; town hall at noon

## TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

# Kinder Morgan roadshow rolls in for Ganges session

Islanders asked to comment on B.C.'s other pipeline project'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents have a chance to comment on a proposal that will increase the number of annual oil tanker trips through the region during an open house session hosted by Kinder Morgan Canada on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The meeting is the last of 37 such events held by the company in communities along the 1,150-kilometre Trans Mountain Pipeline route since October. The meetings coincide with the company's application to increase pipeline capacity between Edmonton and shipping and processing facilities at Burnaby's Westridge Marine Terminal.

As one of North America's largest oil terminals, the Westridge facility is a crucial link to transport oil from Northern Alberta's oil sands to foreign markets.

Tankers currently travel from the Burnaby terminal across the Strait of Georgia, down the east coast of Mayne and Saturna islands to Boundary Pass, along the border to Haro Strait and eventually out into the Pacific Ocean through the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The plan's opponents estimate

approval could increase the annual number of tankers coming and going along the route from 32 in 2011 to more than 360. Most of those ships will travel to markets in California and Asia.

Concerned Gulf Islands residents like Tom Mitchell, a coordinator of Salt Spring's No Pipelines Coalition, worry a higher number of tanker trips will increase the risk of a spill and endanger the region's marine environment.

Be it Kinder Morgan's expansion of the southern pipeline or Enbridge's Northern Gateway proposal between Northern Alberta and Kitimat, Mitchell said, he fails to understand why Canada's federal government seems intent on pursuing development of fossil fuels, which he considers a "sunset industry," at all costs.

"I guess I'd like to see Canada turn away from this sort of drive towards developing the fossil fuels and turn towards renewables," he said.

Howard Houle, Gabriola Island's director for the Regional District of Nanaimo, attended a Kinder Morgan information meeting on Vancouver Island in early December to represent concerns expressed by his constituents.

"I was unimpressed with what I saw and heard," he said.

"It was the same old thing; story boards with pictures and graphs, and lots of people to guide you. If you ask the hard questions you get moved on



An aerial view of the Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby. Tanker traffic from the port will increase greatly under a proposed pipeline expansion.

to the higher ups.

"And your questions get sidestepped with 'that report will be in our application.'"

In spite of the cynicism expressed by the project's opponents, Islands Trust Council chair Sheila Malcolmson is optimistic the meetings will

increase public awareness about the proposal.

"Although Kinder Morgan's upcoming open house doesn't seem like genuine public consultation to me, I really hope islanders will go to convey their concerns about issues such as climate change and marine

oil spills," she wrote in an email.

"Kinder Morgan will use the results of the meeting in its eventual submission to the National Energy Board, to show they've consulted with the public, and if we aren't there to voice concerns, that will be a gap in the process."

According to information at www.transmountain.com, the pipeline's expansion will result in considerable economic advantages to Alberta, British Columbia and the rest of the country.

"Overall, the proposed expansion will enhance Canada's ability to reach diversified markets with its oil and provide 47,200 person-years of employment, while also increasing tax revenues that can be used to fund government projects and services Canadians depend on, such as health care, education, roads and infrastructure," reads information on the website.

A list of further public-engagement opportunities is also listed, along with an extensive question-and-answer section, and specifics about the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

The information session will be held on Saturday, Jan. 12 at Lions Hall (103 Bonnet Ave.) between 1 and 3 p.m.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Fernwood school class wins draw

Fernwood Elementary School's kindergarten class will have a big decision to make after winning the Driftwood Christmas story contest's class participation draw.

Teacher Melindi Curtis' class was the name pulled from among the dozen submitting stories for the annual contest from all of

its students.

The Driftwood will provide \$100 for a charity chosen by Curtis' class.

Thirty-dollar cheques for first-place winners of the Driftwood's story contest are also available for pick-up at the Driftwood office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday.

### NDP critic to speak at AGM

Saanich North and the Islands New Democrats will

gear up for the coming provincial election at their annual general meeting in Sidney this Sunday, which will feature a speech by NDP environment critic Rob Fleming.

Fleming will speak on various issue, including the Enbridge pipeline and the need to protect B.C.'s coast from oil spills.

"The Liberal government's failure to stand up for B.C. and say 'no' to the Enbridge pipeline provides a very clear example of why we need a change in government," Gary Holman, NDP candi-

date for Saanich North and the Islands, stated in a press release.

Holman said the looming election campaign gives particular significance to the party's annual general meeting. The former CRD director for Salt Spring came within 258 votes of winning in the 2009 election and is confident of winning the seat in 2013.

The Jan. 13 meeting takes place at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 9691 Fourth St. at 1:30 p.m. The meeting is open to anyone, but only NDP mem-

bers in Saanich North and the Islands are entitled to vote.

### Treatment plant designer selected

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District board of trustees has announced Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Limited of Burnaby, B.C. will develop the preliminary design for the new St. Mary Lake treatment plant to be built on the same site as the

current plant.

NSSWD states on its website that KWL has been providing water engineering services since 1975 and is the winner of multiple design awards.

The preliminary design process is expected to take several months. NSSWD will then hold an open house to present the design and projected costs, as the start of the ratepayer approval process. Ratepayers will have to approve the overall cost and the financing plan, the website states.

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### RESCUE TRAINING

# Marine rescue skills get polished

Multi-crew training unites island groups

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Volunteer crews from Pender Island, Brentwood Bay and Ladysmith joined the Salt Spring Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue station Sunday for locally organized training events that also involved the Ganges Coast Guard.

RCSAR coxswain Nic Futter put together the weekend training events that saw around 30 volunteers and four coast guard members practise a series of rescue exercises in Trincomali Channel.

"It went amazingly well," Futter said in a follow-up interview.

"All four units showed up that were planning to attend, we had four stations set up and around a half-hour training at each one, and the weather was amazingly cooperative."

Training sessions included the water "res-

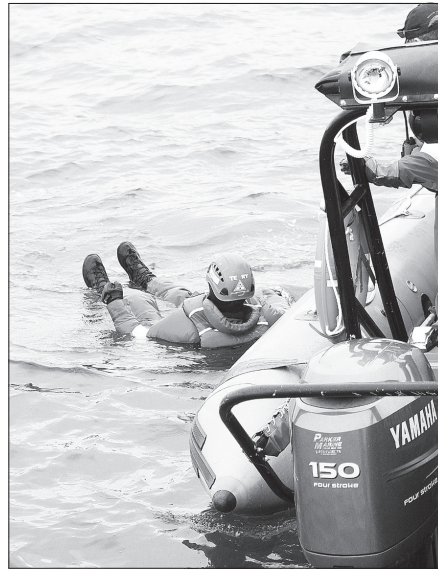


PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue group member Terry Bieman plays the role of a man needing to be rescued from Trincomali Channel waters during a training exercise on Sunday.

cue" of Terry Bieman, a member of the Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue unit. Though

fitted out in a drysuit, Bieman was in and out of the water around 25 times.

"We very, very much appreciate his help," Futter said.

Crews also got to practise on RCMSAR Station 25's new training vessel, a rigid hull inflatable, with the Coast Guard's 47-foot Cape Naden lifeboat, and rescued a dummy from the shores of Wallace Island.

"In addition to the benefits of training, it was great to get together with the other units working in the region," Futter said.

"If we are all on a call together, we'll know each other a little better."

RCMSAR Station 25 will also participate in a cross-training exercise with Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue in February, most likely providing marine transport for "lost" hikers.

Futter said the unit is still looking for new recruits. Anyone with a marine background of any kind and a wish to volunteer should contact Andrew Ross-Coltins at 250-537-8948.

### NORTH PENDER

# Transfer station proposal riles North Pender Island residents

Neighbours worry about effects on Bedwell Harbour

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of a scenic North Pender Island neighbourhood are alarmed about a land-use application that could see a new waste transfer station built on their doorstep.

"I've been involved in protests before and I'm not afraid of making my point," said Bill Gannon, a Vancouver-based accountant who owns property near the transfer station site. "We'll have civil disobedience if this thing goes ahead."

For nearly two months now, Gannon and his neighbours have watched as workers and heavy machin-

ery travel to and from the site of the 20-acre property along Browning Harbour.

According to an open letter from the property owners to the residents of Pender Island, the only work undertaken to this point is construction of a driveway to access a small industrial-zoned portion of the split-zoned property.

In their letter, owners Mike and Anne Burdett say they plan to remove six unused fuel storage tanks and rezone the property's industrial section and a portion of its agricultural section to operate a transfer station.

The site would include a small composting facility for diversion of commercial organic waste, drywall and small loads of construction materials.

"This new trans-

fer station would be similar to what we operate at Medicine Beach Market," reads the letter. "Bins and compost would be contained within a building on a concrete pad with catchment system, and the site would be fenced and screened by trees."

That's not good enough for Lou Henshaw, owner and operator of the Port Browning Marina. Since getting wind of the proposal late last year, she worries approval for a transfer station will jeopardize her business and the world-class harbour so many visitors come to see every year.

"It's not a suitable location," Henshaw said. "I have been told every garbage transfer station has an odour no matter how clean they are."

A spokesperson for the province's Agricultural

Land Commission said he contacted the property owners after his office received complaints in December of unauthorized works on agricultural land.

**"It's not a suitable**

**location."**  
LOU HENSHAW  
Port Browning Marina

"We've made contact with landowners and they are going to stop doing any sort of filling and stuff. They are complying with our request," said Ron McLeod. "There has been a lot of misunderstanding because of the [property's] historical uses."

Andrea Pickard, an Islands Trust planner for North Pender, said a staff report is being pre-

pared for a Jan. 31 meeting of the island's local Trust committee. She said the document will be made available on the North Pender Island LTC website by late January.

The meeting will offer residents the first public opportunity to learn more details about the proposal.

Pickard said the application requires approval from the province's ALC before any decisions are made on a local level. Should the application receive ALC approval this spring, further discussion would occur at a local level during the summer.

As with any rezoning application, Pickard added, public consultation and a formal public hearing are required before adoption of any proposed bylaw.

BUSINESS

# Vida Grains makes pitch for Den

BC program airs on CBC  
Jan. 20

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A whole grain product made on Salt Spring is poised to become a national byword in health foods with an appearance on the popular CBC show *Dragons' Den* airing on Sunday, Jan. 20.

Annette Magled first introduced Vida Grains at Salt Spring Natureworks and the Saturday market three years ago. The tasty combination of seeds and grains, based on a formula her mother developed as a natural cure for diverticulitis disease, caught on quickly with anyone who sampled it added to rice, salad or yogurt.

"I approached *Dragons' Den* about doing a presentation because someone said I should, and I like a challenge," said Magled, who hoped the show's five powerful entrepreneurs would be as enamoured of her product as her growing legion of fans.

There are now three Vida Grain flavours (*Morning Glory* features cinnamon and berries, while *Savoury Fiesta* has garlic, cumin and nutritional yeast) and two more in the works. Magled has maximized the recipe's ratio so that nutritionally it's almost a complete food in its combination of essential fatty acids, vitamins and minerals. The high-protein, high-fibre product can be found in 30 health stores across Canada and is sent to individual clients in California and Europe.

CBC's "dragons" have been known to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars into products they think can make money. Investment funds would help Vida Grains expand to more locations by paving the way for a distributor and funding demonstration personnel for each outlet — a feature Magled feels is essential for getting people to try the product.



PHOTO COURTESY CBC TV

Annette Magled, owner of Salt Spring-based Vida Grains, during filming of a *Dragon's Den* episode that will air on Sunday, Jan. 20.

Getting selected for air time was almost as gruelling as her resulting 45-minute pitch to dragons David Chilton, Bruce Croxon, Arlene Dickenson, Kevin O'Leary and Jim Treiving. Magled had to prepare a business plan and audition her pitch for producers before being accepted for taping. She then had to pass another selection process after the taping to actually appear in the final episode.

Magled worked with one of the show's producers after her successful audition, practising her pitch at least a dozen times on the phone and in person before the session with the dragons. While she of course did her research on the entrepreneurs in advance, the panel gets no information about the products or the people selling them prior to the pitch.

"You go into hair and makeup and they fix you up, then they mic you — then you're on your own from the time you're at the top of the stairs," Magled said. "Up until the night before I was a nervous wreck," she added.

Though she can't reveal how her presentation was received prior to the episode's broadcast, Magled offered that she found the experience "entertaining."

"I can say I fed them the same quinoa salad I feed people at the market and they loved it."

Magled is appreciative of the strong community support she's received on Salt Spring throughout her product's development. In addition to her customer base she's had marketing tips from Natureworks, business consultant Doug Muldoon and Greens Plus founder Sam Graci, web design from Imagine That Graphics and ingredients sourced on island or from Vancouver Island.

"Everything is local and it's so exciting because people are interested in the show," Magled said.

Vida Grains fans can give Magled extra support by voting for her pitch prior to the Jan. 20 show. Her presentation will be available on the *Dragons' Den* website at [www.cbc.ca/dragonsden](http://www.cbc.ca/dragonsden) as of Monday, Jan. 14.

SPEAKERS

## Environmental hero Berman visits Forum

Jan. 11 event runs at ArtSpring

Environmental activist Tzeporah Berman will visit ArtSpring this Friday, Jan. 11 as the Salt Spring Forum's first speaker of 2013.

Berman has recently returned to British Columbia after several years with Greenpeace International's Climate and Energy Unit in Amsterdam. Press material explains her book — *This Crazy Time, Living Our Environ-*

*mental Challenge* — "is both a memoir of her battles to save old-growth forests and a call to action for new campaigns — including against the expansion of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline, which would see as many as 365 bitumen-laden tankers per year sail within 15 kilometres of Salt Spring."

Back in the early '90s, the activist collected more than 800 criminal charges while leading blockades aimed at saving the old-growth forests of Clayoquot Sound, in "one of

the largest acts of civil disobedience in Canadian history."

"Instead of becoming a lawyer, I went to jail," Berman writes in her book.

She later founded the ForestEthics and PowerUP Canada organizations.

Tickets to meet the woman Bill McKibben describes as a "modern environmental hero" are available at ArtSpring and Salt Spring Books at \$15 for 2013 Salt Spring Forum members and \$20 for non-members.

The event starts at 7:30 p.m.

### I FIX \$10 HAIRCUTS



I know what you are thinking: "What could this guy know about haircuts?" Believe it or not, there was a time when I would get lured in for a \$10 haircut and, more than once, found I had to pay someone \$20 to fix it. Often when reviewing people's "Do-It-Yourself" financial plans, it's like looking at a cheap haircut, done in haste without any real long-term strategy. Sometimes it's a collection of "sure thing" stocks recommended by old golfing buddies. Sometimes it's an RRSP or insurance policy that still shows their ex-spouse as the beneficiary ten years after the divorce. Or a handwritten will that could be legal if only the witnesses weren't also the beneficiaries! Why not let me take an hour with you, in complete confidence and without obligation, to give your plan a review?

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# OPINION



Gold - Coverage of the Arts | Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SSI)  
 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 SSI) | Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron for longboarder)  
 Silver - General Excellence | Silver - Special Publication (Aqua magazine)

2012 BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



## EDITORIAL

# Voices from the past

### Concerns about water quality on Salt Spring Island are nothing new.

Witness this excerpt from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's trustees report for 1984:

"The quality of water from both [St. Mary and Maxwell lake] sources remained well within permissible limits [in 1984]. However, unless continuous efforts are made to protect and improve the quality it will gradually deteriorate until it requires very expensive treatment to be usable."

Those trustees had hoped to limit new development around St. Mary Lake to 30-acre minimum parcels, but were blocked by the provincial government. On the positive side, preservation of some 272 acres of watershed lands did occur as a result of the Channel Ridge development, and the lake's first aerators were installed during that era with benefits to both fish health and drinking water quality.

### THE ISSUE:

St. Mary Lake water quality

### WE SAY:

Concerns about water quality on Salt Spring Island are nothing new.

phorus; maintaining lakeside septic systems, and minimizing tree removal and soil disturbance, etc. While important, those actions are a relatively small drop in the impact bucket. They are part of what's required to help restore St. Mary Lake, but a coordinated government and agency effort is far more critical.

The key word here is "coordinated." Various agencies have responsibility for St. Mary Lake water quality. The North Salt Spring, Highland and Fernwood water districts deliver potable drinking water from the lake; the Islands Trust handles lakeside zoning and land use; the Ministry of Environment cares for the fish. But without any one body having overall responsibility for the lake and the authority to do much about its persistent problems, the dire situation is unlikely to change.

Thankfully, coordination efforts are now underway through the St. Mary Lake Working Group. We only hope they will result in more favourable trustee reports being uttered 30 years from now.

But as the Driftwood's four-week Tipping Point series that ran in December found, some 30 years later we have arrived at the place those 1980s trustees hoped to avoid, despite the fervent efforts of many.

Individuals can certainly contribute to an overall action plan through various ways mentioned in our series: by eliminating use of fertilizers and cleaning products containing phosphorus; maintaining lakeside septic systems, and minimizing tree removal and soil disturbance, etc. While important, those actions are a relatively small drop in the impact bucket. They are part of what's required to help restore St. Mary Lake, but a coordinated government and agency effort is far more critical.



VIEWPOINT by John Pottinger

# Draining those memory muddles

I'm sitting all warm and cozy in Montreal — a sliding glass door provides the 30 degrees of separation needed between me in my shorts and T-shirt and the 60-centimetre glistening white duvet thrown down on Montreal in the past days.

Sipping my eggnog (well, trying to consciously sip and savour, rather than absently gulping 'til the glass delivers nothing but the last flakes of nutmeg onto my tongue) I'm taken to my boyhood, and my teenhood, when for two weeks of the year eggnog would appear in the fridge and replace Coke as the ingredient that would merge with Lamb's Navy Rum in my dad's glass.

Those memories of rum and eggnog are forever mingled with bright red, green and silver images of Christmas. With the sumptuous smells of shortbread and mince tarts baking. And with the joyously entangled sounds of carol music and people laughing. But the sweet liquid in my mouth also brings real meaning to the phrase "bitter irony" as more pungent memories stick in my throat. Suffice it to say I wish I had spent more time with, and spoken more often and more honestly with, my father and my mother. And a few others who are gone.

So these last hours of 2012 bring — as do all "last hours" — the curiously common blend of bitter and sweet, joy and melancholy (the yin and yang of human emotions) that infuse our lives. Reflecting on our past — opening those private closets of our mind — most often leads to a mixed bag of chuckles and tears. The smiles are easily traced, easily explained; not so the tears. There are tears over lost friends, of course; lost family and lost loves. But we are also prone to the tears that well up from

regret or remorse, that arise from carrying burdens that are, in a word, imaginary.

Nothing positive can arise from regret or remorse over doing the wrong thing years ago, or over memories of lost opportunities to do the right thing. Nothing. The only possible benefit will come from opening up the wrapping on that burdensome memory, blowing the tainted dust off it to give yourself a clear view, and then turning it over and having a long honest look at the memory — as a lesson. Learn from it; then throw it away.

There is a sort of "negative nostalgia" in these memory mud puddles; there is some stability or familiarity to them. They are so much a part of us — of "who we are" — that we don't realize the importance (to our future) of letting them go. Why letting go is so important is simple: As long as you carry this septic dump inside you, you will not — cannot — achieve the goal of becoming who you want to be. Seeing yourself as tainted — as a coward, a loser, a liar, a thief, even if it's not conscious — means you do not believe in yourself. Yup, it's that simple.

So, in the next few weeks, make time to clean out your most intimate cupboards. Open up those dark packages in the back corner, recognize and absorb what their story is. Then throw away, bury or otherwise permanently dispose of every last one of them.

For some it might be most gratifying to picture placing these bundles by the roadside, with the CRD offering a free day of pickup and shredding.

The writer is a former and future Salt Springer.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

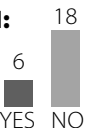
## Does the region's recent seismic activity worry you?

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

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Do New Year's resolutions have value?



# Driftwood

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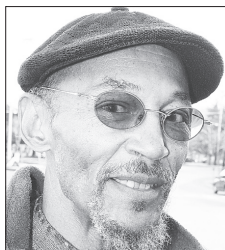
# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "The Idle No More movement at this time is so exquisitely mind blowingly beautiful."

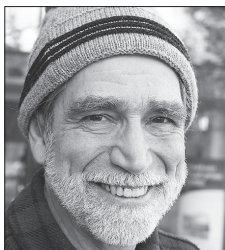
SALLY SUNSHINE, SALT SPRING RESIDENT

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What Salt Spring Says question would you like to have asked in 2013?



**GENE GROOMS**  
*When will the bridge be built?*



**BOB MCKAY**  
*I'd really like to know about ways to generate power on the island. Is there a possibility to make tidal power work?*



**MATHEW BURROWS**  
*Maybe a question about the best parking spots in Ganges.*



**WENDY WEBB**  
*A question that keeps people aware of the environment. Maybe something about bike lanes, cycling and non-motorized transport.*



**PAM DONNELLY**  
*What would make our lives better?*

## Letters to the editor

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

### Rolls Royce library

Last week I visited Salt Spring's very own Palace of Versailles, AKA the new library. For \$7.2 million.

It is a large, elaborate, ultra-modern structure that doesn't blend with any other building in Ganges, let alone its neighbours on McPhillips Avenue. There are several meeting rooms, an outside patio play area for children and an elevator for — whom?

People in wheelchairs or walkers enter through the front via a ramp, but there is no handicapped parking place on the street, so what do they do if all street parking places are taken?

And oh yes, that dark, covered parking area behind the building could be a splendid place for drug dealers to congregate, and maybe

for homeless people to doss down for the night. Such a dark area would not have existed had the library been located at the Rainbow Road Pool site, nor would an elevator have been necessary.

We need a library, yes, but not one of that size and not for \$7.2 million; half the cost and two-thirds the size and the balance of all that money could have been spent on things Salt Spring desperately needs, such as clean drinking water lakes and more affordable housing.

But of course the referendum passed, very democratic, though I wonder how many of us realized we were approving a Rolls Royce when a Ford would have done nicely. I thought I was the only Grinch but I'm not — others I talk to are as fed up as I am.

**J. HORSBURGH,**  
SALT SPRING

### Simple hall position

I am responding to the Dec. 24 "Architects important" letter from the trustees responsible for the construction of the new fire hall.

I respect the process underway and the work that has been done on the project to date. I especially respect the men, women and numerous volunteers who keep us safe, whether in responding to a fire or as first responders to emergency calls. They deserve adequate, up-to-date facilities.

And despite the pious blast of hot air from the trustees that I am delinquent for not attending information meetings on the progress of the project, additionally describing my criticism of the use

of an architectural firm as "unhelpful," my position is simple and remains the same.

My Dec. 12 "Too high" letter proposed the investigation of less expensive options. Simply put, there are many things this building could be. Ultimately, taxpayers have the right to something more affordable. Six million dollars is too much money to spend on a fire hall/emergency response building.

**DOUG SMITH,**  
SUNSET DRIVE

### Rally kudos

Congratulations to the generous people who participated in Saturday's Idle No More solidarity event.

Donations totalled \$271.25. Thanks to the people who stepped up with in-kind donations, expenses were minimal, so over \$200 will be going to

the Tsawout band whose reserve includes a beautiful area at the south end of Salt Spring Island.

We are very fortunate that the band allows people to walk there, asking only that we do so with respect. In 2010 the band realized that dogs were disturbing bird nests, etc. and stipulated that dogs are no longer welcome on their land. Some people were upset at the new rule, but thankfully there was also gratitude for the privilege of access to the land, so some people contributed to fundraising for rebuilding a community longhouse after fire destroyed the previous one.

The way the Tsawout band stewards their land here on Salt Spring is symbolic of one important aspect of the Idle No More movement as a whole. As Naomi Klein explained,

"The greatest blessing of all . . . is indigenous sovereignty itself. It is the huge stretches of this country that have never been ceded by war or treaty . . . If Canadians have a chance of stopping Mr. Harper's planet-trashing plans, it will be because these legally binding rights — backed up by mass movements, court challenges and direct action — will stand in his way. All Canadians should offer our deepest thanks that our indigenous brothers and sisters have protected their land rights for all these generations, refusing to turn them into one-off payments, no matter how badly they were needed."

**JAN SLAKOV AND DAN MILLER,**  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

# Dispelling water myths first step in action plan

BY MAXINE LEICHTER

FOR THE SALT SPRING WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kudos to the Driftwood for publishing an excellent series of articles about the blooms of toxin-producing cyanobacteria in St. Mary Lake. As the Water Preservation Society has been working for 30 years to protect Salt Spring's drinking water sources, we often get asked what we think should be done. We say that a solution will take both community support and government action. As a first step, we ask you to talk to your friends and neighbours to help correct the following misperceptions.

1) It's only poorly maintained septic systems that leach phosphorus into the lake. WRONG. Although well-maintained septic systems contribute less phosphorus than poorly maintained ones, both regular septic fields and even new, expensive treatment systems leach phosphorus back into the environment. Both systems are designed to remove pathogens that can make us sick, not the phosphorus that is presently feeding the blooms.

2) This or that particular property is causing the problem. WRONG. St. Mary Lake is suffering from cumulative effects. No single source is the main cause of the problem.

3) There is a simple fix for St. Mary Lake if we can just find it. WRONG. Fixing the lake will be expensive and, as a problem decades in the making, it could take an equally long time to cure. Even if septic systems around our lakes stopped adding phosphorus immediately, it could still take years to rinse away the phosphorus currently in the soil around those septic fields. Additionally, we also need to address the accumulated phosphorus in the lake sediments.

4) While it is true that St. Mary Lake has had the most recent and the longest-running cyanobacteria blooms, both Cusheon Lake and Weston Lake have also had serious blooms. Blackburn and Maxwell lakes could suffer the same fate if not cared for. What is truly required now is to keep all our island lakes healthy.

We are concerned that if the community's efforts become focused solely on the safety of drinking water, it could result in the health of the lakes themselves being neglected. The argument might be made that since toxin-containing water can be treated to meet potable water standards, it is not worth the expense to heal our lakes.

The obvious answer is that Salt Spring's lakes are more than big tanks of water for us

to drink. They are complex, living biological systems, composed of the water, the fish and plants in the lake, the entire watersheds that surround them and all the species — plant and animal — that are supported by the lakes and the streams that flow into them. Salt Spring's lakes make up those features that define the natural environment of our island, which is both the reason many of us came here and an essential part of our tourist economy. Even the economic health of our island would not fare well for very long if we made the mistake of turning our backs on the long-term well-being of our lakes.

As a community we need to commit to a sustained effort over many years to restore and maintain all our lakes in a healthy state. Since the provincial government has not stepped in to help, we need to establish a local agency here whose purpose is to protect Salt Spring's lakes. This agency should be controlled by locally elected officials, working in collaboration with other existing agencies and local environmental groups. It should function in a public and transparent manner, have the power to accept tax revenues and grants, to buy and hold property, to hire staff and to undertake engineering projects. Work should be carried out by staff, supervisors

and volunteers all located on Salt Spring.

Once put in place, this agency should focus on three priorities for St. Mary Lake. Firstly, it should build a sewer or another method to stop phosphorus flowing from septic systems into the lake. Next, we need a scientific study to determine what further actions (if any) are required to address the accumulation of phosphorus in the lake bottom sediments and other scientific studies that may be needed.

At the same time, this agency should support a staff-led, sustained public education program that will involve large numbers of lake-side and other island residents on a continuing basis in becoming informed and informing others about restoring and protecting all our island lakes. In addition, this agency should determine other steps needed to protect all our island lakes over the long term.

St. Mary Lake's condition is a good example of how — if protected — nature can provide us with a valuable resource (clean water) at low cost. But because we have abused the lake by too much of the wrong kind of development around it, it will be expensive to fix. We urge the Salt Spring community to embrace this environmental challenge. Our children and grandchildren will thank us.

## GUEST COLUMN



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

**STYLE SPLASH:**

Josephine Gaffney is about to take her fifth annual Polar Bear Swim plunge into Vesuvius Bay, while her father Jason Gaffney gets set to do it for the second time. They then hit the water with the rest of the crowd (below left).



Georgia Taylor Proctor adds a festive red hat and bow tie to her New Year's Day swim garb.

# RANTS and Roses

Many thanks to Slegg Lumber, Cherry Blossom Designs, Bees Wax Works, Rogue Yoga, Salt Spring Wool Arts, Odette Graham Florist and the Raz family for supporting our silent auction! Salt Spring Arts Academy

To Rainbow Road Trading for providing the brightest, colourful, warm, wooly sheep's wool socks. They made beautiful Christmas gifts! A special treat for all my friends. Sue on Park Drive

On behalf of Salt Spring Community Services' In From the Cold shelter, bunches of roses to all the people and businesses who contributed to the In From the Cold Christmas stockings: Ruth and Steve Lovejoy, Country Grocer, Allison and Paul McManus, Pharmasave, Viva Voce Choir, Nikki Menard, Duck Creek Doglers and Penelop Hopcraft. Heather (the Elf)

As we move into 2013 I would like to recognize and thank my CRD alternate director, Peter Lake. Peter has provided me support and advice in a very busy and complex year with many CRD challenges. Thank you, Peter! Wayne McIntyre

A huge bunch of multi-coloured roses to Irene Wright for her generous contribution of French books and classics to the new library. We now have access to three book-cases of French books, thanks to Irene, the former head of the French immersion program at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

Flowers of your choice to the Salt Spring community for its generosity to Santa's workshop with special thanks to the Toy Run, Persnickety, Island Star Video, Sports Traders, Salt Spring Books, Parks and Rec, CIBC and the United Church for the tree angels, West of the Moon, Pharmasave, Country Grocer, Home Hardware, the IODE, Canadian Federation of University Women and Valerie Hutton. All donations and contributions were so appreciated. Christa and her elves

School District #64 (Gulf Islands) would like to send roses and a heartfelt thank you with much appreciation to the Salt Spring Island Lions Club for sponsoring lunch programs during November and December at the following district schools: Gulf Islands Secondary School, \$1,000; Phoenix Place, \$500; Salt Spring Island Middle School, \$500; Fernwood Elementary, \$500; Fulford Elementary, \$500; Salt Spring Elementary, \$500; Phoenix Elementary, \$250.

The Salt Spring Arts Council would like to give a basket of vivid construction roses to all who helped make our Creechhouse Window Display project such a success. Thanks on behalf of the SSAC to the building owners Leon and Rita Aptekmann, the many participating artists, the Driftwood, the Rental Stop, Elehna de Sousa, Ken Ketchum, and all of the SSAC board members who volunteered to help out. Stand by for more arts-in-the-community projects in the future.

## Salt Spring Island Public Library

Visit your new Library to enjoy the work of our local acclaimed artists. Take advantage of reading areas and computers.

Gather with others in meeting rooms. More than a place to find books. Check us out at: [saltspring.bclibrary.com](http://saltspring.bclibrary.com)

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### Property Owner's Checklist

- Have you received your 2013 property assessment notice?
- If not received in your mail by January 18, call toll-free 1-866-valueBC (1-866-825-8322)
- If so, review it carefully
- Visit [www.bcasessment.ca](http://www.bcasessment.ca) to compare other property assessments using the free e-valueBC™ service
- Questions? Contact BC Assessment at 1-866-valueBC or [connect@bcassessment.ca](mailto:connect@bcassessment.ca)
- Don't forget...if you disagree with your assessment, you must file a Notice of Complaint (appeal) by January 31, 2013

Follow us

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Thoughts for 2013

I saw an IC TV program last week about how we need to be saved by religious fanatics.

But on reflection it seems to me if we need to be saved, the system we need to be safe from is capitalism! It is the one and only society that exploits and humiliates all we "ordinary" humans.

We work and produce the products companies sell at far outrageous prices and pay as little back in wages as they are allowed to by that very system. Hence the "class struggle" is perpetuated and the everlasting need for "the workers of the world to unite," as outlined by another couple of radicals, i.e. Marx and Lenin.

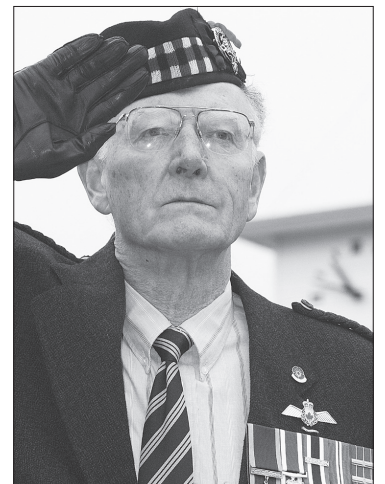
So now we have progressed into the 2013th year of our civilized society. Maybe we had better pay attention to what the past and present radicals like J. Christ, Marx and Lenin and a few others of like minds who crop up to disturb our reveries and move us to contemplate better solutions to our common problems than having to exterminate as many of our acquaintances as possible.

Incidentally, in "Should auld acquaintance be forgot," Robbie Burns could have meant our enemies, not friends.

So to one and all, my personal birthday coming up is to be my 84th one here on Mother Earth, come June 6.

Happy New Year to all you other seniors. If you make it this far you might even outlive me.

**BOB O'NEILL,**  
SALT SPRING



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Col. Jack Frazer at the 2004 Remembrance Day service in Ganges. A Salt Spring Island resident since 1986 and Saanich and the Islands MP from 1993 to 1997, Frazer died Dec. 17.

### Jack Frazer tribute

You had to look up for Jack For he never veered off the high road, not even to fight. Which he often did. Last week Jack flew off, forever, in a flight with no landing, but he will always smile on us, when we turn our minds skyward.

**TOM VARZELIOTIS,**  
BOOTH CANAL

CELEBRATIONS

# Scottish Country Dance Club hosts 20th Burns Night

Fulford Hall event set for Jan. 26

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For two full decades, anyone on Salt Spring who wishes to augment the Burns Night toast to the haggis with a little dancing on the side has had that opportunity thanks to the island's Scottish Country Dance Club.

"People love the music and they love the opportunity to get up and dance," said this year's event organizer Pauline King.

"It's kind of what distinguishes our night from other events — the dancing is something we have."

Traditional celebrations around the birthday of Scots poet Robbie Burns typically feature set activities. Along with the piping in, address to and final toast to the haggis, participants give speeches honouring the event and Burns, read Burns' poetry and give original addresses to each other such as the Toast to the Lassies and the lassies' reply.

"This year is kind of special because we're only one day off the date," King observed, noting that Burns' Night on Saturday, Jan. 26 falls the day after the poet's Jan. 25 birthday.

Guests can also expect some extra speeches in honour of the 20th anniversary. The club has ensured early members such as Mary Davidson, Sandy Gordon and Noreen Davies will be involved.

Songs by Burns are also sometimes sung, but the addition of dancing can really make the party. And with an island boasting a long-running club devoted to the art of Scottish country dance, it's not surprising the combination has been a hit ever since it was introduced by Ron Holcroft and Murray Shoolbraid.



A ready-to-dance crowd at the 2011 Scottish Country Dance Club Burns Night at Fulford Hall.

Catherine Held, left, and Nancy Holcroft at the club's first Burns event held in 1994 at the Masonic Hall.

Shoolbraid, who has addressed the haggis at countless Burns nights at various locations, said there is a good reason why the poet is still celebrated all over the world.

"He is a very human poet. He is a very humane poet. He is a very manly poet. He is a very friendly poet," Shoolbraid said.

"People recognize a good deal of themselves, I think, the good and the bad."

Shoolbraid said Burns was also notable for his compassion for other creatures, for example viewing the wounded hare and mouse as if equals.

"We like him because he speaks to us all," he added.

Nancy Holcroft recalls that after the first event was held at the Masonic Hall, a move to Fulford Hall was necessary to accommodate all the dancers. From about 50 people in 1994 the celebration has grown to host around 120 people and sell out year after year.

While the Holcrofts have had to retire their dancing shoes in recent years, Nancy remembers that aspect as a definite highlight.

"I used to love the dancing — I used to want to be in every demonstration there was," she said.

"But I think it's nice to get together with a lot of people and enjoy it."

Accompanying music on fiddle and accordion is to be played by Vancouver Island artists Mary Ross and Janette Polson, with piping by Jamie Orr. Always open to newcomers, the club keeps the dances simple on Burns Night so that everyone attending can join in.

"For other people it's a novelty to see they can do simple dances," King said.

Supper is also a huge draw. The dance club typically goes through 35 to 40 pounds of haggis each year. Reporting on the inaugural event held in 1994, Driftwood owner Tony Richards wrote that the infamous stuffed sheep's stomach (which Burns deemed the "great chieftain o' the puddin-race") actually "tasted quite nice."

"It reminded me of a dry meat loaf with a hint of oatmeal porridge," he said.

There is also roast beef and the traditional side dishes of tatties and neeps.

Just as Scottish heritage is not required to join the dance club, there is no limit to who can enjoy Burns Night. Tickets are \$35 and available from Rosalind Hope: 250-537-9997.

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# arts&entertainment



## CONCERT PREVIEW

# Gajek and rising star pianists return to Salt Spring

ArtSpring concert on Sunday

BY GEORGE SIPOS

ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How does a "promising young musician" turn into "an artist to watch" and then into "an artist at the beginning of a major career" and finally into "a musician of rare assurance and accomplishment?"

Well, gradually, for sure. But also through distinct stages which are a privilege for the rest of us to witness.

Such an opportunity presents itself on Sunday, Jan. 13 when Salt Spring-educated cellist Rylan Gajek joins with pianists Iman Habibi and Deborah Grimmert to present a concert at ArtSpring of music

ranging from Bach to Dvorak, Poulenc and Brahms.

Habibi and Grimmert were music students at UBC when they participated in a week-long residency at ArtSpring in early 2007. They subsequently both earned BA and MA degrees in music.

Grimmett has performed extensively as a pianist in Italy, Norway, France, the U.S. and Canada. Habibi has developed a career as a composer as well as a performer, with his music being performed in New York, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver.

Gajek, now 19 and formerly a student at GISS, is currently studying at Bard College in New York, working on a double major in mathematics and music. With the Bard College

Conservatory Orchestra he toured China last summer, and then took part in the Morningside Music Bridge International Music Festival in Calgary. He also studied with Raphael Wallfisch at Cambridge.

The concert is financially supported by the ArtSpring Patrons Quartet, four individuals who were involved with the musicians in one way or another at the beginning: Paula Kiffner, Gajek's early cello teacher; Bruce Smith, music teacher at GISS; Carol Brown, who hosted Habibi at the 2007 piano residency; and Simon Rook, who initiated the whole idea of the 2007 residency.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. concert are at the ArtSpring Ticket Centre, 250-537-2102 or tickets.artspring.ca.



Cellist Rylan Gajek performs in concert with pianists Iman Habibi and Deborah Grimmert at ArtSpring on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m..

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## EXHIBITIONS

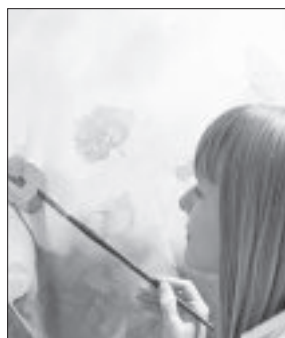
### Van Impe at HH Hotel

Nature-inspired paintings on display

The Harbour House is igniting the new year with a sweep of colour with a showcase of Heidi Van Impe's art-work called Luminous.

The opening reception is on Thursday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. with the show running through the month of January.

"The inspiration for my work derives from nature," explains Van Impe. "I enjoy sketching and find that nature journaling has become a practice and way of life. Often, the small sketches become large, colourful paintings and by using oil as my



Artist Heidi Van Impe.

primary medium I feel I can really enter into the vitality and luminous quality of life."

Painting subjects range from dandelion seed heads to poppies, bulrushes and snowdrops.

Van Impe sells her work out of the Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art.

## CONCERT

### Spirit-filled music flows

Saturday evening concert at Ram Spring

An intimate and uplifting winter concert is promised on Saturday evening when Windsong performs at Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary.

Windsong has been a song leader and performer for decades. She has written internationally known circle songs such as Mother I Feel You and Bless the People, which have touched the hearts of many around the world. Her original folk music reflects her love for nature and her prayer for a peaceful world.

She has released four CDs and her latest choral composition, Ode to Water, is dedicated to healing the planet's water resources. Windsong's website is [www.windsongmekani.com](http://www.windsongmekani.com).

For the Jan. 12 concert at 443 Upper Ganges Rd., Windsong will be joined by Salt Spring musicians Savita Leah Young and Ken Lunn.

Young has a strong focus on spirit music and has been singing back-up vocals, leading kirtan and playing harmonium on Salt Spring for more than 20 years.

When not banging nails with his co-worker Bruce as OM Builders, Lunn is often found gracing Salt Spring stages with his harmonic voice, acoustic guitar and mandolin. He is currently working on his first CD with the Duck Creek group, AKA Bruce Everett, Valdy and Donn Tarris.

Tickets for the concert are \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance at Salt Spring Books or by reservation through 250-537-1630.

Seating is limited. Decadent treats and chai will be available at intermission.

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ART

# Library art pieces enhance learning space

Local artists join collection

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first artworks to form the core of Salt Spring Public Library's permanent art collection have followed the trend established by the new facility, in that every addition is an enjoyable discovery that promises to bring happiness for years to come.

While the installations are just the first step and the library will one day host even more selections by island artists, the panel of jurors who had to whittle down a choice of six from 122 submissions must be complimented. The pieces on display perform the dual task of making the space welcoming and promoting the love of books and learning, while standing as strong works in their own right.

Ron Crawford's vast 8.5 by 12.5-foot painting called *Once Upon a Time* captures immediate attention in the entrance hall. It's not too much to call it magnificent: that's the first word that will spring to mind for most viewers. Crawford's technique of etching multiple lines into plaster and then layering on shimmering acrylic paint suggests many visual references from micro to macro levels, from topographical lines and landscapes to sea water and sand and even fingerprints.

classics like *Swallows and Amazons* and *Just So Stories* are to be found along with modern Canadian classics *Not Wanted on the Voyage* and *Alias Grace*.

Jane Kidd's tapestry *Land Sentence: Zoo* speaks to the human impact on the environment and the displacement of other species. In form, the multi-paneled piece resembles a kimono on display, but with non-symmetrical numbers and sizes of sections on either side of the central piece.

Kidd juxtaposes beautiful and calming scenes from nature with patterns that are more jarring at second glance: the diagonal grid of a chainlink fence; the transformation of land into a mosaic of residential blocks and the river



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN  
One of Paul Burke's Ravens Reading and Writing series.



Clockwise from top right: Nicola Prinsen's rabbit; Maria Sourial's Children's Book Covers; part of *Once Upon a Time* by Ron Crawford; Jill Kidd's *Land Sentence: Zoo*.



trapped within; and a list of unknown numbers that could represent populations, travel distances or other statistics. Animals in this landscape are present only in their absence, a set of bones illustrated as "fig. x y z."

Nicola Prinsen's gift for sculpting highly personable animals finds its perfect home at the library, with her sculpture of a rabbit on its way through the centre of an oversized R in reference to traditional alphabet illustrations. The bronze casting's reddish patina ties in. The large 3D version of a familiar trope should delight children, but the overall visual effect contains an aura of joy that amplifies the surroundings and will equally impress adults.

Maria Sourial, who was once deemed Madame X when she painted anonymously, has a suitable display of whimsy in her abstract piece *Children's Book Covers*. The thickly applied acrylic paint captures the excitement of children's book art and the stories within, without trying to reproduce them, in a patchwork of brightly coloured panels.

A piece by Tracy Harrison will include contributions from island children and will be hung later this year. The project will be a tile installation for one of the library walls reflecting a theme of youth and children's contemporary and classic literature.

Candy coloured islands in the ripples produce the effect of a fairytale land, the backdrop for an incredible stream of words that are opening lines from famous novels. Viewers can spend hours exploring the piece to come up with treasures. "Call me Ishmael" and "It was a dark and stormy night" are just the beginning.

Paul Burke's Ravens Reading and Writing is formed of multiple painted wooden sculptures, with the iconic birds perched on and amid stacks of books and suspended in flight carrying spectacles and pencils.

Burke's books have the look of beloved old hardcovers in faded blues and greens. He also provides the fun of recognizing familiar titles and wondering about unfamiliar ones. (He took community suggestions about which to include.) Beloved

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## FAITH

# United Church welcomes Clark Saunders

Community involvement a priority for new minister

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of Salt Spring's United Church have welcomed an island newcomer to lead the congregation, but with many years in the ministry behind him and a deep commitment to community involvement, Rev. Clark Saunders should need little help adapting to his new location.

Most recently of Westworth United Church in Winnipeg, where he officially retired, Saunders accepted a temporary appointment on Salt Spring when Rev. Ruth Cairns left due to illness.

"I was anticipating I would really retire, but there was an opportunity or a need for someone to come here and at least fill in for a time, so here I am, to my surprise," Saunders said.

Though for now the appointment is set to expire at the end of June, Saunders is wasting no time



PHOTO COURTESY CLARK SAUNDERS

Rev. Clark Saunders, right, is introduced to parishioners by Lloyd Berntsen at a welcome lunch at the Salt Spring United Church in December.

getting to know his new community. He is a firm believer in visiting church members at home and has already started to make his rounds.

He is also a music lover who sings with the church choir and intends to join another community choir, and he lists Scottish country dancing as one of his hobbies.

Saunders acknowledged that a change of ministers can be difficult for congregations and the people serving them, but the opportunity also presents positive possibilities for change.

"It's always a challenge when

you're new — naturally you're always following someone else. Twice in my career I've followed someone who'd been there 20 years," he said.

"In a change of ministry people sometimes need a degree of reassurance. Part of my job is to let people know everything's going to be okay, and that I will make the adjustments that are necessary."

Saunders noted that Salt Spring is a strong community of individuals with a variety of passions and interests, something that he calls a blessing and a gift. As he describes

it, the United Church seems like a good fit for the spiritual needs of such a group.

"I think that people that are searching for a sense of community and a place where Christians are welcome [can find a place in the church]," he said.

"There's freedom for people to agree or not agree about what they hear from the pulpit on Sunday morning, and to discuss it in discussion groups. It's not judgmental in that sense."

In addition to a passion for preaching and planning worship, Saunders also has a strong interest in adult education. He will be leading a study group based on his book *Through the Woods: Making Sense of Your Spiritual Path*. The book makes use of forest imagery — for example the famous Robert Frost poem — to examine modern spiritual issues, such as how people arrive at certain paths, why they choose one fork over another, and how free they are to make those choices. The group will start sessions in early February.

Community members will have the opportunity to hear Saunders sing at a concert being held at the church this Tuesday, Jan. 15 when Ron Klusmeier visits the island as part of his Canada-wide farewell tour. Tickets are \$20 (\$5 for children and youth under 16), with 25 per cent of sales going to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Klusmeier will also hold two free workshops during the day. Visit [www.musiklus.com](http://www.musiklus.com) to sign up.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

# Cafe hosts photography exhibit

Three club members have images up

Images by three Salt Spring Photography Club members can be seen this month at Country Roast-

ers Cafe.

Members Avril Kirby, Curt Firestone and Wendy Rosier will share their photos at the cafe in the Country Grocer store.

The photography club will have four more shows at Country Roasters during 2013, in March, May,

August and October.

Matteo Hermani of Country Grocer allocates the space to schools or clubs on a monthly basis.

Photos by several club members can also be seen through January in the ArtSpring lobby.

The Salt Spring Photog-

raphy Club is open to all Salt Spring residents who have an interest in photography, whatever their experience level, and now has more than 100 members.

Anyone wanting more information about the club can visit [ssphotog.ca](http://ssphotog.ca).

## SIMPLY ORGANIC

# Secrets of improv revealed at recital

Don Conley at the console

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, a new year of programming begins for the organ recital series called *Simply Organic*.

Taking a different slant in a program titled *The Art of Improvisation*, organist Don Conley will be revealing the secrets of this skill.

"One of the essential requirements of an organist is to be able

to take themes, hymns and melodies and improvise on them," states press material. "At *Simply Organic*, Conley will talk about this area of his work and will ask the audience to participate by requesting a favour-

rite tune or theme be played."

Conley will then show how these themes can develop by improvising in the style of well-known composers such as Bach, Handel and Franck.

"In the hands of

this master of the keyboard, the program will no doubt prove to be exciting and lots of fun."

Free music begins at 10:10 a.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea, followed by freshly baked muffins and coffee for \$2.



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**KINDER MORGAN**  
CANADA



ISLAND HISTORY

# Acheson Road info sails to Salt Spring from Scotland

I am happy to start off my second column with an update on Acheson Road, which I featured in last week's column. This information came all the way from Scotland!



D.W. Salty

## STREETS OF SALT SPRING

A big thank you to my new fan, I mean friend, Rose Murakami for pointing me in the right direction to gather this additional intelligence. Rose connected me with Etain Alexander (nee Acheson), the daughter of Miles Acheson.

Mrs. Alexander, who just moved from Mauchline in Ayrshire, Scotland (where Robert Burns married his bonnie Jean) to Prestwick in Ayrshire, Scotland, tells me that she believes it was in 1940 when her father Miles Malcolm Acheson bought

property that stretched on both sides of the road, from where Stark Road leaves Robinson Road, up to the property owned then by a family whose last name was Ashley. And of course the next property belonged to the Starks.

After the war, Acheson later bought property on St. Mary Lake and pushed through the road so that they were able

to get to the lake much more quickly. This is the road now known as Acheson Road.

I travelled down a few more island roads over the past week, and did some research too. Sticking with my alphabetical theme I have three roads for this week's column. Some of these were easier to get information on than others, and I would surely appreciate any additional info that readers can send in.

Acland Road: A side road off Baker Road, it was named after the Acland family. In 1947, Bevil and Marjorie Acland opened Acland's Resort; this resort was a Salt Spring landmark for many years and was in a home originally built by Ernest Crofton.

The resort's name was changed to the Booth Bay Resort in 1960, when Thomas and Frances Portlock purchased the property. It is now a residential strata development.

Agar Road: The only information I could find on this road came from Salt Spring Archives, which notes it was named after a Major Agar who lived at the end of the road. This road is located off Mobrae Avenue.

Akerman Road: I couldn't locate this road on the Chamber of Commerce map, but I did find it on the Royal LePage map. I found it disappointing that there was also no street sign. It is located off Douglas Road and is a short street with no houses. Akerman Road was named

after the Joseph Akerman who came to Salt Spring in 1862 and farmed in the Burgoyne-Fulford Valley. His wife, Martha Clay, arrived in Victoria on a bride ship from England in 1863 and agreed to become his wife. The couple raised eight children, and many of their descendants continue to live on Salt Spring.

If you are looking for something exciting to do, it might be really fun to take a trip each week, like I do, to the streets that are in this column. And friends, if you do take that trip, be sure to send me an email on anything interesting you have seen that I can use: dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com.

P.S. See you on the streets of Salt Spring!

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### Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

#### IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year. **By listing now, your residence will:**

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in January and February that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

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### Mechanic



GYLE KEATING

#### How do you like winter so far?

Although this winter has been unseasonably warm your vehicle is still benefiting from your preparations for cold weather. Help your vehicle stay ready for winter.

Check your oil regularly and be sure your windshield washer fluid is topped up. Check your tire pressures and take a minute every now and then to walk around your vehicle keeping an eye out for problems that may have developed since your last service. If you spot something out of the ordinary get in to your service provider and have it checked out. It's unlikely we will get away with this mild weather for the whole season. A little prevention can go a long way towards worry-free driving.

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### Counselling



ELSIE HANNAH

#### Is this all there is?

Do you ask yourself this question and find that no matter how much "stuff" you have and how busy you keep yourself you never seem to feel "complete". You look around at other people and wish you were as "complete" as they seem to be. You are not alone.

We often spend a lot of time and effort trying to fill the "hole" that we feel inside. Sometimes it feels like there is a part of us that needs something but we can neither name what that part is or figure out what it needs. In therapy we often talk about the concept of an 'inner child'. This inner child needs help in order to feel fulfilled. As a client once said to me, "All I want is for someone to love me". As we worked it through we found it was the little child inside her was talking. As a child she had not felt loved. In therapy we were able to work with the inner child to resolve this need. It seems the saying, "if you do not deal with history it will deal with you", may indeed be true.

If you feel this way I invite you to call me and we will work towards changing "hole" to "whole".

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### Fitness Expert



BRENDA AKERMAN

#### Health & Fitness Tips For 2013

- 1) Eat Proper Nutrition: Know what you are putting into your body and how it helps or hurts it.
  - 2) Walk as much as you can: Walking is a great form of exercise it gets you outdoors and into the fresh air. When shopping or go out for dinner park your car furthest away from the door so you get a few extra calories burned. Every extra step will add up.
  - 3) Train Your Balance: Test yourself... This is good to do in the pool stand on 1 foot, now close your eyes for 1 minute. Then change to the other foot. If you can achieve 1 minute on each side give yourself a pat on the back. Balance must be challenged regularly to be improved or be maintained.
  - 4) Activity: Lets get moving try Swimming or Aquafit both are a great way to get or keep fit. It's a total body workout with no impact and easy on the joints.
  - 5) Look at your way of life and think of how you may improve it: It's a New Year Just Do It!
- A favorite saying "Yesterday is History, Tomorrow is a Mystery and Today is a gift- that's why we call it the present."  
So for 2013 Eat right, exercise often and enjoy life  
*Best Wishes For 2013*

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### BC Family Law Act



WYNONA ELIZABETH COOK

#### FAMILY LAW ACT (FLA)

As we welcome the birth of a new year, let us look at birth in the FLA. Part 3 is devoted to "Parentage". There is new legislation for birth parents, sperm and/or egg donors, surrogacy arrangements, parentage by assisted reproduction, parentage test and declaring parentage. Highlights include:

- Rights and obligation of biological father and mother
- Donors are not automatically parents
- Adoption continues to be determined by the Adoption Act
- Parentage if assisted reproduction after death
- Written consent for the use of human reproductive material
- Surrogate parent must give written consent to surrender the child to the intended parent before and AFTER the baby is born
- Application to dispute parentage must go to Supreme Court unless it is part of a larger family law dispute in Provincial Family Court

To ensure you and your children are protected do your own research. talk to a FAMILY LAWYER who is familiar with the new FLA. Too much has changed to rely on friends and family's previous experience.



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### Senior Care



JOHANNA BOOY

#### End of Life Planning

During the palliative care process, every attempt is made to ensure the patient's needs are met physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually.

If we wish to be cared for in a specific way with regards to pain management, specific foods, environment control such as music, warm lighting, and bed to the view, we need to express this in a document which is called an Advance Directive, Living Will or Representation Agreement.

A DNR - Do Not Resuscitate order - is especially important. When care giving teams enter the home, they need to know if such an order exists and where to find this. Most homes keep information such as the DNR, all current medications the patient is taking and other wishes specific to end of life care, in an envelope where everyone can access it quickly in event of emergency hospitalization or ambulance call.

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# what's on this week

www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar



Wed. Jan 9    Thurs. Jan 10    Fri. Jan 11    Sat. Jan 12    Sun. Jan 13    Tues. Jan 15    Wed. Jan 16

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Open Stage with Richard Cross.**  
Every Wednesday night at Moby's. 8 p.m.  
**GISS Dance.**  
School program students perform at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**SD64 School Board Meeting.**  
Public welcome. GISS room S105. 1 p.m.  
**The Not-So-Recent History of Salt Spring Island.**  
Presentation by Dr. Hugh Greenwood, retired professor of geology at UBC, about the evolution of the rocks and terrain of Salt Spring Island. A Salt Spring Historical Society presentation. Tea and coffee to follow. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**GISS Dance.**  
School program students perform at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Open Stage Night.**  
The Local. 6 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Local Trust Committee Meeting.** Regular business meeting. Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m.  
**Town hall session at noon.**  
**Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild.** Business meeting. ArtSpring multi-purpose room. 10:30 a.m.  
**Japanese Garden Society AGM.** For info, call 250-537-4716. Location TBA. 4 p.m.  
**Heidi Van Impe Art Show Reception.** Artist in attendance for opening event of exhibit at the Harbour House Hotel and Restaurant. Exhibit of paintings continues through January. 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Rollerblading to Music.** Every Thursday. Fulford Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Owen Mathieson.**  
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.  
**Tzaporah Berman.**  
Salt Spring Forum presents environmental activist in an interactive evening. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Gulf Islands Hoops Classic.**  
Junior boys basketball tourney at GISS. 1:30 to 8 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Chamigos.**  
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Flora Scott Trio.**  
With Lauren Boucher on drums & Bob Delion on bass. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Mother I Feel You.**  
An intimate winter concert with Windsong, accompanied by Savita Leah Young and Ken Lunn. Reservations at 250-537-1630. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. 7:30 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Trans Mountain Expansion Project.**  
Public info session on Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion proposal between Edmonton and Burnaby. Lions Hall. 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Gulf Islands Hoops Classic.**  
Junior boys basketball tourney at GISS. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Diana English.**  
Piano bar at the Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Gajek, Habibi, Grimmert Concert.**  
Cellist Rylan Gajek visits his home island on a break from studies at Bard College in New York. He is joined by career recitalists Iman Habibi and Deborah Grimmert. 7:30 p.m.

**Mon. Jan 14**

**ACTIVITIES**

**MP Elizabeth May Town Hall.**  
Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7 p.m. Plus office hours at 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Ron Klusmeier.**  
Klusmeier visits the island as part of his Canada-wide farewell tour. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7:30 p.m. Plus free two workshops during the day between 3 and 5 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Salt Spring Emergency Advisory Commission.**  
School District 64 Board Office. 12:30 p.m.  
**Grand(m)others to Grandmothers Meeting.**  
Planning for 5th annual Scrabble fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Croftonbrook lounge. 2 p.m. Info: 250-537-0675.  
**Central Community Hall Board of Directors Meeting.**  
Public welcome. Central Community Hall. 7 p.m.

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Simply Organic.**  
Don Conley's recital program is titled The Art of Improvisation. All Saints. 10:10 a.m. Free music followed by freshly baked muffins and coffee for \$2.  
**GISS Music Show.**  
First program of GISS students in jazz combos, junior composition, GISSA, choirs and solos. Second program follows on Thursday. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Open Stage with Richard Cross.**  
Every Wednesday night at Moby's. 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.

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

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- CINEMA**
- **Life of Pi** — Director Ang Lee creates a groundbreaking movie event about a young man who survives a disaster at sea and is hurtled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. He forms an amazing and unexpected connection with another survivor... a fearsome Bengal tiger.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- **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, Jonesi, 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.**
  - **Heide Van Impe** shows paintings at the Harbour House Hotel through January, with an opening event on Thursday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m.
  - Work by **Jasper Snow Rosen** and featuring Jade Rosen is hanging at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro** through January.

- **Richard York** has artwork on display at **Salt Spring Coffee Company Cafe.**
- **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** features work by **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.**
- **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.
- **Gilean Proctor** shows photographic works at **Auntie Pesto's Cafe.**
- **Salt Spring Photography Club** members featured at **Country Roasters Cafe** in Country Grocer through January are **Avril Kirby, Curt Firestone and Wendy Rosier.**
- **Steffany McAren** has paintings hanging at **Penny's Pantry.**
- **Carol Adam** shows her artwork at **Salt Spring Books.**

**11th Annual SSI Funspiel**  
Saturday, Feb. 2nd  
Previous curling experience not necessary. Can enter as full teams of four or individual. For more info call Jim Pasuta @ 250-537-9995  
Register by Friday, Jan. 25th

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# Lotteries: You just can't lose if you don't buy a ticket

My friend Arnie is an investment speculator. Every time he buys a pack of Marlboros he scoops up a handful of lottery tickets as well.

"I figure it's only a matter of time," he says.

Did I mention my friend Arnie is an optimist? Sub-species delusional? Any Vegas gambler could tell him he's got a better chance of dying from cigarette-induced lung cancer than winning a lottery jackpot, but Arnie isn't looking for reality; he's Dreaming the Dream.

Still, chasing moonbeams is better than catching one. Buying lottery tickets is a harmless enough waste of time; the real trouble starts when you win. Ask Jack Whittaker.

Unfortunately, it would cost Arnie \$15,000 just to ask Jack Whittaker the time of day. That's what Whittaker charges now to talk publicly to anyone. Not that anyone's lining up to



Arthur Black

## WIT & WHIMSY

pay.

Jack Whittaker doesn't need the money. He knows all about winning lotteries. He's the king. On Christmas Eve back in 2002 he bought a one-dollar Powerball ticket at a convenience store in West Virginia. He woke up the next morning to discover he had just won the jackpot — \$315.

Followed by six zeroes. Did it change his life? Well, I guess. He was already a moderately wealthy man with a plumbing business and over 100 employees, but still. Three hundred and fifteen million dollars. . .

Actually, after taxes and

opting for a one-time payout rather than 30 years of instalments, Whittaker's take withered to about \$93 million — but hey!

First thing, Whittaker gave \$100,000 to the owner of the convenience store where he bought the ticket. Then he bought a brand new Jeep for the clerk who sold him the ticket. And what the hell? He wrote her a cheque for \$123,000 so she could buy a house too.

Ninety-three million dollars? Whoo-ee! He donated \$7 million to build two churches; another \$14 million to the Jack Whittaker Foundation, to help the needy. He paid for a Little League park to be built. He bought himself a helicopter; sent his wife on a trip to the Holy Land and bought his beloved granddaughter Bragg not just one new car but five of them.

The money brought a lot of changes to Jack Whittaker's life. It also fostered attitudinal changes. Whittaker

had always been a flamboyant party guy in his trademark Stetson and braying laugh. Ninety-three million dollars ramped "flamboyant" up to "obnoxious" and "party guy" to "trouble-some drunk."

He got arrested. A lot. Mostly for drunk driving, but also for disorderly conduct and unlawful possession of firearms. His reaction was always the same. "It doesn't bother me because I can tell everyone to kiss off. I won the lottery."

### For Jack Whittaker, everything went south after he won the lottery.

His wife of 42 years did kiss off, filing for divorce after Whittaker had been

exposed too many times in too many strip clubs next to women who weren't Mrs. Whittaker. His former friends drifted away too, replaced by foxy ladies, good-time Charlies and other riff raff of the leech persuasion.

For Jack Whittaker, everything went south after he won the lottery. Even his beloved granddaughter Bragg turned sullen and bitter. As the favourite relative of the biggest lottery winner in history, she also became a magnet for opportunistic low-lives. At 16 Bragg went into rehab to treat her addiction to Hillbilly heroin — Oxycontin. In 2004, barely two years after Whittaker's win, Bragg's drug-riddled body was discovered wrapped in a plastic tarp and stuffed behind a junk car.

Jack heard about it over the phone. He was in rehab for alcohol addiction at the time.

Now it's 10 years later and Whittaker, surveying the ruins of his life, says he wishes he could travel back in time to tear up that ticket and throw away the pieces.

Good deal for the folks who run the Powerball Lottery though. They made sure the papers and TV stations got good photos of Jack receiving the monster cheque; and of Jack riding through New York in a stretch limo; and of Jack and his wife Jewel being interviewed on The Today Show the morning after. That's the kind of publicity that sells a lot of lottery tickets.

As for Jack's business, his marriage, his health, his dead granddaughter, well . . . What was that phrase the U.S. military used to use when they accidentally bombed a few Vietnamese or Afghan or Iraqi civilians?

Oh, right: collateral damage.

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## Help for that 'heart-to-heart' talk

Many parents feels anxious about the inevitable talk about the "birds and bees" with their children - sitting their kids down and explaining the facts. However, when the tables are turned and the "kids" become adults, having "The Talk" with their parent(s) about sensitive health issues can be really uncomfortable.

A recent survey shows about 60 per cent of Canadian adults with living parents regularly do not have "The Talk" about health issues with their parents, and almost a third (30 per cent) say they don't quite know how to start conversations with them about sensitive health topics.

### BREAKING THE ICE

Having "The Talk" about health issues is very important — especially when it comes to a condition like atrial fibrillation (AF) and its link to stroke. If you have AF, a serious heart condition, your risk of stroke is considered three to five times higher than those without AF.

Fortunately — with a physician's help and by taking some practical steps — you can take action to lower this risk.

"The survey makes it clear that Canadians understand how debilitating strokes can be, but for whatever reason it seems that they aren't talking about AF and stroke with their parents," says Dr. Frank Silver, professor of medicine (neurology), at the University of Toronto. "We need to open the lines of communication to encourage Canadians 55 years and older to proactively raise the topic during their next doctor's visit to get checked and, if needed, start treatment to reduce their risk."

To help break the ice, new tools are available at www.StrokeAndAF.ca — an educational resource available to Canadians with information about AF and stroke. For Canadians who can't find the words themselves to have "The Talk" with their parents, they can send a customizable video featuring a barbershop quartet as a gentle door opener. After all, everything sounds better set to music. Once sent, they can refer to the "The Talk" Tip Sheet which provides helpful advice on how to approach this tricky conversation.

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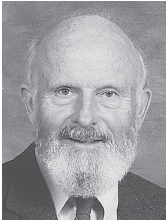
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**David James Lewis**  
MD, FRCP(C), MRC(Psych),  
Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry  
May 28, 1920 – January 1, 2013

David James Lewis, an intrepid psychiatrist, artist and intellectual died Jan 1, 2013 in his 93rd year in the Greenwoods Extended Care Facility, where he was cared for compassionately. His family was present as he passed peacefully onto his next adventure.

David was born in Montreal in 1920, the eldest of three children to Dr. David Sclater Lewis and Evelyn Ross Lewis. David studied liberal arts at McGill University while pursuing his love of photography by working as a reporter for his Uncle PD Ross of the Ottawa Journal during his summer breaks. Soon after graduating in 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served as an officer with Combined Operations surviving beach landing invasions both in Normandy and Sicily. Many years later he and his naval colleagues compiled a two-volume photo-essay of their war years, 'From St Nazaire to Singapore', (ourroots.ca). The collection of WW2 photographs he took with his precious Zeiss camera proved invaluable. As LCDR he returned with fellow Canadians to Normandy and the Combined Operations at the 1997 reunion of the Dieppe raid of 1942.

After the war he studied pre-medicine at McGill and met his future wife, Kit (nee Catherine Jefferson). Kit was his close companion, his intellectual and emotional confidant and they had a kind of relationship that was rare for that era.

After earning his medical degree at the University of Toronto in 1950, he interned in psychiatry at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, the Phipps Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, the Maudsley Hospital and Bethlem Royal in England. He then returned to Toronto to practice at St Michaels Hospital and teach at the University of Toronto. In 1964 his career took him back to McGill University and the Royal Victoria Hospital. In 1971 political turmoil in Quebec compelled him to move his family and career to Calgary, where he taught and practiced at the University of Calgary and the Foothills Hospital. By this time he had earned the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, Canada, and membership of the Medical Research Council in Psychiatry. David was curious about all sorts of ideas and how they related to the spiritual and psychological landscape. Throughout his formative years he was inspired by his meetings with Carl Jung, JBS Haldane, Naomi Mitcheson, R.D. Laing and others. David was an early adopter of new methods in psychotherapy and took part in research into the therapeutic uses of hallucinogenic drugs. His creative and progressive approach was reflected in various undertakings including the establishment of the Mood Clinic at the Foothills Hospital.

David always had a sketchbook with him and recorded his impressions of the world and people around him with startling insight. He had an eye for art and built a significant collection of paintings, Inuit carvings and books, many of which have been donated to the University of Calgary. In spite of his loss of hearing, music delighted him to the end of his life.

David is survived by his wife of 63 years, Kit, children David (New Mexico), Anne (David Leininger, Montana), Peter, Jane (Squier) and Naomi (British Columbia), and his brother John Lewis, (Toronto, Ontario). He was preceded in death by his sister Marjorie (Brunton).

David has been blessed by and was always an inspirational leader to his grandchildren, David, Sky, Morgan, Patrick, Lily, Cole, Abigail, Anna, Julia, Kipling, Theo, Stefan, Odin and great-grandchildren, David Jed and Grace Valentina.

David's final years were spent on Salt Spring Island where sadly his mental faculties diminished due to Alzheimer's disease. He lived at the Greenwoods Extended Care facility for four years where he was much loved and cared for by the staff and was visited daily by his wife and family.

To commemorate the life of a remarkable person and in gratitude to the caring community of Salt Spring Island, a celebration of David's life will take place from 2 - 4 pm on Sunday, January 13th at Meadowbrook Seniors Residence, 121 Atkins Rd.

The private family memorial will take place May 28th, 2013, at Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal.

Memorial donations may be made to Greenwoods Foundation Charitable Organization (#107457731RR0001) 133 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island, V8K 1Z9

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DEATHS

**Kathleen Magee**  
July 24, 1917 - December 14th, 2012

It is with heartfelt sadness that the family of Kay Magee announces her passing at Lady Minto Hospital December 14th, 2012.

She was predeceased by her husband Ralph in August 2000 and a great grandson Tyrell in March of 2004 and brothers Hugh and John.

She will be sadly missed by her loving family, daughter Sue, and son Nigel, 5 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 1 great great grandchild.

Kathleen lived in Salmon Arm until 1967 when they moved to Salt Spring. She was very active in the Anglican Church, Quilting Club, worked on BC Ferries, loved Scrabble, and had many dear friends.

Many thanks to Dr. Woodley, her family at Meadowbrook, Carol, and the staff at Lady Minto. There will be a service at a later date.

**Thomas Alexander Hooton**  
1922 - 2012

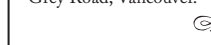
Thomas was born in Cheltenham, England and passed away peacefully in his 91st year.

Tom's mischievous smile, droll humour and gentlemanly charm will be missed by all.

Tom is survived by his family; Timothy Hooton and his wife Kerry, Annabel Hooton and her husband Wolfgang Rao, Jennifer Mason, David and Sharon Edgell, Trish DuMoulin and Tom's five grandchildren, Ryan, Alexander, and Rachel Mason, and Cole and Quinn Hooton.

Donations in lieu of flowers to War Amputations of Canada, Vancouver Branch.

Reception Sunday, January 13, 2013 from 1 to 3 pm. at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road, Vancouver.



*Dorothy V. Hitchcock*  
JUNE 1, 1931 -  
DECEMBER 22, 2012

With great sadness we announce the passing of Dorothy of Salt Spring Island at the age of 81, after a short battle with cancer.

Dorothy is survived by her husband Bill, sons Gordon and Robert and five grandchildren. She will be remembered by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner Crew.

Special thanks to Dr. Woodley and Nursing Staff at the Lady Minto Hospital

A Celebration of Dorothy's Life will be held at Meaden Hall, January 26, 2013 at 2:00pm

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COMING EVENTS

We would like to thank all of our Salt Spring friends who so kindly gifted us with food, sent cards and offered us support at the time of Gordon's passing. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated. The Munk family

COMING EVENTS

**SALT SPRING SINGERS**  
Registration - A non-auditioned community choir directed by Don Conley, will hold spring registration at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, at SSI Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Rd. Registration will close at 6:45. The first rehearsal for May 4 & 5 concert follows from 7:00 to 9:00 with break and refreshments at 8:00. All voices welcome.  
Call Jean Brouard at 250 653-2335 or go to www.saltspingsingers.org for a registration form or more information.

**SALT SPRING VIVASSANA COMMUNITY**

Invites you to  
**A DAY of MEDITATION PRACTICE**

**Sunday, January 20th**  
**STOWEL LAKE FARM**  
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The Gatehouse

Everyone welcome.

For more info 250-653-0031

COMING EVENTS

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS & PUBLIC**

SSPLASH, Salt Spring Pool Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on

**Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Salt Spring Sailing Club, 152 Douglas Road Refreshments, and conversation will follow.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

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**Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary  
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Ready to accept your donations of clean, gently used clothing & household items starting January 8th, 2013. Regular store hours for donations Tuesday to Saturday – 10:00am to 4:00pm

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**IF FOOD** rules your life, call Overeaters Anonymous. No dues, no fees or weigh ins. Call for the nearest meeting location: Lynda: 250-931-1214 or Melissa: 250-537-2583.

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

**WANT TO volunteer?** Do you know what day and time? Visit our Volunteer Calendar to see what is available on island. [www.saltspringseva.ca](http://www.saltspringseva.ca)

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Please send a cover letter and resume by **4:00 pm January 25, 2013** to:

Ron Stepaniuk,  
District Manager  
North Salt Spring Waterworks District  
761 Upper Ganges Rd.  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1  
[info@northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](mailto:info@northsaltspringwaterworks.ca)

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COMING EVENTS

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**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** You are in a serious, sober and ambitious mood as the year gets underway. The New Moon has activated your determination to be seen, heard, recognized and rewarded. You feel the desire and perhaps the need to make some very real changes without, to match what you feel is happening within. Clarify to yourself and others what you want and, if necessary, learn 'how to'.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)** A mood to go big continues. You know this will require more discipline and effort. Yet, you feel extra committed. Your sights are set on a brighter future. Many ambitions are brewing within. Regardless how much work you are doing that is apparent, you are likely doing at least as much behind the scenes. Your main interest now is how to work smarter than harder.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)** You are undergoing a lot of changes at the outset of this New Year - a veritable metamorphosis. It is important that you engage your imagination positively to work with this change, lest it lapse into conjuring negative hallucinations. Positively, you are looking to the power, authority and leverage that others can provide to support you.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)** Your relationships are getting a lot of stimulation now. This may be the source of plenty of excitement and satisfaction. At worst, others are attempting to control you. At best, these associations are guiding you to new positions, tools, methods and/or directions that will prove empowering. Take a proactive, innovative and cooperative approach for best results.

**Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)** The time has come for you to make a whole host of improvements. These will be linked to your daily habit patterns affecting your overall lifestyle. Clean, clear and polish is the basic requirement. As well, take inventory of all your talents and assets and be thorough in your approach. Make the most of all you have already in preparation to add to the list soon.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)** Taking a creative approach to realize your power potential in the world is a central theme now. Be open to the variety of goods and/or services you can provide and take the same approach in deciphering what outer sources can provide for you. Overall, this is a call to analyze all resources - both outgoing and incoming. Entertain all possibilities.

**Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)** A good deal of activity close to home and with family is being activated now. This may basically involve an early pitch at cleaning and beautifying your living space. Investing into tools, equipment, appliances and/or decorative supplies is likely. Aim to establish an atmosphere of beauty, function and power as a basis of success for the whole family.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)** A wide array of places to go, people to see and errands to run are keeping you busy now and will over the next few weeks. This period also contains a good deal of creative potential. Making key contacts and/or strategic moves now will contribute to creating new opportunities for the coming months. The sooner you can clearly decipher your direction the better.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)** The process of building upon new foundations continues. This is a very important and powerful time in this regard. Yet, avoid hasty choices and actions. Rather, take a slow and sure approach. This is a good time to create a healthier attitude as well, leading to increased efficiency and effectiveness. What habit patterns from the past are best left behind?

**Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)** The New Moon in your sign will have the effect of launching you into this New Year. You are likely in a determined mood and are ready to take any pioneering initiatives that are necessary to succeed. Managing the results of previous choices and actions is also important. Aim to consolidate and harmonize existing realities in preparation for new assertions.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)** An ambitious and determined mood vies with a playful one. Making extra efforts behind the scenes, in an administrative sense, will help you to achieve this balance. So, avoid too much distraction and social activity. If you are focused and diligent and solidify your base, you will feel more at peace to take advantage of those narrower windows to get in some playtime.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)** The future is beckoning. To answer, you are wise to look to the bigger picture over the long term. This is basically called 'having a vision'. By tuning-in to your intuitions, dreams and desires, clarifying these and then practically gauging the possibilities, 2013 could prove to be a major leap forward for you. As well, vote for yourself and work on your confidence levels.

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## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Jr. boys basketball team to host 2013 tournament



PHOTO BY ERIC WEATHERBY

GISS' junior boys basketball team and coach Diane Weatherby, left, are ready to host the 2013 Gulf Islands Hoops Classic this Friday and Saturday, and welcome legions of cheering fans.

Public invited to games on Jan. 11-12

Following up on the success of their first-ever hosting of a tournament in 2012, the junior Scorpions boys basketball team is at it again with the Gulf Islands Hoops Classic 2013.

Four teams from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland will visit Salt Spring for the tournament, which takes place at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gym on Friday, Jan. 11 and Saturday, Jan. 12.

The Scorpions leap into action with the first two games of the round robin set for Friday afternoon, with a game against Mount Doug from Victoria at 1:30 p.m.

and another against NDSS Nanaimo at 3 p.m.

A skills competition will challenge all participants after the final game of the day, which starts at 6 p.m. Pizza will be available from 4:30 p.m.

Teams will be back on the court starting at 9 a.m. Saturday morning.

GISS is scheduled to take on South Delta at noon and will end the tournament with a final match against Brentwood starting at 5 p.m.

An awards presentation, which will include Friday competition winners, will cap off the weekend's events.

Members of the public are invited to attend all events and cheer on the home team.

# With open arms: NHL hockey may be back, — but how about the fans?

No matter how many times the NHL toys with its loyal fans' emotions, a recurring theme seems to be consistent through all lockout-related adversity — forgive and forget.

The second NHL lockout in less than 10 years came to an end Sunday and people are finally getting excited for top-level hockey again. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr came together to salvage an abbreviated regular season, even if the entire lockout was a gigantic, unnecessary mess to begin with.

Moving on...

The NHL is expected to resume operations later this month with a 48-game schedule. Of course, a short season means we'll be on a fast track to the playoffs, but it also means less room for error and not as much time to get settled back in.



Patrick Cwiklinski

## OFFSIDE

To be honest, the whole quick turnaround feels like a Vegas wedding in that it happened so fast and it didn't seem like anyone heard about it until the morning. One minute they're talking a lot of mathematical and legal mumbo jumbo and the next minute NHL hockey's back on.

But who are we to complain, right? It's not like we were planning to hold out on the NHL forever and continue regularly watching the KHL and juniors when it the NHL returned. We should be grateful the NHL

even decided to come back this season because without it our lives would have been so incomplete.

Wrong. People who know me are aware of my borderline unhealthy addiction to hockey, but this lockout has left a really bitter taste in my mouth about the fan's role in general. The whole time the NHL and NHLPA argued, nobody cared to listen to the fans, who are the people responsible for all those players, general managers and executives' jobs.

Here's the thing — am I going to boycott the NHL and stop watching games this season? Not a chance. But I'm still flabbergasted at how you can treat the fans that are so loyal to the game like such crap and then just move past it like nothing happened.

When the last lockout happened, people missed NHL

hockey so much that when it came time to actually play, it literally seemed like the year off was just a giant blank in the minds of the fans.

This time, we can't forget.

We can forgive as most fans will, but not forget. Why? To avoid ever having a situation like this again.

The fans need to know that they have the power as consumers to do something and they should use that power when they're being mistreated.

People shouldn't ever feel guilty about watching the NHL, but they have to realize that they're able to do something when stuff like this happens. This is being called one of the stupidest lockouts in history and avoidable in many ways, so why did we have to miss almost four months of the season just for that?

We don't, and the next time it happens — we shouldn't.

## SAILING

# Hot Rum Race christens new sailing year

Slakov, Herbert and Keating finish in top three

A flotilla of 14 vessels piloted by a group of enthusiastic Salt Spring Sailing Club members took to the waters on Jan. 1 in what's become a familiar site to welcome the new year.

"The sky and sea were silvery and the calm beautiful in its own way," wrote Martin Herbert in his inaugural post-race report of 2013.

"It was one of those days that rewarded full attention and complete concentration as the air came in breaths, never strong and sometimes withheld, but always readable and with no wild-card gusts shaking up the fleet."

The light-air affair had skippers on high alert for the slightest advantage well before the race officially got underway.

Greg Slakov sailed to victory as Herbert and Gyle Keating placed second

and third on corrected times. Only seven of the race's starters completed the event as the rest sensed their defeat and made haste for the clubhouse's promise of hot rum and toasty confines.

"A gentle but quite wonderful start to our new season. May the winds build and the sun continue to shine on our lovely little club," Herbert noted.

The club's next event is the Walker Rock race on Jan. 20. For more information, visit saltspringsailing.ca.

*January Community Events for you Hosted by your MP, Elizabeth May*

**Salt Spring Island • January 14**  
• Local Office Hours • 11am – 5pm • 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.  
• Town Hall • 7 – 9 pm • GISS, 112 Rainbow Rd.

**Mayne Island • January 16**  
• Local Office Hours • 12 – 4 pm • Comm. Ctr., 493 Felix Jack Rd.  
• Town Hall • 5:30 – 7 pm • Comm. Ctr., 493 Felix Jack Rd.

**Satuma Island • Friday, January 18**  
• Local Office Hours • 11am – 3 pm • Satuma Café, 109 East Pt Rd.  
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# Salt Spring's first baby of 2013

*Congratulations to parents Alaysha Mergaert & Cody Hunsberger. Their baby boy was born at 5 a.m. on January 1. 9 lbs. 2 oz.*



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**seventh GENERATION**

New parents and baby with great grandmother Kathleen Mergaert, left, and grandmother Rebecca Mergaert.

