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DEVELOPMENT

Platform downsizes Bullock plan

New vision to be revealed at Saturday open house

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An open house event organized by the company trying to resurrect Bullock Lake Resort will feature a very different vision for the storied Robinson Road development on Saturday.

Platform Properties' revised application proposes construction of no new cottages on the site. The change reflects a major shift from the company's original proposal for a multiphase project to construct up to 123 vacation cottages on the 35-acre lakeside property.

Platform's new rezoning application would limit the resort development to 50 units, all of which are already built.

The cottages were updated and largely completed during the 2000s, but have sat unoccupied due to zoning restrictions and financial troubles experienced by the former developer. Vancouver-based Platform Properties bought the land and infrastructure through a court-appointed receiver in 2011.

"We have undertaken a significant amount of consultation with members of the community and through that process it was apparent that any additional development beyond what exists is concerning to many residents," said Cameron Chalmers, a consultant hired by Platform Properties to oversee the rezoning process. "We also believe this will make the application more consistent with the policies of the official community plan."

BULLOCK continued on 4



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

READ ALL ABOUT IT: The newspaper headline held by Ajna Nugent Garfat proved true when Graffiti Theatre teamed with Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret for a production of *Hard Times Hit Parade*. The musical show packed Fulford Hall for three shows on Nov. 22-24. See review on Page 13.

FERRIES

Ferry cuts' negative impacts emerge

Province refuses to accept ferry-routes-as-highways definition

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An idea of the wider social and economic ramifications of cuts to ferry service has started to emerge as families and seniors up and down the B.C. coast start to register their stories of personal impact.

Transportation Minister Todd Stone announced last week that nearly 7,000 round-trips are to be eliminated from service in April 2014 as a way to save BC Ferries \$14 million in operating costs. The measure, along with ending free mid-week rides for seniors and introducing slot machines on some ferries, is one of the ministry's solutions to easing the burden on passenger fares.

Island families whose children attend school on Vancouver Island or travel there to take advantage of sports opportunities that aren't available on Salt Spring will be facing deeper considerations than just financial ones. An estimated 60 students will be affected, including Salt Spring Middle School student Darby McIntyre, who is a member of the provincial gymnastics team.

Darby and her family have made sacrifices in order to allow her to train in Duncan on weekdays. She is working toward the national level and aims to one day compete in the Olympics.

FERRIES continued on 5

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SOME KIND OF CHRISTMAS TREE:

Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art displays a Christmas tree made from recycled plastic bottles, as island businesses and institutions decorate for the holiday season. Driftwood judges will be out in force on Saturday evening judging displays for the annual Light-up Christmas Decorating Contest, with a chili cook-off also slated for downtown on Saturday from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION

SSITC sorts out priorities

Capital plan, new commissioners among upcoming challenges

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The year 2014 could pose both heavy challenges and great possibilities for the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission as the CRD advisory group grapples with an overwhelming shift in membership and competing community needs.

SSITC chair John Wakefield tendered his immediate resignation from the commission after the group's regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 19, citing undisclosed personal and professional reasons. With four other commissioners leaving at the end of the year, there will be five spots for newcomers beginning in January.

In addition to CRD director Wayne McIntyre, the only commissioners to carry over through the next year are experienced members Andrew Haigh and Donald McLennan and newcomer Robin Williams.

"John will be missed. I enjoy his collaborative and cooperative style," McIntyre said in a follow-up interview.

The CRD director does not view the upcoming shift as entirely negative, however.

"Sometimes when there's a change like this it's a chance to take a deep breath," he said.

McIntyre said he hopes to make it easier for commissioners to do their job in the next term, by sorting out all the terms of reference and rules of operation.

"It's important to sit down and identify the issues at the end of this year, and then be able to engage in the new year," he said.

SSITC's November meeting was marked by commissioners' frustration as they attempted to move through their meeting agenda, only to get bogged down in a remote presentation of the draft capital budget presented by CRD staff via Skype. Complicating matters was the fact that commissioners received the draft budget at the table and therefore did not have time to go over it before the meeting, and that several of the figures used appeared to be inaccurate.

Commissioners were further stymied by their inability to do extra work at a planning retreat after Salt Spring's CRD manager Karla Campbell informed the group that such a retreat would be considered a meeting and staff resources would accordingly be needed.

Campbell advised commissioners they would have to clear their regular agenda for the December meeting and use it to

address the capital plan instead.

Throughout the Nov. 19 meeting, the need to set priorities emerged as the dominant theme. McLennan presented a motion to rank a number of projects the commission hopes to undertake over the next few years for the information of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The motion was tabled and commissioners decided instead to make the North Ganges Transportation Plan their first priority for the purposes of advancing the capital plan.

"Sometimes when there's a change like this it's a chance to take a deep breath."

WAYNE MCINTYRE
CRD Electoral Area Director

Community priorities were also an issue for McIntyre, who asked the commission to consider how a proposed borrowing referendum to raise the transportation tax requisition in 2015 would fit into other island issues. He cited several surveys that put transportation lower down the list than water, jobs and the economy, affordable housing and governance.

McLennan, who as the commission's vice chair will be acting chair until elections take place with the start of the new term in January, believes the community's very first priority should be the next phase of the North Ganges Transportation Plan, the "Save Our Kids Pathway." The multi-use pathway will include room for pedestrians and cyclists on the north side of Rainbow Road from Lower Ganges Road to Kanaka Road.

McLennan noted all of the commission's work fits in with the provincial government's announcement made last week on the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims with a plan to reduce preventable deaths on B.C.'s roads and become the safest jurisdiction in North America by 2020.

"Any projects that the commission has planned on doing at any time have to do with safety and security on the road and at intersections — for motorists, and for cyclists and for pedestrians, all three," McLennan said.

Applications for three new commissioners are set to be approved by the CRD board this month. Two more commissioners will be sought; interested parties should contact McIntyre through the local CRD office at 250-538-0009 or email director@crd.bc.ca.



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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

SSI Watershed Protection Authority:

Friday, NOVEMBER 29, 1-3:45 p.m.

Open house/community meeting at Lions Hall

SOCIAL SERVICES

Huge emergency shelter demand needs support

Lack of other housing infrastructure stresses Community Services resources

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

At the centre of trying to meet an avalanche of local social service needs is the Salt Spring Island Community Services Society.

The SSICS board and staff recently determined that an optimal use of its resources required focusing activities on six basic determinants of health: food, housing, employment, access to health services, healthy child development and social supports.

The In From the Cold extreme weather shelter is an important part of the housing segment, and one that needs urgent community attention.

With temperatures dropping and winter weather upon us, Salt Spring Island Community Services has opened its In From the Cold emergency shelter for another season.

Last winter the facility on SSICS property was open for 126 nights from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., serving an average of 15.7 people per night, but up to 30 on some occasions.

Even when SSICS received BC Housing funding for only 15 or

20 individuals, In From the Cold made room for more; and even when BCH would not fund some nights because the weather conditions didn't meet the strict criteria, the shelter was opened anyway.

In fact, when SSICS executive director Rob Grant accessed province-wide data and compared it to his own, the result was absolutely shocking.

BC Housing reports that 21,100 extreme weather spaces were used in all of B.C. last year; SSICS shelter spaces numbered 1,975, or nine per cent of that total.

The occupancy rate at the In From the Cold shelter was 90 per cent; on the Lower Mainland (where 4,013 extreme weather spaces were used), the rate was 33 per cent.

Grant says the main reason Salt Spring sees such high usage is because the island lacks other forms of emergency or transitional housing. Here, In From the Cold or couch surfing are the only options if one's usual "outdoor" residence is uninhabitable due to inclement weather.

"We don't have any of the standard underpinning supports of other communities," he says.

At about \$600 per night, it isn't cheap to operate the shelter. About \$400 of that amount covers wage and benefit costs of \$20 per hour for the 19 person-hours required to have the shelter open for 14 hours — from 6 p.m. to 8



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

A Salt Spring Community Services office building doubles as the In From the Cold extreme weather shelter in winter months.

a.m. (See sidebar for a detailed cost breakdown.)

Then there's the estimated 10 hours per week that shelter coordinator Naomi Syrenne spends on scheduling volunteers and staff, coordinating food and clothing, liaising with other organizations and following up with shelter users.

"The shelter is not just providing a roof, meal and laundry for a night. It is a support service, public safety service, preventative health service and a first step for many people to get connected to other helping services."

SSICS receives no government funding for that part of the equation, either, and none for the building's utilities, maintenance or janitorial services.

Some people wonder why volunteers can't be used instead of paid staff in order to reduce costs, but Grant explains that it takes people trained and skilled in mental health and addiction issues to ensure the facility is safe for everyone.

The Salt Spring Island United Church initiated the shelter several years ago, but found its volunteers could not deal with the challenge.

Volunteers do in fact help with food preparation and some supervision, and their assistance is much appreciated.

Ideally, Grant would like to see some kind of permanent shelter and homeless resource centre. Such a facility would provide year-round shelter for eight to 10 peo-

ple on an emergency basis, with capacity for extra mats in the winter months; and space for eight to 10 people in housing transition. Other assistance would be more readily available, including help to access health services, permanent housing and employment.

But for now — immediately, really — Grant is appealing to the community to sponsor between 20 and 40 In From the Cold nights that will not be funded by BC Housing this winter.

He hopes Salt Spring businesses or community groups will perhaps commit funding for a single night, but is obviously open to any donations or any other ideas.

For more information or to contribute, contact Rob Grant at 250-537-9971 or rgrant@ssics.ca.

Nightly \$\$ Breakdown

Cost to serve 20 people at In From the Cold shelter for one night:

- Wages & benefits - \$395
- Volunteer appreciation - \$18
- Cleaning supplies - \$15
- Food - \$100
- Laundry - \$30
- Transportation - \$35
- First aid supplies - \$11

TOTAL - \$604

NEWS BRIEFS

Water group open house

Islanders have an opportunity to glimpse the latest efforts to solve St. Mary Lake's ongoing water quality issues during an open house event hosted by the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority on Friday afternoon.

The first annual open house meeting offers participants the chance to meet and hear from the organization's newly appointed Technical Advisory Committee, a group designed to offer scientific insight about possible solutions to promote lake health.

"Come participate in the consultation process for collaborative watershed man-

agement and improved ecosystem health on Salt Spring Island," reads information about the event.

The open house is at the Lions Hall (103 Bonnet Ave.) on Friday, Nov. 29 between 1 and 3:45 p.m. More information about the event is available at ssiwatersheds.org or by email at ssiwpacoord@gmail.com.

Trust Council next week

Islands Trust representatives are headed to the provincial capital for next week's quarterly Trust Council session.

The three-day meeting at Victoria's Harbour Towers Hotel gets underway on Tues-

day, Dec. 3 with an economic sustainability workshop and a special session on the management of invasive species.

A delegation and town hall session, that features speakers from Denman, Salt Spring and Gabriola islands, gets underway on Wednesday at 1 p.m.

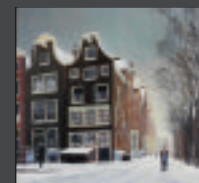
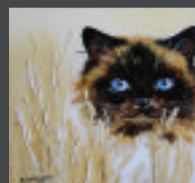
In other business, council members will discuss the Islands Trust's 2014-15 bud-

get and receive an update on bylaw enforcement files within the Trust. Motions have been proposed with respect to the Trans Mountain Pipeline project, proposed changes to the Agricultural Land Commission and BC Ferries service cuts.

A schedule and complete agenda package is available at www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

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D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

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LOCAL POLITICS

Stage set for governance proposal

Next step anticipated at Friday meeting

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The next chapter of Salt Spring's governance future will be decided at the Portlock Park portable on Friday afternoon, when consultants unveil recommendations based on six months of gauging the appetite for a formal incorporation study.

"The committee, at that meeting, will determine, by consensus, the recommendation it will forward to the minister," said Pat Preston, spokesperson for the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee.

Since it launched a public engagement process in May, Preston said,

the volunteer-led committee has provided information about rural and municipal governance in response to islanders' many questions.

"[Public engagement efforts] include four public forums, a website, Facebook, Twitter, a Fall Fair booth, two surveys, letters to the editor, flyers, four fact sheets and presentations to local groups," Preston said.

The surveys received more than 1,300 responses. Results of the latest survey show 63 per cent of respondents favour completion of an incorporation study.

Such a study would give islanders specific information, including economic implications, of a municipal government structure.

While there will certainly be pub-

lic comments that follow the report's release, Preston defended the committee's public consultation process.

"The report is the consultants' report. Their findings from the public consultation and research," she said. "Neither the committee nor the public can make additions or changes."

The provincial government announced funding for the \$60,000 study in 2012. An additional \$20,000 was provided to study effects of Salt Spring's incorporation on the Islands Trust.

The committee will receive the final report, prepared by consulting firm Urban Systems, during a public meeting at 5 p.m. in the Portlock Park portable at 145 Vesuvius Bay Rd.

More information about the process is available at: ssgovernancestudy.ca.

RCMP

Charges considered in BB gun threat

Car accidents also high on police calls list

The Salt Spring RCMP detachment was kept on its toes with more than 30 calls over the past week, including an incident in which a student was threatened with a BB gun.

According to a police report, the incident took place mid-day at the Kanaka Skate Park on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

"During lunch break from the Salt Spring Island Middle School, a male student went to the skate park located between the middle school and the high school. While

there he was deliberately irritating two older males by whistling at them. He was told to stop by the older boys but refused to do so," the police new release reads.

"One of the older males removed a BB gun from his friend's backpack and pointed it at the whistling middle schooler, saying, 'If you don't stop whistling, I'm going to shoot you.'"

The younger boy left the scene and reported the incident to school officials, who then contacted the RCMP. Police attended immediately and arrested the two older males.

They were released to their respective parents after a few

hours with court dates to appear in Ganges Provincial Court. Both were given release conditions prohibiting them from attending the skate park.

One of the older males removed a BB gun from his friend's backpack and pointed it at the whistling middle schooler.

Police continue to investigate and may forward a report to the Crown prosecutor rec-

ommending weapons charges against the two youths and a breach of previous release conditions against one of them. Their names are being withheld in accordance with the Youth Justice Act.

Among other calls, police responded to three motor vehicle collisions this week, with slippery roads considered a contributing factor in one of the cases.

"Motorists are reminded to leave themselves plenty of time to reach their destinations, remain undistracted and drive according to road conditions, ensuring they have tires with good winter tread," the local detachment advises.

Bullock Lake Cottages Community Information Meeting

Saturday November 30, 2013
11:30 a.m.
315 Robinson Road, Salt Spring Island

Please join us on the property to learn about the Official Community Plan amendment and rezoning application. A formal presentation will be made at 12:00 followed by an opportunity to tour the property. There will be opportunities for you to share your comments.

For more information, please visit www.bullocklakecottages.ca

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Bullock Lake neighbours skeptical

BULLOCK
continued from 1

The revised application limits new construction on the property to a 6,000-square-foot lodge. Pending approval from the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, the new structure would occupy part of the foundation used by a building destroyed in a 2007 fire.

"Though the amendment certainly affects the potential return on investment, it was the right thing to do in response to the community consultation and in the interests of framing a proposal that more closely aligns with the community than the initial application," Chalmers wrote in an email.

Much of the opposition against the Bullock Lake project has come from Friends of Bullock Lake, a group of about 100 people who represent the neighbourhood, farming community, accommodation sector and nearby water districts.

Speaking for the group on Tuesday, Robinson Road resident Rollie

Cook called Platform's new tack a response to "serious opposition to their application." He's still unimpressed with the new proposal.

Cook said he envisions the project as a residential development for no more than the seven homes currently allowed under the island's land use bylaws.

Opponents worry about the resort development's implications on the lake's water quality and the prospect of increased competition for accommodation providers.

"We are not opposed to reasonable development," Cook said. "It should provide for houses not a resort and it should be at the same scale as the rest of the neighbourhood."

Unoccupied homes, he added, could be relocated elsewhere, preferably for use in much-needed affordable housing projects.

"We don't have to compost those old houses, they can be moved easily," he said.

Chalmers said the developer has "cursorily explored" the prospect

of moving the units and does not believe it is a viable option.

Twenty acres of the developer's 35-acre site will not be subject to the new application. Chalmers said the company has not yet determined what will happen to those 20 acres.

"The water and sanitary infrastructure are on those lots and will need to be protected," Chalmers added. "The lands are also significantly encumbered with foundations and other infrastructure. That said, we will continue to explore what potential those lands may have."

The revised application will be presented during an open house at the project site (315 Robinson Rd.) on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 11:30 a.m.

"By limiting the community conversation to the future use of the 50 existing cottages and the new amenity building, we believe there will be a much better dialogue about the use of the existing development than would have been possible with the larger development concept," Chalmers said.

WATER

Island Health recruits public opinion for strategic plan

Health care teams one idea proposed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Health care teams may soon become the defining component in local health service, according to a survey delivered by Island Health in the lead-up to its 2018 Strategic Plan.

The regional body (formerly called Vancouver Island Health Authority) has initiated a public consultation session to gain input on how to manage its resources to the best effect. Implementing a team approach is directly stated as a goal in the accompanying survey.

"We think supporting the establishment and growth of a health care team approach will promote better

care for you. That is, where different physicians and health care workers work together with you to plan your care, rather than each working with you separately," the questionnaire states, before asking participants to rank how important that idea is to them.

Island Health representatives who visited Salt Spring for an open house session on Nov. 12 were surprised by the high turn-out rate. Communications director Sarah Plank said it's not known how many people attended, but the 50 printed copies of the survey that were supplied were all taken quickly and staff had to get more printed during the meeting.

Some people who attended, such as Save Our Surgery member Irene Wright, were not happy with the informal format that included

poster presentations on the Strategic Plan 2018 talking points with Island Health members available for questions.

"It was structured in a way that avoided all discussion," Wright said.

She helped facilitate it by speaking about some of the issues with island health care, particularly the elimination of the general surgeon position at Lady Minto Hospital.

"Somehow the analysis is very shallow and they're looking for quick-fix solutions that don't work," Wright said, noting the cost of travelling off-island for the families of people in care on Vancouver Island hasn't factored into Island Health equations.

Referring to one of the presentation points, she added, "Avoiding sickness is not a solution to the problems we have."

Plank disagreed that the meeting structure was poorly devised, stating, "We felt it was important to be there and to be there in dialogue, rather than being talking heads . . . We did have a lot of good conversations with residents of the community."

While some participants were hoping for a second round to improve the discussion, Island Health has not promised a return date.

"We're definitely going to continue engaging with our communities, but what that will look like, it's too early to tell," Plank said.

Challenges to health care in the Vancouver Island region, as noted in a background document for the strategic plan, include a growing and aging population. An uneven distribution of health is also listed as a

concern, with lower life expectancy among aboriginal people, people living in rural and remote communities, and socially marginalized people.

Mental health issues among young people are a growing concern. Statistics cited in the document show that over 1,500 homeless people live in the Greater Victoria region and face chronic or complex health concerns such as HIV and substance abuse.

"An estimated 25 to 50 per cent of homeless people suffer from a mental health disorder and more than 90 per cent suffer from at least one chronic physical health problem," the document states.

Anyone who could not attend the open house can fill out a survey online at www.viha.ca/about_viha/strategic_plan.

FERRY CUTS

Open house to discuss ferry cuts

Salt Spring residents are among island dwellers afforded a public meeting with BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure over recently announced service cuts.

A 90-minute open house followed by a 90-minute question and answer session

is set for Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Hall.

On Monday night, Texada Island residents rallied to express their displeasure with losing 23 per cent of their ferry sailings — or 834 trips — beginning in April 2014.

Some 150 people packed the Gillies Bay Community Hall, according to a report from the Powell River Peak newspaper provided to the Driftwood. The island's population is approximately 1,200.

A meeting set for Powell River on Tuesday night was also expected to be well attended.

Revenue spiral predicted

FERRIES

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"I fear if we lose these runs we will never see them again. I agree that lifestyle choices and entertainment can probably be questioned/arguable but when kids and sports opportunities, jobs/work schedules are affected it is too big of a compromise," Darby's mother Kim McIntyre said in a Facebook post, urging islanders to join an open house the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be hosting to discuss the service cuts on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga said once it was known that Salt Spring was on the list for a public consultation, it wasn't surprising to learn that the Vesuvius-Crofton route would lose some of its low ridership sailings, as the ministry was working from a strictly financial perspective.

However, revenue from the Vesuvius-Crofton route covered 95 per cent of its operating expenses in fiscal 2012-13 — leaving only a \$238,000 shortfall. BC Ferries estimates cutting 605 sailings from that route will save \$210,000.

But even disregarding the negative social impact, the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs group believes the financial part of the ministry's plan is deeply flawed.

According to the group's official response, "There appears to be no business case for the cuts, no analysis of their impact on jobs, and no analysis of the economic and social costs to individuals, communities and the province, including a comparison of those costs to the \$14 million in cuts to non-major routes."

Among the diagnostic problems, the FACC submits the plan is based on figures with no supporting data, such as an esti-

mate that 75 per cent of traffic lost to the cut sailings will be redirected to other runs, that the loss to senior travel following the end to free passenger tickets will only amount to 15 per cent, and that traffic levels will stay at their 2011-12 levels.

"This is already inaccurate. Traffic has already fallen below this point, which means there is already a new revenue shortfall, which is likely to grow with each new annual fare increase and related traffic decline," the press release states.

The FACC had submitted a document in October asking the province to change its model in time for next April's budget and to fund the coastal ferry system the same way it supports other transportation infrastructure.

Stone stated during last week's press conference that his government had no intention of putting more money in to subsidize ferry travel, saying that taxpayers didn't have any more money for the system. But the minister's offer to "tweak" local schedules to reduce the impact of the cuts isn't impressing many users, including the FACC.

"Even after the cuts, the system will still be unaffordable, unsustainable and spiraling into deeper trouble. The government is causing people hardship without much to show for it," Southern Gulf Islands chair Brian Hollingshead stated in the FACC press release. "Tweaking won't change that."

The Dec. 7 open house with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Hall. Members of the public can also respond through feedback forms until Dec. 20, 2013. They can be completed online or printed from www.coastalferrysengagement.ca under the heading 2013 Feedback Form.

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ENVIRONMENT

Geoduck proposal for Salt Spring waters raises stink

Trust Council to comment on aquaculture expansion

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The waters around Salt Spring's north end have been deemed ripe for shellfish aquaculture and that's got some islanders worried about the implications for the island's shoreline.

"This is an area that is likely to be licensed for commercial shellfish farming and when we look at the

implications of what geoduck farming has for our beaches, it's quite far-reaching and, I think, very environmentally damaging," said trustee George Grams, during a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting earlier this month.

Grams' concern follows news the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has begun to consider expanding shellfish aquaculture in the Salish Sea.

According to information from the Gulf Islands Alliance, a provincial and federal government-authorized expansion plan has issued six deep water tenures for

geoduck aquaculture. These are in addition to approximately 40 intertidal tenures which already have geoducks on their licenses.

The specific areas affected by the plan include the shore along Salt Spring's north end, most of Galiano's west coast, all of Gabriola, Valdez, Thetis islands, and much of Denman Island's shoreline.

On Denman Island, the prospect of a First Nations-owned aquaculture business has encouraged the Islands Trust to clarify the matter with provincial and federal government representatives.

"The Denman case exposes the Islands Trust's weakness in enforcing its environmental mandate when senior governments exploit resource-based business opportunities that occur on the islands," say members of the Gulf Islands Alliance. "We've seen it with forestry, and now shellfish aquaculture. Licenses and tenures are granted contrary to existing zoning and wise environmental practice."

"The industry successfully thumbs its nose at the Trust."

Geoducks are large clams that can be found in inter-

tidal waters between Alaska and the Gulf of California. Canada's commercial geoduck harvest is shipped to processing plants before it's exported primarily to Asia. Though the fishery only accounts for seven per cent of the overall shellfish harvest, the high-value enterprise is responsible for approximately 25 per cent of the shellfish wholesale value, according to a 2013 federal geoduck management plan.

The BC Shellfish Growers Association states that the technology for geoduck culture in B.C. waters has been developed over the last two

decades, though the sector is still in its infancy.

During a public event held on Salt Spring in early October, speakers from the Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards suggested the push to promote geoduck farming "can be extremely harmful to the environment, can lead to beaches being lost as amenities to islanders and have the potential to be quite damaging in terms of promoting coastal tourism."

Grams said he intends to raise the issue during the Islands Trust's quarterly Trust Council session in Victoria next week.

WATER

Water Council takes on Water Act

Bullock Lake on Thursday's agenda

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Island Water Council may support the "general direction" of the provincial government's proposed Water Sustainability Act, but claim it's too soon to comment in depth about changes.

"At this time, there are still not enough details on how things will be done, what the proposed act will look like and what the language will be," wrote Peter Lamb on behalf of the Water Council. "And, of course, we are not seeing the resulting regulatory framework, regulations, funding or processes and practical meth-

ods required to operate under the act."

The group applauded the province's broad willingness to protect stream health, consider water's role in land-use decisions, regulate and protect groundwater and improve conservation. Elements noticeably absent from the proposed document, however, were language to establish water as a public right, stronger measures to enable rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling and support for a review panel to assess the act's effectiveness. The proposal lacks any response to public concerns "over the enormous demands for water used to enhance extraction of oil and gas shale resources" as well as bulk water exports, Lamb added.

Water Council submit-

ted the comments in the lead-up to the province's Nov. 15 deadline for public input.

Given that the legislative proposal was released in mid-October and gave only one month to provide comments, Lamb added, many organizations have asked for an extension to allow further review of the proposal.

"We may get an opportunity to analyze the document in more depth," Lamb said.

The province has devoted four years to collecting public comments about the proposal to update the Water Sustainability Act, a document that was developed roughly 100 years ago.

"Although it's evolved over the years, it is no longer adequate to address our growing population, expanding development

and changing climate," said Environment Minister Mary Polak in a statement on the province's Water Sustainability Act website.

Current legislation, for example, doesn't regulate or control groundwater resources anywhere in the province.

An update and discussion of the Water Council's position will be provided at Thursday's Water Council meeting. The session features a discussion of the Bullock Lake supply and demand study, an update on the condition of St. Mary Lake and reports from community water system operators on the island.

The meeting is on Thursday, Nov. 28 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Portlock Park portable (145 Vesuvius Bay Road).

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PARC

Off-roaders tear up ridge trails

PARC seeks RCMP assistance

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parks and Recreation Commission members need the public's help to curtail the rising use of all-terrain vehicle use along the Channel Ridge trail network.

"If we get more people watching, it might be avoided," said Gregg Dow, PARC chair.

During the past several weeks, PARC staff have received reports of dirt bikes and ATVs being used on the area's trails. Trails 35 and 17 are said to have sustained sig-

nificant damage.

The use of motorized vehicles on PARC trail violates the Capital Regional District's community parks regulation bylaw. Anyone found to have driven an ATV on any PARC trail is liable to a \$100 fine.

PARC manager Lorraine Brewster said the use of motorized vehicles on trails designed for pedestrian traffic has caused significant damage.

"ATV damage is really hard on the landscape," she said.

Brewster plans to bring the matter to the attention of local RCMP.

Wolfgang Brunnwieser, the island's CRD bylaw enforcement officer, said problems

with motorized vehicles at Channel Ridge "come and go."

"It is a hazard to people who are walking and it damages the trail," he said. "We try to keep the park as natural as possible."

Part of the problem is a lack of any dedicated space for ATV and dirt bike users on the island, he said. Noise bylaws often make it impossible for people to use such vehicles on private property, he added.

Anyone who witnesses motorized vehicles in public parks should collect as many details as possible about the incident and call the RCMP at 250-537-5555 or the PARC office at 250-537-4448.

CRD WATER

Highland Water System scum irks paying residents

Water woes endure for north-end homeowners

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents within the Highland Water System can anticipate periods of low water pressure, brown water and an intermittent water supply until Dec. 6.

The inconvenience is a result of work to fix a lingering problem that's left many north end residents scratching their heads in disbelief during the

past month.

"It started really badly on Oct. 18 and it was just brownish water coming out of the tap," said Lisa Taylor-Billwiller, a resident of Lepage Road. "Right now it's fine; it's bleached as bleached can be, but the water colour is fine."

Having had enough of her water's brown discoloration and bleach bouquet, Taylor-Billwiller has begun to buy water by the jug for her family at a local grocery store. That doesn't make it any easier for

her or the four children in her home who have learned to carefully time their showers to avoid any nasty surprises.

The unwelcome sediments coming through her taps leave behind a residue that's tough to clean and she's already had to change many of the filters in her kitchen and washrooms.

"It's gross. What's left behind is an oily smudge that's not easy to get off," she said. "It's becoming really awful."

In the longer term, the Taylor-Billwiller household worries

about renewing the mortgage on a home with such an inconsistent water supply.

"This is our lifeline," she said.

A notice posted on mail boxes across the Highland Water System by Capital Regional District workers traces the problem to a reservoir partway up Trincome Heights. The rapid flow of water needed to complete the weekly backwash cycle for the district's recently upgraded treatment plant is said to be sending sediment-laden brown water to many of the district's 250 house-

holds.

"CRD staff are currently gearing up to clean and inspect the reservoir. This work should be finished by Dec. 6, 2013 and should resolve the problem," reads the notice.

The Highland Water System supplies water from St. Mary Lake to properties along Maliview, Hedger, Whims, Westcott, Ensilwood, Lepage, Fairway, Southbank, Trincome Heights and Lawnhill roads.

A CRD spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Access to cancer treatment made easier with Comfy Kids program

Subaru's car service aids cancer treatment trips for youth

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Families bringing their children to Vancouver for cancer treatments have one less detail to worry about thanks to a car service provided by Saunders Subaru and other community sponsors.

Launched in April 2013, Comfy Kids provides a top-of-the-line Subaru Forester so that those travelling to BC Children's Hospital from lower Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands have a comfortable place to complete the journey. Each child also receives his or her own handmade quilt made by Christen Shipton in Shirley, B.C. through Quilts for Kids.

"When the parents are first told [their child has cancer] they're absolutely lost," said Dave Saunders, who helped launch the Comfy Kids program from his family's Subaru dealership in Colwood.

"They need someone there to support them, they need the community to support them, and the community is stepping up. It's pretty cool to be a part of."

Seven island families have benefitted from the program since its launch. As many as 25 to 30 children in the region are estimated to be in active treatment, as well as 100 patients needing long-term or follow-up care.

"It's just peace of mind," Saunders said. "Salt Spring families will know first hand the amount of germs that are associated with that kind of travel. You can imagine that an immune system that's been compromised by chemotherapy and radiation — they don't have an immune system."

With heated seats, all the "bells and whistles," and full



Comfy Kids program logo

cleaning service after every trip, the use of the car provides a welcome refuge from the less sanitary ferry environment.

Saunders recalls the official Comfy Kids launch as a powerful moment. As soon as the car program was announced, other business owners stood up to offer their donations of fuel, insurance and fares. Harbour Air is offering flights for families who have to make emergency trips.

"They need someone there to support them, they need the community to support them, and the community is stepping up. It's pretty cool to be a part of."

DAVE SAUNDERS
Saunders Subaru

Advocacy for the families of children with cancer is another part of the picture, one that Saunders has been invested in since his days as the mayor of Colwood. He also has a personal connection to the issue, having watched friends go through the process with their five-year-old child.

The Communities Helping Families Initiative, which was introduced together with Comfy Kids in April, will work to improve health services for children in the island region starting with a full-time oncologist to serve a local clinic. Saunders said Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority) has so far failed to live up to a promise to fund that position.

"The program continues to improve, but certainly it has a long way to go," he said.

"The parents are concentrating on keeping the child as well as and comfortable as they can, and they shouldn't have to lobby the government for a simple oncology clinic."

Major fundraising initiatives are aimed at finding permanent funding and the infrastructure to support Vancouver Island's patient-parent liaison advocate position with the B.C. Childhood Cancer Parents Association, which is currently served by Susan Kerr.

Other concerns of the Communities Helping Families Initiative include lobbying the province to fund the liquid feeding supplies that child cancer patients need at home — mouth sores are common for those undergoing chemotherapy, making regular food difficult. While some provinces cover the cost of this food for children, B.C. does not, and some families can't afford the expensive liquid product.

"BC Children's tries to supply as much as they can, but they can't cover everything," Saunders said.

Anyone who would like to sign up for the Comfy Kids car should contact Saunders at 1-888-898-9911 or email dave@saunderssubaru.com. To connect with parent advocate Susan Kerr and learn about resources available to parents in the Vancouver Island region, contact s.kerr@bcccpa.org.

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OPINION



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 Bronze - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Ad Campaign, Collaborative (Leanne Brunelle)



EDITORIAL

Give us shelter

The folks at Salt Spring Island Community Services don't ask for much.

They're too busy helping the Gulf Islands' most vulnerable citizens and implementing programs that improve the lives of families and seniors to take the time to draw attention to themselves or the needs of the organization they represent.

So when SSICS executive director Rob Grant stands up and asks for help, we know there's something to it. That was the case a few years ago when the food bank faced a crisis situation, and it appears to be the case now, as SSICS faces another shortfall in government funding to operate its cold-weather emergency shelter.

BC Housing provides the \$600 per night required to cover costs of opening the facility on SSICS property for a 14-hour period when it deems the weather poor enough to endanger the lives of people who have no shelter. But its urban-centred criteria don't fit the rural landscape, where it can take weeks for outdoor camps to be dry enough for habitation after a significant period of rain or snow.

THE ISSUE:

Emergency shelter funding

WE SAY:

Support needed from community

men and women. BC Housing funds don't cover heat (ironically), building maintenance or the coordinator's planning time.

When Salt Spring's shelter usage is compared with that of the Lower Mainland and the rest of B.C., the disparity is even more startling. Some 21,100 extreme weather spaces were used last year in B.C. Of those, 1,975 — or nine per cent — were on Salt Spring Island. In the Lower Mainland, the number was 4,013.

Salt Spring's relatively high homeless population has been documented in the past and is obviously a factor in shelter demand. Another reason is the island's lack of emergency and transition housing options compared to other communities of its size or larger.

Grant and others at SSICS are working on a longer-term emergency housing solution, but for now, during this winter season, they need community funding to open the shelter for 20 to 40 more nights. Our story on page 3 in this week's paper provides a breakdown of the \$600-per-night cost and some operating details.

Grant may be a busy man, but dealing with this issue is a priority and he is available to provide more information or to accept proposals for funding.



VIEWPOINT by Donald McLennan

Canada's policy in Iran out of step

I served as Canada's ambassador in Iran for three years, 1993-1996.

A pronounced streak of thuggery ran though the Iranian regime at that time. Iranian security forces stole the Canadian Embassy's diplomatic mail; Iranian customs authorities blocked our diplomatic shipments; and Iranian intelligence agencies regularly terrorized and interrogated selected members of our local embassy staff. Western embassies were periodically the target of violent incidents: shots were fired through the office window of the British charge d'affaires; grenades were tossed into the garden of the French ambassador.

The traditional role of a diplomat is to seek ways to build closer and more cordial relations. However, in my case, my primary function was to make it abundantly clear to the Iranian regime that Canada objected in every way to Iran's human rights record, its support for terrorist groups in the Middle East, its provocative nuclear program and its lack of respect for the democratic process. Bilateral diplomatic relations between our two countries were everything but cordial, however, the dialogue was ongoing. I have never seen myself as being soft on Iran. But recent developments leave me with misgivings.

In September 2012, Canada severed diplomatic relations with Iran, closed our embassy in Tehran and expelled all Iranian diplomats serving in Ottawa. This sudden and unexpected action stands in stark contrast to the Canadian reaction to the Iranian revolution; at that time, the Conservative government decided Canada should maintain its presence in Iran and under the courageous leadership of ambassador Ken Taylor, we saved several American potential

hostages. After Taylor departed Iran with the American diplomats, we closed our embassy for a period. However, we did not sever diplomatic relations and left the door open to an eventual resumption of ties 10 years later.

Today, Canada no longer has the ability to communicate directly with Iran's government in Tehran. We no longer have Canadian diplomats following political developments within the country and using their local contacts and savvy to assess how Iranian policy continues to evolve.

Canada no longer has the ability to communicate directly with Iran's government in Tehran.

Within 10 months of Canada's breaking relations with Tehran, Hassan Rouhani was elected as Iran's new reform-minded President. While our western allies including the United States began to see possibilities for doing business with the new Iranian regime, Canada professed to adopt a "wait and see" attitude. When President Rouhani visited the UN in New York and expressed a willingness to re-open dialogue with the USA, Canada's Foreign Minister John Baird countered with bombast and a "wait and see" attitude. When six world powers including Canada's closest allies struck a historic deal with Iran to curb Iran's nuclear program, Minister Baird responded with deep skepticism and a "wait and see" attitude.

Canadian policy towards Iran is out of step with that of our allies; it is wholly out of sync with Canada's traditional role as an honest broker by reducing opportunities for diplomatic dialogue. As for John Baird's "wait and see" stance, you can't see much with your head buried in the sand or while wearing ideological blinkers.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident and retired diplomat.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

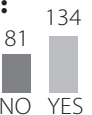
Does the revised Bullock Lake plan address water concerns?

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Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is it time for a bridge to Vancouver Island?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Even after the cuts, the system will still be unaffordable, unsustainable and spiralling into deeper trouble."

BRIAN HOLLINGSHEAD, SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS FAC CHAIR

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How do you get ready for the holiday season?



JENNIFER BARNES
Just being with family.



ANDY GUEST
My wife starts to make her own cards in early summer. Now we need to find a way to label and ship all 400 of them.



DAVID MALCOLM
I'm not a big celebrator. It doesn't change much for me.



MARC RAINVILLE
I usually go to Ikea, buy the corniest things they have on the shelf and proudly display them.



OCEANEL DELPORN
By mentally preparing for the in-laws.

Letters to the editor

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

Logic defied

Regarding the BC Ferries cuts and changes in service, Transportation Minister Todd Stone is quoted as saying, "Everybody has to come to the table and do their part."

From recent developments and changes, it appears that this does not include the ferry executives or the BC Ferry Commission, who are part of the ongoing problem but are not sharing in the solutions.

It is quite apparent that the executives and the ferry board are not all that competent, yet receive exorbitant remuneration in spite of their inability to

run the ferry system efficiently. If they were also "coming to the table" with the rest of us, their salaries would be reduced to what they deserve, not what the Liberal government approves. While it might not solve the problem, it would go a long way to setting an example and having the minister responsible saying what he means.

Seniors, who only travel on the quiet days of the week (Monday to Thursday), are a major expense to the ferry corporation, yet according to BC Ferries CEO Mike Corrigan, ferry employees, who get free travel for themselves and their vehicles seven days a week do not present the

same deficit. That logic defies all common sense and to think this joker is getting about \$600,000 a year at our expense!

Placing slot machines on a ferry, which caters to families, is a dismal idea and is inherent with many a problem. We already have enough gambling facilities available throughout the Lower Mainland and we don't need more to be run by ill-prepared ferry employees and management.

What next, liquor service that would also be profitable in spite of offending a few passengers?

JOHN CALLAS,
SALT SPRING

Tables turned

The following is an open letter to Premier Christy Clark and Minister Bill Bennett, filed with the Driftwood for publication.

In order for the provincial government to save money I am making the following recommendations:

- Make the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure a self-sustaining, private corporation.
- Close the Sea to Sky highway, the Port Mann Bridge, the Golden Ears Bridge and the Okanagan Lake Bridge from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. This will save wear and tear on the infrastructure, maintenance

and snow-clearing costs, policing costs and reduce health-care costs by reducing accidents. Residents of Whistler, Squamish, Lions Bay, Westbank, etc. will just have to get used to not having 24-hour access to major centres. If successful this could be expanded to all bridges in the future.

- Close the Coquihalla during the winter months. No one should have to pay for all that snow clearing.
- Charge a toll on all roads so that the users of those roads pay for their maintenance and repairs. Using BC Ferries fares as an example, that would be \$1.15 per kilometre for major routes per car and driver plus 35 cents per passenger per

kilometre. On less travelled routes this would vary from \$3.65 to \$6.50 per kilometre for car and driver and \$1.20 to \$2.20 per passenger per kilometre. In this way users pay for the transportation infrastructure that they require in an even-handed way across the province.

If anyone complains that there were government roads and bridges when they moved there and they expected the service to continue, well, times change and money is tight. You chose to live where you do, so get over it.

CAROLE EYLES,
FULFORD

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Magical ag community vision needs support

BY BRIAN BRETT

For the last six decades we have been undergoing the greatest food experiment in history. And we are the guinea pigs as much as the food we eat.

Not only is corporate agri-business devastating bee populations, creating super weeds and inflicting cruel treatment on livestock, even organic food is becoming dangerous on the "Big Organic" farms. One organic farm alone controls 80 per cent of all lettuce sales in North America. On that scale things can go badly wrong.

According to a 2009 study, modern hybrid vegetables contain almost half the nutritional minerals their ancestors supplied 50 years ago.

Nearly all processed foods contain genetically modified ingredients today. GMO potatoes (and your corn chips) are technically pesticides.

It's becoming more apparent that our lack of contact with the "good bacteria" of the world, along with the dangerous potential of so many food additives, is destroying the immune systems of our children, breeding near-epidemic asthma and allergies.

Fortunately, Salt Spring Island is famous for its local food.

It's the home of our own Agricultural Alliance, several heritage seed companies, including Salt Spring Seeds, and almost every island farmer is organic, even if not registered organic. Already the new community farmland is being used. Our Saturday market is

legendary across Canada, and our citizens will pay the higher price that lovingly produced nutritious food demands. Our cheeses are famous.

Our grocers stock local produce when they can get it. But one also stocks the beef from the Alberta factory that processes 6,000 beef a day (where the last toxic bacterial beef outbreak occurred), though it is now operating under different management and name. But frankly, where else can we find continuous local meat when it's been driven out of production by new Draconian regulations?

The more local food we buy the more local food will be produced more cheaply and the prices will stabilize in our stores. If you want to live in a magical agricultural community like Salt Spring Island you need to support it.

The great regulatory disaster of 2004 devastated farming communities. Salt Spring lamb was once the most famous in the world. I believe we went from thousands of lambs down to several hundred. Though more lambs are now being grown again — the population appears to be doubling in one year, thanks mostly to the new abattoir's appearance.

In 2004 local food and local living were dealt a brutal blow by a stream of panics over avian flu, BSE, and the new feedlot 1057:H7 e. coli that can be fatal. Every pandemic in the decade was spawned in the factory farms system.

Our government's solution? Create harsh new regulations that benefited the factory

slaughterhouses and drove hundreds of the small abattoirs across Canada out of business. At least all meat is inspected now, though to my knowledge there never has been a serious problem with toxic livestock in Salt Spring's history. The loss of small farms and their stock affected everything from declining manure availability to the loss of migratory bird habitat.

Salt Spring is one of many communities attempting to protect its agricultural base. And this is why we, vegetarians and carnivores alike, rallied round the Agricultural Alliance's building of our new abattoir. We raised more than enough for our expected costs, but then our intended "movable abattoir" was struck with enormous extra expenses and ludicrous regulations. It's hard not to groan at how much we had to pay for industrial foundations for our movable abattoir, and for earthquake resistant four-foot pilings for a small livestock corral.

Still, before growing angry, we should note that our local inspectors have been good to the project. They've gone out of their way to help it survive the ministries of silly regulations that discourage small, local producers. It's the agri-business inspired regulations and the new building rules that are ludicrous, not the inspectors. They don't have a choice.

Meanwhile, volunteers (including vegetarians) have stepped into the breach. Remember, the abattoir is a community-owned non-profit organization whose goal is to be debt-free.

The abattoir is working! And though its services to farmers need more fine tuning, it's improving weekly. Already, livestock production on the island is doubling. I remember my early island days of fields of gambolling lambs, heritage cattle and pigs, and crazy flocks of exotic chickens, turkeys, and ducks and geese. It will happen again. Just take a walk in Ruckle Park and watch the twilight flight of the turkeys to roost in the trees. It's beautiful.

Congratulations to those who have struggled so long and hard to feed us so well. The Agricultural Alliance still needs money to pay off the unforeseen debts and the now independently operated abattoir is fine-tuning the slaughter costs, especially for poultry. These extra expenses need to be covered. Come to the fundraiser. Help your community. Help your children develop a real relationship with real food. Support our fields, our orchards, and the Agricultural Alliance this weekend, and beyond this weekend!

Nov. 30, local food dinner at six (vegetarian plates included). The Farmers' Institute. The fundraiser features a silent auction. Valdy will be there, the Fiddlers' Hatchery, and more, and I will be reading a few of my food poems. It should be fun and a good deed simultaneously.

The writer is a Salt Spring grower and author of Trauma Farm and a forthcoming collection of food poems. All opinions are his own.

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Skeptical

Vows are for weddings; change is needed on the fire board.

Forgive me if I am a bit jaded with elected officials pleading mea culpa and promising attitudinal and behavioural reversals in the near future ("Fire board vows new approach," Nov. 20 Driftwood). We have been inundated with our representatives at both the national and local levels saying, "I am sincerely, sincerely, sincerely sorry and I will never do it again." Change is harder than just talking about it.

So when our very own fire trustees say that they "are now listening" and "we are looking at everything," one has a glimmer of hope, only to have it dashed on the rocks of reality when they refuse to open the meeting up and accept a submission from not one but two groups with concerns, because "they did not meet the time deadline for the meeting" and then at the meeting one submission was blocked because "all of the signatories to the

MORE LETTERS

submission were not present."

Once again the business of the meeting was completely finished and the meeting adjourned before any member of the public was allowed to participate. Sorry, not good enough!

Not only was the referendum result a "no" vote for the borrowing bylaw; it was also a direct message to the board that they are out of touch with the needs and concerns of the community.

So what now? We need some real change; new board members, a new meeting style with discussion of all agenda items open to input from the public, a new process to choose a building committee that actually represents the whole community and not just the firefighters. Is this current board able and willing to make the changes necessary for this community to move forward? I have my doubts and I am not alone.

DARLENE STEELE,
SALT SPRING

Rethink ferry cuts

The tolls for bridges on the mainland are significantly cheaper than the fares for coastal ferries; this is patently unfair. The fares for ferry travel should reflect the same formula as bridge tolls.

Furthermore, operating ferries is a governmental duty, and the priority should be on moving travellers efficiently with the onus on convenience and service to the traveller, and not on increasing profits by reducing services and scheduled routes.

The money currently being spent on salaries, holdbacks and bonuses to the 450 managers and upper ech-

elon of BC Ferries is ludicrous and borders on corruption.

Ferries are highways. The sole role of ferries must be to allow the population they serve to be able to conduct their lives without restriction, rather than the current model of creating profit for the province. If more people travelled on the ferries then more tourism dollars would flow, making this argument moot.

Increase routes and sailings, reduce fares, and keep the seniors discount where it is. Broader thinking will improve the current dilemma; cutting sailings, offering slot machines and jacking up prices will not.

ERIN JORY,
SALT SPRING

Pick your battles

In response to the "Why stomp on band" letter submitted by Chris Dixon in last week's paper: Agreed. To the HASSI board: Really?

By ruining something so minor but that gives so much joy, you are only confirming the rumours that Salt Springers are an entitled, hypocritical, pushy bunch of people. Pick your battles. Seriously.

DEREK TAMBOLINE,
SALT SPRING

American view of Rob Ford

My brother lives in Virginia and has, of course, heard of the Rob Ford fiasco. I thought I'd pass along an American's perspective. Here is an excerpt of a recent email I received from him:

"Americans are having some trouble believing a guy like Ford could actually be mayor of Toronto. We've always been able to trust Canadians to be exceedingly polite and civil — sort of like having a relative or friend who by association makes you look better. No matter how rude or

obnoxious or irrational people here can be, we've always been able to look north and see our steadfastly gracious neighbour and friend. Yeah, we might be whack jobs, but we live in a nice neighbourhood. That's what we used to believe, but now we're not so sure.

"Not even the USA, home of the Tea Party crazies who believe the book of Genesis should be taught as science in our schools, who think our president is a secret Muslim and isn't even an American citizen, who lately have been saying the rash of hurricanes and tornadoes worldwide is God's way of punishing us for allowing gay marriage — the list of incredible absurdities is endless — but, no, not even the nuthouse USA has produced anyone who can rival Mayor Ford for sheer craziness. Suffice to say he's marred Canada's heretofore spotless reputation. On the other hand, no doubt most Americans would thank Canada for his entertaining lunacy."

Footnote: I just read that The New York Daily News notes that in a new Forum research poll, Ford has a 42 per cent approval rating from Toronto voters. I guess Canada has its share of whack jobs, too.

LARRY NELSON,
SALT SPRING

Alzheimer's support

Last week in Salt Spring Says, one person was hoping to find a book on Alzheimer's at the Giant Book Sale.

The Alzheimer's and Caregivers' Support Group meets weekly on Wednesday at the seniors building across from Country Grocer.

We have a free library on dementia and caregiving. You do not have to join the group to borrow books.

MARGARET MONRO,
GROUP FACILITATOR,
55AC56

Red ribbon campaign gets rolling

BY SGI AIDS SOCIETY

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day, and the Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society is again placing boxes of red ribbons in many local shops, asking islanders to wear a red ribbon to honour the memory of the many who have died, and in support of those still living with HIV.

For over 30 years this global pandemic has wreaked havoc on the lives of millions of people around the world, and despite many advances in understanding and treating the virus that causes AIDS, there is still no cure or preventative vaccine, but there is hope. Today there are medications that suppress the HIV virus within the body, slowing its progression and making its transmission to others highly improbable.

For people in countries with widespread access to medications this has changed an HIV-positive diagnosis from an imminent death sentence into a long-term journey; a journey, nonetheless fraught with challenges, but at least one with the prospect of living productive and fulfilling lives.

The reality is much more tragic for the millions of affected people in other parts of the world where access to life-saving medications is limited.

With the memories of the dark, fear-filled, early days of the pandemic fading, and the slowing of the AIDS-related death toll from a tor-

rent to a trickle, many people today don't realize that this is still a major crisis, and one that even here in Canada directly impacts the lives of thousands of people and their families in the face of social stigmas and prejudices that are still, sadly, all too common in our society.

It has also resulted in many people of all walks of life becoming complacent about the risks and engaging in unsafe practices, fuelling a new wave of infections. In fact, of the more than 70,000 Canadians estimated to be HIV-positive, as many as a quarter of them don't even know they carry the virus, and therefore, don't know to seek support and treatment. It is those people who are most at risk of passing on the virus to others, thus perpetuating the problem.

By engaging the public in the discussion around HIV/AIDS, we can all be part of the solution. Knowledge is the best defence for people to avoid becoming HIV-positive. Access to treatment and support services is the best way for people living with HIV to thrive and prevent further transmission.

We are fortunate that B.C. is a world leader in the battle against HIV, however, living in smaller communities or rural areas can be isolating and a challenge to accessing services that are mainly based in the larger centres.

In 1992, a group of three Salt

Spring Islanders living with HIV got together and formed a support group that has grown each and every year. Due to the increasing involvement of our members in community awareness, education and fundraising, the Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society was formed in 2006.

Since then this peer-driven organization has been making a difference in the lives of islanders and some of the members have reached out beyond our shores to be involved in regional, national and international projects and initiatives. The recent launch of the new website and email — www.sgiias.org and info@sgias.org — is an exciting new avenue to expand the society's effectiveness moving forward.

Unlike most AIDS service organizations, which derive most of their funding through government grants, SGIAS has operated on a shoestring budget, supported mainly by generous donations from islanders and local businesses through initiatives like the Red Ribbon donation boxes and the Save-a-Tape program at Country Grocer. Our Save-a-Tape box number is 093.

As World AIDS Day approaches, please pick up a red ribbon to wear and consider giving a contribution to support the society's efforts via the countertop donation boxes that will be on display at many local shops for the next few weeks.



Islands Trust

Contract Opportunity Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Minute Taker

The Islands Trust has a contract opportunity for a minute taker on Salt Spring Island. The successful contractor will be positive, professional, efficient, and detail oriented with strong listening and communication skills. A good working knowledge of computers and MS Word is required along with a minimum typing speed of 60 words per minute.

Preference will be given to applicants who are residents of the Island and have previous administrative and minute taking experience. Applicants must supply their own computer and internet connection. Responsibilities may also include posting and delivery of notices upon request.

Applicants may review the standard minute taking contract by request to ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca. For more information please contact Regional Planning Manager, Leah Hartley at 250-538-5607.

To apply, email your resume and cover letter with subject line titled *Minute Taker* to: ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca. Applications will be received until 12:00 noon on Friday December 6, 2013.

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This year Wintercraft will be running the "Wintercraft wish list", a gift

registry where you can come in and pick out something wonderful for yourself and then send in someone to make it appear under your tree on Christmas day.

Wintercraft is open 10am-5pm, 7 days a week, from Friday November 29th until December 22ND at a festive Mahon Hall on Rainbow Road. Don't miss it!

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RANTS and Roses

Rants

A funeral wreath to those dressed in black walking on our roads at night. I am a 68-year-old grandmother who drives slowly and carefully. Despite this, now that winter hours have set in, I find myself regularly having near misses from hitting pedestrians dressed in black or dark colours. Please wear something white, or better yet, a reflective vest! J. Hammond

A very angry rant to the gathering of people and the rock band

playing at a location on Cusheon Lake Road on Saturday night and continuing on until 6:30 in the morning. I heard your booming bass drum all the way up Stewart Road at my house, which was also heard by my neighbours. Needless to say, my husband and I got very little sleep! What is wrong with you? You have got absolutely no consideration for people who live in the neighbourhood with your appalling electronic racket. The noise bylaw is in force at 11 p.m.! Maureen Neff

Roses

A fragrant bouquet of roses to Dr. Woodley and staff, Lady Minto staff, Salt Spring's ambulance staff, first responders, Meals on Wheels, Sendal and the volunteers for their compassionate care and love of our mom Dorothy Dodds. The Dodds family

A huge rainbow-coloured bunch of roses to Tim and John of Island Star Video and TJ Beans. These two men do so much for our community and I just want to remind people to tip their hats and say

thanks, should you meet them in passing. Getting up early to set up sound systems for community events is just one of the many acts of kindness and generosity they give to our community. Think back over the years how much they have done for us all. I am grateful they live here and I thank you both. Cherry Jensen

SSE PAC is spreadin' the love to all the fab people who got down and boogied with us at our Family Disco Dance Night. Special thanks to the cool cats that donated to our silent auction, baked or brought the desserts, and helped take the evening to the max! Catch ya'll on the flip side!

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



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Harbour authority structure and operations need to change

BY GREG MIDDLETON

After a lot of thought, reflection and research, I feel that some statements made at the annual general meeting of the harbour board cannot go unchallenged.

Board members repeatedly said, "It is a commercial fishing facility."

True, Centennial Dock is listed as a core commercial fishing facility, as is Kanaka and Fulford, yet those are all clearly community docks.

The board's own policy manual states that they are to provide facilities for "the commercial fish harvesters and the harbour users" and that these are to be "safe and accessible" and "responsive to the needs of the users."

The board will not even tell us how many licensed commercial fish boats there are and how many people hold commercial fishing licences.

When even an old and out-of-date membership list was provided, the designation of commercial, commercial fishing, community and business sector had been deleted.

A rough count shows that there are about 10 commercial fish boats, to 120 non-commercial community boats at Centennial, Kanaka and Fulford.

Nor do we want the commercial fish boats to leave. Some may be concerned that the fish boats are subsidized, paying about one-third what non-fish boats pay in moorage, but their presence helps make the dock a community dock.

The repeated threats that if we don't like the way they are running the docks then they will take their boats and the (implied) huge subsidies from the federal government's Small Craft Harbours and set up their own docks are just empty bully-boy threats to silence any opposition to their control.

The reality, from looking at the financial statements, is that the harbour authority gets very little money from Small Craft Harbours and the bulk comes from moorage.

No one is disputing that the

INDEPTH

board members (five commercial fishermen and three others) work hard, though how would we know? The board meetings are all behind closed doors and we get a brief summary once a year.

What is wanted is transparency and proper representation.

There was much misinformation and a lot of stonewalling at the general meeting. For example, contrary to what one board member said, the board does in fact have to review and rewrite their letters patent and bylaws and put them before the membership in 2014. There is a whole section of the Small Craft Harbours website dedicated to doing that to come into compliance with a new act of Parliament.

The board is supposed to be a hands-off policy-making body.

It is a perfect opportunity to expand the board and ease the workload by adding at least several new members and, or, to revamp the heavily weighted number of board members from the commercial fishing sector — five commercial fishermen to one community, one business and one commercial non-fishing is disproportionate.

The harbour authority docks, primarily Centennial and Kanaka, are community docks. They are part of a vibrant harbour that is the among the biggest economic drivers in Ganges. The docks and harbour users support the local fish harvesters, though few if any sell here. The docks bring tourists and accommodate people with water-only access on the other Gulf Islands, and they allow locals access to the water.

For most of the last year the harbour authority has tried to run the docks without a manager. (The person pointed out at the meeting as the manager is replacing the assistant manager who is off work injured. He has little real authority.)

The board is supposed to be a hands-off policy-making body. The day-to-day management, as defined by their own policy manual, is the job of the manager.

This summer, without a manager, employees did the best they could, revenues are down by \$50,000, which has to be a concern.

The board also admits they spent about \$30,000 in legal fees replacing a harbour manager most were happy with on the vague pretext of restructuring the management system, which they have still not really explained.

I say, get your house in order. I applaud the board for trying to make sure that the documents, which were in the office when the board began micromanaging things, are back in the office and available.

But they still need to update and vet the membership lists, for how can you say you've had elections when you've got dead people on your list and people who are clearly members not on the list.

Next, open the board meetings to the public and then make the board more accountable and representative.

The argument, as put forward at the AGM, that the board meetings "are too long" is not acceptable.

The harbour board and the harbour authority and their docks most be run as a community facility — open, transparent and accountable — with the fishermen as part of the community but only part, not the dominating force.

The writer is a retired journalist, a long-time boater and a member of the harbour association who still writes about boats and boating.

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Taking the lead on climate

BY JAN SLAKOV

A slogan on one of the placards at the Calgary "Defend our Climate, Defend Our Communities" event speaks volumes: Mother Earth Needs Us to Come Together.

Although damage from deforestation, burning fossil fuels and other causes of rising levels of greenhouse gases means terrible consequences are already "locked in," we must not give up. So far, the world's governments have failed to come up with a decent plan for preventing climate devastation, so it is up to us to take the lead.

As people gathered in 130 communities across Canada last Saturday to "defend our climate, defend our communities," the Conference of Parties 19 United Nations climate summit was underway in Warsaw. Yeb Sano of the Philippines spoke for his people, who are struggling in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, apparently the strongest storm ever to hit land.

"What my country is going through as a result of this extreme climate event is madness. The climate crisis is madness," he said.

He declared that he would fast in solidarity with his people, many of whom have spent days without food or even water.

Our MP, Elizabeth May, is also there, our only Opposition representative. She too is fasting, doing her utmost to "wake the fossil-addicted economic giants and spur them to action."

Many people speak as if there is no alternative to our addiction to fossil fuels. Not so. Stanford professor Mark

INDEPTH

Jacobson has shown that providing for our energy needs through 100 per cent renewables is feasible.

"Bottom line," he says, "in some towns, the goal of 100 per cent renewable energy power has already been accomplished. In some countries, this goal is very close to being accomplished. We can do this, if we set our minds to it."

And sometimes there are "gifts" that help us along the way. Just this fall passengers had the thrill of seeing a huge pod of white-sided dolphins swimming alongside their ferry. At an organizing meeting for Salt Spring's Nov. 16 rally, Briony Penn suggested the comment, "Welcome back" heard on a video of that dolphin-ferry encounter symbolized the emotional power that fuels the struggle to protect B.C.'s coast and to prevent runaway climate change. We love this place and its creatures; we know it is up to us to defend all this beauty.

The forces behind the fossil fuel push are enormous; they include mendacious PR, political parties that go "shopping for votes," failing to work together for the common good, and investor-state agreements that enable companies, even Chinese state-owned enterprises, to sue governments that pass laws to protect their people and the environment.

The tankers themselves are enormous. Trustee George Grams described how, when one goes through Trincomali

Channel where he lives, he can feel the vibrations in his home. Salt Springers can see how long the super-tankers are when they travel along Fulford-Ganges Road thanks to a series of signs placed there, to demonstrate the 400-metre-long length of those vessels.

We will need to work together as never before as we deal with such enormous threats.

We will need new leaders, people like Capt. Trevor Greene. Maybe you remember how, after an axe attack that cut into his brain, doctors told his fiancée, Debbie, that he would never come out of a coma. To make a wonderful story short, he left that coma behind years ago. His next book is titled *There is No Planet B: Promise and Peril in a Warming World*.

In an article, Greene explains, "The Canada I went overseas to fight for was a tolerant and open society, always striving to do the right thing . . . Today though, the government in Ottawa seems to want to throw all that out the window. . . I fear for the kind of world my daughter and son stand to inherit should we cave in to this oil-driven agenda."

Trevor Greene is coming to speak at ArtSpring on Jan. 11, at an event co-hosted by the Salt Spring Forum and the local Voice of Women for Peace group. It will be, I'm sure, an exceptional opportunity to learn more about what the power of love is capable of.

The writer is a Salt Spring climate activist.

Above and beyond

Dozens of roses to everyone who made Salt Spring Literacy's Giant Book Sale such a tremendous success this year! First of all to my team mates, without whom this wouldn't have been possible: Ed Walkner, book mover extraordinaire; Evelyn Smith, creative poster maker; Jill McIvor, who packed over 700 boxes of books; Judi Francis and Pat Anderson, who organized over 80 volunteers to work at the sale; and Wendy Vine, who organized all our sorters and volunteers for the drop-off days. You all went above and beyond and I am so grateful to you.

To all the volunteers who collected books, sorted books, cleaned books, priced books, moved boxes, packed and unpacked and repacked boxes, helped with the set up and take down, straightened books each day of the sale and did whatever else was asked of you — what an amazing group you are! Thank you for all your hard work.

To the Salt Spring Arts Council: Janet Halliwell, Charlotte Holmes and Stefanie Denz, thank you for partnering with us by creating a wonderful day of literary and musical events at Mahon Hall. We will start small and grow.

To all the generous book donors who were able to part with such wonderful books, we thank you, and hope you found lots at the sale to replace them.

To our terrific sponsors, many of whom have supported us for years now: the Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Country Grocer, the Farmers' Institute, Fulford Hall, the Driftwood, Island Savings, Laurie's Recycling, Rainbow Road Ribbons, Rock Salt, Salt Spring Coffee, Salt Spring Dairy, Thrifty's, TJ Beans, and TNT Signs.

A very special thank you to Ken Jackson and the board of the Greenwoods Foundation for providing us with such a fantastic space to sort and store all the books, in the nick of time — without you we might not have had a book sale this year!

And last but not least to all of you who supported Literacy by buying books this year — for yourself, your children, your family and your friends. Many of you came back every day — some two and three times a day! Some came from Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo. We thank you all, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

LYNNE JOHNSON
CHAIR, GIANT BOOK SALE,
SALT SPRING LITERACY

Meter-reading math is outrageous

The following is a letter to the British Columbia Utilities Commission filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY RAY PHILLIPS

I strongly urge you to reject the application of BC Hydro's request that you approve the imposition of an exorbitant fee of \$35 per month for customers wishing to retain their analogue electric meters on the basis that the proposed charges are unjustified and they fit the legal definition of extortion.

If the commission complies with the BC Hydro request, the individual members would be guilty of aiding and abetting the commission of a crime.

From published data, we are informed that from the contract signed with Corix to change over from analogue to smart meters, there are 1.8 million electric meters installed at homes and businesses served by BC Hydro, and there were 400 BC Hydro persons employed to read these analogue meters.

BC Hydro is requesting approval to charge customers who choose to keep their analogue meters, \$420 per annum, justifying those charges on the basis of increased cost of the on-site reading of those meters.

Simple mathematical calculations demonstrate the fallacy of BC Hydro's justification by applying the above well-publicized information.

If the costs of reading a meter is \$420 per annum per customer, and there are 1.8 million

meters to be read, that equals a total annual cost of \$756,000,000.

If it takes 400 employees to manually read the analogue meters, that works out to an annual cost of \$1.89 million per employee!

A generous allowance for reading those meters would be 5 per cent of the amount BC Hydro is seeking. The \$94,500 annual amount that results from this calculation should easily cover a generous salary and benefits package for the meter reader and ample funds for the capital and operating costs of their vehicles. Five per cent of \$420 yields an annual charge of \$21 or \$1.75 monthly.

The legal definition of extortion is "the obtaining of property from another induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear, or under colour of official right." (In this case, particular emphasis should be placed on the fear aspect of extortion).

It is clear that the proposed charges of \$420/year bear no relationship to the actual costs of having an on-site person read the meters every two months and that the threat of BC Hydro's proposal is a fear tactic to effectively coerce the affected persons into the acceptance of smart meters. I urge you to resist pressure from BC Hydro and reject approval of these outrageous fees.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident with a passion for politics.

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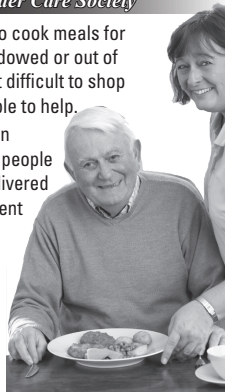
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MEALS ON WHEELS Greenwoods Elder Care Society

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MEALS ON WHEELS is a non profit organization dedicated to providing hot nutritional meals to people in need of some assistance 5 days a week. Delivered by volunteers to your home. The cost to the client is very reasonable.

If you or a family member are interested in receiving MEALS ON WHEELS or have any questions please contact:
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THEATRE REVIEW

Hard Times Hit Parade transports crowds



PHOTO AT LEFT BY DREW UNDERWOOD; PHOTO AT RIGHT BY JEN MACLELLAN

Professional and community dancers hit the floor at Fulford Hall for the Hard Times Hit Parade show presented by Graffiti Theatre of Salt Spring and Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret from Vancouver. At right is Lorill Gabriel as one of the Wandas.

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Three sold-out shows fill Fulford Hall

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Getting an audience out for live theatre on Salt Spring has been notoriously difficult in recent times, but 2013 has seen a resurgence and musical theatre seems to be leading the way.

This year saw local producers pull in full houses for Salt Spring Community Theatre's Harold and Maude, the Graffiti-backed community variety show Imaginelle, and the Pride centrepiece Mamma Priscilla's Cagey Revue, among others.

This weekend's three-night run of Hard Times Hit Parade — also brought to Salt Spring by Graffiti and featuring professional artists from Vancouver supported by local dancers, performing artists and musicians — was an exceptional cap to a stand-out year. Overcoming technical difficulties and seating challenges with admirable energy, the show completely captivated audiences with the high-quality performance led by the professional cast from East Vancouver's collective artist ensemble called Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret.

Kat Single-Dain, who is Dusty Flowerpot's founder and the show's director and choreographer, has one of those resumes that compel instant credibility. Seeing her Depression-era dance marathon in action proves her distinctions are entirely deserved.

The show was anchored by the narration of the MC "Rex" (Travis Bernhardt) and roller-skating referee Rollo (Christache Ross), who also recounted the action on radio for the "listeners at home." Both performers had excellent delivery, Bernhardt performing magic tricks amidst his spiel and Ross giving hilarious exchanges with the dance contestants he was interviewing.

The Dusty Flowerpot's core crew of dancers/actors were fantastic, including Salt

Spring native Nayana Filkow as the hopeful starlet Marla Dean.

It was also wonderful to see GISS dance teacher Sonia Langer in her element, paired up with a member of the Dusty Flowerpot group and performing the complicated demonstration piece.

Local dancers made up the bulk of the contest participants, creating an authentically busy dance floor for the start of the marathon and then dwindling as the fictional days progressed, leaving the professional crew at the end to battle it out with a dance-off.

Seeing [Kat Single-Dain's] Depression-era dance marathon in action proves her distinctions are entirely deserved.

One scene where the drooping dancers were inspected by flashlight was brilliantly beautiful, their shadows projected onto a screen, advancing the story without words. Fabricated newsreels meanwhile contributed to building an authentic atmosphere of the time period and were very funny.

The choreography was fun throughout, with snappier moves at the start of the marathon deteriorating to sluggish attempts and missed catches. Among the highlights was a great piece with the three lead male dancers, flipping their hats and each other.

By the middle of the show, the dancers looked truly exhausted; to carry out the choreography without seeming to and in slow motion must have been challenging.

Supporting the entire evening and giving a taste of how much better it must have been when live bands played at every

dance, Salt Spring's Swing Shift gave an impeccable performance. The big band sound resonated perfectly within the hall's packed quarters.

Also adding to the entertainment were quality acts by local artists, including Tara Grand, Amy Haysom, Rebecca Nygard and the Elvolutionaries Circus family. Janet Clouston had a hilarious cameo as the Minister of Health. Wonderful surprises came from Nygard herself in a send-up of Why Don't You Do Right? and a lovely rendition of Somewhere Over the Rainbow by Marly Daemon and Jesse Thom.

Costumes — particularly the blue gown created for Nygard by Sue Earle — were also superb.

Nygard said the end production value of the show was even higher than the ones produced in Vancouver — something that wouldn't have been possible without the huge volunteer contribution from the community. Potential disasters such as the seating glitches and technical problems with sound and lighting that delayed the start time on Friday and Saturday were handled well and affected the producers more than the audience.

Aside from the amazing production itself, Nygard said one of the best parts of the show was seeing the new relationships forged between the participants. The other was witnessing the truly immersive nature of the piece, which is epitomized by the dance party the cast throws in each community.

"The party afterward was actually an important part of the process," Nygard said.

"Seeing the participation grow beyond just the cast — I realized that was the whole point."

Without a doubt, Graffiti Theatre has proven its mandate for bringing together professional and amateur talent is hugely positive for everyone in the community, whether as performers or audience members. The jolt of collaborative creativity is just what the island needs.

Will Millar

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SEASONAL SALES: Lise Poitras and Lloyd Berntsen sell upcycled denim items at the Salt Spring United Church's Winterfaire event on Saturday. Poitras makes the clothing and other gifts from unwearable denim donated to the Lady Minto Thrift Shop. Christmas craft season has arrived on Salt Spring, along with a Santa's sleigh full of holiday events. See the Driftwood events calendar at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for a glance ahead to December activities.

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Real Estate

Is it better to list now or wait until spring

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.

This old adage is really true for real estate:
"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"

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Muscle Cramping:

A muscle cramp occurs when your muscle tightens and therefore shortens causing sudden and severe pain.

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Treating Muscle Cramps: Cramps usually go away on their own. Some tips to help speed the healing process. - Stop the activity - Gently stretch and massage the muscle cramp. - Stretch after exercise - If you sweat a lot, consider a sport drink that will replace lost sodium and electrolytes. - Eat more bananas, peaches, cheddar cheese, dried apricots, chocolates, prunes, seafood, cod liver, etc. To keep your potassium, magnesium and calcium concentration in your blood.

Cramps can also occur if you have been sitting to long in one place without moving a muscle, or even when you're just lying in bed. These cramps are not related to activity, but can be treated the same way.

If cramping happens often and becomes severe there could be other factors. Talk to a nutritionist about your diet, a pharmacist to go over medications that you are taken to check for compatibility, or visit your doctor for a check up.

Brenda Akerman

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Renovations

Doing renovations or additions can be a fluid undertaking. Once the "as-built" drawings have the desired changes overlaid and construction drawings are complete you have a plan and it's time to open the walls. This is when the nitty-gritty reality of the home is exposed.

You might find dry rot, insect damage, rodents, defective plumbing or wiring, insufficient insulation, structural shortcomings, etc. and decisions that have financial consequences will need to be made.

This is where experience in renovations has enormous value. You will want to ask:

What are the structural options that are available?

- Is the proposed solution simply dealing with a symptom and not addressing the underlying cause of the problem?
- What new toxins are being introduced to address the issue? Vs, what are the health impacts of leaving it as found?
- What is the financial impact of one route compared to another route?
- Are the billing practices of the renovator transparent or will you get an unexpected bill at the end of the project?
- Do you have control over the cost of the project?

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With shorter days and cold wet weather your vehicle's battery and charging system are working hard to keep up with increased demands from your lights, wipers, heater fan and rear defogger. Have your belts, battery and charging system tested before they leave you stranded some cold wet night. Antifreeze, hoses and heater systems are critical to keep your windshield clear for safe visibility.

Snow tires are recommended to be installed in sets of four. When the first snow flies, the demand is often so heavy that your first choice may not be available. Get your tires now and avoid the rush.

Fall is a good time to have a thorough inspection of all your vehicle systems performed and repairs made making for safe, worry free driving.

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ARTS & CRAFTS
Wintercraft doors open on Friday

Kick-off to craft sale season

release from the Salt Spring Arts Council. "Twelve new exhibitors are included this year, providing a great mix of the familiar and the new, with everything from ceramics, weaving, jewelry, food, cards and wood-turning to stained glass decorations, with price points to meet all budgets." Mahon Hall will operate a gift registry so that people can leave a list of items they would like and send family members in to shop for them.

It's Christmas craft season on Salt Spring Island. Wintercraft opens on Friday, Nov. 29 this year and runs until Dec. 22 at Mahon Hall on Rainbow Road.

"As ever it will be chock full of wonderful, unique and hand-made creations from over 90 artists and craftspeople based in the Gulf Islands," states a press

COMMUNITY MUSIC
Joy at ECU recital

BY MARGARET MACKENZIE
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, LADY MINTO HOSPITAL ECU

The effect of a live musical performance is powerful, as was evident at one of our tea concerts in Lady Minto Hospital's Extended Care Unit.

Connie Holmes, Anke Smeele, Lyle Eide and Alan Robertson were the singers. David Storm and Beth Ranney accompanied them on piano, and John Moore embellished with his saxophone.

The opening piece, A Song for the Asking, was pure beauty as the harmonic voices of Connie and Anke became one. Accompanied by Storm, this trio excelled through music from Hoffman to Newfoundland folk, and even a lullaby from their recent Golden Slumbers CD.

Robertson and Eide then joined the singing duo to complete a quartet with Ranney as accompanying pianist. The richness of the bass and tenor in harmony with the alto and soprano led us inward as they sang Mozart's Jubilate Deo. Tenderness ensued with the Latin proverb on love in Si Vis Amari.

The tempo then changed with waltz music from Strauss. Moore introduced his sax as Amazing Grace was sung and it became truly amazing when the residents joined in song.

In concluding, the lyrics revealed our humanness. As Time Goes By evoked romance, Over the Rainbow encompassed our dreams and Bye Bye Blackbird allowed us freedom.

It was a joy-filled afternoon, with the added pleasure of a birthday celebration.

CONCERTS

Concert band shares lyrical music season

One night only at ArtSpring this Saturday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Concert Band and music director Dawn Hage will present an evening of wind and brass music inspired by song, carols and chant called Do You Hear What I Hear? this Saturday night.

The Nov. 30 concert date means the holiday season is just around the bend, and the concert band will fittingly launch the festivities at ArtSpring with selections based on traditional carols. At the same time, arriving just on the cusp of the season, the program provides space for a more inclusive range of material.

"It's seasonal, but it's really wide-ranging and beautiful music that appeals to everyone," Hage said.

"Every single piece on the concert I love and will be completely enjoyable, but it's really eclectic. It will be connected by the beautiful vocal approach, by the energy of the season and by the instruments."

One of Hage's main sources of inspiration for putting the program together was the song Dry Your Tears, Afrika by John Williams. The concert band will perform the piece with special guests from the Viva Chorale! youth choir, singing under the direction of Debbi Toole.

"Our band is really looking forward to having them and showcasing them as guests, because they're a great little choir," Hage said.

As well as the rousing Williams piece, the two ensembles will pair for the title song Do You Hear What I Hear? In addition, youth soloist Owen Twaites will lead the band in an arrangement of Ave Maria and the choir will perform some of their own unaccompanied selections.

Having the opportunity to work with wind and voice together provided a platform for Hage to choose music based on the relationships between the two forms of expression. As she observed, there are in fact many similarities.

"The techniques you use in voice are identical to the ones you use to produce sound on a flute or a trumpet... I often think of playing wind as singing into the instrument," Hage said.

Russian Christmas

Music by Alfred Reed illustrates this relationship well. The piece was inspired by Eastern Orthodox liturgical music, which uses no instruments and relies on voice. To replicate that feeling, the musicians must play their instruments in an exceptionally lyrical manner.

Another lyrical-sounding instrumental piece is Percy Grainger's Irish Tune from County Derry. The traditional folk dance at the root of Grainger's work became the basis for many songs, including Oh Danny Boy.

German composer Michael Praetorius also took inspiration from traditional folk dances. The concert band will play three of his arrangements from a compendium of 300 he collected in 1612. They even created a lagerphone espe-

cially for one of the pieces — the folk instrument was recreated by attaching 192 bottle caps with nails to a wooden stick.

And finally, fans of Christmas music will certainly not be disappointed, with selections such as Rhapsody on Spanish Carols and the French carol Patapan.

"Music is such a big part of Christmas, and for some people it's the highlight of the season," Hage said.

"I've had many people tell me that the concert band starts the season for them."

The concert will be offered for one night only, with a 7:30 start time at ArtSpring on Saturday, Nov. 30. Tickets are available through ArtSpring's box office and online ticketing service.

ON STAGE

Acclaimed cellist offers special night

Raphael Wallfisch among world's best

BY GEORGE SIPOS
ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Raphael Wallfisch, one of the greatest living cellists in the world, visits ArtSpring on Tuesday, Dec. 3 for a concert of music by Bach, Brahms, Debussy and Stravinsky.

So what, you say. What makes him so special?

For starters, he has played with all the major orchestras in the world, and has recorded every known work for solo cello, with the exception of the Elgar Cello Concerto which he has so far avoided out of respect for the great Jacqueline du Pré, whose recording he considers unsurpassable.

Wallfisch was born in post-war Britain from parents who were both musicians, his mother Anita Lasker-Wallfisch having survived Auschwitz because she was a cellist, an experience she subsequently narrated in her book *Inherit the Truth*.



Raphael Wallfisch

His parents kept this background from the young Raphael for quite a while so that he could approach music on its own terms, unaffected by the horrors that might otherwise

cling to it in a child's mind. He tells a charming story of one of his first memories:

"My parents used to put on a 78 of Janos Starker playing Kodaly's Solo Sonata when I was a baby, so his recording started as a babysitting service and eventually became an instructive one."

Wallfisch went on in due course to study in California with the great Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky before launching his solo career at age 24 by winning the Caspar Casando International Cello Competition in Florence in 1977.

Today he spends a significant part of his time teaching, with ongoing commitments at Zurich and Mainz. Last summer he spent a month at Cambridge teaching a number of the world's best young cellists, including Rylan Gajek from Salt Spring.

Wallfisch will be accompanied by pianist Rena Sharon, herself a distinguished international performer and member of the UBC Faculty of Music.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

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- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.

- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

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POETRY READING

Grief propels poets to reach core

Gane and Thorwaldson reading Nov. 30

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lorraine Gane and Joanne Thorwaldson, two Salt Spring poets bound by a surprising set of connections, will give a joint reading at the library on Saturday, Nov. 30.

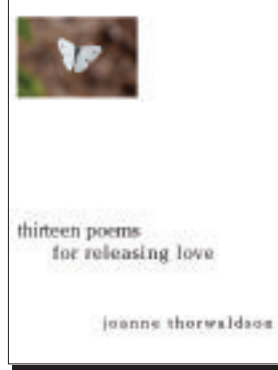
Called Love and Beauty: The Perfect Day of Poetry, it will see Thorwaldson read from "thirteen poems for releasing love," which was published by Leaf Press in Lantzville this spring and shortlisted for the 2013 bpNichol Chapbook Award. The book chronicles the death of her husband, who was losing his fight to cancer five years ago.

"I knew right away I'd write about it," Thorwaldson said, but the immediacy of grief and four children to care for caused her to wait some years. When she did feel ready, she brought some of her early poems to Gane, who encouraged her to stick with it.

"Her recommendations . . . for taking it deeper, for following the vein, were my companion for completion," Thorwaldson said.

Gane's most recent chapbook, Beauty and Beyond: Songs of Small Mercies, was also published by Leaf Press this spring. One of her earlier works provides an additional connection to Thorwaldson: Gane was shortlisted for the CBC literary awards and the League of Canadian Poets' chapbook contest for Even the Slightest Touch Thunders on My Skin (Black Moss Press, 2002), a series that developed from losing her fiancé to leukemia.

Gane's own experience of grief after the death of her partner, the need to write about it, and the time it took to make art from tragedy possible, gave her an ideal under-



Cover image of Joanne Thorwaldson's chapbook.

standing for guiding Thorwaldson through her 12-week writing seminar.

"It was very raw for me, and I had to allow that rawness," Gane said about the grief she had suffered.

Writing through such experiences is challenging but necessary, she added. "Otherwise the emotions just stay within you and they don't become transmuted."

Gane and Thorwaldson know that their stories aren't just personal but universal. It was therefore important for each of them to go through the transmutation process and share their stories with others as published work.

"It was difficult but also very necessary, because without that step then it can't be universal," Thorwaldson explained. "That's part of my healing — not putting it behind me but moving forward in continual transformation."

Despite her belief that the poems needed to be shared, Thorwaldson probably would have relied on self-publishing if not for Leaf Press

founder Ursula Vaira.

"I couldn't bear to send it out to anyone," she said.

Vaira had read an earlier chapbook Thorwaldson had published and asked to see the new manuscript. She consented to Thorwaldson's request not to change a thing, and even used a wider-than-usual page style to accommodate the poet's long lines.

"Leaf Press does a beautiful job. I think the production's gorgeous," Thorwaldson said.

Gane's new poems are a balance between the polarities of dark and light, with scenes from some of the world's most chaotic events contrasted with the beauty found in nature.

The chapbook is also a testament to the possibility of transformation, and to finding beauty in the face of unbelievable horror. One of her stanzas is about Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor whose wife, parents and close family members died in concentration camps. He created a philosophy that every situation has potential meaning and therefore, beauty.

Another poem was inspired by an email from a Japanese woman who survived the 2011 tsunami, who was able to find beauty in human connection amidst the wreckage.

"It's about seeing every situation we come across with new eyes," Gane said.

Despite the themes of darkness and sorrow, both poets ultimately bring the reader through to love, and their reading will therefore be a celebration. Vaira will be on hand for the date, which goes from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and will include refreshments.

Books by both women will be for sale at the event. Gane's poetry can also be found at Black Sheep Books and Salt Spring Books.

MUSIC & MUNCH

Bertz spearheads fifth winter-themed concert

Next week at All Saints

"For starters . . . Christmas was banned in the 1600s when the Reformation swept through the country declaring Christmas a Catholic holiday. And then there's Chanukah. While there was an influx of Jews into Scotland from the 11th-century onwards, their spiritual practice was kept private and the music remained traditional."

Music and Munch in December has become one of the most popular events of the season, with the tradition of presenting a program featuring singer and percussionist Rasma Bertz.

Her lifelong love of music making and her musicology degree from the University of Victoria plus studies at Robison College, Cambridge have made her an invaluable member of the island's musical community.

"One would think that designing a Scottish music winter program would be relatively simple and that certainly is the case if one is focusing on the purely Scottish celebration of Hogmanay, with its many and varied salutes to the greatest of all drinks — Uisghe bha!" explains a press release.

"Not so easy when the framework aims to include all of the celebrations in December, from the Scottish perspective.

Undeterred, Bertz has created a varied and beautiful program of music celebrating winter in Scotland. Helping her bring the music alive are five talented friends: Laurie Stubbs, bassoon; Sally John, viola; Karen Arney, keyboard; Briony Penn, whistle; and Kate McWilliams, percussion.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 will be Bertz' fifth annual concert, and it closes the Music and Munch season for 2013.

As always, the music is free and begins at 12:10 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea, followed by a delicious light lunch for \$5.50.

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SPCA Franey-SPCA cat campaign nears its goal

Fundraising effort enters final month

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With just over 30 days left in the Help Solve the Cat Crisis campaign, volunteers and staff from Salt Spring's BCSPCA branch have their goal within sight.

"We're close to our \$100,000 goal, yet still have a ways to go to meet the matching gift from Margaret Franey," said Sean Hogan, manager of the island's BCSPCA facility.

Earlier this fall, the Salt Spring BCSPCA received a \$50,000 commitment from Franey's estate. The money is being used to match all donations to the Salt Spring BCSPCA until Dec. 31. As of earlier this week, the campaign had amassed \$67,000 to help address cat overpopulation on the island.

Hogan said he considers the issue Salt Spring's most pressing animal welfare concern.

"We have had a great response," he added. "There are over 100 different donors who have signed up on our campaign [website]. We have also received significant gifts from individuals, including island residents Susan Bloom and Stan Shapiro."



Salt Spring BCSPCA manager Sean Hogan with Bubsy.

PHOTO BY ALLURA GILBERT

Shapiro made a donation in memory of his late wife, Roberta K. Shapiro. She was no stranger to the cat crisis on Salt Spring, having adopted a tuxedo cat named Hank from the branch in 2004. Hank's story eventually formed part of a children's book that Roberta wrote and published as a fundraiser for the BCSPCA.

"Roberta was grateful for all the cheer Hank brought into her life, so this gift in her memory toward the current and so very important BCSPCA project only seems appropriate," Shapiro said.

Hogan and BCSPCA volunteers launched the campaign in early October with two individual gifts

of \$10,000 from Bloom and a Vancouver couple, Jack and Ellie Maze. "These generous gifts, matched by Franey's, got the campaign rolling, inspiring dozens of people to make donations from \$10 to \$10,000," Hogan said.

"Some people also have shown initiative to do their own fundraising and make our campaign a focus. This has been so helpful and kind to animals on Salt Spring."

Family-friendly events are also set for Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply on Dec. 7 and Mouat's Hardware on Dec. 15.

"At Foxglove, families can have their pictures taken with local farm animals and at Mouat's people can bring their family pets for photos with Santa," Hogan said.

Not only will meeting the \$100,000 goal rescue and rehabilitate cats in distress, it will create the first Salt Spring Spay Neuter Intervention Program. Donations can be made at the BCSPCA's online fundraising site at www.give2gether.com/projects/SSICatCrisis/ or in person on weekdays between 12 and 4 p.m. at 540 Lower Ganges Rd.

Contact Hogan for more information at 250-537-2123 or 250-538-7618.

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DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Beguiling game proves easy to remember

November report

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Nov. 11 is a date to remember, of course. We remember the sacrifices made in war, and how that horror affects people everywhere.

Nevertheless, not forgetting the morning's ceremonies, 28 people on Salt Spring

went to Seniors that evening to make up seven full tables of duplicate bridge. That involves a different kind of remembering, and very different sacrifices, and those who succeeded best at those in the North/South group were George Laundry and Paul Retalack, with Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor next, followed by Boodie

BRIDGETRICKS

Arnott and Jacquie Stevulak. The East/West group was topped by Ted Baldwinson and Terry Clement, while Charles Kahn and Judy Norget came second, and third place went to April Wright

and Judy Nurse.

"No sun - no moon . . . November" was the gist of Thomas Hood's poem, and it applied to Nov. 18 because although the moon was full it was totally obscured by the gloom of heavy cloud and steady rain. Eight full tables showed up for bridge anyway, though, with the Laundry-Retalack pair brightly

repeating their North/South win.

Second to them were Blanche Poborsa and Patricia Brown, with newcomers Celia Duthie and Nick Hunt in the third spot. East/West winners were the Kahn-Norget couple, while Joanne Elizabeth and Jill Evans were second and Jennifer Quick and Gillian Mouat were third.

FESTIVE SEASON

Advent Sunday on its way

Music and more at All Saints

All Saints Anglican Church is inviting islanders to a special celebration of Advent Sunday beginning at 4 p.m. on Dec. 1.

"Advent means 'arrival' and is the name of the church season that precedes the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas," explains Rev. Richard Stetson. "Advent Sunday begins the new year of the church's calendar. It is observed at St. John's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, with an evening service of readings and music, similar to the more familiar Nine Lessons and Carols sung at King's College Chapel, Cambridge at Christmas."

The celebration at All Saints is a new addition to the festive season and will feature the All Saints Choir directed by David Storm and

All Saints' choir-in-residence, plus Bella Voce, the senior division of Viva Chorale! Youth directed by Deb Toole.

All Saints Choir will sing several liturgical portions of the service and the haunting traditional English Carol, This is the Truth Sent from Above. Bella Voce will sing several pieces including a Kenyan spiritual song, Wana Baraka; the African American spiritual Go Down Moses; and an Iroquois lullaby, Ho Ho Watanay.

The congregation will join in singing some of the customary hymns of the season as well as new songs and carols.

Readings from Scripture will intertwine with prayer, music and poetry by contemporary poets Peggy Shriver, David A. Redding and Pamela Cranston.

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what's on this week



Wed. Nov 27 **Thurs. Nov 28** **Fri. Nov 29** **Sat. Nov 30** **Sat. Nov 30** **Sun. Dec 1** **Tues. Dec 3**

ACTIVITIES

SensibleBC Petition. Sign the petition to decriminalize marijuana in B.C. In front of the library. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hospice 101. Salt Spring Hospice volunteers host an info session about their services and for potential volunteers. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 2 p.m.
Swing Dance. Every Wednesday evening. East Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Fox Trot, more. SSE Activity Centre. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Texas Holdem with Albert. Sign-up 6:30 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. The Local.
Comedy Improvisation. From beginners to pros ages 15 and up. With Jan Rabson and Bob Twaites. GISS Room 208. 7 p.m.
SS Film Festival Screening: The Sapphires. Set in the heady days of the late '60s when four young, talented singers from a remote Aboriginal mission are discovered by an unlikely talent scout. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic With Dave & Ross. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Water Council. Regular meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Spinners and Weavers Guild. Continuation of Colour workshop. Visitors welcome. ArtSpring. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
SensibleBC Petition. Sign the petition to decriminalize marijuana in B.C. In front of the library. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Stay & Play Drop-In. For parents/caregivers and their children age 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Pizza and a Beer night with the Canucks. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m.
Hawks, Eagles, Falcons and Owls. John Neville gives a presentation on the keystone group of predatory birds all across Canada. Co-sponsored by the Trail & Nature Club and the Salt Spring Conservancy. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7:30 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Soul Shakedown. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m.
Vaughn Fulford. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
SensibleBC Petition. Sign the petition to decriminalize marijuana in B.C. In front of the library. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Understanding Dyslexia Book Launch. With author Linda Siegel, award-winning professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education at UBC. Salt Spring Public Library. 4 to 5 p.m.
Salt Spring Governance Study Committee Meeting. Public welcome. Portlock Park Portable. 5 p.m.
SSI Watershed Protection Authority. First Annual Open House and Community Meeting. Lions Hall. 1 to 3:45 p.m.
Hockey and Club Night. DJ party after the game. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.
WinterCraft. Annual juried show and sale by Gulf Islands artisans opens today. Mahon Hall. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Abattoir Anniversary Fundraiser. Local foods served alongside entertainment from Vally, the Fiddler's Hatchery, and the Light Fantastic trio. With cash bar, silent auction, magic and other delights. Farmers' Institute. 6 to 10 p.m.
'Do You Hear What I Hear?' Salt Spring Concert Band presents an evening of music inspired by song, carols and chant. With special guests from Viva Chorale! Youth. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
The Barley Bros. The Local. 3:30 p.m.
Paul Mowbray. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
The Riverside. Live band with Tom Hooper, Aidan Miller and Matt Johnson. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Dad N' Me Pancake Breakfast. Drop-in with free pancakes for dads, uncles, grand-dads and their kids age 0-6. Family Place. 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Bullock Lake Cottages Open House. Hear the latest development proposal from Platform Properties at 315 Robinson Rd. 11:30 a.m.
Women of Faith Conference. Includes presentation on the big screen and potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome. Community Gospel Chapel. 8:30 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.
Bring Your Branches. Drop off for clean material only: branches for chipping. Golf Club Parking Lot. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Love and Beauty: The Perfect Day of Poetry. Readings by Salt Spring poets Joanne Thorwaldson and Lorraine Gane. Refreshments served. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 12:30 to 2 p.m.
Santa Fly-in. Santa flies into Ganges Harbour at 1 p.m., and is then transported by fire truck to Salt Spring Elementary's gymnasium to have photos taken with island children. Craft stations and treats for all.
ABUN*DANCE African Dance Class. South End Dojo. Beginners 1 to 2:15 p.m. Advanced 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.
Men's Soccer. Old Boys host Peninsula. Portlock Park. 2:15 p.m.
Glad's Soup Opening. Hot, wholesome soups served up for take-out during the winter. Opening event in time for light-up festivities. Regular hours begin Dec. 5. Glad's. 3 to 6 p.m.
Chili Cook-off. Second annual Christmas on Salt Spring chili competition. Centennial Park or Ganges fire hall. 4:30 to 5 p.m.
Christmas Light-up. Stroll Ganges village to see the decorated shop windows and businesses. Vote for your favourite in the Gulf Islands Driftwood's annual Christmas decorating contest. Ganges Village. 5 p.m. on.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Kristen Lewis Presents a Celebration of Dance. Children's Dance Workshop recital at 3 p.m.; Hope, Birth, Light Dance Performance at 4 p.m. ArtSpring.
Light Fantastic Trio. Ian Van Wyck, bass, Vlad Konik, accordion, and Carolyn Hatch, violin. Harbour House Restaurant. 6 to 9 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Plant-Based Live Nutrition. One-day event. Gaia Yoga. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Women's Soccer. Salt Spring United hosts Lakehill. GISS field. 12:30 p.m.
Sing-along Messiah Open Rehearsal. Public welcome to join Salt Spring Chamber Choir & Orchestra rehearsals for Dec. 15 show at Fulford Hall. Salt Spring Island United Church. 2 p.m.
Advent Celebration. Everyone welcome to Anglican Church celebration of music and readings. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Raphael Wallfisch, Cello & Rena Sharon, Piano. Top performers visit Salt Spring. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Stay & Play Drop-In. Parents and caregivers with their children ages 0-6. Family Place. Noon to 3 p.m.
Wed. Dec 4
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Winter's Light: Duan Nollaig. A Music & Munch presentation with Rasma Bertz & friends exploring December celebrations from Chanukah to Hogmanay. All Saints By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Life's Too Short to Drive a White Car! Book Launch Party. Join the woman behind Salt Spring's brightly painted car, author Heather Pardon, as she launches her latest book to Meet and Greet with coffee and treats. Cafe Talia. 7 p.m.
Swing Dance. See last Wednesday's listing.
Texas Holdem with Albert. See last Wednesday's listing.
Comedy Improvisation. See last Wednesday's listing.

Mon. Dec 2

ACTIVITIES
MLA Gary Holman Community Office Hours. First Monday of each month. To reserve an appointment, call toll-free 1-855-955-5711. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA
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THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
 Wed Nov 27 to Thurs Dec 5 7:00pm
 Sunday 3:00pm matinee and 7:00pm

CINEMA

• **The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** — Held over! Katniss has returned home after winning the Hunger Games with Peeta, but they must go on a "Victor's Tour" of the districts. Katniss senses that a rebellion is simmering, but the Capitol is still very much in control as President Snow prepares the 75th Annual Hunger Games, which could change Panem forever.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** opens at **Gallery 8** with a reception this Friday, Nov. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. The show runs through **Dec. 31** at the Grace Point gallery.
 • **Wintercraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council-sponsored show and sale of work by some 90 Gulf Islands artisans, opens Friday, Nov. 29 at **Mahon Hall**. It runs daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **until Dec. 22**.
 • **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** presents an exhibit of work called Shifty Shadows by Victoria artist **Bronwyn McMillin**. The show runs **until Dec. 5**.

- **The Fernwood Road Cafe** hosts an exhibit of amazing underwater photography of **Ken Sutherland** and **Ann Donahue**.
- Through December the **ArtSpring** lobby hosts Interpretations - Then and Now, paintings by League 181, consisting of artists **Don Hodgins, Peter Eyles, Herb Otto, Cary Ennis, Milan Stevulak, Wendy Wickland, Melanie Williamson** and **Judith Borbas**.
- Photos of work by stage designer **Susan Benson**, RCA, and film set designer **Jim Erickson**, SDSA, are on display in the **Salt Spring library** program room in **November**.
- Photographer **Avril Kirby** has an exhibit of work called Veils at the **Harbour House** through **November**.
- Paintings of the North by **Judith Currelly** is now showing at **Duthie Gallery**. Winter hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 250-537-9606.
- An exhibit of photos by **Ken Ketchum** and **Bob Rogers** is on display in the **ArtSpring** lobby during the month of **November**.
- **Kathie Smithson's** works in pastel are showing at **Cafe Talia** this month.

WinterCraft
 Show & Sale of work
 by Gulf Islands Artisans
 Presented by the SS Arts Council
 Friday, Nov. 29th to Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 10am - 5pm
 Mahon Hall

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PHOTOS BY AMBER OGILVIE

HOGGING THE ROAD: An escaped sow makes tracks down Vesuvius Bay Road last Thursday afternoon, causing a bit of a traffic jam and excitement in the process. See the Gulf Islands Driftwood Facebook page for more photos and a sty full of pig puns and comments.

Honour roll students announced

Gulf Islands Secondary School has recognized students who achieved academic excellence during the first term of the 2013-14 school year. Students on the Principal's List earned a 90 per cent average in all courses, with a minimum grade of 60 per cent required, and had satisfactory, good or excellent work habits in all classes. Honour Roll students earned an 80 per cent average in their courses, with the other Principal's List criteria also required.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

- Aaron Elsser
- Aidan Haigh
- Aina Yasue
- Alexandra Macdonald
- Allison Gaines
- Anya Bruhn
- Arielle Middleditch
- Berit Spreckelsen
- Blythe Wilde
- Connor Budd
- Dana Swan
- Daniel Kos
- Eliza Moat
- Ella MacQueen-Denz
- Emma Bishop
- Fianna Wilde
- Genevieve Lightfoot
- Gianni Martin
- Gwen Patrick
- Hannah Grant
- Hannah James
- Hannah Martens
- Heather Burdett
- Indigo Porebska-Smith
- Jacob Parfitt
- Jimmy Steel
- Jarod Sutherland
- Jenna Aston
- Jessica Schweighardt
- Jill Ackfeld
- Johanna Pape
- Junessa Sladen-Dew
- Kai Corley-Jory
- Kaja Dauelsberg
- Karl Slakov
- Keenan Nowak
- Kelly Fitzpatrick
- Kephra Beckett
- Kiara Johnston
- Lennon Wotzke
- Louis Everest
- Luisa Villa
- Maggie Birch
- Marijn Andringa
- Mark Camps
- Maya Cook
- Megan Brooke
- Molly James
- Nicholas Howe
- Noah Price-McGillivray
- Noah Sherrin
- Noal Balint
- Noor Ramley
- Norees Gasper
- Ocea Goddard
- Ocea Skrodolis

- Olivia Hayne
- Rabeah Meyer
- Becki Steel
- Rowan Landaiche
- Ryan Dixon
- Safiya Carroll-Labelle
- Sam Besley
- Sebastian Howe
- Shane Webster
- Shayce Johnston
- Sofia Pickstone
- Stephanie Hedler
- Tanner Smith
- Thiara Manriquez Correa
- Troy Wheadon-Rajala
- Zorah Wiltzen

HONOUR ROLL

- Aaryn Funk
- Aislinn Vasquez
- Alandra Lara-McLeod
- Alexander Graham
- Alexander Holiove
- Alexander MacKenzie
- Alise Millions-Colley
- Alison Macdonald
- Amanda Irwin
- Amber Tuttle
- Amrei Hunter
- Andre Ruckdaeschel
- Andrea Lee
- Andrew Buckley
- Andrew Cobban
- Andrew Sinclair
- Andrew Walker
- Anibal Galleguillos
- Anna Rithaler
- Antonia Huepkes
- Arthur Georgeson
- Atom Emery
- Austin Archer
- Bailey Chung
- Benjamin Cahill
- Billy George
- Blue Thomas
- Bradley Hoffman
- Brendan Elwell
- Brenna McIntyre
- Brittany McAree
- Bryogan Renwick-Shields
- Brynn Powelson
- Carly Hunsberger
- Carly Stunder
- Carson Burdett
- Catelyn Creswick
- Charlie Beaver
- Christina Basarab

- Cody Clayton
- Connor Jurgensen
- Crystal Wang
- Daniel Irving
- Daniela Wendler
- David Chan
- David Kang
- Devan Hanson
- Drew Light
- Dylan Shaver
- Emily Fraser
- Emma Kyle
- Eric Cermack
- Eric Weatherby
- Erik Perrins
- Forest Junker-Allen
- Gabriel Simmer
- Gunnar Rasmussen
- Hallah Lloyd-DeWolfe
- Hamish Walde
- Hana Goto
- Haruno Inoue
- Heather Reynolds
- Hendrik Hebauf
- Holly Thorson
- Iminah Amal-Hill
- Isabella Carlyle
- Isaiah Halliday
- Jackson Maron
- Jackson Walde
- Jacob Adelson
- Jacob Richardson
- Jade Barnard
- Jade Beauvais
- Jade Fulawka
- Jake Gordon
- Jana Wallberg
- Jasmine Cooper
- Jennifer Glover
- Jennifer Hernandez-Pinedo
- Jessica Kliaman
- Jonah Baker
- Julia Sutherland
- June Kano
- K'sana Wood Lynes-Ford
- Karl Hoepfner
- Kasea Campbell
- Kathryn Walker
- Kelsea Tippett
- Kevin Marr
- Kyle Dow
- Larissa Andrews
- Laura Klemm
- Laura Schack
- Leaf Lund
- Liam Sinclair

- Liam Wright
- Lily Kingscote
- Lily Zazalak
- Lukas Wenzel
- Madelaine Cooper-Smith
- Maia Beauvais
- Maja Nordine
- Mana Sato
- Marcus Lee
- Margarathe Von der Luehe
- Maria-Sarah Specht
- Marilia Penas Destre Silva
- Mark Smith
- Matthew Menard
- Michaela Appel
- Miyu Nonaka
- Molly O'Donnell
- Monica George
- Nadeen Whitcutt
- Naeco Palm
- Narue Nakabayashi
- Nathaniel Kordyback
- Niamh Casey
- Nicholas Honour
- Nigel Bisnar
- Nixie Palm
- Olivia McDaniel Feilden
- Owen Quiring
- Patrick Little
- Paul Charowsky
- Riley Kirkpatrick
- Rocio Contreras
- Rowyn George
- Sam Katala
- Sam Montalbetti
- Samantha Jensson
- Sarah Kueppers
- Sarah Noyes
- Sebastian Hermani
- Shane Hooper
- Shawn Thomson
- Sierra Steele
- Sky Losier
- Sophia Douglas
- Sophie Bock
- Svea Anstis
- Tai Levitt
- Taylor Jensen
- Taylor Lundy
- Taylor Montalbetti
- Teija Baxter
- Tim Berninger
- William Fraser
- Wyatt Scheres
- Zoe Hasenfratz
- Zoe Savage

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Christmas on Salt Spring



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Jana's Bake Shop	Elderberry Yarns
The Local	Treasures of the Heart
Salt Spring Sound	Ganges Stationery
SS Soapworks	Rainbow Trading
Evolve Studios	Amber Casa
DMGI Boutique	Hen & Chicks
Fever Tree	Waterfront Gallery
Frankly Scarlet	Curio
Love My Kitchen	Jill Louise Campbell Gallery B
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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

ILLUMINATION: Michael Dios and Judith Miazga Dios reflect at the Transgender Day of Remembrance candlelight vigil at Centennial Park on Nov. 20. The GLOSSI-sponsored event brought attention to the murder of transgendered people around the world.

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Monthly T&N schedule released

December events outlined

Presentations

Nov. 28: If you'd like to know more about hawks, eagles, falcons and owls, this evening will be a great opportunity to hear John Neville, known as "Canada's Bird Song Man." John will combine his amazing recordings, vast birding knowledge and slides at a social co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and the Salt Spring Conservancy. The talk begins at 7:30 p.m. in the United Church hall.

Christmas Luncheon

Dec. 10: Members are invited to enjoy our Christmas luncheon at Calvin's Bistro. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for drinks and socializing. (Cash only, no-host bar) Seating and lunch begins at 12:30.

Tickets are \$25 per person (cash or cheque) and can be purchased at Salt Spring Soapworks. Only 55 tickets are available and they must be purchased before noon on Dec. 7.

Please choose an appetizer and main course when purchasing tickets. The menu and other information can be found on the club website at www.saltspringtnc.ca.

Hikers

Dec. 3: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderate hike in a loop from the top corner of the eco-reserve on Mount Maxwell. We will hike part way down the south face of Mount Maxwell, across to the mines, back up and along the rim trail to our starting point. It will include some steep sections and off-trail areas. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or join at the start of Cranberry Road at 9:50 a.m.

Dec. 10: Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. for a short walk before the Christmas lunch.

Walkers

Dec. 3: John Flannagan will lead a south-end walk to the waterfall. Fairly steep and probably slippery in places. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or Drummond Park at 10:15 a.m.

Dec. 10: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. for a short walk before the Christmas lunch.

Ramblers

Rain or shine, the Ramblers meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park.

Dec. 3: Ramble with Frauke along Epron Road. Potluck lunch at 221 Byron Rd. Bring a little bit of extra lunch to share with a friend.

Dec. 10: There will be a short Ganges before lunch.

BIRDS

Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 15

New counters always welcome to participate

BY TIM MARCHANT
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Bird Studies Canada, in association with the Audubon Society, is once again organizing the annual Christmas Bird Count, now in its 114th year.

The Americas are broken down into circles, each 24 kilometres (15 miles) in diameter. Each circle organizes a group of counters who tally as many birds as they see or hear in one chosen day.

Last year 13,000 counters participated across Canada in 418 circle groups. Counts take place across the United States, Mexico, Central America and now parts of South America

as well. They have produced a significant historical record of bird populations that is used by scientists and environmentalists.

Salt Spring organizes into 12 zones. Our island total is around 100 counters each year. Each counter or small group agrees in advance with their zone co-ordinator which road or beach they will cover. Each also sets their own schedule. Counters spend anywhere from an hour to a number of hours counting with friends and marking their checklists. Some counters stay home and do a backyard "feeder count."

This year, for the third year, the day chosen is Dec. 15, the third Sunday in December. Each year some counters can't participate due to schedule conflicts, and each year we welcome

new counters.

If you would like to help count on Sunday, Dec. 15, please send an email to me at tim@villagecobbler.ca or leave a note at the Village Cobbler shop in Ganges with your name and contact information. All of our zones — north, central and south — could use another hand or two.

Participation costs nothing and is open to all. Beginning counters are paired with more experienced counters to help them build their confidence and experience, so don't be shy, it is always fun. Blank checklists are provided, and great experiences are shared.

For more information about the event in general, see the Bird Studies Canada website at www.bsc-eoc.org.

BC Coastal Ferries Community Engagement November 18 to December 20, 2013

The BC Coastal Ferry Service has been wrestling with cost pressures for more than 20 years which, if not addressed, could threaten the sustainability of the entire system.

Accordingly, the Province has engaged coastal communities and ferry users from across the province on strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of the coastal ferry network. The Province will undertake a further round of community engagement in 2013 following a province-wide consultation in 2012.

How Input Will Be Used

Input received through the community engagement process will be compiled and presented to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Ferries as they plan for the long-term sustainability of the coastal ferry network.

Public Open House Schedule

The first 90 minutes will be a public open house. The second 90 minutes will be a question and answer session with the project team. No RSVP is required for public open houses.

Community	Date	Time	Location
Texada Island	November 25	Completed	Texada Island Community Hall
Hornby Island	November 27	Completed	Hornby Island Community Hall
Denman Island	November 28	Completed	Denman Island Community School
Salt Spring Island	December 7	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Central Community Hall
Quadra Island	December 9	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Quadra Island Community Centre
Gabriola Island	December 10	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	The Haven
Thetis Island	December 11	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Forbes Hall

Small Group Meeting Schedule

To attend a small group meeting in your community, please e-mail coastalferriesengagement@gov.bc.ca or call toll-free at 1 855 974-1204 with your name, contact information and which meeting you would like to attend.

Community	Date	Time	Location
Comox (Courtenay)	November 29	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	The Westerly Hotel and Convention Centre
Penelakut	December 11	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Adult Learning Centre

Schedule subject to change. Please check web site for the complete meeting schedule.

To provide feedback, please contact us at:
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saturday Authentic Mexican Dinner Specials. Fresh Lime Margaritas & \$5 Mexican beer.

sunday Traditional Prime Rib Dinner with all the fixings - \$20. Great wine pairings available.

RELIGION

Course shines light on all things Wiccan

Religion overcomes stigma and misconceptions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

One might expect Salt Spring to be a kind of promised land for modern-day Wiccans, yet the island's low-key community is very different from established covens on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

Daniel Van Koughnett aspires to bring Wicca out from the broom closet through an ongoing series of free courses that explore the religion's history and modern relevance.

"It's for anybody who is interested in Wicca," he said over coffee in Ganges. "It's also geared toward people who intend to practice Wicca as a faith or those who are interested in learning about it as a religion."

The first course, held in early November, coincided with the Wiccan new year, a tradition related to the ancient Gaelic festival of Samhain that's become the Wiccan calendar's main event. Weekly courses will continue throughout the fall and winter based on



Daniel and Angela Van Koughnett. Daniel is offering a Sunday course called Wicca 101.

demand and students' schedules.

Before he moved to the island in 2012, Van Koughnett and his spouse Angela offered similar classes to people in the Nanaimo area. Having practised and taught the religion for more than 30 years, he's seen it undergo some major changes, both in the way it is practised and how it's perceived.

For starters, Wicca has taken enormous strides when it comes to getting accepted in mainstream society.

"A Wiccan will generally call themselves a witch

and, until recently, that was a bad thing to be. It didn't matter if you actually did anything bad, just calling somebody a witch was horrible, whereas now I call my wife a witch all the time and she doesn't seem to mind."

Much of that progress is the result of a more receptive public and the popularity of good witches and wizards in popular culture. A show like Charmed or the Harry Potter franchise, for example, have shown that witches and wizards can be forces for good. Van Koughnett said many adherents of the Wiccan faith subscribe to a rigorous ethical

code that prevents them from messing about with the natural order of things.

"We believe that, as human beings, we need to strive to do no harm. Free will to us is really an exceptionally important thing," he said. "We take that very seriously."

As a result, a high proportion of Wiccans subscribe to environmental or pacifist philosophies and lifestyles, he added.

Established communities in Victoria, Nanaimo and Campbell River have brought the religion even closer to the mainstream by hosting Wiccan pride

days throughout the year. The result has permitted Wicca to rank among the fastest growing religions in North America, with approximately 16 to 20 million adherents.

Its growth coincides with a societal acceptance of more faiths and a diversity of religious views in daily life. When it comes to spiritual options, Van Koughnett added, people who live in North America have never before had such a range of options available to them. It's an entirely new spiritual landscape since he started learning about Wicca in the mid-1980s.

"Back then, there were really only two options; you were an atheist or you were Christian, and atheism wasn't a very good option," he said. "Nowadays there's a lot more choice; we have Hindu communities and worship centres, we have Buddhist temples and Sikh temples, and Shinto, and all the other religions are represented and visible, which they just weren't back then. Wicca is sort of along the same lines. It's becoming more known and losing the stigma."

Van Koughnett's courses are held every Sunday. He can be reached at celtwytche@gmail.com.

Trophy hunting: Unbearable

I have no quarrel with hunters. As a matter of fact I admire the man or woman who goes out and harvests his or her own protein. Such people are less hypocritical than oh, say, me. I harvest my protein from the local supermarket, letting someone else do the dirty work of shifting said protein from the forest or the feedlot to my dinner plate.

I respect subsistence hunters, but trophy hunters — people who hunt just for the thrill of killing something big?

You see. I'm thinking specifically of one Clayton Stoner, a B.C. boy who recently had his picture taken holding up the severed head of a grizzly he shot on the B.C. coast near Bella Bella. Mister Stoner wasn't interested in the body of the bear — he left that to rot on the forest floor. He just wanted the bragging rights to the head.

Must have been real tough to shoot the grizzly, which was known as "Cheeky" to the folks who knew him. I imagine Cheeky was shambling toward Mister Stoner looking for a handout about the



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

time the heavy-calibre bullets smashed into his chest. Or maybe he was just standing on his hind legs sniffing the wind and wondering what the odd creature in camouflage clothes squinting down a shiny stick was doing in his neighbourhood.

Oh well, it's not as if Mister Stoner is singular in any way, or breaking the law, come to that. Killing grizzlies is big business in British Columbia. The province sells killing rights in two trophy hunts every year. Between 2001 and 2011 nearly 3,000 grizzlies — 900 of them females — were "legally" slaughtered by trophy hunters.

Is this a popularly supported money maker for the government? Hardly. First Nations oppose it, environmentalists decry it — and 80

per cent of all British Columbians want it stopped.

Especially since the government handles it so ineptly. Each year the number of kills exceeds the limits set by bear-management policy. There are only about 15,000 grizzlies in the entire province. By sanctioning the slaughter of more than 300 prime animals a year we're cutting it fine. According to biologist Kyle Artelle, grizzlies "have great difficulties recovering from population declines. A sow may have a litter of three young every three years."

What's even scarier: we only think there are 15,000 grizzlies left. It's a government estimate — from the same geniuses who ran the east coast cod fishery into extinction.

It's a dangerous game to play, risking the future of a magnificent species just to satisfy the fantasies of men suffering from the twin afflictions of too much money and penile inadequacy. If we must have blood money, how about a trophy hunting season on ... trophy hunters?

I'm sure even Darwin would approve.

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John Frederick Petrie

March 8, 1950 - November 8, 2013

John died suddenly of a heart attack at the Extended Care unit in LMH. He had a strong will and enjoyed travelling in his scooter to meet friends and support them with his love, warm hugs and words of wisdom.

He will be dearly missed by family and friends. A gathering to sprinkle his ashes under the tree he bought for his first Christmas on the island in 1986 will take place on his birthday date March 8, 2014. Please contact Dianne Petrie if you would like to attend. 250-653-4254



C. Dorothy Dodds

Born January 14, 1919 on Salt Spring Island, passed peacefully with her family at her side on November 18, 2013.

Beloved daughter of the late Michael and Carrie Gyves of the pioneer Gyves' family of Burgoyne Valley. Dorothy was predeceased by her loving husband Robert Erskine Dodds (ret'd R.C.M.P) on November 30, 2000 and by her eldest daughter Marie (Dance) (Win) Skretka (Ed), of Kamloops, BC.

She is survived by and her sons, Robert J. M. Dodds (Joyce) and Mark L. Dodds (Jan); and her daughters Donna M. Dodds, Valerie Gustafson (Al), and Lynn Koett (Gary); numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and her sister Phyllis Russell, Metchosin, BC

Dorothy raised her family of six, loved them dearly and all their children and her great grandchildren. She was active in Parent Teacher Association; her church through C.W.L. and in the Women's Institute over the years, and the Salt Spring Historical Society. Dorothy was her husband Robert's 'second man' in his long-term service in the R.C.M.P., Marine Division.

Flowers gratefully declined. Donations for those so inclined to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, gratefully appreciated.

Special thanks to Dr. David Woodley for all his excellent care these past 18 years. Thanks to ambulance attendants, staff of Lady Minto, Meals-on-Wheels, Thrifty's Sendial and home care providers, especially Kathy Dryden.

Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church (R.C.), 135 Drake Road, Ganges, B.C. on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013 at 2:30pm with tea reception following downstairs in the hall.

Forever missed and deeply loved.



SHARON DVORAH MALDAFER

passed away on November 8, 2013. She was born in Halifax on March 28, 1942 to the late Helen (Webber) and Louis Maldafer. Sharon went to Toronto with her family where she lived and worked until her travels took her to live in Mexico and eventually the Yukon, fulfilling a lifelong dream. Sharon also built a community of friends on Salt Spring Island where she often "wintered". She gave herself fully to her communities who in turn supported her whole heartedly in her times of need. Her final days in Whitehorse were spent with close loving friends always by her side. Sharon is survived by her brother Jeffrey Maldafer (Karen Forsyth), her Aunt Claire Long, relatives and friends. Thanks to all who were with her physically, spiritually and financially. She loved you all. Sharon's vibrant spirit will always be with us.



Millicent May Valdez (nee Bird)

May 21, 1928 - November 17, 2013

Millicent May Valdez (nee Bird) passed away at 6:29 am on Sunday, November 17, 2013 in the Extended Care Unit of Lady Minto Hospital, Salt Spring Island, BC at the age of 85. She lived there since June 2006.

Thank you to all the staff who have taken such good care of her for all these years.

She was predeceased by her Shetland pony, Mighty As A Rose, her husband Delbert Theodore Valdez on June 21, 2000, and her oldest grandson, Travis Charles Guedes on April 17, 2013.

She is survived by her only daughter, Judy Guedes and son-in-law Ryon Guedes on Salt Spring Island; grandchildren Margot (Rob) Knight and great grandchildren Amelia, Anika and newborn Autumn Knight in Olympia, WA., Roger (Rae-Anne) Guedes and great grandchildren Gene, Lukas and William Guedes in Cranbrook, BC, and grand daughter-in-law Sandra Guedes and great grandchildren Abigail and Haylee Guedes on Salt Spring Island.

Millie was born near Sundre, Alberta on May 21, 1928, third of six children to Lena (Sheets) and Harold Bird (both deceased, Westward-Ho, AB) and predeceased by her sister Annie (Robert) Westward-Ho, AB. She is survived by her brothers Howard (Sylvia) Bird, Westward-Ho, AB and Gordon (Shirley) Bird, Bowser, BC and her sisters Vera (Melvin, deceased) Rogers (Innisfail, AB) and Loretta (Clinton, deceased) Stone (Sundre, AB) and many nieces and nephews.

We know that Millie is running through the fields of flowers, long curly blond hair blowing in the wind, chasing after her Shetland pony, Mighty As A Rose, with Delbert, Travis and Charlie trying to catch up with her.



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HISTORY

Speaker recalls Lakeridge life

Bullock Lake has eclectic past

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With hot and cold running water, lake frontage, showers, a handcrafted sauna, goat shed and rent of \$80 per month, life at Bullock Lake in the 1970s was an offer too good to refuse for anyone in search of adventure and enlightenment on Canada's West Coast.

"I wasn't there in the '60s, but really on Salt Spring the '60s were still there in the '70s," former Lakeridge resident Tom Koppel told a crowd gathered at Central Hall for a Salt Spring Historical Society event last month.

"They were great years."

Koppel came to the island soon after he moved west from New York City. In those days, he said, the island was the kind of place where someone could easily find work banging nails for five bucks an hour by day and let loose at one of the famed Beaver Point boogies by night.

Limited finances and an insatiable do-it-yourself work ethic made it only a matter of time before Koppel's path reached one of the 10 cabins built near Bullock Lake. He ended up living on the property for five of the next 10 years.

Having rented their cabins to summer visitors at Lakeridge Resort for years, property owners Brenda and Ernie Lowe eventually opted for fewer chores and longer-term security by leasing the units to full-time islanders.



Tom Koppel and Annie Palovcik dress the cottage outside the part of their home that was a cottage at Lakeridge during the "hippie years."

PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

The couple, who tended their hobby farm on the opposite side of the lake, would collect rent and handle maintenance, but didn't question the lifestyle choices of their idealistic and often shaggy neighbours.

To the hundreds of tenants who lived at Lakeridge during the '60s, '70s and '80s, the settlement offered affordable housing with a distinctive Salt Spring flavour. The community was home to wanderers, students, young professionals, labourers and some of the musicians from the rock band Chilliwack. Residents

were well known for potluck dinners, goat roasts and a plentiful supply of low-quality homemade wine made from local fruit.

It was at a desk overlooking Bullock Lake in cabin no. 1 that Koppel chose to forsake life as a tree planter in favour of freelance writing, a career that continues to this day with five books and countless magazine bylines to his credit.

Koppel received a crash course in carpentry while he and a friend restored a derelict cutter hauled to the property from Vancouver Island.

It took them a year and a half to rebuild the vessel plank by plank, but the boat would eventually cruise much of the B.C. coast and down to the Galapagos Islands and back. Koppel said he last saw it in Fulford Harbour a few years ago.

"We were a different generation and we were hippies. It was not that we were all stoned out of our minds all of the time, although there was a little of that. We went skinny dipping and laid out on the docks naked all of the time," Koppel said.

"The great thing about it was that it wasn't a commune, there were no politics. We didn't have some common purpose so we didn't need to have meetings; we just paid our rent to the landlord and that was it," he added.

"People trusted each other and it was a very nice place to live. Hippies have a bad reputation that's not deserved."

In the 1980s, the property changed hands and the cabins fell into disrepair. Upon learning of the community's fate, Koppel offered the new owner \$600 for cabin no. 5.

The original 400-square-foot building has undergone many additions and upgrades, but Koppel and his partner Annie Palovcik keep a piece of the Lakeridge legacy alive at their property on Richard Flack Road.

The building is among four Lakeridge cabins that were saved and relocated elsewhere on the island, where they stand as signs that Salt Spring's eclectic past is sometimes just around the corner.

This Week's Horoscope

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

Tip of the Week:

Comet Ison should be visible in the skies by now, as long as the clouds are not obscuring it. It is also predicted to grow in magnitude for the next couple of weeks anyway. Then as it makes its close approach to the Sun it will fade from view. The next phase is now actually takes a very sharp turn around the Sun. This is the moment of truth for this now famous comet. Will it melt and disintegrate as many suggest it probably will, like a dirty big snow ball thrown out into the mid summer's heat. Or will it actually survive the turn and produce an electrical reaction producing an electrical discharge or coronal mass ejection because it is actually made of rock and ore and not simply of ice and dirt? Woven within this question is a heated debate not just among factions of astronomers, but between cosmologists who are focused on the bigger questions like the origin of the universe and its deeper secrets like that of gravity. If the challengers presenting new cosmological theories, which includes the notion that the entire galaxy at least, and possibly even the entire universe, is both electrically charged and functions as one grand unified field, are correct, not only might there be a powerful discharge from the Sun, but Comet Ison will survive and moreover will reappear in the skies again in January. Of further interest yet, or concern, is the prospect that Ison will, especially in January, bring with it meteor showers which could prove quite dramatic as our planet passes through its tail. So far, nobody really seems to know. Either way, Ison is capturing the imagination of people the world over. ... No pun intended, but some assert that this is what the 'Mayan Prophecies' were referring to. Stay tuned...

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A new level of confidence is on the rise, as if suddenly. This uplifting emotion is awakening you to new perceptions and they in turn are inspiring. Still, you have to do the work. No amount of insight, inspiration and/or prediction... is enough to take the action for you. Proactive by nature you of all people know this. Nurture your visions decisively.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

A recent shift to the deep end of things has begun. This may have a sobering effect. It should also increase and accelerate your scope of 'things-to-do'. This is all in tune with a growing commitment to new strategies for the future. It is extra important that you give more fully to situations. But you are wise to call upon others for assistance as well.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

A big turn in your relationship life has already begun. The good news is that it stands to bring in equally big returns. You may still not be sure where exactly you belong or fit best. Yet, you have likely made some very sincere efforts over the past couple of months. These have included digging deeper than you have for some time. P.S. Prayers do help.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

A growing level of enthusiasm and determination is rising in you. This is consequently producing increased energy levels, drive and a sharpened focus. You want new tools, techniques and approaches. As well, you are opening to new people and possibilities. Sober and practical, this is hardly a time to be frivolous. Break through to higher ground.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)

You have entered a very creative cycle. Since your ambition levels have been running high, this has practical implications as well as inspirational. Yet, you must be willing to give more than you might usually get the most out of it. This means time management. Faith in you, others and the spirit too will contribute to the success of this journey.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Some pretty big moves close to home are shaking things-up. These include social activity like visits. Perhaps you are investing into new furniture, equipment or tools. Somehow you feel inspired to add to your overall foundation. Creating a more uplifting atmosphere and/or increased efficiency is motivating your focus.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Circumstances of late are pushing you to cover a lot of ground and quickly. Yet you

may feel reluctant, in fact escapist. Your ability to concentrate is there but your resolve may not be. Unless you make a concerted effort to confront the inner resistance, some opportunities and perhaps obligations will be pushed aside. Direct your focus to home and family for best results.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

What was a tumble a short while ago is gaining speed, momentum, volume and gravity. Your sights are set on the future and your plans are growing steadily by the day. This includes entering new territory, literally as well as psychologically. You may be required to wear more than one hat, to assume a variety of rolls and tasks.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

The 'old you' is progressively melting away. This includes who you are and how you have expressed yourself over the years. The time has come to assume new perspectives and try new approaches. Giving more to situations or at least giving differently may be part of the deal. Aim to empathize more fully with people and situations to see with new eyes.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

You may feel moved to take time out, or at least work behind the scenes, or simply laying low. Key communications with other power players, however, remains important. As well, you are eager to both get to the bottom of things and to push through any resistances. While these may be in the form of certain people, your own habitual perspectives may require revision.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)

New philosophies are coming in to play. They are slowly but surely producing changes in your approach to relationships and partnerships in general. An increase in knowledge is also indicated and stands to increase your personal power, confidence and sense of leadership. Trust and work with this process as it will activate inner powers and reveal hidden beauty.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You have entered a cycle that has the potential to increase your public and professional exposure and confidence. It will continue into 2014. At worst, you will feel moodier than usual. Your willingness to work cooperatively with others is extra important. This includes participation in social and cultural activities. Take an executive approach.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Capital Regional District 

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island
Ganges Sewer Local Service
Commission

Date: Friday, November 29
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Portlock Portable Meeting Room
145 Vesuvius Bay Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District 

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island
Liquid Waste Disposal
Local Service Commission

Date: Friday, November 29
Time: 10:30 am
Place: Portlock Portable Meeting Room
145 Vesuvius Bay Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Treasures of the Heart HOLIDAY BUDDHA DRAW !!

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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

GISS boys cap memorable soccer season

This holiday season, give a **practical gift you create of "small indulgences"** like Wilkens Orange Marmalade with Malt Whiskey, Angies Holidrizzle Dark Chocolate Sea Salt popcorn, Divine White Chocolate with Raspberries, Opie's Pickled Walnuts, Ancient Grains Parmesan Crackers & Los Chileros Whole Ancho Chilies.



The Village at
Fulford Harbour
250-653-4321



PHOTO BY ARJUNA GEORGE

GISS Scorpions senior boys soccer team after a tournament win earlier in the season. The team, coached by teacher Ciaran Ayton, second from the left in the back row, finished fourth in AA-level provincial championships in Burnaby last week.

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Senior Scorpions finish fourth in province

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys soccer team completed its 2013 season last week with its best finish in more than 15 years.

"It was a very very very exciting mix of emotions," said team captain Sam Montalbetti.

After a stellar regular season and an undefeated charge through the North Island and Vancouver Island championships, the Scorpions headed to Burnaby last week for a shot at provincial glory.

"We hadn't lost since October," Montalbetti added.

In spite of a strong 3-0 start to the tournament, GISS came up just short in the semifinals against North Vancouver's St. Thomas Aquinas school.

"They weren't that great of a team, but their coach came and watched our team a lot," Montalbetti recalled. "He scouted our team. He knew where we had big strengths up front."

The scouting paid off as St. Thomas Aquinas kept Salt Spring to

a single goal and pulled ahead 2-1 with only three minutes left in the match. Montalbetti said the goal that sent Salt Spring to the consolation round was probably the most impressive goal of the entire tournament, maybe even the season.

This year marks the second consecutive season that GISS has sent a team to the provincial championships. The Scorpions finished last year's tournament in ninth place, a result that had many players looking to improve.

"We just have to remember all the good play, pick ourselves up and go again."

CIARAN AYTON
GISS Scorpions boys soccer team coach

Montalbetti said going into the provincials as the top-seeded team from Vancouver Island helped the Scorpions win their first three games against teams from Abbotsford, Nelson and Kamloops by scores of 3-0, 3-0 and 1-0. Coach Ciaran Ayton

said he had high aspirations for the team's prospects from the outset, but remained cautious about being overly enthusiastic.

"We have a lot of very strong players," he said, adding that he was pleased to work with such a committed and enthusiastic roster.

"It was easy for me because most of the kids played in [Robert Rustad's] F.A.S.T. program and they've played on-island and off-island. They just like playing."

This year's fourth-place finish is the strongest of any senior boys team since 1997 when the Scorpions came third for the second consecutive year.

Though a cast of talented and experienced Grade 12 players won't be around for 2014, Ayton said he's confident the team's younger generation can step up to fill the gaps.

"There were a few tears and it was pretty sad, but they played very well," he said. "The strongest team doesn't always win. We just have to remember all the good play, pick ourselves up and go again."

He offered special thanks to fellow teachers for their scheduling flexibility and parents who help transport players throughout the season.

GYMNASTICS

All-ages gymnastics program ready to fly in January

Recreational classes will run at Fulford Hall

BY JAMES COWAN
SS GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

After a three-year hiatus, Fulford Hall will once again be animated by the sights and sounds of enthusiastic gymnasts.

Salt Spring Gymnastics Association is launching a recreational gymnastics program at Fulford Hall beginning on Jan. 8, 2014.

When gymnastics programs on Salt Spring ceased to be offered three years ago, a huge gap was left in the community. The

dream of re-establishing a gymnastics community on Salt Spring has been kept alive by individuals who formed an all-new, visionary board of directors for SSGA. This board has worked hard over the past 15 months to get gymnastics up and running. Recreational gymnastics on Salt Spring is now directly operated by SSGA, whose board of directors employs an administrator and certified coaches. SSGA is a certified club under Gymnastics BC and coaches all meet Gymnastics BC qualifications.

The immediate goal of SSGA is to provide a first-rate recreational program

for participants of all ages with a focus on children and youth. Building on this foundation, the longer term goals include establishment of a competitive team that represents Salt Spring Island.

Programming will be offered on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There will be at least two classes per week for most levels, with the intention of being able to fit into busy schedules.

Teeter Tot Tumblers offers an introduction to the tiniest gymnast. It is a parent-supported program for one- to three-year-olds. Toddlers will explore the gym and its

equipment and become familiar with the setup, coaches and beginner moves.

Dragonflies and Butterflies is aimed at the three- to five-year-old preschool age group. Also parent-supported, this program will expand basic skills instruction and build strength and endurance.

Jumping Jacks and Jills gives five- to eight-year-olds a chance to explore the gym without parental support. The focus will be on using equipment safely, taking turns and building a repertoire of tricks for practicing at home and in the gym.

Eight- to 11-year-olds

can register for the Grasshoppers and Tigers class. Strengths will be fostered and weaknesses challenged as gymnasts build on the skills they have been developing. Beginners are welcome.

Space Explorers, for gymnasts 12 years of age and up, is a class for maturing gymnasts who have skills they want to practise and extend. It will include practising combinations and putting together routines. Beginners are also welcome in this class.

An Interclub Class will also be offered to all ages with gymnastics experience. It will be geared to

gymnasts ready to begin the transition to competition.

A Family Drop-in class and a Teen and Adult Drop-in class will also be offered.

The SSGA winter session will begin on Jan. 8 and extend through the week of Feb. 28. The spring session will kick-off on Wednesday, April 2. There will also possibly be spring-break camps between sessions in March.

For class and schedule information and to register for the winter session, visit www.saltspringgymnastics.com or call Bridget Lee at 250-537-4865.

ADULT SOCCER

Old Boys slay Gordon Head at Lochside

Westcastle FC also comes up big

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With eyes on an appointment to watch Sunday football of a different stripe, the Old Boys took to the field against Gordon Head ahead of schedule at Victoria's Lochside Park.

The Old Boys were off to a fast start with plenty of pressure at the Gunners' end early on in the first half, though Salt Spring's Mike McCormick was unable to buy a goal on numerous opportunities.

"The team was not fazed by their inability to score and were roared on by Jim Witherspoon's inspiring coaching suggestions to the strikers from his own goalmouth," wrote Fraser Hope, the Old Boys' team spokesperson in a post-game report.

Success followed soon after

as Stefan Cermak evaded a sun-blinded Gordon Head keeper with a snazzy "cross-shot-toe punt."

Gordon Head was kept off the scoreboard thanks to a Buffon-worthy reactionary save by Old Boys keeper Jim Witherspoon.

"Graham Tweddle's recent haircut almost cost a goal, but he managed enough scalp and bone to deflect a surefire goal for a corner."

FRASER HOPE
SS Old Boys

The Old Boys' short and sharp passing kept the Gunners from mounting any real attack in the

second half, but several excellent corners sent Salt Spring's defenders scrambling to clear their goal line.

"Graham Tweddle's recent haircut almost cost a goal, but he managed enough scalp and bone to deflect a surefire goal for a corner," Hope said.

With the Gunners desperate to press, chances arose for the deadly Old Boys counterattack to find its form. The result was another two goals for Cermak, who was immediately substituted "for the temerity to actually score a hat trick," Hope added.

As the Old Boys' road fans dared to dream of an away win, the players' psyche left open the possibility of a calamitous ending as the team retreated into their defensive posture.

"Desperately hoofing the ball anywhere — in coaching terms 'long balls' — worthy of Wimbledon FC at their best," Hope added.

The Old Boys wrap up a three-

game road trip against the Centaurs at Finlayson on Sunday, Dec. 1. Kickoff is at noon.

In other soccer news, Westcastle SSFC came up with a huge win, shutting out Juan de Fuca 3-0 in an away game on Sunday afternoon.

The win improves the team's record to 3-3-3, solidifying its hold on seventh spot in the Vancouver Island Soccer League's competitive Masters 3A division. The win snaps a five-game winless streak.

Coming up next is winless Peninsula (0-9-1) at Portlock Park on Saturday, Nov. 30. Kickoff is at 2:15 p.m.

In women's soccer action, Salt Spring United will hit the pitch after a two-week break. Salt Spring hosts undefeated Lakehill at 12:30 p.m. at the GISS field on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Salt Spring United is in third place in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association's O30B division.

SWIMMING

GISS looks to rule the pool

Provincial championship results impress

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Scorpions' strongest showing in team history has got swimmers and coaches excited about things to come.

"For a small school, they certainly proved capable of swimming with the sharks," said GISS teacher Brad Bunyan in a post-provincial championships update. "Some very strong results shouldn't surprise anyone for the next few years."

A record-breaking team of 11 Salt Spring swimmers returned from the Nov. 15 and 16 championships held in Richmond.

Grade 12 student Cassidy Fraser, who picked up a silver in the 50-metre butterfly, became the first female Scorpions swim team member to win a medal at the provincial level.

Swimming in three medal rounds on the final day, Amelia Harris finished seventh in the 50-m butterfly and fifth in the 50-m backstroke. Fellow Grade 10 student Shane Webster finished 17th on qualifying day, missing out on the championships by only a single point.

"As she gets stronger, her results are going to be very good in the next few years," said coach Walter Gossett.

The Scorpions placed three relay teams into the provincials. Fraser, Harris, Webster and Larissa Andrews posted a fifth-place result.

Over on the men's side, Connor May, Nigel Bisnar, Andrew Sinclair and Daniel Kos swam a strong relay but found themselves disqualified due to a mistimed turn.

The mixed-freestyle squad, which included May, Hannah Grant, Molly Patterson and Madison Wesley-Plambeck, finished 24th.

GISS placed 33rd out of the 86 schools from across B.C. that attended the competition. The women's team finished 12th overall.

Bucket List?
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PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Saturday,
November 30th



Activities provided by your Salt Spring Arts Council



KIDS ACTIVITIES:

- arts and crafts for young & old
- ornament making
- cookie decorating
- hot chocolate
- mandarin oranges & candy canes

Please bring a non-perishable food item or a donation for the Food Bank

1:00 pm SANTA ARRIVES

Welcome Santa as he flies into Ganges Harbour with St. Clair McColl of Salt Spring Air. Children can greet Santa on the Ganges floatplane dock.

1:15-3:00 pm PHOTOS WITH SANTA

in Salt Spring Elementary Gymnasium
Santa will ride to SS Elementary in a Salt Spring Fire Rescue truck, where he will spend the next two hours posing for photos.

HOT CHOCOLATE AND GOODIES FOR THE KIDS!

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

LIGHT-UP GANGES

Bring your family and enjoy seeing Ganges Village being turned into Salt Spring's Christmas Village!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

4:30 pm

Chili Cook-Off; Restaurants and Individuals compete to have the Best Chili on Salt Spring. Hot Chocolate and Goodies for the kids! Pick your Favorite Chili - Prizes for the Winners!
Light-up in Ganges Village - Join us to see the town Glow in the warmth of the season!

Events to take place in Centennial Park or Fire Hall #1.
Dress in your warm winter ware!

