

We live here!
Ferry campaign soars
PAGE 3

Salt Spring
Calendar
INSIDE



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 18, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 51 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

TRANSPORTATION

TransLink reverses bus cut

Public outcry leads to reinstatement of ferry-connecting run

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islanders' opposition to plans for cutting bus service on the 620 route servicing Tsawwassen-Bridgeport had a surprising positive result on Thursday as TransLink announced it would reverse its earlier decision.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman, local ferry advisory committee chairs and a united front by the CRD economic development commissions for Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands advocated against the proposed change that would redirect bus service to serve other ferry users.

"We're very happy about that," said John Tylee, chair of Salt Spring's Community Economic Development Commission.

"We've been happy to collaborate with our colleagues from the southern Gulf Islands and we're very happy our MLA played such a good role [in the reversal] . . . One of the key issues here is good linkage, not just to Victoria but to Vancouver. Not everybody can afford the seaplane, and no one wants to sit for an hour and a half at Tsawwassen twiddling their thumbs."

Holman credited TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis with responding to Gulf Islanders' concerns.

"He had already been besieged, so he was already well on the way to changing his mind," said Holman. "My call added to the pile."

BUS continued on 2



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SANTA SPIRIT: Wearing her own Santa outfit, Chantal Lam meets the big guy during the Lions Santa Ship's annual visit to Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands from Bellingham. For more photos, see the Driftwood's Facebook page.

CAT CRISIS BCSPCA drive exceeds goal

Donors show fondness for felines

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A program to address the root causes of Salt Spring's cat overpopulation crisis will be launched in the new year thanks to more than \$100,000 collected by the island's BCSPCA branch.

"We are grateful to the hundreds of Salt Spring residents who contributed to the campaign with donations, raffles, auctions and many other heartfelt community efforts," said branch manager Sean Hogan Tuesday. "We were able to meet our goal 15 days ahead of schedule."

Hogan, along with fellow BCSPCA staff and volunteers, launched the Solve the Cat Crisis Campaign in early October. Fundraising efforts began with funds bequeathed by the late Margaret Franey. An avid cat lover, Franey's contribution would match donations to the island's BCSPCA branch totaling \$50,000.

Public donations will assist cats in immediate distress and create the first Spay Neuter Intervention Program (SNIP) fund to address feline overpopulation.

Salt Spring has an estimated 1,600 stray and free-roaming cats, said Hogan.

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| INDEX | |
|--------------------|----|
| Arts..... | 13 |
| Classifieds..... | 24 |
| Editorial..... | 8 |
| Island Wheels..... | 21 |
| Letters..... | 9 |
| Sports..... | 27 |
| What's On..... | 18 |

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Christmas Season

Advertising Deadlines

DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 25TH PAPER:

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will publish a paper on Tuesday, December 24.

The office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day and Thursday, Dec. 26 - Boxing Day
Open for usual business hours on Friday, Dec. 27

Display Advertising deadline: Thursday, December 19, 10am
Classified Display Deadline: Friday, December 20, 3pm
Classified Word Deadline: Monday, December 23, 9am

DEADLINES FOR THE JAN. 1ST PAPER:

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will publish a paper on Tuesday, December 31.

Display Advertising Deadline: Tuesday, December 24, 4pm
Classified Display Deadline: Friday, December 27, 3pm
Classified Word Deadline: Monday, December 30, 9am

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will be closed on Wednesday, Jan 1 - New Year's Day and will reopen for usual business hours on Thursday, Jan. 2.



ISLANDS TRUST

Fulford Landing floats expansion plan

South-end marina looks to grow

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The owner of Fulford Landing hopes to ride a swell in demand for south-end moorage by tripling capacity at his facility.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee members gave first reading on Thursday to a proposed bylaw to expand the marina's 99 linear metres (325 feet) of dock space to approximately 275 metres (900 feet). Expansion will create room for permanent and seasonal moorage of visiting and resident vessels. The owners propose to set aside about half of the new dock area for visitors.

The plan requires amendments to Salt Spring's Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw, and designation of a new half-acre water lot as a development permit area. The applicant has applied to the provincial government for Crown land tenure on the proposed expansion site.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Boats moored at Fulford Landing.

Among notices circulated to date, only the Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority has expressed a worry about congestion. The proposed site is next to a public dock operated by the Harbour Authority and near BC Ferries' Fulford Harbour terminal. It is east of the Fulford Marina, a neighbouring facility forced to close as a result of storm damage several years ago.

"I do understand their concerns since it is considerably

tight to maneuver, particularly when ferries are coming and going," said trustee Peter Grove during last week's LTC meeting at the Harbour House Hotel.

In September, the Trust's Advisory Planning Commission recognized the potential for more boat traffic, but members voted to support the idea based on Fulford Harbour's limited marina capacity.

A planner hired by the applicant said any safety

issues related to the project come under Transport Canada's purview.

"It falls under their jurisdiction to make sure all boats can enter and exit safely," said Kelly Gesner.

"Transport Canada will determine if it's safe for boats to come and go. If it's not safe, the application will not be approved."

Trustees have forwarded bylaws No. 474 and No. 475 to the island's transportation commission, parks and recreation commission, Fulford Water Service Commission, the Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority, Island Health and various federal, provincial and regional government agencies.

A public hearing will be scheduled after the proposed bylaws receive second reading.

The property is owned by Kelly Keen. Dave McKerrill of Island Marine Construction Services Ltd. is serving as the owner's agent during the application process.

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Islands' health depends on links

BUS

continued from 1

"It's a small victory, but it's a good one," said Brian Crumblehulme, an Islands Trust representative for Mayne Island and chair of that island's advisory committee to the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Development Commission.

The proposed route change would have affected passengers both coming and going to the Gulf Islands via the Queen of Nanaimo. Those travelling to the ferry from Vancouver were faced with losing the 9 a.m. bus from Bridgeport Station and therefore their arrival at the ferry terminal in time for the 10:10 sailing. Those arriving on the vessel at 9:20 a.m. were meanwhile set to wait until 11 a.m. for their first bus out from the terminal.

Crumblehulme said TransLink planners had probably looked

at ridership statistics without considering the impact or even noticing that Gulf Islands foot traffic connected with the route, but changed their opinion in light of "a campaign with some political clout."

"It's a small victory,

but it's a good one."

BRIAN CRUMBLEHULME
Mayne Island trustee & advisory committee chair to the SGICEDC

"I think they realized the error of their ways, and that if they left it, the noise would have gotten a lot worse," he said.

TransLink had at first claimed that few passengers would be affected and the change would align service with traffic more effectively, but then said it had

decided to take consideration of "strong community desire to maintain current services," just days before the change was to go into effect on Dec. 16.

"We will continue to monitor the passenger demand levels and performance on these services, as we do with all services, and work with customers and stakeholders to ensure that performance, productivity and coverage are regularly assessed," said Sany Zein, TransLink's director of infrastructure and network management, in an email.

Local bodies will also be monitoring the situation.

"Transportation is one of the important things we're working on with the southern Gulf Islands economic commission," Tylee said.

"This is going to be an area of ongoing concern to us, because these linkages are going to be really, really important to our future."



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MEDIA

Gabriolans get creative in face of looming ferry cuts

Islanders embrace online activism

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Brevity packs a punch.

The sentence "I live here," for example, can convey the plight facing thousands of residents on Gabriola.

It also served as the inspiration for a new video designed to build awareness about the consequences of BC Ferries' proposed service cuts, which have been forced by the provincial government.

"It was entirely crafted around the message," said Jules Molloy, filmmaker and family man on Gabriola Island. "The main message was: this was what [BC Ferries] completely missed; the cuts that it proposes neglect the people."

"It wasn't about being beautiful. Our message was just about the people."

The four-minute video features close-ups of Gabriolans repeating the sentence "I live here" one after

the other. The close-ups are interspersed with facts and statistics about ferry cuts fallout for island students, seniors, commuters and businesses.

The viewer learns that 12 per cent of respondents to a recent Transportation Advisory Commission survey will lose education opportunities if cuts are implemented.

"We need to remind people these are not just numbers on a budget sheet."

JULES MOLLOY
Co-founder, Close to the Sun Productions

Nineteen per cent of survey respondents could lose their jobs and 34 per cent will lose work hours due to the proposed cuts. Approximately 70 per cent of Gabriolan business owners say proposed changes will result in "signifi-

cant losses." Fares have already risen 80 per cent on average since 2005.

Under the proposed cuts, Gabriola Islanders stand to lose all sailings after 9 p.m. as well as the first morning sailings on weekends.

"We need to raise awareness and convince people this is a real issue. If we don't stand in the way, this train will just keep moving," Molloy said. "We need to remind people these are not just numbers on a budget sheet."

Even more remarkable than the enthusiastic response among video participants, Molloy added, is the reception the clip has received since it was uploaded to the internet last week. Within 24 hours, more than 1,000 viewers had seen the video on YouTube. After two days, that number had risen to 3,000. Now that a week has elapsed, more than 5,000 people have watched it.

"The idea is to hopefully get it in front of the decision makers," he said. "I implore the local community to share it as much as they can. Our real



PHOTOS COURTESY TONICPHOTO.ORG
 Photos of some of many Gabriola residents who agreed to participate in a social media campaign to connect BC Ferries' proposed service cuts to the island residents who will be most affected by them.

objective here is to create a simple format that other communities could follow and make a video of their own."

As Molloy created the video, another group of media-savvy Gabriolans was at work on a ferry-related project of their own. Faces of the Cuts is a photography project created by Vanessa Haentjens Dekker and Heather Nicholas.

The result is hun-

dreds of portraits featuring island residents holding a sign that reads: "I live here." Clicking the portraits on the group's Facebook site or Flickr account links to a caption that relates how ferry cuts will affect that person.

Like Molloy, Haentjens Dekker and Nicholas were surprised by the response from Gabriolans who wanted to participate. The desire to take part,

Nicholas said, reflects the genuine sense of concern that's building on Gabriola and so many other communities that will be affected by service cuts.

Nicholas said people in other communities have shown an interest and asked her how to conduct similar projects.

"We're sort of just getting started with this idea," she said. "The whole concept is to try to push it beyond

our communities. It's based on the fact that people outside coastal communities need to see that it's real people who live here and we need to get the images beyond the islands."

Social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and Flickr give unprecedented opportunities for activists to spread their message to generate support beyond their own communities. Molloy credits much of the social media buzz to the Arab Spring of 2010. In Egypt, where the use of social media was paramount to organize, communicate, and raise awareness during protests at Tahrir Square, the government's first move was to shut down the internet.

"That's when it really crystalized," Molloy said. "That is how instrumental it was. During the Arab Spring they showed that the internet is one of the ways we can regain our country."

Molloy's video and a link to the Faces of the Cuts project are available at www.coastalferriescuts.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cycling and pedestrian plan gets nod

The Salt Spring edition of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan was accepted by the Capital Regional District Board on Dec. 11 after a year

of planning with community stakeholders and government agencies.

Led by the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission, with assistance from Regional Planning and Alta Planning + Design Group, the plan identifies network synergies that will make it easier for residents to walk and cycle

around the island. It complements the CRD's Regional Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan for Vancouver Island, which was released in 2011.

"Now that the plan is complete, the CRD Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission can begin investigating grants and funding opportunities for projects," a

press release states. "The CRD will be using the Salt Spring Island edition as a part of its regional efforts in 2014 to expand innovative infrastructure, provide community education programming and encourage new cyclists and walkers."

The plan can be viewed on the CRD website.

Lanterns bring in New Year

The Pender Island Lantern Festival returns this New Year's Eve with a promise of being even better than last year, and the best way to see out the old

year and welcome the new.

The annual event features a blend of myth and spectacle with large puppets, fire dancers, stilt walkers, masked actors, a kayak ballet and much more, under the direction of Alaiia Hamer and Jasmine Dine. Participants gather at 5 p.m. at Magic Lake, for a kick-off at 5:30 p.m.



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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board strikes public input committee

Meeting time changed starting Jan. 20

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Involving the public to better effect before embarking on another fire hall campaign is one of the top matters of business for the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees, as expressed at their monthly meeting on Monday night.

Trustee Mary Gillies said the matter of including public opinion should be addressed by forming a committee and task forces. Her colleague Michael Schubart responded that the board should try to broaden its approach, perhaps with public sessions at a large venue like ArtSpring.

"The first step we should take is to try and have the biggest meeting we possibly can, have as many members of the public come and express their concerns, desires, opinions, without any prejudice, without discussion, just so that we can have all the information given to us that we can possibly glean," he said. "And then in the process of winning that, build the basis of a new process based on that information."

The board voted unanimously to strike a Public Input Advi-

sory Committee as a first step. The select committee includes trustees Gillies, Richard Hannah, Mike Garside and Bruce Patterson, with terms of reference to be drafted by Gillies and Patterson.

"We do have to maintain the distinction between what are trustees' meetings and what are public meetings."

MICHAEL SCHUBART
Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustee

Also at Monday's meeting, the board voted to change the monthly meeting's time and place for a trial period of six months. Starting with the next session on Jan. 20, 2014, board meetings will be held at the public library's program room and start a half-hour earlier at 7 p.m. Other possible choices included the Harbour House Hotel's Orchard Room and the Lions Hall.

Schubart was the sole vote against the changes, noting the fire district owns the fire hall where meetings have normally been held and to pay another community group wouldn't be a good use of taxpayer dollars. He also felt the current time was convenient.

The board's ability to include public input into its business meetings occupied much of the comment session after adjournment, as attendees noted the chair had asked for their opinion on the meeting place issue. Patterson explained the decision to solicit input was at the discretion of the board. He also pointed out that there are currently two avenues for including public comments in the minutes: through correspondence or through scheduling a presentation or delegation.

The idea of changing the public discussion period from after the meeting to before the meeting was raised as a way to address issues arising from that portion.

"We discussed this sometime in the past, and we have had differing conclusions," Schubart said.

"What I'm proposing is if we adopted a procedure something like the Islands Trust where we

had a town hall session the first half-hour or 45 minutes and basically allow anybody to say anything on any item that pertains to the fire protection district, and if there's something that needs to be added to the agenda at that point that comes out of it, we could add it to the agenda."

"But we do have to maintain the distinction between what are trustees' meetings and what are public meetings," he added. "We have these meetings before the public, but they are not by definition public meetings."

Schubart suggested the matter should be put onto the next meeting's agenda.

Cliff Jones, a member of the public, referenced another process used at Local Trust Committee meetings in which the public is invited to make comments after individual presentations.

"In some cases I think that's a better idea, and more inclusive if in the period of discussion there might be something that comes out of the audience, but it's quite relevant," Jones said. "If not relevant, they shouldn't say anything. I mean, you can still exercise some control over it . . . I think maybe if you could work it somehow to be more inclusive, in that process, it would be a lot better."

SSI FOUNDATION

Grants support island projects

Foundation announces projects during season of giving

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is pleased to announce the recent approval of \$40,000 in grants to 13 island charitable organizations. Several of the funded projects address community health, one of the most critical needs identified in the foundation's 2012 Community Needs Survey; however, the foundation has also continued with its commitment to support a wide range of worthy projects. Since 1984, the Salt Spring Island Foundation has granted more than \$1.4 million to local registered charities.

Canadian Red Cross Salt Spring Island HELP Depot: For a storage container that will enable the HELP Depot to increase the stock of on-island medical equipment, thus improving service and reducing waiting times.

Fulford Community Hall Association: To support the re-roofing of Fulford Hall.

Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society: For dry suits to protect volunteers against hypothermia, which is a major risk when operating in local waters in all weather and in an open vessel. The dry suits will replace the floater suits currently in use.

Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring): For handrails for ArtSpring theatre's two middle aisles, to improve safety.

Island Pathways: For design plans for the establishment of three new pathways. The next pathway to be constructed will be on Upper Ganges Road between Churchill and Long Harbour roads. This is part of a multi-year grant.

Options for Sexual Health, Salt Spring: For a sexual health fair to be held at Gulf Islands Secondary School, aimed at enhancing the delivery of sexual health education and con-

necting youth to community resources.

Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool Society: For the replacement of deteriorating flooring.

Salt Spring Film Festival Society: For equipment used for festival screenings and events throughout the year. The equipment is also made available to other island organizations.

Salt Spring Island Community Services: 1) To assist with the start-up of the Salt Spring Island Health Advancement Coalition, a community-based planning and advocacy group that can work with the Vancouver Island Health Authority, funders and community stakeholders to develop a primary health care plan for the community, based on the effective coordination of services.

2) For a stove upgrade to ensure that the community kitchen at SSI Community Services' main site can effectively meet increasing demands, particularly during the winter. The kitchen provides meals and is also used for nutrition workshops and life-skills sessions.

School District #64: To support the acquisition of a single racing shell for the GISS rowing team. Current equipment is shared with the Salt Spring Island Rowing Club. In June 2014, six GISS rowers will compete at the National High School Rowing Championships. Newer equipment will improve the level of success in competition and increase interest in rowing.

Donor-advised funds were also directed to the Bittancourt Museum and Salt Spring Island Historical Society.

These grants are made possible through the generosity of community members who share the foundation's goal of improving the quality of life for all Salt Spring residents.

If you would like to learn how you can help the foundation support the important work of island charities like these, please go to the website at www.saltspringislandfoundation.org or call 250-537-8305.

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WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY

SSIWPA chair defends tax increase

All islanders to benefit from WPA: Grams

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The chair of Salt Spring's Watershed Protection Authority took advantage of the year's final Local Trust Committee meeting to defend the organization's proposed \$110,000 tax requisition.

"We will be providing water management for less than the cost of one Starbucks [coffee] every two months," said George Grams, who also sits as an elected trustee on Salt Spring's LTC.

Off-island handling of watershed management issues through an agency like the Capital Regional District, he added, would have resulted in considerably more costs, less local involvement and time wasted by CRD staffers forced to travel between Victoria and Salt Spring. Grams said he considers the current structure "the least expensive means."

If approved as part of the Islands Trust 2014-2015 budget, all Salt Spring property owners will be subject to a tax increase of about \$3.25 per \$100,000 of their property's assessed value. The tax increase will apply regardless of where islanders live and whether they

obtain their water from a community water service district (such as the North Salt Spring Waterworks or CRD-governed water system) or private well.

Grams defended the move, noting that islanders across the island stand to benefit from the Watershed Protection Authority's work.

"Whilst the efforts to halt and reverse eutrophication of St. Mary Lake is an early focus of the authority," he wrote in an email, "the benefit that we seek to bring to watersheds across the island as a whole we hope will be realized by well owners as well as those reliant on water supplied via an improvement district."

The tax hike will represent a 4.3 per cent increase to the Islands Trust portion of islanders' residential property tax bills. Given the Trust represents approximately 12 per cent of the average taxpayer's bill, the requisition translates into an approximately .5 per cent overall tax increase for residential property owners.

The requisition will fund the Watershed Protection Authority's full-time coordinator position and administrative functions.

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

December 19th is Niki Smith's birthday. Be sure to stop in at Salt Spring Clothing and personally pass along your birthday greetings to Niki!!



Islands Trust

Our office will be closed for the holidays from Wednesday, December 25 to Wednesday, January 1.

We apologize for any inconvenience and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

Season's Greetings.

COMMUNITY HOUSING

Women's housing has official launch

Seniors and domestic abuse survivors benefit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Government representatives and Salt Spring non-profit groups joined with island women on Friday to celebrate the official opening of The Cedars, a project that unites affordable housing for seniors and transitional housing for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse.

The facility represents the merger of previously separate but long-treasured wishes of two local organizations: Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society and Island Women Against Violence (IWAV).

"Today we are celebrating more than just the opening of The Cedars. We are celebrating the hope and opportunity this new home will bring to the women who need it most: senior women in need of affordable housing, and women whose lives were turned upside down by domestic abuse," said Stephanie Allen, a senior project manager with BC Housing.

"We can do our best to provide the resources, but it's the leadership, the dedication and the hands-on involvement of the Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society and Island Women Against Violence society that make the positive changes in each woman's life, that benefit the island as a whole," she added.

The Cedars features private rooms with common living areas and kitchen space in a renovated former bed and breakfast. Numerous community partners and government agencies contributed to bring the dream to light, starting with a legacy from the late Ruby Alton.

Funding involved \$280,000 through the Federal-Provincial Housing initiative as well as \$382,830 through the government of B.C. The Abbeyfield housing society and IWAV together contributed \$309,500, including private dona-



PHOTO BY LARRY MELOUS

Celebrating the official opening of The Cedars on Dec. 13 are from left: Paul Gerrard, chair of the CRD's Regional Housing Trust Fund, Stephanie Allen, senior project manager for BC Housing, Olive Mann, president of the SSI Abbeyfield Housing Society, a senior resident, IWAV chair Kisae Petersen and IWAV executive director Dana Peace.

tions. The Capital Regional District provided \$165,000 through its Regional Housing Trust Fund. Salt Spring Lions Club provided a forgivable loan of \$150,000 and Salt Spring Island Foundation provided a \$40,000 grant in addition to \$18,100 in contributions in-kind.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman was among the happy supporters in the audience as past president of the Abbeyfield society. But the most joyful and moving participants at the opening ceremonies were two residents of the new home, who shared their thanks for having the opportunity to live there.

"It's delicious to know you can be in the right place at the right time, because that's exactly what happened," said a senior resident who "came home" to Salt Spring when her application to live at The Cedars was accepted. She said the residence contains a tangible sense of welcome "because of all the intent put into this home."

A woman who is living with her children in The Cedars' transitional housing after leaving an abusive relationship explained how the home has provided refuge in a drug- and alcohol-free environment, allowing her to grow her sense of self-worth, go back to school and better her employment options.

"The impact of moving into The Cedars was a feeling of complete safety. Safety — what an innate need," she said.

"IWAV has filled a need that was greatly lacking on Salt Spring."

Other islanders who contributed to the project included architecture design by Jim Helset, renovations by Brent Baker of Shibui Design, project management by Janis Gauthier, and support from the Salt Spring Island Housing Council. A special partnership with the local branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women has led to the Friends of The Cedars subgroup, who are maintaining the property's gardens.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas

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Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre

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RCMP

Speed a factor in Fulford-Ganges crash

Domestic assault case also nets four charges

Salt Spring RCMP were kept on their toes with 53 calls for service over the past week, including a motor vehicle incident on Fulford-Ganges Road.

Police, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue and B.C. Ambulance paramedics responded to the single-vehicle collision, which took place between Sky Valley

and Cusheon Lake roads on Thursday, Dec. 12.

According to the RCMP report, at around 10:20 a.m. a new driver going south-bound failed to negotiate the right hand corner at Sky Valley Road and lost control of his SUV.

The vehicle swapped ends, crossed the centre line and went over a six-metre (20-foot) embankment on the opposite side of the road. The driver escaped injury despite the fact that his vehicle was destroyed. Speed was deemed

a factor in the incident.

On Friday, Dec. 13, police responded to a domestic assault at the Salt Spring Inn at 3:30 a.m. A male subject was arrested and is presently being held in an off-island remand centre awaiting a bail hearing in Duncan Provincial Court on Dec. 18. Police have laid charges of assault, impersonation, breach of probation, and mischief.

RCMP members also conducted road checks for impaired drivers over the week-

end and stopped approximately 200 vehicles. Two motorists were issued immediate roadside driving prohibitions and their vehicles were impounded. A third was driving with a suspended licence and is now facing a related charge in addition to having his vehicle impounded for seven days.

"Police are continuing their efforts to deter impaired driving, which will contribute to a safer holiday season on local roads," the RCMP report states.

SEXUAL HEALTH

SSI Opt clinic tops provincial honours

Local members earn four B.C. awards

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Salt Spring physician Jan MacPhail moved to northern Ontario earlier this year, one of her only regrets was leaving the local Opt Clinic to a potentially precarious future.

Though the clinic did lose both of its female doctors in 2013, with the sad death of Karen Berg, the committed board, staff and volunteers have ensured that MacPhail's legacy of providing sexual health services has remained in good standing. So much so, in fact, that the women involved have picked up the majority of the awards that the provincial organization presents to its volunteers and staff each year.

"It's pretty cool that four awards be given from across B.C. to our little clinic. What an honour," said Roberta Temmel, who was named Opt's Volunteer of the Year.

MacPhail's colleague Philippa Tattersall received the Dr. Jeffrey Dolph Memorial Award for stepping up to the plate and ensuring Opt clients had continued access to physician services. Jenny Redpath, a registered nurse and the clinic's coordinator, received the Executive Director's Award of Excellence for "above and beyond dedication." Redpath augmented her training to be able to test clients for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and requisition blood tests in the absence of a doctor, and

though now on maternity leave, continues to work on a volunteer basis.

Katherine Atkins was also recognized for her contribution of more than 10 years with the Long Term Volunteer Service Award.

"As both a clinic volunteer and our local committee's treasurer, she outdoes herself with her commitment to Opt's mission," the nomination submission read.

Opt runs on a mix of funding from its parent organization through the United Way, from regional health authority Island Health, and from local fundraising. In 2012, it served 375 clients on Salt Spring, 48 per cent of which were under the age of 19.

Services offered include contraception at affordable prices, STI testing and sexual health education. Although the vast majority of its local clients are women (97 per cent in 2012), males are equally welcome. Nor is service limited to heterosexual individuals.

"Opt is about responding to different types of relationships as well," Tattersall said. "There are so many aspects to the clinic — it's not just about contraception."

"One of things I love about Opt is that as counsellors we do have time to sit and talk for 10 minutes and really listen, to be present and give people time, and hear what their needs are," Temmel added.

In addition to seeing clients at the walk-in clinic on the third floor of the Core Inn, Opt does outreach such as Redpath's monthly column in The Fishbowl, poster and condom distribution around town and during the Pride parade. Part of their mandate is to open up the conversation about sex so that young people aren't afraid

to ask the questions they need answers to.

Advocating for youth education is another aspect of the clinic's work. Redpath recently gave a presentation to parents at the Salt Spring Co-operative Preschool and will be organizing the Sexual Health Fair for Grade 11 students at the high school on Valentine's Day, hosting workshops in partnership with SWOVA. This year the workshops have been made possible by a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation.

"Sexual health education needs to start when they're a baby and it continues as they grow," Redpath said, explaining that it starts with children understanding how bodies work and moves into more complex issues as appropriate to development.

With clinic hours currently set for Mondays between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., access to what is already available can also be difficult, especially for young people who need to travel to the far ends of the island or the other Gulf Islands to get home at night.

"I would love to see us open two days a week because I think it is a need that's very difficult to fill in a two-hour window once a week," Redpath said.

"We have an amazing crew of volunteers and staff and our physician — but we need more."

To learn more about the Opt clinic or make a financial donation, contact optssi@gmail.com or visit www.optionsforsexualhealth.org/providers/opt-salt-spring-island. The group's annual bridge tournament fundraiser will take place March 28, 2014.

PARKS & REC

Grout goop causes two-week pool closure

Substance stirs complaints

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Rainbow Road Pool will start the new year with a two-week shutdown as workers undertake urgent repairs at the facility from Jan. 6 to Jan. 18.

"It's not what I'd like to be doing in January, I'll tell you that," said pool manager Jim Raddysh during the Parks and Recreation Commission's monthly public meeting on Monday.

"It's unfortunate," added PARC manager Lorraine Brewster.

In recent weeks, a growing number of pool users have had to contend with grouting material that has become detached from expansion joints along the floor. The grout, which is similar to the kind of caulking material used around household bathtubs, was applied during the pool's scheduled shutdown in September.

"I've had a couple of complaints about people having it on their person and on their clothes and everything," said Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director.

Though he's heard from people who've noticed the goop on their feet and along the floor,

Raddysh said, swimmers need not worry about any health concerns.

"I've read the description of the product and it's safe for use," he said.

Fixing the problem requires draining the pool to regrout problem areas, which are confined to the pool's shallow end.

"I guess the biggest thing is to make sure the product that doesn't work works this time," said commissioner Sonja Collombin. "Are we sure that the new product is going to be better?"

Raddysh said the supplier is testing the material but still has no idea why a product used successfully throughout the

industry isn't working on Salt Spring.

"It's not behaving the way we thought it would and it's coming off," he said. "It needs to be redone."

Costs for repairs will be handled by Recreation Excellence, the Surrey-based company that oversees operation of the pool. PARC anticipates shortening the pool's scheduled closure in September to recover revenue. PARC voted to spend up to \$13,200 for grouting of the pool's deep end while the repairs are undertaken.

PARC's next business meeting takes place at the Portlock Park table on Jan. 20, 2014 at 5 p.m.

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RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

Salt Spring Trust outlines RAR end game

Staff foresee possibility of 'resistance and concern'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Approval of the Riparian Areas Regulation is anticipated for August of 2014, according to the latest timeline released by staff at the Islands Trust's Salt Spring office.

Even for Salt Spring, few bylaw proposals have proven as contentious or been as complex as the provincially mandated RAR. Two and a half years ago, during public consultation of a proposed RAR bylaw, opponents spilled out of the Local Trust Committee's ArtSpring venue. The meeting's anticipated tone even prompted the attendance of RCMP officers.

Whereas uncertainty over who RAR affected and how it affected them guided much of the frustration expressed in 2011, LTC staff and elected representatives hope detailed maps of Salt Spring's 26 RAR-designated watersheds on the island will provide a degree of clarity not previously available.

So far, seven of those maps have been charted, peer

reviewed and adopted by LTC members. Mapping of the 19 remaining watersheds will be completed in January. Islanders who may be impacted should receive early in the new year a letter that outlines how new rules will affect their properties. Letters to people included in the first round of mapping, mainly in the St. Mary, Cusheon, Bullcock, Maxwell, Fulford, Stowell and Weston watersheds were sent earlier this year.

RAR will require the implementation of a new development permit area within the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area. The DPA 7 (Riparian Areas) will affect lands within 30 metres of designated streams.

These include wetlands and lakes within the mapped watersheds, Cusheon, Maxwell, Kyler and Duck creeks, as well as Fulford Creek (below Garner Road), Stowell Creek (south of Beaver Point Road), and Weston Creek (south of Weston Lake). A 15-metre buffer adjacent would be enforced along remaining streams in the mapped watersheds.

According to Stefan Cermak, the Salt Spring-based planner assigned to handle the RAR implementation file, specific buffers within the outstanding

19 watersheds will be discussed at the Salt Spring LTC's January meeting, as well as at the subsequent community information event.

"Neither a new DPA or new landscape regulation will affect land greater than 30 metres from a mapped stream," Cermak wrote in an email.

According to RAR, the construction or addition of any structure, as well as the removal, alteration or destruction of vegetation within the specified zone, will require a development permit. RAR also prohibits development as defined in the province's RAR legislation.

Accordingly, removal, alteration or destruction of vegetation, disturbance of soils, construction of structures, creation of impervious or semi-impervious surfaces, flood protection works, construction of roads, trails, docks, wharves and bridges and the provision of sewer, water or drainage systems would require approval of a development permit.

To avert a repeat of the antagonism, concern and resistance witnessed in 2011, trustees at last week's LTC meeting approved a list of potential exemptions to the RAR. These include all uses that are not res-

idential, commercial or industrial. Work to existing structures or landscaping within the DPA is also proposed for exemption. "Emergency actions" to prevent erosion or flood damage will also be considered exempt.

"For clarity: a bylaw to implement the RAR will only apply to new proposed residential, commercial, or industrial development; and development may be proposed within the designated riparian areas but will be required to follow either the guidelines or regulations," Cermak added.

A RAR bylaw has yet to be drafted.

First and second reading of a draft bylaw is expected in February, with a community information meeting anticipated for April.

Staff say better mapping, coupled with a thorough community information process, will help decision makers and the public manage potential conflicts.

Copies of the latest staff report and further RAR information are available through the Local Trust Committee website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca) or in person from Salt Spring's Islands Trust office at 500 Lower Ganges Rd.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Bylaw enforcement stymied

Speaker suggests bylaw review is overdue

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Bylaw enforcement across the Islands Trust area is ineffective under the current budget, according to a member of the Trust's executive council.

"The problem is: we just never put enough money into bylaw enforcement," said Gisele Rudischer, a member of Gabriola Island's Local Trust Committee. "You can't possibly expect to have bylaw enforcement on 460 islands with one and a half bylaw enforcement officers; it's just not happening."

According to proposed budget figures for the 2014-15 fiscal year, the Islands Trust will allocate \$271,000 in salaries and benefits to bylaw enforcement and \$150,000 to bylaw enforcement litigation. The former is up marginally from the previous year. At \$150,000, the proposed litigation fund faces a 25 per cent decrease from 2013-14 levels. The Islands Trust's proposed 2014-2015 overall budget is roughly \$7 million.

Rudischer's assessment followed a presentation by Salt Spring resident Jan Slakov during the town hall session of the quarterly Trust Council meeting held earlier this month in Victoria.

Slakov suggested the Trust's failure to uphold many of its bylaws poses "serious consequences" for staff, neighbours and communities across the Islands Trust's jurisdiction.

"Public engagement in upholding bylaws is absolutely vital," Slakov said during her 10-minute presentation to Trust Council. "It's not just the responsibility of the Trust to make improvements, but it's

also a responsibility of the citizenry, even if we're busy, to become engaged in a helpful way."

Slakov wants the Trust to undertake a consultation process with staff, trustees and concerned citizens. With help from an independent consultant, Slakov said, such a group could examine cost-effective ways to effectively enforce Trust bylaws and crack down on chronic offenders.

"It's really important to set the right precedent and devote the necessary resources to bylaw enforcement," she said.

Of the 73 "open files" on Salt Spring Island, 32 are between two and five years old, and 20 have been active for more than five years. Only Galiano Island, where 50 per cent of the "open files" are more than five years old, has a more dismal record than Salt Spring.

Of Salt Spring's 73 files, 24 are unlawful dwelling complaints, eight are alleged short-term vacation rental infractions, and seven relate to a development permit infraction.

Speaking in the island's defence, Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove said bylaw enforcement may be slow but is being undertaken in a fair and careful manner.

"I just feel, particularly with members of the public here, I don't want you to think that Salt Spring is some kind of lawless society where everybody can do whatever they like.

"We do have some sort of control, but bylaw control is a delicate matter that has to be handled carefully and delicately, particularly in a small community," he said. "You bump into the person you're suing in a line [at a local store] and you have to make sure that what you're doing is carefully thought out."

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 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)

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EDITORIAL

Speak up, be heard

Should you find yourself waiting in line at a ferry terminal this holiday season, take a moment to consider how things will get a whole lot worse with service cuts proposed to begin in April 2014.

Fewer sailings on many routes will mean longer waits. New schedules will force many workers and students to consider significant lifestyle changes. The trip will also cost more money, especially if you're a senior.

Yet things don't have to be this way. Earlier this week, TransLink announced an 11th-hour decision to maintain service levels on the 620 bus route between Tsawwassen and Richmond's Bridgeport station. The route is a crucial link for walk-on travellers who use the Queen of Nanaimo's early morning sailing to reach Tsawwassen and points beyond, and vice-versa.

THE ISSUE: BC Ferries service cuts

WE SAY: Island voices can have an impact

TransLink's initial view that "few passengers would be affected" may speak to the kind of detached management process underway at the Victoria headquarters of BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Few islanders will be affected? In recent weeks, more people have voiced distress about the prospect of higher costs and fewer sailings. Tired of the window dressing offered by the recent public consultation process, island residents are starting to do what they do best: innovate and get creative. They're using local media, the internet and good old-fashioned community gatherings to build resistance against the latest rounds of fee increases and service cuts. The prospect of public protests looms large for 2014.

In the meantime, people have until Dec. 20 to give feedback to the provincial government-initiated BC Coastal Ferries Community Engagement process. It's a perfect opportunity to tell MOTI and BC Ferries that any plan for the future of BC Ferries needs to respect the lives and livelihoods of people who live in ferry-dependent communities.

TransLink listened. BC Ferries and the provincial government can do it too.

What TransLink CEO Ian Jarvis saw as a logical move to "align service" launched an awesome wave of opposition from service users, local government and ferry committee reps and MLA Gary Holman.



VIEWPOINT by Per Svendsen

Day in the life of a school bus driver

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the three drivers who managed to avoid hitting students on Tuesday, Dec. 10 as they sped through my school bus' red flashing lights. Let me explain.

As a school bus driver, my prime concern is the safe transport of your children to and from school. So we have these large, bright yellow buses that carry 70-plus students. They come equipped with a multitude of flashing red and yellow lights and reflectors designed to catch your attention, and red stop signs to display our intent, whenever we take on or drop off students. How can anyone not see us?

The following occurred as I was driving last Tuesday. First, as I was picking up students at the intersection of Whims and North End roads, a blue pick-up sped past me — as students were crossing the road! This truck came up from behind me, crossed over the double solid yellow lines, before going through at least six red flashing lights! Luckily his licence plate number, which I forwarded to the RCMP, was very visible. I'm sure that the mother, parked by the road watching her daughter board the bus, shook her head in disbelief!

Secondly, in the afternoon, with a load of Fernwood Elementary School students on board, I stopped at Deer Park Road, just off Walker Hook Road. One of my young students was ready to cross when an older station wagon came around the corner, and upon seeing us blocking the road, with all lights going, slowed down a little, but decided to drive over onto the gravel and keep going through all my lights! Good thing the student wasn't off the bus yet.

Again, the parent waiting for his son who saw what happened just shook his head in disbelief that anyone could be so stupid.

Given the apparent condition of his vehicle, his brakes were probably non-functional, giving him cause to keep going. Finally (it was one of those days), after stopping and activating the stop lights at Sharp Road, a maroon pick-up just kept going through the intersection, unaware of my presence.

Luckily during this day, no one was harmed, but the time will come that a driver who ignores our stop signs and signals will seriously injure or kill a student.

As a group of professional drivers, we see this type of behaviour happening on a daily basis, and it really scares us.

What are you drivers thinking? Or maybe you're not? Does the extra 15 seconds mean so much to you?

I'm writing this letter because this type of behaviour is on the increase. I know I speak for all the school bus drivers.

I really think that I am preaching to the converted, because it's obvious that these drivers are illiterate and probably can't read the paper. They do not understand, and are unable to comprehend the word "STOP!"

They break the law, they endanger our youth, and for what? Sure, today they got away with it, but what about tomorrow?

For the majority of you who do stop at our signals and give the students a safe crossing . . . a big thank you!

The writer is a SD64 bus driver.

They break the law, they endanger our youth, and for what?

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Can islanders succeed in mitigating ferry cuts? Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you do most Christmas shopping locally? 43 NO 58 YES

Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
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 Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday
Subscription Rates: In the Gulf Islands \$52.50
 Elsewhere in Canada \$88.20* Foreign: \$235.00*
 Digital Edition: \$39.85 anywhere | Prices include GST
 Digital Edition with Print: Edition subscription additional 1yr \$12.60 | 2yr \$18.90

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council



ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You can't possibly expect to have bylaw enforcement on 460 islands with one and a half bylaw enforcement officers."

GISELE RUDISCHER, GABRIOLA LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What Salt Spring holiday tradition do you most look forward to this year?



JULI MACDONNELL
I'm looking forward to celebrating the solstice with a candle to celebrate the returning light.



ARI "CHRISTMAS DORK FOR THE DAY" KERR
Spending time with family, especially with the grandkids this year.



LYLE HART
Celebrating the longest night with a bonfire and a feast.



CHESTER LUDLOW
If we're going to celebrate we should do it as we did in the past: together as a community.



DAVID HART
The island's craft fairs are a great tradition.

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.

Next study welcomed

Re: "Island's political future a waiting game," Dec. 11 Driftwood.

The governance study recently undertaken was, in my view, a very fair and equitable process made accessible to everyone and every point of view. There were multiple opportunities to express one's opinion and a broad spectrum of community interests represented throughout the process.

Peter Lamb is quoted as saying: "There are some people who are extremely disappointed." Which

prompts me to speculate: Is that because the cabal of The Disappointed didn't get their way? They wanted it stopped. Not done. And the community drove it in the opposite direction.

Or, is the disappointment perhaps hinged to the fact that a municipal government situation will not allow a select handful of islanders to run this island as a private club?

Well, some of us, most of us in fact, would like to have some semblance of democracy restored to our local affairs. Our current Islands Trust representatives have served their terms with integrity and transparency,

a welcome change from the recent past. But they are working within a fundamentally flawed framework that was never designed to be a democratic governing body . . . but ends up attempting to do so by default. And this leaves us, the people, in an untenable situation.

This time we got lucky with our trustees. But what if next time we are once again reduced to playing the serfs in a local little fiefdom? I, for one, will welcome this upcoming study, which I sincerely hope will result in a municipal government for Salt Spring Island.

VICTORIA MIHALYI,
SALT SPRING

Governance problem?

Why all the fuss about island governance?

Next year my wife and I will become quarter-century islanders. In that time we have seen an amazing blossoming of initiative and creative activity. I can list many projects, and you may know more: Salt Spring Island Foundation, Salt Spring Island Conservancy, ArtSpring centre for the performing arts, indoor swimming pool, new library, water protection authority, three splendid retirement homes for seniors,

skate board park, extensive renovations to Mahon and Fulford halls, continued sprucing up of Ganges town centre, Island Pathways and a public transportation system, bike paths and sidewalks, lively Farmers' Institute and expanded Fall Fair, new community abattoir, new church buildings, continuing expansion of the Saturday market, regular rallies on public issues in Centennial Park, annual film festival, new regional high school, new businesses, large artistic and crafts communities, memorial park for Japanese Canadians, national awards for the Gulf Islands Driftwood, exten-

sive sports activities for all ages . . . Even the latest disputation over a new fire hall indicates a lively, concerned and responsible community.

Is all this activity likely on an island with a faulty governance model? I suggest that the most recent voluntary "poll" indicated a silent, appreciative majority and an apparently unhappy minority.

It is not given to human nature to be perfect. Let's look at the record and be well content.

BOB WILD,
HEDGER ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

No thanks to online banking and smart meters

Today I am a grump. No, I am not trying to be the Grinch who stole Christmas. It's just that I'm getting sick and tired of being bullied and pushed around.

Take the credit union, for instance. I have now been a member of Island Savings Credit Union for just under 30 years. I've stuck with the institution through thick and thin as it hopped around McPhillips Avenue from one location to another over the past three decades.

These are my people. This is my banking family. I have watched with tender concern as each generation of new tellers fumbled through their first week jitters, learned their craft, and eventually rose through the ranks to graduate to an office or cubicle on the periphery from whence they could disseminate sound financial advice and wealth management.

I love my relationship with my credit union. Every month I receive an account statement in the mail. I pour myself a hot cup of tea, pull up a stool, and go through the statement item by item to see if I can figure out why my balance is always on the decline. Inevitably, I grow distracted, lose track of where my money is going, and pack the statement away in a file with dozens of others I have never quite managed to reconcile. In my mind, I always envision the day I will return to my account statements and put the matter to rest by diligently balancing all the withdrawals and deposits. (In my mind, I also know that day will never come.)

Then suddenly it all changed. I was informed that paper account statements were being phased out in favour of the apparently much more efficient online banking accounting.

This is not right. Why does my banking institution feel it has to drag me, albeit kicking and screaming, into the 21st century? I feel my arm is being virtually twisted to coerce me into opting for on-line banking.

They assure me that it's a "win-win" proposition. "Make deposits anywhere, anytime," they entice. "Quickly and securely deposit cheques with your iPhone; just snap a picture and hit 'send!'" they propose seductively.

The problem I have is that I'm not really assured of anything. Plus, I don't even own a cell phone, let alone an "i" one. Every time I hear someone try to convince me that online banking is 100 per cent safe, my inner alarm system goes off and a voice in my head warns me, "That's what they want you to believe." I am reminded of the old adage, "Just because you are paranoid doesn't mean there isn't actually somebody out there following you."

I like getting my paper statements in the mail. I don't want to change. That's fine, according to the credit union reps, but if I want to be a dinosaur, it's going to cost me.

And cost me it does. Right now I'm paying a toonie per month per account for a "paper statement fee" (the privilege of being able to hold my paper statement between my hot little fingers). In addition, I'm being charged another toonie as a "monthly image return cheque fee" for the opportunity to be able to see a photo image of the front and back of any cheque I



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

may have written.

Okay, credit union, let's make a deal. I'll stop demanding paper hard copies of my account statements the day you scrap all the printers and photo copiers you have in your establishment. If you claim paper copies are unnecessary and obviously you don't need them as well.

Then there's BC Hydro and the draconian measures they are employing to intimidate their smart meters onto unwilling customers.

The way I see it, if BC Hydro was half as smart as they claim their smart meters are, they would make it seem as if getting one of their new digital meters was as big an event as winning the lottery. Instead of forcing the highly contentious device on the general public, they could be offering incentives and selling the sucker as a privilege to own.

The marketing could go something like this: "Hey boys and girls, what are you doing with that old, obsolete analog hydro meter? You don't want that piece of junk anymore. No, you could be the first one on your block to own a new BC Hydro smart meter. It's digital and way more fun!"

"For one thing, the new smart meter is interactive. You'll be able to let us know when you are using electricity, how much, for how long, and what devices you are powering. In return, we will let you know how much you owe us. It's as simple as that.

"But that's not all, kids. If you are among the

first thousand subscribers for this incredible offer, we have a sensational introductory deal for you. That's right; the first one thousand households who sign up for a fabulous smart meter will receive a deluxe fire extinguisher for absolutely free!

"And that's not all either. If you are one of the proud BC Hydro customers who have signed a contract for an astounding smart meter, we will put your residence at the head of the line in the unlikely circumstance that your neighbourhood were to lose power due to a wind or snow blackout. This means that our linemen will rush over to immediately repair whatever downed lines are affecting you. As for those of you who still insist on keeping your hopelessly inefficient analog meters, well we'll get around to you eventually.

"And one last thing, kids, don't forget that smart meters come in 11 different "glow in the dark" colours and 17 delicious flavours."

Nobody asked me, but I would breathe a whole lot easier if both Island Savings and BC Hydro backed off a bit on their "Brave New World" vision. Maybe digital monitoring and online banking are the wave of the future, but there are more than just a few of us who are in no hurry to hurl ourselves lemming-like into this abyss of uncertainty. Maybe it's high time we let them know where we stand.

So, no offence to Island Savings and BC Hydro, but if I want to get something new this festive season, I'll get it myself. Otherwise, all I want for Christmas is the status quo.

thyme2001@hotmail.com

here's my card

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D.W. Salty
REPORTER
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Orca aid

MP Randall Garrison of Esquimalt Juan de Fuca has recently launched a petition regarding our southern resident orcas. Did you know that there are only 81 resident orcas left?

The Conservative government has cut funding for research, monitoring of fish stocks, chemical pollution and noise pollution. This lack of monitoring will hinder any efforts to protect them. Mr. Garrison will be presenting Motion 460, which contains an action plan to address key threats to the survival of these whales.

I ask you to consider your contribution to his efforts by visiting his website, randallgarrison.ndpc.ca and print off a few pages and ask friends, neighbours and co-workers to sign on. They need all the help we can give them.

CLAUDIA HOLDING,
SALT SPRING

Library support appreciated

As we approach Dec. 20, the anniversary of our first year in the new library building, I would like to thank the entire Salt Spring community for so eagerly embracing the library and working together to create such a dynamic community hub.

Since opening our doors a year ago, there have been over 170,000 visits to the new library. The new meeting rooms and the community program room have been in constant use by individuals, students and community groups. To date, 2,077 people have attended our author talks, art programs, Tech Café series and other events, while 2,179 youth have attended ToddlerTimes, StoryTimes

MORE LETTERS

and teen programs.

All of these programs are funded by our annual giving campaigns. A successful 2013 campaign will enable us to present even more courses, programs and events through 2014.

We are enjoying our wonderful new library building because of the support received from our community. As our one-year anniversary approaches, I encourage you to continue your support of the library by contributing to our annual giving campaign. Contributions of all sizes are equally appreciated.

Not only do the funds from this campaign enhance programming for Salt Springers of all ages, the revenue is also used to hire summer students who fill in for vacationing volunteers and manage projects such as the Summer Reading Club.

Contributions can be mailed in, dropped off at the library, or made through the CanadaHelps option on the library website: <http://saltspring.bclibrary.ca/>.

KAREN HUDSON,
CHIEF LIBRARIAN,
SALT SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY

Let's re-order our values

Kudos to George Sipos (Dec. 11 Viewpoint) for describing one of the main roots of our current problems: "We are encouraged . . . to assume that the value of any activity or pursuit . . . must derive from its economic usefulness."

This fixation on "the bottom line" leads us to the absurd situation where much of what we are doing is actually destroying the ultimate "bottom line" of the earth's ability to support

higher life forms. I am reminded of how, in Medieval Europe, in their zeal to be godly, people would pay indulgences to those holding religious power, ostensibly to avoid punishment in the afterlife. This accentuated the gap between rich and poor, and actually undermined the values of true Christianity.

Our collective obsession with the economy is our modern-day form of religious idolatry. Political parties fall over each other to be shown to be strong economic leaders, and managing our affairs to foster beauty, genuine health, moral strength or humane standards is left to people often considered to be fringe players.

It is a happy coincidence that CBC Ideas featured a great program on the degrowth paradigm on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day. The degrowth movement is centred around a re-ordering of values, aiming to maximize well-being and minimize consumption — all in all, the wisest "investment opportunity" we have now.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Ticks wanted for research

On Salt Spring, the high season for encountering ticks spans the autumn through the spring. I would like any ticks that your pet may have picked up. Here's why.

I retired here last year from the University of Alberta, my research concentrating on the physiology of ticks. Dr. Justene Tedder most kindly offered me space in the Gulf Islands Veterinary Clinic to set up a laboratory.

My research is on the mechanical properties of the tick's cuticle (its outer "skin"). Although the cuticle is relatively hard before the tick attaches to a host and begins

to suck blood, it becomes much more compliant as the tick engorges. If we can learn what are the physiological processes that soften the cuticle during engorgement, that could lead ultimately to the development of interventions that inhibit the softening, thereby inhibiting engorgement, and thereby also significantly reducing the likelihood of disease transmission by ticks. The predominant species of tick found locally on Salt Spring is capable of transmitting Lyme disease.

Colleagues at the University of Alberta are determining the proportion of ticks in B.C. and elsewhere in Canada that harbour the Lyme bacterium and other tick-borne nasties. So many of the ticks that I encounter here will be forwarded to them for further analysis.

I can use ticks at any stage of feeding, so if you notice ticks on your pet or domestic animal, would you contact me for further information? Email rkaufman@ualberta.ca. Here is a link to further information on ticks, disease and my project: http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/reuben_kaufman/index.php?Page=8930.

REUBEN KAUFMAN,
SALT SPRING

Fair apology

Many thanks to all the wonderful people who came out to support the Legion's Annual Christmas Craft and Collectibles Fair.

I would like to apologize to those folks who got there after 3 p.m. only to find many vendors packed up and gone for the day. These vendors will not be asked to sell with us again as they were all aware that our hours were 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

FRAN LEASK,
LEGION CRAFT FAIR

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A Ferry Merry Christmas

A Christmas poem for Premier Christy Clark

Dear Premier Clark
Hope your Christmas is merry.
We just can't afford
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The tariffs keep rising,
The schedules are shrinking,
Your CEOs just don't have an inkling.
There's no profit in sailing empty boats
And you can't keep your job without our votes.
The young island folk will move to the city
While the seniors stay home . . . now that's a pity.
So beware of the ferries, they could be your folly.
Casinos and slots are all very jolly
But when we're all broke, barely staying afloat
Who's going to pay for the big fancy boats?
Will you ship the whole fleet back to the bankers
Or convert them all into LNG tankers?
Remember the Fast Cats! We gave them away.
While the fat cats got fatter, we all had to pay.
Hope Father Harper leaves some treats in your fridge
Alberta wants pipelines and you need a bridge.
Don't toy with the islands, they're the keys of the coast
The sea is their highway, without them you're toast.
So listen to the ghosts of Christmas past,
Glen gambled with the ferries and he didn't last.
So Premier Clark, may your future be bright.
Merry Christmas to all, may you all see the light.

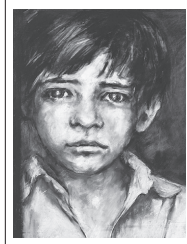
ANN MCLEAN,
QUADRA ISLAND



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

HAPPY HAIR: Sivalla Marcotte, right, with her natural fleece and silk hair adornments, assists Diana Newby at the 5th annual Legion Christmas Craft and Collectibles Fair held at Meaden Hall on Sunday. The event has become a popular island tradition in the lead-up to Christmas.

here's my card



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Government choice not an 'either or' case

BY JOHN MACPHERSON

I commend Jean Gelwicks for commending the Final Report of the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee (In-Depth, Dec. 11). It can be found at www.ssigovernancestudy.ca.

The report is not only engaging; it is a must-read for anyone who recognizes that governance has a significant ongoing impact on our island way of life.

However, there are significant errors in Ms. Gelwicks' reporting. For example, in getting to the origins of the Islands Trust, she sets up the Trust as other than and against municipal governance, or as she calls it, "business as usual." The reality is it was never a choice between having a municipality or having the Trust: land use planning was simply split off from the CRD. (Clearly the Trust is not "opposed" to the CRD.) Then, based on this false dichotomy, she expresses her concern about jeopardizing what we have now. The inference is — quite wrongly — that incorporation is oppositional to the Trust and something fearful.

If indeed Salt Spring were to become a municipality, it would certainly not be "business as usual" as with other municipalities. It would happen according to the Islands Trust Act, which not only provides for incorporation but also assures the ongoing role of the Trust. The "preserve and protect" mandate would live on and bind any municipal council. The facts are in the

report. It is also an error to say that all the governance committee accomplished was to survey islanders, most of whom had already made up their minds about being pro-Trust or pro-incorporation. It is a bad characterization, one that perpetuates a false dichotomy, one that wrongfully undermines the study, one that gives the reader allegation pretending to be fact. For one thing, she has no basis for identifying who was who among the survey respondents. For another, she ignores the fact it is quite possible to be in favour of both.

Another alleged failing of the study is that the terms of reference did not allow a look at how things might be changed within the status quo. Equally, though, the study did not allow a look at how things might be fine tuned within a municipal structure. The reason is simple. Tweaking either form of governance does not change the nature of the beast. The task was to contrast unincorporated governance (which we have now) with incorporated and see what issues emerged.

What emerged among participants was the view that the status quo is not adequate to address the issues facing the island, and that an incorporation study is desirable. The report notes community concerns as to enhancing local representation, addressing coordination of services currently provided by multiple governments, providing a body to establish community priorities,

addressing lack of strategic planning and lack of centralized budgeting, and having broader local representation in land-use decisions.

What we have now is decentralized governance with many moving parts, some with off-island decision makers, each with its own mandate, each capable of taxing and/or imposing fees independently of each other and, in some cases, independently of the will of Salt Springers. It is like a ship with many captains, many helms and many rudders. Any voluntary "getting together" to talk about things, as Ms. Gelwicks suggests has neither legislated authority nor staying power nor ultimate effect.

On the other hand, the only legislatively available alternative is the municipal model, a ship with one captain, one helm and one rudder, yet one still guided by "preserve and protect."

Which ship the community wishes to be on will only be known following an incorporation study. For most of us, it will depend on what an incorporation study reveals. Meanwhile, any call to rearrange deck chairs on the current ship should be seen in context — and any suggestions that we will sink if we board a new ship should be seen as fear mongering, however softly it is whispered.

The writer is former chair of the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 10

CFSI analysis

There is indeed sound reason to challenge why the operator of Salt Spring's only radio station CFSI hasn't complied with the licence agreement regulations laid down by the CRTC. ("CFSI faces CRTC hearing," Dec. 11 Driftwood.)

To me and many others, CFSI was a farce, like a bad gee-gee, incapable of winning. To those of us who have earned a living in both print and broadcasting with the BBC, frankly I am appalled.

Who in their sound mind would imagine one could broadcast to anywhere unless beforehand you employed an acknowledged technical staff that could prove the signal reception?

Having written that, some signals can never go anywhere for complex technical reasons. For instance it would be like giving a blind man a pair of crutches and telling

him to climb Mount Maxwell.

From day one, CFSI had a limited listening audience not entirely because of reception difficulties beyond their control, but I questioned then who would invest hard-earned dollars in a hit-and-miss radio station, which flip-flop might or might not be received.

Nobody would abandon anyone who volunteers, but those who were duped into giving their time simply wasted it. They all did their own thing and gave of their time. Some were good, perhaps waiting to work, and others less so.

I would suggest, however, broadcasting is left to professional broadcasters; the responsibility is on the station owners. Professional journalists have learned their "trade" the hard way in newspapers, radio and TV.

While the Gulf Islands take part in and enjoy their newspaper the Driftwood, it has an invaluable place in the community.

I am not in a position to

predict whether Salt Spring needs a replacement for the ailing CFSI should it go down, but I am encouraged in the firm increase in the written word.

I well remember the panic shortly before CFSI was due on air. An appeal for volunteers had been made.

I had come to Salt Spring from the UK to retire. Suddenly my phone rang and a person on the other end said he had heard I had been a BBC news interviewer, just the type he was looking for. I made it clear I wasn't looking for a job but would help where I could temporarily.

He said that it depended whether I passed a voice test. Duly he arrived at my home and pressed a tape recorder toward my lips. He smiled joyously and left. Yippee, I had passed the test.

Silence, they say, is golden. All I heard was there had been an internal argument and he was no longer to be seen at the station.
GEORGE CLOGG,
 SALT SPRING

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Governance study: Have the people really spoken?

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT

With more than two decades of service to Statistics Canada, initially as economist/statistician and later as science advisor, it is more than evident to me that one cannot rely on ad-hoc surveys to tell us with any accuracy what the majority of our (or any) community is thinking on any particular topic.

As we all know, when professional polls are conducted, their methodology is clear and they can tell us the degree of confidence that they have in the results. This is usually stated as "accurate within so many percentage points, 19 times out of 20." The absence of such statements in the pro-

claimed results of the recent governance study is a clear indicator that the procedure (methodology) of the poll is faulty and the results unreliable.

On the basis of a flawed survey (the methodology for which would unlikely stand up to any serious statistical review; the recording of whose results may have lacked unbiased oversight; and the electronic version of which may well have enabled individuals to file multiple replies from different computers in various locations), the Salt Spring Governance Study Committee concluded there was "sufficient public support to proceed to a formal incorporation study." This conclusion does not

rest on firm foundations.

A flawed poll cannot be taken as a basis to draw a conclusion of "sufficient public support" — or any conclusion, for that matter.

This community may or may not be in favour of a formal incorporation study.

The apparent eagerness of the committee to rely on this result might lead one to wonder about possible bias within the committee. Was there any procedure in

place to assure our community that each member was unprejudiced about the issue when they agreed to serve on the committee? In other words, were there any checks and balances (as is the case in jury selection) to ensure that the committee itself did not have an agenda?

Finally, the communications coordinator seemed all too eager to thank "the community" for their input, claiming the report "reflects your views, all of which were important as the study progressed."

What confidence do we have as to the validity of that statement? Judging from the apparent flaws in the procedures followed in get-

ting community input, I would suggest: none at all.

This community may or may not be in favour of a formal incorporation study. But the reality is, after the costly "governance study," we still don't know what the case is.

The way in which the process was conducted suggests strongly that the "people have not yet spoken" — and any attempt to claim otherwise and to make the case to the minister on that basis is, at best, misleading.

The writer held the post of senior scientist and science advisor to Statistics Canada from 1982 to 1994.

persnickety
clothing for kids

Merry Christmas

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RANTS and Roses

Rants

To the man in the van who confronted me on Old Scott Road on Dec. 4. Firstly, it's not cool to confront a lone female after dark in any situation, especially not at a rural postbox late at night. In this day and age, you should not need to be reminded of this. The fact you were angry made the situation even less safe. Secondly, how dare you accuse me of tailgating you when you were driving exactly five miles under the speed limit? Not only did I turn my high beams down well before I rounded the corner behind you, but I also realigned my headlights so they were pointing further down as a courtesy because I know my car lights are extremely bright. Since I was listening to a lovely piece of music and not in a hurry, I felt no need for impatience, and actually dropped back to match your speed giving us at least three car lengths in between. To be berated while getting my post a few minutes later was rather a shock. If you now live on the same street, please know we have a lovely neighbourhood that operates on humour, courtesy and respect. Rasma Bertz

Roses

Salt Spring Island Therapeutic Riding Association sends wheelbarrows of thanks to Beth Gessinger for patiently adding up the "tapes" or customer receipts from the drop box at Salt Spring's Country Grocer store. It's well worthwhile everyone putting their receipts into those little plastic boxes by the door... the ongoing total for this year is significant. The store donates one per cent of the receipt totals to not-for-profits. That's a lot of adding up, Beth! Shovel loads of thanks, also, to Country Grocer for their generosity. Thank you also to everyone for remembering us when choosing which box to "feed." Our program has constant, on-going costs, not least of which is keeping

our wonderful horses well fed and cared for. Every little bit counts. Thank you, everybody.

Baskets full of Christmas roses to Michelle Footz, music teacher at SIMS, for the wonderful job she is doing with her students. In just three months my grandson has learned to read music, make recognizable tunes come out of his baritone horn and has participated in his first concert. The Christmas Concert was wonderful and a great way to start the holidays. Thanks, Michelle. A grateful (and proud) grandma Quilted patterned roses to Stitch Dimensions Quilt Guild for making beautiful quilted placements for all the Meals on Wheels clients. Your community spirit just shines through in every stitch. They certainly brighten up the lunch-time meal delivery for everyone. Thank you for remembering us.

Salt Spring Centre School would like to thank all the families and their businesses who donated prizes for our Winterfest raffle: A Happiest Wellness B&B, Gaiama Yoga, Shannon Cowan Yoga, Charlotte Bowman and Bastien Simoneau, Howard Holzapfel and Beth McDermott, Auntie Pesto's Cafe, LeeAnn Norgard Pottery, Hips & Haws Cookery, Alinka Porebska massage and acupuncture, and Greg and Trish Staicesku.

A hall full of poinsettias, Christmas rose and winter jasmine thank you to Duncan Hepburn for donating a Christmas tree for Fulford Hall. The hall looks very festive. Extra thanks for cutting, trimming and dropping off the tree as well. Merry Christmas! Ranji

Thirty-five blushing red roses to all of the folks who made our Sharespring campaign a success. Heavenly Roots Vegetable Farm reached its goal of \$3,000, and has begun construction on its deer fence at the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm. Stop by and see the proof! Thanks again. Ben and Kaleigh

A bouquet of red Christmas roses to the kind dog lover who called us from Dagwood's to tell us our friendly Husky was wandering around that busy intersection — and we didn't even know he had escaped our (not quite that day, it seems) fenced property. By making the effort to contact Dex's people from the phone number on his tag, you saved us much worry and possible heartache. Wagging tails all around.

Seventeen roses to Sharon Glover, one for each year she has served the Salt Spring community in her role as Wellness Coordinator under the auspices of Lady Minto Hospital, Salt Spring Community Services, Salt Spring Seniors and Meadowbrook. With her trademark smile and enthusiasm, Sharon trained and supervised a dedicated crew of Senior Peer Counsellors and Friendly Visitors, co-ordinated volunteers for the blood pressure check and the screening mammography programs, served on the admissions committee for Meadowbrook, chaired the Community Health Committee, liaised with numerous self-help groups, and was a tireless advocate and resource for myriad health-related services on the island. Her caring, compassionate dedication to Wellness Programs will be greatly missed.

White winter roses to my friends and neighbours in the south end and to all of the patient people of Salt Spring Island who stop their cars and "ferry" me to my daily destinations. Wishing you and yours a joyful solstice and a safe and Happy New Year! Thank you from my heart. A hitchhiker

A wheelbarrow of turkey roses to Paul and Country Grocer. Thank you so much for supporting our turkey fundraiser. We all appreciate what you do for the community and us! Thank you. Legion Branch 92

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Felt artist shares animated techniques and fundraiser



Photos by Jen MacLellan

Susan Bowers, right, helps her friend Nadia Bizzotto create a bunny (middle photo) during a demonstration of how to make charming felted critters during a special event at Bowers' Fever Tree store in Mouat's Mall. Fever Tree is currently holding a raffle of a felted mouse and cat, Lilly and Pearl, with proceeds going to the Salt Spring branch of the BCSPCA. Draw date is Dec. 20.

| | |
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CELEBRATIONS

Yule event revived for 2013

Pagan festival at Beaver Point Hall on Dec. 28

Islanders are invited to celebrate Yule, the holiest of pagan holidays, with a ceremonial potluck feast and other festivities on Saturday, Dec. 28.

The family-friendly event sees doors open at Beaver Point Hall at 3 p.m., with wreath-making and other hall decorating taking place, and the opening ceremony at 4:30.

Yuletide carols will be sung from 4:45 to 5 p.m., followed by the feast.

After a few years' hiatus, Dan Miller has resumed the festival he first initiated in 2001 and is looking forward to welcoming people from on and off the island.

"Traditional toasts include in honour of the gods, and the dead, among others," explains Miller. "The potluck feasting tables open, we will eat, drink and be merry, and the time will be open to boisterous toasts and tributes from the floor. Expect a visit from Father Yule about this time, the original, heathen 'Santa Claus,' who will want to meet all the children and hear their New Year wishes. Baby New-Year is also rumoured to be making his first appearance."

Afterwards, guests will offer musical,

poetic or artistic presentations, and a blot or offering ceremony will formally punctuate the proceedings.

"A sacred enclosure, or temple room, traditionally called a stall, with a shrine to the gods, ancestors and the earth, will also be open to those who wish to make a quiet offering or have a private time with the spirits, away from the crowd."

After clean-up, merry-making will take place in the fireplace room, and a roundtable or moot of the Frithgard Fellowship — host of the event — may occur. The fellowship is a band of Germanic heathens, and a proposed new non-profit group dedicated to supporting the health of families through the healthy revival of the indigenous northwest European cultures of the Germanic tribes.

All proceeds from the event will help rebuild the Tsawout First Nation's longhouse that burned down in 2009, through donations to the Tsawout Snenek Cultural Society, a registered charity.

Miller notes that the Dec. 28 event on Salt Spring is being carried out in accordance with Coast Salish protocols, after having made traditional offerings to the Tsawout hereditary chief, Eric Pelkey, who gave his blessings for the event.

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ISLAND ARTS

Emerging artist captivates jurors and public

Melanie Williamson paintings at League 181 show

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The year 2013 has been a good one for emerging artist Melanie Williamson, whose decision to put serious effort into the world of painting resulted in almost immediate recognition.

This past October, Williamson received the prize for Best Work on Canvas or Board at the prestigious Sidney Fine Art Show for her painting of a cow and her calf titled *Thelma and her Baby*.

The show receives over 1,000 submissions each year and of those chooses approximately 300 pieces to exhibit, with a maximum of three submissions per artist. All three of Williamson's submissions were accept-

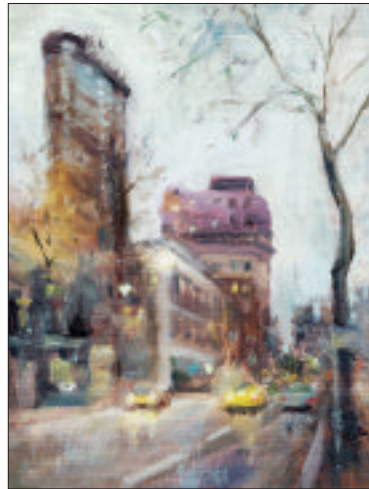
ed and all sold on opening night. The experience was a significant one for the Salt Spring Painters Guild member, who has only recently started to exhibit her work in public.



MELANIE WILLIAMSON

"It is just so encouraging to me whenever anybody buys my work, and especially thrilling to be recognized by other artists and jurors at an event like this," Williamson said after the win. "I'm very encouraged as I am just starting to admit that I'd love to attempt to make a career of fine art."

Although Williamson studied design and illustration at Capilano University after graduating from high school on Salt Spring, getting back into her own art has been a process



From top, Melanie Williamson's paintings called *Martinis at Clive's*, *Hastings Street* and *Setting Tables, Pagliacci's*. Her work can be seen as part of the League 181 show in the ArtSpring lobby through Friday.

that's had to evolve along with raising two young children and having a husband with an unusual work schedule. She has honed her skills at the painters guild's weekly life drawing classes and carved out a home studio in her basement.

"With a family it's hard to do it all, but I'm really trying to do more fine art," she said.

Her painting style, in oils with a large brush, is what Williamson terms as "natural": not an attempt to reproduce with photographic clarity, but an expression of vision.

"It's a balance of painting really loose and being accurate when you need to be — no more detail than needs to be there," she said.

Williamson's paintings have a warm and classic feel, with scenes from life that present the sketchy immediacy of the Impressionists. The cosy scenes pictured in *Martinis at Clive's* or *Setting Tables, Pagliacci's* could easily be from Manet's day, if not for the current fashions.

What inspires her to paint is a combination of gesture and light. Often this is a certain quality in a person or an unusual atmosphere, such as the blue light shining up at the bartender's face in *Martinis at Clive's*.

"I really want to show the beauty that I see in everyday people and situations, like a rainy street or someone pouring drinks," she explained.

A street scene of historic Hastings Street in Vancouver looking east toward the Dominion Building represents a new direction for Williamson, who said she finds landscapes challenging, especially ones requiring straight lines and perspective. Nonetheless, she hits it right on the mark, with the grouping of interestingly shaped old and new towers

moving the eye from centre to left. The composition is beautifully balanced by a spindly tree in the right foreground against the pale grey-blue sky. The sombre tones of a rainy street are brightened by two yellow taxis.

Williamson was also selected to participate in the juried Even Cheaper Art Show at Art Barn International in August.

Her work can currently be seen at ArtSpring in a lobby exhibition by the League 181 group, which was formed by her fellow painters

guild participant and Canadian Federation of Artists member Don Hodgins.

"That was another thing that encouraged me, to be invited to do that," she said of joining the group. "It's just nice to have other people to bounce things off instead of being alone."

The League 181 show can be viewed until Dec. 20 before ArtSpring closes for the Christmas holiday. Williamson's work can also be viewed on her website, www.melpaints.com.

Come join us for Merry Monday December 23. Carol singing led by Valdy starts at 6 pmish. Storewide sale - spend \$25 or more, take 10% off, spend \$50 or more, take 15% off, spend \$100 or more, get 20% off (excluding only tobacco and dairy case items). Open till 9 pm Dec 23, till 6 pm Dec 24, 11am-4pm Dec 25, Jan 1.

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| Friday Dec 20th The 18 hour BarBQ Brisket \$14 Canucks vs Chicago 5pm Coastal Giant 9pm | Mondays Dec 23rd 2 For 1 Appies all day |
| Saturday Dec 21st Island Rootz (Reggae) 9pm | Tuesday Dec 24th Christmas Eve Closing at 6pm |
| Wednesday Dec 25th (CLOSED) | |

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PHOTOS COURTESY RENDEZVOUS

BRIGITTE'S BEST: The treat-filled window of Rendezvous French Patisserie earned the People's Choice Award in the 2013 Driftwood Christmas Light-up Decorating Contest, with winners of other categories announced in the Dec. 4 paper.

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
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 Dec. 27th 8-4; Dec. 28th 10-4;
 Dec. 30th 8-4; Dec. 31st 8-2

BOOK REVIEW

Expert's book tackles disabilities

Linda Siegel shares profound insights

BY MAUREEN MOORE
 SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Once they were called lazy. Now they are called brilliant.

Would you like to have been school friends with Winston Churchill, Agatha Christie, William Butler Yeats, Hans Christian Anderson or Picasso? You'd guess that they would have been outstanding and inspiring students, but in reality these great figures found school to be a place of extreme misery where they were punished or mocked, their huge talents unrecognized.

Why? In her new book, *Understanding Dyslexia and Other Learning Disabilities*, Salt Spring's Linda Siegel, a UBC professor who holds the Dorothy C. Lam Chair in Special Education, answers this question. Each of these brilliant and creative figures had specific learning problems, and no one to diagnose them or offer remediation.

Let's take the Irish poet William But-

ler Yeats as an example. In 1923, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature but during his painful childhood this ingenious wordsmith struggled to learn to read, let alone to write. He never learned to spell and had problems with grammar and handwriting.

As a boy, he never won an essay prize due to his difficulties. Yet, as an adult, he had the poet's gift of magical words, sweeping his audience away with his oral language skills and memorable spoken imagery.

Siegel defines Yeats' youthful difficulties as evidence of dyslexia, a language-processing problem. Undiagnosed, he was considered and believed himself to be lazy. He despaired of learning in school. But in fact, both his gifts and his deficits helped him to become the originator of an extraordinary legacy of lasting work that went far beyond that "basic literacy" he found so difficult.

Like Yeats, all the people mentioned were finally able to work in areas of their giftedness and became world-renowned. Many students, even today,

are not so lucky. They blame themselves for their learning problems and remain unaware of their own unique skills throughout their lives. This can have serious consequences for them, their families and society. This is Siegel's concern.

Her book is packed with information for parents, teachers and for students themselves about the importance of early diagnosis of learning disabilities and how to get help, the best (and worst) remediation techniques, responses to intervention, examples of real children she has diagnosed and the tragedies of those who, unsupported, fell into despair.

Siegel is a world-class expert who travels internationally to share her knowledge. Her profound insight about working with both a pupil's strengths and weaknesses is a huge step forward in creating a balanced view of learning. She has written a fascinating, readable, important book that is a gift to educators, parents and students. This is the best book that I have ever read on this important topic.

artist gallery and gift shop

salt spring island

wintercraft



nov 29 to dec 22
 open daily 10-5

Wintercraft is THE place to shop for those unique Salt Spring gifts, promising something for everyone on your list this Christmas. Soaps, candles, jewelry, textiles, ceramics, original artworks and much, much more, all created by hand on the Gulf Islands, all of them special and at a wide range of prices.

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!

**SSAC MEMBERS 10% DISCOUNT EVENT:
 SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH, 3-5PM**

LIVE BANDS

Island Rootz at Moby's for solstice rocker evening

Dancing shoes a must for Dec. 21

Salt Spring reggae band Island Rootz will be leading the way for islanders to dance away the winter blues this winter solstice with a performance at Moby's set for Saturday, Dec. 21.

Though the band only made its debut at Fulford Day in Drummond Park this summer, the combined experience of the musicians and their chemistry together makes for a fully developed sound — perhaps because all the members have been hanging out and jamming in small combinations for years.

"Everywhere we've played we've been asked back," said band manager and sound tech Arlo McGowan, noting Island Rootz has been booked to play Gabriola Island for New Year's Eve, as well as a number of gigs across the southern Gulf Islands.

"We have a lot of fun," he added. "Reggae for Peace" is the band's official motto, but their music could well be designed for dancing.

McGowan says that band members Iwah Patterson (guitar), Skye Linnott (bass) and Jordan King on drums boost their musical talents with the best possible sound equipment to produce a sound with a distinctly professional edge.

Audience members can expect to hear around 40 per cent "reggaed-up" covers of classic tunes from the likes of Hendrix and The Beatles at the show, along with a healthy portion of Island Rootz originals.

"Our guitar player Iwah is an incredibly talented songwriter," McGowan said.

Dancing shoes are strongly recommended for the show, which starts at 9 p.m.

The band expects to put out a full CD next spring.

IslandSavings



ASSISTANT MANAGER, PERSONAL BANKING SALT SPRING ISLAND BRANCH

As Assistant Manager, Personal Banking at our Salt Spring Branch you will play an integral role in the branch management team by providing leadership and direction to the Advisor, Personal Banking team. Your responsibilities will include supervising, coaching, sales planning and creating an environment consistent with our Relationship Strategy and Service Standards. You provide leadership and carry accountability for all branch administrative functions, and may be required to act for the Branch Manager in his/her absence.

To meet these challenges, you must have excellent relationship, communication and coaching skills. You should be working towards or have completed several business related courses, and have a personal commitment to continued professional development. You are aware of financial trends and competitive changes and keep up-to-date on our competitors' environments. Five to seven years experience in the financial industry is required along with demonstrated leadership skills and a passion for providing unsurpassed service.

If you have a passion for coaching and want to be part of our dynamic Salt Spring Island team, please submit your resume in confidence by December 31, 2013 to:

Careers@iscu.com
 Job Posting 2013-117
 Attention: Branch Manager, Island Savings

Please note: internal and external interviews for this position will be held in January 2014. We thank all applicants for applying. Only those under consideration will be contacted.



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@driftwoodjmedia.com

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Library hosts Santa, book tree and displays

Salt Spring library's Christmas hours also publicized

December is well underway, and the festive spirit has hit the Salt Spring library.

On Friday, Dec. 20, Santa himself will park his sleigh at the library. Santa, accompanied by three of his elves, will spend an hour sharing stories and jokes with island children. He can be found in the library program room between 3 and 4 p.m.

Santa's not the only sign of holiday cheer. A Christmas tree made entirely of library books stands illuminated in the library lobby. Constructed by a team of library volunteers, the book tree stands about five feet tall and has attracted the admiration of visitors young and old. The books used to build the tree are titles recently weeded from the collection. They will be placed on the library book sale cart at the beginning of the new year.

Finally, the display case in the library lobby boasts a



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Santa will be in the library's program room on Friday for some storytelling with the kids.

whimsical array of toys that would make Santa's workshop proud. Contributed by library volunteers, the toy display showcases trains, dolls and building blocks from years gone by, some of them over a century old.

Patrons should note that the library will close at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, and will also be closed all day on Dec. 25-26.



PHOTO BY MAUREEN MOORE

Christmas tree made of books in the library lobby.

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What's happening?

friday
Fresh Sheet by chef Matt Rissling. Tempt your taste buds with contemporary West Coast features.

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.



Fingering the snoops

Can I tell you about my career as a photojournalist?



Arthur Black

Won't take long because it didn't last long — about 11 seconds, as I recall.

WIT & WHIMSY

I had the equipment — a nice 35-millimetre Pentax. I had the location — a mountain village in rural Spain. I had a customer — the Globe and Mail was buying travel pieces from me. I even had the occasion. Generalissimo Francisco Franco had just croaked and I had a chance to record what the passing of the long-time dictator meant to at least some of his countrymen. I decided a photograph of one of the townspeople — a barefoot peasant in a battered straw hat who was astride a burro shambling down a rocky path toward me — would make a compelling illustration for my story. I raised my camera; the peasant raised his right forefinger and wagged it disapprovingly.

And I caved. I baled. I chickened out. I lowered my camera and grinned apologetically. Clearly I wasn't tough enough to be a photojournalist.

Back then, attitudes towards photos taken without permission were a good deal crisper than they are today. In 2013 we all have our pictures taken by complete strangers dozens of times daily. Surveillance cameras snap our profiles in bank lineups, corner stores, at gas pumps — even at stoplights. It is a completely unwarranted and unsanctioned intrusion of our privacy, but it happens so often we don't even think about it.

My computer guru was helping me retrieve some files on my laptop and I happened to mention that tiny Cyclopean eye

that sits front and centre on most laptop screens — the camera lens. He chuckled and said, "I can't tell you how many clients I deal with who've put duct tape over that lens."

Meaning what? That some people think their own computers are spying on them? What would be the point? What would a spy see through that lens? In my case he'd see a bald guy with a red face saying bad words about the laptop that just ate his email.

Hard to see how that would enhance the CSIS database of terrorist activity in Canada.

I'm saying CSIS, but choose your own initials. CSA, FBI, CIA, RCMP — who knows who's snooping out there?

Recently I attended an anti-oil tanker rally in a local park. I was having a hard time hearing the Raging Grannies because of a high-pitched droning sound from overhead. I looked up and saw . . . a drone, I guess. A weird gizmo about the size of a crow with four stiff wings that swept back and forth about 20 feet above the crowd. It wasn't camouflaged; as a matter of fact it looked sort of like a model airplane — except every few seconds it would stop and hover.

The better to take photographs, I have to conclude.

So who was manning the controls on that drone — the protest organizers? Some municipal crowd-control bureaucrat? A constable from the local RCMP unit?

All I know is, nobody identified themselves. And nobody asked my permission.

Well, I know something else. The next time I pass a surveillance camera — at the bank, at the gas pump, wherever — I plan to emulate that Spanish peasant who held up his forefinger to me years ago.

But I'll be using a different finger.



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- Pender Isl: 250.629.3431

- Malahat: 250.743.8931
- Sooke: 250.642.0915
- Thetis Isl: 250.246.3431
- Mayne Isl: 250.539.2114
- Saturna Isl: 250.539.5722

people&community

ISLAND TALES

Salt Spring Inn cat captivates visitors

Rita instigates questions about the power of cats

BY GEORGE CLOGG
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

This “tail” — pardon the pun — might appear as if I’m throwing the cat among the pigeons.

But the serious question I would like help with is: Do cat lovers believe cats have super-sensory powers?

The cat-human relationship has co-existed for 6,000 years from the Isle of Cyrus where archaeologists found bones of cats and mice.

I recently stayed at the Salt Spring Inn for two weeks while my home on the north end went through a complete redecoration and face lift.

It had been 23 years since my late wife Eunice and I, visitors from the U.K., first stayed at the inn, which was once owned by Rita Dods and called Rita’s Inn. (It’s also had other names, such as the Ship’s Anchor Inn and Tides Inn, among others.)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring Inn owner Jeremy Milsom with Rita the once stray cat who now watches over proceedings at the inn.

Current owner Jeremy Milsom explained: “She was battle scarred because of the life she led on the streets of Salt Spring, and had to be flea ridden. Since then she has become famous.”

Does she have extra sensory powers, I asked?

“I would admit to agreeing she knows and sees all, but that in no way means that many pet lovers think

their pets have extra sensory powers, and who am I to tell them they are wrong? I know she is precious to me.”

Many cat lovers believe cats can read our minds. Cats have predicted earthquakes and illness.

I noticed how Rita’s golden eyes watched every move I made, day after day.

Rita knows exactly her bounds, where she can go

and where is forbidden. The dining room is strictly out of bounds. No artfully hiding under a guest’s table expecting tidbits. That doesn’t mean she has never tried, but it didn’t take long to learn. Neither would she nip up the stairs into a guest bedroom for a quick kip on their bed.

Rita keeps vigil in a comfortable bed on the inn reception desk.

And who would imagine that a 95-year-old like me would contemplate turning sleuth on a cat? There were times when she took a nap. And there were periods I slept too.

What I did find about Rita was that she is extremely polite. She waits patiently for the main entrance door to be opened and her opportunity to go out gracefully.

Rita looks toward the busy traffic and quickly away. She will always remember the danger of those days.

Outside the entrance there are several brown and dark green chairs. Sometimes she takes an afternoon rest, enjoying a bit of fresh air for about half an hour and returns to her vantage point.

How stupid I would be if doing detective work on a cat for a couple of weeks would provide the answer to whether cats have extra-sensory powers, but readers’ beliefs would be greatly appreciated.

In the U.K., spiritualists have said through the spirit world they have communicated with cats.

Our annual Christmas Song Book is now available.

Come in and pick one up!

Driftwood
328 Lower Ganges Road



Salt Spring Island
UNITED CHURCH
(111 HEREFORD AVE.)
invites you to
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
December 24, 2013, 7 p.m.,
refreshments following.

Community Christmas Dinner at Meaden Hall
December 25, 2013, 12 noon until 2 p.m.

Worship Around the Breakfast Table
“Who is Your Angel?”
December 29, 2013, 10 a.m.

250.537.5812

Many cat lovers believe cats can read our minds.

Visitors from all over the world come and go. Well, all except one, the hungry stray cat that found its way into the inn four years ago.

SEASONAL CHARITY

Sale initiatives benefit families in need

SOLID, Windsor and others make giving more meaningful

Christmas gifts with a charitable component have grown more popular through the years.

As the island’s local “one-stop non-profit shop,” the SOLID Exchange in Gasoline Alley has years of experience in offering gifting alternatives to benefit families in Africa.

This year SOLID is focusing on two projects. For \$55, people can ensure Kenyan students will receive a high-quality solar light and battery to help them do homework at the end of their busy days. The light will last at least three years, allowing students to keep up with their studies while preparing for national exams.

The second project, at the same \$55 cost, will provide for five hens, a rooster, and poultry wire for Kenyan grandmothers caring for their HIV/AIDS-orphaned grandchildren. The

grandmothers will attend a workshop on the care and feeding of poultry and the chickens will be given all necessary shots.

“This project will provide vital protein for the family as well as an excellent way for them to earn a sustainable income,” says SOLID.

Purchasers will receive a beautiful original art card made by SOLID volunteer Louise Adele to acknowledge the gift.

For people wanting to help the Salt Spring Food Bank, the local Windsor Plywood branch has come up with a novel way to contribute this week. With a \$5 contribution to the food bank, shoppers can fill a bucket with goods and receive 25 per cent off at the till.

People attending All Saints By-the-Sea’s Carols for Christmastide event today (Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.) are asked to bring donations for the food bank. As well, ArtSpring is hosting its annual Christmas Community Sing-along on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., with a non-perishable food item requested as admission.

OUR LADY OF GRACE
Roman Catholic Church
135 Drake Road

Christmas & New Year Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE: Tuesday, December 24th:
7pm Family Mass at Our Lady of Grace (Carols at 6:30pm)
11pm Mass: at St. Paul’s, Fulford (Carols at 10pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY: Wednesday, December 25th:
10am at Our Lady of Grace

NEW YEAR’S EVE: Tuesday, December 31st:
5pm Vigil at Our Lady of Grace

NEW YEAR’S DAY: Wednesday, January 1st
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
8am Mass at St. Paul’s & 10am Mass at Our Lady of Grace
Our Lady of Grace extends every blessing to you and your family for a Joyous Christmas and New Year

SALT SPRING ISLAND RECYCLING DEPOT
349 RAINBOW ROAD

WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25TH & 26TH
&
NEW YEARS DAY

TIRE Stewardship BC call@recycle Product CARE
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Regular hours:
Tues. to Sat. 10 am - 5 pm

what's on this week



Wed. Dec 18 **Thurs. Dec 19** **Fri. Dec 20** **Sat. Dec 21** **Sun. Dec 22** **Tues. Dec 24** **Wed. Dec 25**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Carols for Christmaside.
An Anglican Parish of SSI event. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2 p.m. Bring donations for the food bank.
SSE Winter Concert.
Salt Spring Elementary School. 6:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Swing Dance.
Every Wednesday evening. East Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Fox Trot, more. SSE Activity Centre. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Cowboy Christmas with Cowboy Ted.
The Local. 6 to 9 p.m.
Open Mic With Ross & Dave.
At Moby's every Thursday. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Stay & Play Drop-In.
For parents/caregivers and their children age 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.
GISS Market.
Purchase products made by the GISS Culinary Program, and local crafts. GISS Cafeteria. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
ArtSpring's Annual Community Sing-Along.
Sing favourite carols and see friends. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.
Rollerblading at Fulford Hall.
With music and free skate rentals. 7 to 9 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Allan Moberg.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
SS Arts Academy Annual Holiday Show.
Students ages three and up from ballet, jazz, musical theatre, hip hop, tap and creative dance classes perform holiday favourites. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.
Viva Chorale! & Viva Chorale Youth Sing Christmas.
Concert with audience participation. Admission by donation to the Salt Spring Food Bank. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.
Coastal Giant.
Live groove band. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Storytime at the Library.
In the children's area. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Santa Reads Stories.
Santa reads stories in the library's program room. 3 to 4 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brad Prevedoros.
Live guitar. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.
Dickens' Christmas Carol.
Dramatic reading with Arthur Black, Jan Rabson, Sue Newman and Ann Stewart, Clark Saunders and music by SSI Vocal Quartet. A fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7:30 p.m.
Island Rootz.
Reggae/dance music. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
T.W.I.S.T: The World Is Still Turning.
Evolutionaries and Silva co-production present a solstice celebration of the return of the light with dance, live music, DJs & Circus Burlesque. Phoenix Farm. 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 a.m.
Christmas Market in the Park.
Vendors set up in Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Santa's Workshop.
Meet Santa in his workshop between Mouat's and the Tree House. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ram Spring Wellness Solstice Gathering.
Amy Cousins and Savita Young lead a heart-centred ritual of intention setting and sharing. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. 7 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brad Prevedoros.
Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.
Dickens' Christmas Carol.
See Saturday listing. Salt Spring United Church. 2 p.m.
Bass Bash.
Pre-Christmas celebration with DJs Prodigal Sun and Elev8. No cover. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Santa's Workshop.
Meet Santa in his workshop between Mouat's and the Tree House. Santa's Workshop, 11 to 3 p.m.
Santa Reads Stories.
Santa will read stories at Rainbow Road Pool. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mon. Dec 23

ACTIVITIES

Merry Monday.
Join Vally to sing carols and enjoy hot cider in Fulford village. Plus late-night shopping. 5:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service.
Followed by refreshments. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass.
Family mass at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 7 p.m., preceded by carols at 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass.
Mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church at 11 p.m., preceded by carols at 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Christmas Day Mass.
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 10 a.m.
Community Christmas Dinner.
Turkey, salmon, ham or vegetarian meal with all the trimmings, plus music, decorations and good times. Meaden Hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; food served from 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Christmas Freebie-Do.
Come and enjoy a Christmas day of music, fun and food to be shared with the community. Potluck and a donation to Fulford Hall if you can. Doors open at 9 a.m. and stay open until the last turkey is gone.

THE FRITZ CINEMA
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 www.thefritz.ca

The Fritz movie passes and gift cards make great Christmas presents and can be purchased before show times at the cinema.

"We're sorry but we cannot accept any passes to the Hobbit"
Wednesday Dec. 18 to Monday Dec. 23
7:00 Sunday 3 matinee and 7
Thursday Dec. 26 7:00 PLEASE NOTE
WE ARE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE
AND CHRISTMAS DAY.
Have a Happy Holiday!

HELD OVER

Plan your day, your week (your life!) with Salt Spring's #1 events calendar.

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Events list - Salt Spring Community Events Calendar
www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/

Salt Spring Island calendar of events, listing concerts, festivals, shows, night 1 community events.

Mon, Jul 29 Art Show: White-transforming ...
Mon, Jul 29 Janet Dwyer - Photo Exhibit ...
Mon, Jul 29 Gene Groves

Salt Spring Island festivals and fun activities
www.saltspringmarket.com/festival/

Festivals and other fun events. ArtSpring Presents (Year-round) Throughout the winter and spring. Salt Spring's excellent performing and visual arts centre ...

Events & Concerts | Salt Spring Exchange
saltspringexchange.com/list-category/events-concerts/

Events & Concerts | Salt Spring Chamber. Special Friday Inter-Island Ferry Pt. - July 26th! Boosting connections between Salt Spring, Mayne, Pender ...

Salt Spring Island Tourism
saltspringtourism.com/

Official Tourism Salt Spring website with information on activities and trip planer accommodations listings and ... Special Events on Salt Spring ...

CINEMA

- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug** is the second in the trilogy of films adapting the masterpiece The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. It continues the adventure of Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) as he journeys with the Wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellan) and 13 Dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) on an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor.

EXHIBITIONS

- Christmas Exhibition of Small Works by Gallery 8** artists runs through **Dec. 31** at the Grace Point gallery.
- Wintercraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council-sponsored show and sale of some 90 Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until **Dec. 22**.
- Inspire Winter World** is an exhibition of small works by 11 artists showing at the **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** on McPhillips Avenue.
- Photographs by **Judy H. McPhee** are showing at **TJ Beans Coffee Shop** for the month of **December**.
- Photographer **Shari Macdonald** shows Whispering Wood Walks at **Kizmit Gallery Cafe** on Beaver Point Road through **Dec. 31**.
- The **Ferwood Road Cafe** hosts an exhibit of amazing underwater photography of **Ken Sutherland** and **Ann Donahue**.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/
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- Ahava Shira** and the Pieces of Her Story Collective present work in the program room of the **Salt Spring Public Library in 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**, until **Friday, Dec. 20**. After that ArtSpring closes for the rest of the month.
- Melinda** and **Ceilidh Divers** show photography and original artwork at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro** through **December**.
- SS Coffee Company** staff have an art show at their cafe this month.
- Delaine Faulkner** shows calligraphy and paintings at the **Country Grocer** cafe.
- Carole Leslie** shows new work titled Geography of the Heart at **Cafe Talia** through **December**.
- 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.
- Juliana Paul** has photographs hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- SOLID at the Market Place** (in Gasoline Alley) shares African Art by **Louise Adelle**.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Salt Spring's first doctor gives Baker Road his name

Outdoorsman yielded to Klondike adventure



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF SALT SPRING

A trip through the Salt Spring Archives' online files yielded some very useful information on Dr. Gerald Ramsay Baker, Salt Spring's first resident physician, after whom Baker Road is named.

Many helpful references are made in the diary of Rev. E.F. Wilson, who recorded all the important community details of the time in his parish newsletter, published from 1895 to 1906. Wilson also published an after-the-fact diary of his Salt Spring experience. His entry for Sept. 18, 1897 records Dr. "Paddy" Baker's arrival on the island, stating he took his quarters in Percy Brown's house; Mrs. Brown was organist for St. Mark's church where Rev. Wilson presided.

A story in the Cariboo

Observer, written when Baker died in 1953, tells us the doctor had trained in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, England. Upon coming to North America he served as a doctor for Wells Fargo in Nevada, and also worked in Alaska and Atlin before receiving a government appointment to Salt Spring.

According to Charles Kahn in his always useful tome Salt Spring: The Story of an Island, "Islanders soon became accustomed to seeing him make his rounds on foot, on his pony, or by boat. His love of hunting, fishing, and the outdoor life was also well

known on the island."

Dr. Baker was well connected with the Wilson family. The reverend, who was also trained in law and medicine, stepped in whenever the doctor was absent or ill. Baker and his family rented the house owned by Wilson's daughter Evelyn and her husband Charlie Tolson when they left for Denver (in an unsuccessful attempt to cure Tolson's tuberculosis) before settling in their own home "on the canal."

During the last few years of the 19th century, Salt Spring Islanders were among everyone else on the continent in responding to the siren's call of gold in the Klondike. The reverend's son Llewellyn Wilson left for the Far North in 1898, but "He returned after a month, the expedition having been given up." Rev. Wilson's parish notes for December 1898 record a rumour that Baker's government grant of \$200 per annum was to be

withdrawn. It is not stated whether this happened, but by 1904 Baker either needed the funds or got caught up in the general excitement around the gold rush.

Wilson's diary entry for 1904 states that a party of five left for the Yukon on Feb. 26 "to form a syndicate and take up Lu's [Llewellyn Wilson's] mining claims. Frank & his team & Dr. Baker were among the party. They got back Sept. 26, all pretty well disgusted."

A new island resident, Dr. Beech, arrived on the island that year and took up residence with his family in Henry Bullock's cottage. "Dr. Baker in consequence is quarrelling with Mr. Bullock," Wilson records for Mar. 24.

What happened to Dr. Baker? The last diary entry that mentions him notes that he was very sick in bed in 1907. Then in 1908, the reverend records that Mrs. Baker and her daughter "Ootie"

(Ruth) had left the island.

It turns out Baker hadn't died of his illness, but left Salt Spring for the Interior and eventually settled permanently in Quesnel. According to the Cariboo Observer, he arrived at that community in 1912 on an emergency call to treat an artist with severely frozen feet and decided to stay.

Kahn speculates that Baker may have left Salt Spring because he was unhappy about his wife's departure and his medical rival. But he must have been happy in his new home, where he was a well-respected member of the community for 40 years. He was honorary president of the Canadian Legion's Cariboo Branch, an honorary life member of the Quesnel Rod and Gun Club, and a life member of the Quesnel and District Board of Trade. He was married two more times (and divorced twice) and

survived by his third wife, Helene.

Quesnel businesses shut their doors between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. on the Friday after Baker's death in 1953 as a mark of respect. Two years later, the town named its new hospital after him.

As for the location of Baker Road (which islanders know runs out from Lower Ganges Road, across from the golf course), much of the activity at the turn of the last century was taking place around Central, where Wilson became the island's first full-time minister at the Anglican Church of St. Mark's in 1894. Wilson purchased a 100-acre property that had been owned by an early settler — today those lands are owned by the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. A passing reference in Wilson's diary to the Bakers' home suggests the doctor had stayed close to his friend and neighbour in the Booth Canal vicinity.



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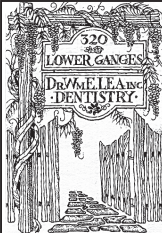
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COMMUNITY

Christmas Day dinner a whole-island effort

Everyone welcome to community meal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Christmas joy can be hard to grasp for community members who may not have the resources to buy gifts or cook an expensive meal, or may not have anyone to share those things with.

The knowledge that a large army of community members is busy working so that islanders don't have to be alone on Christmas Day is one of the best ways to lighten the mood, and is perhaps surpassed only by participating in the meal itself. Sponsored by the Salt Spring United Church and operated by people from all

belief systems, the wide-open guest list makes the free Community Christmas Day Dinner at the Legion one of the few events where people of every age and life experience sit down together.

"The purpose of the dinner is to give everyone the chance to have a celebratory feast, because that is our tradition. And to people who don't have that, it can be very lonely," said John Lugsdin, who will be coordinating this year's dinner with his wife Diane for the third year in a row.

At a time of year when many people are looking for ways to give something back to the community, the event provides an outstanding opportunity to pitch in and help. Up to 70 people join in each year to help with tasks such as set-up and decorating, vegetable prep and turkey roasting. For those who might feel the pull of holiday blues, this activity can be a helpful antidote.

"It's a positive, positive experience," said long-time kitchen volunteer Richard Dick. "Some people who volunteer come because it makes them have a good Christmas."

Heidi Crouse is another old-timer when it comes to volunteering. Her son Seth was just walking when her family was asked to help. Ten years later, they haven't missed a year.

"It's a wonderful festive thing, us coming together," she said. "It feels really good. And I love that my kids get a break from the consumerism of Christmas. It's a great pause from the chaos."

Crouse remembers attending similar free community dinners with her family in Victoria as a child. But while those events had more of a soup kitchen atmosphere, the Salt Spring version is done with the island's customary spirit. As head of the set-up team, Crouse transforms Meaden Hall with greenery such as fresh-cut holly and cedar bows and festive place settings.

"When you walk in, it looks like



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A busy banquet table at a previous Community Christmas Day Dinner at Meaden Hall. The event is a celebration of community on Salt Spring.

Christmas," Lugsdin said. "It looks like you're happy to have people there, not just that you're feeding them."

Most of the heavy work takes place before the event, when Lugsdin starts filling his truck with all the items donated by local businesses. Key food donors are Country Grocer, Thrifty's, Natureworks, Embe Bakery, Barb's Bakery and Bistro, and The Fishery. More than a dozen additional businesses contribute for the dinner's other needs, including sizable cash contributions.

pared the day before at food-safe volunteer homes.

The doors to Meaden Hall open Christmas Day at 11:30 a.m. for coffee and dinner is served at noon. Typically around 200 guests and 40 to 50 volunteers enjoy the meal. And while some of the participants are islanders in most desperate need, the coordinators want to ensure people don't hold back from attending for any reason. Couples who don't want to make a feast for just two people, individuals who are missing family members, and families who have more than enough members but want to be part of the wider community all come for the meal.

"The idea is that anybody and everybody can have a Christmas dinner without the cost and the work," Dick said. "The only thing missing is the turkey sandwich the next day."

"There's no need to feel embarrassed because there are so many people, and they're all there for different reasons," Crouse added. "Even if you can afford to make your own dinner you should go because it's fun."

Live music will be performed by Sweet Water Revolver followed by members of the United Church choir.

"Even if you can afford to make your own dinner you should go because it's fun."

HEIDI CROUSE
Dinner volunteer

This year the main course will include six 20-pound turkeys, around 30 pounds of ham, vegan lasagna (isolated to avoid cross-contamination) and salmon to be cooked by chef Brooke Winters from the Harbour House Hotel, along with delicious vegetable sides and dressing. Most of it is pre-

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CHRISTMAS

Fulford potluck set

An honoured island tradition returns to Fulford Hall with a "Freebie-Do" planned for Christmas Day.

Helga and Michael Bagnell were once owners of the restaurant where the Rock Salt is located today. Their practice was to close operations for Christmas and invite everyone for a potluck meal instead. Now as custodians of Fulford Hall, they are reviving the tradition and have named it in honour of late south-end resident Peter "Barney" Holmes, who coined the Freebie-Do term.

"It's for seniors and juniors and anybody who wants to share Christmas with the community,"

Helga Bagnell said. "And especially for those whose families are not with them."

As musicians, the Bagnells have always included music in their celebrations and the Freebie-Do is no exception. There will also be toys for kids and a wishing well for the hall where people can donate funds toward a new well.

Anyone who would like to make a donation of toys, help with wrapping or help in any other way can phone the Bagnells at 250-653-9856.

Otherwise, islanders are welcome to show up at the hall as early as 9 a.m. "and stay until the last turkey's gone."

ISLAND WHEELS

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

NEW CAR REVIEW

Accord Hybrid looks to lead mid-size sedan group

2014 model has usual Honda quality

BY JIM ROBINSON
METROLAND MEDIA

Honda has thrown down the fuel-efficiency gantlet, claiming the 2014 Accord Hybrid leads the mid-size sedan segment with 3.8L/100k combined.

It is doing this with a new system it calls i-MMD (for intelligent Multi Mode Drive) which debuts in the Accord, but will soon find its way into just about every electrified vehicle Honda makes.

What Honda does is take a 2.0-litre Atkinson Cycle inline four cylinder and mate it to two coupled electric motors with a lockup clutch to create what can be considered an electric CVT transmission.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBINSON

There is little on the outside to indicate this 2014 Honda Accord is a hybrid, but the proof is a claimed best in mid-size sedan segment fuel economy of 3.8L/100 km combined.

Power is stored in a 1.3-kW lithium-ion battery tucked in behind the rear (non folding) seat.

The gasoline engine produces 141 hp and 122 lb/ft of torque while the two-motor produces 165 hp

and 226 lb/ft. Combined there is 196 hp. Honda does not release torque numbers, but I'd say it is

at least 280 lb/ft based on driving it.

Making sure this all works smoothly is a big computer up front called the Power Control Unit (PCU) with rear computerized battery and DC converter.

What that means to you and I is the Accord Hybrid offers three drive modes that the PCU shuffles back and forth to ensure the best mileage.

From start-up the Accord Hybrid is on electric (EV) mode and launches silently. At low speed it changes to a mix of EV and Hybrid drive with Hybrid drive taking over during powerful acceleration. Lastly at highway speeds the engine kicks in along with Hybrid drive, making it possible to cruise on the battery with power from the engine.

And just behind the console mounted shifter is an "EV" button that holds the Accord Hybrid in electric mode for distances of up to two kilometres.

To help the driver make the best of the system is a power flow monitor that is part of the driver information centre. It is located in the centre of the speedometer so you can glance down while looking straight ahead.

During the press launch from Honda Canada's headquarters in Markham, Ont., journalists were asked to pair up in a contest to see who could get the best mileage.

Government fuel rating for the Accord Hybrid is 3.7/4.0/3.8L/100 km city/highway/combined.

HONDA continued on 23

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ISLAND WHEELS

Winter driving demands planning

Slowing down and thinking ahead

Few places experience as varied winter conditions as B.C. Heavy rain, sleet, fog and snow are just some of the challenging conditions you could encounter while driving across the province.

In 2008, the number of crashes on B.C.'s roads jumped from 23,000 in November to 32,000 in December as record-breaking snowfall hit much of the province. ICBC is therefore reminding all motorists to drive smart and remember that others are sharing the same roads this winter.

ICBC's top driving tips this winter are:

YOUR CAR

- Get ready: Prepare your vehicle for winter. Invest in good wipers, top up fluids to avoid

freezing, and frequently check your tire pressure — tires deflate in cold weather. If you are going on a long drive, pack a safety kit in your vehicle, including a first aid kit, shovel, blanket, water, energy bars, candle and matches.

- Get rolling: Make sure your tires are suitable for the road conditions you're driving in. On the south coast, badly worn or bald tires will not provide enough traction for some of the heavy rainfall.

In all parts of B.C., it's always a good idea to get your tires looked at by an expert, but to quickly check their condition, put a toonie between the tread on your tire. If the toonie doesn't reach the gold centre of the toonie, it's time to think about getting new tires.

YOUR ROUTE

- Make a plan: Because road conditions can vary so much across B.C., it's

always a smart idea to let a family member or friend know the route you'll be driving so they can know where you are in the event of a delay or if your vehicle is stranded. Delays are much more common during the winter months, so always give yourself extra time in case of bad weather. Check drivebc.ca for road and weather conditions before setting out.

- Look out: As the rain, snow, sleet and fog set in across B.C., visibility on our roads gets much-reduced.

To ensure a safe drive this winter use extra caution around intersections in particular, where 40 per cent of all police-attended crashes occur in our province.

YOURSELF

- Don't rush: The number one driving tip at this time of year is to slow down and keep your distance.

Reduce your speed, especially on wet roads, in bad weather conditions or near intersections. Consider driving below the posted speed limit and leave enough space between your car and the one in front of you — at least three seconds following distance.

Slowing down also allows you to see more of the road ahead and what is happening at intersections.

- Think ahead: Bad weather brings new elements on to our roads, such as highway maintenance vehicles and equipment including plows, salt and sand trucks. Think ahead and use caution when approaching these vehicles and never pass on the right.

Information provided by ICBC. See www.icbc.com for more info.



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

HARD TO MISS: Advice-filled 'daisy car' belonging to Heather Pardon is seen in Ganges. Pardon's latest book is called *Life's Too Short to Drive a White Car*. See www.wilddaisy.ca for more information about Pardon and her wheels.

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ISLAND WHEELS

Driving challenge nets top results

HONDA
continued from 21

I've driven a lot of hybrids and getting anywhere near 5.0L/100 combined in the real world is an accomplishment. I know colleague Lorne Drury got 5.4L/100 km in a similarly sized Toyota Prius v in Quebec City last year, which is good.

The route was north and west of Toronto with lots of trees in autumn colours and, better, rolling hills which helps harvest battery power from coasting downhill plus regenerative braking.

I could have either tried to stay with the flow of traffic or go as slow as possible and hinder other motorists in an effort to consume a minimum amount of fuel.

After talking it over, we decided to drive as if we were commuting to work, but use the flow meter and every chance to run electrically.

During my stint behind the wheel I got down to 4.6L/100 a few times, but hit the driver swap point showing 4.8L/100 even using EV Mode as many times as possible.

My co-driver feathered the throttle, coasted and EV-ed himself into a 4.3L/100 km by the time we got back to Honda. There was lots of coasting and braking — not something you would do during normal everyday driving.

As good as that was, another team came in with a 4.1L/100 km score — very impressive.

Now we were all doing as much braking, downhill coasting as possible and going well below the speed limit — things one wouldn't do in everyday driving.

But people who buy hybrids will waste no time adjusting their driving habits to match circumstances, which leads me to believe sub 5.0L/100 km on a daily basis is attainable.

But Honda also wants potential buyers to

remember that this is an Accord with all the quality and engineering that makes products like the Civic and CR-V among the most popular in the country.

Made up of 55.8 per cent high-strength steel and aluminum parts, the 2014 Accord Hybrid is very stout and has won a bevy of crash safety awards.

The front MacPherson strut suspension rests on an all-new aluminum subframe and a rear multi-link system on a new liquid-sealed coil-frame mount.

The resulting ride during my econo run gave a sense of a very solid package. Because I was trying to use as little fuel as possible, I didn't try to push it, but being a Honda, you can expect a sporty ride because that is an intrinsic part of the DNA of all Hondas.

One very neat aspect of the Accord Hybrid is Honda LaneWatch. When you flick the right turn signal, a camera in the mirror on the right displays what is behind in the blind spot on the centre eight-inch monitor. This is a standard feature.

It does not work with left turns because trying to look to the left and glancing to the centre stack monitor would be too dangerous.

There are two models, the base model at \$29,590 and the Touring at \$35,690.

The Touring adds a lot, such as navigation with premium audio system, power moonroof, leather on the steering wheel and shifter, heated rear seats, driver memory seats and prominent LED headlights.

For many, Honda loyalists in particular, the 2014 Accord Hybrid is wonderfully constructed and very easy on gas but it still puts the driver in charge — something Honda has never lost sight of.



The driver information centre set in the speedometer displays several functions, such as average fuel consumption.

Honda Accord Hybrid 2014 at a glance

- BODY STYLE:** Mid-size sedan
- DRIVE METHOD:** front-engine, front wheel drive
- ENGINE:** 2.0-litre, 16-valve, DOHC, i-VTEC four-cylinder (141 hp and 122 lb/ft) with two-motor electric drive (166 hp, 226 lb/ft) for combined 196 hp and (est.) 280 lb/ft
- FUEL ECONOMY:** (Regular) 3.7/4.0/3.8L/100 km city/highway/combined
- CARGO:** 340 litres
- PRICE:** Base, \$29,590; Touring, \$35,690
- WEBSITE:** www.honda.ca

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2014 FORESTER STANDARD FEATURES: Symmetrical All-time off-road mode - 100 HP 4-cylinder BOXER engine - 5-speed Manual Transmission with Hill Holder System - Revised-profile roof racks - Bluetooth® multi-phone connectivity (voice-activated) - All-Season tires - Power door locks, windows, and rear liftgate - Heated front seats - And more.

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STARTING FROM **\$26,570***

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1.9%**

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* Pricing applies to a 2014 Forester 2.5i GMT (EJ1 X0) / 2014 XV Crosstrek Touring SMT (EX1-TP1) with MSRP of \$28,070 / \$26,570 including freight & PDI (\$1,650), documentation fees (\$295) and battery and tire tax (\$20). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. Model shown is a 2014 Forester 2.0XT Limited Package CVT (EJ2 XTU) with MSRP of \$27,570 including freight & PDI (\$1,650), documentation fees (\$295) and battery and tire taxes (\$20). Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Roof sport rack and accessories not included. Dealers may sell for less or may have to order or trade. **1.9% finance and lease rates available on all new 2014 Forester models / 2014 XV Crosstrek models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. \$500 bonus accessories offer applies to lease, finance and cash agreements for all new 2013 and 2014 Subaru models (excluding the 2014 XV Crosstrek Hybrid) and can be combined with Stackable Cash, Alternate Cash and Legacy VIP program, concluded respectively with TCCI. **TD offers valid until December 2, 2013. See your local Subaru dealer or visit www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete program details. Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for performance in five safety tests (moderate overlap front, small overlap front, side, rollover and rear) conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). To earn a 2013 TOP SAFETY PICK®, a vehicle must receive a "Good" rating in at least four of the five tests and a "Good" or "Acceptable" rating in the fifth test.



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 By telephone 250-537-9933 or fax 250-537-2613
 By email to driftwood@driftwoodgmedia.com
 By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,
 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

Payment

By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.

DEADLINES

Class display deadline: Monday 4 pm
 Word ad deadline: Tuesday 9 am
 Too Late To Classify: Tuesday 1pm



WHAT IT COSTS

3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS:
 \$13.30 - additional lines 95¢ ea
 All ads are posted to BCClassified.com
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 3 line rate \$15.25 - additional lines 95¢ ea
DISPLAY ADS: \$12.60 per col. inch

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| | | | | | | |
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| FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS | FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS | COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS | FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS | FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS | COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS | COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| IN MEMORIAM | IN MEMORIAM GIFTS | COMING EVENTS | DEATHS | DEATHS | CARDS OF THANKS | CARDS OF THANKS |

Brian Lloyd Jewell
 Dec. 25th, 2008

Forever a part of
 who I have become.
 With love and
 gratitude.
 Michelle

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

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Honour the life
 of your loved one
 with a gift
 to the Foundation
 250-538-4845

Lady Minto Hospital Foundation
 online donations accepted:
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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 Lots of Buddhas
 & Pagodas
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IN MEMORIAM

Bible Believers Fellowship
 of Salt Spring Island

Sunday service
 10 - 11:30 am

Core Inn -
 134 McPhillips Ave.
 www.bbfsi.org

more info: 250-537-4834

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 Till Dec 31st

Life Recliner Chairs 20% off
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AN ISLAND CHRISTMAS Song Book

Concerts and Activities
 Songs of the Season
 Delivered

Driftwood
 328 Lower Ganges Road
 250-537-9933

Colin Alfred Bisset
 Nov. 9, 1928 - Dec. 11, 2013

Colin was born November 9, 1928 in West Vancouver, passed away peacefully December 11 at Greenwoods after a lengthy illness.

Always loved and sadly missed by his partner Audrie, extended family Kathryn, Kaitlan and friends.

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Reznick, the nursing staff, all Greenwood workers for their compassion and care of Colin.

No service by request. In lieu of flowers any donation to Greenwoods or Lady Minto Hospital will be deeply appreciated.

Rest in peace Colin - till we meet again.

DEATHS

GEOFFREY MICHAEL SWIFT
 July 20, 1935 - December 12, 2013

Geoff was born in Perth, Western Australia. After serving time in the Australian Navy he emigrated to Canada at the age of 19. He went to Revelstoke where he was a surveyor for the building of the TransCanada Highway through the Rockies. He married Joan Ludwig and they had two sons, Darren and Scott.

Geoff had a varied career as a restaurateur, a realtor and many years as a jewellery designer in Gastown. He moved to Salt Spring Island in 1983 and became the Manager of Windsor Plywood. He subsequently set up his own construction company, Geoff Swift Construction Ltd., and has to his credit the building of Moby's Marine Pub, Creekside on McPhillips and many custom homes on the island. Geoff was a very creative person and had an incredible sense of design.

Geoff leaves behind his first wife Joan, his sons Darren of Vancouver, Scott of Revelstoke, grandson Marcus, his sister Barbara of Australia, his niece Julie and nephew David. Also missing him is his friend and partner of 21 years Dianne as well as her daughter Lianne and grandchildren Tara and Aidan. Geoff had many friends who visited him often in Braehaven—a thank you goes out to all of them. A very special thank you to Damien Brazier who was so caring of Geoff and helped him in so many ways, not only before his illness but in the past few months while his illness diminished his quality of life. Thank you also to Dr. Kalf and to Anastasia of Lady Minto.

A memorial service will take place in the new year. An announcement of the date will be published.

News Updates
 Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

Fulford Community Hall Christmas Artisan Fair

Thank you's.

To the talented artisans for supporting our hall fundraising. Your contributions are vital for the hall's upkeep.

To ALL of our junior and senior volunteers extraordinary, without your help, the fair could not continue.

To Moe, our creative chef, Ian Franey for securing the lamb, the "chili lady" Peggy Althrough and the countless bakers of fine desserts. Many thanks to Janice, our photoshop whiz.

Special thanks to:

1. Country Grocer
2. Windsor Plywood
3. Thrifty's Foods
4. Mout's
5. Upper Ganges Liquor Store
6. The Fishery
7. Bon Acres Farm
8. Pharmasave
9. Rock Salt Restaurant
10. Embe Bakery
11. Apple Photo
12. Jana's

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Canadian Federation of University Women SSI wishes to thank donors for their generous contributions to Our Christmas Auction 2013

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Amber Casa | Mouat Trading Co. |
| Auntie Pesto's | Murakami Collision & Auto Repairs |
| Back on the Rock | North End Fitness |
| Bite-Me-Treats | OMG Boutique |
| David Courtney | Oystercatcher Restaurant |
| Dorothy Cutting | Persnickety Clothes for Kids |
| Dagwood's Diner | Pharmasave Ganges |
| Esthetics by Penny | Rainbow Road Public Swimming Pool |
| Evolve Studios | Rainbow Road Trading |
| Feet First | Rock Salt Café |
| Fernwood Café | Salt Spring Air |
| The Fishery | Salt Spring Books |
| Frankly Scarlet Jewellery | Salt Spring Chamber Players |
| Gallery 8 | Salt Spring Dry Cleaners |
| Laurel Gordon | Salt Spring Inn |
| Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic | Salt Spring Vineyards |
| Dr. Richard Hayden | Spa by Denise |
| Hastings House | Steffich Fine Art |
| David Hogarth | Sweet Water Ensemble |
| Hora Masayo, RMT | Thrifty's Flowers |
| House Piccolo Restaurant | Uniglobe Geo Travel |
| Jill Louise Campbell Gallery | Pat Webber Pottery |
| Juliette's Hair Studio | Windsor Plywood |
| Love My Kitchen | The Wine Cellar |
| Magic Touch | |
| Monsoon Coast | |

Proceeds are used to fund the Hope Project which sponsors girls of potential in developing countries who would not otherwise be able to complete secondary education

Nairn Howe
 April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005
 8 YEARS AGO

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

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

NAINR HOWE

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHRISTMAS CORNER



The Smiley Dog Grooming Spa would like to wish all our customers, four legged and two legged a very Merry Christmas and a happy healthy 2014. Thanks to you, we can support other local businesses. Together, we keep our Saltspring economy strong.
With love
Michelle & Jake

INFORMATION

Notice To Our Generous Donors and Customers
Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary
THRIFT SHOP WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
From 4:00 PM, Dec. 21, 2013 until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, January 7th
NO DONATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, DEC 13, 2013
Please hold on to them until we re-open in January 2014.
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and health and happiness in 2014!

INFORMATION

NOTICE OF 2014 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes. Regular meetings are scheduled for:

| Date | Time | Location |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday January 9 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday January 30 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday February 27 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday March 20 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday April 10 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday May 8 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday May 29 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Tuesday June 24 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday July 24 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday August 28 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday September 18 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday October 16 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday November 6 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |
| Thursday December 18 | 9:30 AM | Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Ave. |

The proposed meeting agenda is usually available one week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office or on our website. Please note that correspondence received from the public may become part of a meeting agenda that is published online.

Visit our website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca
Contact us at (250) 537-9144

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

Community Christmas Dinner
Meaden Hall
Dec. 25th 12 - 2pm
Doors open at 11:30am
Meals served from 12 noon
Some of the Best Things in Life ARE Free!

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Meetings
Salt Spring 250-537-7573
Gallano 250-539-2222
Pender 250-629-3631

DID YOU KNOW? BBB provides complaint resolution services for all businesses and their customers. Look for the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory E-edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at www.blackpress.ca. You can also go to <http://vi.bbb.org/directory/> and click on the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

INFORMATION

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
RE: THE ESTATE OF ELMA MCMEANS GLADYS RUBRIGHT, AKA ELMA M. RUBRIGHT, Deceased, formerly of 120 Pine Place, Salt Spring Island, in the province of British Columbia V8K 2N4.
Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of ELMA M. RUBRIGHT, are hereby required to send the particulars of their claims to the Executor at 1982 North End Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1C9, on or before January 10, 2014, after which date the Executor will distribute the Estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims that have been received.
Carol Lynne Johnson Executor for the Estate of ELMA M. RUBRIGHT

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CANCEL YOUR Timeshare. No risk program. Stop mortgage and maintenance Payments today. 100% money back guarantee. Free consultation. Call us now. We can help! 1-888-356-5248.



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CHILDCARE
LOOKING FOR a full-time live-in caregiver for a 5 yr. old and a baby. Must have previous exp. wages: \$10.30/hr. Pls. call Maria 250-538-0013

WHAT'S ON
page 18

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE - New To You
Deadline 10 am Tuesday
Merchandise ads with items totalling less than \$200 receive a 50% discount with your Residents Card

EQUIPMENT/FIXTURES
Would you like to make your own sausages? I have a perfectly sized stainless steel commercial grade meat grinder. Original cost \$3,000. Offers welcome. 250-537-9790

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Will BUY firewood logs.



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Please send resume to: johnwkm@shawcable.com or call (250)364-1541 for further details.

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Please send resumes by fax to 250-956-4888 or email to office@lemare.ca.

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WANTED F/T Cook at SUSHI DEN Rest. 609 Abbott St. Vancouver. 2 yrs. exp., high school diploma. wage: \$2240/mth. 40hrs/wk. Apply: sushiden94@gmail.com duties: cook Japanese meal, plan menu, create item. Staff training.

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LocalWork.ca
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JOURNEYMAN AUTOMOTIVE Service Technician(s) in Hanna Alberta. Hanna Chrysler Ltd. offers competitive wages, relocation allowance, negotiable depending on experience. Bright, modern shop. Full-time permanent with benefits. Friendly town just 2 hours from major urban centres. More info at: hannachrysler.ca. Fax 403-854-2845; Email: chrysler@telusplanet.net.

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DUNCAN FOAM AND FUTONS
Sofa cushions too soft? Mattress too hard or needs replacement?
RV, boat cushions need work? We can help!
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CARLOS' KINDLING needs dry untreated cedar. Used shingles, decking, siding, saw offcuts or rounds. Call: 250-931-1137, please leave a message.

Wanted: 24" paper cutter. Please call 250 537-5623

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HOMES WANTED

SITUATION Wanted: 60+ Edmonton retiree looking to house-sit Salt Spring home, oceanfront or sunny acreage with open ocean view. Required February through April; prefer Beaver Point or Beddis Beach areas; must be turnkey situation; willing to pay nominal fee. References available. Contact/message: tedhome@telus.net

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HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

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This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com
sunstarastronomy@gmail.com
1.888.352.2936

Tip of the Week:
Winter Solstice can be understood to be the alpha and the omega of the year, the clasp joining all the days of the solar cycle. It can also be compared to the New Moon, otherwise called the Dark Moon. There is a deep peace and magic woven into Winter Solstice. Many assert it is the real reason for the celebration of Christmas at this time of year. As wonderful as it is for many, Christmas has at worst commercialized the otherwise ceremonial honouring of nature's rhythmic pulse and other spiritual associations. The Sun's light is nothing short of a spiritual reality. Reducing it to a mere fact is simply an intellectualization of the sacred experiential reality that it is. If we take the time to feel into it, to be still, silent and perhaps even reverent regarding the life giving power of the sun and its light we receive a precious gift. It is a gift of the heart that can perhaps only be received when reverence and humility join together in acknowledged awareness of the life giving miracle that the Sun's radiation and light are. Some might mock this sentiment to be an unnecessary emotional indulgence. Such is the attitude of excessive intellectual orientation which is prone to categories and labels in place of communion and love. Rational has its role yet when everything is rationalized it is also reduced to mere concepts and the deeper idea it reveals remains obscured. Here the ego is large and the soul is distant. Yet, we can choose to change, to reclaim the essence of this sacred idea and. Redirecting our awareness to truly appreciate the rhythms and cycles of nature requires simply that we be quieter than usual and turn our attention to enter into its mystery. This is the gift of ceremony and now is a time when it can awaken a light in the heart that can shine through dark days over the course of the ensuing year. Rejoice! A new solar cycle is born. P.S. Comet Ison is predicted to be visible in the skies this week; may its light and presence prove to be yet another gift.

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
The next phase of your steady rise to power has begun. Yet, in the short term at least, the focus is not so much on worldly power. The emphasis now is upon the spirit. What 'spirit' implies is for you to decide. Perhaps your focus is upon the spirit of family gatherings, or of adventure in nature, or of the spirit in nature. Either way, it is not about work so much as it is about play.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)**
The time has come to celebrate community, commitment and friendship. Yet, you may need a little help and perhaps an extra nudge to decipher exactly how. If so, take a moment to focus on your heart center and set a clear intention to think from there for a while. The main theme and focus is upon the power of collaboration and teamwork.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**
Woven within this time of year is a deep theme for you. It is when you are able more than any other time to dissolve all differences and to allow the healing spirit to come in. This year may prove extra special somehow in this regard. The greatest gift you stand to receive is that of true love, not solely familial, not necessarily romantic but an experience of something divine.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**
With the Sun entering Capricorn, the focus will shift for everyone. For you it will bring greater emphasis to your most important relationships. Something of a philosophical mood, perhaps directed to healing and higher realities, will color some of your closest connections. This will include new twists and fresh experiences for the festive season.
- Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)**
Your mood is pragmatic. You feel moved to make extra efforts to achieve better results. Fortunately, your energy levels should be running pretty high. Creative inspirations are featured as is seeing a bigger picture. The time has come in your life to enter new territory. It is important you replace over analysis with deliberate action to establish a solid foundation.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**
A cycle of creative leadership is about to rise to the next level. Ideally you have responded to the call to engage in a rather steep learning curve, which will continue. Spurred on by a growing ambition, you are determined to achieve measurable results. This will require that you be able and willing to multitask. Networking is also a likely feature of this focus.
- Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)**
The focus shifts now to home and family. Even more than usual, you feel strongly about tradition. You would like to deepen bonds, but may not feel clear about what steps to take. Be careful not to impose expectations. Rather accept and embrace things as they are and whoever is actually present. See them as your family at this time for best results.
- Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)**
Ambitions to cover a lot of ground are rising. As though seized by visions of the future, you feel compelled to act upon them. Yet to succeed you may have to boldly go where you have not before. This implies inner work to overcome subconscious fears that might otherwise prevent progress. Intend to clarify your principles and priorities via sincere and deliberate dialogue.
- Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)**
The next phase of your new foundation building process begins this week. Clearing the old to make way for the new remains a central theme. Some positive returns have been flowing in. These may be more of the spiritual sort than material. They may also include endings, departures and even deaths. Even so, there are many blessings to be received so be receptive.
- Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)**
The Sun in your sign makes this a go ahead period over the next several weeks. Key connections and communications with other power players are featured. Some of these may be of the spiritual sort. Angels, spirit guides, departed ancestors, your higher self or other hidden helpers are examples. While clear goals and intentions help a lot, so too do prayers.
- Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)**
The time has come to retreat for a while or at least take a break. Since yours is the paradoxical sign, this might imply less work and more play. This may well include an urge to socialize, 'tis the season' after all. Still, you will enjoy significant bouts of private and quiet time as well. Aim to strike a balance. Weave in some random acts of kindness and your spirit will soar.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)**
The time has come to assert your sense of individual creativity more fully. You will feel quite serious about it. Your ambitions are at a peak right now. This is a good time for envisioning your goals and dreams backed by strategic planning. Your willingness to learn has and continues to be extra important in this regard. Avoid relying on friends if you can. Rather seek more objective sources, like coaches.

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ROLLERBLADING

Good times roll at Fulford Hall



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Brian Finnemore with crates of rollerblades available to use at Fulford Hall rollerblading sessions.

Rollerblading shifts to Sundays in 2014

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When it comes to rollerblading, Salt Spring's Brian Finnemore was ahead of his time.

It was in 1998 that he originally tried to start a rollerblading club in Fulford Hall. The idea was to offer families a chance to mingle, share a few laughs and blow off some energy at the end of the school week.

The problem, it turned out, was that few island kids owned rollerblades.

"It laid an egg," Finnemore said. "Nothing much happened

so we pretty much shut her down."

As the activity gradually gained momentum across North America, however, more children were becoming proud new owners of rollerblades. With Salt Spring's roads being what they are, more people were looking for a smooth, well-lit surface to try out their new blades.

Two years after the rollerblading group's false start, fellow Fulford Hall committee member Harry Burton suggested the time had come to revive the idea.

"It was an instant success," Finnemore said. "More kids had roller blades."

These days, the group's regular weekly sessions, held

through the fall, winter and spring, can attract anywhere between two and 50 people.

"You never know, but an average might be 30," Finnemore said.

The two-hour events cost \$2 for kids over six and \$4 for adults. The first and last nights of the season (as well as this year's Dec. 26 Christmas skate) are free for everyone. Participants without their own rollerblades can look through 60 sets of loaners that have piled up during the past 15 years.

"The rollerblades come and go," he added.

Rollerblading proceeds amount to a few hundred dollars by the end of every year. The money is used to pay for hall maintenance and upgrades.

Parents and their kids travel to Fulford from as far away as the north end to get in a few laps around the hall. Non-skaters can visit along the sidelines while others rip around and let off steam. Finnemore has looked on as a whole generation of Salt Spring youngsters has twirled and spun its way across the hall's nostalgic maple floor. He's only witnessed a single arm fracture — a minor one at that — and a few blader-to-blader collisions.

"It's really fun to watch them as they progress from week to week and year to year," Finnemore said.

Rollerblading takes place on Thursday, Dec. 19 and 26 before the weekly schedule shifts to Sunday afternoons between 2 and 4 p.m. in 2014.

For more information about the event, call Finnemore at 250-653-4630.



PHOTO BY SUSAN GORDON

PREDICTABLY

AMAZING: Keith Cloete, right, receives the Prediction Run trophy from fellow Salt Spring Sneakers club member Lynn Thompson on Saturday. Cloete predicted his finishing time by an amazing four seconds off his actual time on a route that began and ended on Walker Hook Road. A Salt Spring Food Bank donation of \$400 was made with entry fee proceeds.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Comeback kids triumph

Undefeated streak continues

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Not even the two-week break caused by a recent blast of arctic air could cool the Old Boys' hot streak.

According to a post-game report, Duncan dominated possession early in the Sunday match at GISS. The visitors came close to grabbing an early lead only to see a worthy effort denied by the Old Boys' crossbar.

With teams locked in a scoreless draw to begin the second half, Duncan continued its unrelenting pressure, scoring the opening goal in the second frame's opening minutes.

Down by one, an ignited Sean Goddard chased the ball down the field for the Old Boys, an uncanny play that resulted in a befuddled Duncan keeper and an own goal to even the score.

The Duncan side responded within minutes

by taking advantage of some errant passing.

Not wanting to see their ferry fare expended on a losing effort, a fired-up Duncan squad kept up the pressure and quickly regained the lead. The visitors maintained control and appeared headed for victory until the Old Boys got a welcome South American spark late in the half. Antonio Alonso tied the match with a low shot into the corner of the Duncan goal while Alvaro Sanchez snuck one past shortly thereafter to give the home team the lead.

Duncan responded with a few chances late in the match, but thanks to some good work from keeper Jim Witherspoon, the Old Boys held on for a 3-2 win.

The win extends Salt Spring's unbeaten streak to a season's best four games. The team is 2-0-2 in its past four matches.

"In a year of change with our new system, this was another first: a come-from-behind victory," said team spokesperson Graham Tweddle.

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