

Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, December 25, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 52

\$1.25
(incl. GST)



Grow your WEALTH

Investment Advisor 250-537-1654

Joni Ganderton

7-935-731-8351

INSERTS

- Country Grocer
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Thrifty Foods
- The Source
- Sears
- Staples

INDEX

Arts.....	11	Letters.....	7
Classifieds.....	21	Sports.....	23
Editorial.....	6	What's On.....	16

driftwood@gulfislands.net 250.537.9933 www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

BEDDIS ROAD GARAGE

Repairs to all makes & models

181A BEDDIS ROAD
250-537-4122

SILVER HAWK TAXI

TAXI, TOURS & DELIVERY

250.537.3030

TASTING DEMOS EVERY FRIDAY

MOUAT'S Home hardware

Home Owners helping Homeowners

the islanders airline

Complimentary ground transportation to the main terminal

250.537.9880 saltspringair.com

FREE PARKING AT YVR

SCHEDULE: NOV. 3 - JAN. 31, 2014

Direct Ganges - Downtown:	7:55AM daily except Sunday, 10:30AM daily, 2:30PM daily.
Direct Ganges - Van Airport:	7:55AM daily, 10:30AM daily, 2:30PM daily.
Direct Van Airport - Ganges:	9:00AM daily, 11:35AM daily, 3:35PM daily.
Direct Downtown - Ganges:	8:45AM daily except Sunday, 11:20AM daily, 5:20PM daily.

friend us on facebook! and win prizes!

www.facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood

Christmas Season Advertising Deadlines

.....

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.

Driftwood
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1988
 gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Wishing you and your family the blessings of this season of good will!

Elizabeth May, O.C., MP
 Saanich-Gulf Islands
 elizabethmaymp.ca | 1-800-667-9188
 9711 Fourth St., Sidney BC V8L 2Y8

BC FERRIES

Massive ferry protests on horizon

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce joins coast-wide business voice

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of concerned coastal residents plans to start the new year with widespread protests to highlight the province's poor management of BC Ferries.

BC Ferry Coalition founder Jef Keighley anticipates outrage over proposed BC Ferries service cuts announced earlier this fall will encourage people to hit the streets in communities throughout the Salish Sea, including Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Salt Spring.

"There is not a single coastal community in B.C. that is not agast at the service cuts and yet higher fare increases the provincial government is proposing," Keighley said. "The provincial government is strangling our coastal communities and is damaging our social and economic fabric and they must be stopped."

Keighley, who is based on the Sunshine Coast, will distribute information to educate islanders about proposed cuts in the weeks to come.

"We suggest a New Year's resolution for us all: let's come together to force the provincial government to stand down from their reckless and ill-conceived BC Ferries service cuts and fare increases," he said.

Meanwhile, Salt Spring's Chamber of Commerce has penned a terse letter asking provincial representatives



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring youth Amber Tuttle addresses government and BC Ferries officials at a Dec. 7 meeting at GISS, describing the impact of proposed BC Ferries service cuts to her dance training. The official response period is over, but coastal communities are mobilizing to protest the cuts.

and BC Ferries to consider the economic consequences of the proposed cuts and fare increases.

"This negative economic impact is affecting the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of B.C. residents," reads part of the letter. "There is a legitimate fear that things are going to get even worse."

"In an effort to save the British Columbia government \$18.9 million through services cuts and reduction of scheduled crossings you are taking steps that in our view will cost much more than \$18.9 million in economic benefits to the stakeholder communities along the coastal mainland and Vancouver Island."

The letter, which was signed by chamber president Li Read and fellow director Matt Steffich, notes the lack of alternatives to move residents, tourists and goods from and to the island. The letter adds that ferry costs for Salt Spring's crossings have risen approximately 90 per cent since 2003.

A working group of business leaders in affected chamber communities on the coast is also being formed and will offer BC Ferries recommendations of its own. The group has asked to meet with representatives from BC Ferries and the province's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to "express concerns and enter into dialogue on a way forward that meets the needs of ferry dependent communities."

Groups or individuals who seek more information about the effort can contact the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce's Janet Clouston at 250-537-4223.

Organizations who wish to lend their names to support the BC Ferry Coalition's budding efforts can reach Jef Keighley at keighley@dccnet.com or 604-885-2290.

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



BOXING DAY WEEKEND SALE



40% OFF all clothing
10% OFF all accessories

*sale applies to regular priced merchandise

Dec. 26th 10:00am - 5:00pm | Dec. 27th & 28th 9:30am - 5:30pm | Dec. 29th 10:00am - 5:00pm

MOUAT'S Clothing Co.

Ganges Village 250.537.5551

CONSERVATION

Campaign saves Brooks Point

Pender Island group triumphant

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Pender Island Conservancy Association have good reason to add a little something special to their egg nog this year following completion of a campaign to save a scenic stretch of South Pender Island shoreline last week.

The purchase of a three-acre shoreline property near Brooks Point on South Pender protects one of the island's final undeveloped headlands. Together with adjacent parks, the acquisition creates more than 14 acres of protected land. Plans are already afoot to build a

trail network and protect wildlife corridors on the property.

The Capital Regional District initiated the project in 2011, when it announced plans to buy the \$1.65-million property on condition that community fundraising provide \$300,000 to help defray borrowing costs.

By early November, the group still had \$85,000 to bring in before the end-of-year deadline. Following support from PICA, the Islands Trust Fund, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Victoria's Habitat Conservation Trust and Environment Canada, final private donations in early December put the campaign over the top.

More details about the Brooks Point property are available at penderconservancy.org.



We're all about the Islands

For scheduled flight info please call
1-800-447-3247
 or visit our website at
seairseaplanes.com

Introducing...
Seair's New Super Saver Webfares

AS LOW AS

\$81 includes all fees & taxes

*selected seats on all flights between Richmond (YVR) and Salt Spring Island.

MUST BOOK ONLINE TO SAVE!

Ganges ↔ Richmond (YVR) **Book your flight on-line and SAVE \$8.00 on a return trip airfare.**

NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Nordic New Year

Saturday, DECEMBER 28

Beaver Point Hall 3 to 9 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION

SSITC resolution sets out strategic and capital goals

Tax referendum planned for 2014 election

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission took a major step at its Dec. 17 meeting by passing a comprehensive resolution that sets out its capital projects and funding strategies for the next five years.

The five-part motion, which received unanimous support from commissioners including CRD director Wayne McIntyre, will be instrumental for achieving a number of safety initiatives in Ganges village, according to SSITC interim chair Donald McLennan.

"All the members of the transportation commission see this as a major milestone towards making Ganges safer for all roadway users: pedestrians, cyclists and motorists," McLennan said, noting the work kicked off earlier this year with phase one of the North Ganges Transportation Plan adding new bus pull-outs, a sidewalk and cycling lanes to Lower Ganges Road.

"With generous funding from the CRD and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, we were able to construct phase one in the north part of the village, but we have four more phases to complete, including one segment the community knows is crying out for

attention," McLennan continued. "That is making Rainbow Road safer for all the students that make such heavy use of the roadway every single day of the school year."

The commission's capital plan, which must be approved by the CRD board, calls for a referendum timed to coincide with the 2014 election to gain a \$250,000 increase to the tax requisition for the period of 2015-18. The funds are intended to create a multi-use pathway on Rainbow Road from the Lower Ganges intersection to the pool, a connector path on Lower Ganges from Rainbow to Upper Ganges Road, and safety upgrades to Ganges Hill as well as several small projects.

McIntyre has agreed to devote a large percentage of the island's federal gas tax transfer to the commission for the five-year plan. SSITC intends to leverage these funds and bring MoTI in as the third partner in the long-term scheme.

"Assuming gas tax funds will continue to be available to Salt Spring, a significant portion will be allocated to transportation matters," McIntyre commented after the meeting.

"Many transportation studies and plans have been funded over the years and it is time to get a return on this investment by taking prudent action to implement the recommendations.

"The first step has been taken with the completion of the first



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

A sidewalk, paved walking path, bike lane, bench and retaining wall are among transportation improvements completed on Lower Ganges Road north of Ganges village in 2013.

phase of the North Ganges Transportation Plan. The next steps will be planned on a priority basis based on the SSITC five-year plan and available funding. This plan will make it more likely to be able to get the funding support of partners, including the Salt Spring taxpayer, possible grant opportunities and MoTI contributions as well as the gas tax. Community input will continue to be sought during the various stages of the five-year plan."

SSITC will ask the ministry to completely fund a round-about at Lower Ganges and Upper Ganges

Roads since it has been classified as a "warranted project," according to MoTI traffic studies. The commission plans to take on the Rainbow Road project and the connector pathway for its part, as well as a sidewalk in the roundabout area.

The resolution represents 18 months of work by transportation commissioners, who will now focus on bringing MoTI and the public to the table.

"We are very grateful to CRD director Wayne McIntyre for supporting this important motion," McLennan said. "We look forward to working very hard in 2014 to

translate all these paper plans into reality."

In other business, the commission passed a motion recommending the CRD hire Salt Spring engineer Bob Simpson to convert conceptual drawings for the new bus shelter near Country Grocer into construction drawings. Local artist Matt Brain created the winning design for the project, with inspiration from the moon snail.

McLennan said the commission is hopeful that construction on the shelter will take place in the first few months of 2014.

NEWS BRIEFS

On our cover

Winner of the Gulf Islands Secondary School art class Driftwood cover art competition this year is Sofia Pickstone. The Grade 11 GISS student receives a \$50 prize from the Driftwood for her efforts.

Thanks to art teacher Peter Legun for ensuring the continuation of a longstanding Driftwood tradition of having student-created art for our Christmas issue.

Tree leaves thousands in dark

A wind-toppled tree is being blamed for taking out power to more than 2,100 BC Hydro customers on Monday morning.

Ted Olynyk, a spokesperson for BC Hydro, said power to many areas of the island's north end,

including properties along Vesuvius Bay Road, Sunset Drive and North End Road, was disrupted when a tree took out two of the island's major feeder lines.

Outages were reported in several Ganges-area businesses, and the incident caused a 22-minute delay to ferry service between Vesuvius and Crofton.

Olynyk said service had been restored to most

affected areas by early Monday afternoon.

Storm knocks out CFSI

Salt Spring radio station CFSI-FM was off the airwaves for more than three days after a Dec. 20 snowstorm hit a tower on Mount Belcher.

Station owner Dave Dhillon was on Salt Spring on Monday to deal

with the problem and said technicians would investigate the tower. Radio station volunteer Radha Fournier confirmed later that morning that a switch at the tower had been tripped and had since been reset. Broadcasting resumed immediately although the online listening option was not available.

The incident came on top of a series of pro-

gramming issues for the station, with the departure of several volunteer hosts during recent weeks and an upcoming CRTC hearing in January to investigate licensing non-compliance issues.

The CRTC will accept public submissions for the hearing up to Jan. 6, 2014. For more information, see <http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2013/2013-568-1.htm>.



Newspapers deliver...

Reach a mass audience in a flash, advertise in the Driftwood

CALL US TODAY 250-537-9933


ASK ABOUT OUR WINTER CAMPAIGN DISCOUNTS

CALL
250-537-9933

Driftwood
YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION SINCE 1968


here's my card

Blue Velvet Upholstering
#6-315 Upper Ganges Road



Kim Nash 250.537.4369
bluevelvet@uniserve.com
See us on Facebook

BACK ON THE ISLAND



Dan Hardy Denturist
Salt Spring office located at Gulf Clinic
241 Lower Ganges Road
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1ST

- New Dentures
- Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call 1-250-710-1884

Got dents? We'll straighten you out!
COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIRS

- *ICBC accredited Express Valet Shop
- *All Private Insurance
- *Wheel Alignments
- *Air Conditioning
- *Auto Glass Replacement
- *Guaranteed Workmanship

Irwin COLLISION
ICBC ACCREDITED SHOP

115 Desmond Crescent, next road down from the car wash 250-537-2513
email: irwincollision@telus.net

Craft Wine & Beer Making
Wines, Ports, Beers, Coolers & Ciders
Local Fruits and Apple Wines




The Wine Cellar
250.931.1963
www.saltspringwinecellar.com

Sidney's Pet Centre & Aquatics



Proudly serving Sidney and the Islands for 25 years.
250-656-3314
9769 Fifth Street, Sidney

DRAWING STUDIES IN CHARCOAL
with Gabrielle Jensen



Weekend workshops running Feb * March * April \$275
Includes studio equipment
All materials & lunch

For more information
gabriellejensen@shaw.ca
250-537-1299

This high profile advertising space is available, call
250.537.9933

NORTHERN GATEWAY

Opponents to continue pipeline fight

Recommendation leaves critics unimpressed

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Opponents of a 1,200-kilometre pipeline between Alberta and B.C.'s north coast vow to keep up the pressure despite the National Energy Board's favourable recommendation last week.

"Islanders will stand with First Nations to stop this ill-conceived child of fossilized thinking," said Tom Mitchell, a Salt Spring-based member of Save the Salish Sea.

Mitchell said he feels more disappointed than surprised by Thursday's recommendation to move ahead with the pipeline.

"I have a feeling that the fix is in," he said.

On Dec. 19, a National Energy Board panel recommended the federal government approve Enbridge's Northern Gateway project. The decision hinged on more than 200 conditions, including the need to improve oil spill cleanup capabilities and develop a marine mammal protection plan.

According to a statement released by the NEB on Thursday, "Environmental burdens associated with project construction and routine operation can generally be effectively mitigated and . . . continued monitoring, scientific research and adaptive management could further

reduce adverse effects."

Despite the best mitigation efforts, however, the board added that "the environmental, societal and economic burdens of a large oil spill, while unlikely and not permanent, would be significant."

"The project's large-scale risks need to be weighed against the economic reality that the benefits are to multinationals and other countries' refineries."

ELIZABETH MAY
Green Party of Canada Leader

The recommendation followed more than a year of hearings with nearly 1,500 participants from communities across British Columbia and Alberta. Where as many pipeline supporters anticipate great returns from the \$7.9-billion project, opponents say the potential environmental cost of an oil spill is too great a risk.

Caitlyn Vernon, a former resident of Salt

Spring and a campaigns director for Sierra Club BC, considers the NEB's decision disappointing, ludicrous and shameful.

"The federal government and Enbridge seem determined to spoil the holidays, and many more holidays to come, for B.C. families; but take heart: this is far from over," she said.

Vernon and the Sierra Club echoed Mitchell's lack of surprise at the decision. She said the process lacked credibility and failed to look at bigger-picture issues such as climate change.

"Today's announcement does not mean that this pipeline and tanker proposal has been approved," Vernon said. "The federal cabinet needs First Nations' approval and social licence from British Columbians, and they have neither."

Vernon is among project opponents who have vowed to continue their fight against the project well into the new year.

Elizabeth May, Green Party of Canada Leader and MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, has called on the federal government to reject the proposal due to the pipeline's grave economic and environmental risks.

"It is not acceptable to have the Harper administration pushing for the project as though it is an economic boon, for which environmental concerns are an impediment to progress," May wrote in a statement. "The project's large-scale risks need to be weighed against the economic reality that the benefits are to multinationals and other countries' refineries."

AWARDS

Hastings House gets gold grade

Gulf Islands also touted by Condé Nast readers

Hastings House Country House Hotel is the third best hotel in Western Canada, according to readers of the discerning Condé Nast Traveler magazine.

The hotel received an overall score of 93 out of 100 points, coming just shy of tying with the Rosewood Georgia Hotel's second place score of 93.2. Readers chose the Wedgewood Hotel & Spa in Vancouver as their first pick, with a score of 94.6.

Readers' comments on Hastings House included this accolade from Judi Morris of Calgary. "Wow! One feels very well taken care of and catered to. High-class and quaint. I'll return again and again. Very relaxing."

Hastings House also picked up several honours from US News Travel during the summer, including first place in Best Victoria & Vancouver Island Hotels, third in Best British Columbia Hotels and eighth for Relais & Châteaux Hotels.

Also in 2013, Condé Nast readers named the Gulf Islands the third best island in Canada with 83.3 points, after Vancouver Island (with 85.5) and Prince Edward Island (83.8).

We wish everyone in our communities a safe and enjoyable holiday season



A message from the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association

FULFORD WATER

Commissioners ponder resignation

Frustration follows years of unresolved issues

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Fulford Water Service Commission annual general meeting isn't until February, but frustration among commissioners has already begun to bubble to the surface.

Incomplete and inadequate cost estimates, excessive operating costs, and a "convoluted and complex" operating budget are among the gripes listed in a two-page document circulated to the district's subscribers on Dec. 16.

In their letter, commissioners threaten to resign pending further public input.

"There is a lot of history that has caused a lack of trust in CRD bureaucracy that remains unresolved to date," reads part of the letter distributed by commis-

sion chair Carole Eyles.

The CRD's failure to control costs and obtain information has made it impossible for commissioners to do the job for which they have been elected.

"We have applied to every ombudsperson and auditor we can find and no one will help us get redress for the gross financial mismanagement of the past or the lack of accountability that still exists," the letter reads. "We no longer wish to appear to legitimize the current attitudes and approaches of the Victoria bureaucracy."

"We are looking for your direction on how to proceed."

Commissioners have devoted more than three years to resolving outstanding budget and service problems that have resulted in excessive costs for the 104 businesses and homes in the service area. It includes properties in the heart of Fulford village as well as outlying areas

on South Ridge and Sunnyside drives, Hilltop Road and along part of Fulford-Ganges Road.

Fulford property owners joined the Capital Regional District in 2005 to decrease costs for upgrades and maintenance. Instead of anticipated cost savings and efficiencies, the move resulted in years of frustration for successive volunteer commissioners. Commissioners said mismanagement and accounting errors are believed to have cost users approximately \$453,000.

"There is a lot of history that has caused a lack of trust in CRD bureaucracy that remains unresolved to date," commissioners state.

When presented with the commissioners' letter on Monday, CRD general manager of integrated water services Ted Robbins said it was the first he'd heard of any resignation plans.

He said cost overruns are unfortunate but the inevi-

table result of aging and inadequate water infrastructure.

"Fulford continues to face challenges with unplanned emergency expenses and repairs," Robbins said.

The CRD has hired a senior manager and engineer on the island in response to similar complaints from other water district representatives.

"It's actually been working really well in terms of the commissions' representation on the island," he said.

The FWSC will hold a special information meeting to discuss next steps with subscribers in the Fulford Hall OAP room on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. The event is not sponsored by the CRD. A copy of the letter is available at Salt Spring Mercantile and the Fulford post office.

FWSC members are Martin Day, Carole Eyles, Anthony Maude and Jonathan Yardley.

EMERGENCY CARE

Transfusion for air patients made possible

Quicker treatment could save lives

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. has joined the few jurisdictions in the world to allow air ambulances to carry blood supplies, a move that could save critical care patients in need of immediate transfusions.

"We know that the sooner select trauma and medical patients receive blood products, the better the chance of a positive outcome," said Dr. Erik Vu, a Vancouver Coastal Health physician and BC Ambulance Service critical care paramedic who helped implement the procedural change. "This new program ensures patients will receive life-saving blood transfusions with the required blood products faster and arrive at a tertiary centre sooner."

The program was announced by

BCAS on Dec. 18. and took effect immediately. The first of its kind in Canada to be paramedic-based, it is the result of a three-year collaborative process launched by BCAS and Vancouver Coastal Health Transfusion Medicine Services. Vu said the time period was necessary to review the possible changes and then ensure they aligned with federal and provincial guidelines around transporting blood.

Previously, paramedics arriving to treat a patient in a rural or remote area had to rely on the blood available at that site. In the case of most of the Gulf Islands, Vu said, that meant no blood at all. But even for patients at Lady Minto Hospital awaiting transport, paramedics would be limited to the supplies on hand.

"Now we have a more effective use throughout the province, which translates to more rapid treatment and aids in more definitive care," Vu said.

Blood will be available within 10 minutes of paramedics requesting it on the way to a call. It can either be picked up by helicopter from Vancouver General Hospital's roof, or shuttled to planes at the airport for delivery.

Since the Gulf Islands can be reached so rapidly, Vu said the program will be carried out on a case-by-case basis to see whether instant transport might make more sense than the short delay due to waiting for blood in each scenario.

"We will determine whether it's in the patient's best interest to respond right away without blood, or have the blood brought to them," he explained.

All in all, Vu described the change as a win-win-win situation because "patients will benefit, there will be more effective use of blood product resources in the province and it will improve our trauma and medical systems of care."



REYNOLDS
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
FLOOD RESTORATIONS
TILE & GROUT CLEANING

PAUL REYNOLDS
owner/operator
250-537-4208
ssipreynolds@yahoo.ca

JOSH LACY
certified technician
FREE ESTIMATES
"Since 1964"

Donna's Deal OF THE Week!
SALE
Cocktail Sausage Rolls REG. \$3.00 doz. **\$2.50/DOZ.**

EMBE BAKERY

PRESENT THIS CARD DEC. 25 - DEC 31, 2013

PRECISE
PAINTING & PLASTER

Neale Smith
• Complete custom painting
• All phases of drywall
• Handyman services
• Journeyman workmanship
• 40 years experience

250.221.1195

I'll work for you or with you

1-855-537-4228(4ACT)
Tuesdays by appointment
241 Lower Ganges Road, (Gulf Clinic)
www.acthearing.ca
Leslie Peterson, M.A., Aud (C), R.Au.D.,
Registered Audiologist

Act HEARING

CALL TODAY to find out why people are choosing Act Hearing for their hearing care. You'll want to tell your friends too!

- Free Hearing Screenings
- 90 day trial on hearing devices
- Complete thorough hearing assessments
- VAC health identification cards accepted

Happy Holidays, Salt Spring!
Al's will be open through the holiday season
Except for Dec. 25th and 26th and Jan. 1st.

Monday - Friday
11am - 3pm
151 Rainbow Road

Saturdays in
Centennial Park

AL's
FALAFEL 'N' FRIES

Johnson's
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES LTD.
SCAA APPROVED REPAIR FACILITY
SALT SPRING ISLAND

Book your WINTER INSPECTION today!

250.537.2023 #1-156 Alders Ave.

Dgim DRIFTWOOD GULF ISLANDS MEDIA

328 Lower Ganges Rd.,
Salt Spring Island, B.C.
V8K 2V3 Canada

Email me story ideas for my column:
Streets of Salt Spring!
dwsalty@driftwoodgimmedia.com

D.W. Salty
REPORTER
250-537-9933

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS FROM THE WINDSOR CREW!

Holiday Hours
CLOSED
Closed Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1
OPEN
Dec. 24 7 am to 3 pm

Windsor Plywood
166 RAINBOW ROAD
www.windsorssi.com • general@windsorssi.com
Neighbours helping neighbours
...build their dreams PH: 250-537-5564 FAX: 250-537-1207
OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 7 AM - 5:30 PM / SATURDAY 8 AM - 5:30 PM / CLOSED SUNDAYS

OPINION



2013 CCNA AWARDS
 Gold - General Excellence | Gold - Front Page | Gold - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre)
 Gold - Special Section (Best of SSI) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)
 Silver - Editorial Page | Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre)
 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)

2013 BCYCN AWARDS
 Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron) | Silver - Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)
 Silver - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence
 Bronze - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Ad Campaign, Collaborative (Leanne Brunelle)



EDITORIAL

Fulford déjà vu

Fulford Water Service Commissioners have made no fewer than 20 attempts to resolve gripes with the Capital Regional District since April 2010.

They've sent a letter to what was once called the provincial Minister of Communities and Rural Development, met with CRD representatives, and petitioned former Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Gary Lunn. They've asked the provincial auditor general for access to performance reviews and financial audits of CRD officials, called upon former provincial MLA Murray Coell for assistance, and filed a claim against the CRD's insurance to cover cost overruns they've been powerless to prevent.

In most cases, commissioners received a curt "thank you very much, but it isn't really our problem."

THE ISSUE:

Fulford water woes

WE SAY:

Patience has run dry

In others, they received no response whatsoever. Even a letter to Christy Clark that requested ministerial intervention was rebuffed. Meanwhile, things haven't much changed in Fulford, where four tireless volunteer commissioners have nearly run out of options and patience.

That commissioners have threatened to quit is unfortunate but hardly a surprise. For years, they've been told improvements are in the works and that the worst is behind them. Meanwhile, overruns have surpassed \$450,000 and commissioners still demand an explanation to give to the approximately 100 subscribers who rely on the district for potable water.

Two years ago, the CRD announced creation of senior management and engineer positions on Salt Spring. The great goal, according to a press release issued in January 2012, was to offer local support and additional coordination between the island's CRD functions. It was hoped local oversight could resolve conflicts such as those experienced in Fulford and many other island water districts.

Despite the CRD's best efforts, commissioners have finally decided to dangle their resignation letters to call off the charade. When you've tried everything and discovered you're powerless, it only makes sense to step out of the fray.

As the list of unresolved issues grows and commissioners near wit's end, it behooves the CRD to demonstrate what it has done to address concerns — and why none of that seems to have worked.



VIEWPOINT by DREW BODALY

A letter on Campbell's 'fun' legacy

The following letter from Drew Bodaly is addressed to Gordon Campbell, Canadian High Commissioner to the U.K. and former B.C. premier, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Because you are now far away in your new cushy job in London, I thought you might appreciate being brought up to date on how things are going here in B.C. for those of us left behind. What's new?

BC Hydro just announced a 28 per cent rate hike over the next five years. This will add an average of \$250 per year to hydro bills. The hike was not nearly as large as originally proposed by BC Hydro to keep debt levels lower. Experts in the field attribute the increase to your disastrous policy to force Hydro to buy hydro power from private developers, at costs much higher than it presently produces power or can sell the electricity for.

BC Ferries just announced large service cuts. Ridership is down and fares are going up much faster than the rate of inflation. The present Liberal government is following your policy of refusing to treat the coastal ferries as a public service like other roads and bridges and to force BC Ferries to pay back its debt to the provincial government. Tourism and the cost of living in coastal communities will continue to suffer.

The voters of B.C. decided to force the provincial government to rescind your decision to bring in the HST. Voters in this referendum outcome knew that it was going to cost the government and businesses billions to go back to the PST/GST system, but people were so angry over your lies and deceit in bringing in the HST, they voted it out anyway.

Remember your fun policy of big, publicly funded, glamorous projects? The Vancouver Olympics (\$7 billion), Sea-to-Sky Highway upgrade (\$2 billion), and the Golden Ears Bridge (that no one drives on, \$808 million). Well, the present government is continuing with that fun policy: a new Port Mann Bridge (\$3.3 billion), a new roof for BC Place Stadium (\$514 million).

Oh yeah, but no new funding for BC Ferries, a small fraction of these other costs, but I guess that the coastal ferries just aren't as much fun! With all the costs of these huge, public projects, the provincial government must continue (following your policies) to chip away at health, education and other basic services. This has resulted in overflowing emergency rooms, teachers' strikes and a lack of adequate mental health services in the province.

The sale of BC Rail to CN has resulted in the near abandonment of the BC Rail system, as CN shunts all traffic as quickly as possible to its main lines to save money. Communities dependent on the BC Rail system have fallen on hard times. The political stench of the crooked sale, completed by your government, still lingers in the province.

Mr. Campbell, do you know what the abbreviation B.C. now means in Canada? "Bring cash!"

This is your legacy. High-profile, glamorous projects funded by the taxpayers, with not enough money left over to pay for the basics such as health care and education. And rising debt levels that will have to be dealt with by future generations.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

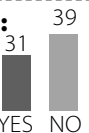
Do you want an incorporation study for SSI?

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:

Can islanders succeed in mitigating ferry cuts?



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
 Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
 Email: inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
 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 1 yr \$12.60 | 2 yr \$18.90

Editorial:
 Sean McIntyre,
 Elizabeth Nolan

Front office:
 James Burton,
 Johanna Walkner

Advertising:
 Sheena MacLeod,
 Drew Underwood,
 Jennifer Lannan



Amber Ogilvie
PUBLISHER

aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjoberg
MANAGING EDITOR

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sheena MacLeod
SALES MANAGER

smaclod@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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: "Islanders will stand with First Nations to stop this ill-conceived child of fossilized thinking."

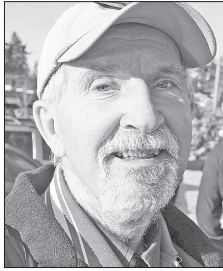
TOM MITCHELL, ON THE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINE PROJECT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
Christmas trees:
real or fake?



PAUL AUSTIN
Each person should make their own tree out of recycled lumber. You could reuse it every year by adding another piece.



GEORGE DONALD
Fake, because I like the real ones to keep growing.



CHRISTINE BOYLE
I don't buy the argument that plastic trees are better for the environment. We have a live one — planted in a pot — this year.



HELENE CAREY
I prefer real because it's alive and I like the smell.



CINDY BOOTH
Real, they smell good and I don't like plastic.

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.

Privilege to sing Messiah

Christmas arrived for me on the afternoon of Dec. 15 at Fulford Hall thanks to Jim Stubbs and the Bach on the Rock association.

The third annual sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah was a wonderful experience. The soloists Don Fisher, Anke Smeele, Nancy Washeim and Angus Bell performed their solos with a perfection that inspired and uplifted the soul. The Salt Spring Chamber Orchestra and Choir filled the hall with wondrous sounds.

As an audience member I felt it was a privilege to sing along with such talented musicians.

The hall was beautifully decorated and the performers were elegantly dressed in formal attire. I deeply appreciated the opportunity to participate. I look forward to next year.

LILLIAN MACK,
SALT SPRING

Letter of the year

If the Driftwood were to choose a "letter of the year" for 2013, Bob Wild's Dec. 18 letter titled "Governance problem?" should rank number one, hands down.

Although, as he writes, "It's not given to human nature to be perfect," his letter praising the virtues of our vibrant island community is most certainly superlative.

Happy holidays to all!
DOROTHY CUTTING,
MEMBER OF THE SILENT
APPRECIATIVE MAJORITY,
PRICE ROAD

Freedom of speech in peril

Trust Bylaw 473 handcuffs and hobbles free speech.

Free speech is the supreme freedom — no other freedom has ever been violated in the presence of free speech — ever!

It is incumbent on all of us to defend it, even if we do not use it personally. For if those who use it are silenced, we all suffer — much!

TOM VARZELIOTIS,
BOOTH CANAL

Squirrely plan

The plan to shoot barred owls (to save spotted owls) in B.C., Washington and Oregon is ludicrous in the extreme.

Ludicrous was an ancient Greek who believed science must prevail, even in the face of common sense. But give of Ludi a 12-gauge shotgun and all the ammo he could tuck into his tunic, and he's never going to solve this owl problem.

Nature's subjects ebb and flow in a constant matrix of give and take. Those who won't "give" voluntarily are likely to become "take-out." Barred owls, recent arrivals in the Pacific Northwest, are displacing long-time resident spotted owls, hence the management plan. But when coy-

otes, to give just one example, arrived in B.C.'s Lower Mainland in the 1960s and '70s, displacing resident red foxes, no howl of protest went up, much less a government plan to greet the wily newcomers with gunfire. Likewise the plan to eradicate Vancouver Island's encroaching bullfrogs. In spite of hundreds of thousands of dollars, fewer than 30,000 bullfrogs have croaked because of the culling. Mike Walton, senior manager of CRD Parks, said in an interview earlier this year, "The reproduction rates are greater than we are able to manage..."

I believe it would be far better to look for a management plan within nature, and I think there is one: flying squirrels.

Researchers have learned that barred owls prefer life on the fringes of the forest, while spotted owls prefer old-growth habitat where one of their major prey items, flying squirrels, are most abundant. As old-growth forest disappears, so goes the squirrels, and the owls.

Here's my plan. Import

flying squirrels by the ferry-load, lots of them. Not only will this help save the spotted owls, it will add one more feather to our war bonnet of attractions for potential visitors. Not only that, with a bit of help from our top agriculturists like Tony Threlfall, Dan Jason and John Fulker, along with a bit of help from Monsanto, it should be possible to cross-breed some of these "frequent flyers" until they are as big as half-a-sheet of plywood. Won't the visiting kids love that — sailing off the top of Mount Maxwell in a stiff breeze on the back of a gigantic squirrel?

Now we all know that Salt Spring is an argument surrounded by water, and some islanders are bound to say this plan is "nuts," even "squirrely," and I wouldn't want anyone to get owly about it. But, like the early Greek followers of Ludicrous who hid in the eunuch's chamber said: "What have we got to lose?"

ROGER BRUNT,
SALT SPRING

Gingerbread winner

Congratulations to Daniel Parkinson, aged seven years, who won the wonderful gingerbread house at the Visitors Centre.

It was created by Jehanne Kirwin, one of our volunteers. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the decorations both inside and outside. Special thanks goes to our neighbours Bob Patterson and Bob Charlet who helped with the roof at the centre.

The only time the centre will close is on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

It is run by 50 volunteers from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day all year.

Happy holidays to all of you and to Janet Clouston, manager of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

LAURA MOORE,
GANGES VISITORS' CENTRE

Where is the peace in the new Greenpeace?

BY KIRSTEN HARMS

In 1971 a handful of activists protested against bombing tests in Alaska. They drove their boat "Greenpeace" directly into the target area. This was extremely dangerous but it caught the attention of news franchises worldwide.

Greenpeace, the organization, was born. Originally, they drew lots of attention to issues through daring stunts which risked lives and equipment. Over time, however, the approach has lost its effectiveness. As actions became more extreme their message became lost and goals became less clear. The group was even labelled "eco-terrorist" and put on a terrorist watch list. Greenpeace members put themselves in harm's way to prove a point and often risked the safety of others in the process. The stunt becomes the headline, the intent often lost.

Earlier this year, members of Greenpeace were caught climbing a Russian oil platform. Instead of drawing attention to drilling in the Arctic and its environmental impacts, they drew attention to their activists. When

several Greenpeace activists were jailed, efforts to free them made headlines. Donations directed to Greenpeace are redirected to legal representation. At worst the activists will be charged with piracy, and at best they will only be charged with trespassing. Headlines tell the story of poor conditions in Russian jails. Where are the headlines about the risks of deep water drilling in the Arctic?

The tactics employed by Greenpeace do not resonate with a generation that grew up singing about a baby beluga in the deep blue sea. Ask for a perception of the group and one thinks of protest signs hung from unexpected spots.

Ask again what the main goal of the group is and the response will vary widely. Protecting whales, preventing drilling in the Arctic, halting oil sands production, or representing activists in courts of law around the world. It seems ironic that an anarchist group calls on the government to intercede on behalf of individuals who violated international law.

GUEST COLUMN

Greenpeace wants to bring change to the world, to save the environment. Although their intentions are liberal, their actions are not. Liberalism is about bringing change through reform and laws, rather than radical actions.

Where is the "peace" in Greenpeace? Peaceful revolution would inspire change. Here's an idea: translate the song Baby Beluga into Russian and inspire a whole new generation to protect the Arctic. If Greenpeace redirected their efforts towards inspiring youth, they would be much more effective. "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." — Frederick Douglass.

Greenpeace has certainly lost relevance for the age group currently heading to university. Raised in the shadow of falling Twin Towers, it is a group tired of terrorist acts, tired of violence, looking for reason. Fresh perspectives will bring about the change we want for the future.

What if Greenpeace could give Russian

youth a voice in protecting their Arctic? What if that group pressed for marine sanctuaries, strict pollution laws and designed plans to deal with eventual spills? No signs, no water cannons.

Aside from empowering youth, Greenpeace needs a new operating model. Currently, in other parts of the world, conservationists are working towards broadening animal protection laws. Peacefully and quietly these activists are creating actual change. Some propose that whales are sentient beings, who, like humans, should be afforded liberties and rights. That's radical!

If Greenpeace could direct their funds towards this type of legal argument, where laws are revised and new concepts are adopted, then true change is possible. Greenpeace needs change, Greenpeace needs peace. A new generation is ready and willing to help.

The writer is a high school student in Springbank, Alberta, who spends summer breaks with family members on Salt Spring Island.

Accusation of bias in governance study unfounded

BY SHELLEY NITIKMAN

This is in response to David J. Rapport's letter to the editor in last week's Driftwood ("Governance study: Have the people really spoken?").

Mr. Rapport has impressive credentials so it is with respect that I would like to point out what I consider are the flaws of reasoning in his letter and in his unsupported conclusions.

"Have people really voiced their interest in an incorporation study?" I say yes! Without any doubt, the people who took the time to make their views known have spoken. The many who did not respond, despite all the opportunities to do so, cannot now complain that their voices were not heard.

Is Mr. Rapport aware of any jurisdiction in Canada where voting or participating in polls or surveys is mandatory? I don't think so. There

are no such laws in this country. Yet Mr. Rapport's reasoning would invalidate the election of trustees on Salt Spring Island because fewer than 100 voters cast their ballot. I hope Mr. Rapport does not intend to replace the democratic process with a statistician's guide to the universe.

Mr. Rapport says the study results are not valid because there was no statement such as "... within so many percentage points 19 times out of 20." Has Mr. Rapport forgotten about the polls that were conducted prior to the last provincial election? Weren't those polls conducted by professional and well-regarded polling companies and didn't those polls contain the magic words "... reliable within so many percentage points ...?" I ask Mr. Rapport, were those polls accurate and reliable? No, not at all. It was only the result of the vote that told the tale.

Mr. Rapport also wrongly

IN RESPONSE

claims that surveys were the sole basis relied upon by the Governance Study Committee in making its recommendations. He chooses to sidestep the conclusions of the final report as endorsed by the committee, which said "... While mixed, input provided through the community survey findings, public forums, interviews and other engagement opportunities indicates that a clear majority of respondents favour proceeding to a full municipal incorporation study."

Mr. Rapport will find greater context by a close reading of the final report, available online at www.ssigovernancestudy.ca.

Mr. Rapport also says that the electoral version by which the surveys could be answered could not be

monitored for cheating. Apparently there was opportunity to respond from different computers.

Apart from there being no evidence of cheating, the question is this: if cheating was possible, how is it that the "cheaters" were all in favour of change and a closer look at the incorporation option? It certainly sounds like Mr. Rapport is saying that all of the people who did not want change were honest, morally and ethically above cheating while all the others — those in favour of a closer look at incorporation — were dishonest, unethical and immoral. That has to be a rather unscientific and rather insulting conclusion, wouldn't you say Mr. Rapport?

I must also ask whether he participated in what he so obviously considers to have been a flawed process. Is he really a disinterested third party? I have to wonder if the results had been different, whether Mr.

Rapport would be expending the same effort to discredit the process, which involved a long and thorough public consultation.

Finally, Mr. Rapport suggests the study may have lacked unbiased oversight or that the committee itself may have been biased. What evidence does Mr. Rapport have? A respected and experienced third-party consultant was engaged, the same consultant (coincidentally) that the Islands Trust is now using for an impact study on the consequences of any possible incorporation by Salt Spring Island.

The committee's job was to ensure the consultant met the objectives of the study and to consider whether the conclusions were reasonable. There is no evidence of bias; the accusation is made simply because the result was not as Mr. Rapport, and those who share his views, would have liked.

expert ADVICE

250-537-9933 OR SALES@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

Mechanic

This has been a very mild winter, is there anything different I should be doing to look after my vehicle?



GYLE KEATING

Mild wet weather creates the perfect environment for mildew and the musty smells that go along with it. Your car is continuously getting moisture inside from wet shoes and clothing as well as the moisture in the air we breathe out. If your car is equipped with air conditioning, moisture is taken out of the air by a combination of the a/c running at the same time as the defrost setting on your heater. This is a great system if run long enough, however the short trips we take here may not be enough and your vehicle may not be air conditioned.

If mildew is accumulating in your car it needs to be as dry as possible, then all surfaces cleaned with a good antifungal cleaner available from your local hardware store. To effectively dry your car put a small electric heater with a fan in it overnight. Leave a window open slightly to let out the moisture. Be very careful when installing the heater, do not set on or near upholstery, carpet or any flammable surface.

Check your owner's manual to see if your vehicle is equipped with an air filter for the heater system. It should be checked and replaced if dirty or moldy and the air box cleaned.

Drive Safe, Gyle

SALT SPRING AUTO SERVICE Tread Shed

537-2876 • #2-319 Upper Ganges Rd. Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

Renovations

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

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

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

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



MEROR KRAVENHOFF



"What your mind can conceive, our hands can create."

Joss, Jerry, Meror
For a free one hour consultation call: 250.537.9355

Fitness Expert

Season Greetings Everyone



BRENDA AKERMAN

As we near the end of 2013, we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who visits us at Rainbow Road Pool this year. Your enthusiasm, laughter and stories, make our jobs enjoyable. We look forward to seeing all of our swimmers, hot tubbers, Aqua fit and swim lesson participants in 2014.

We wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for 2014.

Pool will be closed Dec. 25 and open Dec. 26 at Noon

Rainbow Road indoor pool

250-537-1402 • 262 Rainbow Road

Real Estate

A Time For Thanks...



JAN MACPHERSON

As this holiday season advances we are all reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province, and in this country.

To my clients, friends, and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change and transition.

In 2014 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address our challenges ahead.

Peace, Good Will, Prosperity, And Good Health To All!

Jan Macpherson - GOLD AWARD 2010 (FRSBI)

Call for a presentation & marketing consultation.

RE/MAX Salt Spring

Direct: 250-537-9894

Cell/Pager: 1-800-737-7331

www.janmacpherson.com

www.SaltSpringGuide.com

Member of the Real Estate Council of British Columbia

RANTS and Roses

Back on the Rock sends roses to Paul Large and Country Grocer, Brian Finnemore, the crew at Fulford Hall, all the members of the Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra, all those who worked behind the scenes to make our event possible, and mostly to our maestro Jim Stubbs who led the whole community in the best yet Messiah Sing-along — our third annual! Last but not least, we especially thank the audience!

A "piney" winter bouquet to the elf who hung a pretty little bag with scrumptious cookie balls inside. Your generosity warms my heart. I hope you reveal yourself. Ruth

Thank you, Mike Fraser, for your help and kindness. It was much appreciated. Pat Coates

Thank you, Lorne, for retrieving the Centennial Park garbage can and lid from the Pacific Ocean. Much appreciated. Banana Joe and Chuck

Christmas roses for all who attended last week's Carols for Christmastide event at All Saints church. Together we raised \$324.25 for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

A bundle full of roses to Jane Squier and the folks at Fulford Post Office for floating me the cash to help buy a money order for a friend in need. What a wonderful act of kindness to be passed on beyond the season!

Congratulations to our Red Letter Days Contest winner

JUDY OSBORNE's correct ballot was drawn from the many entries we received.

Judy Osborne wins \$250 Driftwood Dollars that can be spent locally in any of the Red Letter Days participating advertiser's locations.

The winning phrase was: Support our local merchants and help build a strong local economy!

Driftwood YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

DRIFTWOOD CONTEST

Annual Christmas story contest winners announced

Writers' creativity and skill praised

The Driftwood's Christmas Story Contest once again saw entries flow in from kids aged five to 17.

With thanks to judges Victoria Olchowecki, Janet Anderson, Louise Nye, Betty Poole, Nancy Wigen and Dan Davies, who did the bulk of the reading and careful considering with some assistance from Driftwood staff, the following young authors are commended. (Honourable mentions are listed in no particular order.)

First-place winners receive a \$25 cheque, which may be picked up from the Driftwood office after Jan. 1, 2014.

First and second place stories are printed in this issue of the paper.

Age 5-6

First place, Caitlin McDermott, Christ-

mas Stockings; second place, Antoine Gonzalez, The Missing Christmas. Honourable mention: Freya Simoneau, A Long Time Since I Saw Snow; Nayoki Singh, Christmas Butterfly; Riley Nicol, The Missing Reindeers; Daisy Conrad, Everything Goes Missing.

Age 7

First place, Ronan Wardroper, Christmas With a Dragon; second place, Kieran Denny, Is it Christmas or Not? Honourable mention: Akasha Smeth, The Missing Reindeer; Azalia Vachon, Porcupine Presents; Roman Wellington, Christmas Eve; Sellar Upton.

Age 8

First place, Nina deRooy, Christmas Play; second place, Nolan Walton, Santa Becomes Santa. Honourable mention: Roo Wilson, The Year Santa Needed Help; Shauna Lazzarotto, The Family

Who Loves Christmas; Esther Lennieks, Nightmare Before Christmas; and Lauren Ashford, A Fast Christmas. Judge's comment: "This year a great deal more detail and imagination is evident."

Age 9

First place, Ella Guin Bilney, Something for Nothing; second place, Rebia Bartram, Christmas Night. Honourable mention: Ethan Reid, The Year Joe Saved Christmas; Dan Quesnel, Finding Santa; Laura Colwell, The Time Emma Saved Christmas; Malcolm Colwell, Billy and Tom Save Santa.

Ages 10-11

First place, Griffin Bohnet-Maul, Santa's Secret; second place, Cody Kerr, Kuru Saves Christmas. Honourable mention: Owen Norgard, Santa's Moustache; Danielle Newton, How I Lost My Eyebrows.

Ages 12-14

First place, Brennan Shaver, Why We Put Angels on Top of Christmas Trees; second place, Stuart Hambrook, The Christmas Mouse. Honourable mention: Robbyn Dixon, Christmas Kindness; Laura Martens, Christmas in the Downtown Eastside; Madeline Woodley, The Move; Gabrielle Reece, Christmas Cookie. Judge's comments: "What wonderful writing — and difficult to choose. Loved them all! The imagery and language tell me that there are children who read. The sentence structure is very mature for this age range."

Ages 16-17

First place, Norees Gasper, The Snowless Christmas; second place, Gwen Patrick, The Frosty Christmas. Honourable mention: Cody MacQueen, A Forest Animal Christmas, and Georgina

Byron, A Stray Dog. Judge's comments: "This was a very fine class with very commendable entries, most of whom could qualify for the category of Honourable Mention."

GISS English as a 2nd Language Students

First place, Andre Ruckdaeschel, Haselnussplaetzchen; second place, Sijia Chen, A Christmas Story. Honourable mention: Jing Wang, Excited and Troubled; Haruno Inoue, My New Year's Day; Keiko Nishioka, A New Year Dream Trip; Hendrik Hebauf, When Two Worlds Meet Each Other; Rocio Contreras Faundez, A Hot Christmas.

Judge's comment: "It was so interesting to read stories of winter celebrations from around the world. It would be nice to find a way to share more of them with the community."

Whole Class Charity Category

Each year the Driftwood provides \$100 to the charity of choice to the class drawn from a hat containing the names of all classes where 100 per cent of students wrote Christmas stories.

This year the Grades 3-4 class taught by Lindsay MacQueen at Fullford school was the winner. We will wait to hear from the class what charity will benefit.

Other classes with 100 per cent participation were Linda Burgess' Grades 1-2 class at Fernwood Elementary School; Sharon Lee's Grades 2-3 class at Fernwood; Christiane Bevan's Grade 8 French Immersion class at Salt Spring Island Middle School; the Grades 3-6 class of Cathy Buttery at Galiano Community School; and three classes at Salt Spring Centre School: Kindergarten kids taught by Gale Robinson, the Grades 1-2 class of Joni Van Ommen, and Kate Richer's Grades 3-5 class.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

BY REBIA BARTRAM

AGE 9 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

One morning in the North Pole Freddy the Elf was getting ready for Christmas. It was the morning of Christmas Eve. He had many jobs to do.

Hmmmm. "Where should I start?" thought Freddy. "I better check with the big guy."

Freddy found Santa sitting in his chair. He was having a snooze. Freddy did not want to wake him up, so he went to find Mrs. Claus. She was making cookies. He followed his nose. An elf named Cookie was cooking and she helped Mrs. Claus. When he got in the kitchen there were cookies, so he went and asked the captain elf Teddy where he should start.

She told him to feed the reindeer. He gave them carrots, hay and water.

"Now that job is done! I'll go and

see if the Big Guy is awake."

He trotted back to Santa. He was still fast asleep like a koala in a eucalyptus tree. "I better not wake him up." So he got the elf out of bed and they got the sled.

Then he saw Santa. He was in his room.

Santa gave Freddy a list of things to do. After Freddy was done everything, then they had dinner.

Santa got all the bags. He got Freddy, Holly and Teddy and then they left.

They sang Christmas carols all the way until they got home, then they went to bed. In the morning it was Christmas. Freddy got a ticket to go to the Canucks Elves vs. the Calgary Elves. Elf Teddy got a ticket to go to Elf Taylor Swift.

It was the best Christmas ever. They had a party and sang songs and danced. It was a busy Christmas for Freddy. Santa was back in his chair, so Freddy went in his chair and fell fast asleep.

The Frosty Christmas

BY GWEN PATRICK
AGE 16-17 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

In the tiniest bell cottage of an elven town named Bellington sat the star, the hero, the grumpy Jack Frost.

He was silently working at his desk painting snowflakes until a loud knock startled him. He stomped angrily to the door and swung it open. It was late and Jack was not in the mood for chit chat.

"I do not take snow requests after hours. If you are part of my fan club I accept letters, not house calls," greeted Jack in a cold voice.

"Mr. Frost, my name is Tinsel and I am the assistant of Santa Claus himself. He has sent me here to take you to him immediately!"

Tinsel grabbed Jack's hand and dragged him into the fully equipped deer sleigh parked on the street.

They reached the North Pole in hardly any time at all. Tinsel, still clutching Jack's hand, led him into Santa's personal workshop. They entered a cozy room with a fireplace and hand-knit blankets. Two large

chairs sat facing the fire and in these chairs were Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Santa got up from his seat and smiled.

"Jack! Thank Rudolf you've arrived!" said Santa. Jack noticed that Santa's cherry cheeks were pale and his beard was grey.

"What's wrong, Santa? Why am I here?" asked Jack.

Santa beckoned Jack over to sit down. Mrs. Claus passed Jack a candy cane hot chocolate and Santa began to tell his story.

He explained that when he awoke and headed into his workshop he discovered that all the toys were missing! Christmas was only a week away and without the toys everyone would be disappointed.

"This sounds familiar," said Jack. "You don't think that the Grinch is back to his old ways?"

"No, not the Grinch. The thieves are the Jack Frost Fan Club," sighed Santa.

Mrs. Claus handed Jack the ransom note. "The club says that you have been ignoring them. They demand that a new Jack Frost be chosen or else Christmas won't happen

this year," wept Mrs. Claus.

"I'm afraid that if you don't win their respect by tonight, I will have to replace you," Santa said grimly.

Jack wandered out into the cold. He had no idea what to do! Jack looked around at the well-used workshops at the North Pole. He stopped suddenly and smiled. He had an idea!

The next morning, elves from all around commuted into work, however, this morning was different. Instead of going into the workshops they simply stopped and stared at the masterpieces before their eyes.

Jack had rebuilt the North Pole! Each building was like an ice sculpture, every pathway was a painting and every rooftop was a skating rink! When Jack saw the fan club he pulled them aside.

"Listen," demanded Jack, "I know that I haven't been the best, but from now on I promise to be the caring Jack Frost that you want me to be."

Jack opened his arms wide and the fan club bombarded him with hugs.

For the first time in years, Jack Frost warmly smiled.

BOXING DAY SALE!

starts today...storewide!

UP TO 50% OFF

OLD SALTY STORE

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!
OPEN BOXING DAY 10AM - 5PM



Something for Nothing

BY ELLA GUIN BILNEY
AGE 9 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

Once upon a time there was a group of kids who called themselves the "Santa Hunters" because every Christmas Eve they tried to stay up to see Santa (but every Christmas they fell asleep).

There was Rebecca and her little brother Joe (who she called Brussel Sprout), Marlin, Calla and Sarah.

On Christmas Eve the Santa Hunters went to the school to set up for the Christmas concert. They

were disappointed to find that Justin, the school bully, was there too, and already teasing Malcolm, Caleb and Paz.

Rebecca said, "If you're not here to help decorate, then leave," so Justin left.

After the best Christmas party ever, Rebecca, Calla and Sarah were hanging out — literally "hanging out" on the school monkey bars — when they started to disappear. At the last minute, Justin and his sister Katy grabbed onto Rebecca's legs and everyone suddenly landed at the North Pole.

Rebecca gasped, "Look!"

All of them stared in wonder, but Justin just said, "Oh, it's someone dressed up as Santa." "No, it IS Santa," Katy exclaimed.

Santa wandered over and said, "Hello, I am the real Santa."

Justin sneered under his breath. "Yeah, right."

"Believe what you want," Santa said, "but please don't call yourself the "Santa Hunters" anymore because I feel like I'm being hunted down."

"OK," said Calla. "How about the 'Santa Finders.'"

"OK, but now that you've found me, it's time to go home," said Santa as he

pressed the "return" button. But it didn't work, because a few minutes earlier, someone had wrecked the main computer.

"Oh no," said Santa, "if that isn't working I need to check what's happening at the toy factory. Shadow, my evil brother, turned the elves against me, so I created a machine to make all of the toys, but now he's messing with the machine — he wants to ruin Christmas."

"Can we help?" asked Sarah, Rebecca, Calla and Katy.

"Yes," said Santa, "but we'll need two more kids."

"I doubt Justin will help,

but my brother and Marlin might."

"They'll do," and zap! there they were.

"What are we doing here?" Marlin asked.

"Does this help?" Santa asked as he stood in front of him.

"I guess," Marlin said with wide eyes.

"Now let's get moving, there's only four hours to Christmas morning."

They worked until there was only one toy left to build, but they only had 90 seconds to do it.

"Justin, please, help us," Katy begged. "It's your present."

Then Justin said, "In that

case I guess." After they finished the toys they jumped into the sleigh as Santa said the magic words, "On Dasher" ... (you know how it goes.)

What a magical ride: lights sparkling, sleigh bells ringing and Rudolf's nose glowing.

Suddenly it was Christmas morning and they were all opening presents, except for Justin, who only got a piece of coal.

Justin sulked.

Then a letter blew down the chimney, which said, "Want to help next time around?" and Justin smiled and finally found the Christmas spirit.

PADERNO BOXING WEEK Factory Sale!

SAVINGS UP TO 83%! DECEMBER 26TH TO 31ST

UP TO 67% OFF!
Canadiana ceramic fry pans with enviro-friendly ceramic coating, PFOA and PTFE Free. Safe for induction stovetops.
24cm/9.5" Canadiana fry pan. List: \$139.99. **Now \$44.99!**
28cm/11" Canadiana fry pan. List: \$149.99. **Now \$49.99!**



64% OFF!
20pc Greenwich flatware set. List: \$69.99.
\$24⁹⁹



47% OFF! Ring in the New Year! Set of 2 mini cocktail shakers - red & blue. List: \$16.99.
\$8⁹⁹



73% OFF! EcoPro fry pan - 2 pack. Featuring a durable ceramic interior that performs like a non-stick surface yet is completely PFOA and PTFE free. Induction compatible. List: \$229.99.
\$59⁹⁹



83% OFF!
1L Fusion5 sauté pan with cover and lifetime warranty. \$149.99.
\$24⁹⁹



SPECIAL!
8pc steak knife set with stainless steel blades. \$29.99.
\$16⁹⁹



DECEMBER 26TH TO 31ST ONLY AT:

SALT SPRING ISLAND
Love My Kitchen Shop
Downtown Ganges
140 Fulford-Ganges Road
250-537-5882



PADERNO
 

Information & dealers: 1-800-A NEW-POT or www.paderno.com. Not all locations open Sunday. Quantities limited, please be early. Sale items may not be exactly as shown.

Is it Christmas or Not?

BY KIERAN DENNY
AGE 7 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Once, somewhere in B.C., there lived me.

I wanted to climb the Christmas tree.

That night Santa and a monster popped out of my nose! They led me to a time-travelling flying saucer. We got in. Santa let me get in the front seat. We went to all the houses.

After a while, Santa forgot the present-dropping button.

Then the world got flooded with presents. We travelled to 100,000 days ago.

Santa found the button and remembered that it was 100,000 days ago.

Then I told this story!



With our thanks for your readership!

We hope the holiday season delivers an abundance of glad tidings to your doorstep.

We appreciate your loyal support and look forward to your continued readership.

GULF ISLANDS
Driftwood
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960



arts&entertainment

PHOTOGRAPHY

Lightman image wins

Manhattan Arts International juried contest

Among the winners of Manhattan Arts International's most recent juried competition is Salt Spring photomontage artist Sam Lightman.

Lightman's work called Wind Erosion was chosen for the show titled Smart Art — Big Impact, and will be seen on the Manhattan Arts International website.

"This competition attracted excellent artists from the U.S., Canada, U.K., France, Italy, New Zealand, Australia,

Sweden, Turkey and Japan," said Renee Phillips, director of Manhattan Arts International and one of the show's jurors. "It was a challenge to narrow down the choices to only 60 artists."

Lightman has had several shows on Salt Spring Island and participated in two group shows in Victoria.

The work selected by Manhattan Arts International is part of a forthcoming series with the working title of The Shoreline Project, which will be shown in the ArtSpring lobby in April of 2014 and the Harbour House lobby in June.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

VICTORIAN SMILE: Singer Connie Holmes dresses for a dramatic reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol with musical interludes at the United Church over the weekend. The event was jointly presented by the church and the Grand(m)others to Grandmothers.

SALT SPRING INN

BURGER & PINT All day Monday \$14.95	PRIME RIB DINNER AAA Angus Beef Every Thursday 5pm
--	---

 Tree House Cafe	<i>A Taste of India</i> Saturday 5-9pm
This Week's Music Friday 6-9pm THE UPEX FAMILY	\$10 Burger and Beer Thursday 5-9pm
All day breakfast 7 days a week	
Open Mon-Wed 8am-4pm Fri./Sat. 8am-9pm Sunday 8am-8pm Telephone: 250-537-5379 Next to Mouat's in Ganges	

We wish you all a
**Happy Holiday Season & a
Prosperous, Healthy New Year.**

**LAURIE'S Recycling & Waste
Services Inc. 250-653-9279**

DROP OFF:
Mon - Sat 8am - 4pm
Next to Country Grocer.
Art Island family since 1861

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Options plentiful for NYE

Music and dancing served up at island pubs and halls

Islanders wishing to see the old year out in style and welcome the new one with a little music and dancing will have no end of opportunities to do so as celebratory events hit halls and pubs across Salt Spring next Tuesday.

The early crowd can enjoy down-home entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. when Valdy rings in the Newfie New Year at Pacific Standard Time at the Royal Canadian Legion. Music lovers can then celebrate all over again with music by The Pinkertons starting at 9 p.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. for Legion members and guests. Tickets will include a cold buffet and party favours.

Billie Woods' solo guitar and rich, velvet voice will provide a more mellow vibe at the Harbour House Hotel restaurant starting at 6 p.m. It's the perfect setting for couples on dinner dates to enjoy an intimate celebration, or for groups who want to combine great music with great food.

Beat and the Sneaks will present what's become an island tradition in recent years, with their live band of talented Salt Spring rockers pumping out originals, R&B hits, classic rock, funk grooves and reggae until the early hours.

The line-up includes Juno Award winner Brent Shindell, Pete Sweetz on keyboards, renowned saxophonist Dave Rowse, businessman and drummer Mike Stefancsik, and bass player Bob Delion, plus special surprise guests. The high production value, featuring the crystalline sound and amazing lights and visuals of Greg Pauker's Sculptor Systems, is sure to keep people on the dance floor. Food and drinks will also be available to keep energy levels going.

The dance floor at Moby's Pub will be rocking with music by another favourite party band, The Coalition. The event kicks off at 9 p.m. and includes apps and champagne at midnight, noisemakers, balloons and dancing to 2 a.m. Purchasing tickets in advance is strongly encouraged.

A multifaceted creative

evening will be offered at the Enliven 2014 party at Mahon Hall, which will be magically transformed into a beautiful ballroom.

"Dress to impress, 'cause we are rolling out the red carpet," organizers advise for this evening of dancing to talented local and off-island DJs, socializing with friends in the diner-style lounge, or enjoying performances of sassy burlesque and breath-taking aerial hoops.

Music will be provided by Vancouver's DJ K-Tel, whose electro swing, future blues and ballroom blitz stylings have been heard at the 2010 Olympics as well as Bass Coast and Shambhala festivals. Salt Spring's own Daniel Trump plays swing crunk hop and electro swing, Bontron plays future bass and Blake Winkles offers swampy jug band swing.

The evening starts off at 8 p.m. with a light stretch led by the Dance Temple, and also includes dance performances by Capricora, and by Lady Muse of Cream Burlesque. Goodies and refreshments will be provided by Seed of Life Catering with pictures by Woodwolf Photography.

<p style="font-size: small;">One level sweet cottage, verandah style decking, wood floors, spa style bath, sep guest studio, barn, sunny 5.26 acres. Swimming pond. Close to beach. Charming! MLS# V1037438 \$539,000</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Charming 3 bed / 2 bath home in a 5.37 acre forested enclave. Wood floors, media/family room, open plan living/dining /kitchen, fenced garden, outbuilding. Very private, yet close to Ganges. A special place in the woods! MLS# V1025466 \$495,000</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Custom home with flair on pastoral property. 3 bed, 2 bath, wood floors, cook's kitchen, one level, Sunny decks and patios. Private and quiet. Sep. guest cottage. A country dream for you! MLS# V1011741 \$750,000</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Oceanfront 2.46 acres, low bank, all day sun, private. Enjoy ocean, island, and mountain viewscapes. Build your oceanfront dream here! Excellent investment property! MLS# 921952 \$880,000</p>

**SEA TO SKY
PREMIER
PROPERTIES**
PLATINUM COLLECTION

See Li for Successful Solutions!

Visit Li Read at her office at #4 - 105 Rainbow Rd., across from Ganges Marina. Contact Li Read today at 250-537-7647 or LiRead33@Gmail.com
Visit www.LiRead.ca for a showcase of fine properties for sale!

Santa's Secret

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,

Streets of Salt Spring Island.



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

BY GRIFFIN BOHNET-MAUL
AGE 10-11 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

In the workshop where dreams and wishes are made, where magical things happen, there lived one of the greatest men in history. He had a red hat and coat lined with white cotton; can you guess who that is? Yes, it's Santa!

But what you might not have guessed is that he had one of those deep dark icky secrets that never fully goes away, and haunts you day and night. No one knew that

secret except him and his two brothers.

"How's that suit fitting this morning, Santa?" said Santa's brother Nikolas.

"Cut it out Nik," said Santa nervously.

"Ha, Santa watch that belt of yours, it's starting to slip," said Santa's other brother Chris.

"You don't understand, Chris," said Santa with a sigh.

"Ah, if only they knew how hard it is," Santa thought. But he put up with their coaxing and teasing until Christmas.

On the morning before Christmas, as he did every year, Santa made a speech

about all the elves, Christmas, and how hard they all worked. But he had to fight back a lump in his throat. For if the elves found out his secret... he shuddered at the thought.

That night, as he was shimmying down the chimney, (one of the many chimneys he shimmyed down that night), Santa's belt came loose, revealing the pillow beneath his coat! Santa gasped as he touched his thin waist!

"Well, good thing there's no one around to see me, they're all asleep," said Santa.

But he had spoken too

soon! He heard something in the next room. He quickly dashed into the kitchen, but it was too late, the child had heard and pursued the noise.

Santa kept going from room to room. But then he realized he was being foolish. He was running from a child — a child — just because he wasn't fat. He couldn't stand it!

He nervously confronted the child. "I am so sorry you had to find out like this," Santa said, holding his pillow. "I'm so ashamed."

"Don't be ashamed about that! I used to have the same problem as

you. I needed glasses and everyone teased me, so I stopped wearing them. I kept bumping into things and I wasn't good at anything.

But then, I realized that I didn't care what other people thought! So I wore my glasses again! After a while, no one teased me about it anymore."

"You know what?" said Santa. "I think I'll take your advice." And he gave his pillow to her as a token of gratitude.

From then on, Santa wasn't ashamed of his thin waist again. And when he was, he thought of the little girl, and smiled.

Real Clothes for Real Women

sizes from XS to 4X

• New Arrivals

• Amazing Jewellery • Sales Rack

Open late Thursdays & Fridays right to Christmas

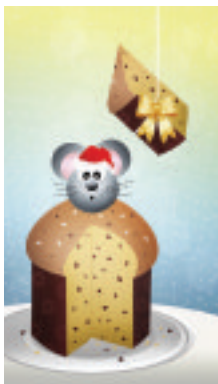
SMART IS THE NEW SEXY



salt spring CLOTHING COMPANY
Grace Point Square • 778.353.3340

Sam & Wendy Anderson wish all their valued clients & friends a very Happy Christmas Season and Prosperous New Year.

SAM ANDERSON APPLIANCE REPAIR
Phone 250-537-5268 / Email: samander@telus.net
24 hr./7-day emergency service



BY STUART HAMBROOK
AGE 12-14 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Once upon a time there lived a very small grey mouse; this small grey mouse lived in a tiny little crack in the Petersons' house.

One day, our mouse smelled something extraordinary in the house, for it was Christmas time, and our smart little mouse knew that around Christmas time there is always good food to be found.

The mouse enjoyed Christmas at the Petersons' house. Uncle Frank always came up from North Carolina. The mouse thought he talked funny, but he always left crumbs.

The little mouse poked his nose out from his crack in the house and sniffed around under the couch in the den; he peeked into the kitchen from under that couch and caught a glimpse of the feast being prepared by the Petersons. This year the food looked to be grand. So our mouse, a curious little fellow, scampered across the floor into the kitchen and Mrs. Peterson went to greet Uncle Frank.

The mouse hid behind a plant as

Uncle Frank walked in, then jumped into a cupboard as Frank looked around. The mouse hid in a mug as the children, Timothy and Martha, greeted their uncle.

The mouse scampered through the cupboard and into a bowl. He peeked his little head over the rim just in time to see the greatest joy: Mrs. Peterson pulled the turkey out of the oven and placed it on the counter.

The mouse jumped out of his bowl and out of the cupboard and sneakily followed Mr. Peterson into the kitchen.

Mr. Peterson came in to the kitchen through the living room door and heaved the potatoes off of the stove. Everyone retired to the dining quarters of the house as Mr. Peterson sliced the turkey.

The mouse jumped out of his bowl and out of the cupboard and sneakily followed Mr. Peterson into the kitchen. Everyone looked joyful as the

turkey was put down. Mr. Peterson served as the children squealed with joy — their father's potatoes were the best to be found.

There was stuffing and yams, the potatoes of course, a delicious mix of vegetables — carrots and peas, and lest we forget, the delicious green beans.

But greatest of all was the delicious turkey, with smooth brown gravy drizzled on top. In a bath of onions it had cooked all day as the flavour of it all became richer and richer.

Now it sat all chopped up on a table, as the purpose of its creation was being fulfilled at last. The family chewed and swallowed with pleasure as they devoured the turkey and the rest of the meal.

But we must not forget our dear little mouse. He danced around under the table with glee, as all the crumbs from all the people fell under the table.

And this is how our story concludes, with a happy little mouse and a big family, all crowded around the table all filled with joy.

This is how everyone, animal and person, at the Petersons' house celebrated Christmas that year, all enjoying a big feast around a happy festive table.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Holiday Season!

SAUNDERS SUBARU
Drop by today... Coffee is always on!
1-888-849-3091 • 1784 Island Highway
www.saunders.subarudealer.ca

The Missing Christmas

BY ANTOINE GONZALEZ
AGE 5-6 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Santa was lost. Who could deliver the presents?

Pete the cat saves Christmas. He jumped into his sleigh.

He delivered all the presents to all the children.

The Missing Christmas

Santa was Lost.

Who could deliver the Presents?

Pete the cat saves Christmas.

He jumped in to his Sleigh
He delivered all the Presents

To all the Children.

Christmas Stockings

BY CAITLIN MCDERMOTT
AGE 5-6 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

Once upon a time, me and my mom were decorating the house for Christmas. It was snowing and lots of kids were having fun playing in the snow.

We were decorating our mantle with evergreens and holly. We had found the holly when we were walking home from school.

We decorated my room with some rainbow lights, putting them on top of my window.

We also decorated my brother's room with rainbow lights. We were going to put up stockings, but we

didn't have enough for our home-stay students to have one. This was a problem because then they wouldn't have any candy in their stockings!

My mom said there were some extra stockings — we just had to find them. We went to look in our attic and we found them sitting in our Christmas box.

We decided we were too tired to decorate anymore, so we put all the stockings on the mantle on top of the fireplace and made some food. We baked a yummy snack and went to bed.

The next morning we got up and hung up the stockings.

The house looked beautiful.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

SEASONAL SONG: Salt Spring Elementary School kids filled Ganges village with Christmas carol cheer on Thursday, accompanied by accordionist Kim Elsser.



Haselnussplaetzchen

BY ANDRE RUCKDAESCHEL
ESL AT GISS CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

It is November at the moment. My first Christmas on Salt Spring Island will happen soon. But I cannot feel the real Christmas atmosphere right now. There is no snow, no Christmas decorations, no Christmas trees, and Advent has not even started.

But a couple of days ago I got a package from Germany. One of the things in this package was a little linen sac, which lay carefully wrapped at the bottom of the box. When I opened it, I smelled something great; something that reminded me of Christmas like probably nothing else could remind me of Christmas. It was the smell we call "Plaetzchen" in Germany.

What are "Plaetzchen?" In Germany we do not eat cookies very often. We know the big American cookies too, but they are not very popular. You cannot eat them in a cafe. But during the time of Christmas we bake special cookies just because of Christmas. These cookies are called "Plaetzchen."

The Plaetzchen I got were made out of hazelnuts. They are not complicated to bake and I could probably bake some myself, but these weren't just cookies for me. They were way more

important.

I immediately knew that my Grandmother had baked these Plaetzchen.

Every Christmas I can remember, my Grandmother has made these Plaetzchen. I can remember standing next to my Grandmother when she made the dough for the Plaetzchen when I was a little child. Sometimes I even waited in front of the oven until the Plaetzchen were finished.

My Grandma always stored them in the same place: the top of a cupboard. So I had to climb on the table next to the board when I wanted to eat some, while nobody else was there to help me.

Later when I grew older, I was sometimes busy when my Grandmother made the Plaetzchen, so I couldn't help her. But I always smelled the specific smell they have when I came home. Every time I tasted them, I had this happy feeling of Christmas.

I didn't just remember details about cookies. I remember so many things now that I went through during Christmas; how I had celebrated Christmas in Germany and with whom, how I spent the night crafting some presents for my family and how happy I felt when I got presents from them. I could almost feel my Grandmother standing next to me although she was thousands of kilometres away.

So many great feelings emerged just because of something as simple as a cookie.

Green City Builders
Renovations + Custom Homes
www.greencitybuilders.ca 250.537.6296

Happy Holidays to the golf club members and our valued community friends.

Salt Spring Island
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
805 Lower Ganges Road • 250-537-2121 • www.saltspringgolf.com



Why We Put Angels on Top of Christmas Trees

BY BRENNAN SHAVER
AGE 12-14 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

One Christmas, a long time ago, Santa Claus was getting ready for his annual trip; but there were problems . . . everywhere.

Four of his elves were away sick and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones. So, Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then, Mrs. Claus popped in to tell Santa that her mother was coming to stay for Christmas; which stressed him even more.

After a while, when he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and run away, heaven

knows where to.

Then, when he began to load the sleigh, one of the sideboards broke and a bunch of large toy bags fell to the ground, scattering the gifts all over the place. Needless to say, Santa was not in the best mood.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang and he went to the door expecting another problem. But when he opened it, there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree that she had brought especially to cheer him up with.

The angel greeted him very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa Claus. Isn't it just a wonderful day? I have the perfect tree for you. See, isn't it just the loveliest Christmas tree you've ever seen? Where would you like me to put it?"

Thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.



"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray."

The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island Christmas Services for 2013

Tuesday, December 24th

Carol Eucharists with Blessing of the Crèche
4:00 p.m. All Saints, Ganges
7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Fulford

Icons, Incense, Carols & Candlelight
10:30 p.m. "Midnight Mass" at All Saints

Wednesday, December 25th

"And the Word became flesh"
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) at St. Mark's, Central

Wednesday, January 1st

"The Naming of Jesus: New Year's Day"
12:00 noon Eucharist in Celtic Christian Tradition at All Saints

The Snowless Christmas

BY NOREES GASPER
AGE 16-17 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

Everyone in the town of Farlington loved Christmas. Every year its residents would decorate their homes, go caroling and play in the snow.

On December 24th of each year Farlington got its first snow. Never had the first snow not been on Christmas Eve, or so said Mr. Pritchett, the town's oldest resident.

It was the evening of December 23 and the whole town was snuggled in their beds, dreams of snow floating through their minds. Christmas trees sparkled like jewels next to the crackling embers glowing in every fireplace.

However, when the children awoke and ran to their windows their jaws dropped. Not a single snowflake had fallen. Their cries pulled their parents from the soft embrace of sleep. The whole town hurriedly gathered at city hall, blank shock on their faces. Mayor Smith, a middle-aged man with a round belly and a kind smile, stood to address his people.

"As you see, we haven't

been blessed with snow this year," he said shaking his head sadly.

The silence was shattered by an explosion of questions.

"It snows every year, what went wrong?" cried Linda Wiever, curlers flying from her hair.

"How will we sled or have snowball fights?" yelled little Billy Johnson, his friends nodding beside him.

"Enough!" said Mayor Smith loudly, "This is getting us nowhere! Now, let's all return home, maybe the snow is just a little late."

And with that he spun around, walked up the steps into city hall, slamming the door behind him.

The townspeople continued to grumble as they made their way home. Every child spent their day staring at the crisp, blue, cloudless sky, praying for snow. Sadly, as the sun began to set, still none had fallen.

Billy, like the rest, spent his day watching the sky, but being a very sweet person he hated seeing everyone so sad, so he formed a plan. Quickly he gathered his friends in the town square.

"Now, Christmas is tomorrow and we need to act!" he announced, his blond hair fluttering in the icy wind.

The others cheered, hurriedly gathering together to discuss Billy's plan. When morning came, the adults glumly got up and prepared for a snowless Christmas.

When they pulled open their drapes, a wonderful surprise greeted them. The town was decorated in twinkling lights. They were draped across roofs and twirled around every tree. The effect was mesmerizing; the whole town shone, like dew in the sunlight. Everyone rushed outside in awe. Billy and his friends watched their parents, smiling at the joy in their eyes.

Everyone wanted to know who had saved Christmas, but Billy realized that some deeds are better when they are left anonymous.

That Christmas, the people of Farlington realized that even without snow Christmas is magical. A time of giving, a time when the creativity of one little boy can save the Christmas spirit of a whole town.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

BRIGHT SPARKS: Fireworks burst from the Lions Christmas Ship as it comes into Ganges Harbour earlier this month carrying Santa and his entourage. The ship has visited the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands from its Bellingham base since 1947.



**Our
Holiday Season
Hours**

SALT SPRING INN

Tuesday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve 8am - 3pm
 Wednesday Dec. 25th Christmas Day Closed
 Thursday Dec. 26 Boxing Day Closed
 Tuesday Dec. 31 New Year's Eve 8am-11pm
 Wednesday Jan 1st New Year's Day
 Brunch 10am-2pm • Lunch 2pm-5pm
 Dinner 5pm-10pm

"Merry Christmas from all of us at The Inn!"

BY CODY KERR
AGE 10-11 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Kuru is an eight-year-old Wumbo who lives in a tree house. A Wumbo is a round little creature about a metre tall. He is green, friendly and lots of fun.

One day Kuru was walking home to his tree house when he saw lightning. Santa, who was flying over in his sleigh, was struck and came crashing to the ground.

Kuru went to look for him. When he got to where he saw Santa crash, he couldn't see him. All Kuru could see was a smashed sleigh, presents everywhere and some spooked reindeer. Kuru looked around and saw a bunch of footprints leading into the forest, so he followed them.

Meanwhile, Santa tried to call the elves

on his cell phone, but he had no reception, so Santa yelled so loud that Kuru heard him.

Kuru ran and ran to where he thought the noise was coming from and then, BOOM! Kuru ran right into Santa!

Kuru jumped back on his feet and exclaimed, "Who are you?"

Santa answered, "Well, I am Santa, and Christmas is in trouble!"

"Christmas, what is that?" Kuru asked.

"You don't know about Christmas?" asked Santa. "Christmas is the best! But there is a bit of a problem this year."

"Will you tell me about Christmas?" asked Kuru.

"OK," said Santa. "Every year I am supposed to bring presents to all the kids in the world in my sleigh. Only the good kids! But this year it is not going to happen!" Santa looked very worried.

"I can help you fix your sleigh and collect all the presents," said Kuru.

"OK, thank you so much for offering, but we are going to need more help," said Santa.

"I'll get the village to help us," said Kuru. "OK, let's do it," answered Santa.

Kuru led Santa to the village, where Santa introduced himself and asked for their help to fix his sleigh and save Christmas. In exchange for their help, Santa promised to include the Wumbians in Christmas forever.

Santa and the Wumbians fixed the sleigh and collected the presents, gathered the reindeer, and gave them all blankets and snacks for the road.

In the end, it turned out that Santa had the best Christmas ever.

"Let's do this again next year," said Santa and Kuru together, and they did.

Kuru Saves Christmas

A CHRISTMAS STORY

BY SIJIA CHEN
ESL AT GISS CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

It is said that there was a farmer who served a poor boy on a cold, windy Christmas Eve, and gave him a big Christmas meal.

The farmer was not very rich and he didn't have much food either, but he was so kind because he thought the little boy was poor.

The boy said that he felt better after the nice meal. Then the boy cut a branch from a fir tree and inserted it into the earth.

He said, "Every year at this time, there will be many presents on this branch. I wish to pay back your favour with this beautiful fir tree."

But the branch was so small that the farmer could not imagine lots of presents under it.

After the boy left, the miracle happened! The farmer discovered that the branch had grown up into a big tree. Then he realized that the boy was sent by God.

This is the origin of the Christmas tree. In western countries, wherever you may be, everyone will prepare a Christmas tree to celebrate the happiness of Christmas Day. Also, people will celebrate and exchange some gifts with each other in eastern countries. It has become an international holiday.

My friends and classmates will decorate a beautiful classroom and a Christmas tree on Christmas Eve.

Happy Christmas Day!

happy holidays



From everyone at Wilco.



Suite 3 - 315 Upper Ganges Rd.
Salt Spring Island
250-537-1603

people&community

LEADERSHIP

Salish Sea group tackles challenges

Much progress reported at half-way mark of SWOVA young women's leadership project

Community members receiving Christmas cards from one SWOVA project this year are in line for some truly uplifting messages from young island women.

Proclaiming ideas like "Advice to my 12-year-old self: I am enough to change the world," the cards also feature the fresh-faced authors of such inspiring sentiments — the young women who make up the Youth Advisory Council for the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project.

Funded by a special grant from the Status of Women Canada, the two-year project focuses on identifying barriers and building critical skills so that Gulf Islands women ages 15 to 24 have the tools they need to become active leaders and reach their full potential. As project coordinator Andria Scanlan points out, the basic formula is actually quite simple.

"It's not really rocket science on how to raise young girls to be strong leaders," she said, stating it mainly takes good adult support and a place to get together and talk. The only real difficulty is accomplishing everything the group wants to in just two years.

"We have a limited amount of time to effect change in the wider community and we really want to do that," Scanlan said.

During the first year of the project, members of the Youth Advisory Council have been determining what factors might be holding young women back by designing their own research survey and delivering it to their peers throughout the southern Gulf Islands. The survey reached 17 per cent of the total eligible population of young women aged 15 to 24.

Survey results were shared at the project's Fall Fair booth, where the inspiring white boards featured on the above-mentioned cards were made available for use. Six highly interactive ways for the public to connect with the project were offered in total. The girls' enthusiasm impressed MP Elizabeth May (who was sitting at a neighbouring booth) so much so that she wrote "SSGLP GIRLS" on their public graffiti wall under "...Inspires Me." May had dinner with the group after the fair closed for the night to hear more about their work.



Nikole Love with a white board message used as part of an educational campaign created last summer and for the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project's Christmas card. For more messages, see the group's Facebook page.



create the all-important grounds for empathy. She meets with them once a week for a four-hour session in which a wide range of relevant topics are explored.

"I think it makes a tremendous difference in the way they view the world and their place in it," she said. "There's a lot of information to process, and by connecting in a safe way, it's really empowering."

Finding ways to enable other young women to have a similar outlet is therefore one of the project's goals. Scanlan has been meeting with Core Inn coordinator Johanna Stiver to talk about using part of the facility for this purpose.

"That would be a positive legacy to leave," she noted.

Transportation has been identified as another top concern, getting the third highest number of responses at 19 per cent. As Scanlan points out, young women's difficulty getting places can mean restricted access to jobs, health services, recreation and social activities. It can also lead to potentially dangerous situations when put in combination with the party scene, which was also identified as a problematic area.

Sexual and mental health are further and linked concerns. The Salish Sea Girls will be helping to meet needs in this area by helping coordinate the 2014 Sexual Health Fair at Gulf Islands Secondary with Jenny Redpath of the Opt Clinic. They will also be organizing a big event for International Women's Day in combination with other SWOVA program staff, Elizabeth May, Island Women Against Violence and Victim Services.

Once the project's funding is concluded in November 2014, SWOVA will be left with a curriculum model it can use for other lead-

ership projects. But Scanlan is hoping to keep the program running by finding other sponsors. The young participants are also researching what other island non-profits do and how to get involved.

"We're all connected. The health and well-being of our young people is really the only legacy. That and the environment are what it's all about," Scanlan said.

"If you make a positive impact in somebody's life, well that's pretty tremendous. These women will effect change wherever they go."

To see some of the important ideas the group is helping to share with their community, visit the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project Facebook page.

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



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

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
UNITED CHURCH
(111 HERFORD 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

"These women will effect change wherever they go."

ANDRIA SCANLAN
Coordinator, Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project

As the needs assessment shows, there are definitely areas of improvement required to help young women reach their potential. In a section that asked respondents to rank their most pressing concerns, 27 per cent put body image issues on top and 20 per cent chose low self-esteem and low self-confidence.

Scanlan explained that for the project's participants, having a place to talk about things in a group has helped build confidence and

Wishing our customers, staff and community a wonderful holiday season. Take time to enjoy family and friends.



Kim and David

Mouat's Home hardware

Home Owners helping Homeowners

what's on this week



Tues. Dec 24	Wed. Dec 25	Thurs. Dec 26	Sat. Dec 28	Tues. Dec 31	Wed. Jan 1
<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Followed by refreshments. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Eve Mass. Family mass at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at 7 p.m., preceded by carols at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Eve Mass. Mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church at 11 p.m., preceded by carols at 10 p.m.</p> <p>Carol Eucharists. With Blessing of the Creche. All Saints By-the-Sea at 4 p.m., and 7 p.m. at St. Mary's church in Fulford.</p> <p>Icons, Incense, Carols and Candlelight. 'Midnight Mass' at All Saints. 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Holy Eucharist. At St. Mark's Anglican Church at Central. 11 a.m.</p> <p>Christmas Day Mass. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 10 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. Info: Michael & Helga, 250-653-9856</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Run For Cover. Rock band. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Rollerblading at Fulford Hall. Free skate rentals. 7 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Fri. Dec 27</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Tom, Scout and Clayton Upex. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Broken Strings Trio. Soul, rock, pop & reggae. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Richard Cross. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sunyata. Flamenco hybrid band. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Yule Feast - Nordic New Year/Fellowship Meeting. Celebrate the holiest of Heathen and Pagan holy-tides, Yule, with a ceremonial pot-luck feast and other festivities. All are welcomed, especially families! 4:30 p.m. followed by opening ceremony, wassail the yule-log, and then ceremonial feast at 5 p.m. Benefit for the Raise the Longhouse fundraiser at the Tsawout First Nation. Beaver Point Hall. Doors open at 3 p.m.</p> <p>Sun. Dec 29</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Mateos Jabbaz-Mouammar. Jazz piano by a 16-year-old former GISPA student. Harbour House Restaurant. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Worship Around the Breakfast Table. "Who is Your Angel?" SS United Church. 10 a.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Newfie New Year at the Legion. New Year's Eve party for Legion members and guests, with music by Valdy at 6 p.m. and The Pinkertons at 9 p.m. Cold plate buffet, party favours, snacks. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92. Doors open 5 p.m.</p> <p>New Year's Eve with Billie Woods. Singer songwriter. Harbour House Hotel. 6 p.m.</p> <p>Beat and The Sneaks New Year's Eve Party. Live band featuring original tunes, R&B hits, classic rock and funk grooves and reggae. Food and drink available. Fulford Hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show starts at 8:30.</p> <p>Enliven 2014. Mahon Hall will be beautifully transformed into a magical ballroom with music by DJ K-Tel, Daniel Trump, Brontron, Blake Winkles, aerial hoop performance, Cheesecake Burlesque and more. Evening starts with light stretch lead by Dance Temple at 8 p.m. 16 years plus event.</p> <p>New Year's with The Coalition. Appies, champagne at midnight, noisemakers, balloons and dancing. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>New Year's Eve Vigil. Catholic service. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 5 p.m.</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>New Year's Day Service. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. St. Paul's Catholic Church in Fulford. 8 a.m.</p> <p>New Year's Day Service. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 10 a.m.</p> <p>The Naming of Jesus: New Year's Day. Eucharist in the Celtic Christian tradition at All Saints. 12 noon.</p>

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

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



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.

FROZEN

Starts Friday Jan. 3rd

THE HOBBIT

2hrs 40mins Rating: PG

HELD OVER

"We're sorry but we cannot accept any passes to the Hobbit". The Hobbit Showtimes are Wednesday Dec. 26 to Thursday Jan. 2nd 7:00 Sunday 3 matinee and 7 PLEASE NOTE WE ARE CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY. Have a Happy Holiday!

- 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.
 - Frozen** — Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions, and a hilarious snowman named Olaf in a race to find Anna's sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- Christmas Exhibition** of Small Works by Gallery 8 artists runs through Dec. 31 at the Grace Point gallery.
 - Inspire Winter World** is an exhibition of small works by 11 artists showing at the Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art on McPhillips Avenue.
 - An exhibit of fairy doors** painted by 20 island artists can be seen in the windows of Apple Photo.
 - 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 Fernwood Road Cafe** hosts an exhibit of amazing underwater photography of Ken Sutherland and Ann Donahue.
- Ahava Shira** and the Pieces of Her Story Collective present work in the program room of the Salt Spring Public Library in December.
- 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.

Christmas Freebie Doo

Potluck Meal, Music & Fun
Fulford Hall
Wednesday, Dec 25th at 9am
Info: Michael & Helga 250 653 9856

THRIFTY FOODS™

Ganges, Moutat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522

imagine - comfort on wheels

UNCLE ALBERT'S FURNITURE
107 2nd St. Duncan Mon.-Sat. 9-5pm
1-800-593-5303 Sun. 11-4pm

DISCOVERY Honda
BCHONDA.COM

www.BCHonda.com

TOLL FREE 1-800-673-9276
Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan beside the Forest Museum
DiscoveryHonda.com

TREATING YOU LIKE GOLD

HUMOUR

And now for something completely different . . .

Of all the years of time-eating, brain-rotting television flotsam that I've allowed to stream past my eyes, there are but two — two — TV moments of truth that made it all worthwhile.

The first was seeing Elvis's first television appearance on the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Show back in 1956. It was a mind-blower and a game changer. As Bob Dylan said, "When I first heard Elvis' voice, I knew I was never going to work for anybody and nobody was gonna be my boss. It was like busting out of jail."

The second seminal TV moment came 13 years later when I watched the first episode of Monty Python's Flying Circus blossom out of my TV screen. It was the funniest thing I'd ever seen — funny in a dozen different ways I'd never dreamed of.

The writer George Saunders says, "Humour is what happens when we're told the truth quicker and more directly than we're used to."

So it was with the Python Gang. They weren't funny like Red Skelton or Jack Benny or the pattycake gags of Jay Leno and Johnny Carson. They were from-another-planet funny. I



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

laughed 'til I cried.

Elvis, alas, is gone forever (unless he really is pumping gas in Wyoming), but the Python Gang?

They're baaaaaaack.

Eighty-three per cent of them, at any rate. Graham Chapman died of cancer more than 20 years ago, but the rest of them are hale and hearty — well, vertical, anyway. And when they announced plans for a reunion performance in London next summer, advance tickets took all of 45 seconds to completely sell out.

The principals are treating the event with typical Pythonesque irreverence. They call the show "One Down, Five to Go." One of them, Terry Gilliam, says they're doing the show because "we've all become so depressed over the years that our wives don't find us interesting, our children don't laugh at us anymore."

Well, that and the money. Terry Jones says he just wants to pay off his mortgage — and John Cleese? He's still working on alimony payments to his third — or is it his fourth? — wife. So far she's dinged Cleese for \$16 million US. He's still on the hook for a million dollars a year until 2016. Which just goes to show how life can imitate a Monty Python skit.

They promise to involve the departed Chapman who, as they point out, "remains selfishly dead."

Indeed, this reunion is something like raising the dead. They haven't had their TV show since 1974, nor made a movie since 1979. The last time they appeared on stage together was more than 30 years ago. They can't just reenact their old skits — Dead Parrot, Crunchy Frog — too many fans know them by heart. And we won't be seeing John Cleese doing his Ministry of Silly Walks tour de force. Not with his new artificial hip.

Still, I'd pay serious stalling to see them up on a stage again. Anybody out there got a ticket they can spare? In fact, two tickets? (Elvis, if you're reading this, this one's on me.)

THEATRE

Live radio show set

February dates booked

Salt Spring audiences will have no excuse for missing the next installment of Live Radio Theatre at ArtSpring, with producer Jan Rabson giving plenty of warning in time for the Valentine weekend performances on Feb. 14 and 15.

On hiatus since 2008, Live Radio Theatre is a particular favourite project for the island funny man and voice actor, although the intense research and planning required leaves little time for productions between his professional gigs.

For those who missed the last run of sold-out shows, the performance typically includes a selection of bits including comedy, suspense and thriller shorts interspersed with live jingles and sponsorship announcements. Actors are costumed as per the era with plenty of Brylcreem and horn-rimmed glasses, and even the sound effects are produced live using traditional methods.

With up to 20 local performers set to be cast in acting and music roles, Live Radio Theatre is poised to become the next not-to-be missed event.

Watch for ticket information and more details to be announced.

Wellspring Spa
AT HASTINGS HOUSE

Gift Certificates for the ones you love

160 Upper Ganges Rd.
Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm

Terra Dimock Spa Director
250.537.2362

Join us @ Moby's?

Book your Christmas Party with Us!

Wednesday Dec 25th CLOSED	Sunday Dec 29th \$9 Fish n' Chips All Day Canucks vs Flames 4:30pm
Thursday Dec 26th BOXING DAY RUN FOR COVER 9PM	Monday Dec 30th 2 for 1 Appies Canucks vs Flyers 7pm
Friday Dec 27th Broken Strings Trio 9pm	Tuesday Dec 31st NEW YEARS EVE The COALITION Dancing until 2 AM Midnight snacks Limited Tickets
Saturday Dec 28th Sunnyata 9pm	

MOBY'S PUB
124 A Upper Ganges Road . 250 537 5559 . www.mobyspub.ca

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

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

Islands Trust

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE Proposed Bylaw No. 470

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Public Hearing concerning **Proposed Bylaw No. 470**. The purpose of the hearing is to allow the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw. At the public hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions.

DATE: Wednesday, January 8, 2014
LOCATION: Hart Bradley Hall (Lions Club), 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island
TIME: 5:00 PM – Public Hearing

- Proposed Bylaw No. 470, cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 4, 2013" (250 Collins Road, Salt Spring Island).

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 470 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 as follows:

- By changing the zoning classification of a portion of the waters fronting Lot 1, Section 2, Range 2 West, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 29481, from Shoreline 7 (S7) to Shoreline 6 (S6), as shown on Plan No. 1, to permit a private wharf or dock(s) associated with upland residential use.

Plan No. 1 – Proposed Bylaw No. 470

SUBJECT AREA
From: SHORELINE 7 (S7)
To: SHORELINE 6 (S6)

Copies of the proposed bylaw, and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee, may be inspected at the Islands Trust office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday inclusive, commencing Monday, December 16, 2013 and up to Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 12:00 noon. However, please note that during the holiday season Islands Trust offices will be closed from **Tuesday, December 24, 2013 to Wednesday, January 1, 2014 inclusive.**

The proposed bylaw may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring/bylaws/salt-spring-island-land-use-bylaw-no-355.aspx>

Enquiries regarding Proposed Bylaw 470 may be directed to the Islands Trust at (250) 537-9144. For Toll Free access, request a transfer to the Islands Trust via Enquiry BC: in Vancouver at 604-660-2421; elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867. Written submissions may be delivered as follows:

- By mail to the Islands Trust at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8; or by Fax to (250) 537-9116.
- By email to ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
- In person to the **Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 8, 2014.**

All applications are available for review by the public. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

NO REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BYLAW WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Pauline Brazier
Deputy Secretary

DON'T DRINK and DRIVE!

Be Responsible this Holiday Season

This message is brought to you by the following community minded businesses:

Me & Ron's TOWING

Don't drink and drive
Bring em back alive
250-537-9383



Keep Our Island Safe!
Don't Drink & Drive!

Windsor Plywood
PH: 250-537-5564
www.windsorssi.com

You Drink **SILVER We'll Drive**
HADDOX TAXI

250-537-3030
We delivery too! 24 hr. service
BE SAFE

Don't drink and drive.
Stay in the middle of the fairway.

Merry Christmas

Salt Spring Island
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
250-537-2121



MID ISLAND CO-OP

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!
From the Staff, Management and Directors of Mid Island Co-op.

Think Safety, Arrive Alive!

Gary Holman, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands
250-655-5711 / 1-855-955-5711
gary.holman.mla@leg.bc.ca
www.GaryHolmanMLA.ca

Season's Greeting from all of the team at *Apple Photo!*



Bring in your Holiday pictures for printing!

Think before you drink.
Do you have a safe ride home?

SALT SPRING INN

250-537-9339

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

Don't Drink and Drive

SEAFIRST
INSURANCE BROKERS
Mon.- Fri. 8:30-5 pm / Sat. 9 - 3 pm
250-537-5527 / 1-888-537-5527

Merry Christmas

Drink responsibly and always use a designated driver



Salt Spring Car Rentals

250.537.3122



Have a Safe Happy Holiday

Bob Saunders

SAUNDERS SUBARU
Sales & Service 1-888-898-9911

STAY ALIVE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

wilco
construction

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday

250-537-1603

STAY ALIVE - DON'T DRIVE

SALT SPRING AUTO SERVICE *Tread Shed*

537-2876 • #2-319 Upper Ganges Rd.
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

ISLANDERS

Past island character remembered

Holmes life story shared by niece

Barney Peter Holmes died in July of 2012. While many people knew Peter, or knew of him, his history was not well known. His niece Melanie Fiander has written this piece about his life for publication in the Driftwood.

BY MELANIE FIANDER
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Barney Peter Holmes was the first of four children born to Rose and Barney Holmes. He was born Oct. 9, 1929 in Grey, Sask.

His parents were extremely poor due to the Great Depression sweeping the country. Often they had little more to eat than grass and oatmeal. Barney's mother, Rose, suffered from malnutrition while pregnant with Barney and this had repercussions for him for the rest of his life. Despite these challenges, Barney went to school until Grade 6 and later worked with his father in his barber shop as a shoeshine boy.

He moved with his parents to Victoria in 1958 and in 1964 his father bought property and a home on Salt Spring. The week they were to move his father died unexpectedly and Barney and Rose moved to Salt Spring alone.

He was very proud of Salt Spring and on his travels was quick to tell anyone who would pass within earshot that they should come and visit.

They lived on Isabella Point Road which was a distance from Ganges and as that was where the "action" was and as he didn't have a driver's licence he would hitchhike into town most days. Barney, or Peter as he was then called, had a love affair with the idyllic life of the cowboy. He loved his cowboy hat and was never seen without one for many years (though in his later years he developed affection for a ball cap with Tigger on the front).

He read voraciously all books with a reference to the Old West and took to



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO
Barney Peter Holmes in 2006 at the age of 77. Holmes died in July 2012.

calling all men "pardner." He loved the rodeo and hitchhiked to Calgary for the Stampede numerous times, never missed the Luxton Rodeo on Vancouver Island and travelled all the way to Nova Scotia in search of adventure.

He was a great story teller and would spin tales about his life on the ranch, his job as a ranch hand or sometimes as the ranch owner, the many head of cattle he had, his ponies, busting broncos and his troubles with the "hired help." To him, it was real. For many years he proudly went by the nickname of Tex but at some point decided to take back his given name of Barney and would get quite angry if anyone called him Tex after that.

He was very proud of Salt Spring and on his travels was quick to tell anyone who would pass within earshot that they should come and visit. Many did come and Rose would graciously feed them and offer accommodation. Some came from thousands of miles away as Peter was an active letter writer and had many pen pals back in the days before email and Facebook.

He was featured on the CBC television show On the Road Again, which focused on his affinity for picking up cans by the thousands along the roadsides and his role as the unofficial ambassador for Salt Spring.

He knew almost everyone in the early years and would complain about all the "city slickers" that had invaded the island, even though, by this time, many of them had lived there for

decades.

Peter was well informed about all that was happening on Salt Spring and loved to gossip to anyone who would listen, but once told something was a secret could not be compelled to betray that confidence. He had a gift of the gab, as they say, and would be lecturing you on the evils of salt one minute and preaching to you about the Bible the next.

He was never at a loss for words and never seemed surprised by anything. Once, while hitchhiking between Calgary and Banff he was picked up by his niece who lived on Vancouver Island and just happened to be driving that stretch of highway returning from a holiday. Peter never missed a beat, just said "Hullo," got in the car and proceeded to talk all the way to Swartz Bay.

After Rose passed away in 2002, Peter continued to live alone in the home they had shared for so many years. With the help of his sister Mona and her husband Dan they managed all his affairs from Victoria and he had home-care come each day to tend to his glaucoma and to change bandages on his legs as he had abscesses due to poor circulation.

In spite of these health issues he continued to hitchhike into Ganges almost every day, rain or shine, and was a fixture at Barb's Buns for many years. He hung out on the little bridge with his pals and enjoyed talking to anyone who passed by.

One of the things he spoke about often with great pride was the party thrown for him by some of his friends on the occasion of his 80th birthday. This was a highlight in his later years for sure.

Many people thought Peter was poor or had no family, but this was far from the truth. He simply preferred to wear his old favourite, well-worn clothes in spite of having new things in his closet and was happiest when given a cup of coffee that he didn't have to pay for.

To all those who were so kind to Peter over so many years, from giving him a lift to offers of food or clothing or just a hearing ear, his family is grateful and would like to express their thanks.

Peter became ill in October 2011 and after a stay at Lady Minto Hospital where he was treated so well, he was moved to a care home in Victoria and passed away on July 16, 2012 at the age of 82.

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



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

Swimming POOL CLOSED

THE POOL WILL BE CLOSED FROM JANUARY 6 - 18

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

recycling EXCELLENCE
"serious about it"

SALT SPRING ISLAND RECYCLING DEPOT

349 RAINBOW ROAD

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

Regular hours: Tues. to Sat. 10 am - 5 pm

TIRE Sewardship BC, call2recycle, Tread Shed, LightRecycle, AlarmRecycle

WORKSHOPS

Photographers offer free class series

Process questions what the art means to individuals

Three members of the Salt Spring Photo Club will be working with the Salt Spring Island Public Library to offer a free six-part seminar on their art form.

Bill Gardam, Simon Henson and Greg Klassen are collaborating on the workshop series, which is open to all members of the public on a "first come, first

served" basis. Throughout the course, participants will explore the concept "What is photography?" by working through the ideas of John Szarkowsky in his book The Photographer's Eye.

"It is our goal to present to our participants this question as a process, one that — if we do our jobs right — will lead participants into the habit of consciously asking themselves what photography means to them," a press release for the series explains.

Each of the six seminars will be followed by an "assignment" that

participants will work on over each subsequent month. At the end of the year, the presenters will organize and curate a group show featuring the single most evocative image submitted by each of the participants.

The seminar series will be held at the library's program room every second Sunday of the month for 12 months, starting Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

For general enquiries contact Greg Klassen at gregkphoto@shaw.ca.

Michelin BF Goodrich Uniroyal Bridgestone Toyo

Salt Spring Auto Service Tread Shed

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! from everyone at Salt Spring Auto Service

CALL US FOR COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICING BY OUR LICENSED TECHNICIANS

- Brakes • Exhaust • Steering • Tires (New and Used)
- Lube • Oil & Filter • Computer Diagnostics

We are a Government Designated Test Facility 537-2876

#2 - 319 Upper Ganges Road (across from Home Design Centre) Open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Riken Pirelli Michelin BF Goodrich Uniroyal Dunlop

Armstrong Firestone Hankook Good Year Lee Farm General

Yokohama Armstrong Dunlop Firestone Hankook Good Year

Sam Gyle

News Updates

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

Complete Automotive Repairs

- Hydraulic hoses
- Electronic engine analysis
- Tune ups • Oil changes
- Four wheel drive service
- Suspension shocks and struts
- Fuel injection • Tires

HAROLD HARKEMA REPAIRS
427 Fulford-Ganges Rd. • 537-4559 • Mon. - Fri. 8-5



BY NOLAN WALTON
AGE 8 CATEGORY
SECOND PLACE

Santa Becomes Santa

Santa, whose real name was Kris — make that Kris Kringle — saw some kids crying. Kris went over to them and asked, “What is wrong?”

The kids said, “Our mom never gives us any presents and she ground up our Christmas lists.”

While Kris was distracted looking at the house next door, there was a woman who looked exactly like him baking cookies. Kris asked, “Who’s that?”

The kids said, “That’s Matilda.”

The kids asked Kris, “Do you want to come over to Matilda’s to eat cookies?”

Kris said, “Of course I do!” Then they all went over and they ate the cookies.

A couple of hours later, the kids went home and didn’t tell their mom about the cookies.

When the kids left, Kris asked Matilda, “Do you want to go out?”

And a couple of years later, Matilda and Kris were married. And a few months later, they had a kid named Elf, because he was so small. Then Kris started thinking about the kids he met.

He said, “I want to be able to give all the kids in the world presents on December 25th.”

Matilda said, “Why?”

Kris said, “Because those kids never get any presents and their mom is super mean to them.”

“Where would our workshop be? We’re also going to need more than one child to help build all the toys!”

Kris said, “Orphanage!”

They drove to an orphanage and got

They got all the kids and themselves to build a great workshop, plant candy canes, and build little tiny cabins with tiny toilets.

25 children, some girls, some boys. The kids felt a bit weird, but once they were out of the orphanage they felt better.

They paid for a helicopter to take them to the North Pole with a bunch of supplies.

They got all the kids and themselves to build a great workshop, plant candy canes, and build little tiny cabins with tiny toilets.

After a couple of weeks, they found

reindeer in a cave. Kris gave them carrots to get them out of the cave, and Kris built a sleigh with leather seats, controls for steering, and a big place for a sack of toys. It was too close to December 25th, so he would have to skip this one. But next year he would have so many toys.

When next year came, Kris said, “It’s time for me to deliver the toys!”

Kris suddenly thought about a light. But he just saw Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer. He got all his reindeer on his sleigh. He yelled all their names and laughed, “Ho ho ho and a Merry Christmas to all!”

He shimmied down 500,000 chimneys and he just walked into 200,000 houses. He made all the kids in the world happy.

And only three kids saw him. Those three kids were the original kids from the beginning. They knew Kris — that is Santa — loved cookies. So they left some cookies out for him every Christmas.



HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL
hotel • restaurant • organic farm

THANK YOU TO THE SALTSPRING COMMUNITY FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR & OUR BEST WISHES FOR 2014.

“Thanks to Richard at Gulf Islands Optical, shopping locally was quick, easy and prompt. My Transition glasses are exactly what I wanted.”

Seasons Greetings
from
Gulf Islands Optical

GULF ISLANDS OPTICAL
David Griffiths, Store Manager, MOUAT’S HOME HARDWARE
250-537-2648 Lancer Building



BY NINA DEROO
AGE 8 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Abi. She was five years old. She loved Christmas.

One day she and her dad went to buy a Christmas tree. They picked a Christmas tree and went home.

At home her dad got the Christmas decorations. And her mum got a pot for the Christmas tree, then they put the candles in, and the other decorations, and they had dinner. It was pizza . . . mmmmm.

Abi brushed her teeth and went to bed. In the morning her mum had to wake her up.

“Breakfast is done,” her mum yelled.

Abi came to the kitchen table. It was toast.

Her mum said to Abi, “Next week is Christmas.”

Abi went up to her room, got her clothes on and went to the school bus.

At school, Abi’s teacher said, “Hello class. We’re doing a Christmas play.”

At home, Abi told all about school and the Christmas play.

The next morning at school, Mrs. Lily said, “I want Billy to be Santa.”

“OK,” said Billy. “Abi, can you be Mrs. Claus?”

“OK,” said Abi. “Sofia, you are Rudolph.”

“Yes,” said Sofia.

“And I need four kids for the kids who got presents from Santa.”

“I will say Jim.”

“OK,” said Mrs. Lily. “Three more.”

“I will say Nina, Mia and Quinn.”

“Perfect,” said Mrs. Lily. “You can go home now.”

At home, Abi told her mum and dad that she was Mrs. Claus and Billy was Santa Claus at the play.

That night it started to snow. Lots of snow.

Abi woke up and looked out of the window. How do we get to school?

But Santa helped and sent his sled to pick up all the kids. He saved the Christmas play and it was a big success.

PUT ON YOUR BOOTS, YOUR PARKA, AND YOUR SYMMETRICAL ALL-WHEEL DRIVE.

2014 FORESTER 2.5i GMT STARTING FROM \$28,070*
LEASE FINANCE 24 Mths. 3.9% APR
HOLIDAY BONUS ACCESSORIES PLUS \$500*

2014 FORESTER STANDARD FEATURES:

- Symmetrical full-time all-wheel drive
- 170 HP 4-cylinder BOXER engine
- 6-speed Manual Transmission with Hill Holder System
- Raised-profile roof racks
- Bluetooth® mobile phone connectivity (voice-activated)
- Air Conditioning
- Power door locks, windows, and rear liftgate
- Heated front seats
- And more

SAUNDERS SUBARU
Drop by today... Coffee is always on!
1-888-849-3091 • 1784 Island Highway
www.saunders.subarudealer.ca

Christmas With a Dragon

BY RONAN WARDROPER
AGE 7 CATEGORY
FIRST PLACE

For my fourth birthday I only got one present, but it was a dragon! He burned my deck on Christmas Eve because he was excited.

As the sun was setting and the moon was rising, my dragon was getting rest-

less. So we flew to the North Pole and met Santa.

We went exploring a cave. When we went deeper into the cave — “Ahhhh.” Flying Christmas trees and presents came at us and they were hard to dodge, but we managed to get out of the cave.

When we got home our deck was fixed.

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds 250-537-9933 OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

PLACE AN AD

In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges 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 EMPLOYMENT/LEGAL ADS: 3 line rate \$15.25 - additional lines 95¢ ea DISPLAY ADS: \$12.60 per col. inch

YOUR AD ON-LINE

All ads booked in the Driftwood Classifieds appear on-line at www.bcclassified.com Auto ads also listed on line at www.bcautocentral.com

BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE

Book your classifieds online - open 24 hours a day www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or bcclassified.com

bcclassified.com

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

Salt Spring Hospice Seasoned by kindness, love is your greatest gift. 250-537-2770 saltspringhospice.org

CARDS OF THANKS

A SINCERE THANK YOU to the Ladies from the Salt Spring Hospice Society. Your gentle loving kindness will always be remembered. Audrie Thiele

COMING EVENTS

Salt Spring Island Medical Equipment XMAS SALE Till Dec 31st Lift/Recliner Chairs 20% off Scooters 25% off Walkers 10% off

COMING EVENTS

Community Christmas Dinner Meaden Hall Dec. 25th 12 - 2pm Doors open at 11:30am Meals served from 12 noon

INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW? BBB Accredited Businesses contracting agree to operate by the BBB's 8 Standards of Trust. Look for the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory Edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at www.blackpress.ca.

LocalWork.ca YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL JOBS

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

TRADES, TECHNICAL

JOURNEYMAN AUTOMOTIVE Service Technician(s) in Hanna Alberta. Hanna Chrysler Ltd. offers competitive wages, relocation allowance, negotiable depending on experience.

COMPUTER SERVICES

CALL BOB'S Computer Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017.

IN MEMORIAM

Nairn Howe April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005 8 YEARS AGO Cancer is not so powerful! There are so many things it cannot do...

IN MEMORIAM

Advertisement for Nairn Howe, including a photo and text about her life and passing.

BEGINNERS YOGA

SATURDAYS 11:00 - Noon at GALAMA YOGA in GANGES CALL DOROTHY PRICE 250-653-4655

INFORMATION

ADVERTISE IN THE LARGEST OUTDOOR PUBLICATION IN BC The 2014-2016 BC Hunting Regulations Synopsis

LEGAL SERVICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS RE: THE ESTATE OF ELMA MCMEEANS GLADYS RUBRIGHT, AKA ELMA M. RUBRIGHT, Deceased, formerly of 120 Pine Place, Salt Spring Island, in the province of British Columbia V8K 2N4.

PERSONAL SERVICES

RAPID DEBT RELIEF... NO Interest - LOW Payments There is Special Government Legislation that allows you to reduce your DEBT by up to 100%

HAULING AND SALVAGE

STRONG WOMAN HAULING ~ Has a new phone number - Call 250-616-3364 A full service, I move it all, junk removal company!

DEATHS

Rose Alma Lauzon It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of my mother Rose Alma Lauzon who died peacefully Dec. 12 2013 on Salt Spring Island.

DEATHS

Advertisement for Rose Alma Lauzon, including a photo and text about her life and passing.

GET NOTICED

Published in the first Driftwood of each month. Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

bcclassified.com

CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

HAPPY ISLAND Diaper Service We are a complete cloth diaper pickup/delivery service. Once a week our friendly driver will arrive in our pink van and exchange your dirty cloth diapers for nice clean ones.

CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

Advertisement for Happy Island Diaper Service, detailing their cloth diaper pickup and delivery service.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CRD Making a difference...together Contract Opportunity The Capital Regional District is seeking proposals from individuals to supply local courier/delivery services on Salt Spring Island.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advertisement for CRD Contract Opportunity, seeking proposals for courier/delivery services.

LOST AND FOUND

Found - TEDDY BEAR Nov. 16th. Call 250 537-2827

TRAVEL

Advertisement for travel services.

TIMESHARE

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.

LEGAL SERVICES

THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION British Columbia Branch LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE 30-min consultation for \$25+tax. 1.800.663.1919 604.687.3221

TELEPHONE SERVICES

DISCONNECTED PHONE? National Teleconnect home phone service. No one refused! Low monthly rate! Calling features and unlimited long distance available. Call National 443-4408, or visit online: www.nationalteleconnect.com

REAL ESTATE

DIAL-A-LAW Access free legal info on BC laws. 1.800.565.5297 604.687.4680 www.dialalaw.org

HOUSES FOR SALE

6 bdrm, home with DR, country kitchen, pantry, LR with wood FP and deck, large laundry rm, 2 bath and boot rm, swimming pool & hot tub. Jacuzzi in main bath. New decks, hot water tank, & WD, other appliances new & updated. Zoned agricultural, lots of fencing & farm gate. Guest house (rents for \$1,000/mo) and workshop. 3 1/4 acres, walk to Ganges, very private. Was \$535,000 now \$505,000. Owner anxious to move. Call: 250 537-1263

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

CONCRETE & PLACING

GULF COAST MATERIALS Serving the Gulf Islands • Concrete • Concrete Pumps • Sand/Rock • Rebar • Bagged Cement • Colour & Sealers Small Load Pick Ups Available at Yard 345 Rainbow Road 250-537-2611

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

1,068 SF for lease, Merchant Mews nr. Ganges. Skylights, baydoor, upstrs office, bthrm. Richard, 250-380-1669 (Vic.)

UPPER GANGES CENTRE. 2nd Floor - 4 professional offices 272 sq.ft. at \$275 & up. Chair Lift, ample parking - call: Mary Lou at 250-537-5528

HOMES FOR RENT

2 BDRM MOBILE HOME. renovated, large deck, new appliances, WD. Avail. Jan 1, \$700/mo 250-537-6860.

2 BDRM TOWNHOUSE fully renovated, hardwood floors, plush carpets, close to town, 2 decks, WD, 2 baths, storage locker, \$1,050. Avail. Jan. 1. Call 250-537-6860.

A VERY nice 2 BDRM home in Vesuvius \$1150/mo. Sunny, open, view, FP decks, plus utils. Call 250 537-2809

HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

APPLE TREE COTTAGE - 102 Orchard. Charming sunny cottage in heart of Fulford village, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fenced garden with old fruit trees. \$1,200 plus utilities. Avail. Feb. 1/14. Call 250 653-4322

CALL GAIL,
SEAN OR
ELIZABETH
IF YOU SEE
NEWS
HAPPENING
250-537-9933

HOMES FOR RENT

RENTALS

STORAGE

STORAGE

- All units heated
- Humidity control
- 9 foot height
- 24 hours access

MID ISLAND STORAGE
250-537-4722

SUITES, LOWER

LGE 1 BR. bright, clean, well-maintained, modern, ground level suite w/ long-term for quiet, mature adult. Priv. entr. Vesuvius. W/D. N/S. N/P. Ref. req. \$835/mo. incl. util. Avl. Jan. 1 Ph 250-537-7013

TRANSPORTATION

AUTO FINANCING

Apply N'Drive!
1-877-680-1231

GET \$1,000 XMAS CASH BACK
repo-bankruptcy-no credit
UapplyUdrive.ca

CARS

1996 Dodge Caravan - \$2000
2004 Sebring Convert. low mileage, \$9000 250 537-5773

2002 CHRYSLER Concord Fully loaded - Good cond. 162,000km - Good tires \$3250. 250-931-3645

2003 Chevy Cavalier 4DR, 1owner, 158K. Std. racks - 6 tires \$2400. obo 250-537-0669

TRANSPORTATION

SPORTS & IMPORTS

1996 JEEP GRAND Cherokee V-8 auto 4x4 4 DRSW \$1995 o.b.o. 250-537-0670

2006 SMART CAR - convertible. \$7,900. Diesel, 65 miles/gal, 68,000 km, extra winter tires on rims, top package bike/ski/carrier. Call: 250 537-4965

2012 TOYOTA MATRIX. 4 dr, 3000K, automatic, all wheel drive, loaded, \$15,000. Call: 250 537-2239

MOTORCYCLES

2009 HARLEY DAVIDSON. Fat Bob, still on warranty. Bags, windshield, top shape. \$12,000 250 537-7350

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE

2007 26RKS GULF BREEZE TRAVEL TRAILER. \$14,900. Excellent condition. Very clean, well maintained and looks like new inside. One slide-out. Sleeps 6. Queen bed. Brand new tires, combination convection/microwave oven, HDTV (12 and 12 volt) with Blu-Ray DVD player and 5.1 surround sound. Comes with 4 stabilizer jacks, propane tanks, spare tire, new deep cycle battery, small propane bbq as well as the hitch, load bars and an anti-sway stabilizer. Dry weight 5030lbs GVWR 7460lbs. Call Paul @ 250-526-2626

OLDER 24FT MOTORHOME, good condition, lots of new parts, \$3,900. 250 653-9820.

MARINE

BOATS

1976 30FT VERL 900 \$27,000. 250-507-3257
<http://miellyttava.webstarts.com>

OLDE STYLE - Converted Gilnetter 35' X 10', 125hp Chrysler Crown gas engine. \$10,000.tel.Rod 250-538-9304

News Updates

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

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

ISLAND EXPLORER

Property Management Ltd. & Real Estate Services

1 bedroom Mid Island Home
1 bathroom, on shared property, wood & electric heat, pet considered, W/D, avail Dec 1st, long term\$750

The Ark is for Rent
Small heritage cottage in the heart of Vesuvius, ocean view, sunny, walk to ferry, on bus route, 1 bedroom (sleeping loft), sunroom, W/D, wood & electric heat, suitable for one person, N/S, N/P\$950

2 Bedroom Ocean View
Close to town, top level, electric & wood heat, W/D, N/S, N/P, long term, Avail Nov 1st\$1150

5 Bedroom Vesuvius Home
2 bathroom, electric heat & pellet stove, 6 month lease, N/S, N/P\$1450

Large Ocean Front Home
Two separate living spaces each with their own kitchen, living room, laundry, bedrooms and bathrooms, shared entry, indoor pool, private dock, three car garage, avail immed, long term.....\$3000

250-537-4722
1-800-800-9492

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, bonded management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

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

FUEL/FIREWOOD

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
GUARANTEED CORD
Cut, Split & delivered
Cedar Fence Rails
250-653-4165

PAUL'S FIREWOOD
GREAT SERVICE!
Serving Salt Spring for 31 years
Ph. 250-537-4660
Paul Konig
Will BUY firewood logs.

GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE SALES & DROP OFFS:
Fridays & Saturdays only, 10am - 12pm.
Many hours of work
CLOSED FOR DEC 27/28 AND JAN 3/4TH
appliance, draperies or clothing.
Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please no garbage!!
103 Bonnet Ave.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2010 YARD MACHINES
2 stage SNOW THROWER, 30" auger, electric start, yard light, manual & keys. NEVER USED - Best offer over \$500. Call: 250 537-9301

EPIC VIEW 550 folding treadmill - paid \$1,456, asking \$600. Several programs and TV included. 778 353-0321

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

DUNCAN FOAM AND FUTONS
Soft cushions too soft? Mattress too hard or needs replacement?
RV, boat cushions need work? We can help!
Replacement foam, latex foam.
We can sew RV or boat cushion covers.
4485 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan
1-250-746-0702

HOT TUB (SPA) COVERS. Best price. Best quality. All shapes & colours available. 1-866-652-6837
www.thecoverguy.com/newspaper/

Renovation sale fridge, dishwasher, stove, hot tub. Offers? Delivery? 250 537-5773

SUNQUEST WOLFF PRO TANNING bed for home use. 120volt, perfect working order & all new bulbs. Cost \$4000 asking \$500. 250 537-2052

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

STEEL BUILDINGS/Metal buildings 60' off 20x28, 30x40, 40x62, 45x90, 50x120, 60x150, 80x100 sell for balance owed! Call 1-800-457-2206 or visit us online at: www.crownsteelbuildings.ca

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

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

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA Disklavier DCSM4T 67" grand piano re/cplays, quiet/silent modes w/remotes. Exc. cond. Asking \$50,000 Please call (250) 537-9659 More info at www.disklavier.ca

bclassified.com

This Week's Horoscope
by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrlogy.com
sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
1.888.352.2936

Tip of the Week:
On the eve of the New Year where January 1st marks the official Gregorian calendar start date of 2014, we find ourselves with many 'balls in the air'. Comet Ison is certainly one of these and, potentially at least, the one of greatest interest and concern. While not unprecedented, we have not experienced anything quite like it in the modern era. There remain many questions about it. As well, it coincides with an important new theory in Astronomy and Cosmology. I am specifically referring to the Electric Universe theory. It stands to change our understanding of the physics of the cosmos and even provides fresh insights about gravity. The other is a reinterpretation of the constitution of comets, which is thought to be rock and ores verses ice and dust and this theory is directly linked to the Electric Universe. As for Comet Ison, we should see it in the skies by now. Having virtually risen from the dead 3 hours after the announcement of its 'death' by NASA, Ison survived its graze of the Sun. Yet, it did apparently undergo some 'damage'. The main body has been broken into many smaller pieces. It is also predicted that Earth's orbit will pass through its tail in about mid-January, the source of a wide array of theories ranging from a delightful spectacle of meteor showers to more dire and sensational catastrophe scenarios. One source even referred to it as a sort of Star of Bethlehem due to its predicted reappearance on Christmas Eve. Astrologically, the planetary alignments do illustrate powerful themes of change and even of transformation. Hopefully these are more linked to the paradigm shift linked to the Electric Universe theory and not to actual physical events, at least regarding Comet Ison.... So, though time waits for no one and 2014 is about to begin, Ison is straddling the year date change and may literally bring it in with a bang, or two. Stay tuned....

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
With each new day, the drum beat grows louder. You can feel the power and it spells change. From a wider angle you are about mid-stride in this process. While there is an emotional, psychological and even spiritual core theme process underway your focus now emphasizes the material. Acknowledge the reality of all these levels to maintain a healthy balance.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)
You are in a dynamic and determined mood generally. Yet, to achieve your objectives you need elbow room. You may take this in the way of seclusion to focus on your work, projects and ambitions. At worst you may feel estranged and misunderstood by others and them by you. Through your attitude and choices may prove unpopular, you yearn for support and agreement.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
A rather deep and sober time continues. However, it is also sprinkled with star dust and perhaps some fluffy snowflakes too. You may notice that your perceptions are extra lucid. At worst, you feel more impatient than usual. This may be because you are picking up on other people's needs and emotions as well as your own. Set healthy boundaries and tend to your own emotional states.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)
Some of your more important relationships are taking on extra weight and gravity now. Yet, in this case the results stand to be quite positive. Opportunities to gain a clearer reflection of your self are implied. As well, these are likely to be of the more satisfying sort. The main thing to overcome is getting all wrapped up in others at the expense of maintaining your own center.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)
A new rhythm and overall quality of discipline is being established in your life now. This is the ideal anyway because it is the ground of new perspectives, self-concepts and cultivations of personal power. The prospect of acknowledging and integrating these qualities may feel intimidating. To overcome this anxiety, simply take things one sure step at a time.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)
Your creativity is likely expressed on a variety of fronts. Yet, each one stands to be quite deep and emphasizes the intricate details. The next chapter of your creative life has already begun. As valid and important as it is to help and serve others, it is time to direct more attention now at cultivating your own talents. These will eventually be directed to others anyway.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)
Certain experiences and encounters of late are striking some deep chords. These contain themes of emotional renewal. Interestingly, both your inner child and parent are being activated simultaneously. Consequently, you want to parent and be parented somehow. This is what happens among family sometimes. Trust this flow.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)
Sometimes it is important that we decipher whether to hold, fold, walk away or run, like now. Yet, it may be difficult to know how you feel about certain people and situations. It may take extra time and effort, but deciphering what you actually feel, need and want is important. To achieve this ask within, with confidence that you will get answers.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)
A process of rebuilding or at least of strengthening the foundation of your sense of security has begun. You have likely come through some trying experiences linked to endings. It is also quite likely that this process will continue. Either way it will feel good and is wise to fortify your sense of security. Focus physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually to achieve a whole sense of it.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)
A growing ambition to get some extra attention is on your mind. To this end you are willing to be assertive and take the initiative. This includes reaching out to people of power and influence. Ideally you are willing to invest some time and energy into upgrading and/or training. Yet, be willing to sample if you can, before making long-term commitments.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)
Balancing outer social activity with inward retreat continues. In the bigger picture, the pace and momentum is probably quite steady and demanding. So, this presents an important window of opportunity to balance the scales. You may still want to get some work done behind the scenes, but moderation is advised at this time. Refill all your tanks.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)
The time has come to establish a new norm. This includes a steady and consistent learning curve which is destined to continue for the next several years. Compliance with this demand of destiny will produce abundance, health, happiness, confidence and creative prowess. Get clear on the results you want to achieve and commit, and do it now.

Treasures of the Heart

We want to express our Gratitude to all of you in the community who love, shop at and support us. Without you we wouldn't be here.

From the heart, with feeling, we wish you **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

Located across from Island Escapades at 164 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
OPEN 11-5 Mon.-Sat. | CLOSED ON BOXING DAY

sports&recreation



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

POOL PALS: Santa may not have gone swimming but he did meet with kids at Rainbow Road Pool on Sunday afternoon, including Mia Poerschke, at left, before heading back to the North Pole to get ready for his global trek on Christmas Eve. The pool is closed for repairs from Jan. 6 to 18, but will be open before and after those dates with all of its usual great programs for people of all ages.

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB SCHEDULE

Winter walks, hikes and rambles cover new territory

January schedule outlined for Salt Spring club

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 23: The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club annual general meeting will be held at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Doors open at 11:45 a.m., with lunch starting at 12:30 p.m.

A sandwich lunch will be provided for members.

Following the meeting, David Denning will speak about nature photography, sharing his and Farley Cannon's bird photographs.

Hikers

Jan. 7: Join Ashley Hilliard for the first hike of the New Year, from Beaver Point Hall around Ruckle Park. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or join at Beaver Point Hall at 10:05 a.m.

Jan. 14: Mary Waugh and Andrea Rankin lead a hike on Reginald Hill with some extra interesting bits thrown in to create a nice, moderate, up-and-down hike. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the end of Morningside Road (entrance to Reginald Hill) at 10:05 a.m.

Jan. 21: Jean Gelwicks leads a hike through the Andreas Vogt Reserve and nearby Crown land. Carpool from ArtSpring at

9:45 a.m.

Jan. 28: Ross Evans leads a moderate hike up and around Mount Erskine from Juniper Way. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Juniper Way at 10 a.m.

Walkers

Jan. 7: Anke Smeele leads a completely "no car" (off-island) three-park walk in North Saanich. Take the bus to Fulford to walk on the 9:50 a.m. ferry. Depending on weather, we will walk from the ferry towards North Saanich along the waterfront or take the bus, passing through two parks. Enjoy your own lunch outdoors or eat at the Seaglass Restaurant

before visiting Lillian Hoffar Park on the walk back to the 3 p.m. ferry to meet the bus back into town.

Jan. 14: Jacqueline Thomas leads a walk in Ruckle Park up the road to the park headquarters and on the trail through the woods down to Bear Point, walking south mostly alongside the water. There are a few short, steep rocky sections. Carpool yourselves from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to meet at the Ruckle picnic parking lot at 10:20 a.m.

Jan. 21: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to choose a location and leader for a Mystery Walk.

Jan. 28: Bryan Adderley

leads a walk in the Burgoyne Valley area. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to meet at the Burgoyne Triangle 10:15 a.m.

Ramblers

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

Jan. 7: Ramble with Dorothy Kyle through Ganges.

Jan. 14: Leader's Choice Ramble with Harold Page.

Jan. 21: Off-island ramble to Crofton with Marilyn and Bill Harding. Lunch will be in Crofton. Meet at Portlock Park at 9:30 a.m. to carpool on the 10:10 ferry as foot passengers.

Jan. 28: Ramble with Sterling and Maureen

McEachern. Lunch will be at the Fernwood Road Café. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. or at the Fernwood Road Café shortly after 10 a.m.

New Members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or John Heddle (president) at 250-537-2672, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at the club's website at www.saltspringtnc.ca.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Bridge party hilarity prevails

Wine and chocolate brings out the masses

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

No, we can't blame the weather forecaster for the false alarm that kept many cautious players away from bridge on Dec. 9.

In spite of predictions of slippery snow, four full tables of brave souls showed up anyway. First among the heroes were Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette, with Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas coming second. Joan Byrne and Vic Parks were third.

Dec. 16 was another matter altogether — the annual Christmas party and no nasty weather. Seven and a half tables (some wearing Santa hats and most in finery) arrived bearing gifts for the draw, and there were winy and chocolate prizes for those who

won a trick with a two. A good time was had by all, especially the winners, amid much general hilarity despite serious play.

Topping the lot were the North/South pair, Liz and Oleh Mycyk, with Boodie Amott and Jacquie Stevulak in second place. Third in that group was the Byrne-Parks partnership. As for the East/West section, Jean Elder and Lynn Thorburn came first, Patricia Sutherland and Jennifer Quib were in second place, and Joanne Elizabeth with Jill Evans settled for the third spot. Many thanks to Terry Clement and Gisela Welsh for retrieving results from the BridgePads in the absence of Paul Retallack, who is sojourning in balmy Kauai but returning soon to the wintry blasts. But take heart — the days are getting longer again.

A Happy New Year to all. If you need info, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and your family the very best this holiday season.





Helping you is what we do



RUSS CROUSE
250.537.7654

PAUL ZOLOB
250.526.2626

Salt Spring Realty

#103-342 Lower Ganges Rd. Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3
Phone 250.537.5515 1.888.537.5515

Firstborn of 2014 Contest

We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!

Several community sponsors are set to shower the 2014 New Year's baby with many generous gifts. Salt Spring Island's first tiny, new resident of the year can enjoy their first local shopping excursions with all these wonderful offerings.

Proud parents can choose a new toy with a **\$25 gift certificate from West of the Moon**, pick up a basket from Persnickety's with baby gifts, then stop by **Thrifty Foods** for some nutritious food for the family with a **\$50 gift certificate**, pop into **Natureworks** for some vitamins (for mom!) with a **\$50 gift certificate**, then swing by **Country Grocer** to pick up diapers from their generous offering of a **year's supply** of disposable diapers.

From **Stuff and Nonsense**, the family can enjoy baths with some nice soap and some Padraig booties will keep baby's toes warm and comfy. Put your baby in **Happy Island Diapers** with one week's free service of cloth diapers.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: a 1/8 page colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!



HAPPY ISLAND
Diaper Service

1 FREE WEEK OF SERVICE
www.happyislanddiapers.com
1-866-922-7377

Salt Spring
natureworks
local foods - complementary medicines

Proudly donating
\$50.00 Gift Certificate

www.saltspringnatureworks.ca



West of the Moon

Proudly donating \$25.00 Gift Certificate
www.westmoonkids.com 250-537-1966

IN THE HEART OF FULFORD VILLAGE

STUFF & NONSENSE

A shop so delightful, you'll wish for a sailing wait

Unique gifts for Mom & Baby
and for all your momentous occasions!

Life is full of stuff and nonsense. Look for the meaning inside.
250-653-4620 www.stuffandnonsense.ca

persnickety
clothing for kids

Fashion and accessories for infants to teens

Proudly donating
a baby gift basket.

#1108 Grace Point Square
115 Fulford-Ganges Rd 250-931-0091

THRIFTY FOODS™

Proudly donating
\$50.00 Gift Certificate

thriftyfoods.com

PROUD TO OFFER
SALT SPRING ISLAND'S FIRST BABY OF 2014
1 year supply of Seventh Generation Diapers
up to or equal to 52 packages




Islanders Serving Islanders
374 Lower Ganges Road Salt Spring Island 250-537-4144

