



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 53RD YEAR — ISSUE 7



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SPROUTING PURCHASES: Wei-Ling Taylor peruses the Eagleridge Seeds stand at Seedy Saturday at the Farmers' Institute. The 18th annual Island Natural Growers sponsored weekend featured seed and plant sales, a seed exchange, workshops, discussions and a film night.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Coroner's delay frustrates family

Crystal Davidson investigation enters seventh month

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More than seven months after police discovered the body of 28-year old Crystal Davidson in a Lower Ganges Road home on Salt Spring Island, the victim's family continues to wait for answers about the mysterious circumstances that surround the case.

"It's hard not knowing why and what they are still investigating and not being kept in the loop,"

Victoria Schuetze wrote in response to a Driftwood query.

About six weeks after the B.C. Day long weekend death of her sister, the coroner's office tasked to investigate the case told Schuetze that methadone was the cause of death. Since that time, no further information has been received.

Matt Brown, regional coroner for the island region, said it's not uncommon for investigations to take as long as this one has. Speaking late last

week, he said it's hard to provide an estimate of when the information will be made available.

Although methadone is commonly prescribed as a treatment for addiction to heroin, morphine and oxycodone, Schuetze said uncertainty remains over the circumstances through which her sister acquired the drug during a visit to Salt Spring Island in August of 2012.

DAVIDSON continued on 2

MEDIA

CFSI radio sale sparks surprise

Changeover on March 1

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

CFSI's community-based radio programming won't change under new ownership, according to station founder Gary Brooks and Suhkev "Dave" S. Dhillon, who takes possession of the business March 1.

Rumours of the radio station's sale were in full force Friday morning, surprising community members, station personnel and the volunteer hosts responsible for most of the shows. But Brooks said the purchase hadn't been finalized, which is why he hadn't shared it with staff and volunteers.

"It's unfortunate these rumours started," Brooks said.

"I didn't announce the station was for sale because for any business it's not prudent to announce [you want to sell it]. I went through an official broker."

A letter from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission office dated Jan. 21 sparked a flurry of speculation Friday. The letter grants approval for the transfer of shares and effective control of the company from Brooks to Satnam Media Group, with Dhillon listed as single shareholder. The letter notes that a Sept. 27, 2012 share purchase agreement between the parties sets out a purchase price of \$205,000, with an additional assumed lease value of \$130,200.

As a commercial station run largely on a community radio model, CFSI has offered a variety of programs through volunteer show hosts since it began in September of 2009.

CFSI continued on 4

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LAND USE

Chamber rejects metal recycling facilitator role

Meeting comes up with 'resounding no'

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce board members voted Thursday not to get involved in an ongoing land-use dispute centred on the Salt Spring Metal Recycling business owned by John Quesnel.

A proposal by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to find a solution by having the chamber act as facilitator between neighbours and

business interests fell flat after members pointed out the idea's inherent flaws.

"It was a resounding 'no,' because it's inappropriate that the chamber be asked to take on that role in what is essentially a Trust matter," said the group's president, Matt Steffich.

"The chamber's not really an appropriate body to get involved with land-use bylaws."

Feedback from the public also spoke against the idea.

Steffich said the island's two elected trustees were both away this weekend so he hadn't had a chance to discuss the matter with them, but he believed they came up with the idea as an attempt to find a creative community-based approach to the problem.

He said the proposal was further impaired by the fact that Quesnel is a chamber of commerce vice-president, creating a conflict of interest on top of the other concerns.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

PRUNING WITH PAUL: Paul Linton gives a fruit tree-pruning workshop at Seedy Saturday at the Farmers' Institute. Linton warned that tent caterpillars are expected to be a problem again this year, and now is the time to remove egg cases from trees. See the Driftwood's Facebook page for photos of cases as illustrated in Linton's workshop.

Questions remain in death case

DAVIDSON

continued from 1

"The police and I agreed that women of 28 don't die of normal circumstances," Schuetze wrote. "Although we know that methadone was the cause of death, and we know that she was not prescribed methadone, it's hard not knowing what the police are doing or not doing with this information."

Questions surrounding Davidson's death arose amidst the confusion immediately following the incident. Many who met the woman in the hours preceding her demise have wondered why police failed to act on tips that Davidson appeared extremely intoxicated and in need of medical treatment.

Davidson is reported to have travelled to the island on a sailboat with her boyfriend during the August long weekend. She then came ashore after a dispute with her boyfriend and met up with a local island man. It's believed the pair stopped by a Ganges pub and a house party before Davidson headed to a friend's house early on the morning of Sunday, Aug. 5.

Salt Spring RCMP found Davidson's body on Sunday afternoon at approximately 2 p.m. The cause of death was originally identified as "asphyxiation with no personal injury."

Unanswered questions about Davidson's death come at a time when the provincial coroner's office faces scrutiny for a sharply declining number of autopsies and funding cuts.

Sgt. George Jenkins, senior officer at the Salt Spring Island RCMP detachment, said they are still waiting to receive the toxicology report from the coroner and therefore don't know for sure that methadone was in Davidson's system, but police are now in the process of determining whether charges may be laid.

"We've conducted a fairly intensive investigation into the last hours of her life — and we've forwarded that information to Crown counsel in Duncan to see what they think about the possible culpability of the people that she was with," Jenkins said.

"She stood out quite significantly in the community during her time here. We have a pretty good picture of her activities and behaviour in her final hours."

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13:31	1.6	5.2	16:49	1.2	3.9
19:20	2.7	8.92			
14 00:55	1.6	5.2	18 01:22	2.8	9.2
TH 07:39	3.4	11.2	MO 04:25	2.7	8.9
14:19	1.5	4.9	09:31	3.0	9.8
20:33	2.6	8.5	17:44	1.1	3.6
15 01:36	1.9	6.2	19 02:36	2.9	9.5
FR 08:05	3.3	10.8	TU 06:23	2.8	9.2
15:07	1.3	4.3	10:12	2.9	9.5
21:58	2.6	8.5	18:40	1.1	3.6
16 02:20	2.2	7.2	20 03:23	3.0	9.8
SA 08:32	3.2	10.5	WE 08:09	2.8	9.2
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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

One Billion Rising Dance:

Thursday, FEB. 14, 12 noon to 1 p.m.
McPhillips Ave., Ganges

PATIENT RIGHTS

Dying with Dignity group launches H.O.C. petition

Changes to criminal code urged

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring chapter of Dying with Dignity is launching a petition in hopes of legalizing doctor-assisted suicide.

Section 241 of the Canadian Criminal Code states that anyone who counsels or aids another person to commit suicide is liable to charges leading to imprisonment. But patient rights advocates maintain that when it comes to doctors assisting grievously ill people at the end of their lives shorten the journey, the criminal code is unconstitutional and undemocratic.

"It just seems to be so wrong — that someone who is sitting at the bedside of someone who has chosen to die, and is giving comfort, is open to a charge and liable for 14 years in prison for acting compassionately," said Joan Farlinger, a vice president of the local chapter.

The petition, which has been vetted by a federal government clerk, asks the House of Commons "to respect the will of Canadians by enacting new legislation that provides clear guidelines to physicians, and provides competent, fully informed, and terminally ill patients



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED.

Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner will speak at the Dying With Dignity meeting "What Happens When?" along with Nancy Purrnell, the island's head paramedic.

the option to make their own end of life decisions."

As the group's name suggests, the legislative change is meant to aid a specific demographic: those people who are known to be dying and

would like some choice about how the end will be.

"This is what Canadians want," Farlinger said, noting an Angus-Reid poll conducted last year found over 80 per cent of Canadians support

doctor-assisted suicide.

"If the majority of Canadians want this but it remains in the criminal code, where is the democratic process?"

Recent challenges to the existing legislation prove there is considerable public support and some legal force to making such a change. B.C. Supreme Court judge Lynn Smith ruled last year that Section 241 should not apply to doctors who are following the wishes of a terminally ill patient.

In Quebec, legislative plans are currently underway to implement the recommendations of an all-party report that would allow doctor-assisted suicide in cases where four conditions are met, including a terminal diagnosis, a request made by a competent patient, the agreement of at least two physicians, and a 15-day reflection period between the request and end of life action.

Although Quebec physicians are still liable under the Canadian Criminal Code, the province intends to instruct crown prosecutors not to pursue charges in cases that meet the four provisions.

Dying With Dignity members want Canadian law to be changed to reflect modern Canadian values, however. Farlinger is hoping the local population can help achieve that shift.

"We would like this to be the start

of a grassroots movement in Canada," she said.

"It would be so wonderful if Salt Spring started a movement that had such a beneficial result and helped so many Canadians — and it is not improbable for our little island to be the catalyst of change."

Dying With Dignity Salt Spring has been meeting since last fall and attracts around 25 to 30 participants to its monthly meetings. The group discusses various aspects of end-of-life planning, such as the need to have an Advanced Care Plan and how to create one.

Coming up on Feb. 20 at the Lions Hall, Dying With Dignity will host Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner and head paramedic Nancy Purrnell. The group hopes to learn more about what happens when local first responders are called and an Advanced Care Plan with a request not to resuscitate is in place. The event is open to the public and takes place from 1 to 3 p.m.

On March 17, Johnna Fisher will give a presentation on the ethics of physician-assisted suicide. Fisher is a professor of ethics at UBC and the author of Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus.

The petition will be available at meetings and further outreach is being planned. For more information, visit www.dyingwithdignity.ca.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ecovillage hosts group

Transitions Salt Spring hosts an idea-sharing and social event this Sunday with a Closing the Nutrient Cycle presentation.

Led by Jan Steinman at Eco-Reality Ecovillage, the subtitle of the event is "composting sewage as a green alternative to septic waste."

Steinman will lead a tour and give the presentation from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at 2172 Fulford-Ganges Rd., followed

by a community potluck at Fulford Hall at 5:30 p.m.

With limited parking available at the venue, organizers encourage participants to carpool.

Vehicle plates stolen

Salt Spring RCMP are investigating the theft of a resident's licence plates and registration. Plates # CG9583 were taken sometime between Feb. 6 and 8. Motorists are reminded to lock their vehicles.

Police are also looking for information about a youth in his early teens who was seen collecting cans near Gulf Islands Secondary School at the end of January. Another young person was playing with a soccer ball on the tennis courts when the can collector approached and an altercation broke out.

The person collecting cans brandished a pellet pistol, which caused the soccer player to flee the tennis courts. He was not pursued. Police are seeking help to identify the young can collector.

Palu seeks Den helper

Palu Rainbow Song needs an assistant for his upcoming taping of a Dragon's Den episode in Toronto and is appealing to islanders who might want to participate.

Palu said last week the CBC is willing to pay for someone to accompany the long-time Salt Spring resident and help him with his pitch for his solar meditation bow. A person to either hold a light or play the didg-

eridoo is needed. Contact Palu at 250-931-8135 or palurainbowsong@gmail.com.

Dancers shut McPhillips

People opposed to violence against women and the status quo of "rape culture" will be dancing in the streets between 12 noon and 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14.

The event is part of the One Billion Rising movement, which will see men and women dancing for

the cause around the world.

In Ganges, McPhillips Avenue will be closed to traffic for the hour, with the dancing taking place on the road.

For One Billion Rising, people can follow a choreographed dance or do their own thing.

See www.onebillionrising.org for more information about the worldwide movement.

Julianna Slomka is the organizer of the Salt Spring event.



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RCMP NEWS

Police search for shoplifting tag-team

Women target Ganges stores

Salt Spring RCMP are trying to locate two women after a slew of shoplifting incidents were reported in Ganges on Thursday.

One of the suspects is believed to have served as a decoy as her partner attempted to make off with items from stores in the

Grace Point Square and Creekhouseshopping complexes.

Sgt. George Jenkins of the Salt Spring RCMP said one woman is approximately 178 cm (5'10") tall, Caucasian, and was wearing layers of sweaters, a black jacket and a white purse. The second suspect was described as being 163 cm (5'4") tall, heavy

set and "round." She appeared to be in her mid-20s, dark skinned and was wearing a dark hood.

Businesses targeted include OMG, Patina and Persnickety.

Police are hoping to find footage from area surveillance cameras to help identify the pair.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE Proposed Bylaw No. 461

NOTICE is hereby given that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Public Hearing concerning **Proposed Bylaw No. 461** for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained therein. 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. A Community Information Meeting will precede the Public Hearing.

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2013
LOCATION: Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
TIME: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Community Information Meeting
6:30 PM onwards – Public Hearing

Staff and members of the Local Trust Committee will be available at the Harbour House from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM to provide information about the bylaw and to answer any questions. Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the bylaw at the Public Hearing which will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.

1. Proposed Bylaw No. 461, cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 5, 2012" (Secondary Suites Pilot Areas).

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 461 is to amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 to allow secondary suites as an accessory residential use in some areas of Salt Spring Island, as identified on Plan No. 1 attached as a schedule to the proposed bylaw, and by adding a new definition and regulations for secondary suites.

Plan No. 1 shows the locations where secondary suites would be permitted under this bylaw within a single-family dwelling. There are 1,598 properties identified on this map as being eligible for secondary suites (this also includes properties that are partially within the pilot area).

Plan No. 1 – Proposed Bylaw No. 461



(A FULL-SIZE MAP IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE ISLANDS TRUST SALT SPRING OFFICE)

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, excluding statutory holidays, commencing Wednesday, February 13, 2013 and up to and including 12:00 Noon on Monday, February 25, 2013. The proposed bylaw may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website at: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/itc/ss/pdf/ssbylamendu0461.pdf>

Enquiries regarding Proposed Bylaw 461 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:

1. 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.
2. Online at the Islands Trust website via the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/itc/ss/meetings.cfm> by completing the **Public Hearing, Monday, February 25, 2013 Submission Form** before 12:00 Noon on Monday, February 25, 2013.
3. To the **Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing.**

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

Satnam Media Group buys SSI Radio Corp.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Gary Brooks, left, with new CFSI owner Dave Dhillon.

CFSI

continued from 1

Positioned at "the cultural crossroads of Salt Spring Island: the meeting place of both old and new broadcasters from every walk of island life," the station offered a variety of music, talk and spiritual shows put together by interested members of the community.

Station manager Dave Gordon was just one of the people who was surprised by news of the sale. As of Monday morning he had yet to speak to either Brooks or Dhillon about their plans.

"I'm just as anxious to hear as everyone else," Gordon said.

Brooks said his main reason for selling was a feeling it was time for a change, especially since his youngest daughter will be graduating from high school this year.

"I busted my ass for six years and I think it's time to move on," he said.

Brooks said despite his passion for radio, the community will be better off with Dhillon at the helm.

"He's a professional broadcaster that has a love of community itself. I'm a radio wannabe — he's a radio professional."

Dhillon, who is president of Radio Punjab, confirmed he will keep CFSI's format as-is after he takes ownership on March 1.

"I'm going to be keeping it the same. We have no plans to change anything," he said.

Volunteer involvement has been important at Dhillon's other media outlets. He said many people working in Vancouver's South Asian media community got a start at his station.

"We're proud that these vol-

unteers have learned their trade with us and now have successful careers," he said.

Dhillon also said the station could boost island tourism under his guidance, and noted the number of South Asian businesses has grown in Wetaskiwin, Alta. where he runs a station that has 24-hour programming in classic country, country gospel and world music.

As to why he didn't offer the station to the local market before seeking outside offers, Brooks said that didn't appear to be an option.

"This community tried for 10 years to get a community radio station . . . they didn't do it," he said.

But that answer doesn't cut it for some of the 60 to 80 volunteer programmers, according to Speakeasy co-host Matt Steffich.

"I've never stopped being grateful for the station, but it really feels like the rug's been pulled out from under us," Steffich said.

"If the new owner's glad to play along, that's great, but it's hard to believe that would happen for very long."

Steffich said in light of Radio Punjab's mandate, it would not be surprising if the content gradually changes to South Asian programming as local volunteers drop off. He hoped to gain more clarity about the situation at a meeting with Brooks, Dhillon and the volunteers that was scheduled for Tuesday night.

See www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for updates to this story.

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



ILLEGAL DUMPING

PARC trail crew cleans up remote trash

Community approach called for

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Resources that would normally have gone toward improving Salt Spring parks and trails amenities have been directed at hauling out trash instead after a linear trail was used as an illegal dump site.

Sandra Leckie, a resident of the Jasper Road area, recently came across five or six full bags of garbage on a connector trail between Peter Arnell Park and Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve.

She theorized new upgrades to a private access road that crosses the trail may have given someone

with knowledge of the area a convenient way to get rid of unwanted trash.

"If it's a bag of garbage or bits and pieces, I pick it up. I'm sure lots of islanders do," said Leckie, who called the island's Parks and Recreation Commission office when faced with the overwhelming load.

PARC manager Lorraine Brewster said the commission acts quickly on such reports, and will come out to investigate if someone is unsure if dumping has occurred on private or park property. Staff go through the trash as a matter of policy to try to identify its owners. If successful, the CRD bylaw enforcement officer follows up.

"This time we didn't find any identification, so the

owners are difficult to pinpoint," said Brewster, adding garbage dumping is a continuing problem in local parklands.

"I think we're very fortunate that there's a growing number of residents that help PARC a lot and act almost like park stewards," she said.

"We have a lot of concerned residents who are diligent at picking things up or phone and report them. They do help us a lot because we can't be everywhere in this huge park system."

Brewster said she believes a community approach is necessary for solving the problem.

"Maybe getting people to stop and think before they dump their garbage, 'What is

this going to do to our community?' Because the garbage doesn't go away. Someone has to deal with their garbage."

Leckie questions, however, whether in this case the dump wasn't a specific hit.

"It just seems odd it was right on the trail. It was actually on the surveyor's marker for the linear trail," she said.

"This isn't an education problem, it's a problem problem. It's an enforcement problem," she added.

"It's really unfortunate that now PARC has had to pick it up, and ultimately the taxpayer pays for it."

Anyone who sees garbage in a CRD park or has information about illegal dumping can call the Salt Spring office at 250-537-4448.

NEWS
UPDATES

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PARKS & REC

Centennial up for spring makeover

Project will improve pathways and prune trees

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's Centennial Park will be getting spruced up in time for spring as the Parks and Recreation Commission embarks on a \$10,000 overhaul to the downtown Ganges focal point.

The project involves pruning older trees, fixing the park's water fountain, upgrading garbage bins and park benches, and planting perennials along the park's market area.

Plans also include the replacement of aging asphalt pathways with a gravel surface.

The work is hoped to make the park a safer and more enjoyable place for visitors and island residents to enjoy, said Kirk Harris, a senior-level PARC maintenance worker.

Roots that have grown through sections of the existing asphalt will be removed during the upgrades.

"We'll be very busy for the next few weeks," Harris told participants at a PARC meeting on Thursday evening.

Washroom facilities at the park have been closed over the winter because people were sleeping in them and obstructing their access to other users. They are expected to reopen when the renovation project is finished.

Park users shouldn't expect any other major inconveniences as PARC staff work to complete upgrades in time for the first Saturday market of the season on March 30.

The move to address public concerns expressed

about Centennial Park is part of a broader effort to dedicate a PARC maintenance team member to the parks in Ganges. Harris said the staffing shuffle means Rotary, Peace and Centennial parks will receive consistent attention.

In other PARC news, Gregg Dow has been re-elected PARC chair and Jane Horsburgh was confirmed as vice chair. The commission welcomed new members Colin McDougall and Matt Kellow.



School District # 64
(Gulf Islands)
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Any child who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2013 (born in 2008) should register for the 2013/2014 school year at the school office February 18 to 21, 2013.

Fernwood Elementary School
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fulford Community Elementary School
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Phoenix Elementary School
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Salt Spring Elementary School
9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Galiano Community School
(February 18, 19, 20 only)
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Pender Islands Elementary Secondary School
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturna Elementary School
(February 18, 19 and 20 only)
7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Parents or Guardians:

- Please bring with you the following documentation:
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 - Care Card, and Immunization records

School District # 64
(Gulf Islands)

CROSS BOUNDARY REQUESTS

Parents/guardians who wish to transfer their child to a school out of their catchment area must request a transfer, in writing, to the Superintendent by March 31 with a copy to the Principals of both schools.
Refer to Policy and Procedure #530 online at: <http://sd64.bc.ca/district/policies-and-procedures/>.

This does not apply for normal grade transitions to the next level at another school.

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

Tax time.

We are all looking for a bit of relief.

Many people lament that they don't have any dental benefits and only a small portion of their dental care is tax deductible. There may be a CRA approved plan that can help you get relief from dental issues as well as the tax man.

As I understand things, if you are self employed or incorporated you can have a Private Health Services Plan. These plans seem easy to set up and are tax efficient.

I am a dentist not an accountant. I can give you great advice and create solid comprehensive treatment plans for your dental and oral health. Tax info is NOT my bag so talk to your financial advisor and see if these plans might benefit you.

Our Services:

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OPINION



Gold - Coverage of the Arts | Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SSI)
Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander) | Silver - Front Page
Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre & Gail Sjuberg for incorporation series)
Bronze - General Excellence | Bronze - Historical Story (Elizabeth Nolan for First Nations history)
2012 Canadian Community Newspapers Association Awards
Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SSI) | Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron for longboarder)
Silver - General Excellence | Silver - Special Publication (Aqua magazine)
2012 BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Step out on V-Day

On Salt Spring Island, Valentine's Day is shedding its chocolate and flowers image this year with an event titled One Billion Rising.

Pulling no punches in its promotional materials, the onebillionrising.org website describes the rationale for its existence: "One in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. One billion women violated is an atrocity. One billion women dancing is a revolution."

Thanks to organizer Julianna Slomka, Salt Spring men and women can join the 15th anniversary of the global "V-Day" movement by standing up against violence and then dancing. Some people have been practising set choreography to a song called Break the Chain, but everyone is welcome to shake their bootie any old way at all on Thursday.

THE ISSUE:

Violence against women

WE SAY:

One Billion Rising movement deserves support

Slomka explains her rationale for taking action this way: "When I watch the news my heart cries at all the atrocities we humans are capable of; much of them are towards women and children. Sometimes I think there is no hope for change, but then again, there is no hope for change if I/we think that way. If I/we do nothing, nothing will change."

Gulf Islands Secondary School and the SWOVA group are also putting a focus on respect in relationships on Feb. 14 with workshops for Grade 11 students and a lunchtime Sexual Health Faire. Community partners participating in the event include Lady Minto Hospital, Options for Sexual Health, the Salt Spring Island Health Unit, GLOSSI, Salt Spring Community Services Society and Pharmasave.

Without education and heightened awareness, nothing will change when it comes to violence against women and children, which is why both the Feb. 14 GISS and One Billion Rising V-Day events are so worthy of our support.

On Salt Spring Island, Valentine's Day is shedding its chocolate and flowers image this year with an event titled One Billion Rising. Pulling no punches in its promotional materials, the onebillionrising.org website describes the rationale for its existence: "One in three women on the planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. One billion women violated is an atrocity. One billion women dancing is a revolution." Thanks to organizer Julianna Slomka, Salt Spring men and women can join the 15th anniversary of the global "V-Day" movement by standing up against violence and then dancing. Some people have been practising set choreography to a song called Break the Chain, but everyone is welcome to shake their bootie any old way at all on Thursday. On Salt Spring the dancing takes place on McPhillips Avenue next to TJ Beans — with the street closed for the occasion — from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

News for the week



VIEWPOINT by Richard Moses

Could tugboats keep coast safe?

The other evening at supper she said, "I taped something for you." Uh oh, I thought, it's either something to do with making me even healthier than I am, or a piece on Stonehenge or Attenborough's animals.

"It's about tugboats," she said.

Tugboats? Tugboats! She remembered that tugboats are my best of all ships. One of the highlights of my freighter trip a while back was the great variety of tugs that pushed and pulled our ship wherever we went in the world.

We sat down and watched the tape — a program on Knowledge Network called Moving the Monsters. The "monsters" are a giant oil rig with 12 anchors to be pulled up so the huge thing could be towed six kilometres and placed exactly over another oil well pipe, then a great tanker adrift in New York harbour, and always those husky tugboats, all engine and foam, scuttling back and forth and, in the case of the wandering tanker, pulling with hawsers as tight as bowstrings.

These are new huskier tugs to handle the new giant ships — supertugs, they're called and look out — they're tough!

Now the scene shifted: Alaska, 1989 and there was the Exxon Valdes leaking 11,000,000 gallons of oil all over the place having, for a number of preventable reasons, run herself aground on a reef. But now, the narrator was calmly telling us that every day two huge oil tankers leave Prince William Sound, but it would be next to impossible for them to get into big trouble of any sort, let alone crunching into a reef. Why?

Because not a single tanker leaves the sound unescorted. Here's the picture from the air: there's the monster, the enormous, heavy-

laden tanker moving slowly through the narrows. Ahead of it is a supertug; behind it another supertug. They are not just "there," they are both "tethered" to the tanker. The one behind, with its long line leading onto the tanker's stern is ready, in case of a problem, to slow the monster down, or tug it to port or starboard. The one ahead is ready for anything.

Sounds good, but does it really work? You bet it does: we saw it. At regular intervals, one of these petroleum caravans is put to the test — a "fire" drill, if you will. The tanker captain turns off the rudder and shuts down the engine: the tanker is now adrift. It is up to the tugs to keep it out of harm's way and headed straight down the channel. And they do!

Suddenly something smacked me on the brain. Pipeline! Kitimat! Narrows! Tankers! In everything I've read about this forest fire of controversy, has anyone mentioned tugboat escorts? Maybe I missed something, but if we've got to have the damn pipeline and the wretched bitumen and of course the risky tankers that, no matter what anybody tries to tell us, will pile up on an island or a reef or a rock because anything built by the hand of mankind and, of course, operated by the same hand, will fail — maybe tethered tug escorts would help prevent catastrophe.

I just thought it might be an idea worth thinking about. The cost of a whole fleet of supertugs pales in comparison to the cost of "cleaning up" a major spill. It looks like we're going to be stuck with oil for quite a while. I say let's do every single thing we can to keep it from ending up where it doesn't belong.

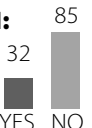
The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

Maybe tethered tug escorts would help prevent catastrophe.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Should B.C. health care costs be covered all by taxes rather than premiums?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:
Will Family Day make any difference to your life?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I busted my ass for six years and I think it's time to move on."

GARY BROOKS, OWNER, SALT SPRING ISLAND RADIO CORP.

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:

How did you feel about B.C.'s first Family Day?



ROSEY BRENAN

It didn't make much difference to me, but it was great for people with kids.



ANDREA LAVEZZI

We thought it was great. We went on a hike with two other families.



BILL CURTIN

I don't think it helped Christy Clark.



MARLEY MOY

It didn't really affect me.



MORGAN LUNA ROSE

I think if you had to put a holiday in February, Family Day is a good choice.

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.

Location is the issue

We seem to be stumbling toward some kind of resolution of the Rainbow Road caper. ("Metal business gets final chance," Feb. 6 Driftwood.) I hope a couple of things will be remembered and respected by all.

First, whether a business is a public service or not isn't relevant. Lots of businesses are public services, and a few are not. Metal recycling is. So are gasoline dispensing and selling groceries, but I'd not like to see a gas station straddling a brook flowing into a drinking water lake, nor a big box store in Fulford. The issue is location.

Second, whether or not an applicant for rezoning is

a good citizen also is irrelevant. Most islanders are good citizens. A few get awards for their contributions. But we don't (I hope!) let that affect our judgement of the legality and appropriateness of their actions. I can imagine a system that did. A comprehensive list of good works, each with points attached, could award the very good with a choice of leniencies. An allowed 10 km/h above the speed limit through the village. A narrower no-build strip beside a property line or fish stream. A bonus of 200 square feet of floor space on a secondary suite vacation rental. Let your fantasy loose!

I am most happy to learn from a trustee that it all comes down to noise. The solution, clearly, is ear plugs. I don't know why we have

to involve the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce or any other stalking horse, if it is that simple.

BOB WEEDEN,
PRIMROSE LANE

Recycling yard needed

The following is an open letter to LTC members Peter Grove, George Grams and Sheila Malcolmson regarding John Quesnel's rezoning application.

I've worked and lived here for 28 years and will retire here. I've come to the conclusion that this scrap metal facility is very useful, needed and well run. Did I mention free? I also conclude that its current location is optimal, i.e. central, out of sight to all and next

to a major electrical transmission right of way. The next best location is next to Greg Spendjian's residence. (Humour, Greg.)

Our governance needs to stop obstructing needed and reasonable business requests. The first decade I lived here the community would have begged and subsidized a clean industry like coffee roasting to locate almost anywhere on this island.

I urge today's trustees to begin to make up for past lack of planning for industry by approving this application with a slight restriction on noise.

We need to be inclusive to be a vibrant and viable community.

TED BALDWINSON,
SALT SPRING

Precedent

Is there any business on Salt Spring that thinks the Islands Trust has a responsibility to find them correctly zoned land?

Is there any business that taxpayers have funded Trust staff to identify 11 properties with potential to operate legally?

Yes, there is one: Salt Spring Metal Recycling.

So what's the lesson here? Buy cheap rural residential land, develop an industrial business, cause considerable distress to your neighbours and ignore bylaws — you can make a profit.

What about other recyclers like the Community Services recycling depot, Laurie Hedger, Richard Murakami and the Blackburn transfer station?

Is this a level playing field for these businesses?

Should the Trust have asked the chamber of commerce to facilitate finding one business legitimacy, especially as the businessman is a chamber vice president?

If you too think something stinks in this process, please write to the trustees.

If you value this business, please help John relocate to a property where he can build an inside facility to limit the noise and not drive his neighbours crazy.

If this business gets preferential treatment, it sets a precedent for any noisy business to establish themselves in your neighbourhood.

VAL PERKINS,
RAINBOW ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Inefficiency's a must in the weight loss battle

You may remember that back on New Year's you made a resolution to drop a few pounds, lose a couple of inches off that front porch hanging over your belt, and generally become more fit. The plan was to watch your diet, count your calories, and begin an exercise regimen that would turn that "beater" body of yours into the lean, mean machine it used to be. In spite of all the failures in past years, you vowed that this time it would be different.

Now, as Valentine's Day lurches towards you, you're ready to throw in the towel (if you haven't already) and learn to accept yourself for the gelatinous sloth you really are. How did it all go so wrong?

The simple answer is that there was probably zero chance you would be successful. There are two main problems with losing weight and becoming more fit. They are, in no particular order, diets and exercise programs. Let's face it: weight loss would be a cinch if you didn't have to stick to a restrictive diet and body fitness would be a slam-dunk if you could do it from the confines of your La-Z-Boy recliner.

There are probably more diets out there than the number of different kinds of insects in the arthropod phylum. Unfortunately, not one of them is called the "Chicken Wings and Mojos Diet" or I would presently be making big bucks as a stud muffin modelling underwear for Outdoor Life magazine. If we take a close look at the six most popular diets of 2012 (DASH, TLC, The Biggest Loser, Ornish, Flexitarian and

Engine 2), it's easy to see that they all claim to reduce the risk of coronary artery disease, diabetes, and other potentially dangerous conditions associated with the number one scourge of our society, obesity.

In general, all these diets promote reduction in fats (especially saturated fats), carbohydrates (primarily refined carbs such as sugar) and salt. Where they may differ is on the types and amounts of protein allowed. The Engine 2 diet, adapted from a food program designed for firefighters, is completely vegan and forbids the ingestion of animal proteins. The Flexitarian and Ornish diets are quasi-hybrid systems which permit occasional "accessorizing" of meals with fish or meat.

Perhaps the most controversial of these popular diets is The Biggest Loser, named after the almost decade-old reality TV show of the same title. The diet is high in protein and very low in fat (allowing about 1100 calories per day) but has come under much criticism from nutrition experts. Because the object of this diet is to lose large amounts of fat as fast as possible, the long-term goal of weight reduction is deemed unsustainable and it is only a matter of time before you're singing, "The Fat Came Back."

My own personal failures spurred a discussion with my family doctor about my weight and my increasing inability to keep it from



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

rising. My blood tests showed the triple whammy of high triglycerides, high LDL (bad cholesterol) and low HDL (good cholesterol). We discussed my "sweet tooth" and my penchant for baked goods. As a last resort, I was handed a small pedometer which I was to clip to my body in order to keep track of how many steps I took each day.

The goal was to walk at least 10,000 steps daily. The secret, my doctor explained, was to be as inefficient as possible as I moved through my regular motions. For instance, if I had to walk across the room to get two objects, I should first get one, bring it back to the other side of the room, and then retrace my steps to retrieve the other.

This kind of activity is hardly a stretch for someone like me. I practically invented inefficiency. As a matter of fact, the loss of memory which has accompanied my natural aging process has honed this particular "skill" into a fine art. A typical example would be my getting to the top of the stairs only to realize that I'd forgotten why I went upstairs in the first place. I pace around for a couple of minutes in hopes that my memory will be jarred back into action, but eventually I give up and traipse back down the staircase only to, at that point, remember why I had gone upstairs in the first place. Then, the whole process begins anew.

Shopping for groceries at the supermarket has become a superb opportunity for exercise and loading up extra mileage, er, kilometrage on my pedometer. I used to shop like most normal people do by starting at one end of the store and progressively working my way up and down the aisles until I reached the other end. Not any more I don't. These days I pick up a handful of carrots from the produce section, wheel my cart 200 steps over to the deli department for some feta cheese, wheel it back across the store for an onion, and so on until I've crossed everything off my shopping list or been informed by the store manager that it's closing time. There have been times when I have exited the Country Grocer and noticed that whole sections of the new pedestrian walkway have been completed since I first entered the store.

Nobody asked me, but maybe it's not a question of how many pounds we lose or don't lose that should determine whether our resolution to lead a healthier lifestyle has been a success or failure. What we are looking for here is a long-term lifestyle adjustment. All it takes is common sense. It doesn't matter how many steps I take a day, if all the steps lead me from the dining room table to the fridge and back again. Forget obesity; my main concern is "hand-to-mouth disease." If I don't get that under control, the only modelling I'll be doing is for Hogs & Swine Monthly.

thyme2001@hotmail.com

Yellow lines missing

Does anybody but me miss the yellow lines that used to be so helpful when we drove in the rain and fog in the dark of the night?

My guess is that there are any number of islanders, seniors primarily but certainly not exclusively, who miss these lines.

Though I am not entirely certain who is responsible, will somebody, anybody, please take the action that is necessary to make our roads safer?

SYLVIA OMMANNEY,
SALT SPRING

Hope for CFSI

CFSI has been developed into a valuable community resource by the thousands of volunteer hours. Community members have tirelessly devoted themselves to sitting at the mic and sharing information, opinions and music. No one was paid. It was simply a community of people who came forth to support radio for our community.

Let us hope that the sale of CFSI is an opportunity. Let us hope that the new owner allows our community to grow CFSI into the full-fledged community radio station that Salt Spring deserves.

Thank you to every CFSI volunteer that gave so many hours to create community radio for Salt Spring.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Let's hear more

In the aftermath of the Driftwood's online article about the sale of CFSI, there has already been a good deal of outrage expressed at the fact that Gary Brooks is selling the station to an off-islander, without consulting any of the station staff or

the many volunteers or, apparently, seeking a local buyer.

My initial reaction, as a charter programmer, was also very negative and I so informed Gary in an email the same day I heard the story. He telephoned me, expressing dismay at my reaction, and we had a long conversation, at the end of which we agreed to disagree on several important points. One thing that I learned from him that earned respect, however, was that he had forwarded my email to Mr. Dhillon, the prospective owner, describing it as a response from a "reasonable person."

Wearing that hat, I suggest that we need "more light and less heat" applied to this very sensitive community issue.

Unlike some, I am not about to join an exodus from the station. We have good cause to be unhappy about the way Gary Brooks has handled this sale; I am no close friend of his but I believe that it is pointless to pillory him for a decision that he was legally entitled to make. We should at least give him credit for investing his money and time in CFSI in the first place.

Yes, the station could not have gone anywhere without the myriad volunteers, sponsors and advertisers who stepped up, but without Gary it might very well still have been pie in the sky today.

I know that various proposals are being mooted, including a relatively inexpensive online station. Well and good, but I believe that the most important objective at this point is not to scuttle the existing station and, with it, three years of hard work by very many people. CFSI is too good to let go that way.

Notwithstanding Mr. Dhillon's history in broadcasting, it is also inappropriate to prejudge his motives before we have heard his plans for the station, which Gary insists

he will maintain as a community-based endeavour.

I am happy to learn that the parties are ready to meet the community and am looking forward to hearing the new owner's plans as soon as possible, before any more damage is done.

JOHN MOORE,
FULFORD HARBOUR

Exceptional Women of Note

John Ruskin wrote that "the voice is the eternal musical instrument of heaven and earth, from angels down to the birds."

On Friday, Feb. 1 at Lady Minto Extended Care Unit we were privileged to hear the a capella voices from the Women of Note quintet.

As their leader Linda Quinn indicated, they prefer to sing in intimate settings. This was evident in the warmth and ease their presence generated as their harmony united into one voice.

The concert was a multi-flavoured event ranging from the familiar to the profound. Their repertoire consisted of deep spiritual themes and lighter lyrical tunes, all of which concerned our humanity.

Their opening South African Suite embodied three melodies of beauty and emotion as they Marched in the Light of God.

These songs depicted life's journey from birth to maturity, and the concluding words were an awareness that "We are One."

We thank our friends Julie, Hannah, Patricia, Janice and Linda for sharing their beautiful voices with us and 'til we too will meet again.

MARGARET MACKENZIE,
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, ECU,
LADY MINTO HOSPITAL AUXILIARY


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BC NDP

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what's on this week

www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar



Wed. Feb 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Open Stage with Richard Cross.
 Every Wednesday night at Moby's. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Board of Education Meeting.
 Public meeting of School District #64 trustees. Fernwood Elementary School. 1 p.m.
The Kanakas of Salt Spring Island. Members of the Roland family outline their family history at the Salt Spring Historical Society monthly presentation. All welcome. Tea and coffee to follow. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.
Texas Hold'em Poker.
 Every Wednesday night at the The Local. Sign up at 6:30 p.m.
Searching for Sugar Man.
 Salt Spring Film Festival screening of Searching for Sugar Man tells the incredible true story of Rodriguez, the greatest '70s rock icon who never was. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. Feb 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Wesley Hardisty and Kai Kikuchi.
 Mellow fiddle tunes at Salt Spring Inn while enjoying a Valentine's Day special menu dinner or dessert. 5 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic with Richard Cross.
 Every Thursday at The Local. 6:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Rising.
 McPhillips Ave. shuts down for one hour for a One Billion Rising Dance Against Violence. Rain or shine. Noon to 1 p.m.
Rollerblading to Music.
 Every Thursday night at Fulford Hall. Skate rentals available. 7 to 9 p.m.
SSI Weavers and Spinners Guild.
 Show, Ask and Tell session at ArtSpring. Visitors and new members welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Feb 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Duck Creak.
 Live music. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
The Coalition.
 Live rock band. Moby's. 8 p.m.
The Funk Hunters.
 Long awaited return to Salt Spring lands at Mahon Hall in a purple palace of bassy, glitchy, funky, soul music. Featuring Madd Hattr, Tabuu, Je'Daia. Mahon Hall. 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Raptors At Risk? Their Natural History and Status on Salt Spring Island and in B.C.
 Wildlife biologist Erica McClaren presents illustrated talk at Community Gospel Chapel hall. A SSI Conservancy event. 7 p.m.
StoryTime at the Library.
 Join Margaretha for Honey ... Honey ... Lion! by Jan Brett and a great craft too. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Feb 15

ACTIVITIES
Island Pathways AGM. With guest speaker Louis Vallee's presentation on electric bikes. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m.
Plotting the Green Industrial Revolution.
 A Salt Spring Forum evening with Marc Lee, the senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Feb 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Gene Grooms. Live music. The Local. 3 to 5:30 p.m.
David Jaquest.
 Live music. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Andre Carrasquero.
 Venezuelan pianist and composer. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Swing Shift Valentines Dance.
 Salt Spring Arts Council and Bandonemion fundraiser featuring Randy Marchi, Jim Raddysh and Barb Rankin as the Two Guys and a Girl, with Swing Shift Big Band and hits from the swing era. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.

Call Mr. Robeson.
 British actor Tayo Aluko presents a rollercoaster journey through the remarkable life of singer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Coastal Giant.
 Live band. Moby's. 8 p.m.

Sat. Feb 16

ACTIVITIES
Dad 'n Me Pancake Breakfast.
 Drop-in with free pancakes for dads and kids ages 0-6. Family Place. 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Helleborganza. Annual festival of winter-blooming hellebores starts today and runs through Feb. 24. Fraser's Thimble Farms. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sun. Feb 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Andre Carrasquero. Venezuelan pianist and composer. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Swim for Heart. Sixth annual Swim 4 Heart Fitness Fundraiser at Rainbow Road Pool. Aqua-fit Challenge at 10 a.m. Swimming Challenge at 11 a.m.
Salt Spring Island Cloth Diaper Info Session. Check out the diapers, equipment, and details pertaining to a cloth diaper service coming to Salt Spring Island. Blennerhassett Equestrian Centre. 1 to 4 p.m.
Public Meeting with Lana Popham. BC NDP Agriculture Critic Lana Popham talks about critical issues of food security and sustainability. Farmers' Institute. 1:15 p.m.
Closing the Nutrient Cycle Presentation. Composting sewage as a green alternative to septic waste. Transitions Salt Spring event led by Jan Steinman at EcoReality Ecovillage. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Followed by a community potluck at Fulford Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Mon. Feb 18

ACTIVITIES
ASD Family Support Group.
 This is a group for families with children aged 0-6 who are on the Autism Spectrum. Family Place. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
Salt Spring Prostate Support Group.
 Discussion and get together. Farmers' Institute. 1:30 p.m.

Tues. Feb 19

ACTIVITIES
New Nia Class.
 Experience the joy of Nia in new daytime classes with Arleen at Still Point Yoga Studio. 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Blissful, sweaty fun that will change how you feel about your body and about exercise.
Salt Spring Farmers' Institute AGM.
 Meeting at the Farmers' Institute meeting room. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Feb 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Simply Organic.
 Don Conley on the organ. All Saints By-the-Sea. 10:10 a.m.
Ballet Jazz de Montreal.
 Exciting Canadian dance company brings new program choreographed by Cayetano Soto, Wen Wei and Barak Marshall. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Open Stage with Richard Cross.
 Every Wednesday night at Moby's. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Dying With Dignity Meeting.
 What happens when a first responder is called? Session led by Fire Chief Tom Bremner and Paramedic's head Nancy Pursell. Lions Hall. 1 to 3 p.m.
Living Life to the Full.
 Free mental health course for people suffering from depression and anxiety, with focus on problem-solving and coping skills, presented by the Canadian Mental Health Association. First of four Wednesday sessions starts today. Register through email to Ragnhild Flakstad, victoria. branch@cmha.bc.ca. Salt Spring Library. 4:30 p.m.
Texas Hold'em Poker.
 Every Wednesday night at the The Local. Sign up at 6:30 p.m.
Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild.
 New members and visitors always welcome. Meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Salt Spring Baptist Church. 7 p.m.

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CINEMA

- **Silver Linings Playbook** — A comedy starring Bradley Cooper, Robert DeNiro, and Jennifer Lawrence. Pat has lost everything — his house, his job, and his wife. He is back living with his mother and father after spending eight months in an institution on a plea bargain. Determined to rebuild his life, and reunite with his wife, he meets Tiffany, a girl with her own problems who offers to help him reconnect with his wife, if he'll do something for her in return. A bond forms between them, and silver linings appear in their lives.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Window to the Soul**, an exhibit of artwork by Carol Adam, runs in the lobby of ArtSpring through February.
- **Bev Lillyman** is showing her acrylic paintings in the **Country Grocer** cafe for the month of February.
- **Five Takes** — an exhibit of photography by Salt Spring Photography Club members Cliff Kelly, David Thomas Jones (Jones!), Margaret C Benmore, Wendy Rosier and Greg Klassen — is showing in the restaurant

and lobby areas of the **Harbour House Hotel** through February.

- **Return of the Creatures** is an exhibit of oil paintings by **Ora Cogan**, with additional work by Cowichan Valley artist **Collin Elder** showing at **Cafe Talia** this month.
- Well-known Salt Spring photographer **John Cameron** shows work at the **Fernwood Road Cafe**.
- Oil painter **Jerry Witmer** shows work at **Barb's Bakery and Bistro** through February.
- **Richard York** has artwork on display at **Salt Spring Coffee Company Cafe**.
- **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** features work by **Peter Allan, Heide Van Impe, Ken Ketchum, Dawn Davies, Lorne Shantz, Bob Rogers** and **Saltspring Fancy**.
- **Rachel Vadeboncoeur** shows mixed-media and glass works at **Island Savings**.
- **Steffany McAren** has paintings hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.

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DANCE

BJM brings diverse program to ArtSpring

Range explored with 3 choreographers

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring dance fans will be offered the opportunity to see some of the nation's most creative and celebrated dancers when Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal takes the ArtSpring stage on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

This is the second time in less than a month that local audiences will enjoy such an opportunity, with the BJM appearance coming fresh on the heels of a film night and workshop given by Montreal's RUBBERBANDance company in early February. While the earlier show focused on the work of a single driven choreographer — founder Victor Quijada — this time around the work of three strong voices will be performed, demonstrating the incredible range and flexibility of the group.

Having recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, BJM has become one of the best-established companies in Canada and has performed to more than two million people worldwide. Artistic director Louis Robitaille, a former dancer with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Danse-Théâtre de Montréal, explained during a recent phone interview how the organization keeps things fresh.

"I think it's most everything

is based on our curiosity to try new talent, new ideas, new paths . . . Basically, we work with the young generation of choreographers, and always explore new avenues of creation and challenge ourselves every day," he said.

The current tour involves work by three top choreographers: Wen Wang, the Chinese-born Vancouverite who has wowed ArtSpring audiences on two previous occasions; Israeli-American choreographer Barak Marshall; and Cayetano Soto, born in Barcelona and now based in Munich.

BJM has often acted as a research lab, allowing emerging and established choreographers to develop new works in residency alongside the dancers who will be performing them.

"If choreographers have the potential to bring something new and adapt themselves to the BJM personality, we have a strong starting point," Robitaille said.

"And of course, it's important to have strong chemistry between choreographers and the company — this is something that's essential."

Robitaille comes from a strong foundation in classical ballet, and believes having that foundation remains important in regard to structure and technique. Of course, the ability to "jazz thing up" with contemporary styles and disciplines is also vital for company dancers.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN VON WONG
 Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal dancers James Gregg and Céline Cassone perform Night Box by Wen Wei Wang.

"Like everything, the creative, the daily work of the company is about sharing," he said.

"Our creative quality is very high. We are very demanding when we are looking for artists. They need great technique in ballet but [to be] flexible in other languages — from there, they bring their talents to the company and we give them an environment where they can grow as artists."

Robitaille said experiencing strong emotions is typical during a BJM performance, and in an evening with three different choreographies, the audience can expect to run through a broad range of feeling. The program is unified by its colourful nature and its diversity, proving the company's enormous scope for expression.

Coming to Salt Spring, Robitaille said, is just as meaningful to the company as any of its international destinations.

"Every time we perform, we have the privilege to be on stage and communicate with an audience. At least during those two hours we can make people forget their problems or difficulties, and we did a good action: to inspire them into something beautiful, more graceful.

"Our goal is to meet as many people as we can, wherever we are. People sometimes think dance is something difficult, but it's not. When it's well done it can inspire many people. So it's our duty to reach as many people as we can."

The ArtSpring presentation starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$5 for youth.

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FILM FESTIVAL

Volunteers screen the night away

Behind the scenes at the Salt Spring Film Festival

BY MURRAY REISS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

What do you get when you divide 72 documentaries by 12 volunteer film screeners over seven consecutive Tuesdays from October to December?

Answer: The Salt Spring Film Festival (coming, as always, to GISS the first weekend in March).

Like the community in which it's flourished for 14 years, Salt Spring's film festival is unique in so many ways. We know of no other festival where admission is, as a matter of principle, by donation. Or where the films are chosen by a group of volunteers with widely divergent points of view, cultural tastes and backgrounds.

The process actually starts at the end of September, with a few festival volunteers attending the Vancouver International Film Festival, on the hunt for documentaries that fit our broad social justice mandate. Other films come

from filmmakers and distributors we've worked with in the past, or who have heard of the film festival through the grapevine. (Yes, our reputation is spreading — look out Cannes!)

By the time the screening committee meets at the end of October, there are more than 70 documentaries to be watched and winnowed down to just over 40. It's a little like the festival itself — no one person can watch them all.

So here's what we do. Each Tuesday we watch the first 10 minutes or so of 10 to 15 films. A fierce bidding war follows each film as people vie to take their favourite home to watch. At least three people watch each documentary and fill out an evaluation form, rating it from 1 to 10. We're looking for a number of things here — production qualities, story-

telling ability, and the timeliness and importance of the message.

And this is where it starts to get tricky. Not every film with an important message is well-told. Some are too rambling, some are just too long. And not every film with great production values tells an important story.

We're also looking for balance. Ideally, we want good films on the environment and First Nations issues; food, music and art and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues; films on international issues and stories closer to home. Overall, we're looking for the best of the best.

Naturally, not everyone always agrees. Screening nights can become intense. Critical debate is respectful and articulate. That's what makes the process so much fun. The screening committee is by far the most popular of the volunteer committees at the heart of the festival's operations. Talking and arguing over the respective merits of each documentary have to draw to a close by the middle of December. That's when we need to make our final selections. For a

number of films, the decision's unanimous — either, it's a no brainer, we have to show this film; or, there's no way we're showing this.

A few films, though, can divide the screening committee right down the middle. Half of us love it, the other half hates it. The list of films that are "maybe's" starts to expand. It's a little like those reality TV shows where the judges have to make the most persuasive case they can muster to move their personal favourite up the charts.

By the end of what can be a very long night, we've come up with a final list (with a little wiggle room for films that turn out to be too expensive or distributors who don't get back to us in time) of about 40 of the best social justice documentaries we've been able to find.

How well did we do? That's for you to decide at the 14th annual Salt Spring Film Festival from March 1 to March 3. See you at the movies.

Note: The Salt Spring Film Festival guide will be in next week's Driftwood. For more festival info, see www.saltspringfilmfestival.com.



MAJUTO

Opening: Brent Shindell
Soups, Suppers & Sweets by Fiddlehead Catering
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Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00) Salt Spring Books
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FUNDRAISER

March of Fools

StageCoach
parade and
variety show
March 1

StageCoach Theatre School is putting the call out to community members to dig out their fabulous costumes, prom dresses, suits, kilts or Scooby-Doo outfits to celebrate the group's annual March of Fools fundraiser on Friday, March 1.

Business teams and individuals are encouraged to collect pledges and dress up outrageously for the day. All money raised will help StageCoach keep tuition affordable for working families, offer tuition assistance to low-income

families and create its annual end-of-year show.

Everyone is invited to join or watch the parade through town at 5 p.m., to be followed by the March of Fools Variety Show at Salt Spring Elementary. There will be prizes for the participants who raise the most money, and for the best individual and team costumes. Audience members do not have to collect sponsors to dress up.

"Let's shake off the 'winter blahs' and create some fun, entertaining memories," said StageCoach producer Maggie O'Scalleigh.

Any team or individual can register by calling 250-538-7494 or emailing stagecoachtheatre-school@gmail.com.

BACK FROM BHUTAN

Tara and Martin share their experiences in the Himalayan Kingdom

Please join us for slides and stories of our journey this past year.

Central Hall (The Fritz) 7:00 PM
Thursday, February 21st

MONEY MATTERS SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Empty nest shouldn't send couples on spending spree

Retirement plans can be negatively impacted

When the nest is empty and the kids no longer need financial support, many men and women find themselves with some extra money in their budget. Fewer mouths to feed and no more tuition bills can give parents a sense of financial freedom they may not have had since before starting their family.

But that freedom can also lead to overspending, something that can put retirement in jeopardy if people are not careful.

Though it's understandable for men and women to splurge on a well-deserved getaway once the kids have finally left the house, it's important for adults to ensure that such splurging does not become routine. The following are a few ways men and women with some newfound disposable income can avoid overspending and putting themselves in financial hot water as they get closer to retirement.

- Pay with cash whenever possible. Swiping a debit card or credit card is certainly a convenient way to shop, but it can also be dangerous. Many people find it difficult to keep track of their spending when they use debit cards or credit cards to make their purchases. Using cash to make purchases, especially daily purchases like a morning cup of coffee, reduces the likelihood of overspending. This can help you get a better idea of how much money you're spending and if

there are any steps you can take to curtail that spending.

An effective way to use cash is to withdraw money from the bank once per week and use that as your weekly supply of money. If you find yourself frequently running out of money each week, then you're likely spending more than you should.

- Keep a financial journal. Men and women who must adapt to having newfound disposable income may find it is not much different from younger men and women learning to manage their money when they first start working. Some of those lessons, like saving more than you spend, might need to be relearned.

One way to get a grip on your spending is to keep a financial journal to track your daily and monthly expenses as well as larger purchases like a new television. Write down the monthly expenses you know you have each month, such as a mortgage payment or a car note, and each and every purchase you make, including how much you spend on dining out each month. Do this for at least a couple of months. When you have logged several months' activity, examine your journal to see if there are any expenses that can be trimmed to save money.

- Don't go overboard rewarding yourself. Once your last child has left the nest, the temptation to reward yourself with a luxury item or two might prove overwhelming. After all, raising a family and paying for college tuition has no doubt required substan-



METROCREATIVE GRAPHICS

Empty nesters can track their monthly expenses, including how much they spend on dining out, to ensure they aren't overspending as they inch closer to retirement.

tial sacrifice on your part, so it's well within reason that you want to reward yourself after all these years.

Avoid overdoing it so your finances aren't stretched too thinly. A vacation with your spouse is reasonable, but buying a villa overseas might be a little over the top. Luxuries can be nice, but they can also drain a budget. Your monthly expenses once the kids have moved out should be lower, so if you find your cost of living has increased now that your nest is empty, you might be forced to

determine which of your expenses are luxuries and which are necessities.

- Take advantage of your "experience." Though accepting a "senior" discount might be a blow to your pride, it also can be a boon to your bottom line. Many establishments, including gyms, restaurants and movie theaters, offer discounts to men and women age 55 and older. This can help you save a substantial amount of money over time, and no one has to know you've started cashing in on your experience.

Deadlines approach

RRSP contribution deadline —
March 1, 2013

Tax return filing deadline — April 30, 2013

Remember — Dec. 31 in the year you turn 71 is the last date you can contribute to your own RRSP.

You can contribute, up to your RRSP deduction limit, to a spousal RRSP or common-law partner RRSP if your spouse or common-law partner is 71 or younger on December 31 of the year you make the contribution.

Otherwise, you have to choose one of the following options for your RRSPs:

- withdraw them;
- transfer them to a RRF;
- use them to purchase an annuity for life; or
- use them to purchase an annuity spread over a number of years.

Source: Canada Revenue Agency

Home Sweet Home

You are invited to an upcoming seminar:
"To Move or Not to Move: Aging in Place and a 30+ Year Retirement"

Thanks to medical advances, people are living much longer today. Unfortunately, these advances have yet to find a way to eliminate the effect of aging and the special needs that arise when caring for the elderly. According to a report by The Council on Aging of Ottawa, for those 65 years old and over, 43% will at some point require long-term care and spend time in a nursing home. The cost of this can put a significant drain on the savings of an individual and his or her family.

Hosted by
Markus Wenzel, Investors Group Financial
Financial and Insurance Consultant
Johanna Booy, Care and Company
Certified Professional Consultant on Aging

WHEN: 2 pm on Thursday, February 21
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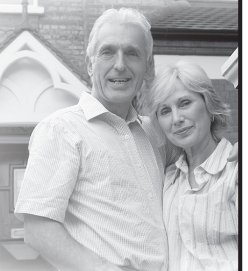
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MONEY MATTERS

SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

BUDGETTING

Budget basics get people on financially stable path

Putting the facts in black and white when planning for the year ahead

For those whose focus will be on finances in the coming year, establishing a budget for the new year is a good place to start.

The following are a few tips for men and women that should help them plan budgets for the new year and reach their financial goals over the next 12 months.

- Start with your income. How much money is being brought into the household will go a long way toward determining your budget. The first month of the year, when people will receive their earnings statements from the previous year, should provide a clear-cut picture of just how much income the household is generating. Once you have that information, you can begin to establish a budget.

- Make a list of your bills. Knowing what's coming in is

important when establishing a budget, but so is having a firm grasp of what's going out. Make a list of all of your monthly expenses, from the big ones like a mortgage payment to the smaller ones like how much you spend on a cup of coffee each day.

When making a list of these expenses, make note of the day bills are due each month. This can help you determine which weeks of each month you'll be able to save more money and which weeks you will need to tighten your belt and pay existing bills. Such knowledge will help you establish a budget.

- Make a list of anticipated expenses. Some expenses are there every month. Others are those you expect, such as home improvement projects you plan to finance in the coming year. Make a list of these anticipated expenses. This may involve taking some inventory of things around the house, such as any appliances that may be on their last legs, bigger issues like a roof that may need to be replaced or a bathroom you finally plan to

remodel. Once you have compiled this list, research how much each project figures to cost you. This should give you an idea of how realistic each project is for you, and whether or not you will be able to tackle multiple projects in the coming year.

Make a list of all of your monthly expenses, from the big ones like a mortgage payment to the smaller ones like how much you spend on a cup of coffee each day.

- Don't forget about debts. Many people plan a budget more to get out of debt than to save for a rainy day. When establishing a budget for the year ahead, calculate how much debt you're currently carrying.

Though you can do so if you prefer, it's best to exclude exist-

ing installment loans like a mortgage or a car note from your list of debts. Though those can be considered money you owe, they are more in line with the monthly expenses you need to live than credit card debts you simply need to get rid of.

If your debt is considerable or even small, see if there is anything you can remove from your list of monthly expenses (i.e., cable television or streaming video subscription) so you can devote that money to eliminating your debt.

In addition, those with considerable debt should prioritize ending that debt over projects you want to tackle that aren't exactly necessities. For example, if your kitchen is outdated but still safe and functional, postpone the kitchen remodel until you have eliminated your debt.

- Decide where you can cut costs. Chances are you're establishing a budget because you have a specific financial goal in mind or because you examined last year's financial statements and realized you fell short of your savings goals. So you like-

ly know you need to cut some costs, and part of establishing a budget is deciding which costs you can cut.

Some of the more common ways people cut costs at the dawn of a new year includes deciding to dine out less, canceling a cable television subscription or removing premium channels from their package, driving less to save money on fuel and forgoing store-bought coffee for java they make at home. Each of these budget cuts can lead to substantial savings over a full year, and none of them are life-altering to the point of lowering a person's quality of life.

- Include savings into your budget. Living on a budget is not always easy, especially for those people who are not used to doing so. When establishing your budget, include weekly, bi-weekly and monthly savings goals into the budget. If you stick to this plan, you will have something to show for your financial discipline at the end of each month, and light at the end of the tunnel can be a motivating factor as you adapt to living on a budget.

The numbers don't lie

It pays big dividends to have a reliable accountant



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RRSP VS TFSA

No one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to RRSP/TSFAs

Research available benefits

BY KIM INGLIS

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

A frequent financial planning question is whether to contribute to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or a Tax Free Savings Plan (TFSA). With the ratio of Canadian household debt to annual disposable income at a new high, limited resources are forcing many to choose one over the other. Making the decision begins with a basic understanding of each.

RRSPs are designed to promote long-term retirement savings. The maximum annual contribution limit for 2012 is \$22,970, with individual amounts varying based on factors such as unused past contribution room. RRSP contributions are tax deductible, and that deductibility offers the greatest benefit when the tax refund is re-invested. Withdrawals are subject to withholding taxes and fees.

TSFAs are savings vehicles that allow contributions up to \$5,500 per year (effective 2013) in cash and investments. Unused contribution room can be carried forward indefinitely and never expires. Withdrawals can be made anytime in any amount, without being taxed, and can be fully re-contributed the following calendar year. An individual can fund a spouse's TFSA and the income earned is not attributed back to the partner who provided the funds.

TSFAs make a lot of sense for many young people beginning to save for retirement, as they are still in lower income tax brackets and won't benefit much from the tax deductibility of RRSPs. It may be better to accumulate RRSP headroom until their marginal tax rate is higher.

The funds in TSFAs are also accessed more easily, providing a source of emergency funds.

The emphasis is on emergency because the convenience of TFSA withdrawals is a downside for those tempted to withdraw on whimsy rather than absolute necessity.

For investors in higher income tax brackets, RRSPs make sense because their tax deduction is likely at a higher marginal rate than it will be when withdrawals are taxed in retirement. And, RRSP contributions may be used to drop their current taxable income to a lower bracket. Higher income earners are also less likely to have to choose between the TFSA and the RRSP, and may wish to contribute to both and link the benefits.

Assuming the RRSP contribution is fully deductible, a BC investor with an annual income of \$100,000 who contributes \$22,970 to an RRSP would get a tax savings of approximately \$8,317. The refund could be placed into a TFSA, up to allowable limits, to be invested and grow without fear of taxation either now or in retirement, multiplying the positive impact of the original RRSP contribution.

Both RRSPs and TSFAs can act in an investor's favor, not just as savings vehicles but also from a tax planning perspective. Unfortunately, there isn't a one-size-fits-all answer as to which is best, and the choice really boils down to individual circumstances and time horizons. Whether you have a lot or a little to invest, do your homework and begin as soon as possible to ensure you get the most in tax-free or tax-deferred benefits.

The writer is an investment advisor & portfolio manager with Canaccord Wealth Management, a division of Canaccord Genuity Corp., member, Canadian Investor Protection Fund. www.reynoldsinglis.ca. The views in this column are solely those of the author.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Acclaimed Paul Robeson show coming to ArtSpring theatre

Tayo Aluko's one-man play has received excellent reviews

BY GEORGE SIPOS
ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thirty five years is a long time. Much disappears from memory in less than a generation.

Which might explain why Nigerian-British actor and singer Tayo Aluko, now 47, was surprised a few years ago when an audience member in Liverpool said his singing reminded her of Paul Robeson. Aluko had to admit that he had never heard of him.

It didn't take him long, however, to read up on the pioneering black American actor and singer to discover that he was not only the most amazing bass singer of his generation but also a tireless advocate for racial and social justice in mid-20th-century America.

Aluko's response to what he learned about Paul Robeson was to create a one-man play.

In the 1940s he was the first black actor ever to play opposite a white actress in a Broadway production of Othello (this after having

already been the first African-American football player on the Rutgers University team while studying law in the 1920s).

Robeson probably became best known for his performance of famous spirituals like 'Ol' Man River, but then ran afoul of the Senator McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee, which took a dim view of Robeson's singing tour to Moscow at the height of the Cold War. The U.S. government blacklisted him and destroyed his career and finally Robeson himself.

Aluko's response to what he learned about Paul Robeson was to create a one-man play. Call Mr. Robeson has been touring the U.K. and North America for several years to excellent reviews (including a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall last February).

Aluko is currently bringing the play to the West Coast with a number of performances between Berkeley and Vancouver. ArtSpring has been able to book the show for one performance only on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

The play tells the story of Robeson's life, and includes a number of his songs, with live piano accompaniment.

Tickets, at \$20 regular and \$5 for youth, are available at the door, or from the ArtSpring ticket centre — 250-537-2102 — or through tickets.artspring.ca.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Nigerian actor Tayo Aluko plays Paul Robeson in his Call Mr. Robeson play at New York's Carnegie Center, where he received a standing ovation last February. The show runs for one night only at ArtSpring on Saturday, Feb. 16.

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Special Resolutions for the Mid Island Co-op 54th Annual General Meeting

Member-owners wishing to put forth a special resolution at this year's Annual General meeting must forward it in writing before April 1, 2013 to:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MID ISLAND CO-OP
UNIT #103-2517 BOWEN ROAD
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The 54th Annual General meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15th, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Royal Canadian Legion 256 building.



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ISLANDS TRUST NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Community Information Meeting and a Public Hearing within a Local Trust Committee Business Meeting on **Proposed Bylaw No. 192 – cited as "North Pender Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 171, 2007 Amendment No. 1, 2012"**; for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw at **9:45 a.m., Thursday, February 28, 2013, at the Pender Island Community Hall (Lounge), 4418 Bedwell Harbour Road, North Pender Island, BC.**

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 respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

Proposed Bylaw No. 192 – cited as "North Pender Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 171, 2007 Amendment No. 1, 2012"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 192 is to amend the map Schedule 'Road Classification' to:

- Designate the roadway between the BC Ferries Terminal and the entrance to Magic Lake Estates at the intersection of Schooner Way and Ketch Road at as the 'Magic-Ferry Bicycle-Walking Route'. This includes two small extensions also connecting the library and the school as part of the designation.
- Identify the existing locations of the Car Stop network.

A copy of the proposed bylaw and any background material that may be considered by the Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing February 15, 2013 and up to and including February 26, 2013.**

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island, B.C., commencing February 15, 2013. The proposed bylaw can also be viewed on the internet at www.islandstrust.bc.ca and selecting <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/np/bylaws.cfm>

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. The office of the Islands Trust by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, by Fax (250) 405-5155 or can be **sent on-line** by going to the Islands Trust Website at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltr/np/meetings.cfm> and completing the **"Public Hearing, February 28, 2013 Submission Form"**, prior to **4:30 p.m., February 26, 2013;**
2. After **4:30 p.m., February 26, 2013** to the Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at **9:45 am, February 28, 2013.**

The public is asked to send any electronic response by using the on-line public hearing submission form. The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email submission will be received by the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email submissions, if they are opened and received, to the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written submission.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Andrea Pickard, Planner, at (250) 405-5189 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Kathy Jones, Deputy Secretary

people&community

WORKSHOPS

Mindful Communication president leads workshop

Speak to Me Like You
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People who are longing to communicate more effectively with spouses, kids, colleagues, friends and family may find that a specialized

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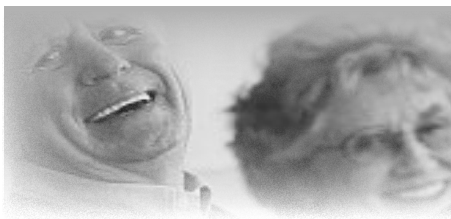
Workshop leader Rachele Lamb

is a sought-after author, speaker and president of Mindful Communication. She has helped thousands of people raise their communication bar using the nonviolent communication process developed by Marshall Rosenberg.

The workshop runs Feb. 23-24

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Core Inn. It is invaluable to those in leadership, management, health, education, human resources and mediation.

To register and for more information, visit www.rachellelamb.com, or call 250-537-1817. An early-bird price is in effect until Feb. 15.



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Stroke success – how rapid diagnosis and treatment saves patients

Sidney resident Tracy Hilton witnessed how a stroke can steal a loved one's physical and mental abilities when her dad collapsed in her living room. "I heard a sound like choking, and his whole right side went still," she said. The stroke left 79-year-old Ronney Brimelow unable to speak or move his right side. An ambulance arrived within two minutes of the

9-1-1 call and Brimelow was rushed to Victoria General Hospital, where neurologist Dr. Alex Henri-Bhargava was standing by. "Paramedics had alerted us and medical imaging staff were standing by to provide a CT scan as soon as the patient arrived," said Henri-Bhargava. "Within 40 minutes a scan confirmed the stroke and treatment was started."

Hilton says the treatment was amazing. "Within about an hour, he began moving his arm and his legs, and his speech began to return," she said. "I thought I had lost my healthy father so it was a miracle when he started coming around."

Stroke researcher and VIHA neurologist Dr. Andrew Penn says the miracle treatment is a clot-buster called tPA. "tPA is a naturally occurring protein which breaks up blood clots, and when you remove the blockage, blood can again flow freely," said Penn. "When you treat someone very quickly, before there is too much damage to the brain, the patient can recover completely."

Barbara Lover was also brought to emergency that day, but with very different stroke symptoms. Her husband, John Lover, says she was slurring and having difficulty speaking.

"There were signs of dizziness, disorientation and she was very upset." Lover's symptoms were resolved by the time she arrived at VGH, but she suffered another mini-stroke in emergency.

Dr. Penn says in the past, patients with resolving symptoms would likely have been discharged with little more than an aspirin. But advances in imaging technology now allow us to see blood flow in the brain.

"She had a blockage quite far down the stream, and the other blood vessels had kicked in and resurrected her blood flow so that she looked okay, but she was still in grave danger."

Dr. Penn says one-third of patients who are sent home after mini-strokes, or TIA, without vascular imaging and tPA, suffer major strokes within six months, strokes that either kill them, or leave them unable to care for themselves.

"The impact of preventing stroke is huge, from both a human perspective, and a cost perspective," he said. "On Vancouver Island alone, the difference between our best year in terms of intervening with TIA and our worst year is 25-hundred days of hospital care, over \$3-million in acute care costs alone."

A few days after tPA treatment, Barbara Lover was released from hospital, having spent some of her time sketching the flowers in her hospital room and the trees she could see out the window. Ronney Brimelow also walked out under his own steam, glad his first ever hospital stay was a short one.

*Article provided by the
Vancouver Island Health Authority.*

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HEALTH

Big Bike coordinator gives advice

Finding balance critical to health

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If the spotlight on romantic love surrounding Valentine's Day feels over-hyped and over-commercialized, the Heart & Stroke Foundation's focus during the month of February raises awareness of an issue nearly everyone is connected to.

"Heart Month" gains a whole new meaning when the widespread prevalence of cardiovascular disease in Canada is considered, as Susannah Devitt, the local coordinator of a major Heart & Stroke Foundation fundraiser for many years, has found.

"Family was a reason, but after getting more involved with it I realized it can be any age," she said.

"Babies can be born with heart defects."

Devitt was partly motivated by the fact her grandfather had died of a stroke to get involved with the charity and bring its Big Bike ride to Salt Spring in 2004, but has since seen heart disease and stroke affect other loved ones.

Devitt's partner survived quadruple bypass surgery. She herself experienced a pseudo-heart attack brought on by the flu, and knew enough to call herself an ambulance because she recognized the symptoms.

"All these life events happened — so that was definitely purpose to continue," she said.

Although the rates of heart disease and stroke have declined 50 per cent over the past 20 years, the two conditions count for two of the three leading causes of death in Canada after cancer.

The Heart & Stroke Foundation reports that nine in 10 Canadians have at least one risk factor (which include smoking, alcohol use, physical inactivity, obesity, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and diabetes). Women are increasingly suffering heart attacks.

As coordinator of the Big Bike fundraiser from 2004 to 2012, Devitt teams brought in just over \$145,000. An average of nine to 10 teams ride the 29-seat bike each year, with family and corporate teams and room for individuals to hop on as long as they



SUSANNAH DEVITT

gathered enough pledges. Devitt said one of the most memorable rides she experienced took place in 2004. The Akerman family assembled the Hot Wheels team in honour of their son Christopher, who was five years old at the time and facing his second open heart surgery. The first took place when he was just three days old.

"I didn't actually think the ride would become a tradition, but every year it was like, 'We have to keep going for Christopher,'" Devitt said.

"This year he's old enough to put together his own team."

Now 14, Christopher will be leading his team as a first-time Big Bike rider in June, hopefully with the participation of other friends his age. As Devitt notes, the research the Heart & Stroke Foundation is able to do with the help of community fundraising efforts has a direct effect

on children like Christopher, and the medical side of things is constantly improving.

One of the latest findings to come from the research is how closely the brain and heart are tied together. Getting exercise and eating healthily are key factors in maintaining heart health, but Devitt said that spiritual and emotional health are also factors, so trying to find balance in life is important.

"You really have to get a hold of your stress," she said.

Facing reality is another thing to think about during heart month. Devitt said denial is a frequent symptom of heart disease.

"If there's heart disease in your family, don't think it's not going to happen to you. It most likely will happen — so take steps to be on top of it," she advised.

Recognizing the symptoms of heart attacks can be essential in getting yourself or someone else help in time. Cheat sheets can be found on the foundation's website at www.heartandstroke.ca, along with tips for healthy living, heart-friendly recipes and ways to volunteer or donate funds.

LIFESTYLES

Healthy heart tips offered

February is heart month

Information from Statistics Canada shows the number of deaths by heart attacks is now essentially the same for women and men, and heart failure accounts for more deaths due to any cause except cancer in almost every province and territory.

The tips below were designed to help women prevent heart disease, but can equally apply to men.

1. Make sure to eat enough fresh fruits and vegetables — seven to eight servings per day. The more colourful the item usually means it has better nutritional value.
2. Don't skip meals, especially breakfast. Long known as the most important meal of the day, breakfast now has added significance. Research shows women who skip it are more likely to be overweight.
3. Include one hour of physical activity into your daily routine. The time can be broken into smaller intervals and include simple options like taking the stairs instead of the elevator or even vacuuming.
4. Maintain a healthy body weight and waist circumference. Check with a doctor whether you are at a healthy weight, and look at options for making improvements.

Heart & Stroke Foundation

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TIP TAP: Harbour House farm manager Rob Scheres taps a bigleaf maple tree for part of the crowd attending the 5th annual Maple Syrup Day on Sunday.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Bridge players stay positive

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

BRIDGETRICKS

“Those who think they can, and those who think they can’t — are both right,” said Henry Ford.

Those who thought they could and were very right on Jan. 28 were Liz and Oleh Mycyk, who were first among five full tables of duplicate bridge that evening. Ted Baldwinson and Terry Clement were almost as positive, while Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette had enough confidence to reach third place. Flo Laundry and Lynn Thorburn were pretty sure, and got to the fourth spot.

Then came February,

and on the 4th there were again five full tables. This time it was George Laundry and Paul Retalack who were the little train that could, followed by Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas, returning successfully to the fold for the second time and second place. The Mycyks settled for the third spot, with Gisela Welsh and Vic Parks cheerful about coming fourth.

The rest bided their time, and didn't think they couldn't do better another day.

NATURE

Raptor specialist flies with talk

Hawks and falcons featured Friday

BY DAVID DENNING
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

If you love birds on Salt Spring Island, you probably have a soft spot for those meat-tearing flying carnivores — the raptors.

The name comes from the Latin word meaning “to take by force,” but despite the forcefulness they use when catching prey animals, raptors are, with the exception of the bald eagle, rather shy and elusive.

If you'd like to know more about

hawks, eagles, falcons and owls, there will be a great opportunity on Friday, Feb. 15. Wildlife biologist Erica McClaren will present a richly illustrated talk on Raptors At Risk? Their Natural History and Status on Salt Spring Island and in B.C.

The presentation at the Community Gospel hall on Vesuvius Bay Road starts at 7 p.m. and is sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

McClaren is a conservation specialist with BC Parks. She has dedicated much of her 18 years as a research biologist to the study of the coastal goshawk. Goshawks are to the forests what peregrine

falcons are to the coastal cliffs and bluffs, except that the former are extremely difficult to find and observe.

McClaren has studied in depth the important raptors that may be at risk, including western screech-owls, Haida Gwaii saw-whet owls, northern pygmy owls and peregrine falcons.

Her Friday presentation will reveal the fascinating natural history of raptors and update us on the conservation status of these important species that, like “the canary in the coal mine” provide a key indicator of the health of our local ecosystems.

Leaves' gifts deserve proper reverence

Great for adjective lovers and recycling fans

BY BOB WEEDEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

History has more turning points than a snake's back, but a hugely important one came when leaves evolved. It's a story that goes back even farther and covers more geography than Adam's fig leaf.

Earth had been barren for its first 10 billion years. Our first evidence of life comes from fossils of tiny aquatic organisms in rocks formed about 3.7 billion years ago. All of them were solitary cells, or just unshielded protoplasm. Some used sulfur as an energy source; their few survivors now live in under-sea hot springs.

Others used sunlight to crack carbon for energy, while still others lived by eating plants and each other. You guessed it: the sun-exploiters began the line of life we call plants, and the freeloaders were the first animals.

Roughly 600 million years ago green plants invaded the continents. They struggled, because carbon was 10 times as abundant in the air as it is now, so climates were much hotter.

Early land plants had slender green branches with a protective outer layer, and they got by in cool places. As they slowly spread and packed carbon into their structure, and as marine and freshwater green algae expanded, together they took enough carbon out of the atmosphere to begin cooling the climate.

True leaves enter the story some 375 million years ago. They were needle-like, and stayed on the plant for several years. Retaining needles is a good strategy for misers. It reduces annual replacement costs, conserves scarce nitrogen and lets the plant sneak in a few hours of photosynthesis on shoulder-season days.

Flat, broad leaves that drop off each year appeared about 140 mil-

lion years ago. Leaf growth has to be kick-started each spring, but broad leaves are really good at photosynthesis. High energy in, high energy out: deciduous trees live in the fast lane.

As well, leaves surrendered to the breezes each fall support a rich array of recycling forms, including bacteria, molds, fungi, worms, insects, and vertebrates like salamanders and mice. Decaying and eating and recycling create a rich soil that benefits the leaf-bearing trees themselves.

Infinitely variable, the leaf is an adjective-lovers' delight. It can be compound (several leaflets on one stem) or simple; glossy, waxy, woolly or sticky; smooth-edged, wavy, saw-toothed, rolled-edged, or spiny. And on and on.

Olde Roman show-offs gave today's botany profs a special dictionary for torturing students: “For your daily quiz, draw a leaf that is compound, trilobate, obovate, lanceolate, glaucous, subdentate, and tomentose.”

Laugh at the profs but take leaf diversity seriously. Like a monkey's habit of nit picking, fine-tuned variety helps leaves survive in an unrelenting world. And their survival is absolutely essential for ours.



HISTORY

SS Archives hosts records of black settlers

Black History Month a time for remembering

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's more uniform modern demographics can make it easy to forget the rich multicultural make-up of the past, so events like Black History Month serve as necessary and welcome reminders of that heritage.

A search through the Salt Spring Archives online material provides entry into that fascinating past, in early photos and written documents.

Most islanders know that black history on Salt Spring reaches as far back as the earliest non-native settlement, with 30 pioneers from California arriving on the newly opened

territory in 1857. Another 30 black people arrived in 1858, and 80 more the following year.

By the end of the 19th century, many of those early families had left with the promise of greater freedom at the end of the American Civil War, but those remaining were respected and valued members of the community.

In a letter to an unnamed recipient written in 1947, John Caldwell responded to an inquiry about the "Negro problem" on the island by listing the achievements of his neighbours. The letter is reproduced in the 1983 book Times Past, which can be accessed on the Salt Spring Archives website.

"We have no coloured problem here because our coloured neighbours prove cooperative, willing

and congenial; they share in all local doings... and in general, with honor and integrity carry their share of local undertakings," Caldwell wrote.

He went on to describe John Harrison, who was for many years chair of the Agricultural Society, and Ernest Harrison, who taught athletics at the Y.M.C.A.

"Many of the great British Columbian Athletic Coaches learned the fundamentals of sportsmanship, truth and honor from him."

Logging contractor John Whims was noted for employing white and black islanders, Willis Stark for being a hunter who kept a "fine kennel of hounds" and rarely missed a cougar, and George Woods praised for being a dependable driver for Mouat's, the island's leading company.

Caldwell acknowledged Ernest

Harrison — the oldest living man born on the island at the time of writing — for most of his knowledge about the early settlers.

"Ernest Harrison feels that a certain amount of hard knocks strengthens a man, like tempering steel, and feels that intolerance is not shared only by White and Coloured but by all peoples. He is sorry about it but is not discouraged by it. He sees the time when all Nations and Colours will work harmoniously together.

"Speaking for ourselves, we have nothing but respect for our Coloured Brethren and in our fifty-year association with them admire them as Good Neighbours," Caldwell concluded. "It is our opinion, that given equal opportunity, as they are here, there would be no Negro problem."



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JOHANNA BOOY

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Counselling



ELSJE HANNAH

Valentine's Day

With Valentine's Day (VD) just days away I thought it might be interesting to see what it's all about. Seemed like a harmless event to me. A Wikipedia search came up with: idealistic, intense, predictable, unpredictable, consuming, out of control, material, physical, demonstrative, realistic, unrealistic, optimistic, pessimistic, abiding, non-abiding, controlling, disobedient, emotional, soulful, intimate, unconditional, and everlasting. Wow! Psychology Today states, "It sounds so innocent: but you don't have to be a trained psychiatrist to know that this makes for a whole lot of heartache for almost everyone. February 14th is an excellent example of a man-made cultural nexus of exultation and disappointment." Why? Because VD implies that romantic love is easy and it's really anything but. It's not just giving a card and chocolates once a year and calling it done. (Sorry to those who just got their bubble burst.) Being in a committed, intimate relationship requires much more daily hard work. Gottman states, "Working on emotional connection every day, not just Valentine's Day, will improve the romance of your relationship." If this is something that you would like to work on, I invite you to give me a call. Oh, and by the way... Happy Valentine's Day!

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This Week's Horoscope

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

Tip of the Week:

Questions concerning the start date of the Age of Aquarius abound where discussions about Astrology occur. There is debate as to which Age we are in. From the standpoint of synchronicity and the 'signs' of our times, the Age of Aquarius has certainly dawned. Aquarius and its ruling planet Uranus are symbolic of revolution. Well, we are experiencing revolution on every front of modern civilization. Common characteristics for Aquarius include science, technology, innovation and invention, rebellion and revolution, friends and friendliness, clubs and networks, hopes and wishes, humanitarianism and democracy, individuality and eccentricity, fame and popularity. Yes, the 'signs' of Aquarius are very evident in the world. People often look to Aquarius in a very positive light. Other signs are perceived to be darker or of lower vibration. Such attitudes are inaccurate. Every archetype just like people has its light and dark sides. As a Fixed Sign, Aquarius is linked to the other signs of Fixed Modality, which includes Leo, Taurus and Scorpio. As an Air Sign, Aquarius shares affinity with Gemini and Libra. These are the primary connections but the list goes on. So, to gain a full spectrum understanding of Aquarius, it is necessary to look to the positive and negative poles of each these signs as well. Now looking to the human condition with its numerous revolutionary challenges, dramas, crisis and horrors we can gain a whole and balanced perspective on Aquarius. Many hold great hopes for the Aquarian Age and it helps to understand it in its full light.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Quality time shared with friends verses yielding to an inward pull are the source of conflicting desires. Alternations between curiosity of and anticipation for the future are making you feel temperamental, in an emotional flux. Solutions: Take command of your emotions; let go of the illusion of control of outer situations; and ride those turbulent waves, gracefully!

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

Are you getting all the attention you want, or is it too much? The balance can be delicate, like now. We all need, want and deserve recognition and privacy, from time to time. Timing is a key factor and our desires can be out of sync with outer circumstances. The flip side is to acknowledge others and decipher if they need some time out. Exercise social grace.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Your sense of individuality has been getting a lot of stimulation. Some of this has come from philosophical reflection. Ideally some has come from travel and/or cultural activities. You still may not be sure where you belong exactly, but you could be learning and progressing all the same. Now it is time to pay more attention to your dreams, literally.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Whose genius do you require to activate your own? This question will linger a little longer. Ironically, at least half the answer is that it is your own genius that you seek; the proverbial diamonds in your own backyard. However, these are likely buried beneath habitual perceptions, attitudes and behaviour patterns. Soar with imagination to gain a fresh perspective.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)

Satisfying social exchanges continue yet will shift somewhat this week to fulfill a need for sanctuary. But do not expect to be passive. A passionate urge to dive deep may even lead you to confront some long standing fears. Sharing this time with someone you love could satisfy a festering appetite. As romantic as it sounds, you mean business!

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

Gaining awareness of what you truly need verses simply want continues. Implied is the nudge to be open to and acknowledge any blind spots. Everyone has at least some. To be open to receive and able to accept and, above all, act upon constructive criticism, is a true reflection of the wisdom of humility. You have no problem giving it, but can you take it?

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

The last licks of a playful cycle are available now. Perhaps the tone has been more dramatic than lighthearted. Either way, you will be more willing to work the angles. Desires for fun are still lingering. Direct your imagination to contribute but keep it away from the worry jar. If you go too far you may fall in. Be selective with your associations and aim for uplifting entertainments.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)

A lot has been shifting and shaking close to home and this will continue. At the most literal level, home is where your heart is, literally. Wherever you go there you... project what is within attracting people and circumstances without. Positively, you are moved to create beauty around you. Practically, you want to make improvements. Romantically, you dream on....

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)

A flood of fresh ideas are flowing in. These are producing inspirations to make changes in your space. Cleaning, decorating, renovating... they all apply. This trend will continue for the next several weeks. However, when Mercury turns retrograde on the 23rd, and even leading up to that date, your resolve could dissolve. Take initiative now to create momentum to see you through.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)

Your energy levels are beginning to rise. That you want to harness them to make a break is your business. A disruption in our regular routine is a form of brain food. Satisfying the hunger of awakened desires is the key to offset the depression of repression. How to achieve satisfaction so that the reperussion does not accrue undue debt is a worthwhile question.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)

Sometimes it is good to play it safe while at others it is better to try anything once, like now. You are in as long as it does not require a lot of input. A growing urge to plod and graze is taking the fire out of your desire. Yet, you are curious enough to engage your imagination. Avoid over committing to people and situations now. Be strategic to get the most for the least.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Many thoughts and ideas have been brewing. Now you feel a growing determination to act on them. If you are organized and have assembled the appropriate tools and resources, your confidence levels will be up. If you have not made preparations, make them now. This includes a strategic outreach to key contacts. Stimulate friendships, inside and out!

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Non-profit counselling opens

Service meant to
augment options

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A pressing need for more access to mental health services on Salt Spring Island has prompted a local counsellor and the Community Gospel Chapel to offer a new non-profit option.

Elsje Hannah, who holds a master's degree in counselling psychiatry and runs a private practice at The Healing Place, will be supervising sessions with her intern to be held at the Community Gospel Chapel on Fridays. Although Hannah is a practising Christian and is partnering with the church to provide the space, the service is aimed at anyone who needs coun-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Elsje Hannah (right) and intern Jill Hart will offer a non-profit counselling service at Community Gospel Chapel.

selling and would not otherwise be able to afford it, or those who need immediate help before free service is available.

Hannah notes the free service through Salt Spring Island Community Services is an important one, but the wait list to see a counsellor can stretch several months.

"One of the things I've been trying to do for about a year now is find a way to augment that," explained Hannah, who received permission from the Gospel Chapel's board of directors to implement the service last fall. The addition of intern Jill Hart, a master's student from Trinity Western University, has helped to ensure that counselling hours could be provided once a week, for a start.

The need for accessible mental health services on the island has been well documented. The 2010 Salt Spring Island Health Review, released by the Vancouver Island Health Authority, showed the rate of acute care psychiatry at Lady Minto Hospital almost doubled that of the rest of VIHA and B.C.

"When there is a high utilization rate for acute care psychiatry, it can mean that other resources, such as community mental health services, are limited, that the need is high, or a combination of both," the report reads.

VIHA contracts with Community Services to provide mental health and addictions services that include psychological care, urgent short-term assessment and treatment service (USAT), nursing case management for mental health clients, addictions services and after-hours emergency response for mental health.

The need far outstrips the available care, however. In terms of counselling, Community Services divides one 36-hour position funded by VIHA to serve two part-time positions (one of which is USAT).

Cheryl Bell-Gadsby at SSICS said it's even harder for low-income or marginalized people to access care because they must have a referral from a GP. Those that do have a referral may be looking at a two-month wait — while those in immediate crisis have to check into Lady Minto.

"We're not a crisis agency. That's not our mandate," she said.

"What we really need is a grass-

roots community clinic on Salt Spring."

Bell-Gadsby agreed that having a non-profit service established is a step in the right direction.

"It would be filling some of the need. We all need to collaborate together on the island, wherever we can," she said.

Salt Spring's mortality ratio for suicides has actually improved in recent years, going from 12 per cent higher than the VIHA average during 2003-2007 to 34 per cent lower in 2007-2011. (The VIHA ratio stayed more or less constant, going from 1.17 to 1.19.) But suicides continue to happen, a tragic reminder of pervasive mental health issues on Salt Spring.

"You look at that and think, 'Is there something we can try to do to intervene?' I think we have to do a better job. I really do," Hannah said. "Hopefully this will be one way we can save some of them."

Anyone can access the service at Community Gospel Chapel by calling the office and making an appointment. There is a nominal fee of \$25 per hour, but Hannah asks anyone who finds that amount challenging to please call her.

"We don't want the financial piece to be a barrier," she said.

As in regular practice, Hannah won't raise religion unless the client wants to, but being located in the church does make it easier to demonstrate her willingness to discuss spiritual matters.

"It's not 'Christian counselling' — if they want to talk about religion or God, we're 100 per cent trained to do so, but if not we're not going to force it." However, she notes the issue often comes up eventually, and that therapists look at the holistic person, of which spirituality is one component.

Patients will see either Hannah or Hart, with the benefit of getting an intern who's trained in all the new material and an experienced professional. If the Friday service gets very busy Hart could visit the island an additional day.

For more information, email info@communitygospelchapel.com, or call 250-537-2622 to make an appointment.

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Donald Ounsworth % his solicitor Lenore B. Hariton #215 Superior St. Victoria, BC V8V 1T4

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COMING EVENTS

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COMING EVENTS

Islands Trust NOTICE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee regular business meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013 is now rescheduled on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. Please also note the change of venue from the Lions Club to the Harbour House Hotel, Orchard Room, at 121 Upper Ganges Road.

There will also be a special meeting of the Local Trust Committee in the Harbour House Hotel Orchard Room on Monday, February 25, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to hold a Community Information Meeting concerning Proposed Bylaw 461 (Secondary Suites). The Community Information Meeting will be followed by a Public Hearing for the proposed bylaw beginning at 6:30 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Special Event: Meet Lana Popham

BCNDP Critic for Agriculture and Lands, Lana Popham, will be on SSI to talk about issues of food security and sustainability on Sunday, Feb. 17.

She will be speaking at the Farmers' Institute at 1:15 pm, followed by an open discussion. ALL ARE WELCOME.

COMING EVENTS

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DEADLINE FOR TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY IS 2:00PM TUESDAY

See the horoscope on page 20

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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

WHAT'S ON
page 10



In the know

- The number of absolute homeless in Salt Spring – about 50
- The number of transitionally or temporarily homeless – well over 100
- Capacity of the emergency shelter at Salt Spring Island Community Services during extreme weather – 15
- To contact the Salt Spring Island Community Services, visit online at www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca or call 250-537-9971

More services are desperately needed to serve the homeless population on Salt Spring.

Serving the homeless on Salt Spring

Jennifer Blyth
Black Press

For those with a roof over their heads and a bed to sleep in, imagining life without those necessities is near impossible.

Yet for the many men and women who are homeless on Salt Spring – exact numbers are unknown – that’s the reality each and every night.

What is known is that despite the significant efforts of local social service organizations, what’s currently available simply isn’t enough.

“One of the biggest challenges is the impression of people in Victoria that there is no problem here,” says Rob Grant, executive director of Salt Spring Island Community Services. “We probably have as great a housing challenge, if not a greater problem, than most areas.

“We’ve got a huge ratio of homeless to the general population. We have some wealth on the Island and some poverty (and) I think we’re up against it because of these pre-conceived ideas.”

Where a wider range of housing, including

more affordable apartments and short-term options like hotels, are available in other communities, that simply doesn’t exist on Salt Spring. Housing prices are high, there’s very little in the entry-level market and there’s no year-round emergency shelter.

While the face of homelessness on Salt Spring is as diverse as in any other community, Grant says the people he sees typically fall into one of two groups: those who are the absolute homeless – probably about 50 people – and those who are temporarily homeless or in extremely sub-standard housing, and that numbers in the hundreds, Grant says.

Among the Island’s homeless are those individuals who in their younger years could handle sleeping in a car, boat or bush camp on Salt Spring, but as they get older, their bodies simply find it harder to accept and adapt.

In addition to the lack of affordable housing, Salt Spring also doesn’t have a permanent shelter.

In the case of cold weather, Community Services does operate an emergency shelter from its own offices – not an ideal situation, Grant notes. When the cold weather protocol is in place, due to cold temperatures, harsh winds or snow, this emergency shelter generally operates at its capacity of 15. On its busiest night so far this winter it provided shelter and a hot meal for 25 individuals.

While the focus in Greater Victoria has largely turned to developing more transitional housing, before that can happen on Salt Spring, “we need some basic shelter,” Grant says.

“Community Services provides affordable housing and is in the process of developing more, but we need to develop the same continuum of services that exist in other communities with a large homeless population.

“We are so dependent on the health authority and BC Housing and so far the response is that we’re not even on their radar.”

“One of the biggest challenges is the impression of people in Victoria that there is no problem here,”

–Rob Grant

Further, as a small community, it can also be difficult to find the appropriate care or services for those who are dealing with complex mental health issues, which can include a large number of the homeless population.

Looking to the future, Grant and the Salt Spring Island Community Services are developing the concept for a homeless resource place, which might have some capacity as a shelter, but will really focus on providing resources for the homeless, such as a housing registry, supports for tenants and landlords, a housing support worker and similar complementary resources.

Grant would also encourage the decision-makers in Victoria to come learn about the situation first-hand on the Island. “We would love to have (them)...come over and help with the planning.”

He’d also encourage the local community get involved in the call for more services, to push government to provide the appropriate funding for the basics that are desperately needed.

“Let’s rally behind that and get something happening.”

Unacceptable.

How did *you* sleep last night?

If you agree that homelessness is unacceptable, tweet #unacceptablyyj to @homeforhope and go to our Facebook page to spread the word and end homelessness in our community.

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sports&recreation

MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys stymied 1-0

Heartbreaking loss to Juan de Fuca

Salt Spring's Old Boys couldn't unlock their opponent's defensive strategy at a home soccer game on Sunday, despite a valiant effort.

According to team spokesman Richard Steel, the players went into the game full of determination and ready for action after a new pre-game warm-up routine. After a Juan de Fuca goal scored 10 minutes into the game, the Old Boys went on the offensive, playing the game in the visitors' half, but unable to capitalize despite the pressure.

"Doug Fraser took over in goal

for the second half and made two or three outstanding saves to keep the Old Boys in contention as they pushed forward looking for an equalizing goal," said Steel. "It wasn't to be, however, and the score remained 1-0 for Juan De Fuca at the final whistle."

Next Sunday the team travels to Sooke, hoping to get back to its winning ways.

In other men's soccer action, Salt Spring FC was trounced 11-0 by the visiting Bays United Liquor Plus 1 team in Div. 1 action at Portlock Park on Saturday.

Also on Saturday, Salt Spring's Masters-B reps, Alumni, fell 3-0 to Westcastle United.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Old Boys player John Macdonald takes the ball, as Charley Mayer, left, moves up the field with him during a game against Juan de Fuca at the GISS field on Sunday.

RUNNING

Runners hit stride

Medals and top-10s

The Cedar 12-K race proved fruitful for six Salt Spring Sneakers who brought home three medals and top-10 finishes in their categories.

With 101 club points, the Sneakers are now in 10th place among a field of 78 teams, and just one point out of ninth place in the Vancouver Island Race Series.

Results were: Andrew Haigh, 47:42 (fourth in the M55-59 category); Susan Gordon, 53:04 (first in F50-54); Lise Fraser, 58:46 (second in F55-59); Marcia Jansen, 58:48 (fifth in F40-44); Marion Young, 1:06:11 (10th in F55-59); Catherine Bennett, 1:06:14 (third in F60-64).

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We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

FUNDRAISER

Rainbow Road swimmers take annual H&S challenge

Public welcome to watch or participate on Feb. 17

Rainbow Road Pool is getting prepped for its annual Heart & Stroke fundraiser Swim for Heart on Sunday, Feb. 17, with a number in goals in place to inspire participants.

The day starts at 10 a.m. with a drop-in water fitness class by donation, with a target of getting 100 people into the pool for the action.

The swim challenge follows at 11 a.m. Teams of no more than six will be given a lane each to complete as many

lengths as they can in a half-hour.

"The goal for that is to get 100 lengths done in 30 minutes. The overall financial goal is \$3,000," said pool manager Jim Raddysh, who hopes to top last year's total of \$2,700.

Funds are raised through donations to the individual swimmers. Participants can team up in advance or they can join a team on the day. There will be prizes and a complimentary lunch for all challengers.

Raddysh said the Heart & Stroke Foundation is a worthy recipient of fundraising activities, because "just about everybody" will know some-

one affected by the related conditions.

"On a more personal note, the owner of the company we work for suffered a stroke around five years ago, so it's pretty near to us."

Pledge forms for the swim challenge can be picked up in advance at the pool. Raddysh said the organization will run as many teams as show up, with two half-hour heats if necessary. Non participants are also welcome to come join the fun.

"It's pretty neat to watch," Raddysh said.

"When everybody's churning through the pool, it's pretty fun to see."

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