



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

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B.C. POLITICS

Liberal candidates emerge

Tentative nomination meeting set for mid-March

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Liberal supporters will most likely have someone named Stephen to vote for in the upcoming provincial election, with two party members sharing that first name stepping forward as potential candidates for Saanich North and the Islands this week.

Stephen Chang, age 37, is a lifelong resident of the Saanich area. He attended Camosun College and the University of Victoria and is the owner of Steve Chang Construction. He has been involved in politics since he was 14 and spent three years in Ottawa as an assistant to federal environment minister David Anderson.

LIBERALS continued on 2

AWARDS

Salt Spring's Erickson wins Oscar

Set decorator satisfied to hang up cap after Lincoln project

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Oscar went to a Salt Spring Islander when Lincoln received the Academy Award for Best Production Design Sunday night, but winning set designer Jim Erickson was content to watch his colleague Rick Carter accept the golden



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

TANGLED: Salt Spring FC player Gord Akerman stays upright against the Lakehill keeper in the Div. 1 squad's 4-1 victory on Saturday. It was the team's second straight Jackson Cup win.

statue via the small screen.

"I really wasn't expecting it. It was a big surprise," said Erickson, who decided to retire from his 30-year career in film while on the Lincoln set.

"It's a great way to cap everything off." Erickson had cancelled his plans to attend the event in person after a bout with the flu sent him to hospital last week. He watched the television broadcast along with millions of regular viewers, although he was wearing a new tuxedo and had

his brother and sister-in-law fly in from Minnesota as special guests.

Despite being unable to celebrate with the cast and crew in Hollywood, Erickson didn't feel neglected. He had received around 120 emails of congratulations from his Lincoln colleagues by Monday morning, and said he didn't regret having to miss the ceremony, having "done it all before" with *There Will Be Blood* in 2008.

ERICKSON continued on 7

ISLANDS TRUST

Definitions delay suites decision

LTC public input period now complete

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will look at a decision to legalize secondary suites in late March, citing a need to obtain further clarity about proposed Bylaw 461.

"I don't want to rush this," said trustee Peter Grove, during Tuesday morning's regular LTC meeting. "I don't see any need to draft this on the run and I think we should take our time."

LTC members want more information about how property owners could rent suites without having to live on the property.

"I don't want to preclude somebody who lives nearby from renting out their suite," Grove said.

The owner-occupancy debate is the final wrinkle in the last push to legalize the rental of secondary suites on a pilot-project basis.

An update and proposed bylaw language with respect to provisions for a full-time caretaker who lives in a suite or primary dwelling unit is expected in time for the LTC's March 21 meeting.

The decision to seek more information arose following concerns that the draft bylaw's current version requires the property owner to live on site.

SUITES continued on 2

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Two Stephens step up for Liberals

LIBERALS

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Chang said he decided to seek the nomination because he's in a position to give something back to the community and he feels the BC Liberals represent the values that are important to him, such as fiscal restraint and having a balanced budget to support a strong economy in order to make services possible.

"I know how hard it is to make ends meet in this economy," said Chang, who hopes that Liberal leadership will allow others to enjoy the same success he has.

Chang recognizes the May 14 election is going to be a tight race, with strong candidates in Saanich North and the Islands coming from the NDP and the Green party. He feels it will be important to reconnect with and re-engage the Liberal party's traditional supporters both in the riding and across the province.

"I'm going to try to stay away from the rhetoric, and sticking to the issues that are key in the area will be my focus," Chang said.

With the riding's aging population, health care and other services such as ferries will likely be high on that list.

As an avid outdoorsman who has spent a lot of time on Salt Spring and Pender Islands, and served on the board for the Peninsula Stream Society, Chang named the environment, fisheries and salmon protection among his personal concerns. Affordable housing is another, while Premier Christy Clark's focus on developing the liquid natural gas industry has his strong support.

Salt Spring resident Stephen P. Roberts was born in Sidney and spent his childhood on the island where he now lives. After high school in Kamloops and work in international banking that took him around the world, he retired from a career with Merrill Lynch, ING and Citibank, and returned to Salt Spring.

"Having worked in finance in Asia, New York, Toronto and London, and with an honours degree in economics and political science, Stephen hopes to bring his international business acumen and experience to the political arena in British Columbia," his website states.

Roberts is a newcomer to politics but brings considerable economic and volunteer experience to the table. He said he also has the time to put into representing the island communities, which he hopes to do partly through economic development initiatives while respecting the local ridings

known environmental concerns.

"I didn't come home to live in a place that wasn't safe and healthy for everyone, but I did come home to a place that could be prosperous," Roberts said. The financial expert added the Liberal party and the province of B.C. are in better shape than people may realize.

"We're doing pretty well on the national scale — here in B.C. we're pretty fortunate to have escaped most of the maelstrom that hit the rest of the world."

The biggest challenge going into an election, he said, will be reminding people that the Liberal party has renewed itself.

"A lot of the old guard has retired and there's fresh blood and fresh energy. It will be a fresh start as well."

Proof of positive change, Roberts said, is the party's decision to hold a two-part candidate selection meeting for the riding, with Salt Spring part of the picture for the first time. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 16, with a Salt Spring session in the morning and a second session on the Saanich Peninsula in the afternoon.

Any resident of the riding can participate in the nomination process by signing up with the BC Liberal Party by Friday, March 1 at 5 p.m.

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.....

Thirty people attend suites public hearing

SUITES

continued from 1

In its current form, proposed Bylaw 461 would legalize rental of suites in proximity to public transportation routes, with the exception of sensitive water catchment areas. Proposed Bylaw 461 permits one suite per lot. Suites must be contained within the walls of the principal dwelling unit, have a separate entrance and a floor area of no more than 90 square metres (968 square feet).

Grove said a decision to legalize secondary suites is a way to offer peace of mind to renters who seek secure housing and to owners who want a legal and reliable revenue.

"There are a lot of tenants that worry every day that the CRD is going to come knocking and turf them out any day," he said. "It will take time, but I think it's worthwhile and I don't see a down side."

Tuesday morning's

decision followed a Monday night public hearing attended by approximately 30 people at the Harbour House Hotel.

"We heard a lot and we learned a lot. Both of us campaigned on legalizing suites and cottages and this is a small step in that direction," Grove said.

Many speakers expressed concerns about the proposed bylaw's possible effects on drinking water supplies and ramifications for water district ratepayers, especially within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

Speaker Eric Booth said the low number of complaints about the many illegal secondary suites already on the island justifies a move to legalize suites on an island-wide basis.

"There is no neighbourhood problem," he said.

But Booth called proposed Bylaw 461 an "ill-conceived" approach that will require a costly bylaw enforcement program to succeed.

Speaking on behalf of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society, Rodney Polden suggested LTC members not permit secondary suites within areas served by the NSSWD.

Such a move, he said, threatens to affect water quality, water quantity, the environment, property values and the economy.

"Both of us campaigned on legalizing suites and cottages and this is a small step in that direction."

PETER GROVE
Salt Spring LTC member

Elizabeth White characterized the pilot-project approach as a worthwhile method to assess the merits of legalized secondary suites.

"This is an excellent

opportunity to get on with it and test it out," White told LTC members.

Trustee George Grams expressed confidence with the pilot-project area's respect for sensitive watershed areas. Although he said he was not concerned about the island's water supplies, Grams suggested using a pilot project is beneficial to protect infrastructure and respect areas with well-documented water quality issues.

"I don't accept that there is a water supply problem on the island," he said. "There is no shortage of water on Salt Spring, there is an inadequacy in how we harvest that resource."

Grams called the pilot-project approach a "a cautionary approach designed to expand the housing stock on the island."

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	18:05	2.9	9.5		15:15	0.9	3.0
	23:53	1.5	4.9		23:07	2.9	9.5
28	06:29	3.2	10.5	04	03:02	2.6	8.5
TH	12:46	1.4	4.6	MO	08:27	3.2	10.5
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MAR							
01	00:30	1.7	5.6	05	00:37	3.0	9.8
FR	06:53	3.3	10.8	TU	04:27	2.7	8.9
	13:31	1.2	3.9		09:14	3.1	10.2
	20:16	2.8	9.2		17:19	0.8	2.6
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MEAT PRODUCTION

SS Abattoir operators pioneer all-inclusive facility

Milestones continue as first year rolls out

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring is poised to be crowned as the epicentre of island-raised lamb once again with the successful launch of B.C.'s first multipurpose abattoir.

Arising from one of the key recommendations in the island's Area Farm Plan completed in 2008, the mobile facility's opening last fall represents a sweet victory in the fight to keep local agriculture functioning and sustainable.

"This is a huge thing the abattoir's doing, allowing local food production," said Jean Brouard, a poultry farmer who chairs the Salt Spring Abattoir Society.

"That's what we were hoping for — is people going back into production again."

The ability to have livestock slaughtered on Salt Spring is already reversing a troubling trend that saw local meat production drop as much as 50 per cent after provincial meat regulations changed in 2007.

The Salt Spring Island Livestock Production Study, released by Patricia Reichert and Margaret Thomson in 2010, showed Salt Spring farmers were raising 1,040 fewer sheep and almost 2,200 fewer chickens than they had been four years previously.

The expense and difficulty of bringing animals off-island to slaughter will in many cases be relieved by the local facility, which opened its doors for poultry in September 2012 and received its licence for lamb last month. The purchase of additional equipment will hopefully allow hog and cattle slaughter later this year.

Brouard notes the new facility is providing employment for seven people, reducing island farmers' carbon footprint, and helping chefs build on local food cachet.

Having an abattoir that can process poultry and red meat is not the regular procedure, however, and society members have had to work closely with government inspectors in order to be useful to all types of meat producers on Salt Spring.

"What makes the Salt Spring Abattoir unique in B.C., and perhaps in the world, is it does everything," Brouard observed.

Having precisely the right equipment and procedures in place has been challenging since the government regulations can be interpreted differently by different inspectors — similar to having a house built. Three regulatory bodies (the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and the Capital Regional District)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring's new abattoir processed 266 turkeys and 1,240 chickens during its first three months in operation.

were involved with having the semi-mobile facility certified.

Since gaining its licence for poultry slaughter the abattoir has already exceeded its output predictions. The society projected 150 turkeys during its first year in operation but processed 266 from September to December. It also processed 1,240 chickens in that period, nearly half of its projected 3,000 for the entire year.

Slaughter days are on Wednesdays and Fridays. Each and every slaughter must be witnessed by a government inspector, who travels to the island for the day. As Brouard points out, the quality control at a small

facility is much higher than what can be achieved at a major processor like XL Foods, which sees 8,000 head of cattle go through each day. Salt Spring's test day for lamb started with a group of six animals, and it hopes to max out at 20 per day.

For poultry, the process involves killing by rapid decapitation, scalding, plucking and evisceration. The inspector is there to see all the steps are done correctly. He or she also checks the slaughtered bird's hearts and livers for signs of disease, sniffs the carcass and checks the blood vessels at the top of the heart. If there is anything questionable a veterinarian will be called.

Inspectors and abattoir staff also check on animal welfare prior to slaughter. Federal regulations dictate that animals must be treated well during transport; Brouard said the abattoir itself fulfills an advocacy role and staff may advise farmers on how to crate more effectively or humanely, if need be.

In its initial stages the abattoir team has overcome challenges such as waiting for a phone line to be installed — calls to the veterinarian were done by personal cell phone, with staff standing on the side of the road trying to get reception — and a power outage that occurred mid-poultry slaughter.

"You can't interrupt the process. Once you cut their heads off you have to complete processing," Thomson explained. Fortunately the group's landlord had a generator to lend that provided enough power for a light and to keep the scalding machine hot.

With their knowledge of operations improving all the time, staff hope to get the poultry process sped up to allow a same day pick-up. (Because they need to be chilled, currently carcasses must be picked up the next morning.) But small-scale farmers are already enjoying the advantage of having the local facility. Not having to go off-island means it's economically feasible to slaughter just a

few birds at a time, whenever it seems like a good idea.

The abattoir society has projected processing 750 lambs in its first year, and has seen the first animals it slaughtered become available for purchase at Country Grocer. The opportunity has encouraged local suppliers to get back in the game: the Harbour House Hotel and Restaurant is raising lambs destined for its own kitchen this spring.

Brouard and Thomson recognize the generous volunteer efforts and community fundraising that have gone into the project, although some \$50,000 is still required to build a larger pen for cattle and purchase a pig scalding machine, among other needs.

Once all operations are up and running, the society hopes to pay back local lenders, pay off some bills and eventually be self-sustaining.

"We think it's possible, but we want to get up to full speed and full efficiency," Thomson said.

Donations can be made by cheque, made out to the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance with Save Salt Spring Lamb Fund on the memo line, and sent to the alliance c/o Anne Macey, 106 Old Scott Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2L6.

More information and an online booking form for slaughter dates can be found at www.saltspringabattoir.ca.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hummers return

Early spring weather may be welcoming Rufous hummingbirds a little earlier than usual.

Richard Bennett, who lives on the lower half of Charlesworth Road, said he saw three male Rufous

hummingbirds at his feeder on Friday, Feb. 22.

Bennett says he leaves the feeder out all winter for resident Anna's hummingbirds.

"This is my first February sighting ever," he said.

Jean Brouard, a local hummingbird expert, was skeptical about the possibility of three birds show-

ing up at once, but did note the weather had been "exceedingly mild."

GSAR aids in Sooke search

A team of nine Salt Spring Island Ground Search and Rescue volunteers travelled to Vancouver Island last Wednes-

day to help locate a man reported missing near the Sooke potholes.

"Our tasks were to search various areas near the point last seen, mainly on trails but in some cases along elevated water lines and in campgrounds," said Salt Spring search manager Zeke Blazecka.

The contingent was among a group of approximately 35 GSAR members who participated in the search. The team returned to the island on Wednesday evening without uncovering any sign of the individual.

Two people eventually found the body of the missing 74-year-old man

on Saturday in a shed near the Sooke River. The man has been identified as Bob Deryk. Deryk, known to many in the area as Bonsai Bob because of his extensive collection of miniature trees, faced two counts of sexual assault involving minors.

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PHOTO BY TAMAR GRIGGS

DOUBLE THE GOLD: Tamar Griggs captured this double rainbow over the Ganges Coast Guard station and harbour Friday afternoon. Rainbow-inducing sunny-rainy weather is among several recent signs of spring.

MEDIA

Driftwood on B.C. awards list

Best all-round and five other categories

The Driftwood newspaper has continued its tradition of garnering several award nominations in the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspaper Association's annual competition.

When the BCYCNA

meets for the Ma Murray Awards in Richmond on April 20, the paper will win a top-three award for being the best all-round paper in its circulation category, as well as for best sports photo (a John Cameron soccer photo), best cartoon (Dennis Parker's image of local bears and cougars), environmental

writing (Sean McIntyre's St. Mary Lake series), special publication (Summer 2012 issue of Aqua) and collaborative advertising campaign (Richard Hayden's Island Dental Centre).

Competition finalists were announced Friday. National award decisions are released later in the spring.

TRAIL NETWORK

Trans Canada Trail hits SSI

Local part of pathway to officially open in 2017

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Whether it be travelled by bike, foot, horseback, ski or snowmobile, there's no denying the grandeur of the soon-to-be completed Trans Canada Trail.

Thanks to efforts by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission, a portion of the 23,000-kilometre trail network will cross Salt Spring Island.

The island's portion of the TCT will stretch approximately 27 kilometres between Fulford to Vesuvius once necessary permits and permissions are granted from each of the public land owners who own property along the proposed route.

"People are very keen about it," said Charles Kahn, a member of PARC's Trails Advisory Committee. "It's sort of a way of highlighting our trails."

Trail maintenance will be handled by existing property owners and all signage will be supplied by the Trans Canada Trail organization.

Whereas most of the proposed trail will travel along existing roadways, nearly 11 kilometres will take advantage of off-road trail networks on land owned by BC Parks, PARC or the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

Included along the path are island highlights such as Burgoyne Bay, Mount Maxwell, Mount Erskine and Booth Bay.

"The big thing is that it's not going to

cost anything," he said.

Completion of the Trans Canada Trail is planned to coincide with Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017. Kahn said efforts are underway to secure additional off-road sections of the trail before the official opening.

"Portions of this marvellous venture are open already," PARC member Jane Horsburgh noted in a press release. "You can travel a good stretch in the Okanagan region, as well as along the Kinsol Trestle at Koksilah River on Vancouver Island. You can hike across the salt marsh near Cole Harbour in Nova Scotia, ride from Tuktoyaktuk at the mouth of the Mackenzie River by snowmobile.

"Every province and territory has completed parts or all of its share of the TCT." Salt Spring's stretch is among a network of more than 400 community trails across the country developed, owned and managed locally.

"Salt Spring Island's Parks and Recreation Commission is one of the groups whose land the TCT will traverse and PARC is proud to be a part of this trek across our great country," Horsburgh added.

"Who knows? Maybe a Salt Springer now in school will travel the trail end to end and, in so doing, learn more about Canada and bring some knowledge of Salt Spring Island to its far reaches."

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Dear Ganges Residents,

Re: Environmental testing continues near the former Shell gas station in Ganges



As you may be aware, Shell resumed environmental testing in the vicinity of the former gas station located on McPhillips Avenue in downtown Ganges.

A Shell gas station operated on the leased property for more than 60 years until it was decommissioned in March 2011. We have since removed the fuel tanks and conducted routine preliminary soil, groundwater and vapour testing to understand the environmental condition of the property and surrounding area. We have engaged the local government representatives from the Capital Regional District and Islands Trust, as well as the provincial Ministry of Environment.

At Shell, we take our environmental responsibilities seriously. We will manage any contamination associated with our operations, in accordance with provincial regulatory requirements.

In consultation with the local community, we limited technical work during the summer to minimize impacts on seasonal activities. Our current work includes drilling and other investigations to help determine the most appropriate management plan. Environmental consultants will continue more drilling on- and off-site over the next few months. Further notifications will be provided in advance of those drilling programs to minimize any inconvenience to residents.

We regret any inconvenience you may experience during this process and thank you for your patience as we remediate the property to allow for revitalization and future uses.

Please contact Verity Conrad at Verity.Conrad@shell.com or (403) 691-4097 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sydney Kimball
General Manager, Retail

ISLANDS TRUST

Rainbow residents look for closure

Metal recycling application riles neighbours

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Opposition to a contentious metal recycling business on Rainbow Road dominated the town hall portion of Tuesday's regular business meeting of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

"If you think it's bad now, it's only going to get worse," Heather Howard told LTC members. "By your own lack of action, you have supported this illegal business."

Howard suggested the

Salt Spring LTC's handling of John Quesnel's six years worth of attempts to rezone a property at 440 Rainbow Rd. would be worthy of a full-scale investigation into "backroom dealings and kickbacks" in many other jurisdictions.

Quesnel's rezoning application seeks to permit industrial uses on his split-zoned rural residential property that would permit continued operation of his metal recycling operation.

LTC members voted in a January meeting to have staff examine possible noise remediation efforts that could be implemented as a possible solution to neighbours' complaints. LTC members had also

requested assistance from the island's chamber of commerce to help identify suitable areas for Quesnel's business.

The Islands Trust has supported efforts to assist Quesnel during the application process based on information from people who say the company provides an invaluable community service. The debate has fuelled a discussion about the need to offer more industrial land on the island and foster local business.

Other speakers at Tuesday's town hall said the operation threatens the neighbourhood's "pastoral" nature and the safety of pedestrians along Rainbow

Road. One person called approval of the application a "recipe for tragedy."

LTC members anticipate a new staff report in time for the Trust's next public business meeting.

"We're not that far behind the eight ball," said Peter Grove, one of Salt Spring's three LTC members. "March 21 is only a few weeks away and we will be making a decision of some kind or another at that time."

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LIQUID WASTE

Reed beds option for water treatment

Report from chair of island's liquid waste commission

BY PETER LAKE

Previous articles from the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission (April 4 and Sept. 12, 2012 issues of the Driftwood) have explained the history of the Burgoyne septage treatment facility and the reasons for shipping off island at the present time. The facility has to be replaced and this article examines one of four technical options for treating waste water, which the commission can consider.

1. Continue shipping off island.

2. Pursue the partially completed design by consultants Opus Dayton Knight.

3. Use anaerobic digestion technology.

4. Employ constructed wetlands biotechnology including reed beds.

Later articles will examine the possible capital and operating costs of each and the probable tax implications. This article will examine reed beds and constructed wetlands first.

Constructed wetlands including reed beds use natural processes. Septage has first to be treated either aerobically or anaerobically to reduce volatile organic compounds like ammonia to control odour and reduce attractiveness to flies and rodents. The partially stabilized septage is then pumped to a series of reed beds. These consist of sealed excavations with drainage lines at the bottom having a graduated gravel and sand bed above.

Particular types of non-invasive reeds are planted that use the septage as nutrients for growth. They also transport oxygen to the root systems allowing

the colonization of organisms that break down the components of the septage to water, minerals and carbon dioxide.

Metals are transformed into their insoluble sulphides. Other harmful materials like hormones, personal care products and other chemicals are metabolized by microbes in the area next to plant roots. Reeds are harvested annually and taken off the bed. Solids accumulate and decompose. This reduces solids over a number of years, usually eight to 12. Long-term holding of the solids eliminates pathogens.

The advantages of a passive natural system would be that the capital cost could well be significantly lower.

The composted solids would be excavated and removed, then the process would begin again as the root systems regenerate. The annual crop of reeds might provide some raw material for crafts, but most might be spread onto an area growing trees to compost naturally and provide nutrient for the trees.

The drainage from the reed beds is fed to a series of sealed, shallow, open-water ponds with aquatic plants that further absorb remaining nutrients and break down remaining contaminants. The last pond releases water biochemically indistinguishable from that of natural wetlands to the ground. That area of moist ground might also be suitable for willows.

The advantages of a passive natural system would be that the capital cost could well be significantly lower. The receiving-station air blowers and gravity-assisted pumps are the only mechanical parts required. Thus power use would be low.

No polymer additions, no membrane filter maintenance and low mechanical maintenance would result in lower operating costs. Holding solids on site would allow comprehensive analysis of what is in it before having to decide the final disposition of the compost. Meanwhile, not shipping sludge off island would save islanders almost \$100,000 per year.

The disadvantage is that we would be pioneering a system locally which could be a risk, even though there are many instances of successful reed-bed operations in similar and more severe climates such as Ontario and northern Europe. It is a natural process that while requiring minimal attention does proceed slowly.

Initially, care has to be taken not to overload the beds. Thus it might be necessary to continue shipping part of the septage off island for a year or more. The management skills are different from those for a mechanical/chemical system but nevertheless care and attention is essential to maintain a properly functioning facility.

The aim of the commission is to keep capital, operating, and overhead costs to a minimum while protecting the environment. Informed comment is welcome, as we continue examining the options. Questions? Email them to Ralf Waters, manager of engineering for Salt Spring Island (rwaters@crd.bc.ca) with your telephone number.

The writer chairs the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission.

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

Tax time.

We are all looking for a bit of relief.

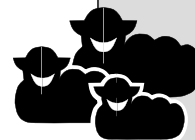
Many people lament that they don't have any dental benefits and only a small portion of their dental care is tax deductible. There may be a CRA approved plan that can help you get relief from dental issues as well as the tax man.

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.

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ORGAN FAILURE

Transplant hope for James Reimer

Extracorporeal lung
system brings relief

Salt Spring's Kathy Reimer helped her son James celebrate his 29th birthday from his Toronto hospital bed on Saturday, representing another small victory on the daunting road to a second double

lung transplant.

As James' wife Adena wrote in her blog that day, along with many cards and gifts from well-wishers, the young man received surgery to enable an extracorporeal artificial lung system. Doctors made the decision after noting dangerous carbon dioxide levels in his system and mucous in his

lungs that a bronchoscopy was unable to clear out.

The family received further positive news that James is back on the transplant list after being on hold due to infection. Doctors will review the situation on a day-to-day basis.

"Our positive news does come with a precaution. There

are high risks associated with re-transplant, and it is essential to maintain that precious risks versus benefits balance," Adena wrote.

Note: Last week's story on James Reimer incorrectly stated he was being considered for an implanted artificial lung rather than an extracorporeal one.

TRANSPLANT

Kaiya recovering with new liver

Toddler continues
to improve at
homeBY DANETTE STRANAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

I have had many people ask me how my little granddaughter, Kaiya Westlind McEwen, is faring.

Kaiya was diagnosed with a liver disease at about 10 weeks of age and by the time she was 14 months old the disease had become "end stage" and she was slated for a liver transplant. Her transplant took place in September of last year, in Edmonton, at the Stollery Children's Hospital and her great aunt (and I mean biologically, although there is no argument that she is a great aunt!) Jane Harrison, was her live liver donor. During the almost 10-hour operation the surgeons removed a piece of Jane's liver and implanted it into Kaiya. Her own liver was very badly damaged and it is a miracle that she lived as long as she did with her diseased organ. The operation was a complete success and Kaiya improved dramatically from the first hour after transplant!

She continued to do so well that she was released from hospital by the middle of October and spent the next two months living in the Ronald McDonald house in Edmonton visiting the hospital as an outpatient for that time.

In early December she was given the "all clear" to return to B.C. and it was a very special homecoming indeed. Kaiya and her mom, Rita May McEwen, and dad, Josh Westlind, along with big brother Evan spent a couple of weeks here on Pender before moving to Campbell River, B.C. I must admit that I spent some very emotional

moments relishing my happiness at having her toddle around my home, happy, healthy and full of energy!

To put this in perspective, this all happened about three months ahead of schedule, as Kaiya has taken her new liver and literally run with it! My sister, Jane, has also recovered well and has recently returned to work where you will see her at the Pender Island Medical Clinic and at Pender Island Recycling.

Kaiya's family has settled nicely in Campbell River. Although they miss the island, there will be dips and valleys in Kaiya's journey and having access to a nearby hospital means that the family can remain together during those periods. They have family support there and we visit often. Josh has found full-time employment, which is easing the financial burden that this health care crisis has caused and Evan is settling nicely into his new school. Rita has her dad living nearby as well as a sister and extended family and she is relishing having a home again and not living out of suitcases!

We all know that in a large part the success of our story has rested on the shoulders of the amazing community that we live in. There were many groups and individuals that helped financially during the family's crisis and your thoughts, positive energy and prayers were with us throughout this process and continue to ease the burden. I truly believe that your support is a big part of the success of this story, and one of the very important things I have learned during this whole ordeal is the necessity of a support network. My heart goes out to each and every individual who is facing



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kaiya Westlind McEwen, formerly of Pender Island, is recovering well at home after receiving a life-saving liver transplant in Edmonton last September.

a health crisis and hope that they can have the support that we have been so very blessed with.

At this date Kaiya continues to do well. She recently caught the dreaded flu bug, which was a dangerous condition for her. The anti-rejection medications are extremely toxic so any virus that causes her to stop eating and drinking, flushing her system of the toxicity, can be very harmful to her. Because of this she had to spend her second birthday in hospital receiving fluids to keep her hydrated and her blood levels stable.

Although she is doing extremely well generally, she is still weighing less than 25 pounds and doesn't have the "baby"

fat that most two-year-olds carry. So any weight lost is a dangerous condition for her. She is recovering, but it is slow, and her parents are learning that it is a delicate balance between "living in a bubble" and protecting her from the viruses that could be extremely harmful.

Despite her recent setback she is an active two-year-old now, learning to talk and climbing everything in sight. She has a lot of energy, attitude and spunk — a big change from the sickly little girl she became before transplant and one that we all delight in immensely!

We thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for your continuous support and prayers for Kaiya.

ORGAN DONATION

According to BC Transplant, there are more than 300 British Columbians currently waiting for organ transplants. Many people die while waiting for a suitable transplant.

Visit www.transplant.bc.ca to register as an organ donor online.



Islands Trust

ISLANDS TRUST
GALIANO ISLAND
LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee will hold a community information meeting and a public hearing within a Local Trust Committee Business Meeting on the proposed Bylaw No. 239 cited as "Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999, Amendment No. 4, 2012"

for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw at 1:00 p.m. Monday, March 11, 2013 at the South Community Hall, 141 Sturdies Bay Road, Galiano Island.

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. 239 — cited as "Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999, Amendment No. 4, 2012"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 239 is to amend the Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999. The proposed amendments make the Land Use Bylaw consistent with the adopted changes to the Official Community Plan and provide improved clarity and/or correct minor errors that may have made it confusing to those using the bylaw. The substantive amendments address potential density in split zoned lots, permitting stairs within setbacks from the sea for public bodies, building floor area calculation for environmentally friendly buildings, small lot sawmilling for lot owners, accessory building allowances based on lot coverage rather than floor area and accommodating the Lions Hall property within the Public Recreation (PR) zone.

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 25, 2013 and up to and including March 8, 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 bylaws may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Galiano Island, B.C., commencing February 27, 2013 and can also be viewed on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca> and selecting www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gl/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: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/ltc/gl/meetings.cfm and completing the "Public Hearing, March 11, 2013, Submission Form", prior to 4:30 p.m., March 8, 2013;
2. After 4:30 p.m., March 8, 2013 to the Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m., March 11, 2013.

The public is encouraged 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 Galiano Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email submissions, if they are opened and received, to the Galiano 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 bylaws may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Kris Nichols, Planner, at (250) 405-5170 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 GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Kathy Jones, Deputy Secretary

WORKSHOPS

Free course offers disaster safety tips

First aid, procedures at March 9 event

A free course being given on March 9 as part of the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program will provide the basic tools to cope with the after-effects of a natural disaster.

"In recent months, we've seen two 7-plus scale earthquakes on the West Coast, and two local storms with gusts over 120km/h," said the CRD's emergency coordinator for Salt Spring, Elizabeth Zook. "Such events can easily result in downed power lines, broken windows, ruptured gas lines and falls, translating into

typical injuries such as burns, lacerations, sprains, breaks and concussion." The three-hour, non-certificate course taught by Jordan Stratford will outline how to respond safely in the face of such events. The course covers: Experiencing an earthquake or storm; situation evaluation; dressing simple

wounds; debris and cleaning; treating superficial burns; basic splinting and immobilization; improvising using common household items; light urban rescue techniques; and expanding your individual first-aid kit. No previous first-aid training is required, and refreshments are provided. Participants will

also receive a free individual first-aid kit. The course takes place from 9 a.m. to noon at Community Gospel Chapel's upstairs classroom. Registration is limited, so participants are advised to register early, by providing their name, telephone number and address to sseipc@crd.bc.ca.

POLARIS PLUMBING

We would like to notify all our valued customers that we are not closing. I have finally decided to retire, but Dave and Gary will continue to operate the business. Dave and Gary have been the backbone of the business ever since my illness and subsequent problems with my back. I would like to thank them for all their efforts and hard work, along with Rey, and to wish them all the best in the future. For the next few months I will still be around assisting with the office management and general help and guidance.

Our phone number and mailing address will remain the same so for any work required please continue to call Gary or Dave at 250 537-4997. Lynda and I would like to thank all our customers whom we have had the privilege of serving for our many years on Salt Spring.

Sincerely **Lynda and Rick Traer**

Garden Erickson's next creative focus

ERICKSON
continued from 1

Erickson has been deluged by media calls ever since the awards season started. His second Academy Award nomination was accompanied by similar nods by the Screen Writers Guild and the British Academy of Film and

Television Arts. Lincoln led the Oscar race with nominations in 12 categories, but in the end only the production design team and actor Daniel Day Lewis came out on top. "I was hoping maybe there would be another couple of awards, like for Tony Kushner — his adapted screenplay was brilliant — or Janusz Kaminski for his lighting,

and maybe Steven Spielberg for directing or best picture," Erickson said. Erickson, age 63, will receive the Earl Cooperman Lifetime Achievement Award



JIM ERICKSON

from the Set Decorators Society of America in April, with credits that include Mississippi Burning, Snow Falling on Cedars and Alexander. He plans to continue concentrating on his garden and other interests now that his career has ended on such a high note. "[I'll] just relax and enjoy the life I have," he said.

ON CALL & ON TIME



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FALL FAIR
Swab the decks for 2013 fall fair theme

Pirates of the Carrots and Beans makes debut

Islanders who like to have fun with their Salt Spring Fall Fair entries around the annual theme can start their planning now. Pirates of the Carrots and Beans will be the theme for the fall fair, which runs this year on Sept. 14 and 15.

The Salt Spring Farmers' Institute directors are excited about the possibilities for classes of entries and decorations.

Mike Lakin, the fair's livestock coordinator, is already trying out ideas on how he can incorporate this in the barns.

"I don't think the animals will be receptive to eye patches, so I have to come up with something else," said Lakin.

Institute board director Bruce Marshall has been seen carrying carrots and beans in his shirt pocket to help promote the theme.

"We encourage the school students and teachers to start planning now for some of their projects," said director Marguerite Lee.

The 2013 fall fair catalogue will be in print on July 1, but in the meantime, the 2012 catalogue is still available to view online at www.ssfi.org. Theme classes are listed in most sections.

OPEN HOUSE

Our Future is in your hands.




Come learn about your new fire hall

- Hear the Architects explain our next steps in the design process.
- Find out how our Firefighters feel about the old and new halls.
- Meet the Trustees and discuss our finance approval options.
- Tour the old hall and see some of the challenges we face every day.

Saturday March 2
12 to 3 pm
Ganges Fire Hall

New Fire Hall / Emergency Centre Information
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OPINION



Gold - Coverage of the Arts | Gold - Photo Essay (Day in the Life of SSJ)
 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 SSJ) | Gold - Sports Photo (John Cameron for longboarder)
 Silver - General Excellence | Silver - Special Publication (Aqua magazine)
2012 BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association Awards



EDITORIAL

Wrestling takes hold

Although it may lack much of the glamour generated by mainstream youth sports, there's something to be said for the strength and perseverance of a sport that's been around since the dawn of humankind.

Wrestling was first referenced in the 12th century BC in Homer's Iliad and primitive cave drawings of the sport discovered in France date back more than 15,000 years. Throughout the ages, it's difficult to find any culture around the globe in which the sport has not played an important role.

Even more significant than wrestling's storied traditions, however, is the apparent knack many among an ever-growing contingent of promising young island wrestlers have developed for the sport. Thanks to the dedication of a passionate group of volunteer parents — including certified competition coach Leon Esquivel — and a hodge-podge of mostly ancient training equipment, middle and high school members

of Salt Spring's wrestling team have amassed a modest mint's worth of bronze, silver and gold medals in recent competitions. Many youngsters who'd never dreamed of half-nelsons and singlets find themselves on the verge of competing at the provincial championships this weekend in the Cowichan Valley. There's even talk of travel to Saskatoon for the nationals this spring.

As if standing face-to-face against their opponents wasn't daunting enough, the boys and girls who represent Salt Spring on the mat face a continual challenge to raise the funds that make it all happen.

Now the team finds itself a few thousand dollars away from having enough money to buy a half-decent wrestling mat. We hope community contributions will ensure they can acquire it.

The group is in the process of setting up a fundraising account at CIBC for community donations and plans a barbecue outside Country Grocer on April 6.

Throughout their season, these kids have excelled in their sport and learned the important lesson that hard work and commitment can pay off when it comes to doing something you're passionate about.

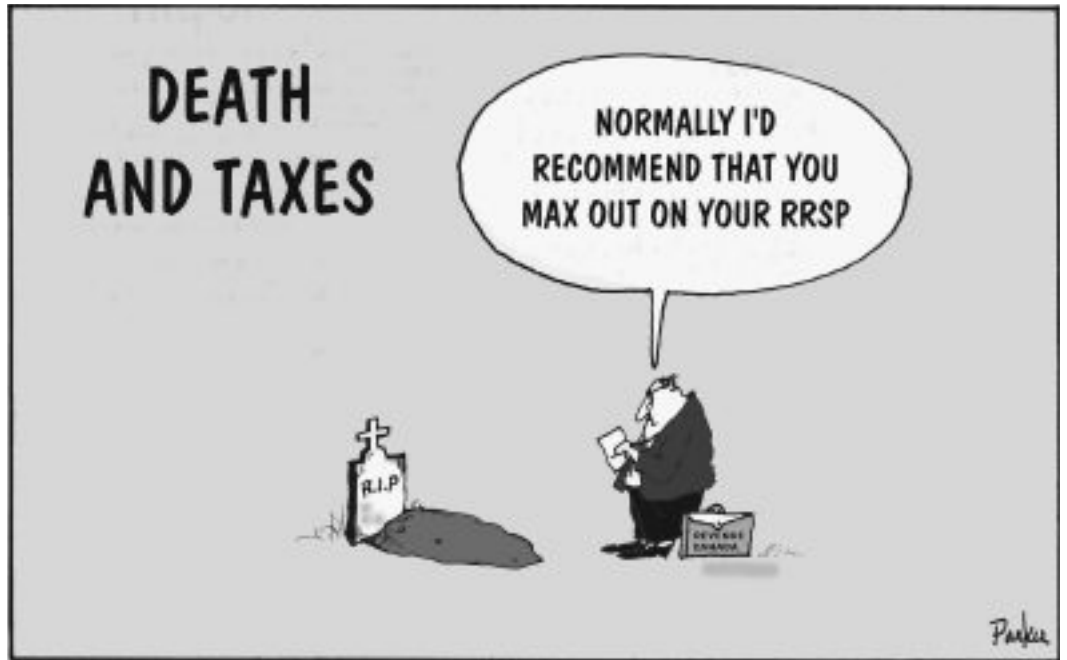
And isn't that what sports are supposedly all about?

THE ISSUE:

Wrestling team

WE SAY:

Program deserves support



VIEWPOINT by Judi Stevenson

Lana Popham has hopeful message

There are so many reasons to care about the future of food and agriculture on Salt Spring — and not just here, but in British Columbia as a whole and around the world. Food is fundamental to our lives, our health, our pleasure, and it's a big part of our economy.

That's why I went to hear Lana Popham speak at the Farmers' Institute on Feb. 17, along with a goodly number of Salt Spring farmers and agriculture activists.

Ms. Popham is a successful organic farmer, the MLA for Saanich South, and the Opposition Critic for Agriculture. As such, she just might become the next provincial agriculture minister after the spring election. She has been the agriculture critic for an unusual four years. She told her audience that she resisted the usual shifting of critics' assignments from one portfolio area to another during that time so she could focus on the issues she is most committed to: those of food and farming.

During those years, Ms. Popham travelled all around B.C. meeting with farmers and food producers to hear about their issues — an experience she clearly thrived on. As a result, she was in a unique position to help formulate the NDP's plan to strengthen local agriculture throughout the province.

There was a buzz in the room when the audience heard her summarize the approach as "Grow B.C., Feed B.C., Buy B.C." The person beside me leaned over to say, "Well, she's not starting small!" No she's not. And that's a good thing, in my view. A clear focus on the importance of food and farming has been missing from provincial government policy for years.

One thing it would do is support the objectives of Salt Spring's Area Farm Plan to increase the amount of food grown and consumed locally. (The Area Farm Plan is something local NDP candidate Gary Holman helped to launch and fund when he was CRD director.) To illustrate the "Grow B.C." concept, Ms. Popham talked about how

provincial policy would encourage organic seed saving, such as local pioneer Dan Jason has undertaken, and support the achievement of the Salt Spring abattoir. More buzz greeted the idea that that the NDP would reinstate what's called "extension services." That's the much-missed system of providing advisors to help young and experienced farmers learn from new research, solve difficult problems and take steps to enhance productivity using the methods that are best for long-term agricultural sustainability.

To illustrate "Feed B.C.," Ms. Popham described the goal of having 30 per cent of the food served in B.C. institutions such as hospitals come from B.C. farms, thus improving meals (I hope) but also extending and stabilizing markets for agricultural products.

"Buy B.C.," another popular program cancelled by the Liberal government, would work toward the same goal in relation to market extension and community economic stability.

Questions from the audience ranged widely, touching on the (un)affordability of good farm land, the need to control fish farming and the contribution of local food to community resilience in the face of climate change. Some questions could only be acknowledged as "issues to be worked on."

Others, such as the possibility of support for the idea of agricultural land banks, publicly owned, making long leases available to young farmers and others with ideas for improved local food production, again similar to a Salt Spring initiative, were well received.

At the end, after a big round of applause, a friend said to me, "I'm usually cynical and unmoved by such presentations, but I am actually going away from this one with a lighter heart."

"Hope for the future will do that to you," I replied.

The writer is the descendant of a long line of farmers, and is also a card-carrying member of the NDP.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Are you concerned about your ability to retire? Yes No
 Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: 81
Should secondary suites be allowed in some areas of Salt Spring Island?
 YES: 11 NO: 81

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If you think it's bad now, it's only going to get worse."

HEATHER HOWARD, RE SS METAL RECYCLING ISSUE

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:

What movies do you most look forward to at Salt Spring's annual film festival?



FRANKIE BURNS

I would like to see stuff with more arthouse and experimental films.



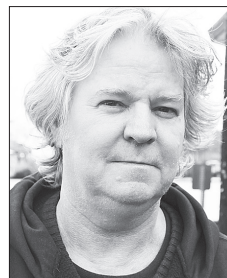
JOHN ASHLIE

I've yet to see a bad movie there. I always pick heart-wrenching films and could use a special room to decompress afterwards.



DYLAN CARTER

I look forward to watching nature movies that feature wildlife.



ADRIAN DU PLESSIS

Anything about music. Music documentaries and musicals. Music is my greatest love.



VIRGINIA GALEA

I'd like to see more kids' movies.

Letters to the editor

Buck passing

Maybe I should not have been as shocked as I was to read, in the Driftwood editorial of Feb. 6, this conclusion regarding a Trust staff report about the Salt Spring Metal Recycling rezoning application: "one can't help but question the processes in place within the Islands Trust that led LTC members to consider asking them [the Chamber of Commerce] to begin with."

Before the Jan. 31 local Trust committee meeting, I too, wondered if the Trust was trying somehow to abdicate its responsibility on the rezoning issue. But it was made clear at that LTC meeting: the Trust was not somehow trying to

"pass the buck."

Here is my guess why Trust staff might have made a suggestion to invite community involvement in trying to resolve the metal recycling application: I am sure staff have already advised trustees more than once that there is really no valid reason to proceed with the rezoning application. After all, upzoning the property to "industrial" would run counter to our official community plan and citizens have spoken out clearly to say they object to the continuing presence of the industrial business in its present location. Clearly, trustees have found it difficult to go along with the advice to proceed

no further with the rezoning application. So, in an effort to do more than repeat the same advice, staff must have tried to think "outside the box" in this case.

Maybe they were influenced by things I have written to the Trust. In January 2012, I suggested, "maybe someone would be willing to set up a trust fund to be used by Mr. Quesnel to relocate his business to a place where it would be legal. I would be willing to help with such an effort, as long as the industrial activity now occurring at the site ceases."

This January I suggested that supporters of the Salt Spring Metal Recycling busi-

ness could work to help the business find a better location. Now I know that people have already been working behind the scenes to try to help the business relocate. I consider those efforts to be true support.

Do others agree that it's great to find appropriate ways to deal with our waste but forcing people in one neighbourhood to accept inappropriate industrial activities is not a fair way of achieving that goal?

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Contentious

I do not support the rezoning of John Quesnel's Salt

Spring Metal Recycling property.

In any community, municipalities included, it would be highly contentious to allow an open-air recycling operation in a residential neighbourhood and in the majority of cases his application would have been rejected long ago.

Many of us who have known Mr. Quesnel over the decades can see clearly how he has cleverly manipulated the anti-Islands Trust faction on Salt Spring to support his application. There are 4.5 acres of Industrial 4 (Gulf Coast Materials) land with an area close to the recycling depot that would have been perfect for his operation, but

that would have cost him money to buy or lease. There are 30-plus acres of Industrial-3 land that could have been more easily rezoned, but again, more expensive. This is all about money and politics.

Vehicles and scrap metal have been hauled off this rock for 50 years using car crushers, dumptrucks, flatbeds, pick-ups and with the recycling depot, Laurie Hedger and John Ellacott's businesses in operation, the premise that Mr. Quesnel's illegal business is essential to the island is a complete myth.

RICK LAING,
WILKIE WAY

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

The day the Muzak died — and no one cried

You may remember the first Monday in February of 2013 as a dramatic moment in the history of our universe. It was on that particular day that the Canadian penny gasped its last breath.

Well, actually, I may be guilty of a bit of an overstatement. Although Feb. 4 was the day the Royal Canadian Mint officially stopped producing the one cent coin, it's likely that it will take a long time before "the penny drops" completely and its sole purpose will become to take up space in the leather-bound albums of coin collectors.

Amid all the noise from the hoopla, gnashing of teeth, and lamenting by commentators and columnists over the copper penny's untimely end, you might have missed the other death knell that sounded the very next day for one of the most controversial icons of our time. What you might have neglected to notice was that Tuesday, Feb. 5, was the day the "Muzak" died.

For decades, the name "Muzak" has been synonymous with easy listening sounds infiltrating your subconscious brain in places as diverse as shopping malls and dentist chairs. Facetiously referred to as "elevator music," the innocuous tones of Muzak were meant to soothe your anger and frustration when you were put on "permanent hold" by some sadistic federal government auto answering device.

You may automatically associate Muzak with the dulcet tones of the Percy Faith Orchestra performing Theme from a Summer Place or the pleasant harmonies of the Ray Conniff Singers bopping to Somewhere My Love. You could forgive the Muzak "powers that be" for such inoffensive and harmless ditties sauntering down your Memory Lane. What is infuriat-

ing, especially to relics of the Boomer generation like me, are the shrewd dealings the company made with the big record corporations in order to obtain the recording rights to thousands of the rock classics of the 1960s and '70s.

As a result, nothing makes the blood boil faster than having your ears accosted by Austrian virtuoso, Anton Karas, and his calming instrumental rendition (on zither, of course) of Led Zep's frenetic rock anthem Black Dog. Likewise, an aural dose of Zamfir (yes, he of panpipes fame) anaesthetizing The Sex Pistols' Anarchy in the U.K. is enough to make Sid Vicious rise from the grave just so he can punch the Emergency Stop button on any elevator in which that woodwind "aberration" happens to be playing.

It comes as no surprise, consequently, that any rock and rollers worth their headbands considered it a sign that it was time to retire whenever they found out that Muzak had picked up their songs. In 1989, as a matter of fact, famed Detroit headbanger and "bad boy" rocker Ted Nugent made a \$10-million offer to buy Muzak just so he could shut it down and put it out of its misery. The offer was refused (and Nugent was probably left "on hold" listening to Wayne Newton crooning Paul Anka's She's Having My Baby).

Historically, Muzak was not always defined by its "soft" sound designed to make mall shoppers willingly separate themselves from their earnings. Founded in 1934, the company produced tens of thousands of recordings of original artists popular during the Great Depression



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

and the early days of World War 2. A change in strategy was brought about when the company devised a plan to help the American war effort. Researchers found that a technique called "stimulus progression," in which the tempo and volume level of music pumped into factories was gradually increased during the work day, improved productivity and sped up the pace of the workers. Muzak had discovered there was a profit to be made through mind control (or better yet "mindless control").

Not everybody was enthralled with Muzak's success. There was a backlash against the growing corporate giant in the 1950s, with a number of court challenges citing the company for manipulating behaviour and "attempted brainwashing." Nevertheless, the Muzak brand continued to grow and, by the 1960s, there were over one hundred million users daily. Even NASA, the American Space Agency, pumped in the prepackaged Muzak on many of its space missions in order to soothe the astronauts (perhaps a Gregorian Chant version of Fly Me to the Moon?).

Muzak seemed to be able to adapt to the times, pioneering the concept of "audio architecture" to design custom playlists for specific clients. Eventually, however, the winds of change which accompanied the new information technology began to slow down its growth. Ear-buds and iPods were beginning to drown out the easy listening.

Muzak's fortunes continued to deteriorate and it was forced to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early 2009. A year later, after

restructuring its corporate structure by cutting company debt and bringing unsecured creditors back into the fold (whatever that means), Muzak managed to emerge from bankruptcy. In March 2011, Muzak Holdings was purchased by Mood Media of Ontario and it seemed like elevator music was "going up" again.

This brings us to the announcement a few weeks ago by Mood Media that Muzak and another subsidiary, DMX, would be amalgamated into one entity and would simply be called "Mood." (In case you had never heard of DMX, it describes itself as a multi-sensory branding service using music, video, messaging, and scent "to personify and enhance brands to create lasting connections that encourage customer loyalty"). The name, "Muzak," would be moth-balled immediately.

Even though this may all sound more like a pre-nuptial than a corporate objective, the final outcome is that Muzak has reached the end of the line as a brand and an entity. Although Mood Media's vice president of investor relations, Randal Rudniski, pooh-poohed Musak's demise by stating, "the name change had nothing to do with derision from the public," it seems clear that Mood has initiated a clean break from a past cluttered with elevators and dentist chairs.

Nobody asked me, but I find myself shedding a silent tear for Muzak's forced fade out (I can't believe I just said that). If nothing else, the abomination done to real music in the name of Muzak helped to bring us together in a "siblinghood" of common disdain. It just will never be the same again, no matter what sounds (and smells) Mood Media pumps into elevators from now on. Going down, anybody?

Justice and consequences

Some readers of my last letter ("Principles and consequences," Feb. 13 Driftwood) missed the points I tried to make. With apologies to those who got them the first time, I'll try to be clearer.

The subtle irony of the heading on the online version of the letter — "Never let your morals prevent you from doing what is right" — was not appreci-

ated, nor was the underlying truth. One's morals do guide us to what we think is right, but that is a personal opinion that could lead us to do things that are neither right, nor just.

I deliberately distinguished our legal system from a system of justice because there are times when the legal system simply doesn't deliver justice according to societal standards of the time.

There is an old riddle: If you call a dog's tail a leg, how many legs does a dog have? The

answer is four, because calling it a leg doesn't make it one. Similarly, those who insist on calling our legal system a justice system don't change the fact that justice is not always the result, whether those in the system wrap themselves in the majesty of the law in all its imagined infallibility or not.

Moreover, the notion of what justice is evolves with time and it evolves because individuals express personal opinions about it. This is not disrespectful, merely clear rec-

ognition of the limitations of this very human process.

Consider some much more significant examples than the case in question. Would some readers have supported the law that prevented women from voting, or would they have "disrespectfully" risked abuse and jail to change it? Would they support or oppose capital punishment, the right to abortion, persecution of those with various sexual preferences, or the destruc-

tion of lives and a culture in religious schools? Personal opinions challenged all these, yet at the time, the law was in clear opposition to what we now consider "just."

So how do you recognize justice? One way that might rise above mere personal opinion is a rational examination of the consequences of the legal decision we're debating. As Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg so clearly and cogently pointed out in her column last week, those

have been terrible. Hundreds of experienced, dedicated and intelligent individuals serving their communities throughout B.C. are being prevented from continuing to contribute their energy and skills by the legal precedent set by this ruling. No sense and little justice.

I rest my case.
ANDREW OKULITCH,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 12

it takes a lot of treasures

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iwavy Island Women Against Violence



PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY
Pender Island-based makeup artist Alyssa Woolcombe prepares Sarrah Robinson for a special emergency exercise hosted by Salt Spring Island Ground Search and Rescue on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Gaping wounds like the one on Robinson's leg were part of the realistic disaster scenario.

Over-regulation stifles the island

BY ELIZABETH NICKSON

I was distressed that the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce decided not to broker an accommodation between the Trust and John Quesnel's recycling business.

There are many groups on the island that work to protect the water, atmosphere, land and threatened species, and apparently none who dare to stand up for the well-being of the humans on that land. By that I mean the ability of people to take care of themselves, via the private economy.

We all cannot live off the government, whether through pensions or salaries, because the government draws its money principally from the private or productive economy. There is no example of sustained prosperity in history, other than the slave state that is China, where there is no healthy, vital and free private sector. And that, on Salt Spring, is in serious decline.

The most discussed opinion on the very lively Salt Spring Exchange recently has been One Percent realtor Scott Simmons' impassioned question, "Why is Salt Spring Stagnant?" There have been many comments on this, and his follow-up pieces, enough to recognize that people from nearly every sector of our island believe that something is very wrong.

The solutions are various, but to my mind, Simmons is right when he identifies the principal reason as over-regulation, by which he means Land Use Bylaw 355, which has placed so many restrictions on land use.

"If not then why is the Vesuvius pub empty?" asks Scott. "Why is the Fulford hotel shut down? Why are there commercial lots in Fulford and

INDEPTH

Long Harbour sitting on the market for years and not selling? Why are commercial buildings for sale for over five years? Why did one of our two golf courses shut down? Why are two out of two commercial lots in Fernwood for sale? Why will almost no one buy a commercial lot on Salt Spring and create a business that hires locals?"

At lunch last week a friend showed me the time clock on his Trust application to legalize the falafel stand on Rainbow Road: 8,600 hours and still no action. That is one mother of a headwind facing any young entrepreneur.

I have another question: "Why is Salt Spring so depressing?" I have asked myself this for a decade. We live in a youthful, vibrant and active part of the world, surrounded by extraordinary beauty and I have often heard that Salt Spring's median income and educational attainment are rated among the highest in Canada. But some days, it's depressing merely to drive through town.

Why are there so few young families on the island, particularly young families who do not work in the building trades — itself a sector on the decline, given the no-growth economy? Why do we attract so few people in the prime of life? Where are the flocks of chattering kids?

Salt Spring is starting to remind me of the former Eastern Bloc countries, but instead of depressed people dressed in grey and black shuffling from one dismal task to another, we have aging people dressed in brown and green, shuffling from the library to Thrifty's to massage therapists, trying to stave off decline.

It does not have to be that way. In fact, it could be very very different. There is only one solution, to my mind, and that is decidedly not more "volunteer" committees with grants from the CRD or Trust, no more taxpayer-funded "studies."

And that is for the numerous well-heeled upper middle class, retired or not, to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. And I do not mean academics and bureaucrats; with respect, they are habituated to restriction and regulation. I mean those men and women who have been demonized, de-privileged and driven out of public life because they have made a success in the private sector.

They must share their knowledge, bend their substantial intellects, experience and fortunes to work with the Trust on commercial land use, keeping the valuable and tossing out destructive regulation, and to mentor and finance young business-people and attract more to the island.

I am not suggesting that global plutocrats swoop in and commodify the Salt Spring experience. I'm suggesting a local solution to a local problem that could have application everywhere.

The old must not prey upon the young by allowing public debt to burden their futures. The most competent among us must step up and pitch in, demonstrating an engagement and duty that was hard-wired in our ancestors.

If they don't, our decline will become permanent.

The writer is a Salt Spring-based journalist and author. Her most recent book is Eco-Fascists - How Radical Conservationists are Destroying our Natural Heritage.

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Fire hall financing: referendum vs. Alternative Approval Process

The following is the second in a series of columns about the new Ganges fire hall project, submitted by the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board of trustees.

HOT TOPICS

without having a referendum. It also allows the trustees, if not successful, to rethink their proposal before a costly referendum.

There are many Salt Springers who think that the AAP route is a poor choice. In the minds of many objectors it goes against the grain of the sanctity and secrecy of the ballot box. Instead of having that right, members of the community who are opposed to the issue are required to offer their signatures and addresses on a petition. There will be some who find that this process itself is objectionable and file a protest vote regardless of the merit of the question being asked.

One solution to minimize a protest vote would be to implement a system in which the counter petitioners did not have to come to the fire hall to either acquire or deposit their completed petition forms, thereby mitigating that onerous aspect of the AAP process.

If the naysayers are less than 10 per cent of the island's eligible voters, the financing approval passes.

This format would also address the issue of non-resident owners by allowing them to submit their AAP vote by mail. The trustees are currently researching this possibility.

Some say the AAP process is not democratic, whereas others would argue that elections where

less than 10 per cent of the eligible voters object to the proposition is a fair demonstration of the will of the majority. Further, if the 10 per cent threshold to reject an AAP is reached, there is always the opportunity to have a retrial through a referendum. Everyone has a chance to express their support or lack thereof.

The AAP may be used to test public opinion. Instead of spending thousands of dollars on a referendum, an AAP may show that there is little resistance to the finance request. This allows the fire hall project to move forward with minor costs. If the AAP were to fail, the board would then move to a full referendum.

The questions are: Do we use an Alternate Approval Process but design it to be more democratic and less intimidating?

Do we default to a referendum with a result that may not be representative of all land owners? or

Would it be wise to do both; using the AAP to test public opinion with the possibility of saving money and then proceed to referendum if the AAP is not successful?

These are some of the questions the fire district trustees are facing. Public input would greatly assist us in making a final decision. We will discuss these issues as a board publicly at our next general meeting and at that time we would also solicit input from any of the attending public.

Our next general meeting is on March 4 at 7:30 p.m., or attend our open house event on Saturday, March 2 from 12 to 3 p.m. Both events are located at our Ganges fire hall.

For more information or if you have questions about the new fire hall project please go to www.Firehallinfo.com; or contact us at ssinewfirehall@shaw.ca.

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NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for trustee (2 positions) will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. Tuesday February 26th, 2013
and 4:00 P.M. Friday March 8th, 2013**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Thomas Moore at (250) 472 0059.

The two (2) Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 15th, 2013 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2016.

The Election to be held on Saturday, April 13th, 2013 at the Ganges Fire Hall from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the Training Room. An Advance Voting opportunity will be held in the Training Room on Wednesday, April 10th, 2013 between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250)472 0059.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 19th day of February 2013

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

RANTS and Roses

Rants

To the person in the 300 block of Elizabeth Drive who wanted to improve your view: You went on to your neighbour's property and cut a large, healthy tree almost all the way through. Not only is that illegal it is very, very stupid. The tree fell during the wind storm a few days ago but is now caught up in some other trees. It will eventually fall and I hope no one is hurt when it does. C. Newman

Roses

One Billion Rising roses to all who volunteered, supported and participated in dancing on McPhillips Avenue on

Feb.14, raising awareness to stop violence against women and children across the globe. Salt Spring, you rock! Julianna

A beautiful bunch of yellow roses to Zeke Blazicka, Gary Lehman, Glenn Trarup and Chris Magnus for putting the grating on the bridge along the pathway from Sharp Road to Booth Canal Road. We will all feel safer for your endeavours. Island Pathways

Last Tuesday, near the post office, I gave a good imitation of a baseball hero sliding full-length, head first, for a home run. Thank you to the young woman and man who restored me to an upright position. Thank you

to Jeff Jones, Thrifty Foods' first aid man, who mopped up the wounds, decorated my hand with several bright blue Band-aids and provided a hot cup of tea. Thank you to Ian, RN at Lady Minto's emergency room, who gently probed for foreign objects, luckily finding only one tiny piece. My thanks to all the kind people along the way. Nancy

The Salt Spring Arts Council awards Jim Erickson a garden of golden roses to recognize his stellar contribution to the art of set design and to the international profile of Salt Spring Island as a locus of creativity.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
NOT SHY: Longtime Salt Spring craftsman, carpenter and musician Keith MacHattie advertises his services on the side of the road in Ganges, while sharing another of his talents.

Local-level climate action useful

BY ELIZABETH WHITE
In a letter to the Feb. 13 Driftwood, Elizabeth Nickson said she disagrees with the goals of the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council.

IN RESPONSE

ceptable costs of inaction.

Considering that our goals all centre around effective individual and community responses to the serious threats posed by climate change, we are wondering why anyone would wish to hasten the climate crisis and the probability of attendant mass extinctions, vast human suffering and resource wars.

If these conservative bodies are too august to be believed, then how about the almost 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses that have just written a letter to President Obama in opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline? The reason for their opposition is "because the impacts of climate change (such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather), oil spills, worker and community health problems and environmental degradation are bad for business."

Economic grounds alone should be sufficient to make any thinking person support the goals of the Climate Action Council. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, amongst others, have recently issued strong warnings about the unac-

ceptable costs of inaction. Political leadership at the national and international levels is essential; Salt Spring's actions cannot solve the global climate crisis. But it is at the

local level where solutions must happen. Solutions like growing and buying more local organic food, carpooling, walking and cycling, using less and less fossil fuel, and getting prepared for the challenges ahead. Our choices and our voices, together with hundreds of thousands of voices around the planet, will determine whether humanity can divert its current suicidal race to the climate tipping point of no return.

Contrary to Ms. Nickson's assertions, the Climate Action Council crafts neither public policy nor regulations, but it has, with input from several island groups and hundreds of islanders, crafted a Climate Action Plan to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets included in Salt Spring's official community

plan as required by provincial law. Every community in B.C. has GHG reduction targets included in its OCP.

Many communities, like Salt Spring, are attempting to meet their targets through the efforts of local government, institutions, businesses, non-profit volunteers and individuals. On Salt Spring, there are no local climate action regulations, but that does not make community-based climate action less urgent, or less effective, as dozens of communities in our region are demonstrating.

To find out more about the island's Climate Action Council Society, please visit our website (climateaction-saltspring.ca) and come to one of our meetings.

The writer is a SSI Climate Action Council Society member.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 10

Look to Norway

I'm jealous. While Canada starves for intelligent leadership and founders in toxic oil, Norway has just announced the development of their first electric-powered car ferry.

Their new boat compares nicely to the "Queena Skeena" in some ways. At 80 metres long it carries 120 European cars and 360 passengers, while the Skeena needs 110 metres to carry a mix of 100 cars, SUVs and monster pick-up trucks, and 450 passengers.

The Norwegian boat, which is built of aluminum, replaces a steel vessel that burns one million litres of fuel and emits 570 metric tons of carbon dioxide and 15 metric tons of nitrogen oxides each year.

Their quiet new boat will mass half the weight of a conventional ferry, making it much more efficient to drive and requiring proportionally less power.

The battery, which weighs 10 metric tons, needs only a 10-minute recharge at each dock while passengers and vehicles unload and load. It is suitable for crossings of approximately 30 minutes duration, which means boats like

it would be appropriate for several of our coast's shorter routes.

Now, if we only had all that money that vanished into the Fast Cat fiasco, and of course some enlightened hands at the helm.

I'm embarrassed. Norway is moving forward to meet the challenges of a low-carbon future, while Stephen Harper's Canada is moving backwards toward extinction.

CHRIS DIXON,
MANSELL ROAD

Ignorant

I listened to Premier Christy Clark's interview with CBC's Rick Clough on Feb. 13 and was appalled by her misleading over-simplification of what "clean" natural gas will mean to the B.C. economy and how it will help keep the air clean in China.

Her rhetoric was that it would "stop them from having to burn coal, and we all share the same air..."

Here are the real issues with natural gas:

- The amount of energy it takes to get it out of the ground.
- The amount of energy it takes to compress or freeze it for shipping.
- The amount of energy it takes to ship the gas to China.
- The fracking that will destroy the

water, soil and integrity of the land.

• The gas leaking and seeping above the fracked earth that will pollute our air and contribute greatly to greenhouse gases.

• The First Nations Territories that the governments will attempt to bribe with the promise of money, jobs and "sustainability," but who will in fact only see environmental degradation, loss of water, land rights and sovereignty.

I'm sure there are more "issues" than I've stated here.

Unfortunately, the NDP leadership in B.C. is also supporting natural gas expansion without a word on real clean, renewable energy!

I wonder if Gary Holman, the NDP candidate in our riding, can address these points about "clean" natural gas development versus real sustainable energy?

Examples of this would be solar stations, wind turbines in higher elevations or on the ocean, or tidal power using state-of-the-art technology that uses the tide's force in both its coming in and going out.

What must we do to turn the tide of ignorant politicians? We have an election here in May. What can we do?

MAGGIE O'SCALLEIGH,
SALT SPRING

MONEY MATTERS FOURTH IN A FOUR PART SERIES

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Investor Education Fund survey detects knowledge gaps

Non-profit group offers resources

As this year's registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) deadline of March 1 looms closer for Canadians, a new Investor Education Fund (IEF) study reveals that two out of every 10 (19 per cent) Canadians aged 50 and older have no idea how much they have saved for retirement, and half of all respondents believe they will exhaust their retirement savings within the first 10 years after they leave the workforce.

IEF's Home Equity as a Source of Retirement Income study also found that 41 per cent homeowners were clear that the amount they had saved was less than \$100,000, with just 21 per cent having more than \$250,000 allocated to their golden years. In addition, when presented with five potential ways of capitalizing on the equity of a home, such as downsizing, selling their home and renting or getting a home equity line of credit, 41 per cent of homeowners were

Is your retirement plan adding up?

As Canada's population ages and household debt level increases, recent research shows that for homeowners aged 50+, the answer may be no.

- RETIRING WITH MORTGAGE DEBT:** 24% of homeowners expect to have debt on their principal residence at retirement.
- RUNNING OUT OF MONEY FASTER:** 50% of homeowners expect to use up their life savings within 10 years of retiring.
- NOT LOOKING AT THEIR HOME AS POTENTIAL RETIREMENT INCOME:** 41% of homeowners not willing to consider:
 - downsizing
 - selling or renting
 - a home equity line of credit
 - renting part of the home
 - a reverse annuity mortgage

Does 1+1=0 for your retirement planning?

Get positive about your retirement plan with:

- Retirement cash flow calculator
- RRSP savings calculator
- Retirement lifestyle quiz
- Pay down debt or invest calculator

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GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca graphic

not willing to consider any of the options.

"That Canadians aren't saving enough for retirement is nothing new, but it is unsettling to learn that homeowners approaching retirement age are so unprepared because they are a comparatively well-off group," says IEF president

Tom Hamza.

The study, conducted for IEF by The Brondesbury Group in January 2013, surveyed a group of 1,500 current and former homeowners across Canada. All respondents were at least 50 years old, with half of them already retired. The research addressed three

issues for retirement living: household wealth locked into home/property value, home-related debt during retirement and home equity as a source of income during retirement.

The study also highlights other significant "disconnects" related to retirement decisions:

One-quarter (24 per cent) of Canadian households have no idea how much they will need to draw from their savings/investments every year after retirement, including their company pensions.

One-third of Canadian households do not believe they have enough saved for retirement, and one-quarter are not certain.

Almost half (48 per cent) of the respondents have never thought about selling their home as a way to generate income to live off of in retirement.

One-quarter of homeowners expect to have debt on their principal residence after they retire, with a median debt of \$71,000. Of this group, almost one-half expects to pay the debt from their retirement income, and 27 per cent don't know how they will pay it off.

"Retiring with debt puts extra strain on your income. If you go into retirement with inadequate savings in the first place, you may be on shaky ground," says Hamza. "Without thorough planning, you may face some tough financial

decisions."

To help Canadians better assess their retirement savings and saving strategy, IEF — a non-profit group — has launched an exclusive Retirement cash flow calculator on its website, GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca. Developed with Ben Barkow, Ph.D., an applied psychologist and head of the consulting firm Behavioural Team, the calculator estimates how long your investment nest egg will last in retirement. The calculator is complemented by a retirement cash flow planner — a spreadsheet that allows you to predict your retirement cash flow based on changes in spending, investment returns and inflation over time.

GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca has also updated other easy-to-use financial tools and resources for the RRSP season, including the RRSP savings calculator, Pay down debt or invest calculator and Retirement lifestyle quiz.

IEF — this article's source — offers unbiased financial information to consumers via GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca.

We care as much about farmers markets as global markets.



Scott Howe



Paul Reese



Krista Scotvold

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MONEY MATTERS

FOURTH IN A FOUR PART SERIES

TAXES

Canadians find all kinds of ways to file income tax

B.C. survey respondents stick out from crowd

A study commissioned by Thomson Reuters, the makers of UFile ONLINE and UFile

for Windows, has found that respondents from B.C. are most likely to like filing their tax return (43 per cent), the highest when comparing provinces.

A release distributed Monday showcases the findings of the survey.

Key national findings include:

- 49 per cent of respondents indicated they planned to hire an accountant or professional service to handle their taxes.

- 15 per cent plan on using software installed on their computer, and of that num-

ber, 13 per cent plan to use NETFILE.

- 16 per cent plan on using online software, and of that number, 12 per cent plan to use NETFILE.

- 56 per cent of respondents were unaware that the Canada Revenue Agency will

be removing paper packages from post offices in 2014.

- The most popular way people plan to spend their refund is debt repayment, at 24 per cent.

BC-Specific Findings:

- B.C. respondents are most

likely to NETFILE their tax return (27 per cent, highest amongst provinces).

- Respondents from BC are most likely to use an accountant or professional service when filing their tax return (56 per cent, highest amongst provinces).



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Ten Tips to Teach your Children or Grandchildren about Money

Am I the only one who thinks that our children are missing out on some practical "money management" skills when they come out of the public school system? Here's a list of 10 tips to help you teach your children about money, skills they will need for their entire lives:

1. Talk about money – it doesn't have to be a secret subject.
2. Make them earn their allowance.
3. Be a good example – children learn by watching you.
4. Help them open a bank account – explain deposits, withdrawals, how interest works.
5. Teach them that there is more to money than spending it: money can be saved, donated, invested to earn more money.
6. Have them make a fridge "wish list" - they too will have to realize that it is human nature to want more than we can have, so prioritizing becomes an important skill.
7. Keep Track of Spending - show them how little treats add up to a lot.
8. Offer an incentive – create a "matching funds" program to help them turn saving money into a habit.
9. Teach them about how income tax works – that you have to earn \$300 at your job to get \$200 after tax for that skateboard they want.
10. PAY YOURSELF FIRST – before anything else, have them put 10% of everything they earn into their long term savings.

Call or email me on more ideas on how to help our children prosper. After all, they will likely be looking after us one day!



B.B.A. (Hons) Consultant

The Plan
by **IG** Investors Group

Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

250-653-9788

markus.wenzel@investorsgroup.com



RRSPS

Myths about saving and investing challenged

Regular savings habits can never start too early

With the Registered Retirement Savings Plan contribution deadline for the 2012 tax year approaching, RBC provides clarity regarding RRSP myths and encourages Canadians to start saving for retirement sooner.

According to the 23rd Annual RBC RRSP Poll, on average, Canadians say they started saving for their retirement at age 32 and one-quarter of Canadians (26 per cent) have not started to save for retirement.

Jason Round, head of financial planning support in RBC's financial planning department, says there are common misconceptions around savings and investing that may be keeping Canadians on the sidelines.

"The first step is getting in the game," he said. "It's important to start no matter the amount you have to save, and the earlier you start the better."

Canadians are getting the message about saving for retirement through regular contributions. Among those who have RRSPs and who have contributed or plan to contribute for the 2012 tax year, six in 10 say they make regular contributions. Regular contribution plans are the top means of contributing to RRSPs with four in 10 (37 per cent) Canadian RRSP holders between the ages of 18 to 54 doing so.

Round debunks the following misconceptions when it comes to RRSP saving and investing:

Myth: Be wary of market volatility and delay

starting up an automatic plan given market downturns.

Reality: Automatic contribution plans help create a regular savings habit and take the guesswork out of timing of the market.

Myth: I need to have a sizable lump sum to be able to invest.

Reality: Through regular savings and the benefit of compounding, a little can turn into a lot. Set up manageable pre-authorized contributions that line up with your pay day and watch your savings grow.

Myth: It's easier to catch up on RRSP savings when you are older and more established.

Set up manageable preauthorized contributions that line up with your pay day and watch your savings grow.

Reality: While you may be more established when older, you may also have more financial responsibility (mortgage, children). Contributing early and regularly allows you to apply a "pay yourself first" approach to managing your finances and the added benefit of compounding.

Myth: Investing is complicated.

Reality: There is an investment approach for everyone. It can be as

simple or complex as you like. Mutual funds offer professional investment management, portfolio solutions take care of the asset allocation and do-it-yourself brokerages offer a range of investment products. A financial advisor can help you find investment solutions that work for you.

Myth: An RRSP only benefits those in the top tax bracket.

Reality: RRSPs are about more than a tax refund. They allow you to save for the future on a tax-sheltered basis and can include a variety of investments. There are other savings vehicles, like a Tax-Free Savings Account, that you may consider depending on your own circumstances and goals for the future.

ABOUT THE SURVEY:

The 23rd Annual RBC RRSP poll was conducted by Ipsos Reid between Oct. 24 and Nov. 27, 2012 via a random sample of 1,225 Canadian adults in the general population (aged 18 and over).

The results are based on samples where quota sampling and weighting are employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data.

Quota samples with weighting from the Ipsos online panel provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

A weighted probability sample of 1,225 Canadian respondents, with 100 per cent response rate, would have an estimated margin of error of ± 3 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Canada Newswire article.

arts&entertainment



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 All day Monday
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DANCE & VISUAL ART

Art explored through Bouge de là dance presentation

Local students hold related exhibit of artwork

BY GEORGE SIPOS
 ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At first glance, dancing about paintings may sound as unlikely as singing about spinach, or cooking about philosophy. But in the arts, anything is possible, often with remarkable results.

Such is the case with a dance show called *The Studio*, to be presented at ArtSpring on Tuesday, March 5 by Montréal-based Bouge de là dance company. The audience sees four dancers in an artist's studio creating and responding to a series of paintings reminiscent of major works of 20th-century art — Magritte, Duchamp, Pollock, Warhol, etc.

The show is a feast for the eye, with extraordinary choreography that reminds us that paintings are not stat-

ic things but are all about movement and colour and wit and drama.

Bouge de là is a highly regarded Québec group specializing in dance theatre for young audiences. They brought us *Old Thomas* and the *Little Fairy* last season. Their new work, *The Studio*, however, will appeal not only to youth but to anyone with even a passing interest in the visual arts or in first-class dance performance.

It will also appeal to anyone interested in how digital technology can be put to the service of art: At several points in the show the movements of dancers' bodies are translated via video manipulation into evolving paintings on the studio wall. It's like looking over the shoulder of an artist while she paints, and into the impulses of her imagination at the same time.

Spurred by some interesting outreach activities around the show in Québec schools, ArtSpring asked Salt Spring artist Tracy Harrison to devise

a visual art enrichment program for local students in anticipation of the live dance performance.

Twenty-four students from across Salt Spring participated over several weeks and ended up producing a number of paintings and drawings in the style of some of the artists featured in the show.

The results will be displayed in ArtSpring's galleries in time for the dance performance next week. The highlight of the exhibition is two huge paintings inspired by Jackson Pollock.

On March 7, the student exhibition moves to Island Savings for a month. The credit union supported the youth art project with a generous grant to cover material costs and an honorarium for the first-class instructor.

Tickets for the March 5 public performance of *The Studio* are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre at 250-537-2012 at \$20 for adults and \$5 for youth, or online at tickets.artspring.ca.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN
 Rawdia Bartim, left, and Emma MacRae, work in the style of artist Jackson Pollock during an art enrichment session. Results will be part of a March 2-6 exhibit at ArtSpring.

LIVE THEATRE

Harold and Maude ready to roll

The stage version of the cult movie hit *Harold and Maude* is coming to Mahon Hall beginning March 8, presented by Salt Spring Community Theatre.

According to SSCT, "The film, released in 1971, originally received a mediocre response, but over the years has become a huge favourite of many viewers and is included in the American Film Institute's list of the 100 Funniest Movies of All Time.

"Definitely in the 'black comedy' category, the play revolves around the exploits of a young man named Harold, disillusioned with life with Mother, and intrigued with funerals and death. When he meets Maude, a 79-year-old woman with a love of life, Harold is changed forever. He is intrigued by her bright and carefree outlook on life and her passionate love of art and music. Meantime, Harold's mother, a rather self-indulgent socialite is determined to find a bride for her eccentric young son."

The stage version was actually written after the film, by the same author, and is arguably even funnier, retaining the same episodic structure, dark humour, and vitality of the film. Seventeen-year-old Jonah Grindler, a GISS student and a newcomer to SSCT, plays Harold in all his complexities.

Veteran actor Ann Stewart takes on the role of lovable, quirky Maude, a woman with



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
 Jonah Grindler and Ann Stewart are Harold and Maude in an upcoming SSCT production.

much sadness in her past, yet much joy in her life. Harold's self-centred, rather oppressive mother is played by another SSCT member, Randie Clarke.

Other returning actors are Scott Merrick as poor, overwhelmed Father Finnegan; Ken Lee as the frustrated psychiatrist, Dr. Matthews; and stalwart and a determined Inspector Bernard.

Theatre members Connor Berkmann, Laurie Blakely and Fred Williamson round out the cast, with talented newcomers Tangle Caron, Sophie Rouger, and Shael Lampard as prospective brides for Harold, Carrina Gordon as the fearless maid and nine-year-old Lila Adam-Gordon in a surprise role.

SSCT promises that audi-

ence members will be entertained, laugh, be shocked and deeply moved.

Harold and Maude is directed by Suzanna Laine and produced by Sue Walker. Performances are at Mahon Hall, 7:30 p.m. on March 8, 9, 15, and 16, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on March 10 and 17.

Tickets are on sale at Salt Spring Books, \$15 adults, \$10 for 18 years and under.

Harold and Maude contains mature themes and is not recommended for young children.

The innovative staging means that seating is limited, so people should get tickets early. In addition, the artwork on display in Maude's house will be part of a silent auction during the play's run.

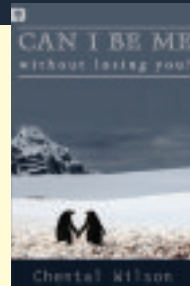
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Speak your truth get fascinated by yourself and forget that you are afraid. Are other people afraid of you? Or is it you that is afraid of you?

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RECITAL

Favourite M&M performers power-up for celebration

All Saints choir members step out

Music and Munch on Wednesday, March 6 will offer a wonderfully eclectic program of songs.

The Power of Song, taken from one of Beethoven's pieces

based on a Scottish folk tune, is evocative of the musical journey prepared for the occasion by some of the favourite performers at Music & Munch. From gentle lullabies to songs of uplifting gratitude, be ready to experience the gamut of emotions that the human voice can express.

All of the performers sing with the All Saints choir, while at the same time enjoying membership in community choirs, duos and the Salt Spring Vocal Quartet.

Soprano soloists Jean McClure and Betty Rothwell will thrill their audience with very different styles and pres-

ence — McClure singing the lovely and poignant Vincent by Don McLean, and Rothwell with a stirring medley of songs from The Merry Widow by Franz Lehár.

Joining Rothwell during the concert will be Alan Robertson in a duet. Robertson is also the Salt Spring Vocal Quartet's bass

member, and will be joined by tenor Lyle Eide, alto Anke Smeele and soprano Connie Holmes as the quartet sings several of their favourites.

Smeele and Holmes will also sing one or two lullabies from their latest CD Golden Slumbers, which was released in the fall with pianist David

Storm.

Completing the list of talent for Wednesday will be Beth Ranney, accompanist to the vocal quartet and Storm, who is accompanist to the soloists.

Free music begins at 12:10 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea, followed by a delicious lunch for \$5.50.

innermusica and South-End Grooveyard present
Scotland's Master guitarist, singer, songwriter

Archie Fisher

Tuesday, March 12, 8pm
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Information: 250-526-1295; www.innermusica.com

CONCERT

ArtSpring gets Ning Feng tour stop

Award-winning violinist in concert this Friday

Following in the footsteps of such young international musical stars as Martin Helmchen, Joyce Yang, Mariangela Vacatello and Augustin Hadelich, ArtSpring presents another major world talent in the person of violinist Ning Feng in concert on Friday, March 1.

Born in Chengdu, Ning Feng studied first in China and then at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Starting with first prize at the International Paganini Competition in 2006, he has gone on to win an armful of the classical world's most prestigious awards.

The list of cities he has performed in reads like the index of a compre-



PHOTO: HKPHIL.ORG

Violinist Ning Feng.

hensive atlas of the world — Hong Kong, Auckland, Bilbao, Moscow, Calgary, Prague, Gstaad and more.

The press raves about him too. One reviewer has this to say about his latest recording: "An unqualified recommendation of a wonderful album that demonstrates the highest artistic and programming skills possible." Another enthuses that "lyricism pours from his violin."

Feng currently lives in Berlin and ArtSpring is one of only three stops on his visit to B.C.

Accompanied by pianist Weicong Zhang, his concert will include sonatas by Beethoven and Elgar, Stravinsky's Duo Concertante for violin and piano, and other works by de Falla and Waxman.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre in person, at 250-537-2102 or online at tickets.artspring.ca.

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FOLK CLUB

Matuto's world music ready to seduce folk club audience

Acclaimed festival band plays Monday

Fulford Hall won't know what hit it when Matuto lands there for a Salt Spring Folk Club performance on Monday night.

"Matuto's rocking combination of Brazilian forro and American bluegrass music was a killer addition to World Music Festival Chicago: 2013," writes festival coordinator Jack McLarnan. "Their awesome songs, great musicianship and interaction with our audiences was fantastic. We'd book them again in a second."

According to their website, "Their electrifying stage show

won them a spot as one of only 35 groups out of over 750 applicants from around the world to showcase at the 2011 WOMEX World Music Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Other honours include their 2012 appointment as 'American Musical Ambassadors' for the U.S. State Department that will bring them to stages throughout West Africa, Northeast Brazil and Eastern Europe."

Matuto features violin, guitar, accordion, bass, drums, and various Brazilian percussion instruments: the alfaia (a large, wooden, rope-tuned bass drum), the pandeiro (a Brazilian tambourine), the berimbau (a single-string on a bow struck with a small

stick), and the agogô (a pair of small, pitched metal bells.)

In May 2013 the band will release their second full length album, The Devil and the Diamond, on Motéma Music. See the band's website at www.matutomusic.com to hear music samples and get more information.

The March 4 concert begins with opening act Brent Shindell at 7 p.m. Doors open for the evening at 6:15 p.m., or 6 p.m. for season's pass holders.

Tickets cost \$20 and are available at Acoustic Planet, Salt Spring Books and Stuff & Nonsense.

Light suppers, desserts and refreshments are available for purchase.

VISUAL ARTS

Library opens artistic spaces

Display case and special exhibits organized

Beginning March 1, Salt Spring arts groups will have an opportunity to exhibit work in the lobby's display case in the new library.

The Salt Spring Basketry Guild will be the first to display members' baskets for

a month beginning Friday. The public is encouraged to visit the library and enjoy local artists' basketry throughout March.

In addition, art exhibits will be scheduled for May, September and November of this year. Each display runs for a month.

Groups interested in displaying members' work should contact Pat Preston, library arts coordinator, at sslibraryart@gmail.com.

FILM FESTIVAL

SS Film Fest — it's almost show time

Last-minute info and guidelines projected

BY PATRICIA LOCKIE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The countdown is on. Just two more nights before Salt Spring Island's 14th-annual documentary film festival opens at GISS.

It's high gear all the way from now on for festival organizers and their volunteer crews. Opening night, featuring the highly praised Chasing Ice film, is the culmination of months of hard work and precision planning.

To get the most out of the festival weekend, a little pre-planning by film-goers pays big dividends when it comes to finding the best line of attack.

For example, the official festival guide (printed in last week's Driftwood) lists all the film screenings, start times and locations, gives succinct descriptions of each film and its running length and notes when filmmakers will be present to answer questions post screening.

You can also see the festival line-up by going to www.saltspringfilmfestival.com. Study the guide in advance, select what you really want to see, and then figure out the maybes.

Remember to bring the guide with you to the festival. Try to have a game plan before heading out, but expect to shift course if you arrive and find your screening room already full. Please don't demand that extra chairs be put out. That won't happen. There is a limited seating rule as determined by GISS and fire safety regulations.

When patrons first arrive, they will be asked to fill out a film society membership card and to place the section



with name and contact details in one of the membership boxes.

Why do you have to be a member? It's because most of the films shown at the festival have not been classified by the B.C. Film Classification Board. In order to view non-classified films, you are required to hold a membership in a film society. The festival must, of course, operate in full compliance with the classification board's regulations. The cost of membership is one dollar, which will be deducted from your donation at the door.

Remember, the festival does not sell tickets. Admission is by donation, a policy that the festival society is proud to uphold, even in tight financial times, because it means no one is turned away.

Festival-goers are, however, asked to give as generously as they are able. Donations help pay for screening fees and operational costs. Diane Copeland Thomas, a festival society director, says "We would like people to understand that donations really are the lifeblood of our festival."

The way people behave while visiting the festival can have a significant impact on the pleasure of others. While there is no official festival code of conduct, there are some generally accepted rules of etiquette that, when observed, allow everyone to have a good time. So, a few gentle reminders:

Be patient at the entrance. Lineups happen. Volunteers try to get people through the doors as quickly as possible. Please don't abuse them if you have to wait.

Arrive at screening rooms in good time for the showing. This maximizes your chance of getting to see the film of your choice. There is no reserve seating. No standing permitted. Check your guide to see which films are being repeated.

Once the film has started, respect the audience by not entering late.

If you need to munch, do it before or after a screening. No food is allowed in the screening rooms.

Bring your own water bottles if possible. There are two new drinking fountains on site.

Vacate the screening room before the start of the next film.

Quiet in the hallways is appreciated so as not to disturb other film viewers.

Bring your membership card back with you on Sunday. You will need to show it.

Total immersion in the festival experience can be hugely rewarding. The sum of the whole becomes greater than its parts.

The program of first-rate documentaries, the presence of filmmakers keen to engage with their audiences, the wonderful food, provided this year by Mark, Millie and the GISS students and chef Bruce Wood and the Laughing Daughters Bakery, as well as the Social Justice Bazaar with its eclectic mix of community groups committed to raising awareness about a host of local and global issues — these are the elements that bind to create a singular and magical event to be enjoyed by everyone.

The Salt Spring Film Festival runs March 1 to 3 at GISS.

NEWS UPDATES Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
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Grand(m)others to GrandMothers 5TH ANNUAL SCRABBLE FUNDRAISER GAMES SCHEDULE

SALT SPRING INN Tuesday, March 5th 2 - 4 pm Thursday March 7th 2 - 4 pm	SALT SPRING GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE BAR & GRILL Wednesday, March 6th 6-9 pm Saturday, March 9th 6 - ? pm
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LITERARY EVENTS

Authors open library program

Salt Spring writers and portrait exhibit team up

For the month of March, the Salt Spring Island Public Library is presenting its first series of free readings by some of Salt Spring's notable poets and authors.

Ideas of March speakers heard every Friday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. are Mona Fertig and Arthur Black (March 1); Peter Levitt and Shirley Graham (March 8); Kathy Page and Derek Lundy (March 15); Diana Hayes and Sandi Johnson (March 22); Chris Arnett and Ronald Wright (March 29).

The readings accompany an exhibition of photographs of the authors taken for a book called 111 West Coast Literary Portraits, by Barry Peterson and Blaise Enright, published by Mother Tongue Publishing of Salt Spring. Events take place in the island's newest cultural venue — the library's multimedia program room.

The book behind all this is visually compelling but also a highly satisfying read. Each author provides a personal statement or poem accompanying the image presented. The result provides a remarkably intimate insight into both the physical presence and literary consciousness of each of the authors.

Initially the photographs were part of a travelling show in support of literacy in B.C. called Lit Happens. When Mother Tongue publisher Mona Fertig heard of the new library's program room, she approached librarian Karen Hudson, who saw this as the perfect inaugural event for the library.

"It is a rare small community that has so much literary and publishing talent and artistic interest in its midst," Hudson said.

The exhibit will also be of interest to Salt Spring photographers. Peterson, a photographer of some note, recently exhibited On the Edge: Putting a Face on Homelessness, 2009-11 in Winnipeg. He works with a Hassleblad, producing his images on archival fiber-based paper in a traditional darkroom process. Between the formal portraiture of Yousuf Karsh and the photomosaic faces of Robert Silver, these portraits add a West Coast dimension to the portrait genre. Peterson and Enright explore the subtle interface between self-image, public persona and literary expression.

Poet Linda Rogers, photographed in her bathtub, articulates the adventurous spirit of the book: "Looking at Barry's portraits I would say everyone felt as I did that he is the transparent witness and Blaise the enabler who gave us permission to go deep, to the limits of our personalities, even our outrageousness."

NEW

Aerial Acrobatics
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A fusion of yoga and low-flying aerial arts technique: stretch, strengthen, and defy gravity using an aerial hammock suspended only inches from the ground.

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Six week session begins Monday, March 4th
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250 537 4840 flyingdreams@telus.net www.flyingdreams.ca

what's on this week

www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar



Wed. Feb 27	Thurs. Feb 28	Fri. Mar 1	Fri. Mar 1	Sat. Mar 2	Mon. Mar 4	Tues. Mar 5
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Stage with Richard Cross. Every Wednesday night at Moby's. 8 p.m. ACTIVITIES Creating Your Family Tree. Presentation by Yvonne Gibson. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 2 p.m. Texas Hold'em Poker. Every Wednesday night at The Local. Sign up at 6:30 p.m. Festival Francophone. Displays of school work, theatre and poetry of SIMS and GISS French Immersion students, plus Bistro Francois. GISS Multipurpose Room. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Salt Spring Genealogy Group. Casual group meets to share and discuss all things genealogical on the last Wednesday of each month. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 7 p.m. Heavenly Hellebores. Richard Fraser of Fraser's Thimble Farms speaks at the Salt Spring Garden Club meeting. Community Gospel Chapel. 7 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic with Richard Cross. Every Thursday at The Local. 6:30 p.m. ACTIVITIES Poultry Club Meeting. Planning session for a chicken coop building bee in late March. Upstairs room at Farmers' Institute. 1 to 3 p.m. Green Drinks. Community members gather to talk about "green" issues. Moby's. 5 to 8 p.m. Rollerblading to Music. Every Thursday night at Fulford Hall. Skate rentals available. 7 to 9 p.m. Chental Wilson Book Signing. Meet Salt Spring author of Can I Be Me Without Losing You? at Old Salty. 1 to 6 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT March of Fools Variety Show. A StageCoach Theatre School fundraiser. Entertainers include Phoenix Lazare and Carly Davenport, The Resistance, a GISS Improv Team Mash Up, Sarah the Belly Dancer. Salt Spring Elementary Gym. Pizza from 5 p.m. Show starts at 6 p.m. Gene Grooms. Live music. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. DJ DJ. Dance to music from DJ Dave Jacques. Moby's. 8:30 p.m. Ning Feng. Chinese-born and Berlin-based violinist plays Beethoven, Elgar, Stravinsky, Falla and Waxman. With pianist Weicong Zhang. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Garry Oaks wine tasting before the concert at 6:30 p.m. ACTIVITIES StoryTime at the Library. The Story of Ferdinand, Munro Leaf's classic, and more with Vaughn. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.	ACTIVITIES Ideas of March - Authors at the Library. Mona Fertig and Arthur Black are the speakers. In conjunction with the 111 West Coast Literary Portraits exhibit and book published by Mother Tongue Publishing. Salt Spring Library's program room. Noon to 1 p.m. World Day of Prayer. Annual multi-church worldwide celebration at All Saints By-the-Sea. 1:30 p.m. Salt Spring Film Festival - Opening Night. Showing of Chasing Ice film, plus music by Interchill Records, local fare dinner and desserts. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 6 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Mouat Park Interpretive Sign Project. Open community group discussion/input session. Ganges Centre Building upstairs boardroom. 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Register at 250-537-4448 or stevie@uvic.ca. Salt Spring Film Festival. 14th annual festival of documentary films on social justice, arts and other creative themes, plus a social justice bazaar of not-for-profit groups and delicious food. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wellness Day. Free drop-in event with Lisa Sliwowska of Figs & Honey of Salt Spring. Pure Pharmacy. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ganges Fire Hall Project Open House. Architect's presentation and opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the new fire hall project on Salt Spring Island. Ganges Fire Hall. Noon to 3 p.m. Salt Spring Arts Council AGM. Mahon Hall. 4 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Matuto. Salt Spring Folk Club world music concert, with opening act Brent Shindell. Fulford Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. for son's pass holders, 6:15 p.m. for others. Music begins at 7 p.m. ACTIVITIES Toddler Time. Bring your little ones aged 3 years and younger for 30 minutes of finger plays, rhymes, songs and bounces. Salt Spring Library. 10:30 a.m. Salt Spring Fire Protection District Board Meeting. Fire trustees' business meeting. Public welcome. Ganges Fire Hall. 7:30 p.m. Salt Spring Toastmasters. Public speaking group meets at Our Lady of Grace church hall every Monday at 7 p.m. Public welcome.	ACTIVITIES Scrabble Fundraiser. 5th annual event with open games, sponsored by the Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m. New Nia Class. Arleen Sadler offers a new Tuesday morning class. Still Point Yoga Studio. 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info: 250-653-9235. Porters & Stouts. Beer tasting event. Moby's Pub. 7 p.m.
			Sat. Mar 2		Tues. Mar 5	
			LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Barley Bros. Every Saturday. The Local. 3 to 5:30 p.m. Live Sitar with Phil. Live music. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Light Fantastic. Ian Van Wyck Trio, with Carolyn Hatch and Vlad Konik. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. West My Friend. Live band. Moby's. 8 p.m. ACTIVITIES Large Apple Tree Pruning Demonstrations. Observe experienced pruner Paul Linton bring the first of two older trees back to healthy production. Rainbow Road Park Allotment Gardens. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Sun. Mar 3		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT The Studio: Bouge de là Theatre. Choreographer Helene Langevin's visually stunning creation explores the connections between dance and 20th century painters. Winner of the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Canada's best theatre for young audiences. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. ACTIVITIES Parent Tot Dance. For parents/caregivers and their children ages 0-3. Donations for instructor are appreciated. Family Place. 10 a.m. to noon.

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EXHIBITIONS

- From Dance to Canvas** — a student exhibition of artwork connected to a dance performance by Montreal's Bouge de là group. ArtSpring gallery from March 2 to 6, and at Island Savings for the month of March.
- Salt Spring Island Painters Guild** members have drawings and paintings on display in their Creative Choices show in the ArtSpring lobby through March. (A special show and sale runs March 23 to April 2.)
- 111 West Coast Literary Portraits**, an exhibition of author photographs by Barry Peterson and Blaise Enright, takes place in the multimedia program room of the Salt Spring Library in March.
- Salt Spring Basketry Guild** members show work in the display case of the new Salt Spring Public Library through the month of March
- Window to the Soul**, an exhibit of artwork by Carol Adam, is on in the lobby of ArtSpring until Feb. 28 only.

- Bev Lillyman** is showing her acrylic paintings in the Country Grocer cafe for the month of February.
- New paintings and drawings by **Ken Ketchum** and photography by **Larry Melious** can be seen in the restaurant and lobby areas of the Harbour House Hotel from Feb. 28 through March 31, with a reception on Thursday, March 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- 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 in February.
- 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 Fanc.
- Rachel Vadeboncoeur** shows mixed-media and glass works at Island Savings.
- Steffany McAren** has paintings hanging at Penny's Pantry.

Salt Spring Film Festival

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LIVESTOCK

Canadian Lowline cattle grow Salt Spring fan base

Small animals prove to be efficient producers

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A smaller than average breed of cow is getting a big response from local livestock producers, who have recognized the cattle's range of qualities is ideally suited to island farming.

"I think they're the beef of the future, if you ask me," said Caroline Hickman of Ganders Hatch Farm.

"Less harm to the land, smaller steaks — everything's better about them."

As a farmer who won't eat meat unless she's raised it herself or knows the person who has, Hickman has learned to value a small steak that comes from top-quality pasture-raised beef. And as someone who loves animals, raising Lowlines has made the experience leading up to the steak

another pleasure.

Canadian Lowline cattle are genetically descended from full-blood Aberdeen Angus stock — the same black steer that has become almost synonymous with quality beef. They are directly descended from a research herd of Australian Angus cattle that was divided into three groups. Those with lower yearling growth rates were termed "Low Lines" by the researchers, and received high performance marks from ranchers. A Canadian line was developed in the '90s from the Australian stock and received certification as a distinct breed in 1998.

The major difference between today's Lowlines and traditional Angus cattle is size; Lowlines are about half the size of the Angus and typically stand less than four feet high. With a high meat-to-bone ratio, the smaller breed takes up far fewer resources but can produce about 80 per cent as much beef as a full-sized Hereford, Hickman said (400 lbs.

to the Hereford's 500 lbs.)

And according to the Canadian Lowline Cattle Association, the breed produces five per cent more marbling than other breeds. The delicate network of fat is what makes meat flavourful and tender.

Hickman moved into raising cattle after closing down her trail-riding business on the slopes of Mount Maxwell after 23 years. She is currently into her third year of raising Lowlines, which she selected after putting research into small breeds. She also keeps a single Dexter, a small breed that originated in Ireland, as a milk producer.

Many Salt Spring Islanders probably had their first introduction to the Lowlines at last year's fall fair, where Hickman was showing her new calf Olivia. Just 18 kg (40 lbs) when she was born, the fuzzy black calf was an instant hit with visitors.

"She was so cute, I have another couple of families on Salt Spring interested in the breed, so I'm very excited,"



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Caroline Hickman with Lowline cattle, a smaller breed with several positive attributes.

Hickman said.

Loretta Lynn, the first Lowline Hickman has bred, will have her first calf later this spring. She was impregnated by a bull on loan from a breeder in Metchosin. (Hickman prefers natural conception, though artificial means are also available.) With com-

plete information on the bulls' pedigrees recorded, it's easy to avoid the problems that come by mating related animals.

For Hickman, one of the primary advantages to Lowlines is their ease of handling. They're small, extremely good natured and naturally polled (don't grow horns).

"I don't want horns on cows, I just don't. Especially on milk cows," Hickman said. She explained "there's no nice way to do it" when it comes to the removal process, which involves cauterizing horn buds and a lot of pain and stress.

CATTLE continued on 20

FARM LAND

SSI Farmland Trust Society cultivates plans for future

Fulford Community Farm and Beddis produce centre updates

BY PAT REICHERT
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

As of January, the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society (SSIFTS) is the proud owner of two farm properties on the island: 62 acres of ALR farmland in Fulford; and 1.5 acres of agriculture industrial land on Beddis Road.

With these acquisitions, the three-year-old organization is embarking on a new stage of development. Through the past few weeks the SSIFTS has engaged members of the agricultural sector on Salt Spring in discussions about the draft policies and rental agreements it is putting in place to oversee the use of these lands.

The policies are an important first for Salt Spring. They will guide the Farmland Trust board's decisions about the farming and agricultural infrastructure that can be undertaken on their land. They also guide the kinds of farming practices that can be used.

Making land available for farming is one of the key purposes of the trust, which is a community organization, established on the recommendation of the Salt Spring Area Farm Plan.

It is a key part of making Salt Spring a place where "agriculture is a strong, vital and productive part of the local economy and is carried out in a manner that promotes and protects a sustainable community (www.plantofarm.org).

The SSIFTS shares this objective with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance, whose mandate is to implement the recommendations of the area farm plan. The majority of board mem-

bers in both organizations are representatives of Salt Spring's two major farm groups: Island Natural Growers and the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute. The shared goals of the Farmland Trust and its sister agricultural organizations are to revitalize the agricultural economy on Salt Spring and improve and increase food security for the community.

Marguerite Lee, chair of the SSIFTS board, explains that the board is in the midst of working out the final details of what the rental agreements with individual farmers will look like.

"We need to get the details correct because this is the first of what we hope are more donations of farmland to the Farmland Trust," she said. "Our goal is to provide opportunities for new and experienced farmers who need land to grow food for this community."

Conrad Pilon, one of the board members who has been instrumental in bringing the Fulford Community Farm into trust ownership, states, "We want to put out a request for farming proposals as soon as possible. In the request we'll be asking those interested in farming the land to prepare a farming plan that describes what they intend to grow and what their farming practices will be. We are strongly encouraging the use of Canadian organic standards and we're very open to innovation in addition to time-tested methods of good land stewardship."

The development of the agriculture industrial land on Beddis Road is also a Farmland Trust priority. The SSIFTS and the Agricultural Alliance will be working in collaboration to complete the design of a farm food produce centre on the site.

FARMLAND TRUST continued on 20

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SALT SPRING

Proposals wanted for Fulford Community Farm lands

FARMLAND TRUST continued from 19

The site will support farmers by providing a full range of temperature controlled storage as well as other support services such as distribution and processing.

The Farmland Trust acquired the title to the property on Beddis Road as part of the rezoning application approved for Beddis Developments (Slegg Lumber)

in 2012. Slegg Lumber is putting other resources into the project as well.

The produce centre is the kind of infrastructure that is required as food production increases. In order to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction targets we need to increase our local food production by at least 150 per cent just to meet the minimum recommendation in the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan. Commercial grade storage and processing are key elements

in making these goals a reality.

While the Farmland Trust's emphasis is on increasing small-scale commercial farming, it is also providing an opportunity for people who want to grow more food for their family tables.

The SSIFTS initiated an allotment garden on the Fulford Community Farm this past year with plots for 28 families. More plots will be made available this spring and there will be 98 in total. Some of these are being

gardened by Salt Spring Island Community Services to provide fresh, local and nutritious food for the many people who use their programs.

The importance of community-owned land for food production is recognized throughout the Capital Region as a key part of building a regional food system. It is complementary to many initiatives, such as a farm incubator project, farmer education and skills development, food literacy and local

food branding.

By making farmland more accessible and affordable on Salt Spring the Farmland Trust is not only taking some of the financial pressures off farmers but is ensuring that food production land will be available for the community through many generations.

It is making a significant contribution to one of the most sustainable and productive economic activities in the community.

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Friendly animals admired

CATTLE continued from 19

For a female farmer who is starting to feel her years, having small and friendly animals to deal with is welcome. During birth, for example, a time when most animals are understandably skittish, Lowlines are known to be quite amenable.

"You really appreciate that when you have a 2,000-pound cow that doesn't like you when it's calving," Hickman said, noting some breeds are apt to kick out and are surprisingly accurate with their hooves. The



Hickman figures a five-acre lot could support two cows and a calf, and still be divided into alternate pastures to give parts of the land a rest.

"Most people have small acreages now, and you could fit a lot of these guys on five, 10 or 20 acres," she said.

"Myself and my land, we're happy to have cows," Hickman added, noting the distribution of manure and the general wear on the fields is much better now than when she kept a dozen horses in the same area.

More information on the breed can be found online at www.canadianlowline.com.

Lowline's size and friendly character also makes it ideal as a family pet or a child's 4-H project.

One of the main attractions for the modern livestock producer, however, is the breed's efficient feeding capabilities.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

Farmers' Institute takes care of more than the fair

Community interests at heart of SSIFI

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

When people think of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute, images of the fall fair naturally pop into their mind.

"A lot of people think the Farmers' Institute is the fall fair and getting ready for the fair," said longtime board member Tony Threlfall last week.

In fact, he says, the fair might consume 25 per cent of the energy of the group that was constituted in 1895 and has played a major role in the development of the community since then.

"That's still the driving force," said Threlfall — "community."

Fellow board member Conrad Pilon agrees. He points to two non-fair projects that occupied the institute in recent months: discussion about changing the Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, and the concept of "21st-century learning." The latter arose from Camosun College wanting to use the SSIFI poultry barn for a trades program.

Since its inception the Farmers' Institute has been at the confluence of all things connected to community and agricultural development, from building Mahon and Central halls in the last century to proposing use of the surplus Ganges fire hall

site as a "town centre" today.

Acquisition of a 62-acre parcel of land in the Burgoyne Valley occupied untold hours of institute directors' work since early 2006 — a gargantuan task Pilon says would easily fill a book to properly document. (See related story on Page 19.)

"We lived and breathed this for six-and-a-half years," confirmed Threlfall.

Involvement with other stakeholders in a battle with the Salt Spring LTC as the island's land use bylaw (#355) went through an updating process was another major project. Pilon said the institute was among the bodies feeling that one way to bypass the LUB fight would be to create an area farm plan as part of the official community plan process. Working with Island Natural Growers, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Islands Trust, the Salt Spring Area Farm Plan was completed in 2008 and is now a model for other communities to follow.

Among the plan's recommendations was creation of the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust and the Agricultural Alliance, and establishing an on-island abattoir and other facilities to handle composting, refrigeration, and food processing and preparation.

"Mostly we have to be reactive to things," said Pilon, pointing out that a change in B.C. meat inspection regulations spurred the local abattoir project, "although we do have the capacity to be proactive."

The SSIFI also supports

community gardens at several island schools. In turn, the institute gets funds from groups such as Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 and the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

Institute members spend many hours maintaining the group's 10-acre property on Rainbow Road, which is used for everything from Salt Spring Fire-Rescue's annual training weekend to the GISS dry grad party to the oldtimers' reunion held every five years.

Regular Tuesday-morning volunteer work parties ensure the facilities are ship-shape for all users, and the members' level of commitment is legendary.

Threlfall notes that longtime SSIFI member John Woodward "gets up at 5 a.m. every Tuesday to bake muffins for the group. That's his contribution."

Earlier days saw members putting needed purchases like a lawn tractor or fall fair ribbons on their personal credit cards until revenue from the fair could help pay the bills.

"It's a pretty human operation," he said.

Threlfall and Pilon also point out that the fair itself is not the huge money-maker some people believe it to be.

Net proceeds of \$25,000 to \$30,000 help maintain the property and support other community endeavours.

Considering everything the institute has done for Salt Spring Island in the past 118 years, it's an efficient operation indeed.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Some of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute board of directors participate in a celebration to mark the transfer of 62 acres of Burgoyne Valley farmland from Three Point Properties Ltd. to the institute (and ultimately to the SSI Farmland Trust) in June of 2011. The project consumed the volunteer community organization for more than six years.

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FUNDRAISER

Grandmother Scrabble funds providing aid

Fundraising events begin next week

BY PREMILLA PILLAY
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It's Scrabble time again! Salt Spring Grand(m)others are hosting their 5th Annual Scrabble Tournament on March 5, 6, 7 and 9.

What is it that inspires this group of women to nudge the rest of us to those Scrabble boards? To answer this question, here are some stories that tug at the heart strings of all who hear them or witness them first hand.

Let's start with seven-year-old Carol from Kenya who sat by her mother's side tending to her needs during her agonizing final days. Carol, who later went to live with her grandmother, was also infected with HIV. Doctors gave up hope on Carol who was sent home to die.

A neighbour suggested contacting Ripples International, a small organization funded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Community health workers nursed Carol back to health and provided counselling to help her through the trauma of losing her mother. By the age of 14, Carol was back at school.



Premilla Pillay of Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers plays Scrabble with Salt Spring Elementary students. One player spells out the reason for the annual community-wide fundraiser.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ripples paid for her educational needs and provided a goat to earn a small income and regular supplies of food to feed Carol and her grandmother. Ripples reaches thousands of children and families in poverty-stricken areas of Kenya.

Then there's Maria, age 64, a school teacher who lives in the beautiful valley of a Thousand Hills, in Kwazulu, Natal, South Africa. Maria raised eight children to adulthood and painfully lost seven of them, one by one to AIDS. Now she is raising six beautiful grandchildren and counsels villagers, who like herself are

HIV positive, and encourages them to attend the Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust with its holistic diagnostic treatment and home care programs. Hillcrest's philosophy, like other Stephen Lewis Foundation programs, is to work at the grassroots level, providing services on request by the local community.

Over to the Democratic Republic of Congo where the Panzi Hospital is remarkable for its support of women who face blatant acts of sexual violence due to ongoing internal warfare. Panzi rebuilds women's broken bodies and provides medical care, accommodation, food and

support for survivors.

Most of the women living with AIDS work together in groups based on skills and interests such as poultry farming, sewing or catering to support one another and to generate income. Panzi treats as many as 4,000 women survivors of rape and mutilation each year.

Many such stories and videos can be found at the Stephen Lewis Foundation/Grandmothers' Campaign website and in their online magazine called Grassroots. Across Canada, 240 Grandmothers groups have raised more than \$16.5 million, 90 per cent of which goes directly

to over 300 grassroots projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

So how about lending a modest hand? Every dollar goes a long way. Come out and enjoy a game of Scrabble, have a bite to eat and bid on our silent auction items on the final night.

The Salt Spring Inn is hosting on Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Clubhouse Bar and Grill at the Salt Spring Golf Club is hosting on Wednesday, March 6 and Saturday, March 9 at 6 p.m.

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LEADERSHIP

SWOVA pays for positive change

Program builds leadership among young women

Young women between the ages of 15 and 24 who are living in the Gulf Islands and want to make a positive impact on the world will have the chance to hone their leadership skills thanks to a new program offered by SWOVA.

The Salt Spring non-profit organization has created a one-year program with funding from Status of Women Canada that will help girls and young women build leadership capacity — and pay them \$50 per month to do it.

A press release explains that, "Despite

advances over the years, girls in Canada face pressures today, both new and old, that limit their potential. Recent Canadian research findings demonstrate that the real life challenges girls face haven't been fixed. Girls and young women are impacted every day by personal, social, societal and systemic barriers that limit their potential such as gender bias, poverty, and rural location."

Applicants who show a desire "to identify problems, take action and cause change" will be asked to commit for a minimum of 12 months to the program, which starts in March 2013 and will run to the fall of 2014.

"The leadership program will bring together a group of young women who have a variety of strengths and skills but

who all share the desire to make a difference in their world, who want to act individually and with others to bring about positive change," the press release states. "We will help those girls build on the skills they already possess as well as develop new ones and harness the power within themselves."

Facilitator Andria Scanlan will assist the group to conduct a local needs assessment identifying specific barriers that stand in the way of reaching young women's full potential. A line-up of experts and speakers will assist participants to examine concepts and skill areas.

Topics will include but not be limited to: social activism, feminism, self awareness, gender inequities, leadership styles,

harnessing the power within, values based leadership, partnership building, public speaking, project planning, evaluation and decision making. Participants will also have ample opportunity to steer topics to areas that interest them.

The criteria for participation is women between 15 and 24 who grew up mostly in the Gulf Islands and have six to eight hours per month to dedicate for at least 12 months. Applicants must send a two-page maximum description on why leadership for young women is important to them to andria@swova.org. Calls with questions can be made to 250-577-1336.

Successful applicants will receive a \$50 per month honoraria for participation.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

CFUW shows NFB feminism film

Event dovetails with club priorities

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

One of Salt Spring's active women's groups isn't letting International Women's Day slip by unnoticed this year.

At the Fritz Movie Theatre next Friday, March 8, the island chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women is hosting a film called *Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada*.

It will be shown at the Central Hall cinema at 2 p.m.

According to Salt Spring CFUW president Barb DuMoulin, more than 50 CFUW clubs across Canada will air the National Film Board film from director Karen Cho.

"As a social movement, feminism has fundamentally shaped the society we live in," explains press material about the film. "But just how far has it brought us, and how relevant is it today? *Status Quo* asks these questions and uncovers provocative — at times shocking — answers about the evolution of women's equality in Canada."

DuMoulin explains how the Salt Spring group came to organize the film event.

"When we were asked last year by the Driftwood if we had anything planned for International Women's Day, we had to admit that no, we weren't organizing anything specifically for this day — the ratio-



Scene from *Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada*.

nale being that as in the previous few years we would be sponsoring a table at the film festival and felt that as the two events were only a week apart we couldn't ask members to do double duty. But in thinking it over afterwards, we really felt that 'yes, we should be doing something to honour IWD,' so we budgeted for an event this year."

Then in May 2012, the provincial CFUW annual general meeting moved that each club take on a project "suitable for their community, to support children and their families whose lives are impacted by poverty."

That saw a local CFUW committee formed to look at poverty on the island, which saw Dana Peace of Island Women Against Violence and Cheryl Bell-Gadsby from Salt Spring Community Services speak to club meetings last fall.

Dumoulin said two initiatives

arose out of those meetings. One was the addition of a third Second Chance bursary to help mature women in educational pursuits — this one specifically for a woman supporting children under the age of 18 who wished to return to school. Some club members also volunteered in support roles with women in need.

Given the group's focus for the year, said DuMoulin, "When we heard that Susan Murphy, the national president of CFUW, had met with a representative of the NFB and that they would be making this documentary available to our clubs, we jumped on it as we felt it dovetailed with our goals for the year."

Admission to the film is by donation.

For more information about *Status Quo*, search for it on the NFB website at www.nfb.ca.

FAITH

France leads World Prayer Day

All welcome to All Saints this Friday

The 2013 World Day of Prayer celebration will be held this Friday, March 1 at All Saints By-the-Sea.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m., this is a community event hosted in various churches with a variety of participants.

As Rev. Richard Stetson of All Saints explains, World Day of Prayer is always held on the first Friday in March and has its roots in an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women in Canada and the United States in 1920. It became known as World Day of Prayer in 1922 and grew into an international observance with Christian women's groups in one country preparing a

service for use in all places where it is observed.

This year women in France have prepared the service under the theme of "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me."

"The women of France invite us to get to know six of the women who served on their service preparation committee," said Stetson. "We learn their names and that some of them have come to

France from other parts of Europe and Africa, a committee that represented the modern day multicultural complexity of France."

Women and men, young and old, are invited to join the women of France on World Day of Prayer, as well as more than 170 other countries and 2,000 communities across Canada in prayer, learning and fellowship.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Players cope with wild and woolly distributions around bridge table

Heads happily held high

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

*January brought no snow,
Still, our feet and fingers glow.
February's ice and sleet
Didn't happen. Airn't that sweet?
We've had fog and rain and cloud;
Heads are soggy but unbowed.*

(Apologies to Flanders and Swann) And there was no reason on Feb. 11 for Liz and Oleh Mycyk to bow their heads, seeing that they came first

among five full tables of bridge, over George Laundry and Paul Retallack who were an upright second. Flo Laundry and Lynn Thorburn stood tall in third place, while Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas splashed into fourth.

On Feb. 18 there were four and a half tables, and the Taylor-Thomas pair made a bigger splash by landing in first place, leaping over the Mycyks

in the second spot. Third were Ted Baldwinson and John Jefferson (welcome back, John!), while the Gillian Mouat-Blanche Poborsa combo sailed happily into fourth place.

If you're attracted to the wild and woolly distributions and maddening mismatches of duplicate bridge, remember everyone faces the same hands, and it's just supposed to be fun. For info about the where and when and whatever of these games, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

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COFFEE

SS Coffee selected for 2013 TED and TEDActive events

Ethiopia brew woos 'blind' tasters

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Coffee Co. has found a fitting venue for its product, with its Ethiopia Amara Gayo being served up at the prestigious California-based conferences TED2013 and TEDActive this month.

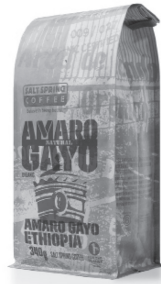
"We are extremely honoured to be included in this elite group of coffee roasters and specialty coffee community for TED2013. This is a total team win," Salt Spring Coffee's CEO and co-founder Mickey McLeod stated in a press release.

"We wanted to give great coffee to the people at TED because it is a collaboration of people with great ideas," added Aron Bjornson, Salt Spring Coffee's director of communications. Bjornson noted how often at conferences the coffee "is not great at all."

"For us, at Salt Spring Coffee, we feel like it's an incredible honour."

TED has become an international byword of innovative thinking, growing from a conference on Technology, Entertainment and Design to incorporate creative work in all platforms.

"We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change



Salt Spring Coffee Co.'s Ethiopia Amara Gayo will be served at TED2013.

attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world," the nonprofit organization states on its website.

"So we're building here a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers, and also a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other."

Salt Spring Coffee, with its quest to create a sustainable and fair business and deliver great product at the same time, probably couldn't find a better alignment of its interests. But the company wasn't chosen for its philosophical leanings. A blind jury chose its coffee through a single cup pour-over process overseen by The Barista Guild of America and the Roasters Guild.

Salt Spring Coffee is one of eight roasters to have its

product served to participants at TED events between Feb. 25 and March 1 in Long Beach and Palm Spring. The Ethiopia Amara Gayo is also part of a special espresso blend along with Ethiopia Kemgin from Blue Bottle, a company with locations in California and New York City, and Guatemala La Armonia Hermosa by the Cincinnati roaster Deeper Roots.

Bjornson said lead brewer Nelson Teskey (a former Salt Springer) and quality control manager Stamatis Papadopoulos worked together to achieve the perfect balance for the Amaro Gayo. Teskey produced a much lighter roast than he uses for many

of the company's coffees to preserve its delicate flavours, nuances and distinctive berry notes. The challenge was to hit the "sweet spot" and not over-roast in the initial process or follow-through, but to still have it taste like coffee in the end.

Information from Salt Spring Coffee states the Amaro Gayo coffee is unique because it's milled and exported by Asnakech Thomas, the only female coffee exporter in Ethiopia. She is the sole owner of the Amaro mill and a 250-hectare coffee farm in the Sidamo province of Ethiopia.

Her coffee cups at 90 points on a 100-point quality scale.

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Senior Care

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The Importance Of Stretching

Often participants leave before or when the class start to stretch. Stretching helps restore muscles to their resting length, helps improve posture and increases the ability to function and perform daily activities with ease. Stretching can prevent injury, relax the muscles, increase range of motion and flexibility. After a workout there is a build up of lactic acid in one's body and by stretching the lactic acid is removed, therefore alleviating any muscle pain or cramps. When stretching we need to breathe deeply and "smell the roses" which will recharge you for the rest of the day. Stretching is an important part of self care for all individuals.

Participants Comment:

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Counselling

Physical Fitness Linked to Brain Development in Children

Neuroscientists have reported findings associated with aerobic fitness and brain development in children. The report suggests children who are more physically fit tend to have larger hippocampi and perform better in memory based tests than less fit children. The study focused on the hippocampus, a structure of the brain important in learning and memory. The study used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to measure the relative size of specific structures in the brains of 49 children. It showed that physically fit children had, on average, 12% bigger hippocampal volume relative to total brain size than their less fit counterparts. What does this mean for SSI kids? While many state that gene heredity and socio economic standards can hinder the cognitive development of children, this news empowers our children to engage in physical activity and reap the benefits of improved brain development. This research appears in Brain Research, 2010 Oct 28; 1358: 172-83. If there are dynamics in your family that keep the members from optimum health I invite you to give me a call.



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Having your car maintained by professionals at the regular intervals laid out in your owner's manual will also help to get the most out of your petrol dollar. Even though your technician may be doing an oil change, their trained eye will pick out developing problems, giving you a chance to do preventative repairs before they become a breakdown repair.

With today's fuel prices and environmental awareness, squeezing the last little bit of mileage out of every litre has become a major concern.

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DEATHS

Donald Arthur Harry Madsen Jan. 25, 1932 - Feb. 15, 2013. Passed away peacefully on February 15, 2013. Predeceased by his wife Zella in 1999.

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INFORMATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Salt Spring Arts Council will be held at Mahon Hall 114 Rainbow Road, Ganges on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 4:00 pm To elect Directors, receive and consider reports, and transact such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting. Dated February 15, 2013 By Order of the Board of Directors.

INFORMATION

SALT SPRING VIPASSANA COMMUNITY invites you to A WEEK LONG RETREAT for EXPERIENCED STUDENTS March 16 - 23 Stowel Lake Farm with Heather Martin, assisted by Kate Dresher For more info and to register, go to www.ssvipassana.org

Yoga with Cate Tuesdays - Mixed Levels 9:30-11:00 drop-ins welcome Tuesdays - Recovery Yoga 2:00-3:15 a gentle, individual practice for maturing persons recovering SALT SPRING CENTRE OF YOGA Cate McEwen 250-653-9148 cmcewen@saltspring.com

INFORMATION

Joanne Shirley Cartwright May 29, 1926 - February 16, 2013 Joanne was blessed with a long and happy life. She was born and raised in Chilliwack where in high school she met the love of her life: Tom. After graduating as the top student, she studied at UBC and then in Seattle and became an orthotic technician. She joined Tom in England, where he was stationed with the Royal Air Force. They married in London in 1950 and returned to Canada, where they settled down in Burnaby. In the 1970's, Joanne returned to university, attending SFU to finish her degree, and became a teacher librarian, working in Surrey until her retirement in 1987. Tom and Joanne learned to ski when they were in their late 40s and remained dedicated skiers until they were 82, often spending months at their condo at Big White. Tom and Joanne moved to Salt Spring Island full time after they retired. Joanne appreciated the view of the ocean from her place at the dining room table right until the end. Joanne was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother, a philanthropist, teacher, and world traveller. She enjoyed gardening, reading, sewing, and baking. Joanne and Tom loved art and supported the arts on Salt Spring. They volunteered at the library, supported many causes, especially environmental ones, and travelled the world. They were members of the Trail and Nature Club and Joanne was active with the University Women's Club. Joanne was an extraordinary person. She was the most capable person we knew (along with Tom). She was smart, determined, practical, organized, and hard working. We will remember her generosity and kindness. Family came first for Joanne. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren. Joanne was predeceased by her parents Clifford and Mabel Ferguson. She is survived by her loving family: husband Thomas: children John (Judy), Jane (Alfred), Catherine (Desmond), and Robert: grandchildren Thomas, Patrick, Jacqueline, Caroline, Madeline, and Molly. There are so many people to thank for their kindness and devotion, especially Dr. Ron Reznick and Jean. Funeral services will be held 2:30 pm Saturday, March 2 at All Saints By-The-Sea, 110 Park Drive, Salt Spring Island, with reception following. An additional reception will be held at John and Judy's house, 4366 Portland St., Burnaby, on Sunday March 3 at 3pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, 135 Crofton Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1T1, or the charity of your choice.

Baines, Charles Frank Harry Born in Ladysmith January 10, 1931, Harry passed away with grace February 7, 2013 in NRGH Hospice. Predeceased by his sister Joy McLeod (2000) and brother Lawrence (Bud) Baines (2008). Survived by his loving wife, Donna Louise Baines; devoted daughters Tara Denis (Tom), Dorraine Baines-Turberfield (Blair) and Donna Jeanne Baines-Kearns (Gerry); grandchildren Derrick & Decklan Denis and Alex, Justin & Johnathan Harry Turberfield; sisters Jeanne Silvey (Jack), Thelma Brunsmann, Tillie Southworth (Bill) and brother Lloyd Baines (Betsy); also his special friend, Rev. Canon Brian Wood. Harry was a commercial fisherman who grew up on Galiano Island and moved to Ladysmith when he married in 1980. He was a member of the Eagles and Vancouver Island Model Engineers (VIME). Harry's gentleness, compassion, and modesty were recognized and appreciated by everyone who met him. He had deep faith in God. A Service was held Thursday February 14, 2013 at St. John's Anglican Church, Ladysmith with Rev. Dan Fournier officiating. Reception followed at the Eagle's Hall. Ashes interred at Ladysmith Cemetery. Memorial gifts in Harry's name to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

INFORMATION

The Max Abley Passion for Life Scholarship Fund Your tax deductible gift today towards this existing GISS scholarship will help perpetuate this community fund in Max's name. For further details or questions, please contact Melva Geldreich 250 537-2683 or melgel@shaw.ca

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COMING EVENTS

Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society Annual General Meeting Mon., March 25, 2013 at 1:30 PM At the Lion's Hall Election of Officers All members urged to attend

Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society is offering one "Back to School" Bursary Applicants must be mature students who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & application forms available at Thrift Shop located at back of the Upper Ganges Centre next to Driftwood office and on our new web-site. WWW.LMHAS.CA Application deadline is March 31, 2013.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGALS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT ALLEN ASTON, Deceased, formerly of 134 Douglas Rd., Salt Spring Island, British Columbia V8K 2J2
Creditors and others having claims against the Estate of ROBERT ALLEN ASTON, are hereby notified under section 38 of the Trustee Act that particulars of their claims should be sent to the Executor at Box 414, Ganges P.O., Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2W1 on or before March 22, 2013, after which date the Executor will distribute the Estate among the parties entitled to it, having regard to the claims of which the Executor then has notice.
James Pasuta
Solicitor for the Estate of ROBERT ALLEN ASTON

HELP WANTED
TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY is back!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGALS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
NOTICE is hereby given that creditors and others having claims against the Estate of Gillian Cynthia Shugar, Deceased, of 431 Beaver Point Road, Salt Spring Island, BC who died on February 25, 2012, are hereby required to send them to Jonathan Mark Pinckard, the Executor of the Estate, c/o Severide Law, Barristers & Solicitors, #201-5027 47A Avenue, Delta, BC V4K 1T9, before April 10, 2013, after which date the Executor will distribute the said Estate among the parties entitled thereto, having regard to the claims of which he has notice.

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TRIBUTES

Noted Yukon historian Iris Warner will be missed at ECU

Passion for history never abated, attests fellow historian

BY KEN MACKENZIE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

There died at Lady Minto Hospital in mid-January a fascinating and indomitable lady.

Iris Warner was 86. Perhaps the only straight route she travelled in her life was when she passed through the various stages of residency in the complex care system at the hospital until settling into the Extended Care Unit.

Whilst there, despite her declining health, she worked her charisma and her charac-

ter for the benefit and enjoyment of the staff, her caregivers and her fellow residents. It was there that I had the privilege and delight to meet Iris and to get to know her.

A pioneer historian, archivist and museum enthusiast in the Yukon, she was amongst the first there to collect, curate and make accessible the paper and material heritage of the area on a professional basis. She and I quickly discovered mutual interests in all three of her endeavours.

She was one of the very few people with whom I could exchange stories — and perhaps even some little white lies — about the early history of transportation in northern

regions.

She was fascinated by my retelling of the fumbling history of Canadian National Railway's World War II armoured train, by which the Canadian government hoped to repel any Japanese invasion of the province. She could relate to the story of those intrepid surveyors whose plight I described as they dealt with biting insects as they searched for a right-of-way for the Hudson's Bay Railway before World War I.

She in turn shared with me her work on the last, unpublished manuscript on the trials and tribulations of those building roads in Canada's north.

She regularly poured over this manuscript in her room, pen-

cil firmly grasped in her teeth, and offered to everyone in the vicinity a chance to read sections of it and thus to become more familiar with the history of the Yukon.

In Dawson City it was fire with which Iris had to contend, as she was called upon to re-establish the city's museum after it burned to the ground. With me it was a flood in the basement of the Vancouver station that I had to deal with in my efforts to preserve my company's historical records. For her efforts she received the Yukon Heritage Award for 1979, just two years before she moved to Salt Spring Island.

As you passed the open door to her room at Lady Minto

Hospital, a cheery wave would catch your attention. If you stepped in — and who could refuse to do that? — you would be treated to an imaginative description of what had been going on outside her picture window — animal, vegetable or mineral.

Who is to say that all of those marvellous things she described had not happened, but were just memories from her long and varied past?

I suspect that when Iris marched through whatever portal awaited her as she continued life's journey, her first question would have been "Where can I find Pierre Berton?"

I shall miss her.

CLIMATE ACTION

Partners team up for electric charging station

ArtSpring station installation set for next month

Earth Festival Society has announced that Mid-Island Co-op is partnering with the society as co-owner and corporate sponsor of a Level 2 electric vehicle charging station to be installed at ArtSpring in March.

"The co-owner-

ship arrangement is very good news for the Earth Festival Society," said Earth Festival Society president Patti Bauer, "as it ensures that capital costs and future operating costs will be covered." Use of the charging station will be free for electric vehicle owners.

The project is part of the provincially funded Community Charging Infrastructure program, administered by the Fraser Basin Coun-

cil.

The Salt Spring application was supported by the Capital Regional District's climate action program. CRD municipalities, businesses and institutions have collectively applied for CCI incentives to install an estimated 84 charging stations by spring of 2013.

"The charging stations will play an important role in helping to establish an electric vehicle

infrastructure network within the region and across B.C.," Bauer said.

Several island organizations, including the Salt Spring Transportation Commission, the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council, Island Arts Centre Society and Earth Festival Society have been working together to make the ArtSpring charging station a reality.

Since the pro-

vincial grant was expected to cover less than half the capital costs, the challenge was finding a sponsor to cover the balance.

"When Mid-Island Co-op stepped forward, we figured we had the perfect match," said project coordinator Elizabeth White.

Mid-Island Co-op is also pleased with the arrangement. Operations manager Blair Gjevre explained that while the business

will not be involved with the installation itself, it is interested in supporting green transportation alternatives and regards this project as both a learning exercise and a way to give back to the Salt Spring community.

Installation of the charging station is expected to begin in March with the help of volunteers under the supervision of ArtSpring electrician David Abley of Island Electric.

Attention New Salt Springers!



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Stephen P Roberts

Saanich North and the Islands

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candidate, BC Liberal Party nomination

Stephen was born in Sidney and raised on Saltspring. Following a career in investment research, which took him around the world, he has returned home to Saltspring and is ready to give back full-time, representing Saanich North and the Islands

AGRICULTURE

Farmers invited to make connections

Producers can meet chefs at Saanich Fair Grounds

FarmFolk CityFolk and the Island Chefs' Collaborative are hosting a new Vancouver Island event to create networks between local food buyers and producers called Meet Your Maker.

Gulf Islands farmers, restaurants, caterers, food processors, chefs, local food retailers, food delivery companies, fishers and ranchers all have the opportunity to register for the event being held at the Saanich Fair Grounds

on Monday, March 11.

Funded with support from Vancity, Meet Your Maker combines business networking, conference workshops and tasty local food to stimulate connections between the businesses that produce food with the businesses that buy food.

Press material explains that while new to the island, the event itself has been organized in Metro Vancouver since 2008 and expanded to the Okanagan in 2012.

More information and a registration link can be found on FarmFolk CityFolk's website under Events.

PARC NEWS

Mouat Park sign meeting Mar. 2

Signage project is one of several spring PARC activities

Salt Spring's own Mouat Park is at the centre of a research study titled Salt Spring Interpretive Signage Initiative (SSI-ISI), set forth by the Trail and Nature Club, the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and the University of Victoria. The study's purpose is to capture the community's knowledge and interests regarding Mouat Park, and to later implement, within the park, interpretive signage that reflects these thoughts in areas such as environment/ecology, history, culture, health, etc.

For the Mouat Park interpretive signage initiative our co-op student Stevie-rae Robinson from the University of Victoria has been gathering information. She has researched the history of the park with the help of some local "history buffs" and by using the Salt Spring Library archives.

In combination with collecting park information, Stevie-rae is conducting focus groups with community members and key park stakeholder. During the next couple months a variety of focus (aka discussion) groups will be organized. Afterwards, the community data will direct the creation of pilot signs in Mouat Park.

The date of the next open community group discussion is on Saturday, March 2 from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. The meeting will take place in the Ganges Centre Building above the post office; the entrance to the second floor boardroom is behind the CIBC bank.

PARCPOSTINGS

If you are interested in participating, please contact Stevie-rae Robinson at the PARC office, 250-537-4448 or by email at stevier@uvic.ca.

Rainbow Road Pool

The Swim 4 Heart fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation took place on Feb. 17. Over 100 people participated in this annual event. With the help of numerous volunteers the fundraiser was a huge success, raising over \$1,000.

Five teams participated in the event, with one team breaking the goal of 100 pool lengths. Healthy hearts to everyone!

There are a number of water fitness classes offered throughout the week. To find out which class would best suit you, give the pool a call at 250-537-1402. Swimming lessons started on Feb. 22.

With such a high demand, additional lessons will be offered over spring break. If you are interested in getting your child registered in classes, call the pool for a schedule and other information.

Spring Break Camp

PARC, together with Thrifty Foods, is offering a fun and energizing week-long camp for kids that want to cook. Called Thrifty Foods' Young Chef Camp, the camp will focus on hands-on nutritional snack preparation for kids aged eight to 12.

Participants will learn food skills in the kitchen, food preparation,

as well as how to choose tasty and healthy ingredients. The kids will prepare their own yummy snack, and be encouraged to customize their very own recipe book to take home at the end of the week. Held in the Salt Spring Island Middle School teaching kitchen, March 18-22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the camp is affordable at \$50 for the week. Call the PARC office at 250-537-4448 to register.

Rec Funding Available

The Spring 2013 grants-in-aid program is accepting applications from community organizations. Grants will be awarded to organizations seeking financial assistance for parks and recreation-related projects or programs, which directly provide additional recreational facilities, equipment, services or programs that benefit the community.

Funding is awarded on a one-time basis, but under certain circumstances may be applied to ongoing programs. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 29. Application forms are available on our website www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc or at the PARC office. For more information call 250-537-4448 or email ssiparc@crd.bc.ca

Leisure Guide

Our popular and informative Leisure Guide has been in production for three years, and we are preparing for our seventh issue. If you, or your group or association would like to be included in our brochure, or if the current information requires changes, please email the PARC office at ssiparc@crd.bc.ca to let us know. The deadline for submissions is March 29.



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For more information, people can consult the CFUW website at www.cfuwssi.ca. Applications are available on the website or at Apple Photo in Ganges.

Applications must be mailed to CFUW, P.O. Box 447, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2W3 and post-marked by March 31.




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GYMNASTICS

Gymnasts triumph

Results posted

Six local gymnasts who train in Duncan fared well at a recent Comox meet.

Representing Gulf Islands Secondary School, Kristi Reynolds in Level 4 placed sixth on vault, third on bars, second on beam and fourth on floor for a third-place all-around finish.

Alex McDonald in Level 4 placed fifth on vault, second on bars, third on beam and third on floor for a second-place all-around finish.

Letitia Taylor in Level 1 placed fourth on vault,

second on bars, fourth on beam and third on floor with a first all-around finish.

Charlotte McIntyre, Level 1, came second on vault, second on beam and fourth on floor for a third all-around finish.

Taelor Lay in Level 1 placed 11th on bars and floor.

Representing SIMS, Level-2 gymnast Jeyda Gordon placed sixth on vault and fifth on floor.

The girls' next meet is the provincial championships in Powell River from March 7 to 9.

WRESTLING



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN
Salt Spring Island's wrestling club, made up of students at SIMS and GISS, take a break from training to let the Driftwood snag their photo with hardware earned in tournaments so far this year. Nine team members will compete at provincial championships in Duncan this week. The club is coached by certified competition coach Leon Esquivel (front row, right), assisted by Tina O'Donnell (back row, left).

Wrestling team set sights on provincials

Growing club thrives with challenges

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's energetic young wrestling club has evolved from humble beginnings into one of the region's top teams in the lead-up to this week's provincial championships in Duncan.

"The Salt Spring Island Rams (middle school) and Scorpions (high school) teams have become known amongst the Vancouver Island wrestling community for their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship," said Tina O'Donnell, a "wrestling mom" and team spokesperson. "The way they stick together as a family and support each other has not gone unnoticed."

Something else that's hard

to miss is the group's success at tournaments this year, a streak that's pinned more than 30 medals ahead of provincial championships.

Earlier this month at the island championships in Ucluelet, nine island-based wrestlers advanced to compete among B.C.'s best. Jorel Anderson, Jimmy Beck, Chase Dawson, Karol Esquivel, Anita Esquivel, Sebastian Howe, Kevin Marr, Trent O'Donnell and Hamish Supina head to the Cowichan Valley to compete at the Island Savings Centre Arena on March 1 and 2.

Another Salt Spring resident — Grade 9 student Molly O'Donnell — has qualified for provincial championships through membership on the Cowichan Valley Wrestling Club.

Before this year's tournament, only three Salt Spring wrestlers

had ever represented the island district at the provincial level.

"This season has been historic for Salt Spring Island Wrestling," reads a press release from the club. "The children, Salt Springers all, have achieved miracles this season and have risen above expectations due to their hard work and discipline, helped along by head coach Leon Esquivel, his assistants and all the parents who have given their time to help the team."

Perhaps most incredible is how Salt Spring's budding crop of wrestlers and dedicated volunteers have succeeded in spite of aging mats and limited available training time at the SIMS gym.

According to O'Donnell, the team's well-used practice mat has become hardened and frayed after decades of use. The need for a new mat has become

more urgent since Salt Spring has been asked to host the 2014 Vancouver Island championships.

"The team practises on sub-standard wrestling mats that are 20 years old and has a desperate need for new equipment," states the release. "This does not deter these kids."

With help from fundraising efforts and a PARC grant-in-aid, the team is only \$3,000 away from being able to purchase a newer mat.

A hot dog and hamburger fundraiser is set for Country Grocer on April 6. The team also has a save-a-tape box at CG.

The club hopes to soon have a dedicated account for donations established at CIBC. More information about the wrestling club and donation opportunities is available from O'Donnell at 250-653-9541 or odkt@shaw.ca.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel 2013

- North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
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- Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

Take Notice that the annual sitting of the Local Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at the Capital Regional District, Room 651, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, British Columbia to consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation.

The Local Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

A copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm M-F and the Ganges Building Inspection office, #206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (above the Post Office), Ganges, BC from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm M-F, commencing February 27, 2013.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 27th day of February, 2013.

Diana E. Lokken, CMA
General Manager, Corporate Services
Capital Regional District

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Trail & Nature schedule for March released

For Walkers, Ramblers and Hikers groups

Hikers

March 5: Mary Waugh will lead a hike from Peter Arnell Park to Bryant Hill Park. The hike will be moderate to strenuous with some steep bits. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the trailhead at the intersection of Jennifer and Sarah Way at 10 a.m.

March 12: Hike with Andrea somewhere in the north end, probably starting from Epron Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. The north-end meeting place will be announced once the

route is confirmed.

March 19: Zeke Blazeka will lead a varied moderate hike with off-trail sections from Isabella Point to the Mountain Road waterfall area. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 or join at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

March 26: Kees Visser will lead a strenuous hike to Mount Sullivan, with lots of uphill. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10 a.m.

Walkers

March 5: Jacqueline Thomas will lead a walk with a few short, steep, rocky sections on the Tsawout First Nation

reserve from Beaver Point Hall. Possible ride back up the roads on the return for anyone needing it. Carpool yourselves from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet the leader at Beaver Point Hall at 10:20 a.m.

March 12: Deborah Miller will lead a walk from Ganges along trails and byways to Baker Road and the beach with the possibility of continuing to Quarry Drive. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

March 19: Anke Smelee will lead an off-island walk in the Sidney area, leaving on the 9:50 a.m. Fulford ferry. The walk will include part of the extensive Sidney

Seaside Walkway and the sculpture gardens. Those wishing to share rides meet at ArtSpring before 9 a.m. Return on the 3 p.m. ferry.

March 26: Donna and Paul Way will lead the daffodil walk in Burgoyne Bay. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or the Burgoyne triangle at 10:15 a.m.

Ramblers

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

March 5: Ramble with Dorothy Kyle around Ganges.

March 12: Leader's Choice Ramble with Kathy Darling.

March 19: Ramble

with Sterling and Maureen MacEachern in the Tripp Road area.

March 26: Leader's Choice Ramble with Molly Colson.

New Members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or John Heddle (president) at 250-537-2672, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in. Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at our website at www.saltspringtnc.ca.



Salt Spring's limited housing poses a challenge for many families.

Salt Spring resources

- For more information about the Island Women Against Violence, visit online at www.iwav.org
The transition house is staffed with trained support counsellors and is accessible to single women or women with their children around the clock – call 250-537-0735.
- For information about Abbeyfield Housing, visit www.abbeyfieldon-saltspring.ca
- For information about Salt Spring Island Community Services, visit www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca

Helping families escape violence & homelessness

Jennifer Blyth
Black Press

While Salt Spring's high cost of living can make finding affordable housing tricky enough for a single person, trying to find a home for a family can be even more challenging.

When those families are also among society's most vulnerable, the situation becomes even more precarious.

"The lack of affordable housing is a significant concern for many residents of Salt Spring Island, but is particularly critical for the more vulnerable segments of our population," explains Dana Peace, executive director of Island Women Against Violence. "Women and children who have experienced violence and low-income senior women are two groups that face added challenges in finding safe, appropriate and affordable housing."

Further, "housing and violence are key determinants of women's health. Literature suggests that housing may represent a point of intervention to mitigate the negative health consequences of violence."

Island Women Against Violence has been working on Salt Spring Island since 1992, pro-

viding a continuum of supports for women and their children who have been impacted by violence and abuse.

In addition to the transition house, a short-term, first-stage shelter, and 24-hour crisis line, the society offers support services such as Stopping the Violence counselling for women, the Children Who Witness Abuse counselling for children and youth, and Community Outreach supports.

"All of our programs are co-ordinated to offer 'wraparound' supports to the women and children during and after their stay at the transition house."

As in many southern Vancouver Island communities, the lack of transitional housing creates a challenge.

"Unfortunately we see far too many women and their children leave our transition house with no identified safe and affordable place to go," Peace says.

Left with few alternatives, many women, and women with children, either return to the abu-

sive environment, sleep in vehicles or couch surf' with friends or family, or enter into other unhealthy, unsafe living situations.

New initiatives include a partnership with Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society for The Cedars, longer-term, transitional housing for women and children and permanent housing for low-income senior women.

"This housing option allows us to offer affordable, safe, housing so that they do not have to make the difficult decision between remaining in abusive relationships or becoming homeless," Peace notes.

—Dana Peace

"In recent years, the biggest challenge to the women we serve achieving their transition goals has been the critical lack of affordable housing."

The project provides "women and children with the opportunity to heal from trauma in a safe environment, and transition to independence."

While the Cedars housing project has answered some of the need on Salt Spring as outlined in the Salt Spring Foundation's 2008 Community Needs Assessment and the 2011 Salt Spring Island Community Affordable Housing Strategy

report, much more is needed.

"While our housing project adds a number of affordable housing units to the affordable housing stock on Salt Spring Island, we know that the demand greatly exceeds the availability," Peace says. "In recent years, the biggest challenge to the women we serve achieving their transition goals has been the critical lack of affordable housing."

So, what can the public do to help address violence and family homelessness in the community?

"Clearly more funding is required to support affordable housing initiatives. In addition, financial supports or supplements to non-profit housing providers would allow rents to remain truly affordable," Peace says.

"At a local level, I am encouraged to see that we are putting forward for discussion the issue of legal secondary suites, as secondary suites are a cost-effective way to add affordable housing. And, partnerships and collaboration are key in addressing the needs in our community. I see The Cedars project as a demonstration model of a successful partnership that in coming together we were able to address housing our most vulnerable."

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