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New calendar of islander photos
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Pass It On fundraiser Friday night
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GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 10 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

READY TO PLAY: From left, Joi Freed-Garrod, Christine Witherspoon and Brenda Stevens play Scrabble at the Salt Spring Inn in the Grand(m)others to Grandmothers fundraiser Tuesday. Games continue today (Wednesday) at the Inn, and Saturday at the golf club.

DEVELOPMENT

LTC seeks more Bullock input

Resort rezoning application still alive

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Despite public pressure to “just say no,” the Bullock Lake Cottages development is not yet dead in the water.

Salt Spring’s Local Trust Committee could have decided last Thursday to not let a Platform Properties rezoning application proceed any further, but it chose a different course.

“I believe we need to take the due diligence of further study,” said trustee George Grams. “Even if we turn this down later, we will be able to see what the land can support.”

Trustee Peter Grove said he did not believe

it was possible for the project to meet necessary standards for water supply, but he agreed with Grams when it came time to vote.

LTC chair Sheila Malcolmson said a long list of conditions for rezoning outlined in a staff report seemed onerous, and she did not want to see the property owner’s time and money wasted, or Trust resources spent on what could be a futile application.

“I think it’s much clearer to say no now.”

However, the committee will let the rezoning process float for at least a while longer by referring the application to relevant government agencies and the LTC’s Advisory Plan-

ning Commission and Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission, and allowing a third-party review of the property owner’s potable and wastewater reports, to be paid for by the developer.

A successful rezoning would legalize use of 50 accommodation units built in two different stages in the late 1990s and mid-2000s, plus enable construction of a 6,000-square-foot amenity building for the resort on part of the 35-acre property.

BULLOCK continued on 2

FERRY CUTS

Island reps go to the top on ferry issues

New website, rally offer venues for public opinion

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Action Alliance will be in Victoria on Monday, March 10 for a meeting with Transportation Minister Todd Stone.

“This is an important meeting,” trustee George Grams said in a press release issued Sunday. “We plan to show how BC Ferries’ cutbacks and fare increases are impacting negatively on our economy and community. We will also present suggestions about a more sustainable and permanent approach to BC Ferries funding for the longer term.”

“We are fortunate to have this opportunity to meet personally with the minister,” CRD director Wayne McIntyre added. “We will ensure he is fully aware of Salt Spring’s reaction to the increases, and of the need for real consultations with communities to find better ways to address ferry issues.”

The meeting is just one part of a multi-pronged local approach to changing government policy on the coastal ferry system. Members of the group, which include the island’s elected officials and other community leaders, will bring a community delegation back to Victoria on Tuesday to participate in a rally at the BC Legislature. SSIFAA also launched a website this week where islanders can get information and register their stories about how fare increases and service cuts have impacted their lives.

FERRIES continued on 2

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Resort rezoning app gets lukewarm public reception

BULLOCK
continued from 1

At the Trust meeting, Platform Properties spokesman Cameron Chalmers outlined a number of amenities the company was willing to provide in exchange. Those include a conservation covenant on the Bullock Lake foreshore and creek riparian area, a pedestrian/bike path on its Robinson Road property frontage and community use of the resort's amenity building.

But public sentiment was clearly against the Platform

proposal in presentations made at the meeting and through a number of letters and emails sent to the LTC.

Chris Dixon is the chair of the nearby Cedar Lane Water Service Commission, which provides water to 40 households. His neighbours are concerned about the impact of a 50-unit resort on their already tenuous water supply.

In his address to the LTC, he said, "The [property] owner, whom we haven't met, has hired people to convince us that when he sells his 50 strata units to

people he has not yet met, who in turn will rent those units to people they haven't met, that somehow they — whoever they are — will manage to consume water in a controlled manner that will protect the limited supply of ground water currently available to Cedar Lane residents.

"The PR people have engaged a consultant who suggests that their source of water is so dependable that it can supply all the resort's needs and those of one near neighbour for 20 years without needing any

recharge from rainfall. To me this sounds like magical thinking."

Friends of Bullock Lake member Rollie Cook shared findings of a report by GW Solutions Inc., which had reviewed a basically positive hydrogeological impact assessment done for the developer by Waterline Resources Inc. The main point of the GW Solutions report is that pump tests were done in October, January and February, not the dry summer months when demand for water would be greatest and the supply at

its lowest point.

Cook stressed that the LTC should heed Trust Policy Directive 4.4.2, which directs LTCs to not increase density or land-use intensity in areas with known water supply or quality issues.

"If you deviate from this policy, you are putting our community at risk," said Cook.

He added that the LTC could be sued if residents' water sources were negatively impacted. He said property owners would monitor their well performance before and after any

resort was opened and act accordingly on the results.

Grams had also raised the spectre of legal action, noting that Platform Properties could seek reinstatement of expired building permits for 123 units on the property through legal channels if the rezoning for 50 cottages was not approved. The company had already abandoned plans to build 73 more units as envisioned by the former property owner, Tuan Development Inc., several years ago before the land was put into receivership.

SSI Grand(m)others to GrandMothers

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Officials hope for long-term ferries change

FERRIES
continued from 1

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member Peter Grove, who was speaking from the passenger deck of the Coastal Inspiration on route from Tsawwassen to Duke Point on Tuesday morning, said he's hopeful the combined effort will lead to changes in government policy.

"I'm not certain anything will happen in the short term, and I don't think there will be any changes before [the service cuts start] on April 28, but I think the minister will listen to our concerns about the long term, and the unsustainable approach that is being used to fund BC Ferries," he said.

Grove pointed out the govern-

ment's current budget doesn't leave any room for negotiation, but the longer view could prove more positive.

"Certainly, before the next election, I would hope for a change to their whole approach," he said.

One of the things Grove wants the ministry to look at is the route he was travelling on during the interview. At the time of the call, the 1,400-capacity vessel had only 200 passengers on board and an entire deck was closed.

"It's the big money loser. The losses from this route just dwarf anything else," Grove said. "So I hope BC Ferries will look closely at streamlining traffic."

The new SSIFAA website at ssiferryalliance.org includes

articles that share information on some of the contradictory figures put out by the government and by industry insiders. It also provides an important forum for public input.

"Certainly, before the next election, I would hope for a change to [the provincial government's] whole approach."

PETER GROVE
Salt Spring trustee and ferry

"I'd encourage people to check into it, and share their

comments," Grove said. "It's the voice of Salt Spring in terms of ferries."

Grove also hopes islanders will join their elected officials and make their voices heard at the rally on March 11. Buses from Swartz Bay to take people to the event for a cost of \$10 return have been arranged, with tickets available at Salt Spring Books.

Grove said enough seats have been already booked to fill one and a half buses, but he encouraged people to continue registering so the organizers know for sure how many will be needed.

"I think there's going to be a big turnout overall from people up and down the coast, and I think it's going to be a very worthwhile day," Grove said.

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WATER DISTRICT

Beddis water ratepayers get some tax relief

Operations surplus leads to smaller increase

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Beddis Water Service customers can expect a \$50 increase to their tax requisition this year but no changes to the fixed user fee or variable consumption

charge, according to the budget passed by commissioners on Friday.

The small increase will come as a considerable relief to the system's 126 users, who were faced with a \$195 increase as of December. CRD staff had proposed raising the \$500 tax to \$695, but commissioners asked for a review of the numbers before they agreed.

Speaking at Friday's budget

meeting, Peter Sparanese, the CRD's senior manager of infrastructure operations, reported there had in fact been significant changes since the draft budget was presented. The actual operating costs were well under the figure projected and a \$58,386 surplus was realized.

"The provisional year-end figures showed that the operating surplus for 2013 was higher than expected, largely due to

only operating the new plant for half a year," chair Simon Wheeler wrote in a report of the meeting on the water service's website.

"This surplus has been used towards payment of this year's budgeted operating costs, allowing the user charges to remain the same as for 2013."

User fees did not increase, but are expected to be raised in 2015.



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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Daylight Saving Time:

Clocks spring ahead by one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9. Yes, already!

RADIATION

Islander seeks funds to join radiation sampling team

Study to cover North America's west coast

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Karen Clemson is looking for financial contributions so she can help answer the question troubling many West Coast residents: Just how radioactive is our ocean?

An environmentalist who once worked for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Clemson recently learned about a project to test ocean water off Canada and the United States for radiation stemming from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant melt-down of 2011. Coordinated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, the project will rely on samples collected by volunteer groups or individuals in order to form a clearer picture of possible ocean contamination.

Clemson said she decided to apply as a sampler because of her frustration with the number of conflicting reports since the tsunami and earthquake hit the Fukushima plant three years ago, with people saying everything from tuna can never be eaten again and B.C. residents should

evacuate the coast to "everything's fine."

"I'm really motivated from my sense of stewardship for the place where I live," she said.

"On Salt Spring there are a lot of people that seem to be environmentally aware — I feel in my heart there are people who want to know what I want to know."

WHOI is a nonprofit oceanographic research organization headed by Dr. Ken Buesseler, a senior scientist who specializes in the study of natural and man-made radionuclides in the ocean. His work includes studies of fall-out from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing and assessments of Chernobyl impacts on the Black Sea.

Buesseler was out in the waters off Japan testing for radionuclide contaminants just weeks after the Fukushima disaster, and he has spearheaded the campaign to monitor the coast of North America. He launched the citizen reporting initiative in January along with a website called How Radioactive is Our Ocean?

Buesseler reported in January that results from seawater samples taken in California and Washington states showed "no detectable Fukushima cesium." But he also pointed out that no



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Karen Clemson, seen enjoying the ocean with her husband Jonathan, is seeking donations to test local waters for radiation.

government agency in the United States is monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile in Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists have been sampling Canadian waters for Fukushima-related radiation since 2011. Researchers announced last week that radiation was detected in June 2013, although at levels so low they were well below posing a

human health concern.

WHOI's project is intended to inform a bigger picture about ocean currents and radiation. The David Suzuki Foundation, where Clemson learned about the project, is sponsoring sample stations at Haida Gwaii and Bamfield, where samples are being collected by Parks Canada and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre.

Clemson needs to raise \$100 to get Salt Spring registered as a sampling site with a profile on the project's website, which will increase her access to crowd-sourcing. She also needs to raise an additional \$500 to cover the sample's shipping and testing costs. Donations are tax deductible and must be a minimum of \$20. Clemson suggests friends could get together to make a donation if that amount is too high.

For now, donations can be made through a link to Clemson's appeal; email her at karen-clemson@hotmail.com for the address. All funds are collected and managed by WHOI, which will send Clemson the sampling equipment once the target is met.

For more information on the entire project, including a FAQ about Fukushima radiation and a list of current sampling sites, visit ourradioactiveocean.org.

A good summary of the situation can also be found on the David Suzuki Foundation website.

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency social services identified as volunteer need

EOC aims to fill roster

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As islanders review lessons learned from last week's snowstorm, gaps in Salt Spring's emergency response package have emerged as requiring attention before the next major event.

While neighbourhood PODs are in various stages of organization and readiness, coming in near the

top the list is the need for volunteers who are qualified to deal with people's emotional and psychological needs during an emergency. Debbie Magnusson, a former POD leader in the Long Harbour area, is helping to coordinate a roster of qualified people for the CRD's emergency program under its coordinator Elizabeth Zook.

Magnusson said while there are already volunteers who are willing to help organize at reception centres, there aren't many

who could help others deal with trauma.

"Right now there are people to cover the jobs such as filling out forms or handing out food vouchers, but this is a specialized niche," Magnusson said.

"It can be counsellor-type people, but also social workers, clergy, people who have experience working with people who are emotionally upset — because we never know how someone will react who's been asked to evacuate their home, or has been

injured, or has seen someone killed."

The idea is to get a list of willing volunteers who are already trained and experienced. These could include those retired from fields such as nursing or first response. Living close to one of the places that can be opened as emergency reception centres could also be a bonus, but is not completely necessary.

"All over the island, there's a need," Magnusson said.

"It really does depend on what the emergency is and where Elizabeth decides she needs to open a reception centre. So the more people that she can have on call, the better."

Zook and Magnusson have a target of gaining 20 emergency social services volunteers by May 1. Anyone who would like to register just needs to fill out a CRD application form and state where their training was completed. Magnusson is happy to talk about the program with anyone

interested. She can be contacted at 250-537-5978 or rdmagnusson@shaw.ca.

A second stage of volunteering, which requires some online coursework, allows people to join a provincial roster of volunteers offering Disaster Psychological Support. Magnusson said certification would be valuable to have on Salt Spring and beyond. Volunteers from this group are deployed around the province and elsewhere, including to Alberta following last year's floods.

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WINTER WEATHER

Islanders, BC Hydro relieved after second storm passes

ETRs explained after 'major event'

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents were on edge over the weekend as the prospect of another major storm materialized Saturday afternoon, but breathed a collective sigh of relief as winds and snowfall proved milder than feared.

As islanders got ready to hunker down or second-guessed evening outings, BC Hydro was prepared to deal with another natural disaster just days after restoring its remaining outages after a major snowstorm knocked out power across the Gulf Islands from Feb. 23 to 27.

With Environment Canada forecasting high winds and snowfall for March 1-2, the hydro operator confirmed in advance that contractors would be available in case of an emergency. BC Hydro also ordered in extra crews to spend Saturday night on Salt Spring to be ready for action on Sunday, and planned to shift equipment to the outer Gulf Islands over the weekend.

The extra measures were an attempt to avoid a similar crisis to the week before, when 41,000 users lost service through a cycle of heavy snowfall and downed lines and trees.

"Clearly this shows to us that customers were impacted more than once," said Ted Olynyk, BC Hydro's manager of customer relations for Vancouver Island, noting the region has around 21,000 customers.

"It was like a game of Whac-A-Mole at the carnival: we'd clear one line and fix it and then a branch would come down and we'd have to clear the same line. Very frustrating for our crews and our customers."

One of those frustrated customers was Brigitte Hayes, who lost power at her Mount Belcher home around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. Along with her husband Stephen Young and a son who was due for class at UVic on Monday morning, Hayes was hoping for reliable information to determine whether the family should attempt to leave. They eventually walked down the hill, and their son was able to catch the bus and the ferry home. Hayes and Young elected to stay put as according to BC Hydro's website, the Estimated Time of Restoration (ETR) was for 8 p.m. that night.

When the power didn't back come on, Hayes and Young decided to join their son in Victoria on Monday night. They continued to receive ever-escalating ETR updates via smart phone and therefore decided to stay another night. However, they received a call from their neighbour to let them know the power had

been restored, although BC Hydro still showed it as an outage with a predicted restoration on Wednesday.

"Had we had accurate information, we would have gone home. But based on BC Hydro's outdated info, we had already made plans to spend another night in Victoria, which we did," Hayes said.

"Based on our experience, I question what these ETRs are based on, if anything. There is no doubt in my mind that BC Hydro workers on the ground were doing their best to get the power back on. There seems to be a big disconnect however, between what is going on on-site, and what is being reported by BC Hydro central."

BC Hydro community relations representative Karla Louwers explained that the snowstorm constituted a "major event" for the power company, with multiple crews working to restore service in multiple locations at once.

"Crews were dispatched to several areas and were out in the field, and may have found it difficult to communicate back," she said.

"The ETRs do change, but in the storm we were dealing with weather that was ongoing, and the impacts of the storm were also ongoing."

Olynyk added that hydro crews work to restore power to the largest number of users by tackling main feeders first and then moving out to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steve Patterson's vehicle was a victim of a fallen arbutus last week. Friends say the tree came down just as Patterson was set to brave a trip to town.

side areas. If a very large area has had power knocked out, the ETR listed on the website might not be broken down into individual lines.

ETRs are projected to the far end of the estimated time bracket. They may not be updated immediately after restoration or even until hours later when all the calls regarding outages have been reconciled with the restorations. The estimates are created based on the circumstances,

but Olynyk said it's difficult to know what these really are until crews arrive at a site.

Olynyk's advice to island residents to successfully weather the next round of power outages is to call 1-888-POWER-ON to report individual service disruptions, as well as any lines down. Though smart meters have been widely installed, the smart grid is not yet fully operational.

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Snowstorm puts emergency communication in focus

EOC, PODS work to improve network

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In an era when even Salt Spring residents rely on their smart phones for almost everything, the question of how to keep communications open when batteries fail is an important consideration for emergency preparedness.

That question has come to the forefront since a major snowstorm walloped the island in February, both for members of the public and for the neighbourhood POD leaders and emergency response teams.

Elizabeth Zook, Salt Spring's Emergency Program coordinator for the CRD, said the recent storm provided a useful test of emergency communications on the island.

"It was good to live and learn. It woke people some more to what we need," she said.

The EOC issued updates on conditions and road and school closures throughout the storm, using Facebook and emails sent to media sources like the Driftwood and the Salt Spring Exchange. Zook will meet with POD leaders later this month to discuss how to improve and how to get the information out to people without internet access.

Linda Gilkeson is a resident of

the Mount Belcher neighbourhood, where roads weren't cleared and power remained out for more than 48 hours. She found the snowstorm revealed a greater problem than just cell-phone coverage.

"As we saw this week, a huge obstacle has become the lack of ability to communicate due to the Shaw digital phones going out when the electrical service goes down," Gilkeson said. "The last time we had a prolonged snow and electricity emergency on this road was four or five years ago. Everyone had Telus phone service so it was easy to call people we were concerned about. This time, only two households in my entire neighbourhood still had their Telus phones and

were able to make calls."

Shaw's digital cable service employs a phone modem, which has a battery life of only a few hours. Gilkeson said she was able to request a longer-lasting battery good for around 12 hours because she knew about the issue before she made the switch.

Shaw Communications was not able to provide information on how the service provider or customers could extend battery life during a prolonged power outage before the Driftwood went to press.

One of the ways the island's emergency program has been working to deliver reliable communications is by building up radio capabilities in

its "Ring of Ham." Salt Spring's ham radio club members volunteer with the program and train weekly at the emergency program headquarters. Zook said the CRD will be offering radio training courses in April. She is also hoping to get every neighbourhood POD connected to the Ring of Ham through General Mobile Radio Service, which uses two-way communication similar to walkie-talkies.

On the individual level, Zook advises having back-up batteries for cell phones as well as additional power sources (a surge bar can contain enough residual power to charge a cell phone) and to get everything charged up in advance when a winter storm is in the forecast.

RCMP

Officers kept hopping during storm

Instrument theft also reported

Salt Spring's RCMP detachment responded to 40 calls for service over the past week, many of them related to February's snowstorm.

A police report states officers were kept busy checking on the well-being of many island residents who were unable to leave their homes. There were also several calls of downed trees on power lines and weather-related vehicle collisions.

In other news, police are currently investigating the theft of a trombone from a vehicle parked in Ganges between Feb. 15 and 19. Anyone with information relating to this theft is asked to contact the local detachment at 250-537-5555.

Police are also still receiving

reports of phone frauds perpetrated by individuals representing themselves as Microsoft employees.

The public is warned not to give anyone remote access to their computers or to give out personal or financial information to unsolicited callers.

FULFORD WATER

Water group gets tough with CRD

Local water board leaks frustrations at AGM

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Fulford Water Service Commission members used the annual general meeting platform to share their displeasure with five Capital Regional District staff on Friday.

The fact that all relevant AGM documents were sent out by the CRD only the day before provided the first bit of ammo, with commissioners deferring approval of minutes from the last AGM on Oct. 20, 2012 since they had no time to read them thoroughly.

CRD staff apologized for the documents' late arrival, but noted they wanted the most up-to-date financial figures for the 2014 budget discussion following the AGM.

FWSC chair Carole Eyles outlined a number of difficulties the water district has faced since the last AGM, including troubles with the dissolved air flotation plant, concerns about the cost of maintenance and repairs as billed by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District plus a Morningside Road repair, and the CRD's revenue and expenditure reports.

"In spite of working with staff to develop an annual budget, we find nearly every month that charges are made with complete disregard to budget line items," said Eyles in her meeting report. "It takes a lot of time to understand the reports and even more time to get answers to questions."

Fulford commissioner Tony Maude expressed frustration with

the CRD's application of Saanich-sized financial practices to a district of about 100 subscribers paying all the bills.

When an extra \$5,000 expenditure is made, he said, "You're taking \$50 out of each one of our people's pockets."

Maude also said morphing CRD record-keeping makes it difficult to track costs in one category from year to year.

"There is no historical record we can use . . . and when we do understand it we find things have been put in the wrong categories . . . We need you guys to get on board and work with us. We're frustrated. What can we say?"

Dan Robson, the new CRD water systems operations manager, said he understood the district-CRD relationship "has been challenging, for sure," but hoped it would improve in the future.

He also said staff were working on getting information to the commission in a timely manner.

Peter Sparanese, senior manager of infrastructure operations, who is also new in his CRD post, said, "We aspire to do better than we have been doing . . . and we look forward to building the relationship with you."

Fulford residents will at least be glad to know they won't be paying more for water in 2014.

A parcel tax of \$771.68 and user charge of \$1,251 for residential properties was approved for 2014, the same amount as last year. Usage for nine commercial properties in the village is metered.

Also on the positive side, a map of

Fulford water system infrastructure was completed in January, which will help the district determine areas most in need of repair.

However, when it came to approving a five-year capital plan to do infrastructure upgrades arising from a strategic asset management plan to be done this year, the FWSC balked at a line of \$100,000 expenditures suggested for the years 2015 through 2018.

Despite reassurances from CRD staff that the numbers were only "placeholders," commissioners requested the numbers be changed to "0."

"When we are ready to do capital work, we will let you know," said commissioner Jonathan Yardley.

The commission also refused to approve a requested \$5,000 expenditure to do a survey of the South Ridge Road plant site on School District 64 lands and have a statutory right-of-way registered — something that should have been taken care of when the plant was constructed in 2006.

Borrowing to build the Fulford water treatment plant and have the project and system administered by the CRD was approved by Fulford property owners in a November 2004 referendum. At the time, ratepayers authorized \$573,000 in borrowing to supplement a \$972,000 federal-provincial infrastructure grant. They have since approved a further \$225,000 in borrowing, and provided \$250,000 in reserve and other funds.

Friday's AGM saw no change in commission membership of Eyles, Maude, Yardley and Gordon Singbeil. Eyles was re-affirmed as chair.

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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 March 11th, 2014
and 4:00 P.M. Friday March 21st, 2014**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 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 28th, 2014 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2017.

The Election to be held on Saturday, **April 26th, 2014** at the **Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.** An Advance Voting opportunity will be held at the Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island on Wednesday, **April 23rd, 2014** between the hours of **9:00 A.M. and 5:00 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.

Nominees must meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1.to 4. above and nominators of a person for trustee must also meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1. to 4. above.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 24th day of February 2014

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

OPINION



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

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



EDITORIAL

Inevitable rejection

Some things are just not meant to be: a vacation resort around Bullock Lake on Salt Spring Island, for example.

At one time marketed as Salt Spring Island Village Resort, in the past 20 years the property in question faced a downzoning, two foreclosures and a major fire. It spawned an inter-jurisdictional squabble between the Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust, loss of private investors' funds and a lawsuit against Islands Trust staff and trustees.

It's hard to imagine a happy ending to this story, even when a company with a track record of successful developments is the lead author, which was not the case in the resort's previous incarnations.

Platform Properties has offered some attractive amenities in its rezoning proposal, such as a pathway on Robinson Road, public access to some

15 acres of land not used by the resort, a conservation covenant on about six more acres, and use of part of the 6,000-square-foot amenity building. While diverse opinions have been expressed about the economic impact of a 50-unit resort,

THE ISSUE:
Bullock Lake resort proposal

WE SAY:
Water woes will likely sink it

especially on existing accommodations, it seems likely that more visitors would benefit the island economy overall.

Questions of litigation have inevitably arisen already. Neighbours could sue the Trust for not protecting their water resources. Platform Properties could possibly have 123 expired building permits reinstated if it takes a legal route, perhaps making a rezoning application unnecessary.

Is it prudent to make land-use decisions based on whether or not lawsuits will result? That might be a consideration, but it should not be a deciding factor.

One thing that is clear is Islands Trust Policy Statement directive 4.4.2. It states that an increase in density or intensity of land use in areas known to have a water quality or quantity problem cannot be contemplated by the local Trust committee. The area in question falls into that category, regardless of results from a hydrogeological report with on-site well samples taken during the fall and winter months.

The Salt Spring LTC has commissioned more water data, which makes sense if it is to make a decision about the Platform Properties resort plan with confidence.



VIEWPOINT by Chris Dixon

Why does SSI have a bullseye?

Three hot topics discussed at last week's Trust meeting were the effects of BC Ferries service cuts to islanders, the proposed twinning of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline and the proposed re-zoning and OCP amendment application for the Bullock Lake resort property.

It is hard to stay optimistic in the face of this triple assault on our lovely island. The commonality in each case is that someone somewhere else will get more money, and that distance will isolate them from the social, ecological and financial impacts of their actions. The risk and burden arising from a compromised community or a damaged environment will be borne by others unknown — in these three cases, us.

Mr. Morgan has retired, but Richard Kinder — CEO of Kinder-Morgan and currently worth US\$9.4 billion — needs more.

The service cuts from BC Ferries aim at reducing the operating costs of the ferry system while maintaining high levels of executive compensation.

Platform Properties bought the 35-acre Bullock Lake site, including 50 strata-titled vacation rental units for just \$2 million.

The K-M plan is to triple the capacity of their pipelines between the Alberta tar sands and the B.C. coast; this would enable a dramatic increase in the risk of oil tanker spills in our area. An oil spill here would turn our world-famous "Super-Natural" B.C. coast into an environmental and economic dead zone.

The ferries cuts will result in reduced service to our island, which will impact the way we transport goods and materials. It will reduce our options for travelling off-island and for attracting visitors to our island. The influence of steadily rising fare prices and diminished travel options will inevitably impact real estate values and erode our tourist-based industries.

The Bullock Lake application would impose a density and a land use that is completely out of character with the area by operating 50 vacation rental units and a 6000-square-foot conference centre in a watershed. They would essentially double the demand for limited water resources by competing with established properties. The developer wants us to change the zoning of their property and amend our official community plan so they can sell off the 50 units at a profit.

Where the proponents often have deep pockets to hire legal staff, relentless public relations specialists and advertising teams, the push back against these threats comes largely from groups that are not funded in any meaningful sense, and who largely depend on politically engaged volunteers to do the heavy lifting.

The political arena — where we often place what's legal ahead of what's right — is where these assaults play out. Government agencies at various levels are often inclined to favour the economic arguments for such proposals over the social and environmental arguments against them.

Practicality and sensible planning is not necessarily a component of our response to these threats.

So I'm asking, who painted a bullseye on Salt Spring Island? Who would turn our community into a commodity, and should we gamble our coastline to subsidize Mr. Kinder's next billion?

Just how crazy does this all have to get before we stand up as a community and say absolutely not? What's coming next?

The writer chairs the Cedar Lane Water Service Commission.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

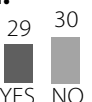
Is Russia's presence in Crimea justified?

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.

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you have a functioning neighbourhood POD?



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR
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 Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
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Editorial:
Sean McIntyre, Elizabeth Nolan

Front office:
James Burton, Johanna Walker

Advertising:
Elena Dunn, Jennifer Lannan,

Amber Ogilvie
 PUBLISHER
aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Gail Sjoberg
 MANAGING EDITOR
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Lorraine Sullivan
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It's the big money loser. The losses on this route just dwarf anything else."

PETER GROVE, SSI TRUSTEE, ON THE TSAWWASSEN-DUKE POINT FERRY RUN

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: For International Women's Day on Saturday, are there any women in the community that you particularly admire?



BRITTANIE BATES
Obviously, my momma!



AUDREY WILD
I admire Sue Mouat. She's game for almost anything.



JASON YOUNG
All of them!



BODHI BRITSOM
Rita Brouwer: She's 88 years old, she's incredibly feisty and she told me an incredible story of her life.



DANIELLE HUBBARD
I really admire my boss Karen Hudson, because she is so energetic, she's so involved in the community and she's made the library such a welcoming place.

Letters to the editor

Students support path plan

The purpose of this letter is to show the support of the Gulf Islands Secondary School Student Council of the proposed multi-use pathway infrastructure.

The pathway would go past the Salt Spring elementary and middle schools, as well as pass through the GISS property, and the construction of

the pathway would directly benefit students from all three schools.

Students are presently having to walk on the shoulder of Rainbow Road, making it dangerous for both pedestrians and drivers.

In the past, students have been seriously injured in car accidents due to the fact that they are forced to walk on the shoulder of the road. These dangers are of serious concern.

As students, we are very much in favour of this

project because it will provide a safe and accessible pathway for students, as well as encouraging students and community members to use sustainable methods of transportation.

We are desperately in need of a better way to ensure the safety of the students. This pathway project is an excellent solution and has the full support of the GISS Student Council.

JENNA ASTON AND PATRICK OWEN,
GISS STUDENT COUNCIL

Someone could do the right thing

As a former resident of Salt Spring and a reader of the Driftwood (online), it amazes me that no one has suggested to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee that stopping the illegal metal recycling operation would allow someone wishing to operate a legal metal recycling business the opportunity to do so.

No one in their right mind would interfere with John

Quesnel at present. But what if there was an opening? What if someone wants to do the right thing and buy or rent properly zoned land for a new metal recycling business? How fine would that be? Just think... neighbours would be doing the right thing by honouring present zoning and islanders would know that their recycling needs would be met by someone willing to work within the law. It sounds good to me.

LENORE GOLDBERG,
SIDNEY

Photo offends

For Gordon Lee to display his beaver in a family newspaper is stretching the limits of propriety, I think. (Feb. 26 photo.)

We all know that life and death are flip sides of the same coin, but do we have to see the actual minting of the coin in the Driftwood, our only reliable source of knowledge?

ROGER BRUNT,
BRINKWORTHY

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Fulford funds keep flowing the wrong way

If you've noticed some people in Fulford village with unusually flat foreheads, it's safe to assume they're current or past members of the Fulford Water Service Commission.

Commission member Tony Maude was joking at a community meeting held a while back when he talked about the physical effect of "bumping our heads against a wall" when it comes to dealing with its parent body, the Capital Regional District.

But if you hear what Fulford property owners have endured since they voted to let the CRD administer treatment plant construction and its water system almost 10 years ago — which was the only way it could access \$950,000 in federal-provincial infrastructure grants — you'll fail to see any humour.

As the Driftwood has reported over the years, the project was not tendered or properly monitored. Sunnyside Drive properties were left out "by mistake," requiring a second borrowing referendum in 2011. The wrong size of pipes were used in one area. That's the abbreviated version of some ugly ancient history.

The bottom line, though, is that an originally estimated \$1.55-million project cost almost \$2 million instead, with only 100 or so FWSC property owners available to pay the \$450,000 overrun (and for a project that wasn't even completed as planned) — except for \$75,000 in gas tax grants. The kicker? They now pay more than \$2,000 per year in parcel taxes and user charges for their potable water.

But equally disturbing is what happened after Fulford water commissioners made it abundantly clear they were outraged by their experience with the CRD — even appealing to the premier of B.C., the ombudsman's

office and others — and were determined to get control of future costs to operate their water system. Select tidbits follow:

- When the second referendum was being arranged so Sunnyside Drive residents could have the potable water they were paying for but not receiving, the FWSC stressed it did not want to borrow more than was necessary to do the job. The CRD convinced them it made sense to get the voters' authority to borrow more money in case an emergency situation arose, but to not do the actual borrowing. FWSC members double stressed that the leftover money — \$80,000 from the \$225,000 referendum amount — was not to be used. Despite that, without advising the commission, in August of 2012 the sum of \$25,000 was transferred from the "untouchable" funds to the district's capital reserve budget. All of a sudden ratepayers were paying interest on borrowed funds they did not need.
- A Morningside Road pipe leak into the Rock Salt restaurant basement was repaired in February-March of 2013. The CRD gave an initial estimate of \$5,000 for repairs; then it jumped to \$8,000. When the bill finally came in it was \$12,435. Why? Because somebody at the CRD neglected to include the cost of repaving the road in the estimate.
- The CRD contracts the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to maintain the Fulford water system and deal with emergency situations. Commissioners wanted to see copies of NSSWD invoices so they could understand what their money was being spent on.



Gail Sjuberg

OTHER WISE

In October 2012 they asked the CRD for copies of the invoices. As recently as a March 2013 meeting the FWSC was told by CRD staff they'd be provided. They did not materialize. Commission chair Carole Eyles finally acquired some invoices last summer by completing a Freedom of Information request as a private citizen and has had to "harass" the CRD for more. She wonders why NSSWD staff can't be asked to walk invoices across the road to the CRD office at Portlock Park, where it can be photocopied. Eyles is willing to pick them up herself.

- Among the many items the FWSC gives money to the CRD for is \$960 per year to support the CRD's Building Inspection office. "It's not a service we use," says Eyles. Why is it part of the \$130,000 operating budget?
- The maintenance contract with NSSWD includes up to 12 hours per year for "vegetation control" — i.e. weed-eating around the fire hydrants and pump stations. Any extra time is charged to the district at \$67 an hour. Eyles says volunteers could easily take care of that task and save the district some money.
- Whenever the power goes out, it causes problems at the water treatment plant, triggering a need for repairs. More than a year ago, commissioners asked that some kind of surge-suppression system be installed, hoping to reduce those above-and-beyond charges. It hasn't happened yet.

This past Friday at the FWSC AGM and budget meeting, commission members shared their frustrations with a set of CRD staff that is all new since the last AGM. Eyles admitted

there had been some progress in the last year or so and it would be unfair to omit that fact.

As well, the CRD has in the past admitted in writing that it did not manage the treatment plant project properly, but no reimbursement cheque accompanied the letter. Considering how much each property owner has suffered financially as a result, CRD staff should make an extra effort to minimize future costs to those people, ensuring they don't pay a penny more than they have to.

They can start by not saddling the FWSC with costs from a new item added to Friday's budget meeting. It seems a statutory right-of-way was never registered on the School District 64 property where some water infrastructure sits. The CRD wanted the FWSC board to approve spending \$5,000 on a survey and legal costs — to again pay for something that should have been done long ago.

Remember that with only 100 people footing the bills in the district, it's \$50 each to pay for another \$5,000 CRD project management mistake from the past. Needless to say, the FWSC did not approve the expenditure.

Whether past errors arose due to incompetence of individuals or a systemic problem with how the CRD functions, or both, is almost immaterial now, except that the CRD's culpability should not be forgotten.

CRD staff must realize they're serving real people, most of whom can't easily afford \$2,000 per year for water. Local water commissioners are trying their damndest to hold or reduce those costs for their neighbours. They should be aided by the CRD, not thwarted, in that mission.

here's my card



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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

IN DISGUISE: Above, Terena LeCorre shares a beautiful mask and smile at the StageCoach Theatre School's March of Fools fundraiser on Saturday night, while Zacharie Morgan, right, also dresses up for the costume ball that featured performances by Sweetwater Revolver and the marimba band Ruwadzano. For more info about StageCoach programs, see www.stagecoachtheatre.ca.



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Bullock water problems too unwieldy

The following submission was presented to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee at its Feb. 27 public meeting.

I am Maxine Leichter, speaking for the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society regarding the application of Bullock Lake Cottages. Our mission is to protect the fresh water resources of Salt Spring Island. We are also a participant in the Friends of Bullock Lake group.

We have submitted a letter documenting that Bullock Lake is already nutrient-enriched, and that according to the developer's own figures, the sewage system for 50 units will release phosphorus into the soil and eventually into Bullock Lake. As with other island lakes, too much phosphorus is likely to result in blooms of toxin-producing cyanobacteria. I can answer questions about that letter. The letter shows how much P is

likely to be released to the lake if the cottages are occupied part time and if half of them are occupied full time.

In addition, Friends of Bullock Lake have presented a scientific report that confirms the potential for insufficient groundwater to support this development, as well as existing users and future lots that are not yet occupied in the area. And neighbours, including a property owner in the vicinity of Merchant Mews, are already short in the summer.

Please also consider that a modified application that would entail either moving or demolishing some of the existing buildings, although unfortunate, would have far less risk than the current application which likely cannot be supported by the water supply and environment.

Trust Policy Statement Directive 4.4.2 requires that there be no increases in density if there are existing prob-

lems with either the quantity or quality of water in the area. In this case there are both. Our letter documents a problem with lake water quality. The summer shortages experienced by the Cedar Lane water district and other neighbours document a problem with groundwater supplies. A zone change would increase density. Therefore, there is a requirement that this proposal be rejected.

We have a further concern. If this development is allowed and neighbouring wells dry up and this can be traced to too much water being withdrawn from a common aquifer, property owners may sue the Trust for allowing the new development when there were clear signs of insufficient water. A court could then require the Trust (meaning all of us taxpayers) to pay a settlement to the property owners.

We share the goal of resolving how the Bullock Lake prop-

erty will be developed. We now have documentation that the developer paid only \$2 million for the property. This means that a development consistent with the existing zoning can be profitable for that company. However, the developer will only make such a proposal after you turn down its far more lucrative proposal.

We have heard that staff may suggest more studies. We realize this is a difficult decision. In the past more studies have not made the decision easier. The most effective way to speed a resolution is for you to make it clear to the developer that you would like to see a proposal for residential units to a density consistent with the existing zoning. This is the best compromise for the developer, the neighbours, future landowners in the area including future purchasers of the Bullock Lake Cottages and the lake itself.

Please do not put off this decision any longer.

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Rants to the man driving a loud, dark pick-up truck. You chose to dump drywall mud onto the beach near 1551 North Beach Road at 10 a.m. on Feb. 20, and dumped the rest on the beach at the foot of Malview Drive. We cleaned up your mess! You are lucky to live in such a beautiful place. Treat it with respect. The Bywaters

Roses

Bundles of roses to the cast and crew of Live Radio Theatre 2014. I have worked on thousands of productions and never had a better, more talented, hard-working and fun group. Thanking you all alphabetically: Adina Hildebrandt, Adler Rabson, Art Black, Bob Twaites, Cindy Rabson, Clay

Johnston, Daniel Irving, Dave Vollrath, Dave French, Dave Milutinovic, Don Zacharias, Hayden Rabson, Jenny Barrio, Karen Arney, Kevin Wilkie, Lisa Dahling, Marv Coulthard, Matt Hill, Maureen Mackay, Randy Marchi, Richard Moses, Susan Sheane, and of course, Susan Walker.

A huge bouquet of white snow roses to the very kind good Samaritan, neighbour or friend who in the dark of night on Monday, Feb. 24 cleared the snow off my driveway. Thank you so much! Your kindness meant a great deal to me. Judy

A snow-flecked red rose to Kurt Irwin for service above and beyond neighbourliness.

Snow white roses for Michelle Tyson, Mike Best and

Lisa Owen for being available to hospital staff for rides in the snow. Thank you for stepping forward. We couldn't have done it without you!

A big bouquet of roses to Salt Spring Mainroad and BC Hydro employees for doing such an amazing job during the storm. Jack Rosen & Island Escapades

Roses to the three guys on Trincomali last Tuesday afternoon. Out of the snow bank in a flash! Backwards, yet! Thanks. J&C

Eclectic, electric roses to Todd and the guys and the hydro crews. Thank you! Big time! J&C

A beautiful bouquet of roses for all the people of Salt Spring,

who, like Terry Michaels on Blackburn Road, make of a difficulty an opportunity to be of service to their community. When the snow-plough cleared Blackburn Road, Terry emerged early to break through the barriers created across the driveways of his local neighbours. Thanks, Terry, for being so helpful.

A big white rose to Mike Quesnel from M&M Trucking from all of us on Thomas Road. Thanks. JL

In the midst of the snow-storm, my special thanks to Dan at The Rental Stop for his usual excellent work, Bob Akerman for retraining me, and Jeanne for sustaining me with her terrific soups at Nourish. NK

B.C. budget lacks connection to reality

BY DERMOT TRAVIS

The funny thing about provincial budgets is that sometimes they tell you a lot more about a government's attitude than what the politicians might have intended when they first wrote the document.

Case in point: most governments like to pat themselves on the back at budget time by highlighting the impact of their fiscal policies on family budgets.

In last year's provincial budget, the Saskatchewan government put forward three such scenarios: one for a single person earning \$25,000, another for a family earning \$50,000 and the third for a family earning \$75,000. They called it "Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage."

Go back to 2003 and the B.C. government did the same, putting forward three scenarios as well: one for a single individual earning \$25,000, one for a family of four earning \$60,000 and one for a retired couple earning \$30,000.

Fast forward 10 years to last week and the B.C. government highlighted four family models. Boy did they ever change.

The first is for a two-income family of four earning \$90,000, the second is for a two-income family of four making \$60,000, the third is for a single individual pulling in \$80,000, and the fourth is

INDEPTH

that obligatory retired couple still struggling to get by on \$30,000.

It would seem — at least for the B.C. government — that nearly everyone in the province is a whole lot wealthier than they were in 2003.

It would seem — at least for the B.C. government — that nearly everyone in the province is a whole lot wealthier than they were in 2003.

But the scenarios are also telling for what the two governments included and what they left out.

On top of various provincial taxes, the Saskatchewan government threw in hydro costs, auto insurance, telephone and housing. The B.C. government kept it to the bare essentials: income taxes, net property taxes, sales and fuel taxes, net carbon tax and MSP premiums.

Those pesky health care premiums stand out, though. In Saskatchewan's modelling, only two provinces have

premiums: B.C. and Ontario. And while the Ontario government prefers to call it a premium for political reasons, it's really a tax on personal income.

Introduced in 2004, following Dalton McGuinty's 2003 election pledge not to raise or implement any new taxes, the word "premium" probably seemed like a linguistic godsend at the time.

So what's the difference between Ontario's "premium" and the one imposed in B.C.?

In B.C., someone earning \$30,000 a year pays the full-freight of \$69.25 each month. In Ontario, you would need to earn more than \$200,000 a year before you paid the equivalent amount under that province's health-care tax.

Ontario brings in about \$3 billion from its "premium" and that's in a province with 13.5 million people. In B.C., MSP premiums are forecast to bring in \$2.27 billion this year, in a province with less than one third of the population of Ontario.

Finance Minister Mike de Jong had a few other fiscal tricks up his sleeve as well.

In 2002, the total contribution of all "self-supported Crown corporations" to the provincial treasury was \$1.44 billion. This year, those corporations are being told to cough up \$2.89 billion.

But no matter what the

government chooses to call them, these "contributions" are a form of taxation. As the saying goes: if it walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it's probably a duck.

The government plans to pilfer B.C. Hydro for \$582 million this year, up \$250 million from 2002. This so-called "dividend" has already been passed on to British Columbians through a 28 per cent rate hike announced last year.

The B.C. Lottery Corporation will sign a cheque to the province for \$1.2 billion, up a whopping \$734 million over 2002. It's an ironic sum coming from a political party that promised in 2001 that "a B.C. Liberal government will stop the expansion of gambling that has increased gambling addiction and put new strains on families."

Perhaps the order of the day in the Feb. 18 budget should have been a little less fiscal sleight of hand and a little more tax fairness.

Because when a government starts believing that the impact of its fiscal policies on a single individual earning \$80,000 is appropriate for inclusion in the budget, it's a pretty safe bet that they've lost touch with what most people go through at the end of the month just to make ends meet.

The writer is the executive director of IntegrityBC.

savings created by the planned ferry cuts of \$14 million over two years.

For further analysis read Stephen Hume's articles in the Vancouver Sun from Feb. 7, 18 and 19.

It is time we all made placards, and stuck them on our businesses and our homes. If we all did this we would garner some media attention. Governments hate that.

And don't forget the planned protest on March 11 in Victoria. Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove has even organized buses to take protestors from Swartz Bay to Victoria and back for \$10. Tickets are available from Salt Spring Books. It's that easy.

If thousands show up from ferry-dependent areas it might make a difference. If only a few show up, our government will think we are all happy with our eroding property values and incomes.

It is up to all of us.

ANDREW HAIGH,
SALT SPRING

A step into Greenwoods

The Greenwoods family — residents, family members, volunteers, and staff — are grateful for the amazing outpouring of support we received from the Salt Spring community at our Day in the Life of Greenwoods event, which was held on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Meaden Hall.

Despite poor weather, we had a room full of smiling faces all wanting

to share the afternoon in support of our residents.

We had two goals. First we wanted to introduce the Greenwoods family to the wider Salt Spring community. Many of you told us that our slide show brought tears to your eyes as we showcased our family at work and at play. Several of our residents made the door prizes and others sang songs and performed as a bell choir. They deeply appreciated the standing ovation they received for their efforts.

As one resident said, "I was proud to help with such an important event and it was also a lot of fun."

We also wanted to raise some funds to improve our courtyard garden pathways. We staged a silent auction table of goods and services contributed by our generous community. There were so many happy winners at the end of our auction with some jumping for joy as their names were called!

At the end of the day we had an impressive total of \$5,500 both in donations and winning bids. This will make a positive difference in the lives of our residents.

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all our donors, volunteers, residents, family, friends and to the Greenwoods Foundation, who all came together to make this event such a success. Thank you to our incredible Salt Spring Island community!

CARLA MOLLOY,
FOR GREENWOODS ELDERCARE SOCIETY

here's my card

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

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Stop BC Ferries from hurting us

It is time to get off our collective behinds and do something about the BC Ferries situation.

What is happening with BC Ferries is going to affect all of our property values, our businesses, our incomes, our children's sports programs, in short, our way of life.

It is already hurting financially. Gulf Islands residential properties have lost \$1.6 billion in assessed value since BC Ferries started raising rates. The Institute of Chartered Accountants reports a 40 per cent drop in housing starts in ferry-dependent areas in the last five years. This study also found that the accommodation and restaurant sector shrank between 2006 and 2011 in ferry-dependent areas by almost four per cent while rising 4.5 per cent in Vancouver.

Saving \$105,000 a year on the Crofton ferry route is peanuts compared to the loss of tax revenue that will result. According to the Institute of Chartered Accountants the government collects about \$450 million annually in taxes from the Vancouver Island/Coast tourism sector alone. Just a further two per cent drop in tax revenues from this sector alone will more than wipe out

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EXHIBITIONS

Wisdom and beauty converge in exhibition



From left, a Sue Mouat portrait by Susan Benson; some other pieces in the Focus on Women library exhibition.

Focus on women for month of March

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Women between the ages of 60 and 100 will be revealed in all their beauty at the Salt Spring library program room this month in a special exhibition for International Women's Day curated by Pat Preston.

While the day in question takes place on Saturday, March 8, it could easily take an entire month to give the works the time they deserve for viewing, both for the interesting Salt Spring Island subjects and the skills of the painters and photographers

who took their portraits.

"It's incredible to me, this diversity," Preston said while hanging the show on Monday. "There are so many incredible women to choose from that I could do a whole other show next March."

The subjects were recommended by word of mouth and include community leaders and interesting characters. The paintings of Susan Benson, an artist who provides unusual focus on older subjects in her day-to-day work, form a strong core to the show. They are surrounded by equally wonderful contributions by artists Billie Woods, Valaska san Martin, Judy McPhee, Sam Barlow, Amy Melious, Mel Williamson, Avril Kirby,

R.M. Dupuy, Timmy Gibbon, Sylvia Andrews, Bernadette Mertons McAllister and Mary Holding.

Preston explained that she wanted to showcase older women in particular this month because attention is so rarely given either to their faces or to their accomplishments.

"When you start to get your grey hair or your wrinkles, you're almost invisible," she said. "I feel there's so much to learn from older women, and most of these [pictured] are still active."

The portraits are accompanied by non-typical bios, which Preston hopes will allow visitors to learn something about the subjects they didn't know before, along with a

personal quote that represents each woman's philosophy.

Preston also involved the younger generation by asking girls in elementary and middle school to take photos of important women in their lives for an accompanying exhibition in the library showcase.

"I hope people will come to this and spend some time to appreciate who these women are and what they've done," Preston said.

The exhibit continues through March 31. Preston has also coordinated five special events featuring women young and old during the month. See next week's Driftwood for a full story, or the library's events calendar for more information.

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DANCE NIGHT

Waltz Night returns to Fulford Hall

Dancers and listeners equally welcome

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dancing the night away at Fulford Hall for one glorious session at the end of winter is well on its way to becoming an island tradition, with Waltz Night on the Rock returning for its third installment this Saturday, March 8.

Bach on the Rock follows up on two highly successful events that are equally perfect for those who love to dance, and those who don't but love to listen to music performed by a live orchestra and choir.

The program brings together several dance styles with sets devoted to the waltz, which now speaks of elegant sophistication but once scandalized the courts of Europe because of the partners' close proximity, the even more scandalous tango, and the less racy but certainly energetic polka.

"It's become an event that people look forward to," said Bach on the Rock director Jim Stubbs. "Most of the dancers I've spoken to have said how thrilled they are to have an orchestra to dance to."

"People should also be encouraged to come and watch. They do not have to dance," added Bach on the Rock bassoonist and event co-organizer Laurie Stubbs.

For those who remain somewhat undecided about getting onto the floor, this year's event will offer the opportunity to brush up on the requisite skills with a free demonstration from Ron and Kathy Weisner before the main event starts.

Waltz lovers will be happy to learn the orchestra will once again build the event's core program from well-known and beloved Strauss pieces such as the Blue Danube, Emperor and Vienna Blood waltzes, Tales from the Vienna Woods, and Wine, Women and Song. The audience can also look forward to hearing music

from Tchaikovsky's opera Eugene Onegin, Bizet's Carmen and Erik Satie's Gymnopédies.

The dance floor is sure to be full when members of Salt Spring's and Victoria's tango clubs come out to enjoy a set featuring Trio Light Fantastic from Salt Spring playing a program of tangos.

"We love Fulford Hall because it lends itself so well to being a community hall, and this event is very much community based."

Laurie Stubbs
Bach on the Rock

Another highlight will come when Laurie Stubbs and some of the trio's members give a preview of Bach on the Rock's upcoming Kurt

Weill night in April. And holding to tradition, the orchestra will send dancers floating home to the tune of Strauss' Radetzky March.

Bach on the Rock is thrilled to be back at Fulford Hall for the event, which they promise will lift the winter blues with beautiful decorations heralding spring's flowers.

"We love Fulford Hall because it lends itself so well to being a community hall, and this event is very much community based," Laurie Stubbs said.

The event will include a wine and beer cash bar and a concession full of special local treats, including both sweet and savoury tarts, tea and coffee, chocolate and cheese.

Tickets are available at RE/Max Salt Spring, with the option to reserve a table for eight to 10 people. Dress code is anything from casual jeans to full evening wear.

The music starts at 7:30 p.m., with the Weisners' dance demonstration taking place from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

FUNDRAISER

Sparkfest! evening celebrates inspiring young women

Entertainment offered in support of Pass it On

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The fourth annual Sparkfest! comes to the Harbour House Hotel's Orchard Room this Friday, March 7, featuring a night filled with inspirational women sharing their stories and talents in support of youth.

SWOVA's Pass It On mentorship program for young women hosts the annual event as a celebration of all the group has accomplished over the past year and a way to generate the funds to keep it going.

"Pass It On is an amazing program bringing young women together to share their stories, insecurities and confidences," said program coordinator Kate Nash. "This program makes young women feel connect-

ed and confident, but it cannot run without community support."

Anyone who missed getting tickets for SWOVA's sold-out International Women's Day celebration the following night and hoped to see Elizabeth May will be pleased to know she will be part of Sparkfest! as well.

The event will also include performances by talented female performers such as Hannah Epperson, an

"amazing fiddle player with a knack for looping and a sweet voice," the stellar T. Nile, and island up-and-comers Phœnix Lazare and Rabeah Meyer. Nomi Lyonns, a talented cabaret performer and yoga teacher, will perform spoken word, and the ABUN*DANCE Afro Groove crew will lead the room in African dance.

Participants will enjoy music, dancing and hearing women talk about their own inspirations from

women in their lives. There will be a silent auction and a mocktail bar.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books, Harbour House and at the SWOVA office (250-537-1336). Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30.

"Please come out and see these amazing performers speak and sing to Salt Spring in support of this program," said Nash, noting all proceeds will go to Pass It On.

ENTERTAINMENT ROUND-UP

Dance events dominate

Goddesses galore at Academy show

In honour of International Women's Day, the Salt Spring Arts Academy presents Maidens, Mothers and Crones at ArtSpring on March 8 at 8 p.m.

Academy dancers and other artists from the community answered the call to bring their favourite goddess to life to celebrate the myth and magic of collective histories. The pageant of goddesses ranges from elementary-school-age dancers up through performance professionals, who will share spoken word, poetry, song, dance and visuals.

The show ends with Oria Atkinson performing a stunning aerial arts routine as Horea, the Greek goddess of seasons and time.

The production is a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Arts Academy Bursary Fund.

Portland dance group performs

On Monday, March 10, ArtSpring welcomes Northwest Dance Project as its first international dance presentation.

"We've certainly come a long way," says ArtSpring artistic director George Sipos, "since our first tentative experiments with presenting contemporary dance in 2007. We have built a strong audience that appreciates this interesting and innovative art form. Our first ever presentation of an important dance company from outside Canada is another milestone in our development as a major arts centre."

The evening will include choreography by the Portland, Ore. company's founding artistic director Sarah Slipper (who is a Cana-



PHOTO BY RON COOKE

Oria Atkinson performs on aerial silks as part of Maidens, Mothers and Crones, a Salt Spring Arts Academy evening at ArtSpring.

dian), by Vancouver's Wen Wei Wang and several other European and American dance artists. ArtSpring is particularly pleased that new work by Wen Wei is included in the program as he has become a favourite with Salt Spring audiences over the last several years with his full-length works called Unbound and Cock Pit.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre at 250-537-2102 or online at tickets.artspring.ca. Garry Oaks Winery starts the evening off with a pre-concert wine tasting from 6:30 p.m.

Kuebler leads Dance Temple

Dance artist Shay Kuebler from Vancouver will lead a Dance Temple evening at Mahon Hall next Thursday, March 13.

Kuebler is a versatile dancer and teacher, whose professional performing and choreographic career has spanned the disci-

plines of tap, hip hop and contemporary. He has performed on the island in the past with Wen Wei Dance and the 605 Collective.

The theme for the evening, which runs from 7 to 9:30 p.m., is Amorphous Structures and Rediscovery. With a background in martial arts, theatre and urban dance, Kuebler is constantly looking for ways to create material and move with a visceral and raw sincerity. The invitation for the Dance Temple experience will be to create formless forms through the isolation and connection of physical pathways and expressions.

"All movement lovers are welcome to attend, including new members, both shy and bold dancers alike," says dance outreach coordinator Anna Haltrecht. "It is an environment without observers or conversation, where you can feel safe to try new things."

For more information, see the Dance Temple Facebook page, or contact Haltrecht: 250-537-5681, or anna@bonesforever.com.



Spring Grant Applications Invited

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is currently inviting local charitable organizations to submit grant applications for projects that aim to enrich the quality of life in our community. Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, the Foundation has granted over \$1.5 million since 1984, benefiting over 80 Salt Spring non-profit groups.

If you would like to apply for a grant for your current project, for full information, including eligibility, and an application form, please go to www.saltspringislandfoundation.org.

Applications must be received on or before March 31, 2014.



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Defend Our Marine Highways Rally

11:30 am to 1:30 pm - Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Provincial Legislature Lawn - Victoria, BC

Please walk on to the 9:50 a.m. ferry from Fulford. Get tickets for the bus in advance at Salt Spring Books (\$10). Buses will pick people up in Swartz Bay to take them to rally at the Legislature in Victoria.



Check our website for more information:
<http://ssiferryalliance.org>

Salt Spring Island Ferry Action Alliance

Salt Springers working for a change in government ferry policy

what's on this week



Wed. Mar 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Curds and a Countertenor. Music and Munch recital by vocalist and goat cheese maker Larry Woods, featuring the songs of John Dowland, George Frideric Handel and George Formby. All Saints By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.

GISS Improv. Final show of the year. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Scrabble Fundraiser. Drop by and play in Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers annual fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m.

Texas Holdem Poker. The Local. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m.

SongJam Informal community singing of popular songs of the last 6 decades, led by Wendy Milton. Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Thurs. Mar 6

ACTIVITIES

Dance Temple: Vamos a la Playa! Join us for music and dance inspired by the beaches of Mexico, Cuba and Brazil. The Art Barn. 7:15 p.m.

Click Salt Spring Official Launch. Reception for opening of exhibit of photography by Jen MacLellan and Melinda Park-Divers. Barb's Bakery & Bistro. 6 to 8 p.m.

Fri. Mar 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ramesh Meyers. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Soul Shakedown. Live music follows free apps at 5 p.m. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sparkfest! Evening of entertainment and fundraiser for SWOVA's Pass It On program. Harbour House Hotel. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Story Time at the Library. For families with elementary school-aged children. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.

The Radicle Seed Library. "Check out" seeds, then return them to our seed library once you have grown them out. \$20 lifetime membership required. Every Friday to May 30. Salt Spring Public Library. Noon to 2 p.m.

Fri. Mar 7

ACTIVITIES

World Day of Prayer. All welcome to an annual event coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. This year's focus is the women of Egypt. Salt Spring Island United Church. 1:30 p.m.

Pickleball. Paddles and ball provided. Fulford Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

Sat. Mar 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Singer-songwriter Billie Woods. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Annual Waltz and Tango Night. Presented by Bach on the Rock's Salt Spring Chamber Orchestra and Choir and friends at Fulford Hall. Music 7:30 p.m., with dance demonstration 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Broken Strings Trio. Rock/dance band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tools for Change: Creating the Change You Want. Inspiring workshops and skill-training sessions sponsored by SWOVA. Harbour House Hotel. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info/register: ssgirlsleadership@gmail.com

Sat. Mar 8

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Arts Council AGM. Annual general meeting. Mahon Hall. 9 to 10:45 a.m.

Social Media Day on Salt Spring. Keynote speaker is Sean Smith — "That Social Media Guy" — plus training seminars on Facebook, Google+, Twitter, Youtube, Pinterest and more. Mahon Hall. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One Billion Rising. Community dance event to stand up against violence against women and children in the world. McPhillips Avenue near TJ Beans. Noon to 1 p.m.

Oil, the Environment, & the Future of Canada. The Salt Spring Forum hosts UBC graduate student conference. Audience members are welcome. GISS. 2 to 6:15 p.m.

Changemakers Evening of Celebration & Inspiration. SOLD OUT! Harbour House Hotel.

Scrabble Fundraiser. Final games in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, with silent auction. Salt Spring Golf Club Clubhouse Bar & Grill. 6 to 10 p.m.

Sun. Mar 9

ACTIVITIES

Foosball Tourney. Hosted by Aaron. The Local. 1 p.m.

Rollerblading. For young and old. Fulford Hall. 2 to 4 p.m.

Mon. Mar 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gumboot Gala. Salt Spring Folk Club presents Valdy & Bill Henderson and friends, including Claire Lawrence, Brian Brett, Shilo Zylbergold, Kaya Hunter and more! Fulford Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. for pass holders, 6:15 for others and music starts at 7 p.m.

North West Dance Project. Presentation by group based in Portland, Oregon and headed by Canadian artistic director Sarah Slipper. Includes a newly commissioned work from Wen Wei Wang. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ToddlerTime. For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.

Sun. Mar 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ian Van Wyck Trio Light Fantastic. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Oil, the Environment, & the Future of Canada. See Saturday listing. GISS. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pickleball. Fulford Hall. 9 to 11 a.m.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislands-driftwood.com

Tues. Mar 11

ACTIVITIES

Rally to Protest Ferry Cuts. Walk on the 9:50 a.m. ferry from Fulford Harbour. Buses will be waiting on the other side. Return in time for the 3 p.m. ferry to Fulford. Advance bus tickets required: available at SS Books.

Pickleball. Equipment provided. Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to noon

Probud Meeting. Guest speaker is Rob Grant, executive director of SSI Community Services. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. to noon.

Small Aid in Vanuatu. A family perspective slideshow presentation of travel, life and medicine in the rural community of Tanna, Vanuatu. Presented by Dr. Paula Ryan, Michael Berendt, family and friends. Admission by donation with all proceeds to Lovanatom high school in Tanna. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7 to 9 p.m.

Wed. Mar 12

ACTIVITIES

Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting. Public meeting of school trustees. Fernwood Elementary. 1 p.m.

Ruckle Farm from Farm to Park. A Salt Spring Historical Society presentation, based on a Harry Burton interview with Lotus Ruckle. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.

SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing.

SS Forum Presents Kevin Page. Canada's first Parliamentary Budget Officer speaks on attempting to bring fiscal transparency to Ottawa. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Texas Holdem Poker. The Local. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m.

SEE GET NOTICED ON PAGE 14

Thurs. Mar 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic Night. Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Random Johnson. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ian Van Wyck Trio Light Fantastic. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Oil, the Environment, & the Future of Canada. See Saturday listing. GISS. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pickleball. Fulford Hall. 9 to 11 a.m.

Scrabble Fundraiser
A SS Grand(m)others to Grandmothers Event
March 5th - 2 to 4pm at Salt Spring Inn
March 8th - 6 to 10pm at Clubhouse Bar & Grill
Info: 250 931 6830

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CINEMA

- August: Osage County** — Starring Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts. The dark, hilarious and deeply touching story of the strong-willed women of the Weston family. A family crisis brings them back home to the dysfunctional woman who raised them. Based on the internationally successful play.
- Coming Soon — National Theatre Live: War Horse.** Wednesday, March 26th at 3 and 7 p.m., and April 2nd and 3rd at 3 and 7 p.m. \$20 advance tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and The Fritz.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Painters Guild** members show an exhibit called Explorations in the ArtSpring lobby through the month of March.
- Photographer Doug Wahlsten** shares magnified views of the local tidal area in At the Beach, showing at the Fernwood Road Cafe until March 12.
- Robert Steinbach** shows abstract paintings at the Harbour House through the month of March.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/
view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

EXHIBITIONS

- As part of Focus on Women:** A Celebration, the Salt Spring library program room has an exhibit of photographs and paintings of Salt Spring women aged 60 to 100, done by Salt Spring women artists, with an additional display of images and words by young islanders about women who've inspired them.
- Photographers Jen MacLellan and Melinda Park-Divers** are showing photographs at Barb's Bakery & Bistro through March, with an opening reception on Thursday, March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- The Salt Spring Photography Club** is pleased to present the works of **Chris Dixon** and **Wendy Rosier** at Country Roasters Cafe through March.
- Rhianna Lynn** has multi-media pieces showing at Penny's Pantry.
- Paintings of the North by **Judith Currelly** is now showing at **Duthie Gallery**. Winter hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 250-537-9606.

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

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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

VIEWERS' CHOICE: From left, Penny Berton peruses the 15th annual Salt Spring Film Festival guide to make her next choice, and others look at the schedules posted at the GISS venue on Saturday. Some 800 wristbands were sold for the festival, with 2,310 the total number of "bums in seats" for all films. Northern Grease, which had screened at The Fritz on Thursday and was added to the festival at the last minute, was voted the most popular film of the 2014 event. Northern Grease has an island connection through Jasper Snow Rosen.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Conference hosts UBC grad students

Public welcome to join Oil, the Environment and the Future of Canada conference

Salt Spring Islanders already know a great deal about energy and climate change. This weekend — March 8 and 9 — they will have the opportunity to learn even more.

That's when 10 UBC graduate students will participate in a conference at Gulf Islands Secondary School called Oil, the

Environment, and the Future of Canada. The event is co-hosted by the Salt Spring Forum and the GISS Student Council.

The UBC students are taking a graduate seminar titled Current Issues in Global Politics and International Law. It is led by political science professor Michael Byers, who is also a founder of the Salt Spring Forum and an island resident.

"The conference provides the students with an opportunity to receive feedback and encouragement from our remarkably knowledgeable and engaged community on Salt Spring Island," said Byers. "It is the

highlight of their semester at UBC."

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend, with admission by donation.

The program is as follows:

Saturday, March 8

2:30 p.m. — Dangerous Waters: Navigating Environmental Risk in the Northwest Passage and Juan de Fuca Strait.

3:15 p.m. — Tankers Without Borders: The Challenge of Regulating Foreign Ships in Canadian Waters.

4 p.m. — Just Winging It: Stephen Harper's National Energy Policy.

4:45 p.m. — From China With Love: Foreign Acquisitions of Natural Resource Companies and Canadian National Security.

5:30 p.m. — Selling Black Gold to a Greener World: Does Bitumen Have a Future in Carbon-Conscious Markets.

Sunday, March 9

9:30 a.m. — Science: The PR Problem of the Oil Sands.

10:15 a.m. — Protecting Democracy in Petro-States.

11 a.m. — How to Say No to Big Oil: Indigenous World Views and Civil Disobedience as Democracy.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Active Choices helps islanders get moving in the right direction

March 15 volunteer training session is first part of program

Salt Spring Island is included in a University of Victoria project to build a team of Active Choices volunteers to coach individuals through the process of engaging in regular physical activity.

"Sometimes it takes a little more than will power and good intentions to start and maintain regular exercise," explains Active Choices coordinator Angela Sealy. "Active Choices pairs trained volunteer coaches with individuals who want to be more active but need support to get going and stay going."

Sealy provides volunteer coaches with free training that helps them assist individuals develop an exercise plan, set goals, track progress, problem solve difficulties and barriers, and discuss options for lifestyle improvement, and "create an exercise habit."

Through the Active Choices program, coaches learn facilitation, time management, administration management, telephone and coaching skills. The training is great life-skills enhancement, adds Sealy.

Each trained volunteer has an introductory meeting with the individual they have been assigned to coach. The coach and individual continue to work together through phone meetings

and emails over the course of six months.

On Salt Spring, the first free Active Choices coach training workshop will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lions Hall.

The Active Choices program, developed by Stanford University, was brought to B.C. under the leadership of Dr. Patrick McGowan, associate professor at the University of Victoria. The program is being implemented across B.C.

Early registration is recommended, since classes tend to fill up quickly.

To register for the training, or to get more information, contact Sealy at 1-877-522-1492 or angela.activechoices@shaw.ca.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Capital Tree Service will be providing Vegetation Maintenance service on behalf of BC Hydro, throughout the district of Mayne Island effective immediately and will continue through to August.

Maintenance will include pruning and removal of trees. Should you have any tree concerns contact:

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Send your submissions to news@gulfislands.net or drop them off at the Driftwood office. Published in the first Driftwood of each month! Brought to you by Saunders Subaru.



WEDNESDAY

STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the SSI Baptist Church (rear door). 7 to 9 p.m. New members welcome. Info: stitchdimension@gmail.com; or Janet Rothwell, 250-537-7606.

GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month for discussion and sharing at the Mormon Church. 7 p.m. Info: claudia2@shaw.ca; 250-537-2588.

every WEDNESDAY

BOOMERFIT-FULFORD HALL with Trisha, cert. personal trainer, 9 to 10 a.m. Co-ed classes. Workouts include circuits, intervals, etc. for total-body fitness. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com; 250-653-4656.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.

CHAIR YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN. Sign up for weekly sessions at Family Place. 1 to 3 p.m. Info: 250-537-9176; familyplace@ssics.ca.

DANCE CLASS with Anna Hlaltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 5 to 6:30 p.m. Multigenerational expressive dance class suitable for dancers of all levels. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

DUPLICATE BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m.

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY WORKSHOP for beginners to advanced students, aged 15 and up. A free, ongoing fun, informative and friendly workshop designed to teach you the art of improvisational comedy. GISS Room 208. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: workshop@janrabson.com.

MEDITATION GROUP suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333

MEN'S BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.

PILATES ALL LEVELS CLASS with Anna Hlaltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility and long, lean muscles, strength and endurance. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com.

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. If interested, contact club president David Waddington at 250-537-0854 or via email: David@Waddington.ca.

SWING DANCE — East Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Fox Trot. Activity Centre at Salt Spring Elementary School. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Larry Nelson, Wendy Hartnett: 250-537-4118.

TAEKWONDO CLASSES in the studio space above Elements Home Design. 6 p.m. Info: Paul Mazzei, 250-931-8887, gyatso5@gmail.com.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (With beginners classes from 6:30 to 8 p.m.) Info: David, 250-537-1871.

every FRIDAY

YOGA LEVEL 1 with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA with Dorothy Price. At The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. AND 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7 p.m. Call 250-653-2411 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

ZUMBA TONING class with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio. 4 to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

BOOK CLUB meets once a month on the second Thursday at Salt Spring Seniors in the lounge at 1:30 p.m.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION — Group meditations for all who have learned TM. Last Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. Call 778-353-3014 for address and more information. Free introductory lectures by appointment.

every THURSDAY

AL-ANON meets at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racquet and non-marking gm shoes. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

ELEMENTARY BRIDGE LESSONS take place at Salt Spring Seniors. 10 a.m.

FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES with Betty-Lou Lake. All Saints lower hall. 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Focus on balance, strength, flexibility. Target group is boomers and up. Info: blake@telus.net; 250-537-1638.

FLOWIN' YOGA with Robert Prince at Still Point. 5 to 6 p.m.

KUNDALINI YOGA with Shannon Cowan at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9:30 to 11 a.m.

MEDITATION AND CHAKRA TONING SESSION at Still Point Yoga Studio. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333.

MEN'S YOGA with Ken Katz at Still Point. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

NIA — Experience the joy of Nia! Daytime "Over 50s" classes with Arleen at Fulford Hall Annex from 10 to 11 a.m. Sponsored by SSI Seniors. Call Donna at 250-653-9985 for info re fees. Call Arleen at 250-653-9235 for Nia info.

SS WOMEN'S AA closed meeting Thursday nights at OAP wing of Fulford Hall.

SENIORS LUNCH runs at Salt Spring Seniors at 12 noon.

SEVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS Meditation Mantra Mudra with Deborah Stevenson at Still Point. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. Come for a bowl of soup. Toy library open. 12 noon to 3 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: David, 250-537-1871.

VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

YOGA FOR WOMEN with Shannon Cowan at The Gatehouse. 9:30 to 11 a.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m. PLUS class at North End Fitness class from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m., with babysitting available.

YOGA — Noontime Flow with Dorothy Price at Gaiama Yoga. 12:10 to 1:10 p.m.

MONDAY

BOOMERFIT-BEAVER POINT HALL with Trisha, cert. personal trainer, 9 to 10 a.m. Co-ed classes, workouts include circuits, intervals, etc. for total-body fitness. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com; 250-653-4656.

BRIDGE GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors at 12:45 p.m.

CHURCH OF REGGAE yoga with Adam Clarkson at Still Point until Feb. 28. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

CONJURING CLUB meets at the Salt Spring Library, Room 106. 3:30 p.m.

COFFEE TIME for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors at 10 a.m.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Still Point Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™ CLASS with Anna Hlaltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681; anna@bonesforever.com.

MAH JONGG players gather at Salt Spring Seniors at 12:15 p.m.

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 p.m.

MIXED LEVELS YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

PICKLEBALL at Fulford Hall. Equipment provided. 6 to 8 p.m. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizhimji@shaw.ca.

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. Light lunch provided. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

STORYTIME AT THE LIBRARY for kids under the age of 10 and their families. 10:30 a.m.

TANGO PRACTICA on the third floor of the Core Inn. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Mana 250-653-0099.

every SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST. Drop-in at Family Place, 120 Park Drive, with free pancakes for dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints with Lok Hup Practice from 10:30 to 11 a.m.; open practice from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

YOGA - BEGINNERS' CLASS with Dorothy Price at Gaiama Yoga. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund at Still Point Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

every SUNDAY

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racquet and non-marking gym shoes. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

KARMA KLOSS yoga at Still Point Yoga Studio. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free (with donations gratefully accepted).

PICKLEBALL at Fulford Hall. Equipment provided. 9 to 11 a.m. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizhimji@shaw.ca.

QI GONG with Ne'ith Arrow — Still Point Yoga Studio. 2 to 3:15 p.m.

ROLLERBLADING to music for all ages at Fulford Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. \$2 for kids; \$4 for adults. Rollerblades available to use at the hall.

TUESDAY

PROBUS GROUP for retired professionals/business people meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Meaden Hall at 10 a.m. with special guest speakers each time. Info: Bruce Eggertson, probus.ssi@gmail.com

SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Portlock Park portable. 4 to 6 p.m.

every MONDAY

BEGINNERS/LEVEL 1 YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

BONES FOR LIFE™ MOVEMENT CLASS with Anna Hlaltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 2 to 3 p.m. A comprehensive exercise program to increase strength and agility through dynamic movement and weight-bearing activity. Info: Anna, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

BOOMERFIT-FULFORD HALL with Trisha, Cert. Personal Trainer, 9 to 10 a.m. Co-ed classes, workouts include circuits, intervals, etc. for total-body fitness. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com; 250-653-4656.

CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Still Point Yoga Studio. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™ CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd., 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alice@saltspring.com.

LEVEL 1/SENIORS YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

LIFE DRAWING every Monday at the Core Inn (third floor). 1 to 3 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121. Drop-ins welcome.

MOVEMENT INTELLIGENCE CLASS with Anna Hlaltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Road, 2-3 p.m. A comprehensive exercise program to improve posture and increase strength and agility, through dynamic movement and weight-bearing activity. Movements are done lying on the floor, sitting in a chair, standing and walking. Info: Anna Hlaltrecht, 250-537-5681, anna@bonesforever.com

PUMP PRIMERS co-ed heart health fitness class. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

TAEKWONDO CLASSES in the studio space above Elements Home Design. 6 p.m. Info: Paul Mazzei, 250-931-8887, gyatso5@gmail.com.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (with Lok Hup practice from 6:30 to 7 p.m.) Info: David, 250-537-1871.

TOASTMASTERS public speaking group meets Mondays at the Catholic Church, lower room, 135 Drake Rd. 7 p.m.

THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Core Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.

VIJNANA YOGA with Cathy Valentine at The Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

VIJNANA MEDITATION with Nicola Bishop at Still Point Yoga Studio. 7 to 8:15 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Shannon Joyce at Still Point Yoga Studio. 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.

every TUESDAY

ART GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors at 1 p.m.

CHESS GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 p.m.

EVERYBODY MOVE with Catherine Bennett at Still Point Yoga Studio from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

FIT FOR LIFE CLASSES with Betty-Lou Lake. All Saints lower hall. 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. Focus on balance, strength, flexibility. Target group is boomers and up. Info: blake@telus.net; 250-537-1638.

KUNDALINI MOVING MEDITATION from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and **ECKHART TOLLE PRACTISING PRESENCE** from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.

LOST CHORDS seniors choir practices at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m.

MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Teachings offered by donation with Insight Meditation Teacher Heather Martin. 7 p.m.

NIA — Experience the Joy of Nia! Daytime classes with Arleen at Still Point Yoga Studio from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Call Arleen at 250-653-9235 for more info (and ask about Tuesday evening classes in Ganges as well).

PICKLEBALL at Fulford Hall. Equipment provided. 10 a.m. to noon. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizhimji@shaw.ca.

ROLLER DERBY — Learn to roller skate with The Committed roller-derby group. Fulford Hall. 6 to 7 p.m. Info: Kaleigh, 250-653-9606.

SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m. Or phone Chuck Hamilton, 250-537-6601.

SMARTSOMATICS classes with Nelly Kosteljik at North End Fitness from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. SMARTSOMATICS are gentle and effective with quick results. Once learned they can be done at home to reduce pain, stress and sore muscles. Info: 250-537-2056.

STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. Come for a bowl of soup. Toy library open. 12 noon to 3 p.m.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: David, 250-537-1871.

UBUNTU sacred chants with Barb Slater. Still Point Yoga Studio. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

YOGA - Noontime Flow with Dorothy Price at Gaiama Yoga. 12:10 to 1:10 p.m.

YOGA VINAYASA/FLOW with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. (New time)

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Yin Style and Restorative. SS Centre of Yoga. 5 to 6 p.m.

YOGA WITH GAY MEGLEY at The Gatehouse on Stowel Lake Farm. 5 to 6:45 p.m.



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS: Salt Spring Fire-Rescue paid-on-call firefighter Dom Gaudet is ready to climb the 48 storeys of the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver on March 16 in the BC Lung Association's annual Stairclimb for Clean Air fundraiser. See stairclimb.ca for more information.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Unseen Salt Spring calendar helps redefine 'community'

Calendar benefits outreach program

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The question of who is accepted into our idea of community can be a tough one when it comes to the people who may not be like "us."

Does our community include everyone who lives in the same geographical place? Is it restricted to the people we interact with as equals? What happens to the people who don't have homes, jobs, or other markers of contributing to the established social order? These questions are

addressed directly by Salt Spring Community Services outreach worker Donna Dunnigan in the forward to a beautiful new calendar called Unseen Salt Spring. They are addressed less directly, but with no less impact, in the black and white images that make up the calendar. Taken mostly by Mike Azzarello Krayenhoff, for a project that she created, the images bring faces that are usually outside the margins into focus.

Although two months of the calendar year have already gone by, the photographs and the crisp production on thick matte card stock make for an artful design that buyers will most likely want to hold onto



Cover image from Unseen Salt Spring.

long after Dec. 31 has passed.

The pages feature some of Salt Spring's recognizable characters, such as Marcie Berner taking in the sun, or the woman who brings islanders joy through her street-side roller skating in angel wings. There are also faces that aren't so recognizable, such as travelling street performers who make the island home during the summer. And there are those whose circumstances have led them to stay away from the confines of regular housing and who have been left vulnerable as a result. "Grandpa," whose tent home was trashed by abusive islanders earlier this year, is depicted in two different months.

"Perhaps if we can look past the fear that often separates us and ... see the parts of our community who are often not recognized as those who add or contribute, you might be surprised at the wealth of beauty that lies within those souls," Dunnigan writes.

Unseen Salt Spring is available at Salt Spring Books, TJ Beans, Ganges Stationery and Dragonfly Fine Arts and Craft Supplies. Printing was done with the help of local business sponsors. Proceeds will be donated to Community Services' outreach program.

Participants all received a print of the photograph that featured them.

FEDERAL POLITICS

'National hero' leads forum talk

Spending watchdog Kevin Page visits March 12

In 2008, the position of parliamentary budget officer was established to create more transparency and accountability for the spending of taxpayer money.

Did it work, and if so, why? Can an accountant become a national hero?

On Wednesday, March 12 at ArtSpring, the Salt Spring Forum is delighted to host Canada's first parliamentary budget officer, Kevin Page, for a discussion about fiscal transparency, good government and personal life.

Page was a career civil servant who, in 2008, was given the independent authority to analyze and report on all of the federal government's spending plans. At the same time, he suffered a profound loss in his personal life.

According to the Salt Spring Forum, "Page threw aside his bureaucratic caution and

adopted a truly fearless attitude to his new job. As a result, the Parliamentary Budget Office was an experiment in fiscal transparency that, on file after file, caused enormous embarrassment to the highly secretive Harper government."

Not surprisingly, Stephen Harper chose not to appoint Kevin Page to a second term as parliamentary budget officer. Page now teaches at the University of Ottawa, where he holds the Jean-Luc Pepin Research Chair in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

"Our institutions of accountability are in trouble," Kevin Page wrote in the Toronto Star after his term came to an end. "Parliament does not get the information and analysis it needs to hold the executive (the prime minister and cabinet) to account."

The March 12 event begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at ArtSpring by calling 250-537-2102 or online at www.saltspringforum.ca, or at Salt Spring Books.

ISLAND HISTORY

Ruckle land focus of historical event

Lotus Ruckle interview forms basis of March 12 historical society program

How Ruckle Farm became a provincial park is the topic of the next Salt Spring Historical Society gathering.

On Wednesday, March 12, beginning at 2 p.m. at Central Hall, an interview with the late Lotus Ruckle

undertaken by Harry Burton will form the basis for the program. It will show the growth of the farmlands to the park, as it is known today.

In 1872, Daniel Henry Ruckle pre-empted land at Beaver Point and after it was cleared it became one of the largest farms on Salt Spring Island.

Ruckle married and raised his family in the area. Even though times were difficult, with hard work the farm produced enough agricultural

products to export to other regions of the province.

In 1930, son Gordon Henry Ruckle moved into the original farmhouse with his new bride Lotus, and they had two children, Gwen and Henry.

As time passed, the farm expanded and continued to produce high-quality products. In 1972 the provincial government bought Ruckle Farm and created a new provincial park.

Burton will introduce the March 12 program and answer questions.

EDUCATION

Second Chance bursaries offered

CFUW can help three women in 2014

For the third year running, Salt Spring's Canadian Federation of University Women club is holding its Second Chance Bursaries program.

Mature women returning to post-

secondary education in a program that provides credentials recognized by a profession or trade are eligible for scholarships from the group.

The awards are available to residents of the Southern Gulf Islands only and one of them available specifically to a single mother with a child or children under the age of 18.

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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LOCAL HISTORY

Bay Ridge Place name has Brooklyn, NY connection

Strata lands located near Ruckle Park

Bay Ridge Place, located south of Beaver Point Road and west of Ruckle Park, is both the next street on the alphabetical list and continues my education about island development that kicked off with Barker's Place in my last column.

Since the Salt Spring Archives' list of street name origins isn't all that useful when it comes to "descriptive" names, my information about this street comes entirely through the good graces of Bay Ridge resident Joan Farlinger. Joan, who is an important patron of the

arts and co-founded the local Dying with Dignity organization, and her husband David Braide bought their property in the south-end strata in 1995 and started building their home in 1996.

As Joan recounts in an email: "The original developers of the property now known as Beaver Point Strata were Bob and Bev Unger, Americans who purchased the property in 1975 as part of a much larger parcel of 235 acres. Before them, the property was owned by the Monk family of Salt Spring Island.

"Bob, who died six years ago, was a dentist and Bev a psychotherapist. They were attracted to



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF SALT SPRING

Salt Spring as a place to retire because a friend told them that Salt Spring was considered one of the 10 best places 'in the U.S.' in which to retire. They vacationed on Salt Spring for three years before deciding to purchase land and settle here. They chose the south end because, according to the wisdom of their friend who had raved about Salt Spring, Fulford was the

best place on the island.

"When they bought the initial 235 acres it was completely undeveloped. They put in the roads, did the necessary logging and even discovered an old gravel pit which they used to surface the roads. With a number of American friends and partners, they subdivided most of the property into five-acre parcels, but the waterfront acreage was divided into nine lots of various sizes. They were required to provide one public access to the waterfront and it still exists as a trail, for pedestrian use only, leading from Stevens Road to a small beach.

"They chose the name

Bay Ridge for the single road in Beaver Point Strata because there actually is both a ridge and a bay and they are the defining features of the land. The name also had a special significance for Bob: he grew up in the Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn. The Verrazano Narrows Bridge connects Bay Ridge in Brooklyn with Staten Island. They named other roads as well, including Forest Ridge, which leads from Stevens Road to Beaver Point.

"The Ungers lived on one of the prime waterfront properties until about 10 years ago when they left Salt Spring because of Bob's declining health. During their time

on Salt Spring they contributed much to the life of the island. Bev, in particular, was a force of nature who never feared to take a public stand on issues in which she believed strongly. She was the driving force behind the establishment of the Core Inn Youth Centre. She now divides her time between her summer home in Victoria and her winter home in La Jolla, California."

Thank you to Joan and all the local informants who contribute to my ongoing investigations! If anyone has similar information about Bayview Road or Beachside Drive, please contact me at dwsalty@driftwoodmedia.com.

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SPIRITUALITY

Actor/priest settles into Salt Spring home

Father Edward Evanko in the spotlight

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's charms have wooed a great number of visitors into becoming full-time residents, but one of the latest to make the island his home comes here via a life path that's probably unique in the world.

Father Edward Evanko, a 40-year veteran actor of the stage and screen, was ordained in the Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in 2005. While the performing arts formed the basis of his career, becoming a priest meant fulfilling the true meaning of the word "vocation."

"It was not a choice, it was a calling — and you have no control. Really, literally, that's it," he said.

Evanko was born in Winnipeg and raised in the Ukrainian Catholic faith. But before he heard the call to the priesthood at age 63, he was moving through a successful lifetime in show business. His accomplishments included hosting his own show on CBC during the '60s, studying at the Old Vic Theatre School in England, and starring in hit musicals on Broadway and at the Stratford Festival. During the '90s he had a score of TV and movie credits.

Evanko had moved to Vancouver when he received his calling to the priesthood, which came about through the reading of scriptures at Holy Rosary Cathedral and encouragement by an associate pastor there. This then led to seminary studies in Rome, Washington, D.C. and Ottawa, during which time he moved from Roman Catholic to Ukrainian Catholic ordination in a return to his childhood roots. He now holds a Masters of Theology degree from Saint Paul University, with a specialization in Eastern Christian Studies.

After he was ordained in 2005,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Father Edward Evanko with an image of Belgian priest Damien, who gave his life in service of lepers in Hawaii. Evanko presents a one-man play about Damien for fundraising efforts.

Evanko's first stop was the small town of Rosssburn, Man., where he was the parish priest for two and a half years. This was followed by five and a half years at a parish in Richmond, B.C. He moved to Salt Spring after renting a vacation home and falling in love with the island's natural beauty.

Although at age 75 one could forgive him for easing up on his activities, Evanko has both the appearance and the energy of a much younger man. He continues to travel to preach missions around North America, with engagements in Texas and Manitoba in the coming months.

"I'm a priest 'til death. That never stops," Evanko explained.

Another activity that has occupied much of Evanko's time lately — somewhat to his surprise — is acting. Over the past few years he has mounted a series of one-man plays that combine educational,

inspirational and fundraising goals.

"You can take the actor out of the theatre, but you can't take the theatre out of the priest, it seems," Evanko said, but added an important caveat: "The plays I'm doing now pertain to my new life as a priest. They are plays that have to do with religion and human rights."

Evanko performed his first play after his ordination to the priesthood to aid a colleague whose father had donated a kidney. The transplant went well for the recipient, but complications caused the donor to lose one leg below the knee and the toes on his opposite foot.

Evanko raised \$4,000 by presenting Damien, a play about a Belgian priest who gave his life in the service to the lepers on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai. Last fall he performed this play on Salt Spring Island to raise money for Syrian refugees.

At first he looked on presenting plays as a one-off event.

"I'm a priest now," he thought, "even though I was an actor for the better part of my life." But then calls started coming in from other people asking him to help them raise funds for various causes.

In 2008, Evanko was asked to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Ukraine famine/genocide. This resulted in Holodomor: Murder by Starvation, a play focusing on survivor eye-witness accounts. To add to the stories he included many hymns and songs, since he had learned from his years in musical theatre that "songs can really reach the heart, more than the spoken word."

Blessed Nykyta, the third play in his roster, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Canada in 1912. Bishop Nykyta Budka, who perished in a Soviet concentration camp, was beatified by John Paul II when he visited Ukraine in 2001.

Since moving to Salt Spring, Evanko has been getting to know the island's Roman Catholic congregation, as well as forming relationships with his colleagues in the other faiths. He hopes to put his acting talents to good use with more fundraiser performances here in the future, including an event for Philippine earthquake victims in April or May.

Evanko regards the following words of St. Damien in the play by Aldyth Morris as having a special resonance for him.

"A man enters the religious life in answer to a 'call.' Later, if he's lucky, he receives a 'call within a call.' He finds the niche that he was meant to fill."

The priesthood is his call, but through the skills and talents he honed during his years as an actor and singer, Evanko feels he has been given a chance, a call within a call, to bring the stories of men and women of faith to many who might otherwise not be aware of their sacrifices.

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Alice Bibeau Tester

Alice Bibeau Tester passed peacefully on the morning of February 18, 2014 at Lady Minto Hospital at the age of 100 and a half. A huge thank you to the compassionate and caring staff and volunteers in Residential Care at Lady Minto Hospital. Dr. David Beaver, Susan Astill and her friends and family. Special thanks to Donna Powell for her companion care and regular visits.

No service or memorial at Alice's request. However, at a later date, a celebration will be held to honour Alice and her poetry. For more information, please contact Ellen Mahoney at ellen.mahoney7@gmail.com.

If you care to make a donation in Alice's name, please donate to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation for education for staff on dementia care to enhance their practice.

On-line condolences can be made at <http://www.haywardsfuneral.com>

Love is the only gold
- TENNYSON

We love and remember the gold of

Edith Marilyn Sigmund

Always remembered, missed and loved by:
Jenny, Jim, Austin, Justin, Heather, Bonnie, Sonja and Ocea who was born later in 2009.
Thinking of you at this time Edith and thinking of all the warmth you showed us.

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Vera Payne

Aug. 3, 1921 - Feb. 18, 2014

A service will be held at All Saints Anglican Church in Ganges. Friday, March 7 at 1:00pm. Vera has requested in lieu of flowers that donations be given to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, Ganges in her memory.

Salt Spring Island Historical Society

REGULAR MEETING
2:00 pm Wednesday, March 12, 2014
at Central Hall

Ruckle Park an Interview with Lotus Ruckle by Harry Burton

Check our website: <http://saltspringarchives.com/historical> for more program details

Tea/coffee to follow the meeting

Charitable donations to our Archives Legacy Fund are now being accepted or donate your Country Grocer tapes to Box 131 Salt Spring Archives.
ALL ARE WELCOME

Bible Believers Fellowship
of Salt Spring Island

Sunday service 10 - 11:30 am

Core Inn - 134 McPhillips Ave.
www.bbfsi.org
more info: 250-537-4934

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association

Saturday, March 22nd, 10am at Meadowbrook

MACKENZIE, Paul Arthur

Passed away February 22, 2014 at the age of 74.

Paul is survived by his loving wife Pam MacKenzie and three daughters, one son and one brother: Lynette and her husband Mike, Charlene and her husband Dale, Deanne and her husband Shawn, Ryan and his wife Kristine, John and his wife Gena and their children Regan and Stephanie. Eight amazing grandchildren brought joy to Paul's days: Garrett, Jay, Miranda, Jakob, Evan, Jimmy, Solenne and Mac.

Paul earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education at the University of Chicago followed by a Master of Arts in Language from the University of Victoria. A 34 year career in Education began first in Kamloops, then Salt Spring Island and finally in Nanaimo. Paul loved to teach - most of all he loved the relationships that came from teaching - he was a gifted teacher.

For the majority of their time on Salt Spring Island Paul worked a beautiful eleven-acre hobby farm. Paul, when "outside" on the farm, was determined, curious, patient and genuine in his love for the animals and his land. All of these qualities defined Paul in every endeavour of his life.

In 2006 Paul and his wife Pam retired to Kelowna. Through Newcomers Club and Harvest Golf Club Paul and Pam have made many friendships that have delivered an immeasurable contribution to their happiness. Thank you.

Paul's love, companionship and gentle spirit will be greatly missed but never forgotten by his family and friends. Rest in Peace Poppa.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.springfieldfuneralhome.com, 250-860-7077.

Edith Marilyn Sigmund

JUNE 18, 1986 ~ MARCH 4, 2009

*"Those we leave don't go away
They walk beside us every day
Unseen, unheard, but always near
Still loved, still missed, still very dear"*

*You would have turned 28.
Not a day goes by that we don't think of you.
We miss you so much...*

Love, Mom, Dad, and Eric and Dean & Ashley

HISTORICAL ARMS Collectors.
Guns-Knives-Militaria. 42nd Antiques Show & Sale. Sat. March 8, 9am-5pm. Sun March 9, 9am-3pm. Heritage Park, 44140 Luckackuck Way, Chilliwack (exit 116 off Hwy 1) Buy-Sell-Trade. For info or table rentals Gord 604-747-4704 Al 604-941-8489. See our website www.HACSBc.ca.

YOGA DANCE
N.E. Fitness - Ganges
Membership not required

THURSDAY'S 10:45 - 11:45am
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Krayenhoff Memorial Lunch and Bridge

Friday, March 28 noon at Fulford Community Hall \$20.00

All profits to our local OPT clinic. Options for Sexual Health. (Planned Parenthood SSI)

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MEETING of the Board of Directors of Central Community Hall Society - Tues. Mar. 18 at 7:00 pm. Public welcome.

BIRD, James Christopher

Nov. 2 1927- Mar. 1 2014

With deep sadness and broken hearts we announce the passing of Jim Bird, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Born in Selkirk, Manitoba, he is remembered by his loving and devoted wife of 59 years, Dolores, two daughters: Debbie (Peter), Karen (Dwight), step-son Scott, grandchildren: Robbie (Sally), Tawnee (Chad), Danica (Tom), Tyler (Holly), Shyla, Scott (Liana), great-grandchildren: Hailey, Max, Fletcher, Cassia, Kalem, Keaton and Carter. As well as many extended family members and friends whose lives he has touched over his 86 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Salt Spring Island, B.C. (120 Blain), on Mar. 22nd 2014 at 1 p.m.

With respect, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions/donations may be sent to Selkirk College "The James Bird Award", 301 Frank Bender Way, Castlegar, B.C. V1N 4L3.

To leave a condolence, please visit www.earthsoption.com

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Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mon., March 31, 2014 at 1:30 PM
At the Lion's Hall
Election of Officers
All members urged to attend

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

Join the BC SPCA Salt Spring Island Branch on Saturday March 29th, 2014 from 10am - noon for our Annual General Meeting. We are meeting at the Salt Spring Island Library who has generously donated the space for our meeting.

We will be selling memberships that will facilitate a committee of members to vote for a Community Council as well as conducting other branch business. Members have a say in governance of our CC and are crucial to our branch success. Its a great way for people to speak on behalf of animals in our community.

For further information on the meeting or to obtain a copy of the draft agenda, please email us at shogan@spca.bc.ca or call 250-537-2123

With gratitude to the Salt Spring Public Library for use of their meeting room, free of charge.

Salt Spring Island Public Library

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INFORMATION

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FOUND - Guitar on the side of Ganges Road. To identify call 778 214-2293

FOUND - Ladies prescription glasses, N. Beach Road, call 250 538-0190
FOUND - New Wallet was left at Liquor Store in Grace Point Sq. - stop by to claim
LOST - Red Homelite Chain Saw in Red Case, lost near Whims Rd, Mar. 1st. If found call Jon 250 931-5549

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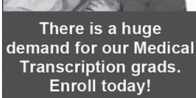
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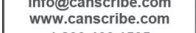
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Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Accepting applications for the position of Corporate Administrator

This is a part-time contract position. The successful applicant must be able to work flexible hours, which includes some evenings. On average this position does not exceed 20 hours per month.

The position of the Corporate Administrator is defined in section 738.2 of the Local Government Act of BC, found at, www.bclaws.ca/Recon/docuement/ID/freeside/96323_00

The successful applicant must demonstrate excellent personal and organizational skill. Good written English is essential. Prior experience with public or government organizations an asset.

NATURE

Jigsaw pieces and wild bulbs

Early spring sees bulb plants thrive on the coast

BY BOB WEEDEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

You've got to have two eyes to do a jigsaw puzzle, one to study the space to be filled, and the other for the piece from the jumble pile that fits. It's a question and answer game.

The other day I sliced a finger instead of an onion. There was a brief noisy interlude. I looked at the offending bulb, and thought, "This is an answer, but what is the question? What space in the jigsaw puzzle of nature is this meant to fill?"



Conservation In Action
NATURE'S CALENDAR

The onion already was cut horizontally, showing concentric rings. I made a vertical slice through its centre, showing the rings as a series of praying hands, one inside the next. The hands, however, are really thick, juicy

leaves, coming from a very squashed stem. Through the core a rod-like spear thrust upward: the onion was about to sprout. At the base stubs of rootlets dangled. I could imagine the whole plant in the garden: roots weaving down through loose soil, bulb full of juicy nutrients pushing a green stem to its usual 40-60 cm height where, in due course, a cluster of flowers would form.

Now I imagined the life of the plant through its seasons. Last year's tiny, round seeds, probably lying not far from the mother plant, would break their long dormancy (first the aestivation of summer drought, then hibernation in the cool, light-deprived winter) in spring. Each would send a pale shoot deeper into the soil and a slender green stem into the light.

A small swelling would show where the bulb would form slowly over several years, and the bulb would be thrust slightly deeper each year until it reached a stone or barrier tree root, or until its own size stopped its burrowing.

Meanwhile the bulb would grow annually, shrinking as new growth of stem-like leaves sucked up water and nutrients, expanding again in mid summer as the sugars from photosynthesis move back to storage in the bulb. Different kinds of bulb plants — lilies, mostly — have different life spans, often from four to a dozen years after first flowering. The hard part is getting to maturity.

What's the environmental challenge this kind of plant answers? If bulbs are for storage, then a regular rhythm of good times and bad must prevail.

Most of Salt Spring Island's native lilies, like fawn lilies, chocolate lilies, camas, death camas, and Hooker's onion, grow in open places near the sea. When warming soil, still wet from winter rains, and bright sunlight encourage growth there is a period of about three months when the action has to be completed. Kayakers and ferry riders see this in the dramatic change among the mosses of these shallow-soiled, seaside bluffs, gorgeous emerald in winter but turning swiftly in June to a crisp, golden, raffia rug.

Early people of the southwest coast of British Columbia knew that some bulbs are good eating if first cooked to change

the inulin sugar to fructose. They tended traditionally owned patches of blue camas as if they were wildish gardens, which they were. Before the blooms were gone, people dug out the poisonous death camas, with its creamy flowers, so that later, in bulb-digging time, there was less chance of unhappy mistakes. To keep invading Douglas-fir and arbutus at bay, they set fires every few years in the camas meadows.

These days, the best rule is to leave wild bulbs alone. Many are rare, now, because it is too dangerous to burn back the sapling forests that compete with the meadow community, and because thoughtless (usually fruitless) digging for transplantable bulbs destroyed vulnerable colonies.

We can buy beauty for the garden, but nature's autonomous beauty should be enjoyed where it belongs.

To connect with the writer, he can be emailed at weeden@shaw.ca.

Attention New Salt Springers!



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This Week's Horoscope

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

Tip of the Week:

Some big energy patterns are active now according to the planetary alignments. The major players are Jupiter, Uranus and Pluto which remain in close aspect and will for the next 5-6 weeks especially. Uranus and Pluto alone will remain actively engaged until late 2015. Neptune too plays a key role in this line-up. As with all planet 'influences', the expression hosts both positive and more challenging themes. Regarding this trio of far planet influence, the negative effects refer to violent revolutionary activity. Impatience may be described as the main issue. Misuse of power is also featured. Positively, these revolutions are destined to deepen the convictions and implement the footings of democracy. Petty despots simply will not be tolerated and political leaders will be directly and indirectly forced to comply with the general will of the people. The negative potentials of Neptune in Pisces are mass denial, delusion and deception, especially in as much as the information war uses deeper concepts and perceptions to its own end. We certainly are seeing some of that now with the conviction that matter precedes consciousness. Such thinking supports materialism and nihilism (belief that life has no inherent meaning or purpose) in general and pharmaceuticals in particular. Positively, Neptune in Pisces (2011-2026) represents an initiation into a new quality of spiritual consciousness. Given the fact that a global culture is emerging it is quite likely that it will have a global impact. Fortunately, there are indications that the metaphysical appreciation of forces and dimensions beyond the material will be recognized and acknowledged as fact. Quantum Physics will play a role and Astrology and other branches of metaphysical and holistic science will rise in popularity.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20). You have probably been pushing hard these days; now for some downtime. For you this could include quality time with friends. At deeper levels, a fresh start in your most intimate relationships is likely and ideal. A romantic getaway would be timely. Open communications and discussions about the future will match your mood to vent your visions.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21). The time has come to be that much more deliberate in your actions. By slowing down you can actually do things better or make improvements where needed. Yet, be aware of tendencies to be too critical of yourself and others. Take deeper breaths and acknowledge yourself for achievements to date. As well, enjoy more quality time with friends for a while.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21). It is time to do the next meaningful thing with or in your life and to get recognized and rewarded for it. The scope and scale of how much recognition and reward depends on you, your stage in life, your circumstance, destiny, attitude and the choices make. The other big question though is: what is it? Ask with deep sincerity and you will receive.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22). A search for deeper meaning continues. While we each need our own answers it is natural to turn to 'higher authorities'. As is life, there are ever many levels and sectors where these sources operate. They can be literal and material and/or archetypal and spiritual. Whichever one(s) you are dealing with, assert your position that your involvement must feel meaningful.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23). Some cycles are deeper than others and some more intense as well, like the one you are experiencing now. It can perhaps best be described as a healing journey. These are seldom the fun kind. However, they do have value and purpose. A main challenge is to interpret them for what they truly are. For best results, communicate with someone who can really listen.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22). Cultivating new and healthier relationships is an important focus now. Some of these are linked to your own lifestyle habits. Is there anything you would like or feel you need to change? Sometimes the best leverage is soberly considering the cost of perpetuating the old patterns. Summon the courage to see your blind spots; get vertical and get going.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22). Creating a healthier rhythm and flow continues. The time has come to negotiate a new deal. This includes entering new territory, literally and/or figuratively. Yet, the first real move has to occur in your own mind. Choices and decisions must be made. You cannot please all the people. So, 'to thine own self be true' and remember, healthy is a cornerstone of happy.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21). You are in a creative leadership cycle. Yet, before you can advance you may have to clear, heal and resolve matters from the past. Sometimes the best first step is to create a space at home or at work that is inspiring and empowering. Clean your office and move furniture perhaps to re-set and refresh. Whatever you do or how, clear the clutter.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21). There's no place like home and home is where your heart is, literally. Yet, you may be wondering who you are let alone where you live. This can be quite disconcerting. You may feel like you are in the nexus, in limbo, somewhere between here and there. Well, that makes sense looking at your charts. Remember, life is a journey and you are en route.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19). You are in the mood to cover a lot of ground. Hopefully circumstances are harmonizing with your flow and determination. With all the planets currently in retrograde, there may be more twists and turns than usual. Rather than impatiently force and control, contemplate, communicate, correspond and brainstorm with other key power players.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19). Deciphering what constitutes your highest priorities is a main focus now. These will likely be linked to experiencing harmonious and fulfilling relationships. You are gearing-up for things to shift in this regard. You want to feel freer and more fulfilled. Consider that part of the deal is linked to shifting your perspectives and consequently your approach.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20). Taking pioneering leads will feel right now. Yet, things may not be so straightforward anymore and may not be again soon. At worst, it is difficult to relax or feel at peace. This is an opportune time to clarify and aspire to realize your highest ideals. Emotional self-control is linked to your breath and to expressing gratitude for all the good in your life, now.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

PET EMERGENCY SERVICES is putting on a free workshop on helping your pet through a disaster. Pet Grab 'n Go Bags and availability of emergency services will be discussed. March 15, 10 - noon, Portlock portables. To register e-mail: ssiepc@crd.bc.ca

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

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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - MARCH 11 - MAY 16, 2014

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SENDING A MESSAGE: Fernwood Elementary School students and staff wore matching pink shirts last Wednesday for Pink Shirt Day, which works to raise awareness of and prevent bullying in society.

EDUCATION

Magic of creativity explored at SIMS

Connecting Generations' Abracadabra program inspires

BY SARAH HOOK-NILSSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Fifteen adults and 36 youth together in the cavernous Salt Spring Middle School gym. A magician who could make cards appear and disappear, wax-covered cheeses and straws from drink cartons transformed by warm hands into people, flowers, salad bowls, zombies and even a "cheese flag tower."

Thanks to the generosity of local artists who gave their time and enthusiasm, to Country Grocer's donation of cheeses and boxed juices, and the collaboration of middle school staff, last Wednesday a number of mostly Grade 7 students explored some of the connections between magic and creativity — the assumptions that surround us when we describe ourselves or others as "artists," the miracle of inspiration and imagination that can appear from nowhere (and according to one student thinking creatively, comes from our spleen!)

All that remains of two hours of conversation and activities in the Abracadabra event sponsored by the Connecting Generations program are the colourful paper tablecloths illustrated with words and drawings, stories, doodles and graffiti, products of the collaborating imaginations of



CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Middle school students do wax sculpting at Abracadabra session.

different generations — and a little of the wax that we couldn't remove from the floor of the gym.

Or is that all? In the words of one of the adults in attendance: "I had some lovely conversations with the youth, which could at times be confusing, because they could be so mercurial, one minute so very subject to the ways the social winds were blowing, and the next making the most potent and even devastating observations, wanting to talk about the most important things. One had to pay very close attention, and look for moments to ride off with them on . . ."

Also among the comments from students were the mentions of how much they enjoyed "speaking to all of these creative people," that because of the conversations they would plan to be "more creative in everything" and that the forum "was very fun and awesome and hopefully you will do it again!"

We hope so too!

Those conversations and this shared experience will not disappear.

The writer is coordinator of the Connecting Generations program in School District 64.

SPIRITUALITY

Women of Egypt lead 2014 day of prayer

United Church
service March 7

Salt Spring United Church will host this year's World Day of Prayer event, joining those taking place around the globe with a special service honouring Egyptian women this Friday, March 7.

The service begins at 1 p.m., and will include information about Egypt's culture and heritage as well as the opportunity to pray under the theme "streams in the desert."

"Through the voices of urban and rural, young and older Egyptian women, the World Day of Prayer Committee of Egypt introduces their country on a human scale," a

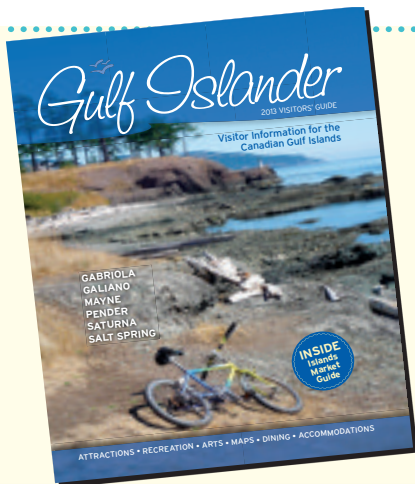
press release explains.

"They reveal Egypt as they live it: a country with one foot firmly planted in the past, teetering on the cusp of modernity, searching for the next step."

According to the press release, Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 communities across Canada will gather on World Day of Prayer to pray

and act in solidarity with the people of Egypt.

The World Day of Prayer has its roots in an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women in Canada and the United States in 1920 and became an international celebration in 1922. In Canada, the event is coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.



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