



Driftwood

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FERRY PROTEST

Islanders rally for new ferry path

Coastal residents speak up

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Nearly 2,000 residents from ferry-dependent communities across the coast gathered in Victoria on Tuesday to oppose the provincial government's planned service cuts and fare increases slated to come into effect on April 1.

"This government has refused to listen to you as individuals, it refuses to listen to seniors, it refuses to listen to students, nurses, First Nations, business owners, teachers and families," said Claire Trevena, North Island MLA and ferry critic for the provincial NDP. "Try to name one person it listens to. The province is abandoning our coastal communities and that is wrong."

"We are out here today because we are fighting for our families and our future. We will not give up this fight until the ferries begin to work for the people of B.C."

Rally participants arrived by ship and bus from communities across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Representatives from Quadra Island comprised the largest contingent, while approximately 60 placard-toting Salt Spring residents made their way to the protest aboard three chartered buses.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Coastal residents protest the failing ferry system at a Tuesday protest on the legislature lawn.

PROTEST continued on 2

FUNDRAISER

Addario takes Week of Need challenge

Salt Spring Food Bank fundraiser

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring local is hoping to raise funds for the island's food bank along with awareness of those living without housing by staging his own 'Week of Need' on the mean streets of Vancouver.

Carmen Addario has been splitting his time

between Nelson and Salt Spring and is about to launch an organic buyers' network uniting the two regions with the Lower Mainland. As the kickoff to his new business Orbit Organics, he decided to benefit the place where some of his product testing has played out.

"Speaking to the people at the food bank, they are quite tragically underfunded, so I thought it would be a great way to launch the business with positive intention to help those who are less fortunate," Addario said.

Addario is 29 years old and lived on Salt Spring for 25 years before moving to Nelson six months ago. As of yesterday (Tuesday, March 11) however, he was giving up having any fixed address for seven days in order to raise \$5,000 in pledges.

Addario's self-imposed rules required that he go out without any money or food, a cell phone or other security measures.

ADDARIO continued on 4

CANADA POST

Revenue data fails to sway

Fulford service reduction defended

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Financial records that show Canada Post's Fulford Harbour post office may be making a profit is not enough to save the facility from cuts slated to come into effect next week.

"The proposed changes to the Fulford Harbour post office are a reflection of the customer traffic pattern," said John Caines, a Canada Post spokesperson, when questioned about financial information from the Fulford office. "We are reviewing our entire network to allow us to maintain service to customers while operating more efficiently."

According to a document obtained by the Driftwood, revenue at the Fulford branch rose by nearly 17 per cent during the first half of 2013, compared to the first half of 2012.

The outlet is the only establishment that incurred a revenue increase during the period among eight branches in the Gulf Islands and southern Vancouver Island listed in the table. Outlets on Pender Island, Saturna Island and Ganges experienced revenue declines of between nearly .2 and 16 per cent between the first halves of 2012 and 2013.

POST OFFICE continued on 2

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Minister stands by service cuts



Ken Lee, left, and Peter Grove, en route to the rally.

PROTEST

continued from 1

Among them was Janet Clouston, manager of Salt Spring's chamber of commerce, who predicts huge setbacks for the island's economy when service reductions and fare increases come into effect next month.

"I'm here to support small business owners on the island," she said. "The impact that BC Ferries has on getting goods and services on and off the island as well as bringing tourists to the island is really profound."

"A small change for BC Ferries is a huge change to our economy. We're really concerned about the cuts and worried about these fare increases."

The general manager of Quadra Island's largest employer said his company's life and the 150 local jobs it provides are directly linked to BC Ferries. The result, he added, spells trouble for employment, property values and families.

"Our success is intertwined with the economics of our community," said Walcan Seafood's Cam Pirie. "It is the responsibility of the province to promote economy, promote jobs and support all communities equally. The government's current policy discriminates against coastal communities."

"Years of rate increases have made the service unaffordable," he added. "This is a loss that affects all B.C. taxpayers. All of us across coastal British Columbia want to be recognized as equal partners in the province."

Peter Grove, a member of the island's Local Trust Committee, proudly waved a Salt Spring flag high above the eclectic crowd gathered on the legislature lawn.

"I think this is fantastic," he said. "It's a wonderful turnout with a wonderful spirit and terrific speakers."

Among those representing business interests, the broader tourism sector, families, seniors, students and labour organizations, the strongest speech, many participants agreed, came from someone who didn't even bother to respond to her invitation. A recording of Premier Christy Clark, speaking in her former career as a radio host for CKNW radio, stirred the crowd when she took exception with the previous government's chronic underfunding of BC Ferries and proposed service cuts.

"That was the best speech of all," Grove said. "It was the coup of the day."

Sheila Malcolmson, a resident of Gabriola Island and chair of Islands Trust Council, considered Clark's recording a positive sign in that it shows she understands issues faced by people in

ferry-dependent communities.

"I'm inclined to think Christy Clark just needs a show of support," Malcolmson said. "If she's really on board, we just need to support her position. We're speaking her truth, so let's try to push as many other coastal Liberals to get on board."

"This rally raised some strong economic arguments today and that's what this government's mandate is all about."

As the rally wound to a close, Malcolmson suggested islanders return to their communities to focus on local businesses and tourism, while continuing to engage elected officials on the ferry issue.

Others, like Quadra Island's Ruth Amiabell, suggested islanders build momentum to ensure politicians across the province understand what's at stake and why looming cuts unfairly target coastal residents.

"Why do we have to put up with this crap?" she said. "You

have to be tough to deal with these guys because they don't give a damn about you."

"Stand up to these guys and don't put up with anything."

In a face-to-face meeting the day before the rally, members of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Action Alliance warned Transportation Minister Todd Stone that BC Ferries service cutbacks and fare increases are seriously impacting Salt Spring's economy. The delegation called for a new approach to financing ferry services that reflects the needs of communities and the tourist industry, as well as government fiscal requirements.

While the minister ruled out any change to the service reductions and fare increases already announced for 2014, he urged the alliance to work with him on ways in which ferry policies might be improved in future years. He also noted that he did not anticipate any further cutbacks to service on minor routes.

Post office cuts in force as of Monday

POST OFFICE The recently continued from 1 obtained information coincides with an effort by at least 350 islanders who've signed a petition that urges Canada Post management to reconsider cuts that will decrease service at Fulford by approximately 25 per cent. As of March 17, weekday hours at the Fulford post office will be scaled back by

two hours a day. Saturday service — currently available between 8:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. — will be scrapped altogether.

"It would appear that Canada Post has shot itself in the foot by using specious arguments . . . to justify cutting back postal services being provided by profitable businesses," said Ken Lee, president of the South Salt Spring Island Property Owners' and

Residents Association.

Besides the inconvenience to south island residents, Lee fears the inevitable surge in traffic will worsen backlogs and lineups at Canada Post's Ganges branch.

The petition has been forwarded to Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May and Lisa Raitt, the minister who oversees the Crown corporation.

COURT

Assault charge settled with peace bond

Neighbour to keep distance

A trial at Ganges Provincial Court was avoided on Wednesday when an assault charge was settled by peace bond just moments before Judge Ted Gouge was to hear the case.

Salt Spring resident Bruce Gamble was in court to face an assault charge against his neighbours Victoria and Thomas Acheson, stemming from an incident that occurred on an easement on their property on March 23, 2013.

Defence counsel Dale Marshall said although his client

denied physical contact had occurred and would not change his plea to guilty, he would agree to the terms of a 12-month peace bond.

Conditions are that Gamble must not contact the Achesons unless through legal counsel, or come within 25 metres of them unless he is on his own prop-

erty. A letter of apology is to be sent through counsel.

Judge Gouge expressed anticipation of difficulty with the conditions, stating, "If they live next door to each other there are likely to be allegations of breach of the terms — but I can't very well order one of them to move."

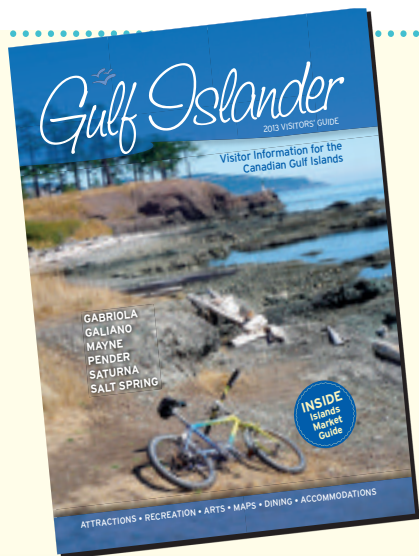
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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Focus on Women: A Celebration

A month of special events on Salt Spring. See our What's On calendar or the SS Library Program Room.

AGRICULTURE

Salt Spring Island seed library off to strong start

Library hosts unique seed saving project

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Eclectic varieties like blue-tinged Ethiopian wheat, Manitoba tomato, Laurel's frilly kale and large-leaf tong ho are all closer than you'd think thanks to a new initiative designed to get more islanders growing and gathering seeds.

Every Friday between 12 and 2 p.m., board members from the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary Society will be at the island's public library on McPhillips Avenue with as many as three dozen seed types for anyone to check out.

For a \$20 lifetime membership fee, members of the newly christened Radicle Seed Library can borrow any number of seeds to plant during the spring and summer seasons. The only condition is that borrowers consider returning some of their saved seeds following the harvest.

"Obviously things happen, but people should understand the point here is for them to raise the seeds, enjoy the crop and raise their own seeds, and give us back some seeds," said Linda Gilkeson. "Some of that's going to come back and some of it isn't."

The initiative, launched in the wake of February's annual Seedy Saturday, is hoped to inspire growers, educate gardeners about seed savings, and increase the quantity of the not-so-common seeds available through the library.

"A lot of these seeds have a really long and interesting Salt Spring history," Gilkeson added. "You know, Ruckle beans and Lady Minto pole beans, and a lot of these grains and peas and beans that Dan Jason (owner of Salt Spring Seeds) has been growing here."

"A lot of these seeds have a really long and interesting Salt Spring history."

LINDA GILKESON
Board member, Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary

Since the seed library took root on Feb. 14, islanders have been especially quick to stock up on tomato seeds of various kinds. An early season surprise, Gilkeson added, has been the strong demand for Detroit dark red beets.

"It's an excellent beet, a cheeky little beet," she said.

People who are new to seed saving are encouraged to start out with some of the easier varieties like beans, peas and lettuces. Seed society board members will also gladly answer any questions members might have about the process at any point along the seed-saving journey.

"[The seed library] seems to be one of the things that has arisen out of the seed sanctuary idea and local seed self sufficiency," Gilkeson said.

With seed libraries sprouting up in towns and cities across Canada, it was only a matter of time before Salt Springers got on board, said Seed Sanctuary board member Celeste Mallett Jason.

"I think the idea of having it in the public domain is very important," she said. "It's really just semantics. We are still the Seed Sanctuary, but now we actually have a place where people can come in. People can identify with taking a library book; in this case, they are taking out seeds."

More information about the Radicle Seed Library is available online at www.seedsanctuary.com or Fridays between noon and 2 p.m. at the public library's program room.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE
Linda Gilkeson, left, and Celeste Mallett Jason at the seed sanctuary table at the Salt Spring library.

NEWS BRIEFS

July reunion for '70s grads

A reunion for all students of Gulf Islands Secondary School during the 1970s has been organized for this summer.

It will take place at the Farmers' Institute with a dinner and dance with Paxton Bachman and his band on July 5 and Sunday brunch the following morning. Thrifty Foods is again a much appreciated sponsor.

The event follows on the success of a reunion of the

1972-76 grad classes initiated by Sue Myers five years ago.

Not only was the 2009 event a great experience for participants, it raised \$2,000 for Salt Spring Island Middle School and \$250 for the Gulf Islands Retired Teachers' Association.

Some teachers from the 1970s are again expected to attend this July.

Cost for the weekend is \$65 per person. Since an extra charge may be associated with late registration, Myers encourages people to sign up as soon as possible by sending her an email at slmyers@shaw.ca.

A GISS Reunion 2014 Facebook page has also been set up. People should send Myers a message at <https://www.facebook.com/sue.myers3> and she will add them to the alumni page.

Seniors invited to open house

Salt Spring residents who have recently entered the senior age bracket and seniors who have recently moved to the island are invited to see what they may have been missing at the Salt Spring Seniors Ser-

vices Society.

The nonprofit group is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Tea on Monday, March 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. where people can socialize and learn more about the many opportunities available. Membership to the society is by donation and opens up access to any number of clubs, meditation and support groups, and services such as rides with volunteer drivers.

Members of the various groups and clubs will be hosting information tables at the event, which takes place in the drop-in centre at 379

Lower Ganges Rd., across from Country Grocer.

The organization is also looking for new blood to step into leadership roles on the board of directors. Sharing of executive positions is a possibility.

Bike instructor training explored

Victoria Bike to Work Society's Ride On Program will explore how to deliver cycling training on Salt Spring with an introductory meeting at

ArtSpring on Friday, April 4.

As part of CRD-sponsored cycling instructor training, the 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. session will help participants learn more about cycling and cycling hazards in the southern Gulf Islands, identify people who might be interested in taking cycle instructor training and identify groups who would benefit most from cycling safety education.

Anyone who would like to attend the session should RSVP by March 28 to John Rowlandson at 250-653-4049 or jrowlandson@telus.net.

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FOOD SECURITY

Beyond the food bank: SSICS grows nutrition focus

Gardens, market coupons and more

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A few months after the traditional season of Christmas generosity, the Salt Spring Food Bank shelves are getting bare.

That's why the Week of Need fundraiser being undertaken now by Carmen Addario (see story on page 1 and below) is so important. Some 200 people per week use the island's food bank.

But when it comes to ensuring all community members have access to nutritious food, Salt Spring Island Community Ser-

vices also has its eye on the bigger picture.

With four community gardens at the society's main centre on Fulford-Ganges Road, the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust lands, Family Place and the Core Inn, more and more fresh produce is being grown for use in one of 6,000 meals served each year through society programs and for distribution to individuals.

Thanks to a grant from the Berman Foundation a few years ago, funding was available for a garden and food programs coordinator, which helped projects move forward quickly.

But as SSICS executive director Rob Grant explains, more food-

growing opportunities dedicated to the needs of Salt Spring's vulnerable people would be welcomed; whether through a "grow-a-row" initiative, fruit tree harvesting or donation of more gardening space.

"We totally have the capacity to deal with it," he said.

Community Services is already working with Island Natural Growers, the Agricultural Alliance and Salt Spring Farmland Trust to ensure any expansion opportunity is not missed.

"Our piece of the puzzle is that we will always be the voice and active body of promoting food security for vulnerable people."

One program Grant is pleased with is the Farmers' Market

Nutrition and Coupon Program, funded by the provincial Ministry of Health. On Salt Spring it was administered last year by Community Services, the Tuesday Farmers' Market and the B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets. It saw \$15 coupons provided to 30 participants to be spent at the Tuesday market for 18 weeks and opportunities to learn how to prepare the purchased produce.

A private donor has come forward to match the current funding so an additional \$10,000 in coupons will be available in the upcoming year.

"Good, healthy nutritious food is making it onto the plates of families, vulnerable people and seniors" as a result, said Grant.

Salt Spring farmers are among regular donors to the food bank as well, and Community Services hopes to have a dedicated bin at the farm produce centre that will be built on Slegg Lumber land on Beddis Road in the near future.

Improving people's cooking and meal-planning skills and their nutrition knowledge is another area of focus for Community Services and an important part of the bigger vision for food security.

For more information about food security and how to support Salt Spring Island Community Services initiatives in this area, contact Rob Grant at 250-537-9971 or rgrant@ssics.ca.

On-the-street goal to raise \$5K

ADDARIO
continued from 1

He did plan to bring a warm sleeping bag, as well as a journal, an audio recorder and a camera to capture (with their permission) the voices of those who live more permanently in that situation.

"The reason I chose this strategy for fundraising is because I believe that our society pays a disproportionate amount of attention to the voices of those who are financially successful, while other people who have equally valuable lessons may be completely ignored, specifically if they're in compromised living situations," Addario said.

"So by being on the street, I'll be able to broadcast first hand the voices of some of these people."

Addario will rely on the kindness of strangers and the city's social system to get him through the week, but anything he receives will be kept track of and re-donated to the food bank after he returns so that he's not taking away from those who truly are in need. As for his safety, he plans to rely on his good judgement and not put himself in harm's way, and to stay away from shelters if possible.

Donations to the campaign can be made until the end of March through the Week of Need site on ShareSpring. Cheques can also be made to ShareSpring on behalf of the food bank. Donors of \$20 or more will receive a small gift.

Addario will post recordings, observations from his life on the street and a spreadsheet of all his donations on the Orbit Organics website after he returns.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Carmen Addario is spending a week in the shoes of a homeless person to raise money for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

SCAMS

Scammer thwarted

Betty Taylor wants others to be wary

Brinkworthy resident Betty Taylor and the RCMP are warning Salt Spring residents that "grandson scam" calls are making the rounds locally.

Taylor received a call on Thursday afternoon from a man purporting to be her grandson who had just been involved in a car accident. The man said he needed \$1,000 to pay a lawyer in order to deal with the situation immediately.

Taylor said the caller didn't sound like her grandson, but said his nose had been broken in the accident, which she thought could explain the different-sounding voice.

However, the more he talked the more suspicious she became.

For one thing, she said, "My grandchildren always call me Nana, not Grandma."

Then in trying to determine

exactly where he was, because he kept repeating that he was at "the courthouse downtown," she knew he was a scammer and tried to get more information that could prove useful to police.

When she asked him what city he was in, he hung up.

Taylor said if she had been less competent and her suspicions hadn't been aroused she could well have lost her money because "I'd do anything for my grandchildren."

Another woman reported her experience to the Driftwood when a caller tried to pretend he was her son and needing money.

She knew what was going on immediately — especially since she has no sons — and told the caller she would be contacting the police. At that point the man turned abusive.

Salt Spring police told her that people should not give scammers any information or string them along.

ISLANDS TRUST

Council approves SSIWPA tax

Trustees go for \$7.1-million budget for coming fiscal year

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local Trust Area representatives from across the Islands Trust's jurisdiction approved a \$7.1-million budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year during a Trust Council session on Hornby Island last week.

Except for a special requisition requested by Salt Spring trustees George Grams and Peter Grove, the budget will not result in any new tax increases.

The special tax requisition, for all property owners on Salt Spring, is needed to fund water quality restoration and watershed management activities being undertaken by the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority.

The requisition amounts to \$110,000, which will result in a tax increase of \$3.38 per \$100,000

of assessed property value.

"Trustees were close to unanimous in their support of the special tax requisition to fund the work of SSIWPA, recognizing its essential role in protecting our drinking water and watersheds," said Grove.

One of the two trustees from South Pender Island cast the lone vote against passing the "zero-net budget," added Grams.

Despite the lack of any Trust-wide tax increase, the 2014-2015 budget represents an almost \$172,000 increase in expenditures over the previous year. These include costs associated with local elections in November as well as several core functions and strategic priorities. Examples are ongoing efforts to comply with the province's Riparian Areas Regulation, a modest increase in planning staff hours for Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, South Pender and Saturna islands, completion of eelgrass mapping for the Trust's major islands and ongoing forage fish mapping.



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EDUCATION

Teachers vote to approve job action

No disruption to students planned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. teachers voted overwhelming in favour of job action on Thursday as they continued to negotiate for a contract, but their decision won't put any strain on students for the foreseeable future.

"There will be no job action next week," B.C. Teachers' Federation president Jim Iker said when announcing the results.

"Teachers now have 90 days to activate the strike vote with some sort of action. There is no set timing for when we will begin. It will depend entirely on what is happening at the negotiating table and whether or not the government and employers' association are prepared to be fair and reasonable."

Iker explained the move, which was supported by 89 per cent of teachers who voted, is intended to put pressure on so that a deal can be reached. Teachers have been working without a contract since last June.

"We will work very hard to get that negotiated settlement without any job action. A strike vote is a normal process in labour relations and helps apply pressure to both parties during negotiations," Iker said.

Deborah Nostdal is the local union representative as president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association. She explained that no job action would be implemented until after all the districts had returned from spring break. Even then, the first stage would not affect anyone except administration, who would be asked to communicate with teachers in person rather than using email or other written forms. Report cards and extra-curricular activities would not be

affected in the first stage of action.

If the action does escalate at some point, Nostdal said students can expect to stay in class for some time.

"This vote does not allow a full-scale walk-out," she said. "That would need another provincial-wide vote."

Nostdal said the initial stage of job action can be expected after the break if the BC Public School Employers' Association doesn't concede some of teacher's demands. For example, she said other public sector workers have been offered cost of living increases while teachers have been asked to maintain the net zero salary increase for two more years.

Current negotiations also fail to take into account the Supreme Court ruling allowing teachers to negotiate class size and composition, a ruling which the B.C. government intends to appeal.

"Especially in this district, we really feel strongly about class size and composition," Nostdal said.

ACTIVISM

Island's green societies join forces

Transition Salt Spring and Earth Festival Society announce merger

Salt Spring's climate action and local resilience movements have taken a big step forward with the merger of Earth Festival Society and Transition Salt Spring to form Transition Salt Spring Society.

According to a press release, the two groups have always worked closely together and are now united as one organization with an expanded board of directors and a reorganized structure.

Earth Festival Society, perhaps best known for the Salt Spring Island Community Energy Strategy and the biannual Salt Spring Eco-Living and Home Tour, was founded in 1997 to provide people with information and education about environmentally sustainable practices and technologies, including organic food production, renewable energy, green building technologies, alternative transportation, water conservation, waste minimization and green business practices.

"Many years ago we hosted 'Earthfest' events on Vancouver Island, hence the name," said Earth Festival Society founding director Anne Macy, "but the society moved on and the old name was confusing. The new name provides clarity and transparency — one organization, one website, one place to go for information and to connect with others about the many positive steps we can take to reduce our carbon footprints and make our community more resilient to the changes ahead."

Transition Salt Spring was

established in 2009 and is an official member of the international Transition Network, which supports community-led responses to climate change and shrinking supplies of cheap energy, through building local resilience. TSS activities include monthly Green Drinks and regular climate action information events such as the 2013 Resilience Fair. TSS has also launched the Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Cooperative — a small community investment fund — to help green projects get started.

"The new membership structure provides more opportunities for people to support our work and get involved."

KATHARINE BYERS
Director, Transition Salt Spring Society

TSS has 360 members who participate in various informal working groups established on the Transition Salt Spring social networking site: transition-saltspring.ning.com/. These groups cover everything from electric cars to gardening; anyone can sign up for free and join groups or start a new one.

Transition Salt Spring Society director Katharine Byers welcomes everyone to use the free social networking part of the TSS website and adds, "The new membership structure provides more opportunities for people to support our work and get involved. I am really looking forward to meeting new members, starting new

projects, and building on the accomplishments of the last 16 years."

Transition Salt Spring Society is a member of the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council and continues to assist with the implementation of Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan, with a special focus on the two priority areas: transportation and food. The society provides administrative support for groups such as the Rainbow Road Park Allotment Gardens and the TSS Community Energy Group, which is working in partnership with School District 64 to install a solar photovoltaic array on the GISS gymnasium roof.

The society also owns and maintains the Level 2 Electric Vehicle charging station at ArtSpring, and partners with the CRD Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission on the Car Stops program, and with the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Bring Your Branches yard waste recycling program.

On April 5, Transition Salt Spring is holding its annual community event in cooperation with Salt Spring Community Energy and the students of Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The event takes place in the GISS multipurpose room and is titled Salt Spring and Gulf Islands Renewable Energy Conference: Issues and Solutions.

Everyone interested in supporting local resilience and climate action is encouraged to join Transition Salt Spring Society. The annual membership fee is \$10.

For more information and to join Transition Salt Spring Society, go to transition-saltspring.ning.com or email transition-saltspring@gmail.com.

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Tax time.

We are all looking for a bit of relief.

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

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

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

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OPINION



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EDITORIAL

On the same wavelength

We know that a noisy placard-waving throng isn't going to change many governments' minds.

That's especially the case with one that made its intentions clear about BC Ferries cost-cutting before the last election and hasn't wavered from that tune since. But a protest on the lawn of the Legislature, like the one that took place Tuesday, is one of those must-do actions to express citizen unrest.

Government members may not reverse the imminent round of cuts to ferry service due to public outrage or the image beating they've received in recent months, but that's no reason to give up on seeing BC Ferries returned to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure responsibility or otherwise reformed.

The past months of public debate have clearly identified the main BC Ferries problem: expecting a pseudo-private corporation to cover the capital costs of what is undeniably a government service. Paying for new ships and upgrading terminals is no different from building new roads and bridges. Continuing to deny this fact simply won't fly anymore.

THE ISSUE:

Ferry action

WE SAY:

Tide is turning

We now know for sure that BC Ferries users are paying their way. They just can't afford to pay the debt costs on billions of dollars of capital spending required by a ferry service of 36 ships and 47 ferry terminals.

We also know that coastal communities contribute big time to provincial coffers, and ferry policies that crush their economic activity hurt the whole province.

Thanks to hard work by a number of concerned citizens and elected officials, the emperor is now running around stark naked when it comes to claiming that B.C. taxpayers as a whole are "subsidizing" ferry-dependent communities.

Economic arguments were part of the discussion at a meeting between the Salt Spring Island Ferry Action Alliance and Transportation Minister Todd Stone on Monday. Stone reportedly asked for alliance members' help to improve ferry policies in future, which must be seen as a positive sign. He also accepted data showing how Salt Spring's economy has already suffered from high ferry fares in recent years.

What needs to happen next is for all ferry-dependent communities to track the economic impact of service cuts and fare hikes and add that information to the next round of arguments with the province. Calmer seas may yet prevail.



VIEWPOINT by Karen Wright

B.C.'s coast needs embracing too

The following letter was sent to Transportation Minister Todd Stone.

There is a public perception that appears to be gaining momentum that ferries are a "luxury" form of transportation for the elite few who choose to "hide away in isolation" on our province's islands and, therefore, it should be self-funding. Somehow, a segment of our population has missed the point that B.C. is a coastal province.

The defining characteristic of this province, one that draws people from far and wide, is our geography. As a coastal province, in addition to the beauty of our majestic mountains, we are privileged to enjoy thousands of miles of coastline, waterways, islands, and all of its accompanying wildlife, as part of our home. In fact, we've so embraced this part of us that our provincial capital is, itself, located on an island.

While our natural beauty defines us, and provides the foundation of our tourism and resource-based economy, it also presents challenges. The transportation needs of a coastal province are varied and include all manner of options to negotiate the obstacles that our environment presents to us . . . roads, bridges, and ferries. Government's role is to provide the transportation infrastructure for our communities to stay connected, easily, safely and efficiently. Yet we seem to lose sight of this as soon as the transportation network must cross water instead of land.

We don't track revenue, capital costs and operating expenses for our province's land-based roadways and bridges in order to determine if they're losing money, yet this very exercise occurs regularly for ferries. We don't limit hours of accessibility to our province's land-based roadways and bridges in order to reduce traffic and, therefore, reduce maintenance costs, yet this strategy continues to be employed for ferries.

We don't charge tolls to travel our province's land-based roadways and bridges, with very few exceptions, and not if that route is the only one available, yet the cost of ferries (the only means to travel to parts of our province) continues to rise to levels few can afford.

We don't privatize the management of our land-based roadways and bridges, allowing the managing company to set its own cost structure, yet this is exactly what BC Ferries has done.

Having just returned from a trip to two islands in Washington state, literally our next-door neighbour, and having taken advantage of their state-run ferries, the difference between their system and ours is astonishing. The availability and cost of the Washington ferry system is orders of magnitude better than what we experience at home. For example, there is a ferry between Seattle and Bainbridge Island that is comparable to the ferry between Victoria and Salt Spring Island. Both take about 35 minutes to cross.

The last ferry leaves Seattle for Bainbridge Island at 2:10 a.m. No, this is not a typo — 2:10 in the morning. And this is in the winter season. The last ferry to leave Victoria for Salt Spring is 9 p.m.

The return fare for Seattle/Bainbridge for a standard vehicle and driver is \$27.10 (\$34.60 in peak season). By comparison, the return fare for Victoria/Salt Spring is \$44.90 . . . 30 to 65 per cent higher. Wow.

What is the underlying systemic issue that results in this difference and that drives our government to lose sight of our fundamental nature? I'm sure smarter people than I could figure this out.

What I do know, however, is that this beautiful part of Canada we call home is a coastal province and our economy is predicated on the health and vitality of our entire province; from the interior to the coast, from the north to the south, and across all of the islands that we call our own. It's time to embrace this and act accordingly.

The writer is a resident of Salt Spring Island and Nanoose Bay.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

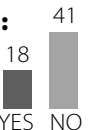
Was the Victoria ferry rally useful?

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Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is Russia's presence in Crimea justified?



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
 Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
 Email: inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
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 Sean McIntyre,
 Elizabeth Nolan

Advertising:
 Elena Dunn,
 Jennifer Lannan,

Front office:
 James Burton,
 Johanna Walkner



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: "The children see first hand what Mary Gordon says about love . . . it grows brains."

ANDREA HOLLINGSWORTH, ON ROOTS OF EMPATHY PROGRAM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What are your plans for spring break?



HANNAH MARTENS
Volunteering at the wildlife centre.



EMMA PHILLIPS
I'm going to visit my sister in Tsawwassen and then go to the museum in Victoria.



SKY LOSIER
I'm going skiing at Whistler.



JENNA DAWSON
Watching all five seasons of Breaking Bad.



STACY MITCHELL
Taking care of a newborn baby.

Letters to the editor

GISS sports need help

On Friday, April 4 the GISS Parent Advisory Council will hold a fundraising carwash and bottle drive in the Country Grocer parking lot, in the hope of making some money to help offset the rapidly rising costs of the high school sports and athletics program.

All team and individual sports outside of regular, curricular P.E. receive no government funding at all, meaning that the programs are run entirely on fees charged to participating students and fundraising initiatives carried out by students, coaches and the PAC. In recent years costs have risen dramatically as gas, ferries and uniforms have all become more expensive, and look to be continuing in the

same direction.

The athletics program is open to all students and as such it is important that fees do not keep increasing, as there is already a hefty cost attached to participating in a school sport. Consequently, fundraising is the only option for keeping the program alive.

The school athletes have an impressive record of performing way above the expectations of a school the size of GISS, with many appearances in provincial and even national tournaments. They are great ambassadors for the school and for Salt Spring as a whole. Tournaments held on home soil bring many students and families to the island each year, with the added benefit to the island economy.

There is a great sense of pride involved in representing the school, as well as great

camaraderie and fitness benefits that provide many students with their fondest memories of their high school years.

School coaches put in many hours of unpaid time to make the program viable and many businesses and individuals already give very valuable support, but even higher than usual ferry costs have hit hard and along with the threat of losing the evening sailings on the Crofton-Vesuvius route make the future bleak. The loss of these sailings would make it almost impossible for GISS to compete in B.C. school sports, resulting in the unthinkable scenario of a high school with no sports program.

As a small step towards maintaining the health of the program, student athletes will be washing cars and sorting bottles at the Country Grocer car park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

on Friday, April 4. Please come and have your car washed, and start saving bottles to bring on the day. If you can't make it on that day you can return bottles to the Return It depot by Country Grocer and ask for the money to go to GISS Athletics.

If you would like any further information, please contact me at richardsteel@shaw.ca.

RICHARD STEEL,
GISS ATHLETIC COMMITTEE
COORDINATOR

Get informed

I would humbly ask that people inform themselves about the new plans for Rainbow Road before forming an opinion.

There has been a change since last year when money was put in a contingency fund for a sidewalk on the south side of Rainbow Road.

Then this year, the plans have changed to put the sidewalk or four-meter gravel path on the north side. There needs to be another open house on this. The last one for Rainbow Road was in 2007. The plans are new since then.

It seems that there will be a lot of construction that will be beside an elementary school playground and will bring young children closer to a busy road, and will remove the lovingly planted trees and the fence.

People will be asked to commit \$250,000 more for four years to the transportation commission, with up to half spent on this project. We need to know ahead, not to have all the plans done and studies paid for, then a vote in November 2014.

Many things can be done for the schools' benefit with

\$1,000,000, including drainage for the playgrounds, which are often closed due to water.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
ATKINS ROAD

Different kind of bar

Regarding the March 5 "Snowstorm puts emergency communication in focus" story, in the last paragraph it states that a surge bar can contain enough residual energy to charge a cell phone. This is not true at all for a standard surge protector power bar. A UPS power bar (the type that lets you shut down your computer properly if the power goes out) will charge your phone.

Hope that helps.
DAVID ELDERTON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

AGING IN PLACE, SALT SPRING STYLE: Do you know the name of your pod leader?

Third article in series for 2014

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF

"I was stuck in my house with two feet of snow outside," said an 85-year-old woman living alone in the middle of nowhere. "I didn't get cleared out for four days. At least I had a wood stove."

Somebody else grumbled about eight trees that fell across his long, winding driveway. With all the snow, he was stuck even longer.

Yet another said, "I just about had a nervous breakdown. My mother lives at the top of a mountain. She didn't answer the phone and I didn't know what to do." She later discovered neighbours had tromped through the snow to check on her mother. All was well.

Did I worry? Not on your Nellie. Living on the hospital grid had lulled me into thinking "Don't Worry, Be Happy" is actually a plan.

How could I be so smug? A few years ago, a huge, half-dead maple tree out on the road allowance fell over in a windstorm. It managed to land with such force across my hydro intake line it uprooted the mast. There I was with my late loved one to care for and no power.

"Oh well," I thought, "I'll phone for help." No dice. That's when I discovered the futility of relying on portable phones. They don't work when there's no power. I needed either a cell phone or an old-fashioned phone that only plugs into a telephone outlet.

I couldn't leave my loved one alone, so together we headed out in the storm to find a neighbour whose telephone worked. Hydro said they'd turn off the power to our house, but then I was on my own. I'd have to hire a tree faller to clear out the tree and then I'd have to find an electrician to reinstall the mast. After that, they'd hook us up, but maybe not for a long time. The windstorm was still ongoing.

Gordon Lee, The Tree Guy, lives around the corner and came to our

rescue in fairly short order. It was a major job to retrieve the power lines from the branches, but he did it. Late in the afternoon, Pete Schure made sure my mast was replaced. At nightfall, we dined on cold tuna fish by candlelight and then went to bed. Around midnight, Hydro reconnected us.

We were lucky. It could have been worse. After our February storm, a friend told me her power went out Sunday morning and she had neither heat nor water for the next two days.

"It was so cold in my place," she told me, "I could see my breath."

She had two feet of snow outside with no place to go and no way to get there except on foot. She toughed it out at home, alone, and prolonged exposure led to a breakdown in her health requiring two new medications.

So what do we do when we need help in a storm? Some of us were trading stories a week or two ago and pod leaders became a topic of conversation. "Pod leader?" I asked. "What's a pod leader?"

I was told Salt Spring Island is divided into 52 pods organized out of the Salt Spring Island Emergency Operations Centre (250-537-1220). We're supposed to check in with our leader and report our status. Our leader's supposed to check on us if we don't. If we need help, our leader can help arrange for this to happen. So who's my pod leader?

Duh!

To prove I'm not the only ignoramus on this island, I conducted an unscientific survey. Whenever a group of friends started discussing how they fared during the recent snowfall, I'd ask, "Who's your pod leader?"

About 40 per cent knew. I was impressed.

What about the rest of us? About 30 pods are fully functioning while 12 pods are in some form of organization and 10 pods don't have leaders yet. One for my neighbourhood is in that category. I was asked to volunteer, but I'd be no good. I'm already wearing a wide variety of hats.

Maybe you have some free time

and can lend a helpful hand. If you'd like to volunteer, send an email to the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program — ssipec@crd.bc.ca.

Meanwhile, Public Safety Canada has produced some helpful pamphlets on how to prepare for earthquakes, severe storms, and power outages. You can get tips at www.GetPrepared.ca. The CRD also has great local information at www.prepareyourself.ca.

Spring is in the air. Before we let our thoughts turn elsewhere, let's do this right. Let's get all our neighbourhood pods up and running, so when the next emergency comes along we can all be as safe as possible. And if you don't have the time or talent to be a pod leader, at least have a buddy system. Make a pact with several friends that you'll each check on each other from time to time.

John Donne said it best: "No man is an island entire of itself." We're all a piece of this island and none of us should feel alone or helpless.



HELEN HINCHLIFF

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Salt Spring vs. Calgary: a few contrasts

BY SUSAN LUNDY

A couple of years ago, my partner and I drove our rustic 1978 VW van across the country back to its home on Salt Spring. Mostly we pattered along quiet back roads and through quaint, rural towns — places suitable to the laid-back nature of the excursion, but also because the speed-challenged van couldn't keep pace on Highway 1.

However, the trip involved one urban stop in Calgary, where until this past October, we'd been spending most of our time.

Many people know me as a Salt Springer. I grew up in Victoria but I've been on the island for almost 27 years — most of my adult life. But I never realized how "Salt Spring" I am until I went to live in the city.

I vividly recall that drive into Calgary, our battered, road-weary van sputtering along the highway, passed on both sides by rivers of shiny SUVs and burly, powerful pick-up trucks. Later I photographed the van parked in an upscale Calgary neighbourhood. (We couldn't get it started that day, ha, ha, but it's not obvious in the photo.) Truth is, the van looked as incongruous in the city as I often felt.

It's hard to put the city back into the bumpkin.

Some differences between living on Salt Spring and in Calgary emerged immediately. For example, walking past people in Ganges, you get certain whiffs. Could be "just out of the garden" whiff, "just on my way to buy (natural) deodorant" whiff or "just smoked my medicinal marijuana" whiff. In Calgary, I'd get sweet whiffs of "just stepped out of the shower" or "just spent the morning at the salon." (This did change during Stampede, however, at which point I'd get "just stumbled into a table full of beer" whiffs.)

And in Calgary, those muffler-booming cars are driven by dudes in shades and the right amount of stubble — not by people who live down pot-holed, exhaust-system-eating driveways.

Driving in Calgary is a terrifying conundrum of mixed messages: there are the speedy lane changes, honking horns and flipped birds characteristic of cranky, "destination-oriented" drivers. But on the other hand, these same drivers stop anywhere, anytime for pedestrians. You need one foot on the gas to maintain the pace and one on the brake for the woman with a stroller who suddenly decides the crosswalk system is too cumbersome to navigate.

On Salt Spring, we have campaigns that actually encourage drivers, who are already acceleration-challenged, to slow down. But unless they're at a crosswalk, pedestrians be damned. Islanders stop for deer, not people.

Other differences are more subtle, and related perhaps to the types of events, such as political fundraisers, that I attended. Proudly egalitarian on Salt Spring, people don't drop names or flaunt flashy cards, and are slightly embarrassed about personal wealth. Name-dropping is a sport at political and business events in Calgary, and people drop hints the size of boulders about their wealth.

So after standing mutely at several such gatherings, I became sly. Name-dropping is easy for someone from Salt Spring. "Oh, Valdy's the nicest guy ever." "Yup, I've met Randy Bachman."

You could tell they were impressed.

Soon, I became even slyer, saying modestly, "Yes, I own a house on Salt Spring." I'd watch their eyes as



PHOTO BY SUSAN LUNDY

Susan Lundy's partner Bruce Cameron with her orange VW van in Calgary. On Salt Spring, the van blends into the background.

they envisioned a sprawling, west coast post-and-beam mansion, perched on the rocks, overlooking gently swaying sailboats in the harbour. (Missing from their vision, of course, were the ants, the mice, the potholes and obvious lack of a housecleaner.)

So I got all that figured out.

However, the dress code continued to confound me. Here on Salt Spring anything goes. Buying groceries at GVM (yes, it's still GVM for most of us) you can pretty much wear anything from sweats to a cocktail dress with gumboots, bells and feathers.

I'm pretty sure that on Salt Spring, hiking boots are acceptable business attire.

In Calgary, I maintained an outward disdain for the coiffed, botoxed, Prada purse and red pumps look. And yet the notion that people might actually be assessing my outfit horrified me. (What if I'd forgotten to remove the Value Village tag?)

And what exactly constitutes "business attire?" (Here, Google became my friend. Apparently, business attire means no open-toed shoes and no cleavage. Who knew? I'm pretty sure that on Salt Spring, hiking boots are acceptable business attire.)

To be honest, I never really needed to fret over outfits — people

turned up anywhere from under-dressed to overdressed (but no bells or feathers) and I usually managed to fall in the middle. But that's not to say I didn't covertly stalk the social pages of the Calgary Herald, secretly checking out city women's attire.

At first I revelled in the anonymity of the city. For islanders, it's hard to "drop by" anywhere quickly; even grocery shopping becomes a social event. I found the anonymity exhilarating: I could sit for hours in a coffee shop, working away, entirely uninterrupted. I could people-watch. I could land at a bar and meet someone who didn't already know my entire life story.

But eventually, as we returned to the island for Christmases and summers, I found myself basking in the slower pace, the fresh air, the starry skies and the thick silence of nighttime. And I rediscovered the comfort of community. There is true solace in being part of a community that knows and accepts you and, for absolute certain, will support you in a time of need. (I get almost teary recalling the overwhelming community support we received in the aftermath of my daughter's bike accident four years ago.)

I was thinking about all of this as I attended the Remembrance Day ceremony on Salt Spring, and compared it to last year's event in Calgary. Both ceremonies were emotionally moving. (Okay, in Calgary we were moving just to keep warm!) But in Calgary, it was an experience that I shared with strangers. On Salt Spring, I found myself looking around the crowd and realizing I was surrounded by people with whom I'd shared one or more intersections of my life. What a gift to live amid such familiarity.

There are many things about Calgary that I love and can't wait to visit again: the beautiful and abundant inner city parks; the riverside trails; the lovely architecture; the frequent winter sunshine; the restaurants; the hum of energy and optimism, and of course, my new friends.

But it's good to be back. And the VW van? Right where it belongs.

Susan Lundy is a former Driftwood editor and writer, who is now a freelance magazine editor and writer.

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

MESSAGE: Kim Dalton's sign explains in part her participation in the One Billion Rising public dance event in Ganges on March 8.

Road's purpose

Rainbow Road is not a thoroughfare. It was never built to be a thoroughfare, and should never become a thoroughfare.

The lower part of Rainbow Road was built in 1947 to service the schools and the adjoining farmlands. The school zone is for the students, their parents, school buses, the soccer and sport enthusiasts, and most recently, the swim meets. The adjoining agricultural land reserve is for tractors, horses, bicycles and pedestrians.

For the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission to suggest moving all of this activity aside so that idle drivers have the right of way over students is erroneous.

A simpler, cheaper and more effective way to protect foot and bicycle traffic along Rainbow Road is to put a concrete boulevard at the end of Atkins Road where it joins Rainbow Road. Only in this way will the original purpose of Rainbow Road be protected and vehicles be prevented from using the road as a circular route from the nuisance of the downtown core.

Up until this point a boulevard has not been necessary because the majority of drivers understand that to use Rainbow Road is a privilege, not a right. But with this new and prevalent attitude, I urge a consensus to insist that Rainbow Road be prevented from being used as a thoroughfare.

JAQUALINE ROUSSIN,
RAINBOW ROAD

Customers first

About a year and a half ago I started to commute between Swartz Bay and Fulford Harbour every week.

It was my understanding that if you arrive early at the ferry terminal you get to leave the ferry first, which is helpful especially when you have to connect to and from the Tsawwassen ferry. I have noticed in the last few months it does not matter anymore if you arrive early at the ferry terminal. We have seen with disbelief how we are directed to the far away lane on the Skeena Queen ferry, which means we are the last one to get out.

I have recently moved on a per-

manent basis to Salt Spring Island but still have to travel once a week to Victoria and about once a month to Vancouver for business. The Queen of Nanaimo is not a reliable way to travel to Vancouver since it suffers so many disruptions due to mechanical failure or weather-related issues. So we make plans to go through Swartz Bay, hoping to get off the ferry fast enough to turn around and get the connecting ferry within 15 minutes or so. However, sometimes when we are returning from Vancouver, cars are not allowed off the ferry at Swartz Bay until a crew change takes place, making it impossible to connect with the next sailing of the Skeena Queen.

BC Ferries is a service-providing company, which means customers are first. I believe making the crew change after all cars have left the ferry is the correct way to proceed. We, the customers pay for the crew wages and deserve better treatment.

LUCIA SALAZAR,
SALT SPRING

Teacher passing

There aren't many 83-year-olds who can say their Grade 1 school teacher is still alive. That ended last week with the passing of Freda Mohrman. She died only a few weeks after her 101st birthday. She taught here from 1936 to 1940.

In fact, I was in her classroom for four years. Not that I was in Grade 1 for four years. Grades 1 to 4 were all in one room. That school is now the Catholic church on Drake Road.

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SALT SPRING



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RANTS and Roses

Rants

Sending a healthy dose of missing community pride to the people leaving their garbage, beer bottles and furniture in front and all around our dear old Fulford Inn, as she decays. Helga and Michael Bagnell

Roses

A director's chair full of roses from Salt Spring Film Festival to all involved with the 15th film festival. Thank you to the board, staff, committees, GISS and SD64 (plus the teachers, principal and admin staff), the wonderful hardworking volunteers, the social justice bazaar participants, the filmmakers, the film goers who support this community non-profit event and independent documentary film. Also the festival donors, media partners and festival sponsors, with special thanks to Harbour House, Country Grocer, Salt Spring Exchange and Salt Spring Royal Canadian Legion.

As a resident of Meadowbrook who thoroughly enjoyed the creative culinary expertise of our former chef, Kevin, I would like to say "Good-bye and best of luck in your future endeavours."

Bouquets of red roses to all the nice Thrifty's volunteers who take the food orders and one for Bill who traipsed twice through the snow to bring the food every Thursday. LH

Many roses from the library's Focus on Women Celebration go to Apple Photo, Auntie Pesto's Cafe, Black Sheep Books, Café Talia, Country Grocer, Duthie Gallery, Fernwood Road Cafe, Fever Tree, Foxglove Farm, Ganges Stationery, Garry Oaks Vineyards, Gulf Island Picture Framing, Harbour House Hotel, Hermani + Sorrentino Design, Island Savings Credit Union, Macdonald Realty, Mouat's Clothing, Monsoon Coast Spices, Penny's Pantry, Pod Contemporary Gallery, Rainbow Road Pool (PARC), RE/MAX, Salt Spring Forum, Salt Spring Air, Salt Spring Coffee, Salt Spring Soapworks, Sea to Sky Properties, The Fritz Movie Theatre, Thrifty Foods, Thrive Lifestyle.

One billion red roses to everyone who didn't let the rainfall stop them from rising to bring an end to violence against women and girls everywhere through the One Billion Rising event on Saturday: the volunteers from Search and Rescue, DJ Jana, TJ Beans, Living Water Media, Samba du Soleil, Raging Grannies, CFSI 107.9-FM GREENFM, North End Fitness, Marilyn Guille, Lee Sigmund, Jen MacLellan, Paul McGowan, Aron Dalton, Anna Haltrecht, Salt Spring Exchange, the Driftwood, Apple Photo, all the merchants on McPhillips Avenue. Along with those roses, my heartfelt thank you for your time and efforts to make this event happen. Julianna

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EXHIBITIONS

Click Collective shares island love in photography

Barb's show on through March

The Click Collective — photographers Melinda Divers and Jen MacLellan — is in the spotlight this month with the feature exhibition at Barb's Bakery and Bistro.



Copper by Jen MacLellan



Lace by Melinda Divers

"A photographer, from Greek photos, meaning 'light' and graphos meaning 'written,' is a person who takes photographs," Click's website explains. "We are those persons. We take light, and we write

the beauty of the moment, capturing it where you can keep it forever, close to your heart."

Photos at the exhibition capture moments both big and small from life in

the artists' home community of Salt Spring. "With so much beauty around us, nature's abundance, and a plethora of interesting and active community, we have much inspiration for written light."

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ISLAND ARTISTS

Orders being taken for Avison commemorative artwork book

Late artist a master of technique

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island art lovers have been invited to participate in a unique method of honouring the esteemed late artist Jack Avison by ordering a commemorative book of his drawings.

Avison was nearly 99 years old when he passed away on Christmas Eve, 2013. He was the de facto patriarch of the Salt Spring Painters Guild and a recognized master of colour, which he expressed in the challenging medium of watercolour painting.

"Most of us remember Jack for his consummate watercolours, and his skill and enthusiasm for passing on his knowledge of this medium to us all," a message from his friend and colleague Don Hodgins explains. "He had another passion: drawing. He sketched and drew nearly every day, and left a legacy of over 50 sketch books."

Avison's daughter Judy Fry and a group of his friends went through these sketchbooks to select the


JACK AVISON IN 2007

best examples of his work. The results, with subjects ranging from forest and island landscapes to purely fanciful abstract patterns, will be published in a limited edition book that

will be printed to order this month. Steffich Fine Art owner Matt Steffich represented Avison on two different occasions over the years, and recognized him as a significant artist and educator.

"He was an excellent watercolourist, probably the best on Salt Spring, and watercolour is a difficult medium to do well in," Steffich observed.

"But drawing is the foundation. If you can't draw, don't bother going to the next step. It's a really fundamental thing to do well."

Avison's working career in England proved his early affinity for colour. As a sales manager for a textile factory, he was the only employee besides the colour matcher who could unfailingly determine which com-

plex combination of threads would produce a specific shade of fabric.

Steffich said Avison put his fundamental drawing skills and his colour knowledge to excellent use in his retirement, when he had the added freedom of not producing works for the purpose of making sales. While Steffich would happily have continued selling Avison's paintings, the artist didn't have the same concern.

"He didn't need galleries — he was a purist," Steffich said.

"When you remove that commercial component you can create something really interesting because you're not worrying about someone buying it."

Steffich added that Avison was a generous teacher who shared his knowledge and experience with others in the painters guild in a constructive but respectful way.

The book of 50 sketches will be printed by Contour Graftix and will cost \$25. Anyone who would like a copy should email Wendy Shea at wendyshea@shaw.ca with a name, address and number of copies. Prepayment will be required. The deadline for orders is Friday, March 21.

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CONCERTS

Fiddlers come to All Saints

Celtic, Metis and Danish folk styles

Fiddleworks instructor and acclaimed musician Nellie Quinn returns to Salt Spring next week to play a double

bill concert featuring multiple folk traditions.

The March 21 performance at All Saints By-the-Sea will see Quinn perform with Scottish multi-instrumentalist Chris Meredith as part of their west coast tour on route to

Celtic Fest Vancouver. Sharing the bill are musicians Jamie Fox and Kristian Bugge of the award-winning Danish folk duo Jensen & Bugge.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available in advance at Salt Spring Books.

OPEN MIC

Youth open stage events ready to rock at Core Inn

Once-a-month sessions begin Thursday

The Core Inn is celebrating the start of a new monthly Youth Open Mic at the Core Inn. Performers in grades six to 12 are invited to share their talents for an audience of peers on Thursday, March 13.

Sign-up starts at 4:30

p.m. and the stage is open for performers from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"Whether it is music, poetry or comedy, youth are encouraged to 'bring it!'" urges a press release.

The opening night celebration boasts free pizza and will be hosted by local folk-stars Ashton and Rama Chermomaya of Sweet Water Revolver, who are organizing the event along with Johanna Stiver, the

youth programming coordinator at the Core Inn.

In addition to giving youth a platform to share their musical craft, it also opens up a venue for the possibility of mentoring in the associated fields of event planning, photography, audio/visual production, sound engineering, music recording and production, public speaking and announc-

ing, marketing, media and press.

"With all of the amazing talented youth we have here on Salt Spring Island it seemed only natural to have a place to let all that talent shine," said Rama Chermomaya about the open stage.

For more information, to donate instruments, volunteer or provide mentoring, contact Johanna Stiver at jsstiver@ssics.ca.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rama Chermomaya, left, with some talented young performers.

LIVE THEATRE

2 for Tea serving up laughs

Hard Times cast members return with Fringe hit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to attend a tea party like no other when "James & Jamesy" present their hilarious interactive comedy called 2 for Tea at ArtSpring next week.

Jamesy Evans is an absurdist gentleman of the English upper class who approaches the world with nitpicking precision yet childlike naiveté, while "straight man" James Brown is a more practical member of the middle class. The two share an endearing friendship through weekly tea dates at Jamesy's home, which becomes the structure for improvisational elements.

"Every week I come over and I bring something from the outside world that to me is quite mundane," James explains in a promotional video, shortly before producing a live baby as his gift of the moment. "But for Jamesy, it's like fodder for a whole playground of imagination and play."

Receiving Patron's Pick honours at the Toronto Fringe Festival, five stars from CBC reviewer Rosie Fernandez, and a long list of other acclamations, 2 for Tea is confirmed as being highly entertaining for all ages. The live two-man show is augmented by a cast of characters drawn from the audience itself, with often surprising and always funny results.

Actors and show creators Aaron Malkin and Alastair Knowles were last seen on Salt Spring as part of the professional cast of Hard Times Hit Parade, brought to the island by Graffiti Theatre. Fans may remember them as two thirds of an impressive men's routine; Malkin was also the large but surprisingly agile dance partner to the show's director Kat Single-Dain, and Knowles was the dapper villain who danced with stylish menace.

While their swing dancing skills understandably took centre stage during that production, both Malkin and Knowles have a foundation in other modes. Both studied clowning at Fantastic Space Enterprises and the Clown Farm, and both were



PHOTO BY JONATHAN DY

A scene from James & Jamesy, which runs at ArtSpring March 20-23.

scholarship students of contact dance, an experimental form developed by Peter Bingham.

Physical comedy comes to the forefront in 2 for Tea, which Graffiti will again co-present on Salt Spring.

"These characters came from doing exercises for the clown troupe we're part of," Malkin and Knowles said on a conference call from Vancouver, explaining the other members of the troupe demanded they continue to play with these specific roles. "One of the things that delights us is doing characters outside our regular range."

To say that Malkin and Knowles become their characters may be an understatement. They direct all their publicity work as James and Jamesy, conducted their entire interview with the Driftwood in English accents, and even have email accounts under their characters' names. That deep immersion may explain their ability to guide audiences so skillfully through the improvisational elements of the show.

"We are the biggest supporters of each other on stage, and the biggest supporters of the audience members we bring in," Malkin said.

"It's kind of like partner dancing," Knowles added. "You have a leader and a partner. The leader knows how to lead, but within that structure there's lots of room to bring in your own flourishes and style."

"The audience members are lis-

tening to our cues and are ready for the ride, and within the ride they're finding opportunities to share so it's exhilarating for everyone."

Audience participation starts before the show even begins with the ritual of sharing tea (bring your own china tea cup if you can) and rolls on from there. During past productions Malkin and Knowles have had to incorporate an entirely new character when one audience member brought his four-year-old son onto the stage with him. In another instance, they realized they'd pulled up someone who didn't speak English and managed to work that into the arc.

"Everything we had to communicate had to be done physically, and it was so much fun!" said Knowles.

Breaking down theatre's "fourth wall" is in fact integral to the path the performers are committed to.

"The clowning work we do is about a conversation with the audience. It's about connection and sharing, and what's really going on in the moment," Malkin said.

The show runs from Thursday, March 20 to Sunday, March 23. Tickets are half price opening night. Show times are at 8 p.m. except for a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

"James and Jamesy" will also be giving workshops for GISPA students and to islanders that joined the Hard Times Hit Parade cast last fall while they're here.

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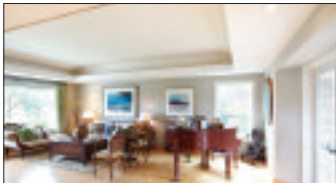
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FOCUS on EDUCATION

SWOVA

Younger students explore key values in Peace Kids pilot



PHOTO BY KATE RICHER

Peace Kids facilitators Kevin Vowles and Christina Antonick with some Salt Spring Centre School students in the program.

Grades 4 to 6 youth gain peace-building skills

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Christina Antonick and Kevin Vowles spend the greater part of their year bringing specialized education to students in grades 7 to 10 with SWOVA's ground-breaking Respectful Relationships program.

This year the facilitators have an additional item on their plate, which could one day roll as naturally into R+R programming as fractions lead to decimals in math. Peace Kids, a pilot program for grades 4 to 6, focuses on peace-building as a foundational component of violence prevention for older students.

"Over the past 15 years our conversations with youth, parents and the community at large have indicated that people believe violence prevention education and social and emotional learning could be integrated at even deeper levels both personally and systemically, if our program extended itself into work with children," Antonick explained.

"Social justice and relational com-

petency is a key component of successful education models and a wider healthy society. We believe that as a student studies math or English in elementary school and on into middle and high school, we strengthen community capacity by offering this peace building/violence prevention work throughout a child's schooling."

Better known by its acronym SWOVA, Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse has the motto of "Empowering Youth for a Better Tomorrow." In addition to the long-standing programs that have become a benchmark across the nation, the organization says it has received repeated concerns "from youth, teachers, parents and school administrators regarding the need to provide education and resources for children at the elementary school level to address bullying and systemic violence."

With funding from the Salt Spring Foundation and Vancouver Foundation, Antonick and Vowles were able to write a custom-made curriculum for the targeted age group and deliver it to 10 Gulf Islands classrooms. Support from School District 64 and the Salt Spring Centre School allowed the

facilitators to access classrooms and put the curriculum to the test. Teachers who wanted to participate were invited to contact SWOVA, joining the pilot on a purely optional basis.

The program Antonick and Vowles wrote is based on exploring the five key values of affirmation, empathy, gratitude, cooperation and conflict resolution. This is done through group activities such as sitting in a circle and practising reflective listening, playing games and doing written exercises.

The skill-building sessions are structured to increase dialogue about peace and conflict at both personal and community levels. Students learn to talk about the concepts in relation to their own lives and the greater world, and to see how they fit into that world in terms of having responsibility to the collective.

"We see the concepts come out very quickly in our interactions with the students, which is very cool," said Vowles. "Kids inherently have a lot of this in them. It's just a matter of drawing it out."

PEACE KIDS continued on 15

ART PROGRAM

Outdoor gallery area revived



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Above and page 15, SSE students paint tiles for an outdoor gallery installation.

Nature inspires sculpture walk art

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An art project that could potentially include all the students on the island is already engaging the whole of Salt Spring Elementary School, with classes from kindergarten to Grade 5 participating in an exciting outdoor gallery installation.

Johanna Hoskins is project coordinator for the multi-school project that will put

student art up front and centre on the public sculpture walk sponsored by Hastings House Country House Hotel.

"It's a big project, going throughout this year, hopefully next year and maybe beyond," Hoskins said. "We're trying to involve as many schools and students in the district as possible."

A grant from ArtStarts in Schools has provided much of the funding required to bring Hoskins and fellow artists Karen Reiss and Laura Keil to classes at SSE and Fulford elementary, as well as

the materials needed to create ceramic tiles, a sculptural display and paving stones for the walk.

During a recent visit to SSE where a Grade 2/3 class was painting glaze onto the tiles they'd created, Hoskins explained the finished pieces will form four panels on a new fence on Churchill Road. The nature-themed project will include sections on the local environment, forests, water/oceans and the sky.

PROJECT continued on 15

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Kids prove receptive

PEACE KIDS

continued from 14

As the facilitators observe, teachers in the school district are already doing much of this type of work. But as is the case with other SWOVA programs, students can get a lot from working with people who are outside their daily interactions.

"Kids can be more authentic

about what's going on in their daily lives," Vowles said.

With the tools that Peace Kids can deliver to students early on, the facilitators have no doubt that extended delivery of the program would have a positive impact on adolescents.

Respectful Relationships gives students 12 workshops every year for four years. Adding another three years of programming before that would

increase students' capacity for taking in the core concepts, as well as having a greater cumulative effect.

"SWOVA's work here in the Gulf Islands is innovative and unique," Antonick said. "We hold the vision of a child in our community participating in our Peace Kids and Respectful Relationships education circles in elementary, middle and high school. With this solid foundation, Peace Kids strives to contribute to a wider legacy of individual and collective health, safety and well being.

"We are very grateful for this opportunity."

Although funding is always an issue, the program's creators are hopeful Peace Kids will become part of SWOVA's regular offerings at SD64, as a component of violence prevention education that will eventually carry through all the way from preschool to Grade 12.

An evaluation of the program will be carried out after the pilot is completed next month, followed by conversations with the school district about how to make that happen.



Facilitator Kevin Vowles



Art creates legacy

PROJECT

continued from 14

Kindergarten students at SSE will contribute to the project with concrete paving stones embedded with special objects. Students at Fulford school have meanwhile been working on a ceramic tide pool project that will be filled with sea creature models, to be located somewhere on the forest walk.

Students of all grades have been excited to work on a project that will be part of a "gallery" space, Hoskins has found.

"They really love it. It's nice to be able to come in and do it with the schools," she said, noting the project's importance could extend well past the school year for the participants.

"It's a legacy for them. They can come as adults, bring their families and friends, and their visitors can come."

Hoskins has an endless supply of ideas for extending the gallery with exhibits such as wooden heron sculptures, cedar basket weaving and other clay products. She hopes that donations, sponsorships and other funding can be found to continue its growth.

"The more we get, the more we can do," she noted.

A grand unveiling of the first phase of the project is expected to take place by early June. For information on how to contribute, contact Hoskins at Johoskins@telus.net.

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Mr. Miles' SIMS workshop class receiving first day safety orientation while waiting for the Slegg truck to deliver materials.

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Kai Adams with his beautifully crafted wooden bowl.



Ethan Wesley-Plambeck working on the lathe.



Owen Quiring finishing his intro woodworking project.



Anna Weinert shaping her shelf unit on the table saw.

The ACE-IT program is a partnership between ITA (Industry Training Authority) and the BC Ministry of Education. It allows high school students to take first level technical training in a particular trade tuition free, providing dual credit for high school courses and industry training certification.

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DANCE PERFORMANCE

Ballet Victoria revives influential Stravinsky work

Innovative music matched by daring choreography in The Rite of Spring

BY GEORGE SIPOS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

On May 29, 1913 Paris witnessed history's most famous theatrical riot. The audience for the first performance of The Rite of Spring was shocked, so the story goes, by Stravinsky's unprecedented music and Diaghilev's daring choreography. Fights broke out and the police had to be called to quell the brouhaha.

But as with many good stories in history, nothing is quite



PHOTO BY DEREK FORD

Promotional image for Ballet Victoria's Rite of Spring.

as it seems.

By the second performance the following night everything was calm and the audience

applauded heartily. It seems that the opening night crowd came ready to make trouble even before the first note sounded. The art world in Paris had its factions and loyalties, and animosities ran deep.

As innovative as Stravinsky's music certainly was, and as profoundly as it and the ballet probed the visceral and primitive impulses of human experience, the work was recognized almost from the beginning as one of the most interesting and influential creations of the 20th century.

Now, 101 years later, we get to revisit this extraordinary work on the stage when Ballet Victoria brings its brand new production of The Rite of Spring to

ArtSpring on Sunday, March 16.

Artistic director Paul Destrooper is widely acknowledged as one of the most talented and influential choreographers working in ballet in British Columbia. In the last half dozen years he has built Ballet Victoria into a tight, disciplined, coherent company of young professional dancers. The company produces excellent traditional and contemporary ballet, and has twice before brought its work to ArtSpring.

In addition to the newly choreographed Rite of Spring, Sunday's program will also include three additional short dance works. Bruce Monk from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet has created a new pas de deux on the

music of Arvo Part, and has also created a suite of dances on three Leonard Cohen songs. And the program also presents the world premiere of new choreography on the music of Leonard Bernstein by Shawn Hounsell.

Altogether, this will be a rich program showcasing Ballet Victoria's breadth of talent. We will get a great glimpse at some of the exciting work being done by a traditional ballet company as it faces the modern world. Not unlike Paris in 1913 come to think of it. Minus the riot.

Tickets for the Sunday 2:30 p.m. performance are available from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre at 250-537-2102 or online at tickets.artspring.ca.

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JAN MACPHERSON

Mechanic

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

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

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

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

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HARRY BRADFORD

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

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



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

'Changemakers' honoured at first women's day gala

SWOVA-sponsored events fill weekend

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local women were definitely in the spotlight for International Women's Day in 2014, with an entire weekend full of activities and celebrations including Salt Spring's first Changemakers Awards presentation hosted by SWOVA at the Harbour House.

"The events were fabulous — I don't think there's any other way to describe it," said Lynda Laushway, executive director of SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse). "I don't think Salt Spring's ever seen anything like it."

Celebrations kicked off Friday night with Sparkfest!, the annual entertainment evening in support



PHOTO BY MEGAN MANNING

Elizabeth May, right, presents award to Ann Johnston of Mayne Island. Behind, from left, Salish Sea Girls Leadership Project participants Sarah Kyle, Jenna Aston and Marijn Andringa assist.

of SWOVA's Pass It On mentorship program for girls.

International Women's Day on Saturday saw a full day of workshops covering a variety of topics, ending with a World Cafe session hosted by participants of SWOVA's Salish Sea Girls Leadership Project.

"There was just tremendous joy and enthusiasm and it was an inspiring and meaningful weekend," Laushway said, adding one of the best parts was the significant involvement of youth in all the events.

The highlight of the weekend for many was the Changemakers Awards dinner and gala on Saturday evening. Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May hosted the sold-out event where 28 local women and groups were honoured for their achievements. Laushway said these included everything from working in Rwanda to

lobbying for Tetrapak recycling, and covered all fields from healthcare to the arts and education.

"They are significant pieces of the giant whole of people who make change in our community and around the world," Laushway said.

Awarded women were: Wendy Judith Cutler, Dorothy Cutting, Mona Fertig, Sharon Glover, Janet Halliwell, Cheryl Heykoop, Sarah Hook-Nilsson, Caffyn Jessie, Ann Johnston, Juliette Laing, Phoenix Lazare, Maxine Leichter, Kelda Logan, Anne Macey, Molly Murphy, Rebecca Nygard, Briony Penn, the Raging Grannies, Samantha Sanderson, Marg Simons, Sally Sunshine, Rita Thomas, Margaret Thomson, Christine Torgrimson, Chelsea Wendt and Maggie Ziegler. Beth Bastien and Margaret Fulton were honoured posthumously.

WOMEN IN FOCUS

Crozier and Lazare anchor celebration

Plus Vicki Gabereau talks shoes and more at March 19 evening

An exciting roster of events is in store for islanders this month as a continuing celebration inspired by International Women's Day rolls out.

Next up on the schedule for Focus on Women: A Celebration is an evening of music and poetry at the library's program room set for this Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m. Award-winning Canadian poet Lorna Crozier will be joined for the evening by Salt Spring high school student Phoenix Lazare, who has been nominated for youth artist of the year in the Vancouver Island Music Awards competition for the second year in a row.

According to her website, Crozier's first collection Inside in the Sky was published in 1976. Since then, she has authored 14 books of poetry, including Inventing the Hawk (winner of the 1992 Governor-General's Award), Everything Arrives at the Light, Apocrypha of Light, What the Living



Vicki Gabereau with fancy shoes.

Wont Let Go, and most recently Whetstone. She currently teaches writing at the University of Victoria.

Beyond making poems, Lorna has also edited two non-fiction collections.

Together with her husband and fellow poet Patrick Lane, she has edited several important collections of contemporary Canadian poetry.

A Grade 12 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School, Lazare is a singer-songwriter who has been gaining attention in high places recently, with nominations to two high-profile lists in 2013 as well as her recent VIMA nod. She worked her way up several rungs of the regional ladder in CBC Radio's Searchlight Contest for best new Canadian artist, making it into the top-20 regional shortlist

for the Vancouver Island area with help from listener votes.

She was also recognized as a community "Changemaker" at SWOVA's International Women's Day awards presentation on Saturday.

The next event moves away from the library setting. Beloved Canadian media host Vicki Gabereau will explain why she now lets her feet do the talking at another Focus on Women evening taking place at ArtSpring on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

During this fundraiser for the library's art program, Gabereau will discuss her broadcasting career and her recent change to selling shoes. Audience members are invited to bring or wear a special pair — and prepare to be interviewed about their choice. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

Also part of Focus on Women: A Celebration is an exhibit of photos and paintings of Salt Spring women aged 60-plus in the library program room through March.

PERSONAL HEALTH

Laughter Yoga workshop ready to tickle islanders' funny bones

Barbara Stowe's popular class comes to Salt Spring

Nine years ago, former Pacific Ballet Theatre soloist Barbara Stowe was flipping through a magazine when she saw a list of 10 requirements for health, including laughing 20 times a day.

This gave her pause. A serious person, she didn't laugh much. She put a sticky on her desk as a reminder: "LAUGH 20X/DAY!" That didn't help.

She then read about an Indi-

an physician, Dr. Kataria, who had developed Laughter Yoga, a practice designed to make people laugh. Stowe was inspired to develop her own laughing exercises. After several months, she started teaching Loosen Up and Lighten Up, which includes Laughter Yoga, breathing exercises and gentle dance.

The class is a favourite with the intergenerational group Stowe teaches at the Pender Island Health Centre. Stowe has also taught Loosen Up and Lighten Up at the Kitsilano Community Centre and at a cancer hospice. Now Stowe is bringing this popu-

lar class to Salt Spring.

Loosen Up and Lighten Up will be offered at Mahon Hall on Saturday, March 22 from 1 to 2:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is advised as, at \$5, this introductory class is expected to fill up.

Stowe has an extensive professional background in dance, choreography, acting and writing.

The event is sponsored by Salt Spring Community Services. To pre-register, call Leslie Wallace at 250-537-9971, ext. 503.

— Article submitted by Salt Spring Community Services



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what's on this week



Wed. Mar 12	Thurs. Mar 13	Thurs. Mar 13	Fri. Mar 14	Sun. Mar 16	Mon. Mar 17	Wed. Mar 19
ACTIVITIES Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting. Public meeting of school trustees. Fernwood Elementary School. 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. Informal community singing of popular songs of the last 6 decades, led by Wendy Milton. Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m. 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.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic Night. Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Random Johnson. All styles of music welcomed. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. ACTIVITIES Youth Open Mic Night. First event of new monthly offering. Performers in grades six to 12 are invited to share their talents for an audience of peers at the Core Inn. Sign-up starts at 4:30 p.m., stage open 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga Dance. Led by Dorothy Price at North End Fitness. 10:45 a.m. Info: Dorothy, 250-653-4655. Meditation and Chakra Toning. Still Point Yoga Studio. 6:30 p.m. Processing Kitchen Focus Group. SSI Agricultural Alliance event to inform decisions for the proposed Salt Spring Farm Produce Centre. Registered participants only. Farmers' Institute. 7 to 9 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Dance Temple with Shay Kuebler. Vancouver dance artist leads Dance Temple session called Amorphous Structure and Rediscovery. Mahon Hall. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Fri. Mar 14 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Soul Shakedown. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. St. Paddy's Day with Harry Warner. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Focus on Women: A Celebration. With award-winning Canadian poet Lorna Crozier and Salt Spring singer-songwriter Phœnix Lazare. Library program room. 7 to 9 p.m. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT The Riverside. Rock/dance band. Moby's Pub. 9 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. Sat. Mar 15 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Richard Cross. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Swingers and Saints DJ Night. Electro-swing with Daniel Trump, Indigo Matiko and DJ-Elev8. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. ACTIVITIES Helping Your Pet Through a Disaster. Free workshop from SSI Emergency Program. Pet Grab 'n Go Bags and availability of emergency services will be discussed. Register by email: ssiepc@crd.bc.ca. Portlock Park Portable. 10 a.m. to noon. Active Choices Volunteer Training. Physical activity telephone support program volunteer coach training. Sponsored by SSI Community Services. Lions Hall. 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info/registration: Angela Sealy, 1-877-522-1492 or angela.activechoices@shaw.ca.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Ballet Victoria Dance Performance: The Rite of Spring. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 20th century's most daring dance work. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m. Piano Bar with Deborah Inkster-Kneebone. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m. ACTIVITIES 20/20 Vision Exhibition. Opening reception for juried art show at ArtSpring. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Foosball Tourney. The Local. 1 p.m. Amour Film Screening. Presented by Dying with Dignity Salt Spring. Library program room. 1:30 p.m. ACTIVITIES Rollerblading. For young and old. Fulford Hall. 2 to 4 p.m. Remember Who You Are. Self-awareness and meditation group led by Mark Brackley every Sunday. Side Door Studio. 7:45 to 9:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES SSI Fire Protection District Board Meeting. Public welcome to attend monthly business meeting of fire district trustees. Library program room. 7 p.m. Tues. Mar 18 ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Transportation Commission. Regular business meeting. Public welcome to watch. Portlock Park Portable. 4 to 6 p.m. Central Community Hall Society. Board of directors meeting. Central Community Hall. 7 p.m. Salt Spring Vipassana. Note meditation time change for daylight savings. The Gatehouse. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Texas Holdem Poker. The Local. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m. SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing. Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Vicki Gabereau: Her Shoes Now Do The Talking. Vicki Gabereau will explain her career change from broadcasting to shoe selling. She will be interviewing audience members about their footwear. Bring or wear your favourite pair. Fundraiser for the Library's Art Program. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/</p> <p>view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings</p> <p>we are YOUR go-to-place for everything happening on Salt Spring</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR</p> <p>EMAIL: news@gulfislands-driftwood.com</p> </div>						

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 - **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**
- **The 20/20 Vision exhibition** — a juried visual art exhibit celebrating ArtSpring's 15th anniversary — opens at the ArtSpring gallery on **Sunday, March 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** This juried show of two- and three-dimensional art focuses on the theme Connect/Disconnect and runs through the end of **March.**
 - **Salt Spring Painters Guild** members show an exhibit called **Explorations** in the ArtSpring lobby through the month of **March.**

- EXHIBITIONS**
- Photographer **Doug Wahlsten** shares magnified views of the local tidal area in **At the Beach**, showing at the **Fernwood Road Cafe** until **March 12.**
 - 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** Jose Campbell, Anna McColm, Gail Neumann, Juliana Paul, Susan Benson, 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. Plus an additional display of images and words by young islanders about women who've inspired them in the library display case.
 - Photographers **Jen MacLellan** and **Melinda Park-Divers** are showing photographs at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro** through **March** as the **Click Collective.**
 - Robert Steinbach shows abstract paintings at the Harbour House through the month of **March.**
 - **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.**

Focus on Women - A Celebration

An Evening of Music & Poetry
with Lorna Crozier and Phœnix Lazare

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National Seniors Council exploring adverse effects of social isolation

Members of the National Seniors Council (NSC) met March 3 in Vancouver with seniors organizations, service and health providers, researchers and practitioners to assess how social isolation affects seniors and how best to tackle the issue in Canada.

The council met with individuals and organizations from across British Columbia as part of a series of cross-country roundtables.

Social isolation touches many aspects of seniors' lives, including

active participation, healthy aging, income security, caregiving and transportation. Social isolation can lead to depression and increased vulnerability to elder abuse, among other concerns. Statistics Canada's 2008-2009 Canadian Community Health Survey found that 19 per cent of seniors aged 65 or over felt left out, isolated from others, or that they lacked companionship.

Once the roundtables are completed, the council will prepare a report with key findings and suggestions for

government action that it will present to the Minister of Employment and Social Development, the Minister of Health and the Minister of State for Seniors in fall 2014.

Quick facts

The NSC advises on matters related to the well-being and quality of life of seniors, including the opportunities and challenges arising from a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population of seniors.

Since 2007, the NSC has

undertaken work on elder abuse, the effects of low income among seniors, volunteerism, and positive and active aging. Most recently, it explored approaches to attracting older workers to the labour force and retaining them.

On Oct. 1, 2013, National Seniors Day, the Government of Canada announced a call for proposals to fund approximately 20 pilot projects—an investment of \$2 million—aimed at addressing seniors' social isolation.

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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Roots of Empathy program builds pro-social behaviour

Program reaches all Salt Spring schools

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Experiential learning leading to emotional literacy sounds like a fairly sophisticated educational outcome, but that's precisely what Salt Spring's kindergarten students are getting from teachers who are even younger than themselves.

The unlikely sounding set-up comes to the island through Roots of Empathy, an award-winning, research-based program developed by Canadian social entrepreneur Mary Gordon.

The program is centred on students observing a baby's development over the course of a school year. Though it has been taught in individual classrooms on the island in the past, 2013-14 marks the first time it has been offered for comprehensive delivery at every school on Salt Spring. The arrangement comes through the championing efforts of Gulf Islands early education specialist Janet Hoag and support from school district administrators and staff.

"Years ago I went to see Mary Gordon speak in Vancouver and she's so inspiring... so when you've witnessed that, you're changed," said Hoag, who also saw Roots of Empathy in action when she taught at the Salt Spring Centre School years ago.

Gordon outlined the initial curriculum for Roots of Empathy in 1996 and began piloting the program in



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Children at Fernwood Elementary School observe their Roots of Empathy teacher "Baby Drew" with help from mom Jessica during one of their regular sessions.

Toronto. She established the national and international organization in 2000.

"At the heart of the program are a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom every three weeks over the school year. A trained Roots of Empathy instructor coaches students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings," program information explains.

"In this experiential learning, the baby is the 'teacher' and a lever, which the instructor uses to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others."

Evaluations of the program by outside organizations have shown that Roots of Empathy can reduce aggression and increase pro-social behav-

our in children, who experience social inclusion and consensus-building activities during the program.

"They witness the loving interactions between the parents and the baby."

ANDREA HOLLINGSWORTH
Salt Spring ECE

"They are more competent in understanding their own feelings and the feelings of others (empathy) and are therefore less likely to physically, psychologically and emotionally hurt each other through bullying and other cruelties," Roots

of Empathy material states.

In order to deliver Roots of Empathy on a wide platform on Salt Spring, funding was required to train facilitators to come into classrooms. That was achieved with a Success By 6 grant, allowing the program to be delivered to kindergarten-age students. Andrea Hollingsworth, Lisa Stafford, Carol Bremner and Colleen Irwin received the training. District educator Janice Shields joins the current roster of ROE instructors through earlier training.

Hoag said the program was fortunate to find qualified people who had time to take the training course and were willing to take on another commitment, noting instructors typically fulfill their positions as volunteers.

"It really is a labour of love

on the part of the facilitators," she said. "When I see them in the classroom I'm amazed by their level of experience and their love for the children."

Hollingsworth is an early childhood educator currently working in the Salt Spring Elementary and Fernwood ELF programs, as well as the Salt Spring Early Learning Centre. She took the Roots of Empathy instructor training at Hoag's encouragement and is now midway through her first session, which runs from October to June.

"When Janet told me about her experiences with the program in her own classroom, I was inspired to make the two-year commitment as an instructor," Hollingsworth said. "I know that children's social and emotional development are key indicators of their success in school and this program offers concrete opportunities to foster this growth... with a baby as the teacher."

Hollingsworth said the students in the class she facilitates have become keen observers of their visiting baby, looking at her body language to discuss how she may be feeling, and talking about ways to help her when she has a problem.

"These discussions carry on to include peer interactions and help to create a culture of caring. The practice of taking another's perspective fosters empathy and these experiences will impact their current and future relationships," she said.

"They witness the lov-

ing interactions between the parents and the baby. We talk about neuroscience and the children see first hand what Mary Gordon says about love... it grows brains." The students also learn to listen respectfully to each other's observations and their stories about themselves or their siblings as babies.

Malindi Curtis, the kindergarten teacher at Fernwood, has noticed a willingness to participate with potentially long-lasting benefits for her young students.

"I have noticed that the children are always very enthusiastic about going to learn more from their teacher Baby Drew," she said.

"Some of the pro-social skills these children are learning are helping them cope with their own emotions, as well as the emotional display of others in a more positive and effective way, which will hopefully last with them throughout their lives."

Hollingsworth believes there are a few reasons that make this program work so well locally: "There is strong support within the Gulf Islands School District; the curriculum is relevant and based on extensive research; and the philosophy stems from empathy, a virtue that is already present in children, and fosters it by providing authentic opportunities for practice.

"I am proud and honoured to be involved in this program," she said.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Fun learning adventures arise during spring break

Library offers special kids' programs

Spring break is around the corner, but there's no break to the programs and fun at the Salt Spring library.

Four special children's events will be offered at the library over the break, with something for children of all ages and interests.

On Friday, March 21 at 11 a.m., the Gaia Soul Sistahs Song Circle will lead a medley of interactive folk songs from around the world. Led by Rama, lead singer of Sweet Water Revolver, the

Gaia Soul Sistahs is a weekly womyn's song circle who love to share their music, culture and enthusiasm with families and children of all ages.

Local artist Tracy Harrison (creator of the library's dragon mural) will be leading two art workshops on Wednesday, March 26. At 11 a.m., she will help children ages 0 to 5 produce their own spring-themed creations in a class called Springtime Art. Then at 1 p.m., she will work with 6- to 11-year-olds in a workshop called Faces of Women We Love. In honour of International Women's Day and Month, Harrison

will teach children to draw faces — realistic, cartoon and abstract. Participants are invited to bring pictures of women who have been helpful, important and inspiring in their lives.

To finish off the break, audience members are invited to join the Salt Spring Conjuring Club and master magician Shaun Luttin for their debut magical performance. These budding magicians, ages seven to 33, meet once a week at the library and work with Luttin to master sleight-of-hand and other conjuring tricks.

All spring break programs are free of charge, with no registration required.

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DEATHS



Dorothy Elfrieda Mohrman
FEBRUARY 7, 1913 - MARCH 3, 2014

At the age 101, Freda passed away peacefully. Fondly remembered by nephews, Barry and Jim Lepper and families. Freda began her teaching career at Salt Spring Island in 1936, went to Scotland on exchange, and retired from the Vancouver School Board in 1978. One student from Salt Spring, Bob Rush, still kept in touch. In earlier years, she enjoyed travelling with companion, Eric Springford. Thanks to the staff at Royal City Manor for her care over the last 14 years. Freda will be remembered as a quiet and kind lady. A family memorial tea will be held later.

DEATHS



Christopher John Supina
November 19, 1971 - February 28, 2014

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our son Christopher. He will be remembered lovingly by his parents Larry and Mary Supina, sons Hamish and Connor, sister Tracey, brother David and their families. Special thanks to Jim and Wendy McClean, Joan as well as his best friend/partner Pam. Additional thanks to all his friends who saw him through and loved him through his struggles. Christopher was born and lived in Alberta until age of 17, then he moved with his parents to SSL, and graduated GISS. He worked as a roofer, and completed with high marks a water treatment course which he was very proud of. Fondly remembered for his love of music, endless guitar playing, zest for the great outdoors, beautiful art work and his kindness and love of animals. A celebration of life will be held on April 5, 2014 starting at 1:00 pm, at Central hall where he spent countless hours sweeping up popcorn after the movie was over. In lieu of flowers, donations graciously accepted at the SPCA.

Shera Atley
1936-2014

Survived by her sister JoAnn and brother-in-law Charles Sumner, her niece Heather and nephew Chad. Shera and her husband moved to Canada after teaching dancing in Hawaii and succeeded in many professions but none as great as the coveted seamstress she became. Unfortunately the material she worked with so beautifully was not so kind to her and her health suffered. Shera loved her adopted country and island home and was always there for the asking, she was an important influence in my life and I along with her friends and family will miss her terribly.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS


DEATHS

ANDREW WHITE
1938 - 2014



A tragic accident when he was an infant could easily have ended Andrew's life before it had properly begun, but the courage and determination which enabled him to survive became his lifelong hallmark. Andrew led a life of phenomenal variety and colour - sportsman, soldier, adventurer, artist - travelling over much of the globe. He was a keen boxer and rugby player while at school, after which he enlisted in the Green Howards regiment, winning a battlefield commission while in action in Malaya. He had a keen sense of justice, taking pride in using his physical prowess to protect others, whether smaller kids from playground bullies, or peasant farmers from terrorists during his army career. Next came a spell on a schooner in the South Pacific trading among the remoter islands of the South Pacific. He ended up in Australia where he worked in the outback, occasionally indulging his passion for ocean yacht racing. Intending to return eventually to Britain, his birthplace, he travelled eastwards to the USA then hitchhiked to Canada. He didn't reach his destination, settling instead on Saltspring Island where he lived on a fishing boat, transformed into a home and sculpture studio. He produced a range of breathtaking wood sculptures and architectural works which combined functionality with beauty. Rory, his devoted dog, shared his life for twenty years. Andrew's life was a poem of passion, a picture painted in vivid colours. You did the best you could with this life Andrew, our blessings for the next. Thanks to staff at Fairfield Pavilion, Glengarry Hospital for their kindness and compassion. Condolences and contact regarding memorial gathering to: liamummy@yahoo.ca

DEATHS




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 Saltspring 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 Bursary", 301 Frank Beinder Way, Castlegar, B.C. V1N 4L3. To leave a condolence, please visit www.earthsoption.com

DEATHS

ROBERT LOUIS (BOBBY) KENNON, JR.



Bobby was born December 18, 1952, in Fort Hood, Texas, and left this life March 4, 2014, at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island. He is survived by his mother, Peggy Kennon, and brother, Michael, of Waddell, Arizona; brother, David, of Houston, Texas; partners in life and love, Peter Lavina and Bob Hughes, of Salt Spring Island; friends around the world and his beloved cat family. He was truly a jack-of-all- trades and a master of many - an expert generalist and Renaissance man. During his life as a proudly self-proclaimed geek, Bobby was a technical wizard, an accomplished photographer and computer graphics artist, a master of all phases of home design and renovation, a competitive analyst for Compaq Computer, a cat whisperer extraordinaire and possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of automobiles both past and present. Bobby designed the poster commemorating NASA astronaut Mae Jemison's historic mission as the first African American woman to travel in space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on September 12, 1992. Dr. Jemison took the poster with her on the shuttle; and, upon her return, signed it and presented it to Bobby. He was loving, caring, totally unselfish with his time and talents and truly loved and lived life to the fullest. There is no way in this short space to detail Bobby's kindness, compassion, talents, accomplishments and zest for life; but these comments from two of his good friends are a fitting summary. "He was really one of a kind. I have never, never known anyone with his unwavering enthusiasm, his passion - his zeal and joy - his quest for knowledge - all of that and so sweet, loving, thoughtful and kind." "Bobby was truly a unique individual - so full of knowledge and ideas, yet so full of complete and profound compassion. We will miss his amazing and generous spirit deeply, and feel truly blessed to have known him." His family and friends extend a special thank you to Dr. Bobby Crichton and the nurses and staff of the Palliative Care Unit at Lady Minto Hospital for all their compassionate care and kindness. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Salt Spring branch of the BCSPCA. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

COMING EVENTS

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrology.com
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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) If you feel the need for and have any opportunity to get some extra rest or retreat this week, take it. With spring just a week away you will feel a new surge of energy begin to emerge. Yet, this week is probably best used to recharge. Quality time shared with friends might suffice. Yet, a solo and silent retreat that would allow you to contemplate, reflect and re-center is your best bet. **Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)** Whatever else you have done up to now or achieved, in certain respects you have been preparing the ground to implement plans that have been brewing for a long time. Over the coming months especially you will, drive and ambition will increase. Set clear boundaries, do not over give or over commit to others or expect too much from them. Just do it!
Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Whether you want, need, like it or not, you are getting extra attention now. All being well you want it and the time is also right to ask for recognition, favours and earned rewards. You are finally rising out of what may have felt like a foggy period. Now your visions and aspirations to realize a brighter future are coming to full force.
Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) A rather deep cycle continues. At best, you are feeling the call to restore your faith and vigour. This is a good time to listen more and speak less. You may feel needier than usual, more than you have for quite some time. Tending to home projects, hobbies, renovations and/or early spring cleaning may be just what you need.
Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) Tending to some of the deeper aspects of life continues. This includes rich exchanges of dialogue where realizations are shared. These have been brewing for many months, perhaps even years. Your ability to express your thoughts and feelings well enough so others understand you may require extra effort. Ask questions and invite feedback for best results.
Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Engaging with others in deep and meaningful ways is a likely theme of late. You mind focus is sharp and you are able to articulate your feelings more clearly. Yet unless your attitude is to share, give and serve with your thoughts and ideas versus tell in a merely factual manner, your communications will likely miss the mark. Aim to build rapport.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) Mixing work with play does have its merits some times, like now. For you play may mean socializing and/or engaging in creative and artistic activity. You may feel impatient with people and circumstances however, so make extra efforts to trust in and cooperate with the flow. At deeper levels, tending to your health and the related quality of your lifestyle is extra important.
Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) Your current focus is lingering somewhere between a creative review of past experiences and plans and ambitions for future action. Clearing, cleaning and setting unfinished business is likely. Creating a new working space is featured and may include mental and emotional states as much as shifts in the outer environment. Expect it to take a couple of weeks or so to catch-up.
Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) Reconnecting within to rediscover what you think, feel and believe continues. This includes deepening bonds with family. A lively time interacting with friends is also featured. Exchanges of thoughts and feelings regarding future plans are highlighted. These may still be in the dream stage. Yet, good ideas will be conceived. Pay attention and take note.
Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) A philosophical and reflective cycle continues. A deepened search for truth, meaning, purpose or at least for answers is featured. This trend will continue for a few weeks. Part of this quest includes a review and cultivation of your own talents and the prospects of accessing the skills and resources of others. But you may have to widen your scope to get what you need.
Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) Some new developments have begun amidst the completion phase of others. Yet, you may still be contending with lingering uncertainties. You may get the feeling that spring is delayed. This could produce frustrations. By mid-April latest you will enter a dynamic learning curve. Accept that this is all a foundation building phase which stands to stretch into early May.
Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) The feeling of spring thaw may be arriving early for you. You may wish the pace was slower. Yet, your ability to focus, manifest and get things done may feel slower these days so this early start can be seen to have advantages. Meanwhile, increasing your outreach to cooperate and collaborate with others is important and the timing looks good.

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

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



ROWING

Rowing club charts positive course

New site attracts recruits

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Less than a year after the Salt Spring Rowing Club faced the prospect of packing up its paddles, a wave of community support has set the club on pace for a promising future.

"We definitely have to thank the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Salt Spring Island Foundation, because without those grants we wouldn't be expanding," said Stacy Mitchell, who coaches the Gulf Islands Secondary School's rowing program.

"The equipment is just so expensive and fundraising hasn't really quite happened."

Improvements got underway in 2013 thanks to a \$5,000 PARC grant that enabled club members to have students from the high school's ACE-IT carpentry program build a much-needed dock for the club. More recently, the Salt Spring Foundation's \$3,000 contribution allowed the club to buy two used boats from a club in Victoria.

Perhaps the greatest coup of all, however, has been St. Mary Lake resident Ken Byron's assistance to end the club's long search for a place to call home.

"The individuals that we attract aren't necessarily ball-sport people."

STACY MITCHELL
Coach, GISS rowing team

"I wasn't going to ask because that would be too good to be true, but he came one day and said: 'You guys can start at our place,' so it's been wonderful," said Hans Stoffelsma, a member of the masters' rowing team.

Having to call ahead and coordinate schedules with owners of the group's previous water access site on the other side of



Rowers Maggie Birch and Jenna Dawson on St. Mary Lake.

PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

the lake discouraged many people from signing up. Now that club members have an established spot where they can come and go without disturbing the property's owners, rowers have the flexibility to train when they want.

There are even plans in the works to build a shelter for the boats, Mitchell added.

A surge of interest in the program is one result. The junior program, for example, has grown to a record-high of 28 high school students.

Mitchell said the activity is perfect for anyone who isn't so keen on team sports like soccer or basketball.

"The individuals that we attract aren't necessarily ball-sport people," Mitchell said. "They are the kind of kids who might want to come out and see what the learn-to-row course is all about. They don't have to commit to a full season, whereas swimming or soccer require paying up front."

Mitchell said rowing has enabled countless students, many of whom never considered themselves athletic, to develop and mature in many ways.

"I see the students three years down the

road and they're just healthy and strong," she added. "When we're in competition, I send them 45 minutes before the race and I don't see them until they come back. They're very independent on the water and have to get from start to finish on their own."

The club's youth program has reached capacity, but Mitchell and Stoffelsma look forward to expanding the club's adult program through a series of learn-to-row courses that will hopefully begin next month. For a \$100 course fee, prospective rowers can access the boats and receive professional instruction to see if rowing is for them.

The important thing, Stoffelsma added, is to introduce newcomers to a sport they might not otherwise have a chance to access.

"It's healthy because it's a non-impact sport that uses the whole body. It's a really fabulous sport for young and old," he added.

For more information about the learn-to-row program or the Salt Spring Island Rowing Club, contact Mitchell at smitchell@sd64.bc.ca.

RUNNING

Sneakers cruise into top 10 spot

Big turnout boosts point tally

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's enthusiastic and determined Sneakers running club has sprinted into eighth spot in the ongoing Vancouver Island Race Series.

Fifteen runners contributed 165 points to the team's season total at Sunday's Bazan Bay five-kilometre road race in Sidney. The race series brings together approximately 80 community running clubs from the Vancouver Island region.

"Big day for the Sneakers," said Lynn Thompson in his post-race report.

"Keep in mind that this is the toughest road race series in Canada and this particular race is the most competitive one of the series," he added. "Everyone did an amazing job on a great day for racing."

Marion Young, who completed the race in 23:48, continued an impressive streak that has seen her establish a personal best in every race this season.

Melanie Van Soeren crossed the finish line in 20:14, fast enough to capture a bronze medal in the F25-29 race category.

Andrew Haigh, 19:06, and Lise Fraser, 22:38, narrowly missed out on a medal in their respective age categories.

Other finishers were: Eric Van Soeren, 21:48; Marcia Jansen, 22:14; Conrad Nickels, 22:46; Gillian McConnell, 25:14; Chloe "birthday girl" Haigh, 26:21; Catherine Bennett, 26:47; Lynn Thompson, 28:01; Julie Van Soeren, 29:21; Donna Cloete, 29:25; Jelina Huth, 29:29; and Tanja Akerman, 29:31.

The previous week saw Bennett post a sterling 45:14 (chip time 44:56) for a fourth-place finish in her F60-64 category of the Hatley Castle 8K, earning 17 valuable points for the Sneakers in the Island Series. Her time was almost exactly the same as her time two years ago when the conditions weren't so cool and snowy.

The Sneakers' next race is the Comox Valley half marathon on Sunday, March 23.

SOCCER

Boys beat Duncan

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Old Boys built up an early lead and never looked back against Duncan on Sunday, earning a well-deserved 4-3 road victory.

In sharp contrast to so many of the team's matches this year, Salt Spring scored early with a goal from Sean Goddard. Charley Mayer padded the lead with two brilliant goals, according to team spokesperson Graham Tweddle.

"[He was] inches away from a third, which would have equaled his output for the previous five seasons," Tweddle wrote in a post-game report.

Duncan attempted a late comeback but was unable to catch up thanks to a final game-winning goal by scoring ace Mike McCormick.

The Old Boys will try to keep the winning streak in motion against Gordon Head this weekend.

In other soccer news, Westcastle SSFC is back on the pitch this weekend when it hosts Powell River Villa on Saturday afternoon at Portlock Park. Westcastle is only two points behind Powell River in the Vancouver Island Soccer League's Division 3A. A win could propel Salt Spring into fifth place. Kickoff is at 2:15 p.m.

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