



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 15 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

ALL SEWN UP: Salt Spring Guiding member Maddison Wesley-Plambeck ends her day of volunteering at the annual Island Comfort Quilts community quilting bee with a smile. Sunday's event at the Farmers' Institute saw 150 volunteers create 37 quilts and 30 carry bags for the program that gives quilts to islanders suffering from a life-threatening illness or injury.

MARINE RESCUE

Munneke plucked from ocean

New Zealand forces coordinate ocean rescue

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Art Munneke was the subject of a daring marine rescue operation that took place in the waters between Rarotonga and New Zealand on Monday. "He's all right, thank goodness. He's had a very close call," said Phil Grange, Munneke's friend and fellow member of the Salt Spring Sailing Club.

"I'm extremely relieved and thankful today. I'm just looking forward to having him home," added daughter Hanna Munneke.

According to a news release issued by the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, Munneke was alone on his 11-metre sloop, the single-masted yacht L'Antillaise, and in danger of sinking when he activated his emergency radio

beacon just after 10:30 a.m.

Munneke is an experienced sailor whose voyages included participating in the 4,300-kilometre Victoria-Maui Race in 2004 along with a crew of islanders aboard the White Cloud.

He was just completing more than a year of single-handing around the South

MUNNEKE continued on 2

WATERWORKS

NSSWD plant discussion set to flow

AGM features open house, Q&A and elections

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks trustees are preparing to pop the \$10-million question.

With plans for the district's long-anticipated water treatment facility set for their public debut at the district's AGM on April 15, NSSWD chair Denis Russell said he anticipates moving ahead with a counter-petition process within weeks.

"We have to do something, we've been ordered by [Island Health]," he said.

In March, the NSSWD initiated an extensive public education campaign about the new treatment plant. Russell said the response to a series of newspaper advertisements on the topic has been encouraging.

"We haven't heard anything negative," he said.

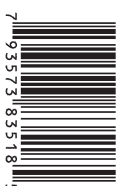
Approximately 2,000 property owners in the NSSWD will be eligible to participate in the counter-petition process. The bylaw will fail if more than 10 per cent of registered voters sign the petition. Failure to have the bylaw adopted, Russell added, could lead Island Health to force the district into compliance.

The cost to each property owner in the district is estimated to be between \$350 and \$400 per year, with more details to come.

NSSWD staff and board members invite the public to take a look at the new treatment plant plans between 5 and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15 at the Community Gospel Chapel (147 Vesuvius Bay Rd). A short presentation on the design will begin at 6 p.m. A question-and-answer period will follow.

The AGM, which gets underway at 7 p.m., will feature the election of a new board member. Don Hodgins and incumbent Bob Watson are vying for a single spot on the board.

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Carrier rescues islander in high seas

MUNNEKE
continued from 1

Pacific and was about to head north on route to Tahiti and Hawaii when his yacht was struck by a powerful storm of up to 70 knots. The boat rolled twice, and while Munneke escaped with lacerations to the face, L'Antillaise suffered more serious damage. He spent the next five days trying to get the jump on the leaks.

"The skipper had been hand-bailing since the storm, but when the bilge pump failed he could no longer keep up with the water. At that stage he activated the EPIRB," said RCCNZ Search and Rescue mission coordinator Dave Wilson in a statement.

Grange, who has received several emails from Munneke since his rescue, said his friend had been able to motor for part of that period but had to give up when a second storm came in.

"There was no question the skipper was in serious danger."

DAVE WILSON
RCCNZ Search and Rescue mission coordinator

"I'm imagining he would have become exhausted . . . You have to hold on even to

perform the smallest tasks [in rough weather]," Grange said. Munneke was still 2,300 kilometres north-east of Auckland when RNZAF picked up his signal and sent a P3 Orion surveillance aircraft to investigate. The 238-metre Fidelio, a car-carrier freighter on route to Auckland, was directed to divert course 370 kms to rendezvous with the plane.

The Orion arrived on scene and communicated with Munneke by radio at about 4:30 p.m., but had to leave to refuel on Rarotonga. It would be another six and a half hours before the Fidelio would reach the remote location.

The seas were rough with 45-km winds and swells of

two to three metres while the ship manoeuvred to allow Munneke to access the pilot ladder just before midnight.

"There was no question the skipper was in serious danger," Wilson said.

"The crew of the Orion did a great job finding the yacht, and it was an amazing effort from the master and crew of the Fidelio to rescue the skipper at night, in high winds and rough seas."

Munneke was continuing on to Auckland aboard the Fidelio and was expected to arrive there on Thursday. Since he had to abandon his vessel he will cut short his plans to sail home by fall and will likely be back on Salt Spring next week.

FIRE-RESCUE

Vesuvius dryer fire trauma averted

Dryer maintenance reminder provided

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Quick action by Salt Spring Fire-Rescue last week brought an end to a potentially lethal situation at a Vesuvius Bay Road residence where a dryer caught fire.

Homeowner Sally Cole was at work on her computer on March 31 when she turned around to see smoke coming from the dryer. She opened the door, but the situation only got worse with more smoke and a strong smell of melting electrical wires, so she immediately called 911.

"Apparently it was the right thing to call them," said Cole, who was still shaken by the experience one week later. "It went from a quiet morning at the computer to absolute hysteria . . . I have to say, hearing the sirens coming down the road was one of the best sounds I've ever heard."

Firefighters pulled the smoking dryer out of the home. Friends and neighbours arrived just on their heels, fire extinguishers in hand, and Cole's husband Richard Kelly came home from work shortly after.

"The occupant did all the right things. She turned off the power to the appliance, she called 911 and she grabbed an extinguisher," said SSFR Capt. Jamie Holmes.

"It's just amazing how quickly your life can change in a minute," Cole said, noting a fire could have spread quickly from the dryer into the walls and from there into the rest of the house.

Salt Spring appliance repairman Sam Anderson, who inspected Cole's dryer after the fire, found it was the plug that malfunctioned and caught on fire. Anderson said normally it would have burned itself out due to the fire retardant plastic, but that fire ignited lint inside the machine.

"It could have been a disaster. There's a lot of homes that have burned down because of dryer fires," he said.

Cole bought her dryer second-hand last year but has found it to be a high-quality machine so far. However, she wasn't aware that lint can combust.

"Who knew. I just thought it's a dryer. It's a time bomb," she said.

Capt. Jamie Holmes said often it's lint that gets caught in the venting duct that is the con-

cern, especially in older models or those that use retractable piping through the wall, such as Cole's.

"We actually don't get a ton of [dryer fires], which is good," Holmes said.

"Nowadays a more rigid pipe is used so there's no edges for the lint to get caught in, so that's helped lessen the amount of problems we see."

"It's just amazing how quickly your life can change in a minute."

SALLY COLE
Vesuvius resident

However, Anderson recommends semi-regular cleaning inside the mechanics by a professional because even lint inside the regular part of the dryer can be an issue.

According to Anderson, a good guideline is "once every year or every 18 months, depending on how many kids and dogs you have."

"It's good preventative maintenance anyway, because then you can see if anything is going on inside," he added.

"Lint is really the perfect kindling — it's little particles of highly combustible material in the perfect format for combustion. It's even more flammable than gasoline," said Lt. Mitchell Sherrin, a member of SSFR's inspection and prevention team. Holmes said Cole did the right thing to call in the fire department rather than trying to solve the problem herself or waiting a while to see what happened, and avoided a potentially dangerous situation by doing so.

"It's always safer to give us a call. If we're not needed we can always turn around and go back. That's why we're here — we've got the equipment and the training," he said.

For her part, Cole couldn't be happier with the response from emergency crews.

"I was just so glad they came," she said. "They were just wonderful. We're a really lucky island to have them here."

In other SSFR news, this week crews attended to a propane leak, assisted ambulance paramedics at six medical calls, responded to a burning complaint and investigated a false alarm for a structure fire that proved to be a smoke column viewed from a concerned resident in Cobble Hill.



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TRANSIT

Salt Spring celebrates another milestone for transit

Over 100,000 passengers this year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Transit executives and Salt Spring officials congregated outside the island's visitor centre on Friday morning to celebrate another record in ridership.

Island resident Peggy Mackenzie took honours as the 100,000th passenger of the year, with total ridership exceeding that number this fiscal year for the first time. With rapidly rising figures ever since the public system was first established six years ago, there was more than enough reason for congratulations.

"On Salt Spring you've done an amazing job to embrace transit and really make it part of your community," BC Transit CEO and president Manual Achadinha said during his speech. "A lot of people don't think transit works in small communities. Salt Spring is an example of how transit can work."

Ridership on Salt Spring buses exceeded BC Transit's projections in the first year of operation by 56 per cent, and the number of passenger boardings dou-

bled between 2008/09 and 2013/14. Achadinha noted the importance of local government support for such success stories, and added he hoped to see the figures double again at the end of another six years.

Other thanks came from Salt Spring's CRD director Wayne McIntyre, who acknowledged the work of one of his predecessors, Gary Holman, to get the initial funding. Holman now serves as the MLA for Saanich North and the Gulf Islands. McIntyre also thanked service provider Ineke de Jong and her stable of friendly bus drivers and the members of the Salt Spring Transportation Commission.

Mackenzie, who received a bouquet of flowers and other gifts for her part in the success story, has lived on the island for only four years and was surprised to find the amenity in place.

"I didn't expect the bus was going to be here and I'm just thankful," she said. "It's exceeded my expectations."

"It's a wonderful service and we're lucky to have it," agreed Peter Grove, one of two representatives of the Local Trust Committee.

Salt Spring's good news on bus service has been met with frustration by some,



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN (ABOVE) AND JEN MACLELLAN.

Above, Peggy Mackenzie disembarks as the 100,000th passenger to take Salt Spring transit this year. At right, BC Transit marketing coordinator Kealey Pringle looks over public input gathered at the Saturday Market.

however, as the transportation commission has gradually worked to build up service from mainly meeting the ferry arrivals to reaching further parts of the island. SSITC increased the transit portion of its tax requisition last year in order to lease buses and continue to grow the service area.

A BC Transit service review is underway this year to consider other improvements and needs. Some of the specific opportunities to be evaluated include service to new areas such as Beddis Road and Cedar Lane, summer service to Ruckle Park,

enhanced evening service, and increased service to Long Harbour and Cusheon Lake roads. Service options for people with disabilities will also be examined.

Anyone who missed supplying information to transit staff at the Saturday Market over the weekend can fill out an online survey. A stakeholders' meeting by invitation is also planned for this month.

More information on the process can be found at BC Transit's website under Transit Future - Salt Spring Island.



BC Transit 2014 service review for Salt Spring

Access the online survey at <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/SSIServiceReview2014/>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hospital hampers return

Islanders have the chance to win some impressive gift baskets while supporting the BC Children's Hospital's annual fundraising campaign.

Employees at the CIBC branch in Ganges have put together a range of pack-

ages that will be given away in draws between April 17 and the end of June.

Hampers have been designed along themes of Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. A special children's basket will also be awarded in June.

CIBC staff thank Cedar Mountain Studio, Thrifty Foods, Pharmasave, West of the Moon and the Island Variety Store for generous contributions.

Tickets for the draws are available at CIBC for \$2.

Byers makes shortlist

Salt Spring author Michael Byers is among five Canadians in the running for a prestigious literary prize that recognizes exceptional public policy writing.

The Donner Prize jury calls Byers' International Law in the Arctic book an "accessible but

thoroughly comprehensive analysis of issues in the Arctic, written with passion and deep knowledge of the subject."

Byers holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at the University of British Columbia and is well known to many on the island for his work with the Salt Spring Forum.

The winner of this year's \$50,000 award will be announced on April 30.

Lucian gets dental work

Staff and volunteers at Salt Spring's SPCA have exceeded a fundraising goal to provide crucial dental surgery for a feline in need.

"We did it," said Sean Hogan, branch manager of the island's SPCA.

As of Monday, islanders had contributed \$1,200 to help Lucian recover from a

serious case of tooth decay. Funds in excess of the surgery's \$700 cost will be used to help other cats in need.

"We thank the community for stepping up and dropping off donations for Lucian," Hogan said. "It has been a marvellous way to connect our BCSPCA with the Salt Spring community that cares so much for animals."

Lucian's surgery is scheduled for Thursday.

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SOLID WASTE

Gabriolans blast incineration plan

Fallout could reach Salt Spring

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Debate is heating up over a proposed waste incineration facility at Duke Point, fewer than 30 kilometres from Salt Spring's Southey Point. "One of the things that really hasn't been highlighted enough is the impact across the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound airshed," said Carla Stein, a Sierra Club BC member from Nanaimo. "The airshed extends from Campbell River to Seattle. What you

put in the airshed stays in the airshed. It's not like it's going to stay in Nanaimo; what impacts Nanaimo will affect everyone in the airshed."

Duke Point is among six sites touted for a waste incineration facility that will burn 370,000 tonnes of garbage from the Metro Vancouver area annually. Opponents want Nanaimo City Council to nix the proposal, citing the potential for irreversible consequences on nearby communities.

Stein said people in the area are worried about health effects of furans, dioxins and particulate matter associated with garbage incineration. Property

values, she added, could drop anywhere between 10 and 40 per cent as a direct result of the facility.

Nearly 8,000 people have signed a petition that calls upon Nanaimo City Council to trash the idea. About 2,000 of those signatures belong to residents of Gabriola Island, which is about one kilometre from Duke Point.


"Failing to oppose a waste incineration site there would violate several fundamental principles and policies of our guiding documents and local plans," wrote David Graham, chair of Gabriola's Local Trust Committee, in a 2013 letter sent

to the City of Nanaimo. "The Gabriola LTC is concerned about the negative effects of toxic fly ash, odour and diminished air quality on the ecology and residents of the Gabriola Island Trust Area."

A spokesperson for the Canadian Waste Incineration Society was not available for comment.

Stein said the Sierra Club and other groups affiliated with burningissuesnanaimo.ca will host several events on Friday, April 11 to raise awareness about the waste incineration project. Nanaimo City Councilors will consider a motion to oppose the plan on April 14.

Capital Regional District



Local Utility Operator - Team Leader

The Local Utility Operator - Team Leader provides operational coordination and oversight for operations and maintenance related to components of wastewater treatment and collection systems; water treatment and distribution systems for a number of service areas owned and operated by the Capital Regional District on Salt Spring Island. This position provides supervision, guidance and direction and works directly to ensure the efficient operation, inspection and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment facilities, pumping stations, wastewater collection systems and water distribution systems, and machinery and related equipment.

For complete job description and qualifications, please visit www.crd.bc.ca

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ISLANDS TRUST

LTC to consider metal recycling application

Options abound for TUP decision

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An Islands Trust staff report recommends trustees "proceed no further" with a temporary use permit that would keep Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling open for business.

The April 3 report coincides with news that neither the Trust's Advisory Planning Commission nor the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure support the proposal.

A letter from MoTI that accompanies the staff report states business owner John Quesnel was asked to cease operations in 2008 because access to the site was deemed "illegal and generating a significant safety hazard."

"A commercial access permit has not been permitted for this property," wrote Jordan Wagner of the MoTI in response to the application.

The staff report states 19 of 21 letters sent to the local Islands Trust office are from islanders who oppose any decision that would allow the business to continue operation at 440 Rainbow Rd.

Quesnel and multiple incarnations of the island's Local Trust Committee have spent nearly a decade trying to resolve the business' conflict with the land-use bylaws.

Despite the report's recommendation to nix the proposal, alternative options include approval to give Quesnel time to relocate his business or "meet jurisdictional requirements" on the current site, or consider approval of an alternate proposal that would enable use of a two-bay repair shop.

The TUP application is for a 60-day permit, yet the staff report notes "subsequent investigation and review of practice" encouraged significant changes to the original proposal.

Sixty days, the report states, is considered an "unreasonable amount of time for consideration of the matter." As an alternative, staff suggests, "The LTC may see more merit in either a one-year or three-year period for the permit."

Changes to the TUP's wording since February include addition of a new use for the service and repair of vehicles at the site, increased frequency of compacting from once every six months to once every one to three months, not working on statutory holidays and deletion of a requirement to give neighbours at least seven days notice before any metal compaction occurs.

The application will be discussed after the afternoon town hall session of Thursday's LTC meeting that starts at noon at Lions Hall.

A morning session begins at 9:30.

Advertising Deadlines Changes

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be **closed on Friday, April 18 - Good Friday** - and will reopen for usual business hours on Monday, April 21.

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday April 23 edition will be as follows:

- DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE: **Thurs. April 17, 12 noon**
- CLASSIFIED DISPLAY DEADLINE: **Mon. April 21, 4 pm**
- CLASSIFIED WORD DEADLINE: **Tues. April 22, 9:30 am**



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PASSENGER FERRIES

Survey tests inter-island appetite

Passenger ferry considered for affordable island link

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District wants islanders to spare a few moments for a plan that could change the course of inter-island travel.

Anyone who's travelled within the Gulf Islands is undoubtedly familiar with the scheduling contortions and round-about routes required to complete such a journey.

In a bid to ease that logisti-

cal nightmare, the CRD has teamed up with chambers of commerce and economic development organizations from Salt Spring, North and South Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna to canvass opinions about the prospect of better inter-island transportation options.

"One way of strengthening the local economy is through growing inter-island commerce," said John Tylee, chair of the Salt Spring Island Economic Development Commission. "The BC Ferries service does not make this easy and a private inter-island service might make it easier. The sur-

vey is to determine the demand for inter-island passenger ferry service—a prerequisite for creating the service."

Proposed routes mentioned in the service include a passenger-only inter-island service between Salt Spring and the outer islands, as well as a route between the islands and Sidney on Vancouver Island.

A dependable passenger ferry service would facilitate the sale of Salt Spring crafts and produce on other islands, and promote more opportunities for inter-island tourism.

"The benefits of an inter-island passenger service are not just economic, but are

social and personal as well," Tylee said. "Many people have friends and relatives on other islands that they could visit far more easily and quickly with an inter-island service than at present."

The 10-minute survey asks participants to estimate where they would likely access an inter-island passenger ferry, how often they would use it, why they would use the service, how much they'd be willing to pay, and what schedules best suit their needs. Comments and opinions are also encouraged. The survey can be filled out online at www.crd.bc.ca/watertaxi.

ROADS

Ruckle holes get filled

Maintenance work precedes tourist season

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Drivers who have gotten used to dodging potholes deep enough to swallow one of the resident turkeys or sheep on the road through Ruckle Park can expect to give their suspension a break soon.

"We are filling the holes with 3/4 crush road fill, both in the dirt ring road and paved section. And once the weather warms up we will fill the holes with cold patch for a more lasting solution," said Debbie King of K2 Park Services, which manages the facility under contract with BC Parks.

"I have begun filling the holes this week and I expect to have most of them filled this weekend. We will need to order some more fill soon."

King explained that K2 staff will meet with BC Parks to go over a list of maintenance needs for all the provincial parks the company manages in the Gulf Islands. That list will include numerous issues such as fencing, outhouse repairs, tent pads and group shelter roofing.

While the road that leads through Ruckle is an ongoing concern, repairs don't start taking place until the worst of the winter rains have ended. That usually leaves enough time to fill the holes before the real start of the tourist season at the end of June.

Anyone with specific comments or complaints is welcome to send them to k2parks@shaw.ca. The management passes all comments on to BC Parks.

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Meet Our 2014 Trustee Candidates

The ratepayers of North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be electing one Trustee for a three year term at the AGM on Tuesday, April 15th from 7:00 to 9:00. In their own words, here are the Candidates:

BOB WATSON, P ENG, MS

I am a retired engineer. I managed the operation of many Ontario Government water and sewage works from 1970 to 1993. I was the public health engineer for several BC Health Authorities during 1993 to 2004, focusing on water quality risk and treatment adequacy assessments at waterworks, and working with consulting engineers to resolve waterworks problems.

On Salt Spring, I served on Islands Trust water committees during OCP reviews, the APC, and our 2000-03 governance study. I helped prepare the St Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan. I've been a member of Water Council since its inception.

I have been a North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustee since 1996. I've conducted informal long range capital works, water supply, and climate and hydrology studies. I refined the District's water sampling and monitor water quality trends in our lakes and waterworks.

Our source water quality and terrain make it challenging to operate and maintain the District's waterworks and six other small waterworks. Thankfully we have great staff, capable and justifiably proud of their work.

I feel honoured as a trustee and wish to continue to contribute my knowledge and experience.

DON HODGINS

My name is Don Hodgins, and I've been a water user in North Salt Spring Waterworks District since the summer of 1980. Back then I'd recently finished post-doctoral studies in Europe, and just been hired as the first employee of an environmental consulting start-up company. Eventually, I became Seasconsult's major shareholder, and established offices in Vancouver, Sidney, St. John's and Halifax. The company specialized in environmental data acquisition and analysis in support of numerical and statistical modelling of ocean phenomena—particularly waves and tides, currents, and sediment and effluent transport. Clients included resource industries, the Canadian Coast Guard, the CRD and Metro Vancouver.

Since semi-retiring in 2002, I've devoted a lot of energy to artistic endeavours, through the SSI Painters' Guild and as a board member of the Federation of Canadian Artists. Since my appointment to the Technical Advisory Committee of the Salt Spring Island Watersheds Protection Authority (SSIWPA), I've learned a great deal about St. Mary Lake, and gained a good appreciation for the Waterworks role in lake stewardship and remediation strategy. As a Trustee I can bring a fresh perspective to the board, based on more than 30 years of professional civil engineering practice in water resources, project management, and corporate and applied research administration.

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OPINION



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 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)

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 Silver - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence
 Bronze - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Ad Campaign, Collaborative (Leanne Brunelle)



EDITORIAL

Testing the waters

Results from the Driftwood's April 2 question of the week show nearly 66 per cent of respondents would support a boycott of BC Ferries.

It's not the most scientific of polls, yet its 106 participants reinforce the sense that islanders have had their fill of ferry fare increases and service cuts.

Salt Spring Islanders dodged a bullet in the latest round of cuts, but the fare increases continue and there's a strong sense that BC Ferries hasn't finished its search for efficiencies.

Getting enough people to boycott the ferry system on a mutually agreed-upon day of the week is a lot harder than it sounds. Implementing a convenient affordable alternative is the perfect solution to any islanders' woes.

THE ISSUE:
Inter-island connections

WE SAY:
Time is right for passenger service

An online survey being conducted by the Capital Regional District is laying the groundwork for just such a service. By answering a series of questions about routes, price tolerance and usage, prospective users can give CRD staff the raw data

that could lead to the creation of a passenger-only ferry service within the Gulf Islands and Sidney on Vancouver Island.

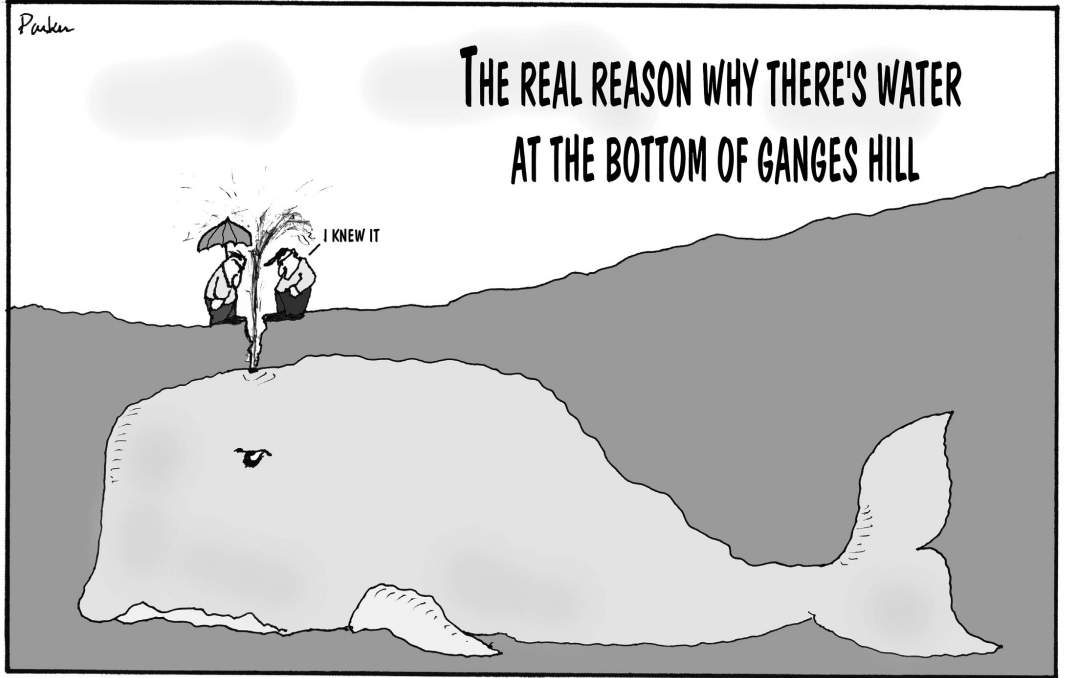
BC Ferries will always play an important role in the lives of people who live on the coast. A passenger-only ferry would, however, complement existing service by bringing islands like Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, North and South Pender, and Saturna closer together.

These islands share so many bonds. We are linked on social, political, economic and cultural levels, yet ferry scheduling often makes an inter-island trip feel like a major expedition.

Initiatives such as Experience the Gulf Islands and Island Futures have already done much to create stronger ties between island communities and a passenger ferry service could do so much more to strengthen the region and enrich the lives of those who live here and visit.

Taking the time to fill out the CRD's brief questionnaire can be more effective than any boycott since it will deliver a message that islanders are prepared to take action towards realistic alternatives that challenge the status quo.

The survey is available at www.crd.bc.ca/watertaxi.



VIEWPOINT by Makaroff family

Family supports conservancy work

The old logging roads that the Salt Spring Island Conservancy has just decommissioned run through the lots that our family recently donated, as well as two adjacent strips that we still own.

These roads have provided easy access up, down, and across the mountainside, and we and numerous others have spent many enjoyable hours hiking on them. Unfortunately, in recent years, the increasing use of off-road vehicles has resulted in illegal logging, degradation of trails through creation of water-channelling ruts and destruction of fragile wetland areas.

The wetland areas are of particular concern, because although small in relative area, they provide many ecological benefits. They contribute greatly to biodiversity, providing important habitat (food, shelter, space) for all kinds of plants and animals. As well, they play a role in slowing the flow of water, so that it percolates through the soil, making it available to the surrounding forest plants, instead of rushing over the surface increasing erosion.

So this increased vehicle traffic is causing problems. What to do? It seems there is not a simple solution. Evidently, to date interventions by hikers have not been successful in addressing the problem. Gates in nearby areas have been destroyed or circumvented. Farther up the mountain, digging up a short section resulted in new vehicle trails that linked up with the remainder of the road. These are some of the considerations that the conservancy discussed with us while outlining their plan for decommissioning a long section of road.

It is true that carrying out this plan has had the effect of impeding walking as well as vehicle access. The area has been changed, and we and others have a painful sense of loss. This loss is undoubtedly also

felt by the all-terrain vehicle and bike riders, many of whom have been responsible and respectful in the past.

The disturbed mounds of soil and debris are unsightly, and may even result in some erosion until revegetation occurs. Some areas may need planting or other interventions as well. Disturbances always carry the possibility of spread of invasive plants. These are the risks and results of digging up the road.

On the other hand, nature has a way of healing from disturbance, if it is not ongoing and repeated. The problem with allowing vehicle use of the area is that the continual and cumulative effects make recovery difficult or impossible. The road work is a one-time disruption which in time will be covered in vegetation. Hopefully, we will also find ways of restoring our enjoyment of walking through this special forest.

The SSIC implemented this strategy of decommissioning roads in order to rehabilitate the lands under their care. We appreciate their mandate and commitment to conserve and protect these lands. Obviously, there are others who disagree with their solution, in this case, to the problem of unrestricted vehicle access causing environmental damage.

This is not an isolated problem, and there are other sensitive areas that continue to suffer negative impacts from vehicle use. Maybe more discussion, creative problem-solving and experimentation are needed. It's possible that other options could be investigated, but these may require considerable energy, community commitment and financial resources.

The above piece was submitted by Joan Makaroff, Ruth Makaroff, Sylvia Makaroff and Sonya Makaroff.

It seems there is not a simple solution.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do we need an inter-islands water taxi service? Yes No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Would you support a boycott of BC Ferries?

NO	36
YES	70

Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Who knew. I just thought it's a dryer. It's a time bomb."

SALLY COLE, VESUVIUS RESIDENT WHOSE DRYER CAUGHT FIRE

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
How would you make Salt Spring a safer place?



SAM KRIZAN
I think it's safe. Just trust in humanity.



JOSE BUSTILLO
It is pretty safe but more policing in the downtown area is needed.



GLORIA DORWORTH
I would recommend that people lock the doors on their cars and homes.



LUISA MAFFI
I think the RCMP should go after all the known drug dealers.



TAYLORE CARSON
Salt Spring would feel like a kinder place if the police weren't wearing those bulletproof vests all the time.

Letters to the editor

Boycott won't help

I am responding to last week's "Time for a ferry economic boycott" Viewpoint by Stan Dereliani and Curt Firestone.

Although I share the sense of frustration of the authors with regards to the intransigence of the provincial government on the issues of astronomical fare increases and simultaneous service reductions, the suggestion to boycott ancillary services such as the food and retail services is no solution.

There are three principle sources of revenue for BC Ferries: the fares, the revenue from ancillary services

and the financial support from the province, some of which originates with the federal government. As the province has refused to fund its share beyond the current level, any reduction in ancillary service revenue simply puts more pressure on the third source — fares. If the provincial government has turned a deaf ear to the coastal Ferry Advisory Committees, the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs (FACC), the regional district chairs and, most of all, the ferry-using public at the various "consultations" and protests, then it is highly doubtful that boycotting a small number of concessionaires to try to force them to pres-

sure the government will have any success.

The problems at the coastal ferry service are essentially financial and economic but the solutions are largely political. Although there is more scope for cost reductions at BC Ferries, in the long term the solution to the revenue side depends on the recognition of the provincial government of its financial responsibilities to this essential transportation service. Reducing revenue from ancillary services will simply force fares higher in the short term.

Incidentally, the contracted "on-board massage services" the authors are suggesting be boycotted were,

in fact, discontinued about a year ago. The food services etc. are profitable and employ crew members who are required to be on board according to federal Department of Transport requirements.

HAROLD SWIERENGA,
CHAIR, SALT SPRING FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Garbage plan stinks

I am writing from Gabriola Island to let Salt Spring Islanders know of the fact that Duke Point in Nanaimo has been sited as a possibility for the building of an incinerator that will burn nearly 400,000 tonnes of

Metro Vancouver's garbage annually.

This will affect not only our air but yours. The burning of garbage in this way turns what was formerly non-toxic waste into hazardous waste that deposits itself in nano particles across the airshed in a 50-kilometre circle around Nanaimo. It then precipitates into the soil and water. The building of this incinerator would be a seriously toxic threat to the quality of our air and our environment.

Nanaimo City Council is meeting on April 14 to vote on a motion tabled by councillor Diane Brennan to say no to an incinerator at Duke Point.

As part of a group working to support her motion, we would appreciate it if those of you who are concerned could write a one or two-line email before April 14 to Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan and each of the councillors saying that we do not want an incinerator at Duke Point.

More information and the relevant email addresses can be found on the websites burningissuesnanaimo.ca and dukepointstinks.org.

Thank you all for your support of this issue.

JAKI DEER,
GABRIOLA ISLAND

MORE LETTERS continued on 11

Timeline crushes local government credibility

It's easy to see validity to arguments on all sides when it comes to the Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling land-use dispute.

A complete shutdown, a rezoning possibility on that site, or relocation and rezoning elsewhere have understandably been urged with vigour. But what is almost impossible to comprehend is how a situation like this can carry on for eight years through three different local Trust committees, burn up untold public resources and still be pretty much where it was at the beginning.

As another Salt Spring LTC considers whether or not to issue a temporary use permit for metal recycling at 440 Rainbow Rd. on Thursday (although the decision could be bumped ahead by a month due to a "technical" glitch,) i.e. someone screwed up), I offer a condensed timeline of events.

Jan. 2006: Islands Trust receives first complaint about industrial use of 440 Rainbow Rd., a split-zoned residential/agricultural property, by Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling, a business owned and operated by John Quesnel.

Nov. 2006: Islands Trust bylaw enforcement staff ask Quesnel to cease operations, apply to rezone the property or take other steps to operate legally.

Sept. 2007: Quesnel applies for a temporary use permit that would have authorized a solid waste transfer station on the site.

Feb. 2008: TUP is denied by Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members George Ehring, Peter Lamb and Kim Benson. While the transfer

station TUP was denied, trustees said "if the applicant can bring a different proposal to the LTC that has the support of the neighbours, the LTC would hear it." Trust staff are tasked with helping find a way for the business to continue.

July 2008: LTC authorizes court action to shut down the operation and requests Islands Trust legal funds to pay for it.

November 2008: Court action initiated against SSIMR, ordering the cessation of all "commercial salvage use" activities within 30 days unless a defence is filed.

June 2010: Islands Trust bylaw investigation officer tells LTC meeting that no legal proceedings have occurred because the Trust wants to give Quesnel an opportunity to find an alternative location for his metal recycling business.

March 2011: Trust CAO Linda Adams summarizes issues in a Driftwood article, stating that a June 2011 court date has been set to determine if Quesnel's activities on the site are lawful or not.

May 2011: Court action is adjourned pending the outcome of a rezoning application "to permit industrial and affordable housing uses" submitted by Quesnel.

Nov. 2011: A rezoning application is referred to Islands Trust and CRD advisory groups for comment, and a progress report about sound



Gail Sjuberg

OTHER WISE

mitigation measures is commissioned for a January 2012 meeting. Trustees Christine Torgrimson and chair Sheila Malcolmson vote to keep the application alive. Trustee Ehring opposes the motion.

Jan. 2012: A Trust staff report recommends rejecting the rezoning application, but new trustees Peter Grove and George Grams speak for giving Quesnel and the Islands Trust

a year to find a solution. Staff are asked to help find an alternate location for Quesnel's business.

June 2012: LTC members place Quesnel's rezoning application in abeyance to let Trust staff assess the scope of implementing recommendations made in the 2009 Industrial Task Force report.

Nov. 2012: An Industrial Advisory Planning Commission is created to make recommendations to the LTC that will ensure Salt Spring has sufficient commercial and industrial land for the next 25 years, and to create an industrial lands needs assessment.

Jan. 2013: A Trust staff report recommends the LTC proceed no further with the SSIMR rezoning application. The LTC instead instructs Trust staff to prepare a draft bylaw that would include adequate noise mitigation measures for the operation. They also request that the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce consider "facilitating a meeting with industrial and business stakeholders to propose

solutions that would facilitate the ongoing operations of SSIMR in a legal manner." That process did not take place.

March 2013: The LTC votes for the rezoning application to proceed no further, with Grove and Malcolmson on the same side and Grams in opposition. The decision means litigation against SSIMR initiated in 2008 can be resumed.

Sept. 2013: Court action is avoided when the LTC and Quesnel sign a consent order in which Quesnel agrees to stop "rebuilding vehicles and crushing or dismantling vehicles, vehicle parts, appliances or scrap metal" on the site. Other parts of the operation are allowed to continue on condition that a TUP is applied for by Oct. 31, 2013.

Feb. 2014: A TUP application is accepted and referred to various provincial and local government agencies for comment. The main difference from previous proposals is that vehicles and metal would be crushed using a compactor, considered a less noisy method than excavator use, and the number of crushing dates would be stipulated.

A story in this issue of the paper provides the latest news about the TUP application. After Thursday there will be still more to report.

"Only on Salt Spring," we like to say about heartwarming incidents.

The same phrase, unfortunately, applies to this torturous land-use saga.

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Conservancy supports hiking on trails

BY DAVID PAINE

I am a board member of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and also a Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club member, the latter of which I am not an official spokesperson.

I am writing to help clear up misunderstandings about access by hikers to the new Makaroff Nature Reserve. ("Musgrave users decry trail loss," April 2 Driftwood.)

There are three main points I want to make:

- 1) the value that SSIC places on welcoming hikers on its reserves;
- 2) the problem of the Makaroff property having no legal land access; and
- 3) the need to decommission an old logging road that leads through private property to the Makaroff land.

SSIC is committed to allowing hikers on reserves if legal land access can be obtained. SSIC values hiking so that people can observe and appreciate

the natural beauty of these reserves, and the presence of hikers can act as a deterrent to illegal activities.

Hiking occurs on all six of the other SSIC reserves, plus Creekside Rainforest (not owned by SSIC but procured through its support). An example is Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve, which has well-marked trails that are networked with those at adjacent PARC-managed Bryant Hill Park as well as the Peter Arnell connector trail. There is an upcoming Trail and Nature Club hike in the Andreas Vogt reserve on April 15.

The Makaroff property currently has no legal access via land. A problem with Salt Spring's current patchwork of trails in provincial parks, PARC lands, Crown properties and SSIC-owned reserves is the need for access through

adjoining private property. There are hopes for a cross-island trail system, and this will involve a great deal of negotiating and cooperation with private property owners.

Each reserve and conservation agreement is unique. The Makaroff agreement allows for the current level of use by neighbours walking on unofficial, undeveloped trails on the property. The agreement forbids trespass by motorized vehicles.

Some are asking why a decision was made to decommission a logging road on the Makaroff site. Many old logging roads are injurious to surrounding lands, because of drainage and erosion issues.

Damage is exacerbated by illegal activities such as mud-bogging, poaching of trees for firewood and lumber, and campfires. All of these deleterious activities have been observed and

documented on this land.

The Ecological Gift Program, through which this land was donated by the Makaroff family to SSIC, requires ecological restoration of the property and measures taken to avoid damage in the future.

In conclusion, SSIC is a strong supporter of hiking on its reserves, while observing the details of each unique conservation agreement. Although the Makaroff property currently does not have legal land access, the current arrangement of allowing neighbours to hike on the site is continuing.

Finally, SSIC's primary mandate is to preserve and restore an ecological balance on its reserves, and this sometimes involves the elimination of old, improperly constructed logging roads.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island Conservancy board member and spokesperson on this issue.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Many gorgeous spring flowers to all who supported Focus on Women: A Celebration. Thank you for attending the events, for volunteering, for contributing goods and services to help make the March celebration successful and to support the Salt Spring Public Library's art program. Enjoy the exhibition at the library throughout April.

Roses on our paddles for Daniel Morgan of Harbour's End Marine for donating anti-foul paint for our dragonboat. The bottom has been painted and launched and we look forward to a season of smooth paddling. Spirit Point Dragons

I want to send a dozen roses to Simon from Salt Spring Fire-Rescue, who stopped on the evening of March 25 and helped me when I had car troubles. It was very appreciated. Thank you a ton!

We would like to send a red, red rose of thanks to the firefigh-

ers — heroes, all — who came to our rescue last Monday when our dryer burst into flames. One firefighter told me that fires increase exponentially so quickly that seconds can make all the difference between total engulfment of flames and the firefighters taking care of the problem quickly and standing down. Our thanks, eternally, to these brave, wonderful "Battlers of the Blaze." You truly are heroes in every sense of the word. Bless you, with all our heart. Sally Cole and Robert Kelly

A big bouquet of Kenyan roses to Robbie and Margaret for plowing my long driveway and to Meron and Todd for getting me to the ferry on time. Lynda

Rosy posies and a big thank you to Tara, Chris and Marilyn, Rama and Ashton, Mark LeCorre and the community of Salt Spring Island for helping to make Tom Gossett's celebration of life so special! The family

The Salt Spring

Island SPCA wishes to extend armfuls of fragrant and divine roses to all its volunteers and staff who serve in countless ways the needs of animals on Salt Spring Island. We could not have provided the nearly 3,000 hours of animal care to cats in our shelter, kittens in foster homes, dogs at doggie daycare, and the time spent on investigations, advocacy and education. A big hug, chocolate and roses to each of you for your many kindnesses. Sean Hogan, branch manager

Pop-up bright yellow roses to all who plant daffodil bulbs. Makes spring an even happier time! Thank you!

Roses forever for all of you who generously donated to my Share-spring account. I had my surgery on Feb. 17 and am now in my third week of physio. Thank you for helping me with that part of my recovery. Dozens of roses for all of you who have phoned, sent cards and flowers, come for visits and taken me for lunch.

You've really showed me support and friendship. I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks. And last but not least to Sylvain and Donna for holding down the fort. Cheers to you. Much appreciated. I'm on the mend. Gail Hay

Multi-coloured roses to all of the lovely "bag ladies" at the 11th annual community quilting bee. It was a fun and productive day and I appreciate you so very much! Elizabeth, "head bag lady"

Roses to Country Grocer and TJ Beans, who supplied excellent food and coffee for the Chris Supina celebration of life on Saturday. We are fortunate to have this kind of generosity in our community. The Supina family, and Jim and Wendy McLean

Roses go to Sandy of Heritage Place for a random act of kindness in driving me to my home when I wasn't feeling well. Thank you, Sandy, for your timely help and for being so caring. Sylvia

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This weekend, April 12-13, is the Blossom Festival, with events at Peace Park and the Harbour House Hotel.

April 18-20 is Easter Weekend, with the Easter Art Tour on tap.

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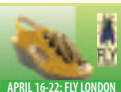
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 Commerce from 4 - 6 pm.

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 Tour various artists' studios on
 Salt Spring over the Easter weekend.
 Learn more at www.ssartscouncil.com

Monday April 21
 Earth Day celebration in
 Centennial Park.
 Join us in Centennial Park for
 Earth Day from 11 am - 4:00 pm.
 Learn more about Earth Day at
www.earthday.org

Friday April 25 to Sunday 27
 StageCoach Theatre School
 performance featuring
 "Snow White".
 ArtSpring - tickets and schedule
 at www.artspring.ca

Learn more about
 these events
 and more at:
www.saltspringchamber.com
 or call
 250-537-4223

Salt Spring Blooms in April is supported by the members of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce.

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StageCoach Theatre School's 2014
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 Friday April 25th and Saturday April
 26th at 7pm, Sunday April 27th at 2pm.
 Please join StageCoach Theatre School
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WorldHost Fundamentals Workshop

(2 available times)

Date: Friday, April 11, 2014
Time: Choose from 8:30am-12:30pm or 1:30pm-5:30pm

Where: Harbour House, 160 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Cost: AGSSI & C of C members: \$63 (incl. GST) / Non Member: \$68.25 (incl. GST)

*Participants will learn the 5 key commitments that help BC's tourism workforce go that 'extra mile':
 Give fully; Respect everyone; Empathize with others; Excel at your job; Teamwork works*

WorldHost Japanese Service Expectations Workshop

Date: Friday, April 11, 2014
Time: 1:30pm-5:00pm
Where: Harbour House, 160 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
Cost: AGSSI & C of C members: \$63 (incl. GST) / Non Members: \$68.25 (incl. GST)

Participants will learn key cultural awareness skills, including how to properly address visitors, in order to better serve BC's important Japanese overseas market.

WorldHost Service for Chinese Visitors Workshop

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2014
Time: 8:30am-12:00pm
Where: Harbour House, 160 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island
Cost: AGSSI & C of C members: \$63 (incl. GST) / Non Members: \$68.25 (incl. GST)

Participants will learn key cultural awareness skills, including how to properly address visitors, in order to better serve BC's Chinese overseas market.



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Speed bumps best idea

As a follow-up to "Businessman questions Rainbow Road pathway route" in last week's paper, having a pathway on the north side of Rainbow Road won't stop kids from crossing the road; they want to get to the Co-op gas station, my business (Al's Falafels and Fries) and the centre of town either by walking down Rainbow Road or along Jackson Avenue.

As one of the business owners along the south side of Rainbow Road, I feel that a pathway on the south side of Rainbow Road would be of a substantial benefit to business interests and would be used by students, tourists and locals alike.

Rather than extensive traffic pattern changes, I suggest that the best way to slow down traffic on Rainbow Road would be to build speed bumps around the crosswalk areas. It is shocking to watch how fast some drivers go up and down that busy street. Speed bumps would more or less guarantee that drivers slow down and would increase the level of safety for everyone.

Thank you.

ALEX LYONS,
SALT SPRING

Remove and restrict

Regarding the Salt Spring Conservancy's removal of the trails at Musgrave Landing, I feel Linda Quiring's pain. ("Musgrave users decry trail loss," April 2 Driftwood.)

The conservancy took the same destructive approach when they acquired the Indridson property on Musgrave Road a few years ago. Contrary to Ms. Annschild's assurances, after several years the old logging trail they tore up inch by inch is still an impassable mass of gravel piles and mud — for miles. It has not "recovered."

Ms. Quiring's suggestion of a few well-placed boulders, a trench and signage would have

MORE LETTERS

been a far less extreme and ruinous approach.

The "trail" the conservancy added to the property is an arduous, single track path that is poorly flagged, rarely maintained and designed for the young and fit. So much for a leisurely hike in the area. Worst of all, it's a circular route that doesn't connect with the existing trail network, so hikers can no longer go from Burgoyne Bay to the Buddhist retreat centre.

Instead of "preserve and protect," the Salt Spring Conservancy's mission appears to be "remove and restrict." They seem to treat these acquisitions as personal science projects where they rip up property in order to change it to their vision of its "original" condition. No consideration seems to be given to the history of the land nor the interests of the larger Salt Spring community.

The conservancy does not reach out to the neighbouring landowners — much less the groups on the island that actually use these trails, e.g. the hikers, bikers and horseback riders. These people love the land as much as Ms. Annschild, but apparently not in a way that she approves of.

I agree with Ms. Quiring. I don't think the original owners of the Musgrave Landing property, nor the Indridson reserve, would approve of such a restrictive and destructive approach. The Salt Spring Conservancy appears to have lost their way. They cannot see the forest through the trees.

DAVID RUMSEY,
MUSGRAVE ROAD

Spring fertility rites threatened

Estrus is the ancient Pagan celebration of the rebirth we see in nature every spring, occurring for millennia on the first full moon after the spring equinox and falling this year on the morning of April 15.

Illustrating the power of regeneration our ecosystem possesses, it is not surprising that a common symbol for this event is a rabbit — as islanders know, a critter which is the embodiment of fertility!

However, there is a threat to this wonderful cycle caused by the indiscriminate introduction of GMO substances into our food supply. How can any product that relies on ever-increasing quantities of pesticides for its production be beneficial to our health or the health of our ecosystem?

As organisms develop greater resistance to Roundup, the next chemical in line is Agent Orange, and most of us can remember what that did to Vietnam 40 years ago. The fact that our government allows the use of such poisons in our food chain begs the old question about the existence of intelligent life on planet Earth!

This year, when we celebrate this venerable occasion, we shall do so with locally produced organic food that is not genetically modified. We neither need nor want corporate giants degrading our food supply and our environment for the sake of their profits.

A happy and natural Estrus to you all!

ANDY AND CAROLINE HICKMAN,
SALT SPRING

On the mark

I reference the "Aquatic Therapy" article in your March 12 issue of Young at Heart.

I have experienced a lot of physical training, particularly during the early part of my 30 years in the Canadian army. From that experience and my exercise sessions in Dawn Beattie's pool, I can attest to the high quality of her knowledge, concern and methods.

These traits, combined with her keen powers of observation, cheerful sense of humour and obvious concern for her clients provide an excellent exercise experience.

Your subtitle "provides gentle rehabilitation" is right on the mark.

PHIL CHEEVERS,
SALT SPRING

Rainbow Road is an industrial area

The following letter was sent to the Islands Trust and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Regarding the Salt Spring Island Metal Recycling site, why not take John Quesnel and just hang, draw and quarter him instead of awarding him the medal he deserves for the much-needed service he provides to Salt Spring Island?

It is impossible to determine the location of his property; being tucked well back from the road. One clue would be that he is somewhere under those "oh so undesirable powerlines."

When did Rainbow Road become such a sought-after elite residential area? Some 48 years ago, no one wanted to live there, and anyone already doing so planned to move out.

It was always industrial: the shale plant, Facca Construction, the Pop Shoppe, school, bus depot, service station, lumber yard, now high school, swimming pool, recycling, commercial rentals... you fill in from here.

Joe Guibault and Dave Pallot bought property now named Pallot Way, and "Little Joe" built his workshop there. The shop still exists today

under another name.

Farm land! Well! Old Jake Buitenwerf of Golden Acres' told me that every bit of goodness or gold in his soil was dug in by hand with lots of hard work, sweat and tears. I am pretty sure that dear Mrs. Murakami and her family undertook the same labourious task. No one sold or handed them good rich farm land.

How can anyone avoid noise on busy Salt Spring? It intensifies in the summer when every weedwhacker and power tool can be heard. The ocean bounces every sound up the hill and off the mountain beside. Sitting on patios in the late afternoon, especially when lots of low-flying sea planes arrive seemingly together can be quite something.

But why is this bothersome? Wave to the planes. Be pleased that most folks are so industrious and alive. Be grateful to be able to hear any of this. Noise is unavoidable. Live and let live!

Let's preserve and protect John Quesnel's livelihood in order for him to help preserve and protect our Salt Spring Island.

Rainbow Road is the perfect spot for industrial locations. Stop the witch hunt.

ROWENA DIXON,
LOWER GANGES ROAD

NEWS UPDATES

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

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

Tax time.

We are all looking for a bit of relief.

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

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

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



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DAVID SAUNDERS

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Introducing the Preliminary Design for the St. Mary DAF Plant

By Ron Stepaniuk, District Manager North Salt Spring Waterworks District

In 2013 the North Salt Spring Water District Board of Trustees commissioned Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting Engineers to prepare the preliminary design for a Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) Water Treatment Plant at St. Mary Lake. The preliminary design is now complete.

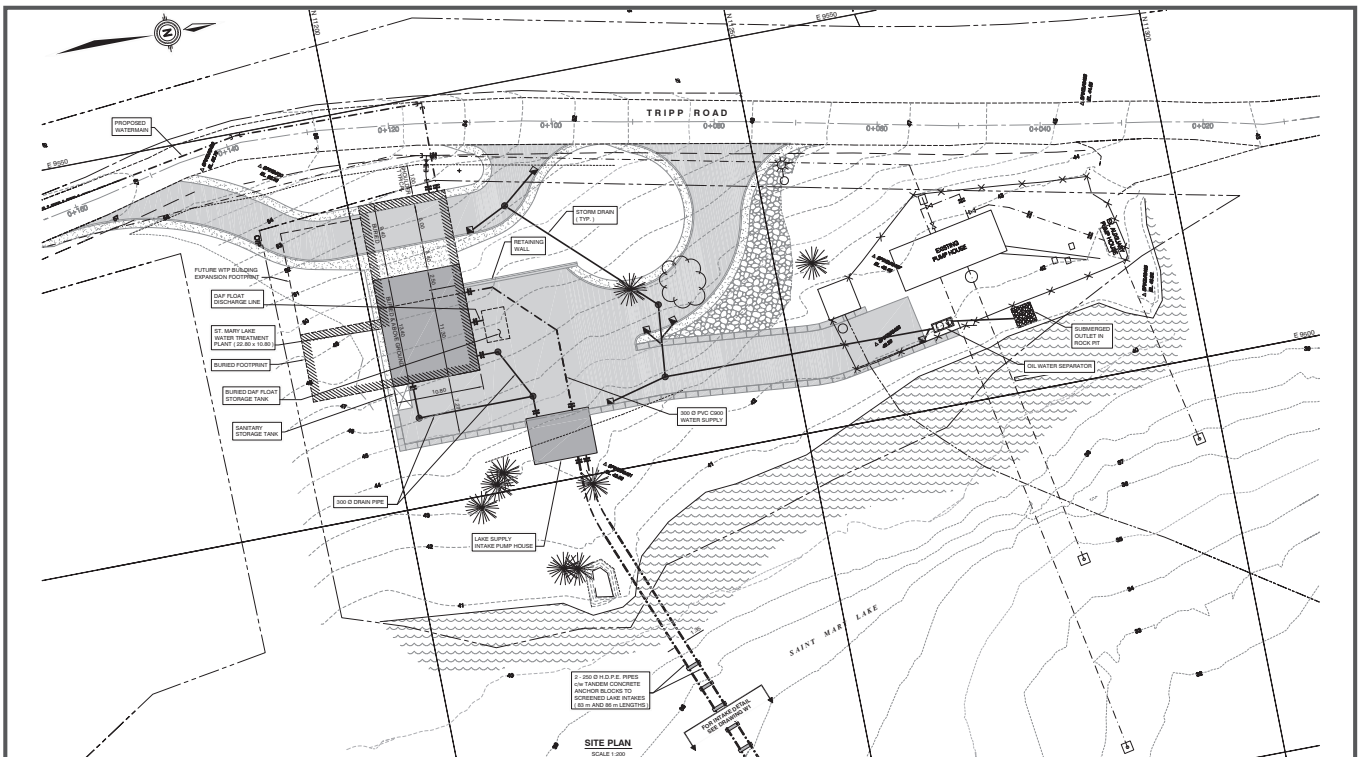
As shown in the illustrations, the new treatment facility will consist of two structures: a primary building, and a "wet-well" housing the raw water pumps and intake pipes situated near the shoreline. The main floor of the primary building will house two (2) DAF Units and all the ancillary equipment such as pumps, pipes and electrical equipment. A small office, lab and bathroom will be located on the upper floor. The finished water will be stored in a clearwell under the building and pumped to the distribution system. Process waste will be stored in tanks for recycling or disposal.

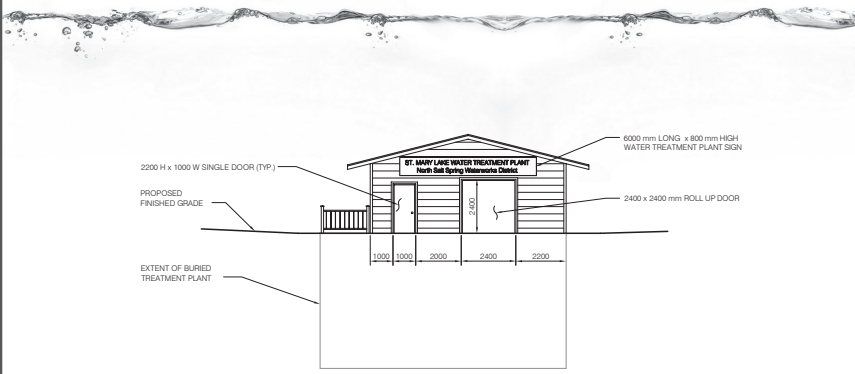
The building will be constructed of poured-in-place concrete and have a footprint of approximately 2,500 square feet. The exterior will be clad with hardie-board siding and have windows so the building will somewhat resemble a



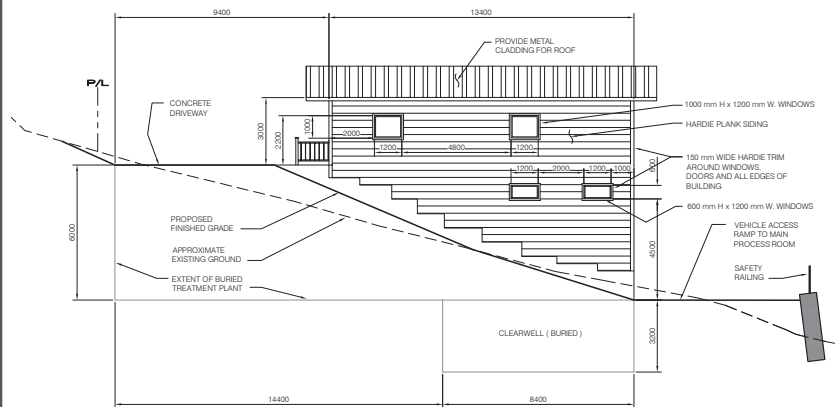
residential home. Site landscaping will be suitable to re-establish any disrupted soil and trees to provide shade and generally

beautify the facilities. The new facility will be located on the site of the current St. Mary Treatment Plant.

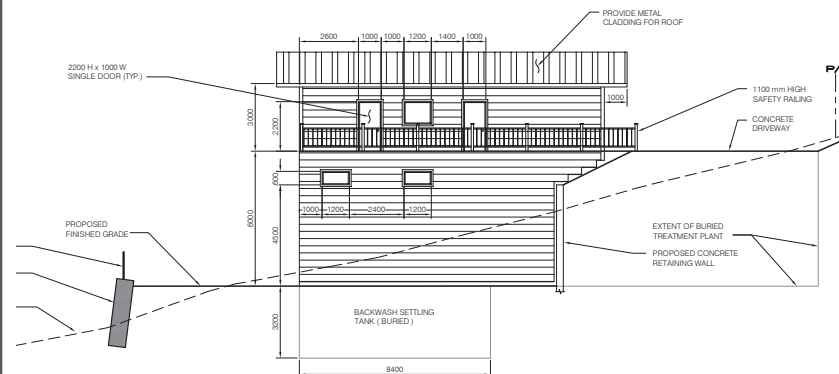




WEST ELEVATION
SCALE 1:100



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:100



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:100

Ratepayers Are Invited to View the Plans

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the District's ratepayers will be held on

**Tuesday, April 15th from 7-9 pm at the
Community Gospel Chapel on Vesuvius Bay Road.**

From 5:00 -7:00 p.m., before the AGM, ratepayers are invited to an **Open House** to view the plans up close and speak with Trustees, staff and a representative from the engineering design firm, Kerr Wood Leidal.

**A short presentation on the design will take place
at the Open House beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

Come early, view the plans, watch the presentation and ask questions, and register to vote in the Trustee election at the AGM.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is the Detailed Design done yet?

A. No. The Preliminary Design is complete. The Detailed Design is expected to cost between \$800K and \$1 million and take about 8 months to complete. Therefore, it will not be commissioned until Borrowing Bylaw 264 is approved. We are having a Scope of Work prepared for the Detailed Design as we move through the approval process in order to be ready to proceed upon approval. There is no cost for the Scope of Work.

Q. What will be the cost of the water treatment plant project?

A. The preliminary design estimates for the cost of construction are \$10-11 million dollars, including commissioning.

Q. Will you use the current reserve funds to help pay for the project?

A. Yes. We expect to use at least \$500k towards the cost of the Detail Design. We will try to use our current reserves as much as possible to offset borrowing costs, while still retaining a prudent amount in reserve for emergencies and other capital projects.

Q. Who is going to build the plant?

A. A number of select contractors with experience building water treatment plants will be invited to bid on the contract. The successful bidder will act as the Prime Contractor and sub-contract out specialised segments of the construction.

Q. How much are our rates going to increase per customer?

A. We do not plan to raise our water toll or parcel tax rates to cover the cost of borrowing. Instead we will implement a fixed surcharge. As the interest rate cannot be fixed until the time of borrowing, which we expect to be January 2, 2015, we are working with a number between \$350-\$400 annually per customer/ratepayer. Money raised through our upcoming donor campaign will lower the amount we need to borrow, thus lowering the surcharge. Tolls and parcel tax revenue will continue to cover normal operating costs and other infrastructure/capital costs. Toll and Parcel Tax rates will be determined each year, as they are now, in order to cover annual operating costs.

Q. Why won't the Provincial government help with grant money like some other districts on the island?

A. The Provincial Governments' policy is that to be eligible for a grant, NSSWD would have to convert to a service area of the Capital Regional District or the island would need to incorporate as a Municipal Government. We are continuing to lobby the government for financial assistance or an exemption from this policy.

Please visit our website at www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca for more information about the District and this project.

SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Mark Saunders incorporates arches, planters and a touch of wrought-iron to give backyard courtyards some European flair.

BUILDING PROJECTS

A splash of Europe in outdoor projects

Courtyards, garden chandeliers and Ferrari hinges among highlights

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Having relocated to Salt Spring in 2013, Mark Saunders has shown that diversity and an eye for the artistic are key to making a go of it in a competitive building market.

Whether he's at work on a moon gate, finishing a kitchen renovation or creating a courtyard, Saunders said he tries to blend old-world charm with modern design to keep ahead of the trends that lay ahead.

Take courtyards, for example.

Salt Springers, like so many other people who live on the West Coast, appear to have a fascination with decks. Besides being great places to entertain in their own right, however, decks often come up in conversation not because of how great they are but rather due to the constant need to reinforce, resurface or redo them altogether.

Courtyards, Saunders said, offer the highlights of a great spot to host gatherings while offering a bit more protection from the elements. The enclosed nature of courtyards can also lend a special type of intimacy without skipping on that essential outdoor feel.

"Because it's in a courtyard, it's secluded and sheltered from the wind, so it's very good for outdoor space," he said. "I think they could be used so much better here, especially with the deer problem."

In the warm and dry summer months, courtyards can offer a nearly seamless extension of a home's interior; ideal spots for family meals or entertaining at any time of the day.

Saunders' mother Yvonne, who contributes an additional artistic flair to her son's impressive building background, says niches within a courtyard's walls, flower pots and planters, wrought-iron gates and fountains offer an exotic southern European look.

"Elements like fountains can be very enhancing and it's so easy because all you need to do is create a pond," she said.

While it may be easy enough for most homeowners to "create a pond," Saunders can make sure that pond and fountain are properly hooked up and flowing the right way.

Saunders brought his knack for European-inspired courtyards to the island when he made the full-time plunge into island life in 2013. Although born and raised in England, Saunders gained much of his expertise in the Vancouver area, where he breathed new life into stale spaces, regardless of size or budget requirements.

SAUNDERS continued on 18





HOME ENERGY

Harnessing the sun's energy can power your home

Now is the perfect time to consider solar installation

BY BRIGITTE HAYES
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

At a time when the price of everything seems to be going up, one thing is actually going down: the cost of solar energy. The price of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels has dropped about 80 per cent since 2008, and thanks to economies of scale, prices continue to trend downward.

What was an expensive science experiment a few years ago is now good economics, according to local resident Ron Watts. He and his wife Donna Hall designed their Salt Spring home to leverage the sun, carefully siting the home to ensure light and warmth even in winter, as well as using solar for hot water and electricity.

They were so successful that the home was featured in the 2013 Salt Spring Island Eco-Living and Home tour. Today, the system helps them operate their home at a much lower



PHOTO BY BRIGITTE HAYES

Ron Watts points out data on his inverter.

cost than average, gives them a three-day battery backup in case of a power outage, and generates credits on their hydro bill when the system produces more energy than they can use.

With results like that, it begs the question of whether we should all be doing it. Based on his own experience, Watts rec-

ommends following a step-by-step approach, beginning with a thorough analysis of your energy requirements. If this is based on an existing home, your hydro bill is the best place to start. If you're building new, use a guide to help with the calculations. And remember that superior insulation, as well as energy-efficient win-

dows, doors, appliances and lighting will have a big impact on your new building's energy requirements.

The next step is a site assessment by an expert, who will likely come equipped with a Solar Pathfinder to help choose the best location for your panels. Outcomes to expect from the assessment include determination of the footprint available for solar panels (typically rooftop, but not necessarily), the best location for them, the cable routing from the solar array to your controller or inverter and breaker panel, and the best location for your inverter as well as its integration into your electrical system.

Once you understand the size of solar array your location can support, and how much power you need or can produce, you need to find the best source for your equipment. Some retail outlets sell complete kits as well as providing consulting and installation services. Alternatively, you may want to purchase the components separately, based on the advice from your site

assessment expert. If buying online, always speak with the seller first to confirm the correct models and price. If you plan to stay connected to BC Hydro, you'll need net metering authorization from them, so it's best to make sure that you will meet their requirements before making a purchase.

What is net metering? If you plan to be totally independent and off the grid, there's no need to interact with BC Hydro. However, if you are joining the 300 BC Hydro customers who generate electricity while remaining connected to the grid, you must obtain authorization.

BC Hydro has recently streamlined this process, making it less technical and more affordable. You should make the application before installation, and expect the process to take about 48 hours for a "simple net metering generator," which applies to most residential applications. This will require an electrical inspection upon completion, which your installer or electrician will handle.

One advantage of being plugged into the grid is that if you produce more energy than you consume, you'll receive a credit on your bill. A smart meter is required to report on the amount of electricity you are putting into the grid. On the day we visited the Watts/Hall home in January, we could see that energy was being put into the grid, with the smart meter reporting that they had produced 650 kWh since the solar installation in May 2012.

So whether you are seeking independence by living off the grid, or want to reduce hydro bills while staying connected to it, you can reduce your hydro expense and greenhouse gas emissions by relying on solar for your energy needs. There's never been a better time to go solar. What are you waiting for?

Editor's note: This piece is one of Brigitte Hayes' Green Heroes blog posts found on the www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com website. Brigitte writes monthly, highlighting "green" people and initiatives.



Spring

TEST DRIVE

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DO-IT-YOURSELF

Workshop safety is job number one

Tips for staying safe at home

A growing number of homeowners are dabbling in do-it-yourself projects, recognizing both the personal and financial rewards of such undertakings. Safety is vital in any workshop.

During a typical home renovation, homeowners will use all sorts of dangerous tools and chemicals, and even the simplest mishap can result in a serious injury. Safety rules can reduce the risk of injury.

Know your tools

Before novice do-it-yourselfers begin working with power tools, they should familiarize themselves with their owners' manuals and the operating instructions. Some home-improvement retailers offer classes in various home renovation projects and may be able to teach tool usage.

Do-it-yourselfers should consult professionals with regard to proper tool use and safety. Do not use tools for purposes other than what the tool was intended to do.

If machine guards are provided, they should be used and never removed.

Wear safety gear

Eye, ear and breathing protection are key in any workshop environment. Dust and chemical gases may be present when working with certain products, and debris can be kicked up and enter the eyes, causing irritation or even blindness.

Loud power tools can damage sensitive ears, especially when used in a contained room. Always wear goggles, sound-muffling earphones and dust masks when working.

Assess physical well-being

Do-it-yourselfers should never work with machinery if they are feeling sick or fatigued or while taking medication that can affect concentration or alertness. All it takes is a moment of distraction to cause an injury.

Never surprise anyone who is working with power tools and keep unnecessary people out of the workshop, where they might chat and distract others from the tasks at hand.

Factor in ergonomics

Failure to work in comfortable conditions can result in repetition injuries or muscle strain. Make the workshop as comfortable as possible. Ensure the work table is at the right height. Use

a rubber mat on the floor to reduce standing fatigue. Have a stool or chair available for taking breaks.

Keep a clean shop

Power cords strewn around the workshop present a tripping hazard. They also make it possible to drag sharp or heavy tools off of tables and workbenches if the cords are pulled or tripped over. A neat workshop is a safer workshop. Pay attention to where tools are kept and keep cords manageable.

Dress appropriately

Loose clothing and hair can become tangled or lodged in equipment. Do not wear jewelry. Dress comfortably but appropriately for the workshop, being sure to wear sturdy shoes.

Lock it up

Children and pets are curious and may wander into a workshop to explore. They can become seriously ill or injured by the bevy of chemicals and tools used for common projects. Some items are flammable and sharp and should always be out of reach.

Locking cabinets and drawers can keep tools inaccessible.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Ed Walkner wears goggles, gloves and coveralls while working in his home workshop.

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HOME CONSTRUCTION

Reputation and network factors in choosing a builder

Flexibility also important consideration

Whether the kids have all grown up and moved out or if the kids are on the way and it's time to expand a living area, building a new home is an exciting, yet often agonizing, experience. The reasons for building a new home are many, but regardless of the reason, the process of choosing a builder should remain the same.

• Look for a builder with a solid reputation. A builder's reputation speaks volumes, but it

doesn't have to speak for itself. That's because a builder who has spent years providing personal service, innovative design and quality workmanship will no doubt have a host of happy former customers ready and willing to offer their input. If during the interview process a builder appears reticent to share his work or experiences with previous customers, this should be a red flag. Reputable builders will be proud of their work and more than willing to show it off.

• Find a builder who is flexible. You will be paying to build your home, not the builder's home. A builder should be flexible and ready

and willing to meet your needs, no matter how unique they might be.

• Look for a builder who does more than build. A builder should provide a network of qualified professionals to make the process go more smoothly.

This network should include real estate and building consultants, interior designers, audio-video system providers, architects and engineers. Such connections can provide peace of mind and will also illustrate that a builder is both respected in the community and is intent on ensuring your home becomes the dream

home you envision it to be.

• Don't build on the cheap. Buyers who plan to build their own home are in the unique position to ensure their home is as safe and high-quality as possible. This isn't always the case when buying a resale, so make the most of your opportunity and use only top-of-the-line construction materials and features and choose a builder with experience in working with such materials and features.

Building on the cheap could prove disastrous in the not too distant future, so don't sacrifice on quality when building a new home.

PROJECTS

Speaking the lingo

Home improvement glossary

Understanding the terminology used in the home improvement and construction industries can help homeowners be better informed and involved in projects. Following are some common industry terms.

Aggregate: Crushed rock used in many asphalt applications.

Ampacity: The amount of current a wire can safely carry.

Backfill: Soil or gravel used to fill in against a foundation.

Beam: Horizontal framing member designed to carry a load from joists or a roof.

Butt joint: Lumber pieces joined at the ends.

Casement window: Window with hinges on one of the vertical sides making it swing open like a door.

Caulking: Flexible material used to seal a gap between two surfaces.

Code: Rules set forth by a government institution to determine fair and safe trade practices.

Curing: A process that brings paint or masonry materials to their final, durable form.

Fixed price contract: A contract with a set price for the work.

Flashing: Sheet metal or roll roofing pieces fit to the joint of any roof intersection or projection.

Footing: Widened ground base of a foundation to support foundations or piers.

Framing: The structural wooden elements of most homes.

GFI: A ground fault current interrupter, which is an electrical device used to prevent injury from contact with electrical appliances.

Jamb: The exposed upright part on each side of a window frame or door frame.

Level: A tool to check for level or plumb surfaces.

Pitch: The slope of incline on a roof.

Rebar: Steel rods that are imbedded in concrete for stability.

Shim: A tapered piece of wood used to level and secure a structure.

Stud: Vertical parts of framing placed 16 or 24 inches apart.

Watt: A measure of the electrical requirement of an appliance.

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SPRING CLEANING

Green 365 Spring Cleaning campaign now underway

Education program from the CRD

The Capital Regional District has launched a new outreach campaign in support of "Green 365," a multi-themed campaign promoting year-round sustainable living both inside and outside the home.

"Green 365 Spring Cleaning" will run from April 2 until June, promoting green behaviours that apply when tackling spring cleaning within your home. The campaign will teach residents how to deal with unwanted household items, properly dispose of expired or unused medications, safely dispose of household hazardous waste and create environmentally-

friendly cleaners.

"We want to provide residents with useful knowledge when cleaning their garages, bathrooms and around their homes to ensure items are properly and safely disposed of," said Nils Jensen, chair of the CRD's Environmental Services Committee. "Green 365 will be an excellent resource to help contribute to environmental

stewardship in our region."

The project offers residents weekly spring cleaning tips. People can search #Green365 on Twitter or visit www.crd.bc.ca/green365 for tips and to find out where to visit the CRD outreach team to pledge for a complimentary spray bottle.

As well, a photo contest will see weekly prizes for eight weeks and a

grand prize at the end. In exchange for submitting photos showing green spring cleaning activities, residents will be entered into a weekly draw for a green cleaning supply kit from Balance Home Cleaning. The grand prize winner, who will be selected from all of the entries, will receive a gift certificate to Balance Home Cleaning, valued at \$1,000.

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Moon gates another option



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Above: Moon gates offer the perfect balance between privacy and openness.

At left: No courtyard is complete without a fountain feature and lion-themed water spout.

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SAUNDERS

continued from 14

"I started by coming over [to Salt Spring] on weekends really," Saunders said. "Even though I was working seven days a week, it didn't feel like it because here it's nice and relaxing."

He sees great potential in creating whimsical outdoor areas on properties large and small.

Saunders has also become known for his signature "moon gates" which, like courtyards meld the line between indoor and outdoor space.

In this case, Yvonne said, the large circular opening in the upper half of a gate acts as a kind of portal that lets in light from a section of yard that would otherwise be blocked by a wall of solid fencing.

"It actually ends up creating a view and the beauty is that, because it's about four feet across, the deer can't hop through," she said.

"You don't get the feeling of living in a fortress," Yvonne said. "Fencing can be a bit claustrophobic, whereas if you end up with this picture window effect it creates a vista; it lends an artistic

touch to what is, in essence, functional fencing."

During the long dark months when the island's weather is decidedly un-Mediterranean, Saunders takes his craft indoors. He's focused on kitchens and washrooms, the most popular renovation spots in any home.

Though elegant and practical design is key to increasing the user-friendliness of any space, Saunders said, adding light and a casual rustic feel can really transform spaces large and small.

"Everyone wants white kitchens," Yvonne said. "That look is very in."

If it's not entirely white, Saunders added, it's black counters and white cupboards.

Butchers' block countertops, sunken cabinet lighting and Ferrari hinges are also drawing attention these days.

Much like the renowned vertical tilt of the sports car after whose doors the hinges are named, Ferrari hinges give home owners the flexibility to lower and raise counter space, depending on the need.

Form and function: a trend that never goes out of style.

More of Saunders work can be seen online at www.sr-designstudio.com.

Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

WOODWORKING

Barnes legacy aids shop



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Kendall Bigelow with a table she made using wood donated to the GISS shop program by Bianca Barnes. Below, a maple burl bowl crafted by Nick Pringle.

Students grateful for donation of materials from late boatbuilder/woodworker

table in oak with mahogany accents and fir legs.

"It's nice being able to choose," Bigelow said about the wood types available.

This is particularly important to her since she's interested in making items that she'll be able to live with for some time.

"I thought it would be cool to make some furniture that I'd have in my house for a while," she explained.

Shop students have a wide-open range of possibilities when it comes to their projects. Those who don't know what they want to do might start by making the picnic tables the program sells to buy more materials.

"We have stock projects to introduce people to the culture of the shop, which is 'safety, safety and fun,'" Watkins said.

Others have something in mind from the get-go and might produce anything from turned bowls to bench seats.

Nick Pringle has been learning how to make the first of these examples, producing a lovely maple burl bowl as a gift of thanks for Bianca. He also used afromosia donated by the Barnes to create a gavel for a local community board.

In addition to the timber, the donation included various types of steel and a collection of brass fittings that Watkins said must span a century of production and manufacturers from all across North America. Although he's not sure what anyone might do with it, he found it too fascinating not to keep.

"It's a great learning opportunity," he said. "And the kids, of course, are intrigued, because they're like, 'What's this for?'"

Watkins observed that having a range of materials allows the students to pursue projects in which they learn the curriculum in a more dynamic manner than the prescriptive lessons by which shop class is commonly structured.

And for those who work that way, the open lesson plan means students can be just as obsessed with perfecting details as Barnes was in his lifetime. The materials he collected in pursuit of his dream probably couldn't have found a better place.

"He was a real unique individual," Watkins said. "His boat was just part of that."

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary woodwork students are enjoying a trove of materials not likely to be found in any other high school shop thanks to the legacy of island craftsman Gordon Barnes.

Barnes, who had almost reached 90 years when he passed away last October, had spent more than 20 years of his free time building an ocean-going sailboat from the hull up. At every step of the way he experimented with materials and processes to perfect the design to his satisfaction. As a result, he accumulated a wide variety of wood, fittings and other building components.

GISS received much of the bounty of Barnes' lifetime project through a donation by his wife Bianca, giving students the opportunity to produce unique projects of their own.

"It represents a diversity of materials that we would never buy," teacher Jim Watkins said of the gift, which yielded a dozen types of wood, including exotic hardwoods such as teak, pedouk and iroko.

Grade 10 student Kendall Bigelow is one of those to take advantage of the legacy. She has crafted a beautiful little oval, bevel-edged



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ART REVIEW

Dark themes open spring art season

Anais LaRue and Rosalie Matchett exhibits on now

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There were definite dark undertones to the festive spring atmosphere at two art openings on Friday night, as artists showing at Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art and Duthie Gallery laid bare the themes they have been recently occupied with.

In a guest exhibition at Salt Spring's cooperative art gallery, Anais La Rue revealed the surreal characters that populate her imagination in gorgeously mythic scratchboard etchings and vivid paintings.

Islanders may remember seeing LaRue's work in the first medium at the former Starfish Gallery. By its very nature, the scratchboard's white lines cut into a black surface suggest a reversed world. That notion is strengthened in the content of LaRue's work, which resembles the ink drawings done by a 19th-century naturalist — except the creatures depicted are also not quite of this world.

In very fine line, LaRue produces magical visions such as *The Number Catcher*, part bird and part fish, poised over bullrushes and water lilies with claws set to grasp a set of numerals. *House of Spirits* sets bird parts into a rigid web with elements suggesting First Nations design motifs, a long house and a church. Like in a dream, these strands are not explicitly linked into a cohesive narrative, but resonate together to create a strong impression.

As the largest scratchboard piece on exhibit, *Funeral of the Empire* is the most complex and truly amazing. This dark fairy tale features a central tree that is the scene of some mysterious drama, with a line of evil Puss-in-boots characters marching past its base, including some in shackles, a chandelier of inverted monkeys and torches and a troupe of massive butterflies overhead.

In contrast to the delicate and painstaking precision of the scratchboard works, LaRue has just recently started experimenting with the wide open expression afforded by painting on large canvases. Some of her first results show definite promise, such as a series of masked blue rabbits wearing Renaissance court garb. At Friday's opening, LaRue explained that she first became interested in turquoise and teal shades, and then these rabbits started haunting her mind. They didn't leave until she painted them out.

As LaRue starts with a black background, the light provided by these shades helps her create necessary depth and dimension. The rabbits are mischievous and full of humour as well as having mysterious intent.

The artist's rare examples of human faces are raw but also compelling, for example in the exaggerated cheek bones and eye sockets and dark expressive eyes seen in *Queen for a Day*.

While LaRue's works explore the darkness within in a way that honours that side of humanity, Rosalie Matchett's *Whalebones of Svalbard* series deals with the darkness produced by the human need for light and warmth. Resource harvesting has been harming the planet for far longer than oil and gas extraction, as Matchett shows in her exhibit *Whalebones, Blubber and other Relics of First Oil* at Duthie Gallery. The whaling industry was driven in large part not by food needs but for oil.

Matchett was compelled to explore this theme with a trip to Norway, where the North Atlantic population of bowhead whales was hunted essentially to extinction



Above, one of Anais Larue's blue rabbits. Below, *First Oil* by Rosalie Matchett.



within a century. She feels she best captures the idea of extinction in her title work *Whalebones of Svalbard*. Comprising two main panels edged with a steel frame in blood/rust streaks, the painting is more abstract than representational. On the left side one could imagine a couple of old bones jutting up from the beach. The right side has the thickly textured barrenness of the Arctic tundra, or a frozen sea without life.

A more graphic depiction of the carnage can be found in *First Oil*. Three of five irregular panels portray the Arctic landscape as seen from the sea, with dull water and sky dissected by a line of snow-covered crags. Interrupting this emotionally and physically distant view are two panels — themselves divided by a thick gap painted red — with a close view of a cut-up whale carcass against a background of sickly pink and deep red. As Matchett explained, at one time this would have been the scene

in every one of the seemingly empty coves that are only hinted at in the distant view. Her use of encaustic as medium allows the viewer to escape the strict realism that would make such an image unbearable, but at the same time encourages a more visceral connection to the lost past.

Year of Plenty symbolizes the quandary of consumption perfectly. This pile of dead salmon is beautifully rendered to suggest the flash of silver scales, with darker green heads contrasting with vivid red at slit bellies and gills. The title proclaims the good news of a return that will feed many people, but the red edging on the foreground speaks of greedy Western slaughter: the more fish that return only meaning there's more to be killed.

LaRue's exhibit will continue at Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art to Thursday, April 17. Matchett's work will be at Duthie Gallery to Sunday, April 27.

ARTS EVENTS

Easter Art Tour set to roll next weekend

Denz and Stairs are featured artists

April brings spring, showers and the Easter Art Tour.

Now in its eighth year, the Salt Spring Easter Art Tour is an annual self-guided artist studio and gallery tour running from Friday, April 18 until Sunday, April 20.

A host of special exhibits also

take place in venues such as cafes and bookstores. In total, 40 locations will participate this year, showcasing the fine arts and including painting, sculpture and photography.

Each year, a special exhibit is held at historic Mahon Hall in Ganges, featuring a single artist or group of artists, and is a great place to start the tour. This year's featured artists at Mahon Hall are well-known

painter Stefanie Denz and fine furniture maker turned sculptor Steven Stairs. The feature exhibit will continue through until Sunday, April 27.

While Denz's work is well known, the finely wrought and finished wooden sculptures by Stairs will be shown for the first time ever. Art enthusiasts and collectors will have a rare opportunity to see and purchase his work. Along with

examples of her now iconic painting style, Denz will show more recent work where she floats painted mylar over her paintings. The resulting assemblage forms a complex and rich imagery.

Self-guided tour maps and information about the participating studios and galleries is available at Mahon Hall or www.saltspringeasterarttour.com.

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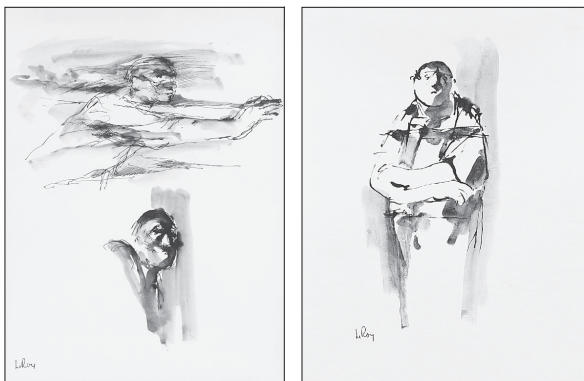
LeRoy Jensen drawings reveal artist's playful side

Unseen works from mid-'70s to -'80s

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been nearly nine years since Salt Spring artist LeRoy Jensen passed away, but his works continue to renew admiration both from those in the art world and from those closest to him.

LeRoy's daughter Gabrielle Jensen has become the heir to her father's impressive body of work in multiple senses. As a talented artist in her own right and the curator of his drawings and paintings, she has perhaps lived more closely with his art than anyone else. During a recent attempt to sort through some of his many stacks of sketchbooks, she found that one period of LeRoy's drawing spoke especially to her, and it was one that had never been seen



Newly released sketches by the late LeRoy Jensen reveal a different side of the artist.

by most people.

"These sketches stood out, and I felt they needed to be shown," said Jensen, who has dated the

work as being from the mid-1970s to mid-'80s.

Jensen will have a selection of these drawings on exhibit at Gulf

Islands Picture Framing until the end of April. She has chosen pieces that represent a less typical side of her father's work, whether by their subject, palette or stroke.

"However," she noted, "in typical Jensen fashion they breathe with both power and frailty, reflecting his tireless effort to express the humane."

LeRoy's practice of starting his expressive oil paintings with a foundation drawing has correlation in some of these sketches, where his quick but definitive line is partially obscured with a stroke of gouache. His stroke is economical but confident, portraying figures with the shape of a nose and the set of a mouth, or the exaggerated curve of a woman's buttock and thigh.

The addition of shadowy ink or gouache softens the line and adds depth and contour in more subtle cases, and in oth-

ers seems to demand a shift in focus.

For a painter who loved to portray women, one of the interesting differences in this show is the number of male figures depicted — some of whom remind Jensen of her father himself. They can be cartoony and playful with a childlike humour, or entirely adult, like one of a man and woman in argument where he physically overpowers her space.

Many of the sketches are extremely minimal, and reveal the artist's ability to capture amazing likeness in just a few sensitive strokes. This lighter side of LeRoy is perhaps the most fascinating for those who know his deeply intense painting style.

Gulf Islands Picture Framing is located upstairs in Grace Point Square. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

WOOD CARVING

Loon carvers win awards

Scott and Rothwell at Brant event

Two local woodcarvers won divisional awards at the Pacific Brant Carving and Art Show held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney over the weekend.

Mike Scott won first place with his carving of a common loon, and Norm Rothwell won second and third with his carvings of the common loon.

The Pacific Brant Carving and Art Show is considered one of the premier carving events in B.C., with competitors from Western Canada and the United States.

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RECITAL

Don Conley at All Saints

Music of 16th-century England next Wednesday

The monthly series of Simply Organic occurs next Wednesday at All Saints' By-the-Sea church, again in the capable hands of Don Conley.

"Conley's stints with Simply Organic have proven delightful," declares a press release. "His dexterity with the instrument, his natural rapport with his audience, his relaxed manner of teaching and his delightful wit all add up to a joyful 50 minutes or so of musical pleasure."

This coming Wednesday, April 16, Conley has 16th-century England in mind. His only clues to what he will play come in the form of questions: "What does a fellow do with the king of England and the Pope of Rome breathing down his neck? What do you compose? English or Latin? And for who? Come hear organ music composed by people with their very lives at stake!"

Performance begins at 10:10 a.m. with coffee and muffins to follow.

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what's on this week



Wed. Apr 9	Thurs. Apr 10	Fri. Apr 11	Fri. Apr 11	Sat. Apr 12	Mon. Apr 14	Wed. Apr 16
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Metaphasia. A whole school production put on by SIMS students, parents and teachers. With silent auction, raffle basket, bake sale and refreshments. Salt Spring Middle School. 7 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Metaphasia. See Wednesday listing. Salt Spring Concert Band and Charlie Chaplin. Silent movie gems "The Adventurer" and "The Immigrant" with live music directed by Dawn Hage. The Fritz Movie Theatre. 7 p.m. Cowboy Ted. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. Open Mic Night. Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Randon Johnson. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Joal Kamps. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Soul Shakedown. With free appies at 5 p.m. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. The Angry Hippies. Tom Hooper, Dave Campbell and Ben Wright. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.	ACTIVITIES The SS Forum Presents Captain Trevor Greene. Canadian soldier who was struck in the head with an axe in Afghanistan discusses how brain can heal and recover. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Retired MP Bill Blaikie Talk. Blaikie, also a United Church minister, will speak about faith and social and political activism. SS United Church. 10:30 a.m. Central Community Hall Society AGM. Public welcome. Central Hall. 1 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Toastmasters. Public welcome to weekly meetings. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church hall. 7 p.m. sharp. Kundalini Yoga for Beginners. Mondays at North End Fitness. 1 to 2 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Simply Organic. Free organ recital with music of 16th century England by Don Conley. All Saints. 10:10 a.m. Tommy Douglas: The Arrows of Desire. Actor John Nolan brings the father of Medicare and leader of the CCF to life on the stage. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
ACTIVITIES History of Vesuvius and its Changing Character. A Salt Spring Historical Society presentation by Marshall Heinekey. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m. SongJam. Informal group singing of 6 decades of classic rock and pop hits and more. Moby's Pub. 7 p.m. Texas Holdem Poker. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m. The Local. Improvisational Comedy Workshop. Everyone (age 15 & over), beginner to advanced, is invited to take part in this weekly workshop led by Jan Rabson. GISS, Room 208. 7 to 9 p.m. SS Beekeepers Meeting. Monthly gathering at the upstairs meeting room of SS Farmers' Institute. 7 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Lions Hall. Regular public meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. Town hall session at noon. Intro to Facebook. Free education session part of the Tech Cafe series at the Salt Spring Public Library. 12 to 1 p.m. Preregistration required at 250-537-4666; info@saltspring-library.com. Community Math Celebration. Fun activities and projects, and keynote speaker Fok-Shuen Leung, UBC math professor. GISS. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with speaker at 7 p.m.	ACTIVITIES WorldHost Fundamentals Workshop. Harbour House Hotel. 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Radicle Seed Library. "Check out" seeds, then return them once you have grown them out. Salt Spring Island Public Library. Noon to 2 p.m. WorldHost Japanese Experience Workshop. Harbour House Hotel. 1:30 to 5 p.m. Symbolically 8 Exhibition Opening Reception. Gallery 8 exhibit opening. 5 to 8 p.m. Trends in Tourism. With guest speaker Frank Bouree, CEO of Chemistry Consulting in Victoria. Free event. Harbour House Hotel. 7:30 p.m.	Sat. Apr 12 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Brad Prevedoros. Harbour House Restaurant. 6 to 9 p.m. Aidan Miller. Soulful piano player and singer plays classics to modern. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.	Sun. Apr 13 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Brad Prevedoros. Harbour House Restaurant. 6 to 9 p.m. ACTIVITIES Foosball Tournament. The Local. 1 p.m. Rollerblading. For young and old. Fulford Hall. 2 to 4 p.m. Screening of Manon. The Royal Ballet Covent Garden's 1982 production, starring Salt Spring's Jennifer Penney. Q&A session with Penney after the show. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Salt Spring Blossom Festival: A Taste of Salt Spring. Sample culinary treats from Salt Spring restaurants and caterers, plus wine tastings from three Salt Spring vineyards and Salt Spring Island Ales. Harbour House Hotel. 4 to 6 p.m.	Tues. Apr 15 ACTIVITIES North Salt Spring Waterworks Open House & AGM. New treatment plant plans shared from 5 to 7 p.m., with Q&A session at 6 p.m. AGM and trustee election at 7 p.m. Community Gospel Chapel.	ACTIVITIES SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing. Texas Holdem Poker. See last Wednesday's listing.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

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THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY

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Charlie Chaplin Silent Movie Gems

Thursday April 10th 7pm
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IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislands-driftwood.com

Blossom Festival!

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- CINEMA**
- The Secret Life of Walter Mitty** — James Thurber's classic story of a day-dreamer who disappears into a world of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and action. When his job and his co-workers are threatened, Walter embarks on a global journey that turns into an extraordinary adventure.
 - Charlie Chaplin Silent Movie Gems** with live music by the Salt Spring Concert Band on Thursday, April 10 only.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- Symbolically 8 Exhibition** — celebrating the 5th anniversary of Gallery 8 and featuring all gallery artists. Opening reception is on **Friday, April 11** from 5 to 8 p.m., and the show runs until **May 11**.
 - Whalebones, Blubber and Other Relics of First Oil** — paintings in encaustic and oil by Rosalie Matchett runs at the **Duthie Gallery** until **April 27**.
 - The Art of Darkness:** Anais Larue shows paintings and scratchboards at the **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** until **April 27**.

- Gulf Islands Picture Framing** in Grace Point Square shows new releases by the late **LeRoy Jensen**. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Janet Dwyer** has a photo exhibition at the **Harbour House Hotel** through **April**.
- Mel Williamson's** oil paintings will be featured at **Cafe Talia** in **April**.
- The Shoreline Project** is an exhibit of photographs, watercolours and photomontages by **Sam Lightman** and **Maureen Milburn** hanging in the **ArtSpring lobby** through **April**.
- The Focus on Women** exhibition of photographs and paintings of Salt Spring women aged 60 to 100, done by Salt Spring women artists, with an additional display of images and words by young islanders about women who've inspired them, continues through the month of **April** due to popular demand.
- Melodie Herbert** has an exhibit of paintings in the **Country Roasters Cafe** at **Country Grocer** through **April**.
- Shari Macdonald** has photographs hanging at **Island Savings**.
- Photographer **Juliana Paul's** work is at **Penny's Pantry**.

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Islands Trust

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

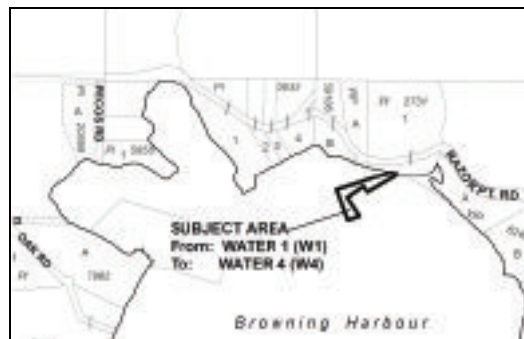
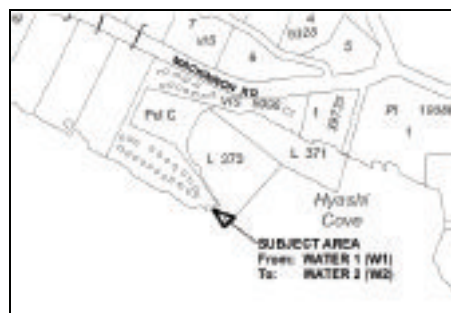
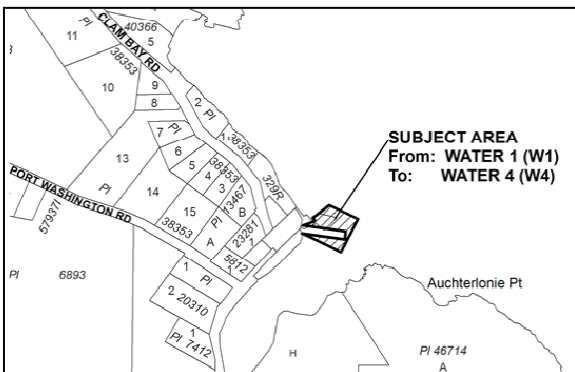
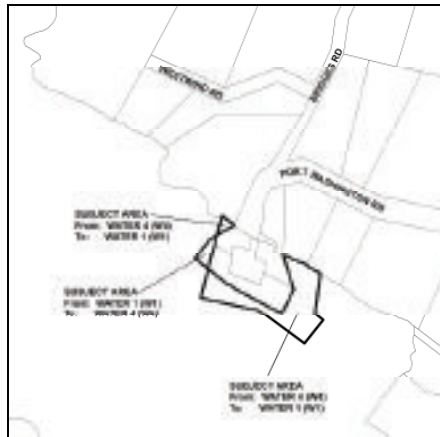
NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Community Information Meeting and a Public Hearing within a Local Trust Committee Business Meeting on **Proposed Bylaw No. 194** cited as "North Pender Island Land Use Bylaw No. 103, 1996 Amendment No. 1, 2014"; for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw at **9:45 a.m., Thursday, April 24, 2014, at the Pender Island Community Hall (Lounge), 4418 Bedwell Harbour Road, North Pender Island, BC.**

At the public hearing all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

Proposed Bylaw No. 194 - cited as "North Pender Island Land Use Bylaw No. 103, 1996 Amendment No. 1, 2014".

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 194 is to amend the Land Use Bylaw to correct erroneous cross-references or typographical errors, update regulatory references, and improve clarity in the bylaw. There are also five amendments to the zoning map:

- * one to amend land zoned Rural (R) to Agriculture (AG) to reflect land now included in the ALR,
- * three to amend the zone boundary for the public dock facilities located at Hope Bay, Port Washington and Browning Harbour to improve alignment of the zone boundary with both the Crown lease area and the existing dock structures, and
- * one to amend the zone boundary for the marina at Otter Bay to reflect the current location of the existing breakwater structure.



A copy of the proposed bylaw and any background material that may be considered by the Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing April 9, 2014 and up to and including April 23, 2014.**

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island, B.C., commencing April 9, 2014. The proposed bylaw can also be viewed online at the following URL: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/north-pender/bylaws.

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. The office of the Islands Trust by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, by Fax (250) 405-5155, prior to **4:30 p.m., April 23, 2014.**
2. By email to: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca
3. After **4:30 p.m., April 23, 2014**, to the Local Trust Committee at the Public Hearing at **9:45 a.m., April 24, 2014.**

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

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

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Robert Kojima, Regional Planning Manager, at (250) 405-5159 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

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

Sharon Lloyd-deRosario, Deputy Secretary

ARTSPRING

New ArtSpring ED hired

Cicela Månsson to begin in mid June

The Island Arts Centre Society has hired a new executive and artistic director to replace current director George Sipos, who is retiring in June.

A long and extensive recruitment process that saw 83 applicants from across Canada has led to the selection of Cicela Månsson for the post.



Cicela Månsson

Månsson is currently artistic director and general manager of the Bobcaygeon Music Council.

"In this eponymous rural community north-east of Toronto she has grown a small performing arts festival from an eight-concert summer series in 2009 to this year's 22 concerts, three school outreach programs, summer brass, woodwind and percussion camps and a variety of community music workshops," states the society in a press release.

"On top of all that, Cicela is also an accomplished soprano whose artistic activity ranges from classical repertoire to musical theatre and vocal jazz, as well as work as a private piano and voice teacher and choral director."

Prior to her current role in arts presentation and management, she worked in information technology for companies such as Bell Canada, and as a marine engineer with the Department of National Defence.

"What ArtSpring has built is incredibly impressive, and I am eager to carry on that tradition and contribute to the future of the arts on Salt Spring," said Månsson. "During my recent visit it was a treat to hear from local people how valued ArtSpring is in the community. What an adventure full of joy and exciting challenges this is sure to be. Looking forward to meeting you all."

Månsson will arrive on the island at the end of May and begin work at ArtSpring in mid-June. Once she has settled in, ArtSpring invites everyone to drop by to welcome her to the community.

people&community

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



EDUCATION

GISS Solar Scholarship project lights up conference



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

From left, conference co-organizer David Denning, and students Sky Losier and Keenan Nowak with solar panel grad hats.

Co-operation leads to reinvestment of energy savings

The GISS Solar Scholarship Project was officially launched Saturday to a crowd of 200 people at the recent Salt Spring and Gulf Islands Renewable Energy Conference.

"Because we are Grade 12 students and graduating this year, the Solar Scholarship won't benefit us directly,"

said Sky Losier. "But it will benefit lots of students who follow us year after year, and we really think it will be good for the community."

Keenan Nowak agreed, explaining how an installation of 20 kilowatts of solar panels on the high school gym will generate over 20 megawatt hours of power into the grid each year.

"That's enough to run an electric car for 140,000 kilometers," he said. "It's also about \$2,000 or more in electricity that the school district will save each year. The neat thing is, the dis-

trict administration and board have agreed to put the net savings into a scholarship fund for students at the high school."

The idea for this "solar scholarship" was dreamed up by Kjel Liem and David Denning, members of a group of 12 renewable energy enthusiasts called the Salt Spring Community Energy Group.

Last December the Community Energy Group formed a partnership with School District 64 board and administration to collaboratively create the infrastructure for the GISS Solar Scholarship Project, based on community donations and grant funding.

The total project will include the 20-kilowatt solar installation, the infrastructure to tie it safely into the grid, a monitoring system to allow students in all the schools and members of the public to follow the hourly collection of solar energy by the system, electric-vehicle charging capacity for the district, and an expansion of renewable energy education throughout the district.

"It's really important for young people in our community to see positive solutions to climate change issues," said Nowak.

Losier noted that plans for disbursing the scholarship include both academic students and students interested in trades training for sustainable technologies.

"The system will provide money for at least 25 to 30 years, and the value will keep going up as BC Hydro increases electricity rates."

"We urge everyone in our community to support this creative plan to help students work on the difficult challenges of the future."

With their fellow students in the GISS Environment Club, Nowak and Losier will continue to help the Community Energy Group raise about \$60,000 in personal donations for the project.

Donations to the project go into the Gulf Islands Educational Trust Fund, with amounts of \$50 or more receiving a charitable tax receipt. For more information, and to download donation/pledge forms, visit saltspringcommunityenergy.com.

Article submitted by Salt Spring Community Energy Group.

AGRICULTURE

Honey bees suffer winter losses

Predation and starvation sting area population

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been a tough winter for honey bees on Salt Spring.

"What this will mean is less honey and fewer bees for pollination," said Kelly Johnson, a member of the Salt Spring Island Beekeepers.

Beekeepers face losses of up to 40 per cent, based on data Johnson had collected up to last week.

"It's kind of like everybody's heart was broken because everybody gets so attached to their bees," Johnson said.

As if mite predation and the region's unpredictable winters weren't enough of blow, honey bees were affected by last year's proliferation of wasps.

Given that commercial beekeepers in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island experienced losses of 10 per cent, Johnson suspects an aversion to spraying hives — even with organic pesticides — among island beekeepers has contributed to higher-than-average losses.

The introduction of imported bees from Hawaii and New Zealand, facilitated by the popularity of online-based mail-order breeders, has served to further weaken the region's indigenous bees in recent years.

Undeterred by the challenges, people continue

to hop aboard the bee bandwagon. Many are encouraged by media reports highlighting the looming collapse of honey bee populations across North America; others get involved to boost the number of pollinators and support local agriculture.

"I think it's just Salt Spring," Johnson said. "All of a sudden everyone wants to help save the bees."

The increase in newcomers has coincided with a sharp decline in old-time beekeepers, with many of them overwhelmed by the chronic starvation and predation that have devastated hives across the region.

"It's just become more of a challenge," Johnson said.

The beekeepers club has grown steadily alongside the renewed interest in raising bees. The group meets monthly, offering members of all abilities a chance to access materials, share information and connect with a mentor.

"We're just all learning together and helping one another," Johnson said.

Johnson will present a detailed report on the bee population's winter losses tonight (Wednesday, April 9) at the Salt Spring Island Beekeepers' monthly meeting in the upstairs meeting room of the Farmers' Institute at 7 p.m. She will be joined by guest speaker Linda Gilkeson, who will address the topic of keeping hives wasp free.

More information about the club is available at www.ssibeekeepers.com.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER LANNAN

BLUE IS THE COLOUR: Tree Frog Daycare kids and staff marked World Autism Day by wearing blue clothes, part of a worldwide Light it up Blue awareness initiative on April 2.

PHILANTHROPY

Long-time islanders leave gift

Salt Spring and hospital foundations receive Ward/Cameron funds

It's obvious that siblings John and Dorah Ward and Bertha Cameron loved their island community.

The long-time Salt Spring residents left most of their net worth in the JDB (John, Dorah, Bertha) Trust, and when Dorah, the last survivor of the three, passed away last year at the age of 94, the trust proceeds were left to the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Lady Minto Foundation, each organization receiving just over \$391,000.

John was a decorated Second World War veteran. He and his sisters were very close and lived together on Valhalla Road in their later years. Family friend Nancy Andersen describes them as "three very special and sweet people." All were keen and accomplished golfers who loved hiking and the outdoors. Both John and Bertha passed away in 2007.

Before her retirement and move to Salt Spring Island from Vancouver, Dorah worked with the Government of Canada in various administrative positions. In her later years, although unable to play, Dorah was an avid reader of golf magazines and loved to be driven around the Salt Spring Golf Course in a golf car and to chat with players. Dorah resided at Greenwoods for the last few years of her life. Her friend Paul Joyce recalls that "she loved the music of Johann Strauss and a good drink of Scotch whisky and was sharp and cheerful until the end."

The Salt Spring Island Foundation will hold the generous gift from John, Dorah and Bertha in perpetuity in its Community Endowment Fund.



PHOTO COURTESY SSI FOUNDATION/LMH FOUNDATION

From left, Jennifer Williams and Paul Oliphant of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation board, and Carol Biely and Lesley Reynolds of the Salt Spring Island Foundation board.

Island charities will benefit for generations to come through grants drawn from the investment proceeds of this large bequest.

"We are so very grateful for the family's generosity."

CAROL BIELY
Chair, SSI Foundation

Board chair Carol Biely expressed the foundation's gratitude to the three community-minded islanders: "What a wonderful gesture for a long-time Salt Spring family to leave a legacy that will support many charitable organizations on the island through the SSI Foundation, as well as addressing health care needs. It's a perfect combination and will kick-start greater co-operation and com-

munication between the two foundations. We are so very grateful for the family's generosity."

The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation will ensure that this generous gift is directed to health care priorities at Lady Minto Hospital and our island community.

Speaking on behalf of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, board chairman Paul Oliphant said, "We were overwhelmed by the donation from the Ward family. We have already directed a portion of the donation to support the improvement of outdoor spaces of Greenwoods and Braehaven. The generosity of the Ward family will have an ongoing benefit to the health care community on Salt Spring for many years to come."

Article submitted by the SSI Foundation and Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

STORYTELLING

Conversations bring stories to life

Living Stories Project offers rare opportunity

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The creator of a project designed to gather incredible stories from ordinary people is looking for participants who want to contribute to a growing collection of historical treasures.

From now until the beginning of May, Heather Hopkins urges islanders to suggest friends, family members and acquaintances who have a story to tell. Hopkins will provide studio-quality recording equipment and offer storytelling techniques to facilitate a conversation that will be preserved in perpetuity.

"The tag line that I

use is that it's basically about sharing and preserving local stories," Hopkins said. "It can be about a specific story or about something much more open ended."

Hopkins is used to hearing and collecting stories from a variety of people, having spent much of her professional life as a clinical social worker and undertaking qualitative social research. During her work, Hopkins discovered how few people get a chance to have their stories listened to, and how rewarding the storytelling experience can be.

"What struck me, in my previous work, was that people rarely get the opportunity to tell their big stories," she said. "For whatever reason we are a culture of talkers, but there aren't lots of opportunities



Heather Hopkins

for people to talk and get their stories to be heard.

"A lot of why people are drawn to doing this is because I carve out the time and space for them to have the kind of conversations that don't happen naturally very often. It becomes super meaningful for people to have that."

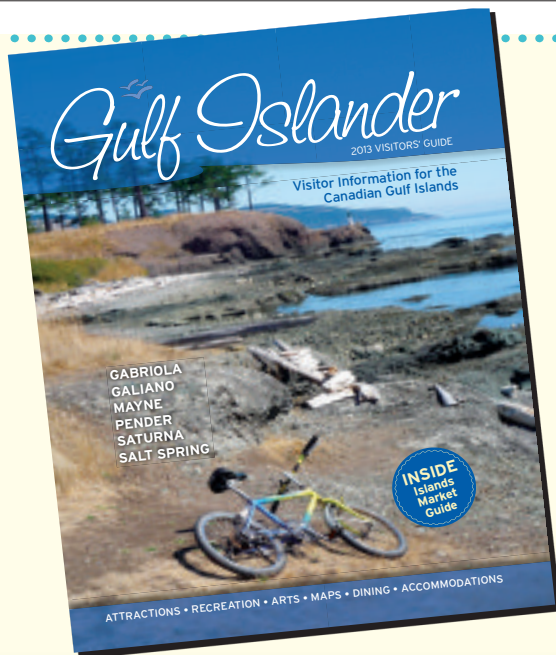
People who wish to

share their stories can choose to have recordings made for friends and family.

Hopkins launched the Living Stories project in Thunder Bay. Having spent much of the past winter on Salt Spring, she's come to realize that the island is the perfect spot to continue the work.

"After being here for a little while, I just thought it would be a neat fit," she said. "The scale of the community I think really facilitates it. People are pretty community minded here."

Anyone who wants to arrange a conversation can reach Hopkins at thelivingstoriesproject@gmail.com. More information about the project is available at thelivingstoriesproject.com. Participation is by donation.



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IS THIS YOUR FAMILY? This historical wedding photo was among a handful of personal photos that ended up at the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary's Thrift Shop. Volunteers there want to make sure the photos aren't wanted by someone on the island. Drop in to the store for more information.

GAMES

Boards out for Scrabble Day

Inventor's birthday marked with game fest

On Saturday, April 12, the Salt Spring library will celebrate National Scrabble Day.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the program room will be open for Scrabble lovers of all ages and skill levels to gather and enjoy the game, facilitated by John Apissoghomian of the Salt Spring Island Scrabble Club. Apissoghomian can play multiple games simultaneously, against more than a dozen opponents. People should bring their own board if they have one.

Scrabble Day celebrates the popular board game on the birthday of its inventor, an American architect

named Alfred Mosher Butts. Scrabble is a word game in which two to four players score points by forming words from individual tiles on a game board marked with a 15 by 15 grid. The words are formed across and down in crossword fashion and must appear in a standard dictionary.

The game is sold in 121 countries and can be played in 29 different languages.

Butts created the game in 1938 as a variation on an earlier word game he invented called Lexiko.

The Salt Spring Scrabble Club meets at the library every Monday afternoon from 2-5 p.m. For more information about the club, or about the Scrabble Day celebration on April 12, contact John at ssis-scrabbleclub@gmail.com.

Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Certified Professional Consultant on Aging: what does it mean?

By PATTI FIELD

Certified Professional Consultants on Aging (CPCA) are professionals from a variety of industries who:

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The CPCA Code of Professional Responsibility identifies the fundamental principles that inform and direct the conduct of each individual maintaining the CPCA designation in good standing.

My career spanned years in a financial institution learning to work with all types of clients, assisting with budgeting, helping to manage their investments and ensuring their Advanced Care Plans (Wills, Powers of Attorney – Legal and Health) were all in order.

Approximately three years ago, I had the opportunity to help a senior with transportation, meal preparation and companionship. I found I LOVED helping and decided to use my skills and learn more to help others in need in our wonderful community.

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offered this holistic course to assist me to understand the social, emotional and physical changes that occur as people age.

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To maintain the integrity of this designation, I am accountable to Age Friendly Business, and their Code of Professional Responsibility. This means I belong to a group of professionals and am accountable to them when serving you.

Please take a moment to look at my affiliated websites and understand the importance of this designation for you and your family.

I welcome your calls to ascertain how best to help your loved ones.

*Patti Field owns Savvy Seniors.
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HEALTH & SAFETY

Yes It Happens Here campaign explores crime issues

SWOVA and partners present awareness campaign

National Victims of Crime Awareness Week will be marked on Salt Spring Island with a campaign addressing stereotypes and silence about crime and victims of crime in the community.

SWOVA's Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project secured funding from the federal Ministry of Justice

to mount the Yes, It Happens Here project during the April 6 to 12 week.

"We wanted to do something that would be meaningful in our community," explains Andria Scanlan, SSGLP coordinator, in a press release. "Our goal was to provide accessible information that would generate thought-provoking discussion and awareness. Although we enjoy a high degree of perceived safety here on Salt Spring Island, crime does affect our community in pro-

"We wanted to do something that would be meaningful in our community."

ANDRIA SCANLAN
Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project

found ways. Particularly disturbing are the number of children, youth and women who are vic-

tims of crime as a result of family violence, sexual abuse and elder abuse. The first level of support for many victims of crime is family and friends. We wanted to illuminate that as well as the resources that are available in our community."

Three initiatives will take place this week thanks to efforts of SWOVA, Island Women Against Violence and the Connecting Generations group. Firstly, a thought-provoking public media campaign will generate

community awareness, dialogue and education regarding victims of crime.

Secondly, an online contest will encourage people to get the most "shares" and "likes" for promoting materials produced by the girls leadership group with \$50 gift certificates for local businesses offered as prizes. See the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ssglp) for contest rules.

Thirdly, a resource fair

will be held in the Centennial Park gazebo on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am. to 1 p.m. Virtually all on-island organizations that provide resources and supports to victims of crime and their families will be there.

SSGLP members will be conducting a brief needs assessment survey asking people what is working on the island, as well as what is missing.

Treats will be provided courtesy of Country Grocer.

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INGA MICHAELSEN

Explore your life purpose – What is your what?

Mahatma Gandhi
Mother Teresa
Dr. Martin Luther King

Aside from being three of the most revered and influential people of the past century, they had another thing in common: Each discovered their life's purpose, their "What", and pursued it with strategic abandon and persevered until they provided the benefits of their "What" to those who needed it most.

"Your "What" is the one amazing thing you were born to do and is comprised of your inherent gifts, the vehicle you will use to share your gifts with the world and the people you are most compelled to serve." (Taken from the book by Steve Oshlers What is your What)

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- 4) Keeping your shoulders under the water will force you to use a lot more resistance and core work while providing protection for the submerged joints.
- 5) Maintaining an acceptable speed through a good range of motion.
- 6) Doing vigorous rebounds lifting your body out of the water or "momentum rebounds" which is essentially bouncing. There is a great difference with the amount of energy required between the former and the latter example.
- 7) The factor affecting just how many calories can be expended by additional muscle mass and exercise is controlled by individuals metabolism, genetic make up and the individuals level of fitness. Each class is approximately 400 calories of energy expenditure- but a lot depends on the intensity you are working out at and your metabolism level. Instead of stepping on the scale measure yourself if you add muscle you will weigh more but measurements will show you are trimmer.
- 8) Eat right exercise often and enjoy each day as we do not get a second chance!



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Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

What Should Buyers Do BEFORE Viewing Homes?

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Determine Your Price Range – Speak with a mortgage broker or lender and have yourself "prequalified" so that your mortgage limit is predetermined. Establish what your down payment is (who is assisting you, or when the down payment will be "liquid" if it is locked into a term deposit or other financial instrument.)

Find A Realtor To Represent You – Most buyers just "happen" to connect with a realtor who has a house listed that they are inquiring about. Savvy buyers will seek the opinion of their lawyer, mortgage broker or others and determine whom they would like to represent them in obtaining what is likely the largest asset in their lives. Experience and strategic negotiation skills are great attributes. This is the person who will provide *guidance as to offer price and subject conditions to protect... YOUR BEST INTERESTS.*

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* Based on 2012 closed transactions. Source: CREA & RE/MAX.

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Class display deadline: Monday 4pm
Word ad deadline: Tuesday 9:30am
Too Late To Classify: Tuesday 1pm



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DEATHS

DEATHS


FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM/GIFTS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS



Gregory C. Coles
Feb. 17, 1952 -
March 5, 2014

Greg passed away peacefully on March 5th in his family home in Duncan after a lengthy illness with C.O.P.D.

Greg grew up in Victoria and spent most of his adult life on Salt Spring Island. He was predeceased by his father Cecil and is survived by his mother Ruby.

No service was held as per his request.

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Our Dear Derek
May 11, 1962 -
April 9, 2004

We miss you so.
You were such a good, kind person.

See you soon,
Love Mum & Dad



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday
April 23, 2014
7:00 pm at Lions Hall
103 Bonnett Avenue

All SS Hospice members are encouraged to attend and eligible to vote. Members of the Public are also welcome. For more info 250-537-2770

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
Central Community Hall Society

Saturday 12th April, 2014
at 1:00 pm
PUBLIC WELCOME


SALT SPRING HOSTING FREE LUNCH

The Lions Club will be hosting a free lunch for islanders for up to 100 people first come first served.

Lunch will be a bowl of chili, bun & a pop.

It will be served on Friday April 11th from 12-1:30 only.

Come and see what lions is all about and have lunch on us. See you at the Lions Hall at 103 Bonnet Ave.



Alice Bibeau Tester

On the morning of Tuesday, February 18, 2014, we lost a natural treasure with the passing of Alice Bibeau Tester at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island. Last August, Alice celebrated her 100th birthday.

Alice was a remarkable person who enjoyed an even more remarkable life. She was rich with long-time friends who often referred to her as "little Alice" because of her diminutive stature. The dash (-) between 1913 and 2014 represented a life well lived. She loved Lyal, family, friends, children and especially babies, miniature horses, bantam chickens, dogs, cats, birds, her garden, learning to play the piano after becoming deaf, and playing two spoons on her knees. She found joy in writing poetry, riding horses and traveling. We remember Alice for her laughter and the ease in which she shared a colourful joke, embellished a story, or fabricated a tale or two. We remember her for her generosity and especially her annual Christmas gift of maple syrup from Quebec. She was a close life-long friend of Pierre Trudeau and Jean Chrétien and at one time, Alice was a guest of Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev in Russia.

Born in Montreal, she was educated in a Roman Catholic convent before graduating as a Registered Nurse. While nursing in Hollywood, she met Lyal Tester, an electrician who was vacationing from Flin Flon. Everyone has a story or two about little Alice working as a nurse in medical/surgical areas and in the operating room including piercing the ears of many young Flin Flon girls, standing on a chair singing in her high-pitched French tone over a loud unruly patient, and preparing "French café" for the doctors and nurses at the Company Hospital.

Lyal and Alice left Flin Flon to manage a small motel in White Rock before retiring to Salt Spring Island in 1979. Lyal passed in 1986 and Alice remained in their home on Swanson Road until 1999 when she moved into Pioneer Village. In 2010, she moved into Residential Care.

A huge thank you to the compassionate and caring staff and volunteers in Residential Care at Lady Minto Hospital, Dr. David Beaver, Susan Astill and her friends and family. Special thanks to Donna Powell for her companion care and regular visits. Over the years, Alice appreciated keeping connected to her friends and family through cards and letters.

If you care to make a donation in Alice's name, please donate to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (135 Crofton Road Salt Spring Island B.C. V8K 1T1) for education for staff on dementia care to enhance their practice.

There was no service at her request. In August, there will be a celebration of Alice's life and poetry. For more information, contact Ellen Mahoney at ellen.mahoney7@gmail.com.

Condolences, tributes or stories may be left on Alice's Book of Memories at Hayward's Funeral Service at <http://www.haywardsfuneral.com>.

bcclassified.com

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

ATTENTION CRAFTERS the 25th Annual Nanaimo Professional Craft Fair, Beban Park, Nanaimo, is on Nov 7, 8, & 9th, 2014. Register by May 30th to get a discount. Call 250-797-6544. www.nanaimoprofessionalcraftfair.com

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS


DEATHS

Bible Believers Fellowship
of Salt Spring Island

Sunday service
10 - 11:30 am

Core Inn -
134 McPhillips Ave.
www.bbfssi.org

more info: 250-537-4934



John Gotthold Magnus
November 27, 1936 -
March 29, 2014

John Magnus, son of Henry and Helen Magnus, was born in Luseland, Saskatchewan where he grew up on the family farm. He was studying Law for his Masters Degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. As an international scholarship student he fondly recalled many occasions befriended by Judge Sarah Hughes and especially the time at her home when she was hastily called to swear in President Johnson. It was a unique experience for John to participate in the J.F. Kennedy Assassination trial as a friend of the court and he often reminisced about it. He was employed in Tulsa, Oklahoma, by Amerada Hess Oil Corporation and became their legal counsel for their Canadian office in Calgary, Alberta.

John met his wife Ethel at Banff International Christmas sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. They were married in 1969 and John continued his legal practice in Calgary until 1988 when he retired to join his family on Salt Spring Island, BC. He is survived by his wife (Ethel, nee Johanson), four sons and one daughter: Jennifer Smith (Daryl), Nolan (Kate), Brad, Duncan (Haleh), and Chris. John was delighted by children and loved all his grandchildren: Timothy, Chelsey, Chloe, Lida, Lyla, and Heidi. He also leaves four brothers: Dave (Evelyn), Arnold, Ben, and Jim (Marilyn) and one sister: Miriam Jones (Jim). John was predeceased by Baby Brother Arnold, sister Elsie Laing (Will) and brother Vern (Dorothy). His fondest memories were both of his Law practice and his farming heritage. He is sadly missed as we recall the good times.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 12.
Interment will be at 11:00 am at Central.
The service will be at 2:00 pm at the United Church, Salt Spring Island.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Elizabeth "Lorraine" Dixon (nee Emmerson)
June 30th, 1948- April 2, 2014



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Lorraine, devoted wife of Tony, loving mother to Jonathan (Ashley) and Paula (Bill), and proud grandma to Hannah, Liam, Evan and Ella.

Born in Yorkshire, Lorraine trained as a nurse at St. James' Hospital in Leeds and worked in Zambia, Kenya and England before coming to Canada in 1972. She lived first in Rainy River in North-Western Ontario and then in Hamilton, where she raised her family before resuming her career in nursing.

Lorraine moved to Hong Kong in 1994 and retired to Salt Spring Island in 2002, where she died peacefully at home after a courageous battle with cancer.

The family thanks Drs. Butcher and Beaver for their medical care over the last few months. Special thanks to the Home and Palliative Care Nurses, Community Health Care Workers and hugely supportive friends and neighbours who all helped ensure that Lorraine could be looked after at home.

A small private funeral will take place on Friday 11th April. Friends are invited to a Celebration of Life on Saturday 12th April from 3-6pm at 280 South Bank Drive.

If desired, memorial donations can be made to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

LIFE'S HORIZON - Alice Bibeau Tester

*There always is a horizon beyond what we cannot see.
We wonder what the future holds. What is our destiny?
We do our best to shape the course of the days that lie ahead,
Hopefully days of happiness, and none that we will dread.
We all have those lofty dreams that spur our aspirations.
So we vow each new day to increase our dedication.
Life is full of obstacles that must be overcome.
Perseverance breeds success but our job is never done.
Each day there is a new horizon with a challenge we must meet
To realize our ambitions and gain the goal we seek.*

We were all blessed to have little Alice bring joy to our lives.

CALL GAIL, SEAN OR ELIZABETH
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INFORMATION

INFORMATION

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Please visit www.happyislanddiapers.com or call Jane & Shawn @ 1-866-922-7377 for more info or to get started!

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Salt Spring Seniors Services Society
Wednesday, April 23rd • 2:00 p.m.
At 379 Lower Ganges Road

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE OF 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC.

As required by the Letters Patent of the District, the Annual General Meeting will be held for the following purposes:

- To receive from the Trustees a report on the condition of the works and a statement of the financial condition of the Improvement District.
- To discuss with the Trustees any matter relating to the works or finances of the Improvement District.
- To fix the remuneration of the Trustees for the ensuing year.
- To elect ONE Trustees for a term of 3 years.

NOMINEES FOR TRUSTEE ARE:
Bob Watson
Donald Hodgins

LEGALS

No. 17892 NELSON REGISTRY IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BETWEEN: NANCY GUNVILLE, PLAINTIFF
AND: GEORGE GEOFFREY SEILER, DEFENDANT

NOTICE TO:

The Defendant, George Geoffrey Seiler

TAKE NOTICE THAT on April 2, 2014, an order was made for substituted service upon you of a Notice of Civil Claim issued from the Nelson Court Registry, Supreme Court of British Columbia in action number 17892 by way of advertisement and regular mail c/o General Delivery, Thetis Island, BC. In the proceeding, a claim for damages is made against you arising out of a motor vehicle accident, which occurred on or about July 2, 2013 at or near the City of Creston, British Columbia. You have 28 days to enter a Response to Civil Claim after the second publication in the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper on April 16, 2014, failing which proceedings in default may be taken against you. You may obtain a copy of the Notice of Civil Claim and the Order for substituted service from the Nelson Court Registry located at 320 Ward Street, Nelson, British Columbia or by retrieving such from General Delivery, Thetis Island, BC.

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Building Inspector I District of Kitimat, full time permanent bargaining unit position - wage range \$36.33/hr - \$43.63/hr, over 2 years. Duties include plan checking reviews, inspections and enforcement functions related to building construction to ensure conformance with legislation, regulations and standards, and explaining and enforcing municipal bylaws. Preferred applicants will have a Technology Certificate related to building construction or equivalent; BOABC level 2 certification and a Class 5 driver's license. Submit applications by April 30, 2014, 4:30 p.m., to Personnel, District of Kitimat, 270 City Centre, Kitimat B.C. V8C 2H7, Tel 250-632-8900, Fax 250-632-4995, or by e-mail at dk@kitimat.ca. Community information can be obtained from our website at www.kitimat.ca. Only those candidates selected for further consideration will be contacted.

HELP WANTED

CLUXEWE RESORT MANAGER needed at Kwakiutl Band in Port Hardy. Competitive salary and free accommodations. Deadline midnight April 15. Email hr@kwakiutl.bc.ca for job description and to apply.

TELEGRAPH COVE RESORT is now accepting resumes for the following positions: Front Desk General Maintenance Cook Waitress Bartender Dishwasher Barista Please forward your resume by email to tcrltd@island.net or fax 250-928-3105 Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

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DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

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TUESDAY 9:30 AM

GARAGE SALES

212 PARK DR. C. Spencer's House - Stacia's moving sale. Apr.11 4-7pm. Apr.12 10-4pm

601A RAINBOW RD. Saturday Apr. 12 from 9 am - 4 pm. Extra kitchen & household items, small appliances, dishes chairs, walker, wheelchair, books and much, much more. No Early Birds.

LIONS GARAGE Sales & Drop Offs: Fridays & Saturdays only, 10am - 12pm. Many household items. We do not accept large appliances, draperies or clothing. Drop-offs accepted only on Fri. & Sat. morning. Please no garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

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This Week's

Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) - Contending with the adventure, mystery, challenge and paradoxes of relationships continues. This is leading you into new territory. You may feel somewhat reluctant. This is a call for the healing power of love. The key is to listen more than be heard and try to understand more than be understood. All people experience life through their own filters; discover your partner's.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) - A busy time behind the scenes continues. You may wish you could take a break. Yet, now more than ever is the time to make your dreams and plans your reality. Yet, there may be some dreaming or at least planning to do first. Prioritizing among a spectrum of projects and ambitions may be necessary for success.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) - What makes you unique, distinct, special...? Asking and answering these and other such questions is likely and important now. A new cycle began last month, which will last about 18 months, during which time the urge to shine more brightly than you have for some time is destined. If you are unclear consider those questions.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) - A dynamic if challenging cycle continues. Many areas of your life are feeling the effects, especially at home and at work. Where you might have felt hesitant recently, you now feel more confident, to take a few risks or at least breathe easier. In some respects, you are in a slow learning curve. Returns for past efforts are rolling in.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) - A time of completion, preparation and initiative has begun. Expect all three to circulate for a while. You may have to take matters more into your own hands these days. This requires breaking through barriers and delays and perhaps dealing with difficult people and situations. Faithful perseverance is crucial. The time is right to expand your scope.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) - Your ambitions are rising. These are leading you to dip deeper than you have for some time. You want to work smarter not harder. A learning curve is implied and includes research. Meanwhile, healing relationship issues and wounds is featured. Cultivate empathy and compassion yet avoid getting lost in or manipulated by sentimentality. Trust in the healing power of love.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) - A steady process of pushing through and beyond continues. While other key players may be involved, the focus is largely linked to your own inner relationship. The quality of your thoughts, feelings, attitudes, habits, body condition and so on are under review. You are ready for change, perhaps spurred on by necessity. Get clear and persevere!

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) - Some cycles are less predictable than others, like now. An attitude of approaching people and situations assertively yet with an open mind as well is likely and ideal. Expanding your mind to see a bigger picture and to be more inclusive and embracing of others is featured. This trend will continue so tune-in and engage.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) - A vibrant, creative impulse is rising within you. It is leading you to see yourself and the world and in the world in new ways. Pushing beyond familiar boundaries feels important. However, not everyone will appreciate how or why you feel moved this way. It is about expanding your current limits. Aim to be as conscientious as you can. What goes around....

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) - A process of mastering your mind, emotions and imagination continues. If we are not as strong in our core as outer expressions and involvements require, self-sabotage is a common result. So, it is important that you do this inner work. A lot of activity and perhaps drama at home or at least within you is implied. Turn outer conflicts into inner power.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) - Many new perspectives are emerging in your mind. At best these are igniting inspiration and determination. You want things to change. This includes having more freedom. More financial freedom is probably featured high on your list. Yet, what you truly want is to feel at peace, purposeful and empowered. Deepen your practice of patience for now.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) - You are determined to enter new territory, to increase your personal power and earning potential. Your focus is sharp and you are steadily driving forward. Yet, you may wish the pace was quicker. It may take until later in May for things to speed-up then you will be running to keep pace for a couple of months or so. Be consistent in establishing



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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



TRAIL RUNNING

Sound of the gong launches island trail running group

Channel Ridge race supplies 'barf-your-heart-out' fun

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

I was definitely pumped to be in second place five minutes into Saturday's inaugural Salt Spring Trail Runners race at Channel Ridge.

"So this is what it feels like to be at the front of the pack," I thought.

In most races, a crew of elite athletes are off to a sprint and out of sight within seconds of the start pistol. Those runners are usually long gone before I even pass the start line.

The absence of any pack to speak of on Saturday should have been the first sign something was amiss. Racers sprawled in a loose procession along the course's opening kilometre. Karl Otto, who would go on to complete the race in a course-record setting 44:33, was still only 30 metres ahead and there wasn't a soul in sight on the twisting trail behind me.



PHOTO ABOVE BY SEAN MCINTYRE; PHOTO AT RIGHT BY MATT CECILL

Above, Dave Melanson and Peter Oro prepare to sound the gong at Saturday's Channel Ridge 8K Trail Run. At right, Melanson cheers on Shari Hambrook and Dean Crouse at the finish line.

Then the climbing began.

Otto cruised ahead. The well-conditioned flitted into their rightful positions. I contemplated hitting the wall.

On the eight-kilometre course's nastiest uphill segment, an aching

back shifted my focus from burning thighs. I welcomed the change.

"How are you doing?" asked another racer, gliding past at a steady jog.

"My lower back is seizing up like a clam. How about you?" I responded, somehow.

"I feel like I'm going to barf up my heart."

Dave Melanson and a group of fellow enthusiasts dreamed up the Salt Spring Trail Runners series to promote outdoor activity and an appreciation of the island's natural spaces. I checked the website. Heart barfing, back spasms and metaphysical crises weren't part of the package.

It was all downhill from around the six-kilometre mark. Two kilometres of knee-jarring feel-it-in-your-molars downhill through mud, rock and rain.

This, I was told after the race, is when you can really compensate for all those precious minutes lost on the uphill. I'm grateful to have



kept it together long enough to see the colourful prayer flag-festooned finish line, where pain and suffering quickly transformed into elation with a high five from Melanson and race director Peter Oro — yes, they actually high fived every participant.

The euphoria spread as more racers gathered at the finish. The rain grew heavier, but the hugs, smiles, raffle prizes and temporary shelters helped make it all worthwhile.

Seventy-two trail runners lined up in the rain for the race's "start gong." All crossed the finish line and no injuries — heart-related or otherwise — were reported. The race pulled in 120 pounds of goods and \$100 for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for the island and its excited cry for more," Melanson said.

Nearly five minutes after Otto's rocket-fuelled finish, Molly Black

grabbed second spot in 49:20. Rick Laing followed soon after to claim third place.

Participants won't have too long to bask in their accomplishment since organizers have already begun to plan a sequel. If all goes according to plan, the gong will ring over Ruckle Park for a 12-kilometre run on Saturday, June 14. There's also talk of a 25-kilometre event to complete the series later in the year.

For more information and full results from Saturday's run, visit saltspringtrailrunning.org or Salt Spring Trail Runners on Facebook.

Organizers thank the many sponsors and volunteers, including Salt Spring Search and Rescue, Tin Can Forest, Saltspring Air, Saltspring Soapworks, Purica, Gaiama Yoga, Mt. Maxwell Roasting Co., Island Escapades, Vesuvius Store and Cafe, and many others, for contributing to the event's success.

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SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

Race series enters home stretch

Sneakers catch up to eighth place

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Sneakers have their eyes keenly set on seventh place with only one race left in this year's Vancouver Island Race Series.

Eight runners contributed to the team's most recent point grab at a 15-kilometre road race in Merville on Sunday. The performance boosts the team into eighth position after seven events. "Another amazing outing for the Sneakers — everyone in the top 10 — three medals," wrote Lynn Thompson in a post-race report.

Melanie Van Soeren is within one race of winning her category for the series. She finished first in the F25-29 category with a time of 1:05:50. The result earned her a 50th-place finish among the race's 310 competitors.

Susan Gordon won a silver medal in the F50-

54 category after she crossed the finish line in 1:08:02. Catherine Bennett placed third in the F60-64 group with a time of 1:25:56. Other finishers were: Eric Van Soeren, 1:10:45; Lise Fraser, 1:13:46; Janice Dickie, 1:15:32; Marion Young, 1:15:46; and Gillian McConnell, 1:20:12.

"Our series contenders continue to hold or raise their positions on the series," Thompson added. "Melanie holds a commanding lead in her age group. Lise holds onto her third place standing in a close race. Catherine is solid in fourth, as is Lynn. Marion is sixth in a close competition and Eric is in eighth in another close one."

The Sneakers will line up to complete another VIRS season at the Sooke River 10-kilometre race on Sunday, April 13. A good turnout stands to push the team into seventh place among the more than 70 teams from across the region registered in the winter road running series.

An awards ceremony to conclude the season will follow this weekend's race.