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Wednesday, June 4, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 23

TEACHERS STRIKE

Rotating strike hits second week

Contract settlement
hoped for by June 30

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands students were out of school on Tuesday as the second week of rotating strikes hit the district, while teachers and their employers' association returned to the bargaining table in hopes of reaching a deal by June 30.

While the job action and a partial lockout by the B.C. Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) has meant reduced services at schools, the district has attempted to keep education and other activities flowing.

"We don't really know much more than what everyone else is getting through the press," said May McKenzie, chair of the Gulf Islands Board of Education.

"We're managing. It's just our sincere hope they'll come to a negotiated settlement by the end of the school year."

While the last round of bargaining saw BCPSEA holding to a wage increase of 7.3 per cent over six years and teachers asking for 13.7 per cent over four years, observers have speculated the two sides could come closer as teachers reduce their salary demand in order to secure more funding toward class size and composition.

STRIKE continued on 2

NSSWD

Voters douse plant borrowing bylaw

Board vows to continue open
house process

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ratepayers have rejected the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's request to borrow up to \$10.4 million for a new water treatment plant on St. Mary Lake.

The NSSWD's borrowing bylaw was nixed



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

HOLDING THEIR GROUND: Heidi Serra, left, and Whitney Walker were on the picket line Tuesday as part of a province-wide rotating teachers' strike.

after 361 eligible voters signed electoral response forms during the 30-day Alternative Approval Process (AAP) period. The bylaw required signatures from at least 256 ratepayers — equivalent to 10 per cent of eligible voters — to be defeated.

Jon Scott, a resident of the Vesuvius area, was among people who led the charge against the borrowing bylaw. While the AAP turnout is lower than expected, he said, it was more than enough to delay the proposal.

"Now, the public will be closely involved in decisions on how to proceed," he wrote in an email on Monday. "Also, the creativity of various engineering companies will be employed, rather than going with the design from one consultant."

Marshall Heinekey, chair of the NSSWD board, said a referendum on the matter will probably be held in the fall. Until that time,

NSSWD continued on 2

CRIME

RCMP bust B&E ring

Charges connected to four incidents

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring RCMP have charged three island youths in connection with a series of break-ins that occurred in the past four months.

The 15-year-old males were caught after breaking into a Rainbow Road property at approximately 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, according to RCMP Sgt. George Jenkins.

The youths are alleged to have used a window to access the residence, where they grabbed a PlayStation 3 and an iPad.

The individuals' names cannot be released under provisions of the Young Offenders Act.

Sgt. Jenkins said the youths face multiple counts of theft and break-and-enter in connection to similar incidents in early March and February.

In March the youths are alleged to have broken a window to access a home on Blackburn Road. The thieves reportedly left the scene with their stolen loot in the homeowner's vehicle.

RCMP continued on 6

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INDEX

- Arts..... 14
- Classifieds..... 21
- Editorial..... 8
- Get Noticed..... 16

- Letters..... 9
- People & Community..... 17
- Sea Capers..... 12
- Sports & Recreation..... 24
- What's On..... 18

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Strike impacts being felt

STRIKE A ruling from the Labour Relations Board expected today (Wednesday, June 4) as to whether the government can legally reduce teachers' wages by 10 per cent during job action could also make an impact at the table.

"I'm feeling that both sides are willing to move a bit and I'm cautiously optimistic," said Deborah Nostdal, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association.

Education Minister Peter Fassbender also expressed hope for a quick settlement at a press conference following a meeting with the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils on Friday. A signing bonus for teachers if a deal is reached by June 30 is still on the table.

The minister added he does not want to impose a settlement through legislation and will continue negotiations through the summer if necessary.

"Quite honestly I hope we can get an agreement by the end of June," Fassbender said. "If we don't, then we need to stay at the table and bargain throughout the summer."

With bargaining set for Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week, there is no word yet whether strike action will continue. Nostdal said teachers were heartened by positive messages from the public during the

first day on the line, with only one disgruntled driver noted passing by the school board office.

"I do not doubt it's hard on parents, having to arrange child care, but the parents I've talked to say, 'We support you.' The comments have been really overwhelmingly positive," she said.

Gulf Islands students have registered impatience with the ongoing dispute, with a walk-out planned by Victoria teens for today expected to draw support from districts across the province. The event is intended to tell both sides that negotiations have already gone on for too long.

Gulf Islands secondary student council member Sky Losier is counting down his last days of high school, with

only eight days of class left before exams.

"It's getting in the way of my learning and it's frustrating," he said of the job action. "And it's really bad timing for everyone, but what can you do?"

Despite the frustration he and others are feeling, Losier does not believe losing more class time is a good idea.

"I'm opposed to any of the student walk-outs across British Columbia. If we're trying to make the point that teachers are taking away class time and learning time, we're only adding to that by taking more of it away."

In addition, Losier said, the teachers have his full support in this fight.

"They're just trying to get a better deal for students," he said.



PHOTO BY MEL DIVERS

Clockwise from left, GISS students Norees Gasper, Gwen Patrick, Sebastian Howe, Connor Budd and Jenna Aston do schoolwork in a room they rented at the library on Tuesday with school not in session due to the teachers' strike.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Panda the pooch carries a sign on the picket line during last Thursday's strike action.



PHOTO BY MEL DIVERS

From left, concerned citizen Jamie Alexander supports teachers during Tuesday job action, along with student Abby Walkner, teacher Cat Lightfoot and students Molly Divers and Liam Divers (standing) and Sabrina Walkner.

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NSSWD makes plans for fall referendum

NSSWD
continued from 1

he said, ratepayers can visit the NSSWD office for more information about the project.

"As far as I'm concerned the results are in. I'm not upset or anything. It's a public, democratic process; a lot of information came out of it," he said. "We'll just carry on with what we have to do."

Island Health has

required the NSSWD to upgrade its water treatment facility at St. Mary Lake by Jan. 1, 2016. Preliminary engineering plans for the facility were prepared by Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting Engineers earlier this year.

"We are under mandate to put a new treatment plant in, and that deadline is still in place," Heinekey said.

The board intends to stay the course with its preliminary design for the dis-

solved air flotation plant. Potential alterations to the facility's design, Heinekey added, are anticipated when contractors participate in the project's open bidding process.

"This is one step in the process," he said. "At this stage, we're not going to change direction."

The board's next move is to update the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development on its public consultation process and the AAP result.

Heinekey reminded ratepayers the NSSWD board wants to borrow up to \$10.4 million. The specific loan amount, he added, is subject to change based on fundraising efforts and grants.

For more information about the project, visit www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca.

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

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Tuesday Farmers' Market

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Centennial Park

SATURDAY MARKET

Parks commission approves more market options

Long-weekend trial starts June 27

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Market lovers will soon get more chances to appreciate the Make it, Bake it and Grow it motto of Salt Spring's renowned market at Centennial Park.

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has approved a pilot project to extend market hours on the Canada Day, BC Day and Labour Day long weekends.

Along with the traditional Saturday hours, the market will be open on Friday evenings between 5 and 9 p.m. and on Sunday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"The front paved portion of park will be available for 60 vendors on Fridays and Sundays with entertainment in the gazebo featured on Friday evenings and children's activities on Sundays," said PARC manager Lorraine Brewster, in an announcement released Monday. "The process for market spots on Friday would be allocated through

reverse seniority, with new vendors receiving first choice, and the Sunday market spots to current seasonal vendors first to ensure opportunity is provided to both groups."

The decision follows PARC's release of a market study in early May. The survey, conducted in conjunction with researchers from the University of Victoria, identified more parking and market expansion as respondents' top priorities to improve the market experience for vendors and visitors.

"I personally think the whole thing should change."

ISIS NESBITT
Owner,
Seeds of Life Catering

"This is a positive step forward as the Saturday Market is a key economic driver for the island as well as a social hub for residential island life," said



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Extending sales territory to the boardwalk has been one solution for dealing with an overflow of vendors at the Saturday Market.

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director.

"The pilot project will provide an opportunity to try some of the recommendations that the research report identified, and work towards building on future successes for the market."

Some vendors, like Seeds of Life Catering owner Isis Nes-

bitt, weren't so optimistic about the announcement.

"That's just so they don't change the Saturday Market," she said. "I personally think the whole thing should change. The only way to grow the market is to not penalize vendors for sharing and stop with these huge [10-foot] spaces [for grandfathered vendors]."

She suspects the Friday and

Sunday markets won't attract anywhere near the number of visitors who turn out for Saturday's event.

"I have nothing against the older vendors; they are the ones that started this market, but they have to let go of the old ways. The more diverse the Saturday Market, the more people will start coming."

Since the market season began in April, Nesbitt said, she's only once found space in the official market area. She's been fortunate to have obtained a space in the adjacent Gasoline Alley section, where many business owners rent a portion of their storefronts to vendors.

Current zoning for Centennial Park limits potential Saturday Market expansion, Brewster added. PARC members will conduct a feasibility study to determine the long-term implications of the changes.

The extra market dates identified for the three long weekends are June 27, June 29, Aug. 1, Aug. 3, Aug. 29 and Aug. 31.

For more details about the pilot project, contact the Salt Spring PARC office at 250-537-4448.

NEWS BRIEFS

FOR THE RECORD

A story in last week's paper incorrectly stated the CRD's EAS Committee recommended a number of shooting reductions at the Salt Spring Rod & Gun Club as an amendment to the noise bylaw. In fact, the only change being recommended is to section 3.6, which currently states "No person shall discharge a firearm before 9 a.m. or after sunset

that disturbs other people as described in Section 2 of this Bylaw." The recommendation is to replace the words "or after sunset" with "or after sunset or 7 p.m. whichever comes earliest."

Islands Trust Council on Saturna

The Islands Trust Council is meeting June 18 and 19 on Saturna Island, and invites members of the public to participate.

The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. on Wednes-

day, June 18 at the Saturna Island Recreation and Community Centre. Topics on the agenda this quarter include the Trust's Coastal Douglas Fir Zone Conservation Action Plan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada aquaculture resource management, and a dialogue with San Juan County Council members, as well as regular business updates. Community Stewardship Award recipients for 2014 will also be decided on and announced.

While the deadline to register as a delegation has passed, the public is still

welcome to observe proceedings. A town hall session is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 19.

The full agenda package will be available for viewing on the Islands Trust website and at the Gabriola, Salt Spring and Victoria offices by June 9.

Mission Hill chef visits

Hastings House Country House Hotel will open its fifth season of Chefs Across the Water with a dinner by Mission Hill's executive winery chef Chris Stewart

on Monday, June 16.

The annual guest chef program brings distinguished chefs to the Hastings House kitchen for a series of gastronomic island adventures. This year the series will highlight wine country cooking using the freshest, locally grown, in-season ingredients.

Originally from the Maritimes, Stewart is looking forward to bringing a taste of the Okanagan and getting back to the ocean for his Hastings House appearance.

"My mind is set on seafood. Once the primary pro-

tein has been decided, I will tailor dishes that work to build a memorable menu incorporating our award winning wines and locally caught seafood," he said. He's also looking forward to working alongside Hastings House executive chef Marcel Kauer, whose reputation for amazingly fresh, creative and sustainable food is well known across the country.

With only 75 seats available, diners are encouraged to book early. For more information, follow the Chefs Across the Water link on the Hastings House website.

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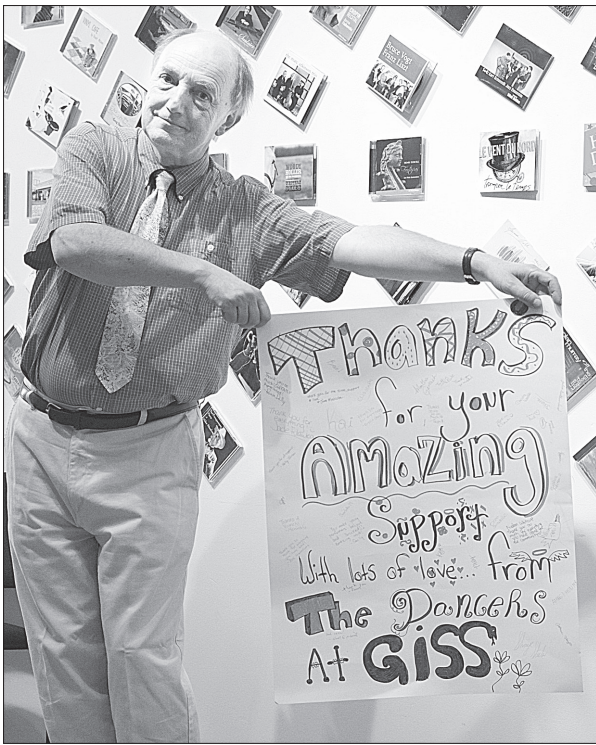


PHOTO BY BOB FENSKE

LOVE FOR GEORGE: ArtSpring's executive director George Sipos shares a message of appreciation received from GISS dance students at his retirement party on Monday evening. The ArtSpring gallery was packed with people sharing best wishes for and memories about Sipos, who has been in his post since November of 2006. The new executive director is Cicela Månsson, who comes to Salt Spring Island from Ontario.

BUSINESS

Salt Spring Books wins award

Neighbourhood bookstore deemed 'best in the galaxy'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For the shop's regular patrons, news that Salt Spring Books has won a Retailer of the Year award from Magazines Canada isn't a dramatic plot twist, but in a world overrun with tablets and ebooks, it's comforting to know somebody is still cheering for the good old-fashioned neighbourhood bookstore.

The national honour, announced on May 28, is no minor accomplishment when one considers the competition. Regardless of the big box and online onslaught, an impressive stack of small bookshop owners across the country have persisted and thrived in the face of their leviathan competitors.

Adina Hildebrandt, co-owner of Salt Spring Books, said it all comes down to her family's drive to support Canadian content while catering to the unique whims of island readers.

When Hildebrandt and husband Andrew Haigh took over the struggling business about 15 years ago, they quickly learned to take islanders' comments and

recommendations to heart. The result created the second-largest selection of magazines on the continent's west coast. Only a store in Berkeley, Calif. had more titles.

"It's a really great signifier of how smart and interesting people are here," Hildebrandt said.

The store may not be the second largest any longer, but Hildebrandt estimates the shop still carries more than 1,000 titles every month. Many of these are Canadian publications that would be a challenge to find in some urban centres.

"It's also a really philosophical choice to support Canadian magazines," she said. "[The Canadian publishing industry] is so small in the publishing world."

Despite the high labour and low return generally associated with magazine sales, Hildebrandt said, stocking the shelves with quality content can be counted on to bring people into the store and get people talking.

These days, the couple continues to feed curious island minds with help from their children, Aiden and Chloe.

Since 2009, Magazines Canada has presented the Retailer of the Year Award to Read's Newsstand and Café in Fredericton, N.B.,

Book City in Toronto's bookish Danforth neighbourhood, Winnipeg's McNally Robinson, and Spruceland News in Prince George.

Thanks to a "vibrant island community" and an inspiring motto that encourages patrons to "eat, sleep and read," Magazines Canada representatives say it was only a matter of time before the island institution got the national recognition it deserves.

"Salt Spring Books is a long-time and ongoing supporter of local literary talent, as well as of Genuine Canadian magazines," reads part of the May 28 announcement.

"What more can we say, except — it's the best neighbourhood bookstore in the galaxy."

The Magazines Canada Retailer of the Year Award recognizes the vital role retailers play in the Canadian magazine landscape, and is awarded annually to an outstanding client of Magazines Canada's distribution service who cultivates the connection between consumers and their Canadian magazines.

The Retailer of the Year Award will be presented in Toronto on Thursday, June 5 at MagNet, a national magazine publishing conference.

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COMMUNITY

Support cherished as family prepares to say goodbye

Mike Reynolds at Lady Minto's palliative suite

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mike Reynolds' family members are entering the most difficult stage yet of the challenging journey they have been on ever since their husband and father went under the water in Thailand on April 22.

Doctors have informed the family it is only a matter of time before Reynolds succumbs at last to the effects of nearly drowning and a heart attack that occurred during a boat tour on one of the last days of

his dream vacation. With a move from Victoria's Royal Jubilee Hospital on Friday to the Lady Minto Hospital palliative suite, the long-standing community member is at home for his final days.

Reynolds' wife Dora has been at his side constantly in hospitals in Phuket, Victoria and Salt Spring. She is now stationed at the palliative room, ensuring her husband is not alone.

"He is going to be passing — it's just a matter of when. He's never woken up," Reynolds said on Monday.

Having Mike back home is a relief for visiting family members, including his four grown children, who are gathering on Salt Spring

to say goodbye. Dora said her kids can only stand half-hour visits because the situation is so hard on them, which made it especially difficult to visit in Victoria.

The exhausting weeks that family members have spent hoping for signs of improvement and then gradually giving up hope have been lightened to some degree by their home community and people all around the world.

"We've had tons and tons of support locally. I'm glad we live on a small island. It's just phenomenal," Dora said.

"It's been neat to see how the social media is working," she added, noting some of the Facebook posts on the

updates and information page have received from 5,000 to 7,000 views globally. Shared posts resulted in friends of friends coming to offer their services while Dora and her daughter were still in Thailand. The family's search for Australian lifeguards Jason and Sophie Gollan, who attempted to save Mike, was also successful after it was shared online.

"All the people who stayed behind on the tour they were on, they've all been found and contacted, including Jason and his daughter Sophie," Dora said.

"Maybe one day in the future we'll meet. I don't know."

Another small mercy is the fact Mike was living out his ideal vacation before the accident put an end to it.

"He was in the ocean every day doing something he loved," Dora said. "Every morning he would get up at 5:30, go swimming, and then go back and tell them to get out of bed."

"He was so looking forward to this vacation since it was planned last year. And they were almost done. Three more days and they would have been home."

Ongoing fundraising events for the family are being organized by Dora's workplace Mouat's Home Hardware, including donation boxes and a raffle with prizes donated by suppliers.

An online donation campaign is also active at share-spring.ca and a golf course fundraiser is in the works.

"Thanks to all the people who have offered to help. It is appreciated," Dora said.

Dora welcomes visitors who want to spend time with her on the palliative suite patio. Her cell phone number and other information can be found on the Mike Reynolds Info and Updates page on Facebook. Visitors to Mike are restricted because he is still unconscious and in isolation.

The family will also announce details of a celebration of life for Mike on the Facebook page when the time comes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fish hooks mar beach time at lake



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

John Holmes shows one of the many fish hooks he and his children have found near the public beach at St. Mary Lake.

Family asks fishing community to be aware

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident John Holmes and his kids Jane and Sam are among the most enthusiastic swimmers to brave the waters of St. Mary Lake each year, often beginning the season in early May and pushing it well

into warm September evenings.

The Holmes clan has also developed some sharp eyes for risk in the immediate environment, with the ability to spot discarded fishing line, whether buried on the beach or submerged in the water. While algal blooms and swimmer's itch are known risks to enjoying the lake, their collection of fish hooks reveals one of the more hidden dangers of recreation.

"We pulled them out before, but this is the third year since we said, 'Let's make a collection,'" Holmes said during a recent trip to the lake.

"We wanted to keep them so the fishermen would be more aware they're losing fish hooks on the beach."

Holmes came within inches of stepping on the biggest hook in the collection, which was on the lakebed a few feet out from the shore. While we were talking, 11-year-old Sam found two more lengths of line in the sand.

"I think a lot of the problem is people get their fish hooks snagged on the bottom and they just pull and it snaps off," Holmes said.

"I think people think if they lose them somewhere else in the lake it's okay, but the winter storms all blow toward the beach. The fish line floats, and eventually it will find its way here."

The Holmes family has found hooks on the beach and in the water, recovering most from late spring to early summer, but finding others into August. Some are tiny and almost invisible; straightened out, the metal becomes a slender but deadly sharp spike. On the other end of the scale are hooks and lures that are far too excessive for the small trout and bass stocked in the lake.

"You'll notice in the collection, about half of them are larger than can be considered bait. The fish that bite here, those fish are really small. There's no need to use a Red Devil with three hooks on it," Holmes said.

While so far there hasn't been a trip to the hospital, as happened to a friend who stepped on a hook at Stowel Lake, the family hopes those who share the lake will be a little more conscious of where their gear ends up.

"Hopefully the people will be more aware and then it will not be so dangerous," said Jane Holmes.

Keep Smiling...

THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

I love to ...

Run marathons and long course triathlons. I sure wouldn't want to try one without training. Even with training they seem daunting while toeing up to the starting line. Having a plan to get prepared and to race is essential. Even with a great plan sometimes things happen unexpectedly and throw a wrench into the works.

I think our general and specifically oral health is similar. If you are starting out a bit out of shape or with neglected teeth or gums then a plan is needed to get back in shape. It doesn't happen overnight, it takes regular work and a plan to get to the goal of long, healthy life. Simply taking a walk, doing some stretches and flossing daily are a great start.

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AGRICULTURE

Tuesday market returns

June 3 was opening day

Island-grown produce and prepared foods featuring local ingredients were back in store for shoppers starting this week with the Tuesday Farmers' Market opening for the 2014 season on June 3.

The market will run every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m., June through October, in Centennial Park.

With the non-profit Salt Spring Community Market Society now organizing the event, new manager Janet Grafton is looking forward to a rewarding mar-

ket season.

"This year, the market is showcasing a number of new farms and food producers, as well as many of the wonderful vendors from previous years," Grafton said.

"From local cheeses, breads, pickles, and fresh baked goods, to the abundance of seasonal fruits and vegetables produced by farmers on Salt Spring, the Tuesday market offers the freshest, highest quality food to its customers. And for your convenience, many vendors now accept credit cards."

ISLANDS TRUST

LTC mulls south-end housing plan

Ashya Road project pondered

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee has breathed new life into a land-use application to expand densities in a Burgoyne Valley strata development.

"The danger in turning this down today is that, once again, we are not going to get to the next step," said LTC member

Peter Grove.

Trustees voted to have the applicant and landowners consider changes to their application to amend the island's land-use bylaw and official community plan.

Property owners Nikolaos Karvouniaris, Jamie Colligan, Sebring Homes Inc., Ashya Properties Ltd., and two numbered companies had initially sought the amendments to allow construction of secondary suites in nine dwelling units, and year-round occupancy of

five of the nine-lot property's seasonal cottages.

Year-round occupancy of the cottages would be conditional on implementation of an approved affordable housing agreement by the landowners, according to the original application.

The subject property is at the end of Ashya Road, off Furness Road.

LTC members have asked the landowner to consider amending their original application to permit secondary suites with-

out residential use of seasonal cottages. Current land-use regulations would still allow the seasonal cottages to be built.

The Trust's own Advisory Planning Commission recommended against proceeding any further with the application. According to minutes of the April 24 APC meeting, commission members noted the application's "questionable value of amenities, lack of justifiable background policies, and setting of precedent" for their decision.

More suspects could be charged

RCMP

continued from 1

In February, the culprits are alleged to have masterminded a break and enter at the Vesuvius Store and Cafe and a private home on Woodland Drive.

RCMP look to charge two more suspects involved.

The youths will appear in Ganges Provincial Court to face charges on July 9.

"We're confident that some of them will be hopefully able to get on the straight and narrow again," Sgt. Jenkins said.

He hopes the charges will curtail the series of thefts that have transpired in recent months.

Sgt. Jenkins said all three of the youths admitted to the crimes after a witness provided information to the RCMP. "I'm surprised it took this long," he added.

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Notice to the Public

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Abattoir gets cash infusion

Funding to assist employee education

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It may not sound like a major windfall but Salt Spring Abattoir Society board members are celebrating a \$5,000 grant from the island's Community Economic Development Commission.

"The money will help make the job more comfortable for [new workers] more quickly," said Margaret Thomson, a board member and Agricultural Alliance representative.

A high staff turnover rate has plagued the abattoir since the facility began to accept livestock in 2013. Because constant recruitment of new workers takes time and money away from other abattoir initiatives, Thomson said, it's hoped a new training regimen for prospective workers will offer more incentive to stick around.

"One of the things that we find difficult is that we're constantly hiring new people and they need to learn on the job," she said.

The \$5,000 grant, approved in principle by the Salt Spring CEDC, will train staff in first



JOHN TYLEE

prevalence of sharp knives and heavy loads.

The need for more well-trained abattoir staff coincides with a rising demand from local meat producers. The abattoir starts accepting beef and pork in July, with plans to accommodate waterfowl like ducks and geese by September.

Thomson said she hopes a lower staff turnover rate will help the abattoir compete with off-island slaughterhouses, where larger-volume producers can generally get a better price.

"We're hoping that, as our staff get more efficient, our prices will become more competitive," Thomson said.

She said producers can expect to see a change within two to three years, if all goes according to the board's financial projections.

John Tylee, chair of the Salt Spring CEDC, said the funding announcement

aid, Food-Safe certification and technical skills required at the facility, where workplace hazards include a

reflects the importance of local agriculture and food production to the island's economic well-being.

"There have been, in the last decade, numerous studies of various aspects of the Salt Spring economy, each replete with recommendations that have, for the most part, been ignored," he wrote in an email. "The notable exception to this depressing situation is the Area Farm Plan, major parts of which have been implemented or are on the way to implementation, thanks to strong grassroots and community support.

"Establishment of the abattoir was identified as an important element in growing the farming sector and allowing local farmers to increase their incomes."

The grant reflects the CEDC commitment to providing islanders with training required to improve their skills, employment prospects and incomes, Tylee added.

The abattoir currently employs between seven and 10 employees depending on the season.

More information about the abattoir, for meat producers and prospective workers, is available at www.saltspringabattoir.ca.

SAINT MARY LAKE

Water clarity sets record

Promising results no cause for relief

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

St. Mary Lake's exceptionally clear waters offer no excuse to curtail work to solve the lake's ongoing algal bloom problems, according to a water quality specialist at the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

Testing of lake water by NSSWD's Meghan McKee late last week saw clarity levels reach an unprecedented 10.7 metres.

"The lake is in its best state ever in recorded history," McKee said, adding that monitoring has only taken place for about 10 years. "Everything seems to be going nicely."

The lake's clarity is measured by slowly lowering a small black and white disk, roughly the size of a small dinner plate, into the water. Last week's results were so high that McKee had to attach a longer rope to the measuring instrument, called a secchi disk.

The last time the lake was anywhere close to being this clear was in 2007,

when readings topped 10.4 metres.

McKee said the lake's remarkable clarity shouldn't offer people any relief about the waterbody's long-term prospects, since water clarity generally improves when the remnants of an algal bloom settle near the lake bottom.

"Those nutrients stay at the bottom and will be recycled."

MEGHAN MCKEE
Water quality specialist,
NSSWD

"Those nutrients stay at the bottom and will be recycled," McKee said. "[A bloom] will happen again."

St. Mary Lake's last major bloom occurred in March. Unlike last year's bloom, which eventually led authorities at the Capital Regional District and Island Health to impose a swimming advisory, the specific organism involved this year

never threatened human health.

McKee stressed the importance of ongoing monitoring and broader action to solve the lake's water quality problems.

Much of that work has been spearheaded by the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority, a group that combines the efforts and resources of water-related agencies from the community, regional and provincial levels.

SSWIPA's next major event will update the public on upcoming research and monitoring projects for the lake. The group will also establish a public advisory committee and outline the decision-making process for potential remedial action.

The meeting will take place at the Salt Spring Library's program room at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25. More information about the meeting or SSWIPA-related activities can be obtained on the group's newly redesigned website, ssiwatersheds.ca, or from coordinator Shannon Cowan at 250-537-4847.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

WAVES OF POETRY: Splash director Wendy Rosier, left, and the organization's first president, Kathy Page, display an illustrated poem Page created in honour of the Rainbow Road Pool's sixth anniversary. A dedication ceremony and unveiling of the plaque took place Sunday morning as part of the pool's birthday celebrations, which also included snacks, a free swim and a history of the old Shelby Pool presented by Tom McKeachie. "Hundreds of volunteer hours, hundreds of dollars and pledges, and a determined resolve to achieve that goal resulted in the wonderful pool so many of us enjoy today," said current Splash president Irene Gibbs. More pool activities are coming up with the fifth annual Father's Day Triathlon on June 15.

HUMOUR

Politicians: Words fail them

"I'm the commander — see, I don't need to explain — I don't need to explain why I say things. That's the interesting thing about being President."

— George Bush in George Bush at War, by Bob Woodward



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime.

passed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime.

"That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory. Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, no matter how long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.

"Let that be realized; no survival for the British Empire, no survival for all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the urge and impulse of the ages, that mankind will move forward towards its goal. But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men."

The speaker was Winston Churchill. It was his first address as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

One would think that clear, honest, forthright talk is the least our leaders could give us, but that's not what works.

Another politician once said: "In the long run, basic results in influencing public opinion will be achieved only by the man who is able to reduce problems to the simplest terms and who has the courage to keep forever repeating them in this simplified form, despite the objections of intellectuals."

The minister in charge of Nazi propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, said that.

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OPINION



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

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



EDITORIAL

An easy sell

Salt Spring can't get enough of a good thing when it comes to the iconic Saturday Market at Centennial Park.

The event has been, is, and will continue to be the island's main draw for day trippers, weekend visitors and many full-time residents. That's why it's great news to hear the island's Parks and Recreation Commission has agreed to move ahead with a pilot project that will see Friday evening and Sunday morning versions of the island's ultimate attraction on the Canada Day, B.C. Day and Labour Day long weekends.

It's doubtful the new sessions will see anywhere near the numbers experienced on Saturdays, but the decision will surely ease some of the tensions expressed by vendors and market goers in a recent PARC-commissioned survey.

THE ISSUE:

Market expansion pilot project

WE SAY:

A good first step

By allowing up to 60 newer vendors priority access to Friday nights on the long weekend, new ideas and young entrepreneurs can showcase what they've made, baked and grown. Islanders unable to handle the chaos of a Saturday in town will,

likewise, get the chance to check things out on Friday evening, a move that could inject some much-needed ambience into the downtown core.

A Sunday morning market, which will prioritize vendors based on seniority, may also woo a whole new breed of day travellers and island shoppers looking for a less congested market experience.

Whatever the results, PARC members ought to be congratulated on their decision.

In the past decade, vibrant community markets in neighbouring communities on Vancouver Island as well as many urban and rural parts of the Lower Mainland have presented decent competition for Salt Spring's vendors.

Through the more recent success of Tuesday and Wednesday markets, vendors have capitalized on a growing consumer appetite for their products. Even more significant, however, is that these new markets appear to have nourished further interest in visiting Ganges and tourists.

Vendors have shown that Salt Spring's markets can continue to evolve with the times and tastes of residents and visitors without losing any of their traditional charm. It's perfectly reasonable to expect that PARC policy will continue to follow suit and facilitate further growth.



VIEWPOINT by Gretchen Zinkan and Kim Moffat

Education funding shortage hurts

The continual lack of funding for public education has a long-term detrimental effect on the health of society and economics of the province.

According to Statistics Canada, B.C. currently funds public education \$1,000 less per student than the national average. To make this matter worse, the government has now reneged to fully fund seismic upgrades and many other operating costs have been downloaded to the districts.

Due to the lack of funding, specialist teaching positions have been reduced and/or eliminated over the past decade. These positions include counsellors and teacher-librarians, and teachers of learning assistance, special education and fine arts.

Over the past decade the government has eliminated a number of special education funding categories that include children with learning disabilities, those with ADD or ADHD, children who require speech and language services, children with mild intellectual disabilities and children who are gifted. As well, students who require language support are no longer funded.

The funding that is provided is entirely inadequate. Let's look at one example of a child who enters the public school system and has been diagnosed with autism. That child's designation brings in to the district \$18,300. This child will require more than one full-time adult support person to cover safety needs. The cost of one full-time adult support person is about \$31,000 — an obvious discrepancy to begin with. However, from the \$18,300 funding, services that include

speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology and special education services must also be provided throughout the child's schooling years.

As a result of this significant underfunding, schools are forced to redirect money from other areas which are also significantly underfunded. There is simply not enough funding to support the needs of the children.

From a teacher's perspective the government is doing such a disservice to today's children by chronic underfunding.

The Vancouver School Board trustees have spoken strongly in favour of adequate public education funding as "a fundamental human right," and stated "a strong public school system is critical to preserving the ideals of a democratic society. We have a collective responsibility, therefore, to uphold the mandate of public education and ensure it is strong and viable."

From a teacher's perspective the government is doing such a disservice to today's children by chronic underfunding. The government is compromising the health and potential of our children and jeopardizing the long-term economic viability of our province.

Lieutenant Governor Steven Point said in the Throne Speech in February of 2009: "Education is the best economic development and health promotion program ever invented. In tight economic times, it is only smart to maintain and expand educational investments."

The writers are teachers in the Gulf Islands School District.

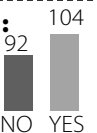
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does strike action help the teachers' cause? 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:

Is it time to expand the Rainbow Road pool?



Driftwood

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

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Editorial:
 Sean McIntyre,
 Elizabeth Nolan

Front office:
 James Burton,
 Johanna Walker

Advertising:
 Elena Dunn,
 Jennifer Lannan



Amber Ogilvie
 PUBLISHER
aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg
 MANAGING EDITOR
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I think to play music you have to enjoy it. Otherwise it doesn't really work."

LUKAS BOOY, 12-YEAR-OLD PIANO PLAYER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What is the greatest threat faced by the Salish Sea?



AIDEN JAMES
Right now, overuse by marine traffic and the impact of vessel noise on whales' ability to communicate.



LILLIAN MACK
People dumping garbage.



SIERRA STEELE
Probably all those pipelines they plan to build, and people leaving junk on the beaches.



LINDA BRADFORD
Pipelines, tankers and untreated sewage.



DIANA AND TANYA ST. JACQUES
Pollution from ships.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Read and reply to letters online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Opinion tab.

Funding lack a disgrace

In the 30 years or more I was in the school system I only met a very, very few teachers who did not put in long hours with sincere hearts.

In my specialty area of special education I often worked far beyond my role as "teacher." I fostered kids, brought children home to play with my horses, tutored free on days off or through the summer, paid for summer camps, went to homes on my own time to help support families and children and fought hard with government services to find supports for family and children unable to advocate for themselves.

Responding to the needs of children far beyond one's duties as a teacher is by no means unusual for those who are called to teaching. Long hours and worry are a part of the job and no amount of money would compensate for the effort needed to do the job

well. It is ignorant and completely missing the point to believe otherwise.

Our B.C. government must come to regard health, welfare and education as a top priority and will not come to do so until we do. Our government's failure to adequately fund health, welfare and education is a disgrace that we must all take responsibility for and work to change if we can.

Charles Dickens' infamous character Scrooge responded to social deprivation and poverty by asking, "Are there no prisons? Are there no work-houses?"

We have a choice now at this time. We can shower our children with hope and possibilities or we can shower our children with hopelessness and despair. It is not a choice, really, if we look into our own hearts and let our hearts tell us what is right. Teachers are fighting a fight for all our children and need our support, not our derision.

Our teachers are not fight-

ing for money, they are fighting for children and for families. All children and all families. Be with them.

PATRI JANYSK,
SALT SPRING

Community values

Kudos to PARC for resisting Bethel Pentecostal Assembly's request for a \$7,500 payment in exchange for the church's renewed authorization for the use of their portion of the Baker-Harrison trail ("Dispute threatens trail," May 28).

This extravagant request seems entirely contrary to the spirit of community that lies behind the establishment of community trails — a spirit that has led so many property owners throughout the island to freely grant the right-of-way to trails bordering their properties. Such a request is all the more disconcerting, coming as it does from a religious organization, which one would expect to be especially moti-

vated by a charitable spirit.

But then this is not the first time that Bethel Pentecostal has made similar requests. When the trail was established in 2009, authorization was needed from the owners of three adjacent properties. Two of the owners gladly gave unconditional permission to PARC, recognizing the public interest. The third owner, Bethel Pentecostal, only gave a three-year temporary permission. This permission was conditional on PARC building a high-quality post-and-wire fence and gate along the church's property line. The fence (which significantly spoils the looks and experience of the trail) runs some hundred of meters, and cost the community thousands of dollars.

Having already forked over money once to the church, it would be egregious to do it again. Bending to this request would set a precedent that would break the spirit of the enterprise (as well as breaking

the community bank). There is no room for compromise here. PARC needs to stand firm for community values.

LUISA MAFFI AND DAVID RAPPORT,
BAKER ROAD

CUPE support

The rotating strike by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation is the beginning of many "actions" in an effort to bring sense to a system that has lost its bearings: closing post offices, eliminating home delivery of mail, threatening to cut 100,000 public sector jobs, threatening to cut \$36-billion from health care, and diverted money from education in an effort to "balance" their budget.

Last winter, CUPE BC bargained a 3.5 per cent pay hike that does not even keep up with the cost of living increases over that period of time. On top of that, the province, which negotiated this bargain, told the schools they would have to pay the raise. Many

schools were already financially over their heads for lack of adequate provincial funding, which meant that in order to meet their mandate, layoffs would have to occur.

This is not forward thinking. The future lies in the hands of the young and they need a good education provided by the government through our tax dollars. Our teachers are demanding that the province make good on the court's decision that class size matters. I do not agree with the Christy Clark government assertion that class size does not matter. It does and any parent knows that.

The members of CUPE 788 stand alongside the teachers in this struggle. Their fight is our fight. If you feel that this could be your stand as well, make your thoughts and feelings known. Write, email, call, strike if necessary.

LARRY MELIOUS,
CUPE PRESIDENT, LOCAL 788

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Infrastructure projects demand extra scrutiny

BY DERMOD TRAVIS

In 2012, local governments across B.C. spent more than \$8 billion and it's a pretty safe bet that a good chunk of it was spent on infrastructure projects.

Most of the projects flew under the provincial radar. Out of sight, out of mind. Cost overruns rarely made a media ripple outside of the affected community.

Yet, through various cost-sharing formulas, we're all on the hook for them, whether it's the Vancouver Convention Centre expansion or new roads in Campbell River.

It's why a recent audit by B.C.'s new auditor general for local governments, Basia Ruta, should raise some red flags.

Last month — in the office's first ever performance audit of local government procurement — Ruta stated that "the integrity of the capital procurement process in Rossland has been compromised and many of the transactions we reviewed did not meet the standards taxpayers would expect of their local government." Strong stuff.

Ruta also cherry-picked Sechelt's new Water Resource Centre (euphemism for sewage treatment plant) as one of five other performance

audits her office is now undertaking.

No surprise. What started out as a \$10-million facility five years ago has morphed into a \$25-million boondoggle that's still devouring cash.

Under Sechelt's original plan, the existing facility's downtown site was to be sold for redevelopment to help fund the new plant, which was to be built on an industrial site on the outskirts of town.

Then council did an about face and announced that the new plant would be built on the existing site after all. And although he vehemently denies it, the fact that the mayor's \$1.16-million home is only a few hundred metres from that industrial site undoubtedly had little to do with council's change of heart.

Sechelt's new plant has a capacity of 4,000 cubic metres per day. Just down the coast in Gibsons, they built a 6,000-cubic-metres-per-day plant for \$5.4 million in 2005.

However, ratepayers can take some solace in the mayor's belief that the sewage plant will be a tourist attraction, giving rise to a possible new tourism pitch: "come for the scenery, stay for the smell."

GUEST COLUMN

Then there's the mother of all sewage treatment plants: the \$782.7 million Capital Regional District Core Area Wastewater Treatment Program or CAWTP for short. CAWTP has run into two small snags: a secret real estate deal that didn't work out so well once it wasn't so secret and Esquimalt council giving a firm thumbs down to the CRD's rezoning application for McLoughlin Point.

To date CAWTP has eaten up \$65 million of its budget without so much as a sod-turning ceremony or for that matter a site to turn sod on. Costs may increase by a further \$13.7 million to pay for barging construction materials in and adding a new oxidation treatment.

Meanwhile, Victoria is also looking for answers as to how its \$92.8-million Johnson St. bridge replacement project ballooned in price by \$7.9 million before a girder has been put in place.

Other B.C. communities face infrastructure problems of a different kind. Lillooet, population 2,322, will soon have a new \$10.1-million water plant with a capacity of 5.9 million litres a day. Someone must see big things for "B.C.'s little nugget," because according to Environ-

ment Canada the average residential water use in Canada was 274 litres per person per day in 2009.

So why do so many projects in B.C. go over budget while others seem so out of whack with a community's needs?

Partly, parochial politics. As the mayor of one Lower Mainland community wrote on his Facebook page about one project: "This isn't a city project, so I have little to do with it (and therefore no reason to defend it)." To his credit he did.

Local councils could also help matters by not concluding multimillion dollar deals entirely behind closed doors. Sunlight goes a long way to achieving buy-in and if ratepayers don't feel part of the process from day one, chances are they'll fight it every step of the way starting on day two.

And finally, just as too many cooks can spoil the broth, too many bosses can wreak havoc with public works budgets. Every project needs one official who takes ownership of it: from design to ribbon cutting.

The writer is executive director of IntegrityBC.

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No trail appreciation

I was alarmed to read on the first page of the May 28 Driftwood an article calling privately owned land a "PARC right of way."

This land was not donated and was allowed to be used according to a fixed lease with an expiration date. Lorraine Brewster is quoted as saying, "It is not our practice to compensate for statutory right of ways." However, if this was a statutory right of way, why were lease and property owner permission required? Well, this seems quite muddy. Does this mean that if you allow an organization to make use of your private land at no cost for a fixed term, they can later claim they own the land and are being deprived of its use?

Another point is that there is not any acknowledgement or appreciation toward the generosity of the private land owners who have made this trail possible. Instead the tone of the article implies that something is being taken away that belongs to PARC.

Has there been no budget to include thank-yous to the people who allow land to be used? There is no mention in the trail guide given out by PARC about the generous people who have made the Salt Spring Island trail system possible. Why is this?

I would assume that after

MORE LETTERS

allowing generous public use of a large amount of private land for no compensation whatsoever nor any public knowledge of this generosity that there would be appreciation for this. Instead, there is upset and the idea of the trail system being "threatened" is in the headline.

Thank you for bringing this to light.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
ATKINS ROAD

Music teacher treasured

I have been made aware that Michelle Footz, the present middle school band/choral teacher, has been released from this temporary position and someone else has taken the position.

For a myriad of reasons I find this decision unacceptable. I have found Michelle to be a wonderful, caring and encouraging teacher. Her relationship with her students is positive and nurturing while presenting a path of improvement and musical goals. She is supportive of the school (choir and assisted with the musical), dedicated to her art (performance and seeking out professional development with other professionals and seeking the

BCCF choral director program this summer).

Not only is this an undermining of a very competent and visionary teacher, it is a serious loss to the school community and the community at large.

This decision has the appearance of being politically motivated and I beg the powers that be to rectify this situation and show support for a wonderful young teacher and for the student body.

DEBBI TOOLE,
VIVA CHORALE! ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

Consultation process not adequate

The Wilderness Committee and the Georgia Strait Alliance are urging the provincial government to take back its right to hold environmental assessments of major fossil fuel projects such as the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

Once these projects get built, there is a big debt to pay off, and they are to be paid off at the expense of our environment, of First Nations rights and ultimately our wellbeing.

Since an "equivalency agreement" with the federal government in 2010, B.C. has opted out of holding its own environmental assessments

on the Enbridge project and other potentially dangerous projects. Presumably, the B.C. government thinks the federal assessments are sufficient.

But since the omnibus budget bill of 2012, EAs are nothing more than an expensive pretence of consultation. Firstly, NEB panels are predisposed to approve energy projects because panel members are generally involved in the fossil fuel industry.

Now NEB hearings are to be rushed through. People must apply even to submit a letter of comment, and many people are denied that right. The few who are approved as "intervenor" are not allowed to cross-examine witnesses. The NEB even engages in a form of censorship, telling participants that comments about climate impacts and upstream environmental destruction are not to be raised as part of the EA.

Under these circumstances, it is virtually impossible for the government to obtain the social licence that ought to be required for any major new projects.

You can help convince elected officials to withdraw from the equivalency agreement through the salishseaction.org website.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

The North Salt Spring Waterworks
flowing fresh and clean

Alternative Approval Process Results of Elector Response

North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayers responding to the District's Alternative Approval Process returned a total of 361 votes. This defeats the initial request to allow the District to move forward at this time with Borrowing Bylaw 264 which will authorize the borrowing of up to \$10.4 million for the new St. Mary Treatment Plant.

The District remains under mandate from Island Health (formerly VIHA) to build this plant by January 1, 2016.

Visit our website for all the information and facts about the project. Our ongoing Open House will continue at the District office during office hours or call or write us with your questions. We will be pleased to answer them.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District
Board of Trustees

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca (250) 537-9902
761 Upper Ganges Road V8K 1S1

RANTS and Roses

Rants

A rant to whoever took the collection container and money on my 80th birthday from where I put potted plants at the roadside and ask for donations for SOLID. This money was to provide help for AIDS orphans in Africa. These children suffer more poverty and hardship than you can even imagine. Shame on you. Nancy Wigen

Roses

Roses to all the wonderful cooks at the New Beginnings and Yellow Submarine for their delicious soup for Family Place. Our taste buds and tummies will miss you! Enjoy your summer program!

Rose-filled gallons of empty paint cans to Wayne and Shawn Repp of Tuxedo Painting, who so happily donated their expertise and time to paint the Ganges Community Cemetery fence. Many thanks from the cemetery board

A fishing boat full of fragrant salmon-coloured roses to Deborah Nostdal and the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association for the more than 100 kilograms of canned salmon so generously donated to the Salt Spring Food Bank.

Twenty solar roses to all who made The Only Planet cabaret and fundraiser for the GISS Solar Scholarship such a success last Saturday night: Taryn Muldoon for her amazing poem; Nora Layard for her wonderful introduction; Dan Howlett, Amy Haysom and Michael Aronoff for joining Phil on the Boundary Passage song; Harry Warner for donating the use of his sound system; Harry Burton for the use of the Fullford Hall risers; Dave Vollrath for donating lights;

Jacob Kalmakoff and Dan Howlett for setting up the sound system and running it; Greg Allen with his truck for picking up the risers and Greg Watson, Jacob and Seamus for helping with the risers and at the hall; Christine Grimes, Andrea Palframan, Sandra Leckie and John Walper also for setting up; Marc Davis for videotaping the show; Adina Hildebrandt at Salt Spring Books for selling tickets; and Gail LeBlanc for being so understanding.

Roses and sincere thanks to everyone who supported the Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society marine garage sale, which was a huge success. Salt Spring Air, Mouat's Home Hardware, BC Ferries and Salt Spring Auto Parts were very generous with donations to our silent auction.

A truckload of roses for the person who has donated the wheelchair to Country Grocer for people like myself who cannot walk around to get groceries and can now enjoy the outing. I hope another donor will take one to the drugstore. It has been hard on people who used the wheelchair that broke down. Thank you for your kind donation to the stores.

A huge bunch of roses to Eduard Andringa and the other parent volunteers for their hard work and perseverance in saving the Grade 8 trip to Camp Homewood this year. The students had a great few days on Quadra Island with fantastic activities and the school didn't lose the deposit that had been paid.

A band room full of fresh, whimsical roses to Ms. Michelle Footz. Thank you for creating a passionately unique experience for all of the up-and-coming musicians that were impacted by your teaching this year at SIMS. The community will miss your enthusiasm. Love, the Birds

PART ONE OF A
FOUR-PART SERIES

OCEANS APART Tracking marine policy in British Columbia and Washington state

SINKING TO THE BOTTOM

MARINE HEALTH
NOT A PRIORITY
FOR CANADA

B.C.'s Gulf Islands may share the Salish Sea with their Washington state neighbours, but the two jurisdictions have little in common when it comes to how they treat their marine environment. Driftwood reporters Elizabeth Nolan and Sean McIntyre compare legislation, attitudes and action in a four-part series.

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

World Oceans Day will be celebrated around the globe on June 8, but with species decline, habitat loss and growing acidification, B.C.'s coastal residents may be spending their time doing more worrying than partying come Sunday.

A new report released by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Committee (CPAWS) on June 2 ranks Canada the worst of the 10 nations with the most coastline in the world when it comes to protecting its oceans. Compared to first-ranked Australia's 33 per cent and the 30 per cent achieved by second-place United States, our one per cent is profoundly disappointing.

"We recognize that Canadian governments have taken some steps on marine conservation in the past few years, but it is not nearly enough, given the urgent need for ocean protection," CPAWS national oceans program director Sabine Jessen said in a news statement.

Canada committed to protecting at least 10 per cent of its oceans by 2010 at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006. When the first goal failed, a second goal with the same percentage was set at the 2010 convention, to be reached by 2020. With little action so far, the chances of meeting the target are slim. But the potential consequences of failing to do so are already being felt.

As the percentage of ocean protection suggests, there is a widening policy gap between how marine issues are treated on either side of the Canadian-U.S. border. That divide perhaps comes into no sharper contrast than in the shared waters of the Salish Sea, the single ecosystem encompassing the Strait of Georgia, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound.

Information presented by SeaDoc Society biologists Joseph Gaydos and Nicholas Brown at the 2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Seattle shows the number of "species of concern" in the area doubled between 2008 and 2011, jumping from 64 to 113. A report

on transboundary ecosystem indicators published by Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2013 adds declining trends for chinook salmon populations, marine water quality (in terms of dissolved oxygen) and summer stream flow.

According to Gaydos, part of the reason more species are being listed as of concern is scientists more know about the ecosystem. An improved list of species that use the Salish Sea overall is probably one factor in the higher numbers, but at the same time there has been a rapid and notable increase in the past few years. The change appears to be due to an accumulation of threats. "What we found that was interesting was about one half had contaminants issues, one half had habitat loss, some were from over-fishing — but it added up to 100 per cent loss," Gaydos said from SeaDoc's base on Orcas Island.

"It's like a boxing match. Most people don't get knocked out with a single punch. It's adding up everything that's happened during the match — and that goes for fish and marine wildlife as well."

On each side of the border, multiple jurisdictions are responsible for the ocean, its foreshore and its resources, but the end product of these efforts adds up to far different results. Federal and provincial governments north of the 49th parallel have let ocean conservation fall mainly to advocacy groups and community volunteers. Nonprofit groups like the Friends of San Juan and People for Puget Sound are also active south of the border, but they do their work with the added support of legisla-

hosts took a step back from their organizing duties this year and few federally employed scientists were in attendance.

"The difference between the United States and Canada is gaping and it's growing," she said during a telephone interview from Vancouver.

"When I came in 11 years ago, there was a certain parity. Because of the acute nature of some of the problems they were dealing with, they had to act quickly."

Perhaps because the majority of the problems are chronic rather than crisis-triggered, the Canadian government's commitment to protecting the Strait of Georgia seems to have evaporated.

"It's just not a priority for them and you can see that," Wilhelmson said.

While most conservationists see Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as only one tool in a larger toolbox that could support ecosystem health, there are proven benefits to establishing protected areas with core no-take zones, both for marine wildlife and also the industries that depend on them, from tourism to commercial fisheries.

"Our government has trouble seeing the asset that is our natural environment — that seems to be something they just can't process," Wilhelmson said. "Protection of the environment is seen as an impediment to economic development, which is a value that's out of sync with what most B.C. residents think."

Washington state formed a new model of MPA under its Aquatic Reserves Program in 2004, and since then has protected five areas under that heading from Cherry Point, northwest of Bellingham, to the southern limits of Puget Sound at Nisqually Reach. Established and owned by the Department of Natural Resources, each reserve is managed with help from a community-based stewardship committee.

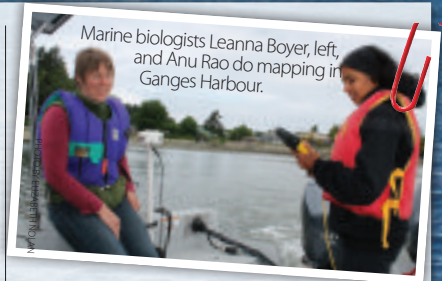
B.C. has only a few ecological reserves that include ocean waters and only one federally designated MPA at the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents. Protected areas in the form of marine parks are mainly aimed at recreational activity and most include no form of fishery closure — something that has been criticized by groups such as the GSA and the Living Oceans Society.

Creating a National Marine Conservation Area in our waters was kicked off by a federal-provincial memorandum of understanding in 2003, but a feasibility study is not expected to wrap up until 2015.

But even when it does, a protected area may not be created due to economic or other concerns.

While she acknowledges that planning, mapping and creating an effective management plan will be difficult, Wilhelmson objects to governments shying away from the work required to protect the marine environment.

"It's extremely complex. But doing nothing is not the next option. It's not a compromise position," she said.



Marine biologists Leanna Boyer, left, and Anu Rao do mapping in Ganges Harbour.

Eelgrass mapping
underway

Nonprofits, Islands Trust and citizen scientists work to fill the gaps

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's one of the few grey days in May when the boat piloted by Peter McAllister rounds Ganges Harbour's piers for the tidal flats.

Despite having a motor that looks like it's made for speed, SeaChange volunteer McAllister is moving at a pace that his team members have playfully acknowledged as "the worst example of Sunday driving."

But the excitement coming from the back of the boat is as real as if we were competing in a nautical Grand Prix, when contract marine biologists Anu Rao and Leanna Boyer spot what they're looking for on the monitor that's tracking the underwater camera.

"We've got eelgrass!"

One of the most important marine vegetable species to be found on the B.C. coast, eelgrass has provoked surprisingly little interest from government bodies at the provincial and federal levels. It's taken a multi-year project launched by the Islands Trust Fund with support from a variety of island conservancies, citizen scientists and nonprofit groups to finally putting eelgrass on the map.

Although many coastal residents may be aware of the sea grass only as a peripheral species known to support salmon and herring, the deep green ribbonlike strands have an astonishing role in our ecosystem. Up to 80 per cent of commercial fish spend part of their lives in eelgrass meadows, but the benefits reach beyond the ocean waters. As a carbon sink that rivals old-growth rainforest, eelgrass also has an important part in maintaining atmospheric temperatures.

A Sierra Club BC report published in 2010 states the "blue carbon" captured in marine meadows is stored at rates of up to 90 times the uptake in equivalent areas of forest, and it is sequestered in ocean sediments for thousands of years.

"In view of these manifold benefits," the report concludes, "our estuaries and eelgrass-rich intertidal zones occupy the highest possible priority for conservation, restoration and enhancement."

Across the border in Washington state, eelgrass has been recognized as a key indicator of estuary health. The Department of Natural Resources has monitored eelgrass in the Puget Sound since 2000 through its Nearshore Habitat Program.

Ironically, the borders of a proposed National Marine Conservation Area in the southern Strait of Georgia intentionally leave harbours and marinas out of the protected zone. These are the areas where eelgrass is most vulnerable from dragging anchors and moorage floats, general boat traffic and pollution.

Since communities usually have jurisdiction over land use, local education of the importance of eelgrass will become increasingly important for conservation goals.

"Ultimately, environmental legislation and policy emanates from an awareness of the value of the resource, whether it's eelgrass or wildlife or the rainforest, so an informed public is going to be able to pressure the government to create responsible legislation," McAllister said.

"Even now, more than ever, it's up to community," Boyer added. "The onus is on us concerned citizens to stand up."

"The difference between the United States
and Canada is gaping and it's growing."CHRISTIANNE WILHELMSON
Executive director, Georgia Strait Alliance

tive bodies and private foundations.

Prominent examples of government-supported conservation work include the Puget Sound Partnership, a state agency devoted to environmental recovery from toxic industrial contaminants. The Northwest Straits Commission involves grassroots community groups in seven counties who work toward conservation benchmarks, with funding from Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The first thing Canada needs is more political leadership in marine protection," Jessen said during the CPAWS report release.

"In every successful case we studied, elected government representatives demonstrated a strong will to act which was critical in moving the marine conservation agenda forward."

Christianne Wilhelmson, executive director of the B.C. nonprofit Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA), said the contrast in government commitment to the issue was plain to see at the recent Seattle conference, where the Canadian co-

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Register at Windsor Plywood, Island Escapades & West of the Moon.

10:30 Mini Build-a-Boat
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On the grass in Centennial Park.

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MARINE ART

Morris' Guardian sculpture takes Caribbean plunge

Islander's artwork submerged at dive site

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A bronze sculpture by Salt Spring resident Simon Morris has been passing time underwater off the island of Grand Cayman recently, after spending 10 years in progress at the artist's home studio on Woodland Drive.

Though the Guardian of the Reef has been submerged for a comparatively short time since its official placement ceremony on April 12, it's likely already fulfilling two of its main functions: supporting marine life and raising awareness of marine conservation as a dive site attraction. The 13-foot-high mythical creature includes classical Greco-Roman motifs in the figure's armature as well as representing creatures found in local waters, with the warrior's body merging into a seahorse tail.

"He has been standing on guard for ocean conservation for millennia, because we haven't been doing the job," Morris said of his design.

Born in England but raised for the majority of his childhood in Vancouver, Morris has pursued a joint passion for the ocean and art for most of his life. He learned to swim at six months and was only held back by age regulations from getting his scuba diving credentials in his early

youth. (He was forced to wait until age 15.)

At 14, Morris was introduced to abstract steel sculpture by his father, who was an accomplished painter and graphic artist. He was working for the recreational diving industry by 17, and was further inspired to continue his art practice by the marine mammals he saw when diving.

The first big sculpture project came shortly after Expo 86, when DiveBC commissioned Morris to create a nine-foot-tall mermaid to be submerged at Saltery Bay near Powell River. "I had no idea how to do bronze, but I knew welded steel wouldn't last, so I had to learn how to do it," Morris recalled. "So the two have sort of been instinctively linked for my whole life."

"... I've seen unimaginal degradation to the marine environment since I first started [diving]."
 SIMON MORRIS
Sculptor + diver

Placing sculptures and other objects on the ocean floor has become a popular trend in the recreational dive

industry, both to attract visitors and to restore habitat as artificial reefs. The Emerald Princess became a world-famous icon attracting divers from around the globe — part of the park at Saltery Bay has since been renamed Mermaid Cove. A second casting that was renamed Amphitrite and submerged at Grand Cayman was subsequently voted the island's number-one shore dive by Scuba Diving Magazine.

Having recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the mermaid's submersion in B.C., Morris reports the sculpture is holding up great. The secret to avoiding corrosion is to attach a sacrificial zinc cathode, much like the zinc bar that is attached to boat propellers, with the salt water corroding the zinc instead of the bronze.

Even without zinc, bronze has been known to last for millennia on the ocean floor, including Greek sculptures dating back to the 5th century BC that were discovered during the last century.

Morris began sculpting the Guardian of the Reef in 2004 as a commission for the Dive Industry Association of B.C., but had to look for another sponsor when that group ran out of funds and the recession hit the local industry. His fame in Grand Cayman, and a coincidental connection through a dive industry page on LinkedIn, eventually produced a fruitful connection with dive resort owners Jay and Nancy



PHOTO COURTESY SIMON MORRIS

Guardian of the Reef under water near Grand Cayman.

Easterbrook, who were looking for a way to celebrate their company Divetech's 20th anniversary.

"I had become a fairly well known name on Grand Cayman," said Morris, who was commissioned by the island to create a sculpture in honour of the 500th anniversary of its discovery by Christopher

Columbus.

Morris unveiled The Guardian of the Reef for the first time at a trade convention in Orlando last fall. The sculpture continued on to Grand Cayman and was placed by crane this spring. The base, a four-foot Roman column sentry post with open spaces, reveals an inner

cement column that will attract encrusting marine life and will become part of the natural reef over time. Divers, meanwhile, will be entranced by the large art piece that Morris designed to be interesting from every angle.

Divetech has promised that one dollar from every dive made on the Guardian will go to its conservation education program, with a goal of raising \$20,000 during the first year.

For Morris, who has remained part of the dive industry manufacturing custom fins and has dived all over the world during the past 40-odd years, this is perhaps the most important aspect of his art.

"I've done probably 1,500 dives in our local waters between Vancouver and Vancouver Island, and I've seen unimaginable degradation to the marine environment since I first started. I would not have believed it was possible when I first started at 15," he said.

"Any time I can use my work to start a conversation about the need for conservation, or create a focal point, that's when I'm happiest."

Four castings of the Guardian are now planned, with submersion sites to include a barren area near San Diego where hosts hope to create a natural underwater garden based on artificial supports.

For more information, visit www.guardianofthereef.com and www.sculptorsimon-morris.com.

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MUSICAL FRIENDS: Salt Spring Vocal Quartet members and friends will perform in a program called Sentimental Journey for Music and Vival on Wednesday, June 11, beginning at 12:10 p.m. From left, piano accompanist Beth Ranney, tenor Lyle Eide, soprano Connie Holmes, bass Al Robertson, alto Anke Smeel and John Moore on tenor sax. Adding variety within the program will be Trio contributing soprano and alto duets with pianist David Storm. Music is free at All Saints' church, followed by an optional lunch, for which tickets must be purchased before the recital.

EXHIBITIONS

Venter sketches offer window into creativity

Duthie Gallery show on through June

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A rare window into a master artist's work in process is being offered at Duthie Gallery this month, where a selection of Deon Venter's studies in charcoal and oil called Midden are on exhibit.

The works include studies from some of his older and best known periods, such as the Missing and Last Supper series, as well as his newest work, including views of Ganges Harbour completed within the past few weeks.

During an interview before the show's opening on Sunday, Venter explained that while these works sometimes focus on a particular landscape — such as the Tsawwassen ferry terminal dolphins, the Garry Oaks Vineyards or a stretch of flooded farmland — what he's working toward is the expression of a more internal landscape or an emotional truth the viewer can connect with.

This can be a difficult task for those who have studied art, Venter explains, because the pure expression of childhood becomes structured into formulaic channels.

"You get schooled into a narrative and representation and you quickly lose the past that's spiritual and impulsive and emotional," he said.

Venter made a name in Canada partly for using tar as a medium, scraping away sections and using turpentine to create unique effects. He discovered the process while studying art in his native South Africa, when he made away with a canvas truck covering that had blown off. Venter cut the canvas sheeting, coated with tar on one side and painted white on the other, into smaller pieces and used those for his base.

While he gave up using tar and other toxic compounds in 2006, much of Venter's work has included a build up of texture and then removal in some way. In his Last Supper Series, of which several studies are currently on display, he did this both



Sketch of Tsawwassen ferry dolphins by Deon Venter, part of Duthie Gallery exhibit.

in medium and in concept. The finished paintings (provoked by the USA invasion of Iraq) started with a representational work based on Da Vinci's masterpieces, but were stripped down to resemble a much-faded fresco.

In Rubbed Out, the image is further obscured by a heavy grid with diagonal perspective lines. A study for Scrubbed Out, another painting in this series, has a tangle of uprooted trees at the forefront of this same grid, overlaying the implied dinner scene under the vaulted hall.

A number of examples from Venter's Tapings series on display reveal the fascinating traces of his Missing works. The strips of thick oil paint that make up the images are what has been peeled off from large-scale group portraits of the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Originally they were meant to be displayed in trays, offering the traces of the victims like DNA samples. As Venter explained, his job as an artist is not to document, but to create some kind of emotional connection through the image.

The structure behind this connection

is clearly revealed at the Duthie Gallery show. Charcoal drawings such as Dolphins and Landing reveal a firm grasp of line and composition that anchors expressive and layered final works. The complex lines of grape supports tracking through the Garry Oaks vineyards in winter will provide the visual strength underlying evocative depictions of the same space.

Venter's latest work has focused on some very local scenery, based on the walk he and his artist wife Kathy Venter take from their Merchant Mews studio into town at the end of each day. Studies in oil on linen represent the changing quality of light in the sky and as reflected on water. As the studies progress, Venter's practice of removal can be seen in terms of his brush strokes, which become more gestural and abstract. The retreat to the inner landscape is glimpsed.

"In Canada, landscape influences all of us. It's one of the reasons we live here on the West Coast," Venter said.

"And when one observes something one starts to feel something. There's an interaction."

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EVENT PROMO

Delhi 2 Dublin returns for benefit night

High-energy group at Fulford Hall

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Since 2008 Delhi 2 Dublin has been touring the world, playing festivals big and small, releasing albums, making videos and blazing new trails in a genre of music they created on their own. While headed for the big time, they also continue to play small communities like Salt Spring and are looking forward to returning to Fulford Hall on June 13 as a benefit for Salt Spring Gymnastics.

We caught up with the helmsman of D2D, DJ, producer, tabla player and singer Tarun Nayer did a Q&A for us about the upcoming show.

Q. The last Salt Spring show with D2D was in March of 2012. What have you been up to since then?

A. Not a whole lot. Sitting

around watching football and eating chips, mostly. Just kidding. We've kept up our fairly insane tour schedule, playing our usual North American stops, but also in Bali, Australia and the U.K. We're really excited at the moment to be working on our new album. Actually, our fam on Salt Spring Island will be the first to hear a couple of these new songs live.

Q. Who is playing fiddle for this Salt Spring show?

A. Sanjay (our singer) has been practising hard. (Joking.) Serena Eades! We're really excited to be spending the summer with her. She's from the coast, has known us for years, and is good friends with our two previous fiddle players Sara and Jaron. So we feel like the job is staying in the family. She's just finished her masters at Berkeley in Boston, so expect some serious chops. (Note: Serena is no stranger to Salt Spring. She

has played here with her duo Sostenuto and has taught at the Fiddleworks fiddle camp.)

Q. What's your favourite thing about Salt Spring?

A. I like the part where it's the best island in the world. That part is good. We've always had fun shows on Salt Spring. Actually, my favourite part is Lou's pies. Yep, they alone are worth going to the island for. (Coco Loco featuring Lou Ellis will be at the concert on June 13 serving delicious treats and snacks.)

Q. You've played some huge festivals and venues over the past few years. What's your favourite venue to play? What's it like playing on a massive festival stage and then playing a community hall in a small community?

A. We love playing Vancouver. Something about the Commodore just feels so good. Other places we've loved include

Lafayette (Louisiana), San Francisco, Byron Bay (Australia). In terms of playing in small communities, we feel it's really important to keep doing that. We actually do it a lot in California. Big cities and festivals are fun, but the intimacy and "down home" feeling of playing in smaller places is so awesome. The food is better, and it means more to people in a way. We're stoked.

Opening for D2D is Michael Fraser, a DJ and fiddle player extraordinaire who had Fulford Hall shimmying and shaking at another event in 2013.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and Stuff & Non-sense.

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show at 10 p.m.

Salt Spring Gymnastics is a non-profit association that operates a recreational gymnastics program from September to May for all ages of participants.

HARRY MANIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PICKLEBALL at Portlock Park. Equipment provided. 10 a.m. to noon. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizbhimji@shaw.ca.

PILATES CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Pilates is a body conditioning system that builds flexibility and long, lean muscles, strength and endurance. Information and registration: anna@bonesforever.com

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

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. If interested, contact club president Carol Dodd at 250-538-0079.

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

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

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

YOGA — GET UP AND GO class with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. NEW!

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB open to all meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the library. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

YOUTH BOOK CLUB meets every other Thursday at the library at 3:30 p.m. For ages 10 to 14.

every THURSDAY

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

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

DRAGONBOAT RACING team for men and women practices on Monday and Thursday from April to end of August. Carpool from Moby's pub: 530 p.m. Contact Mary Rowles, 250-653-4139; onthewater181@gmail.com for more info.

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

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

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

MEDITATION AND CHAKRA TONING SESSION at Still Point Yoga Studio. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333.

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

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

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

SENIORS LUNCH runs at Salt Spring Seniors at 12 noon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

every FRIDAY

BELLYFIT: WARRIOR with Trina Aspinall at Still Point. 6 to 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Information and registration: anna@bonesforever.com.

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

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

YOGA — GET UP AND GO class with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. NEW!

every SATURDAY

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

MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 p.m.

PICKLEBALL at Portlock Park. Equipment provided. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizbhimji@shaw.ca.

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

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

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

every SUNDAY

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

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

POKER at the Legion. 1 p.m.

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

MONDAY

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC on the last Monday of each month at SS Seniors. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT trustees hold their business meetings on the third Monday of each month at the Ganges Fire Hall. 7 p.m. Public welcome.

every MONDAY

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

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

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

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

DRAGONBOAT RACING team for men and women practices on Monday and Thursday from April to end of August. Carpool from Moby's pub: 5:30 p.m. Contact Mary Rowles, 250-653-4139; onthewater181@gmail.com for more info.

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

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

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

KUNDALINI YOGA FOR BEGINNERS at North End Fitness. 1 to 2 p.m. Free for members. \$7 drop-in.

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

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

MOVEMENT INTELLIGENCE CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio. WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.

PICKLEBALL at Portlock Park. Equipment provided. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: Hafiz, 250-653-9579; hafizbhimji@shaw.ca.

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

SALT SPRING SCRABBLE CLUB meets at the library every Monday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information about the club, contact John at ssscrabbleclub@email.com.

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

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

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

TODDLERTIME at the library for children under four and their families. 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

YOGA WITH CATE for teachers and friends at SIMS Theatre Arts classroom. 3:45 to 5 p.m. Info: Cate, 250-653-9148, cmcewen@saltspring.com

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

TUESDAY

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

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

every TUESDAY

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

BELLYFIT class with Trina Aspinall at Still Point Yoga Studio. 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

CHAIR YOGA FOR SOUTH-END SENIORS with Cate McEwen at Fulford Hall, 2 to 3 p.m. Info: Cate, 250-653-9148, cmcewen@saltspring.com

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

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

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

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

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

MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Teachings offered by donation with Insight Meditation Teacher Heather Martin. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YOGA WITH CATE — All levels, at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

MANY BRILLIANT MINDS DECIDED MAKING REALLY SAFE CARS WAS A NO-BRAINER.



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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



HEALTH SERVICES

Volunteers needed to keep depot rolling

Two-hour shifts all that's required

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A much-valued health support service is in danger of being lost or dramatically scaled back if a few more volunteers aren't found to keep it running.

The Red Cross Health Equipment Loan Depot at Lady Minto Hospital is currently open for four hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on those days, people can pick up or drop off a huge range of equipment to help them with their afflictions and to heal from surgery or accidents. There are crutches of all sizes, two- and four-wheeled walkers, specialized toilet seats, bath chairs, stools and grab bars, and much more. More volunteers are needed to help distribute the items to people who need them.

"It's an important service," said



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left, equipment depot volunteers Judith Young and Lorraine Norfolk among items loaned out from the Red Cross spot in Lady Minto Hospital.

Judith Young, who has volunteered at the depot since 2009, after two hip replacements saw her needing medical equipment.

"It's very rewarding," added Lorraine Norfolk, also a committed

volunteer. "And I had no idea how valued it is in the community."

Volunteers staff the depot in two-hour shifts. The only skills required are the ability to learn and show people how equipment

is used, and some "patience and tact." Since items are tracked on a computer, basic skills in that area are also needed.

No cleaning of equipment is involved.

"Our preference is for two new volunteers who could take on a two-hour shift each week," said Norfolk.

Also needed are one or two volunteers who can help when larger pieces of equipment are brought to the island or returned to the main depot in Victoria, and for installation of a new storage container on the hospital property.

For more information about these volunteering opportunities, drop in to the depot at Lady Minto Hospital during operating hours, contact Lorraine Norfolk at 250-537-8557 or email Coastalvolunteering@redcross.ca.

The Red Cross service has operated on Salt Spring Island for more than 25 years.

CALL GAIL, SEAN OR ELIZABETH IF YOU SEE NEWS HAPPENING
250-537-9933



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250-537-0735 or toll-free 1-877-435-7544

Women's Outreach Services
250-537-0717 or toll-free 1-877-537-0717

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250-538-5568

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NATURE

Time for descent of the ducklings

Follow the path of a baby merganser



NATURE'S CALENDAR

BY BOB WEEDEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

We watch our little pond for a few minutes before starting the new day. Coffee is hot in our cups. At first the pond seems still, a mirror for its border of yellow iris and lifting alders.

Then there is movement, a small brown duck revealed by its wake. The duck calls as it swims slowly under the nest box it has attended for more than a month. Something falls into the water beside it; a ball of fluff gravity scarcely can hang onto. Then another, and another.

At the nest box entrance a duckling is launching into space, its legs and wings flailing. There is a free fall, a plop, a convulsive repositioning (heads up, legs down), and a spreading circle of wavelets to celebrate the arrival of each baby merganser. Soon 11 are assembled behind the mother. The close-coupled train tracks

slowly between the green swords of cattails.

Imagine the duckling a month before the big leap, just as heat from the incubating female starts growth. The duckling is a speck, a cluster of cells. Each cell's chromosomes hold the prescription of what it will become and how it will meet life's events. Creating a new duck is like baking a cake. First, the recipe, then the ingredients, then heat, and then time.

Each day the cluster, isolated and unaware, adds more cells and more kinds of cells organized in more complicated ways. Eventually it begins to look like a bird: a head, enormous eyes, big legs, tiny heart and stubs of wings. In the darkness and silence it begins to feel

the slow warm-cool rhythms of incubation and the changing tug of gravity as the female rolls the eggs beneath her.

In its last lone hours the almost-duckling can hear tiny peeps from nearby eggs and answers them, its first communication with the world. The sounds and its own compulsions force it to hammer at the eggshell next to its bill — its first individual action. Within an hour or two it breaks through and struggles free. For the first time it sees light. It feels the texture of its mother's body and the jostling of its siblings. For almost a day it stays in the nest, dries its down, pulls more food from the yolk, and gains coordination, strength and — somehow — purpose. It is ready for the fall.

The downward tumble of the duckling, the birth and cutting of the umbilical cord of the human infant, the emergence of the caterpillar from its egg, and the greening of a sprouted seed all signal an individual life's entry

into relationships.

The baby merganser leaping to the pond does not hit pure water — something only chemists see — it hits water plus algae, tiny crustaceans, insects, snails and fish, all of which the duckling might eat. It hits water plus mink and otter, which might eat the duckling.

On its overland waddle from this tiny pond to St. Mary Lake the family will meet cars, cats, and people. In a few months the mergansers will fly to Trincomali Channel and experience tides, edible marine life, boat traffic, beachcombers, eagles and seals. The ripples from the natal fall go on forever.

Welcome, ducklings, to the world, where all things relate to all things. In your genes you have an instruction manual written by parents and parents' parents to the thousandth generation. It served them well, but things change. Let's see what you make of your own adventure in the tangled, chancy web of being.

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what's on this week

Wed. June 4 **Thurs. June 5** **Fri. June 6** **Sat. June 7** **Sun. June 8** **Tues. June 10** **Wed. June 11**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch.
Youth band Constellations performs free recital, followed by an optional lunch. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.
Edwin Coppard.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Turning the Tide Salish Sea Paddle Info Session.
Salt Spring residents who wish to get involved or would like to learn more can meet with Anke van Leeuwen at Cafe Talia. 12:30 p.m.
Texas Holdem Poker.
Every Wednesday at The Local bar. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m.
Salt Spring Vipassana.
Meditation and instruction. The Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm. 7 p.m.
SongJam.
A 21st-century pub sing-along, to vocal and instrumental backing tracks, including six decades of rock and pop hits. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Cowboy Ted.
Live at The Local bar. 6 to 9 p.m.
Beautiful Wild Animals.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic Night.
Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Random Johnson. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Opening Reception: Sam Lightman and Maureen Milburn.
Presenting joint and individual work in The Shoreline Project. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 8 p.m.
Meditation and Chakra Toning.
Still Point Yoga Studio. 6:30 p.m.
Poetry Night Open Mic.
Joanne Thorvaldsen is the featured poet. Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

SEE
GET NOTICED
ON PAGE 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Soul Shakedown.
Free appies at 5 p.m., followed by live music. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m.
Silva.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Hary Manx.
Award-winning performer presents his Mississippi Blues concert. Fulford Hall. 8 p.m.
Tomblin' Dice.
Alt country band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Crossing the Event Horizon.
#3 in DVD series, Everything is a Black Hole. Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Kathy Stack.
Live music at Mistaken Identity Vineyards. 2 to 4 p.m.
The Barley Brothers.
The Local Bar. 3:30 p.m.
KC Kelly.
Folk and roots guitar. Harbour House Restaurant. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
The Barley Brothers.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Aidan Miller.
Rock/dance band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.
Centennial Park. 8:30 to 4 p.m.
SPARCKS Bottle Drive.
Schooling Poor and Rural Cambodian Kids (SPARCKS) fundraising campaign run by the kids from Fernwood Elementary School. Country Grocer Parking Lot. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sun. June 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

KC Kelly.
Folk and roots guitar. Harbour House Restaurant. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Peter Prince.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Funny Farm Comedy Night.
Amateur comedy night. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Solar Salt Spring.
David Denning speaks on "Solar Initiatives on Salt Spring Island." Refreshments follow. Salt Spring Island United Church. 11:15 a.m.
Foosball Tournament.
Sundays at The Local Bar. 1 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Nordic Summer Fest.
Bring the family to this mid-summer festival celebrating ancient Nordic culture and heritage, hosted by Salt Spring Island's Fridhgard Fellowship Society. Events start at noon with picnic feast at 5 p.m.
SS Forum Presents Jim Sinclair.
B.C. Federation of Labour President offers lively discussion about workers' rights. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Mon. June 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Denny McCue.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ToddlerTime.
For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 10:30 a.m.
Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting.
Public welcome to attend. Harbour House Hotel. 2:15 p.m.

Tues. June 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Stage with David Jaquest.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Family Fitness At Portlock Park.
Ages 0-6. Portlock Park. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Probus Meeting.
Guest speaker is Marva K. Blackmore, a storyteller from Qualicum Beach and incoming president of the Storytellers of Canada. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. to noon.
Tuesday Farmers' Market.
Every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings
we are YOUR go-to place for everything happening on Salt Spring

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch.
Salt Spring Vocal Quartet and friends perform a recital called Sentimental Journey. Free music followed by optional lunch. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.
Sasha Rose.
Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting.
Public welcome to attend. School District 64 Board Office. 1 p.m.
Lunch and Learn Seminar.
Act Hearing event with guest speaker Leslie Peterson on new advances in hearing-aid technology, plus free hearing screenings. Refreshments served. Clubhouse Bar & Grill. 12 noon. RSVP by June 9 to 855-537-4228.
Texas Holdem Poker.
See last Wednesday's listing.
SongJam.
See last Wednesday's listing.

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

Open Mic Poetry Nite
With featured poet Joanne Thorwaldson
Thursday, June 5th - 7pm
Salt Spring Public Library Program Room
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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

THE FRITZ CINEMA
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 Movie info: www.thefritz.ca

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Wednesday June 25th 7pm and Thursday June 26th 3 matinee.
Advance tickets \$20 at Salt Spring Books and The Fritz Cinema

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EXHIBITIONS

• **Sam Lightman** and **Maureen Milburn** show photos, photomontage and watercolours in **The Shoreline Project** in the **Harbour House Hotel** lobby and restaurant. The collaborative show runs to **June 30**, with an artists' reception set for Thursday, June 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.
• Pastel and paper artist **Gail Sibley** and basket maker **Heather Martin-McNab** are in the spotlight at **Gallery 8** with their joint show **Emergence** running until **June 10**.
• **Peter Luckman** exhibition of photography of underwater life in the Salish Sea is at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until **June 14**.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Midden** — Charcoal and oil wash drawings by **Deon Venter** show at **Duthie Gallery** through **June**. Gallery hours are Friday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.
• **Susan Benson's** portraits in oil, charcoal and graphite are on exhibit in the **ArtSpring** lobby until **June 30**.
• **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.**
• **Jerry Witmer** shows imaginary landscapes in acrylic at **Island Savings** until **mid-July**.
• **Back to the Walls 2** features **Rachel Vadeboncoeur's** artwork at **Penny's Pantry** through **June**.

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ON PAGE 16

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HISTORY

Film explores dark side of paradise

Mary and Tosh Kitagawa create documentary about Japanese experience

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The directors of a new short film want to spread awareness about a not-so-distant chapter in Salt Spring's history.

"Many people think of this island as paradise . . . but it harbours a dark hidden history," recounts Mary Kitagawa at the outset of a 10-minute short film she created with her husband Tosh. "Most people who live here now or visit each year are unaware of what happened to the thriving Japanese-Canadian community that once existed before the Second World War."

The Kitagawas' film called *Dark Side of Paradise* recounts the plight of 77 Salt Spring residents of Japanese ancestry who were forced to leave their property, businesses and homes as a result of the 1942 War Measures Act. Implemented by Prime Minister Mackenzie King's Liberal government after Canada officially declared war on Japan, the WMA relo-



Shot of Salt Spring cemetery in *Dark Side of Paradise*.

cated Japanese-Canadians away from the West Coast.

"If I didn't tell the story, nobody would know it," said Kitagawa, who lives in Tsawwassen and is the sister of Salt Spring residents Richard, Rose and Violet Murakami. "I want to tell our family's story so we are hoping to continue making films about them."

Mary and Tosh created the film as part of a University of British Columbia filmmaking class that focuses on Asian-Canadian stories. Telling their story meant Mary, 80, and Tosh, 82, had to head back to the classroom, where

they learned the latest moviemaking and video-editing techniques during the past semester.

"You don't see too many students with grey hair," Kitagawa said. "It was very challenging because we didn't know what filmmaking was all about. Now we see it from a different perspective."

Mary and Tosh may still be learning the fundamentals of documentary filmmaking, but they're motivated to keep at it if it means sharing their story with a wider audience.

After tracing the desecration and restoration of the Japanese

section of Salt Spring's community cemetery behind Central Hall, the Kitagawas' film travels to Vancouver's Mountain View Cemetery, the final resting place for her grandparents' two-year-old daughter, Kazue Okano.

Kazue's parents, the film explains, had to bury their infant daughter in Vancouver in 1912 after being forbidden to bury her on Salt Spring.

"It must have been heartbreaking for my grandparents who were forced to bury her so far away from home," Kitagawa says in the movie. "Her spirit must be lonely here all alone among strangers."

Dark Side of Paradise was screened at UBC last month with nine other films created in the class. Themes touch on the experiences of Chinese, South Asian and Filipino immigrants in British Columbia.

Kitagawa said she has received many positive responses from viewers. She plans to keep studying and producing more films about Salt Spring's former Japanese-Canadian community.

Dark Side of Paradise is available at the Salt Spring Public Library. It can also be seen on Tosh Kitagawa's Facebook page.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

No May holidays for island's bridge club

Good scores arise from not-so-good cards

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

"The twenty-fourth of May / Is the Queen's birthday; / If they don't give us a holiday / We'll all run away!"

Well, that was then and this now, and the holiday has been decreed to be the Monday before May 25, which was May 19 this year. Some bridge players ran away anyhow, resulting in only six tables and a Howell movement with just one set of winners. The crowning glory went to George Laundry and Paul Retallack, with Liz and Oleh

Mycyk a step away from the throne. Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas stood on the level below, and a platform down from them was occupied by two pairs tied for fourth place — namely Gisela Welsh with Joan Byrne and Jeff Bell with Marcia Jeanne. The hoi polloi vowed to do better next time.

May 26 was Memorial Day in the U.S.A., marking the beginning of impossible parking in Ganges with the influx of tourists. It also saw the return of some familiar faces to Monday night duplicate bridge, with eight tables filled and a Mitchell move-

BRIDGETRICKS

ment with North/South and East/West winners.

In spite of bad cards, the N/S players got good scores, with Judy Norget and Charles Kahn in first place. The Laundry-Retallack combo were second, and third went to Jeff Bell and returning Prem Margolese (welcome back).

E/W winners were Blanche Poborsa and Michel Jutras in second place. The third spot was occupied by Terry Wilkinson and Glenda Kaiser. And here endeth the May-time games. What will June bring?

Visitors are welcome, and for info please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

SALT SPRING FORUM

Workers' rights champion at ArtSpring

Jim Sinclair leads discussion this Sunday

BY CAT PAQUETTE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

I like my weekends — I think most people do. I like benefits, sick days and paid vacation days. The eight-hour workday is pretty great. Thank goodness for the minimum wage, though it could be higher. If I am hurt on the job, I like that I will be compensated. I am grateful that my young nephews won't be sent to a factory to work. Thank you child labour laws.

And thank you unions.

The union movement has contributed



JIM SINCLAIR

greatly to Canadian society as we know it. The rights at work that many of us enjoy, and often take for granted, are thanks to generations of workers who organized in pursuit of these rights.

Jim Sinclair — a fierce champion of workers' rights — will join the Salt Spring Forum in conversation on Sunday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring.

Sinclair is the president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, an organization that represents 54 unions and 450,000

private and public sector employees. This includes many employees on Salt Spring like our ferry, hydro, postal and hospital workers. It also represents our teachers, who are in the midst of a job action.

From the current teachers' strike to the future of organized labour, Sinclair will offer insights from his decades of hard-fought experience. He has served as president of the B.C. Federation of Labour for 15 years and was president of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union.

Tickets are available at ArtSpring at 250-537-2102 or www.tickets.artspring.ca, or at Salt Spring Books.

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D.W. Salty
REPORTER
250-537-9933

MUSICIANS

Pianist achieves highest exam ranking

Love of music motivates intensive study

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Twelve-year-old Salt Spring pianist Lucas Booy recently achieved an accomplishment that few musicians ever reach when he earned First Class Honours with Distinction for his Grade 5 piano exam with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Less than one per cent of students play well enough to receive this grade, which requires a score of 90 per cent or higher. But for Booy, the high mark was in his sights from the outset of eight months of exam preparation with teacher Don Conley.

"It was his goal to get this mark. That's what was so exciting," Booy's mother Lisa Stafford said. "Lucas wanted to get First Class Honours with Distinction, and Don knew how to get him there."

Booy started learning piano at age five and has been studying with Conley for over four years. His love of classical music was passed along by his grandmothers on both sides, one of whom completed all her grades of piano study. The other was a church organist and excels at sight reading.

"I've kind of been around piano forever," Booy said, noting that practice used to be a lot harder when he was younger, but it was something he wanted to do.

"I loved the piano. I thought it was really cool. I thought it was easy to make beautiful music out of it. And I guess [I had] determination, I just stuck with it."

Booy met Conley through the Salt Spring Singers, a group that Stafford has been active with for many years. He impressed the accomplished performer and instructor by wanting to start with learning how to play Bach's Toccata in D Minor (it's the theme to Dracula) at age seven.

"Don will work with young students, but it wasn't a guarantee," Stafford said. "He wanted to hear him first, definitely."

In order to prepare for the Grade 5



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Lucas Booy, 12, practises his piano at home.

Royal Conservatory exam, Booy spent two-thirds of a year learning the same five songs, first learning the actual music and then learning the nuances of musicality and expression necessary to propel him into the highest grade bracket.

"I was learning how to paint a picture in the listener's head," Booy explained.

In addition to the five pieces, he also had to master 82 different scales, triads, arpeggios and formulaic progressions, five of which were selected at random for examination. Despite his in-depth preparation, Booy wasn't sure he had met his goal during the event.

"I had doubts at the exam, because I made one very major mistake," he said. "The examiner was very nice and gave me a second chance."

With the fantastic results now in, Booy is taking a break from piano in order to learn some pieces on the organ, which he calls "a bit of a work-out" due to the need to use all hands and feet in four registers. His long-term goal is to

continue piano and to earn his Associate of the Royal Conservatory diploma by the end of Grade 12 in regular school.

Stafford and partner Micah Booy have been surprised and happy to see piano emerge as a passion for their son, without any push from themselves.

"I'm really happy for him because it's a good way for him to express himself," she said. "You never know what your kids are going to get into — we didn't expect to have a musician."

"It's always nice when someone can find something that they love and are good at, whatever it may be. Certainly it was not what we expected, but it's been a wonderful thing for us to have music in the house."

As for her son, he has one piece of advice for other parents who might be inspired to get their kids involved in lessons.

"I think to play music you have to enjoy it. Otherwise it doesn't really work."

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Brooks Point trip on club roster for June

Strawberry Festival also dishes up fun at Ruckle Park

it will not involve extreme bushwhacking, participants should have a sense of adventure and be strong hikers.

June 17: Laura Klein leads a short hike before the Strawberry Festival. Leave from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at the entrance to Ruckle Park at 10:05 a.m.

Walkers

June 10: John Flanagan leads a walk to the rhodonite mine area on Mount Tuam. This is a fairly long walk with some steep bits and some wet bits. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Drummond Park at 10:15.

June 17: Lorrie Storr leads a short walk before the Strawberry Festival. Please carpool yourselves from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to meet at the lower parking lot in Ruckle Park at 10:20.

Ramblers

June 10: North-end ramble with Frauke followed by a potluck lunch at 221 Byron Rd. Bring a dish to share. Rain or shine, the Ramblers meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park.

June 17: Ramblers are organizing the Strawberry Festival this year. Set-up in Ruckle Park at 11 a.m. Members who want to walk before the festival can meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park.

New Members

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or Nieke Visser (president) at 250-537-5443, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in. Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

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

Strawberry Festival

The 2013-2014 hiking season ends with the Strawberry Festival at Ruckle Park on June 17. This year's event is being organized by the Ramblers. Meet at noon in the lower picnic area to enjoy a scrumptious dish of strawberries and ice cream. Remember to bring a dish and spoon! Short walks will be scheduled prior to the festival.

Hikers

June 10: Join a mystery hike on the south-west side of Mount Maxwell led by Gary Quiring, who is always interesting, informative and very knowledgeable about trails up and down the island. This hike will likely be off established trails. Although

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DEATHS

DEATHS

Hamilton, Joy Lovella
August 10, 1924 - May 21, 2014



Joy Lovella Hamilton born August 10, 1924 at International Falls, Minnesota, died May 21, 2014 at Duncan BC. Beloved and loving daughter, wife mom, grandma and great grandma, Joy Lovella Hamilton, with her son and grandson by her side, slipped quietly away to begin her next journey the evening of May 21, 2014 at Duncan BC. Predeceased by her parents, Hilma and Hillary Thompson, infant brother David and little sister Ardelle. Also going before her, the love of her life, Crael (Fuzzy) Hamilton who has been waiting patiently for her since November 1989. Mom is survived by her most precious sons and their spouses, Robert (Linda), Roger (Lorri) and Brent (Nancy). Grandma will leave wonderful memories with Scott (Tara), Todd (Jodi), Lindsay, Kevin (Lesley), Korbe (Traci), Leela (Phil) and Neil (Cathy) Great Grandma Joy, or Nammy leaves a legacy of fun and stories to her very dear great grandchildren Kali, Jack, Lauren, Graeden, Olivia, Logan, Lucy, Angelica, Eben, Amelia and Lorne. Remembering her with love are her sisters in law, Madeline (Ron) Blum and Elvane Hamilton, her nieces Britt and Brandi Blum. She had a special bond with Crael's niece Bonnie Unrau and her daughter Stacey. Joy lived a life dedicated to Crael (married July 2 1944) her sons and her grandchildren. A loving and caring person, mom was always able to see the good in others and bring out their best. Living each day with kindness and taking difficulties in stride, she was truly the matriarch of our family and we all looked to her for support and for guidance, which she gave without judgment and with so much love. We are all better people because Joy loved each of us and we loved her. We know Joy and Fuzzy are dancing in heaven and watching over us. We will miss her beyond measure and keep her memory close in our aching hearts. Thank you to the staff at Cerwydden Care Home for the care and affection you bestowed on Joy. You are a blessing. There will be a private family interment but ask that her friends and ours, gather at a Memorial Tea to be held Thursday May 29 at 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, at 39-1927 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, B.C. Flowers are gratefully declined but donations to a children's charity of your choice or The Heart and Stroke Fund are very much appreciated.

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201 KINGS LANE, Saturday, June 7, 10am - 2pm. Antique dressers, antique wardrobe need refinishing, tv stand, acer computer monitor, many kitchen items, jewelry display case for earrings, crib, bikes, tons of kids stuff, books and more! - free stuff too. ③

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INITIATIVES

Will SPARCKs fly over Salt Spring for Cambodian project?

Saturday bottle drive aids Cambodian project

BY ROSS KING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

SPARCKs — Schooling Poor and Rural Cambodian Kids — is the banner I've created for collecting donations on Salt Spring Island for the HVTO school in the village of Phum Sophy in Cambodia, about which I wrote in the Feb. 26, 2014 Driftwood.

HVTO Phum Sophy School caters to 600 rural children up to pre-secondary level, and includes

lessons in English and computer skills. Its only source of income is charitable donations. It is run by a dedicated team, headed by a Buddhist monk, Sim Piseth, who is well known to NGOs. HVTO is a charitable organization, registered in Cambodia, and their sister organization (of which I am chairman designate) is HVTO-USA, which is effectively their U.S. fundraising arm.

Where do we Salt Springers fit in? The kiddy-winks at Fernwood Elementary, bless their hearts, under the direction of two excellent teachers,

Malindi Curtis and Sharon Lee, have "twinned" with the Phum Sophy School, are pen-palling and running a bottle-drive at Country Grocer this Saturday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please save your bottles and help the cause!

Meantime, I have made overtures to the Lions Club with a view to engaging them in SPARCKs' cause, if only to write tax receipts for us.

I have recently raised \$12,500 in the U.K. on a "to-be-matched" basis for a school dormitory program, and I and my U.S. colleagues are actively searching for matching funds.

Match it or lose it!

Pending formal arrangements with a recognized and approved entity such as the Lions Club, my accountant Jackie Berry has kindly agreed to accept donations by cheque and account for them.

If you Google HVTO Cambodia, you can read far more than I have space available here. I am sure you will be convinced, as I was when I visited them, that it is a very good cause.

Bear in mind that there are virtually no teachers in rural Cambodia as a result of the Khmer Rouge exter-

mination of the intelligentsia in the latter part of the last century. This is a self-help, volunteer-run operation. The best and brightest of these kids need to be helped towards secondary and post-secondary education as the future leaders: teachers, intellectuals, entrepreneurs, businesspeople, scientists, engineers, etc., all of whom are desperately needed.

Education at Phum Sophy is free to the local kids, thanks to international donors like us, but secondary education, available only in the bigger towns, requires fees.

Please help as much as you can.

EDUCATION

Connecting Generations gets gold



PHOTO BY SAM BARLOW

Connecting Generations program coordinator Sarah Hook-Nilsson, centre, holds Golden Star Award presented by B.C. Retired Teachers' Association representatives Carolyn Prellwitz, left, and Jane MacRae.

Participants gather for celebration at awards event

Representatives of the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association's Committee for Educational Excellence visited Salt Spring last Monday to present a Golden Star Award to the school district's Connecting Generations program.

The award, one of five presented to school districts in B.C. every year, is given to public school system programs that have "as the salient feature the interaction of students with seniors."

Press material explains that "the BCRTA believes that within every community there is a wealth of knowledge and wisdom among seniors that should be used to enhance the learning experience of students at every grade level, right from Kindergarten through Grade 12."

Connecting Generations has been operating in the Gulf Islands School District since January of 2010. According to program coordinator Sarah Hook-Nilsson, 10 of the program's participants were present for the award ceremony, including Queenie Haddow, who at 99 is the most senior member; Charles Kahn, the first volunteer; and Rose Murakami, who was presented with a flower arrangement by one of the delegates of the BCRTA.

Naidine Sims, a resident of Heritage Place, spoke about her experience as an adult learner with "Plugged-In," where she was coached by a student in the use of her tablet.

Tahani Peters and Scott Chamney were youth representatives who spoke eloquently about their participation during the last four years.

Betty and Bob Ball were also involved when the program first started and spoke about the students they have met and who have visited them in their home at Meadowbrook.

Joi Freed-Garrod, a member of the program's intergenerational team who has created a Connecting Generations "game," talked about her experience teaching piano to four enthusiastic elementary students.

Sam Barlow, an adult participant in the Finding Our Voices writers' group, has kindly contributed the photos of the occasion, and writers' group facilitator Ahava Shira spoke about her involvement as "co-inspirator" with Connecting Generations during the last four years.

School district superintendent Lisa Halstead offered her enthusiastic support for the program, both as an educator and as a parent.

In addition to a Golden Star trophy, the BC Retired Teachers' Association has presented the program with a cheque for \$1,000 to be contributed towards expansion of the Plugged-In program next year.

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www.beaconcs.ca

This Week's Horoscope

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

Tip of the Week:

Mercury is set to begin its next retrograde cycle from June 7 to July 1st. It begins its apparent backward motion in Cancer but will enter its own sign of Gemini on June 17th. When in Cancer, the usual challenges like miscommunication, delays, malfunctions of technology and so on will be especially noticeable. Yet, we may experience a reprieve of these 'symptoms' when Mercury re-enters Gemini where it is much more harmonious. So, we can expect something of a mixed bag of influences linked to Mercury retrograde beyond even the usual antics of this tri-annual cycle. On June 23rd Venus will enter Gemini as well, contributing 'her' special attributes and talents to the mix. But Venus will not quite catch-up to Mercury while in Gemini before it re-enters Cancer on July 13th. Venus will only enter Cancer on July 18th and the two will only meet again in late October during Mercury's next retrograde round. But while both the inner planets, Mercury and Venus, are in Gemini for that 3 week period, people are apt to feel more social, in-tune with the season and the many festivals and celebrations that will be occurring during this time. Mars in Libra, where it has been since early December 2013 due to its retrograde cycle, will contribute to the overall social tenor implied. Although it will not be quite fast enough to form a harmonious and creative trine to Mercury, it will with Venus. However, it is Venus in Gemini which will be in hot pursuit of her celestial lover at least in terms of forming a trine aspect, the most auspicious in Astrology, on July 13th and under the light of the first Full Moon of the official summer season.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20) Your focus on matters close to home will get noticeably stronger this week. Amidst a busy cycle in general, your emotions are heightened and sentimentalities stirred. Yet you likely also have reason to feel good and your confidences continue to rise. Creating harmony based on mutual understanding and respect in your most intimate relationships remains a central theme.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21) Yours is the sign of multiple stream of income and this is probably quite apparent or at least on your mind these days. Now with Venus at home again in your sign (May 28 – June 23) you feel a strong desire to express yourself in beautiful and varied ways. This is where the emphasis on work shifts to expressions of art.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) The inspiration of new beginnings is guiding your choices. You are ready to enter new territory, ideally to enjoy quality time with your family. At deeper levels, the prospects of establishing a more reliable and secure flow remains a priority. The time is right to attain education or training. Or perhaps it is your health that requires your sober attention. Either way, just do it, now!

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) Many thoughts and ideas are percolating in your mind. Notions of expansion, risk and perhaps adventure too are in this brew. Yet it may feel necessary to clear the clutter first. Whether it is in your actual living space or in your mind or both, get clear. Take action on your dreams and visions if simply by sketching a plan and outlining your to-do list.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23) Reaching out to stimulate your network of friends and key contacts continues. Re-connecting with family members is also featured. Meanwhile many promising ideas and creative projects are gestating in your imagination. It may take a couple of months before these seeds sprout, but now is the time to prepare the ground and sow.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) The time is right to get some extra attention in your public and/or professional life. This window of opportunity will be open for the next few weeks. Don't let Mercury Retrograde slow you down. Just be extra diligent in your communications and avoid assumptions. As well, review all you have ever done professionally and successfully and blow your horn confidently.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22) Paying attention to the details of the bigger picture is important now. This will help you navigate an otherwise confusing period that could leave you feeling a bit lost. The time is right to push through apathy and inertia. As well, decipher what others have that you need and be willing to ask for support if necessary. You have probably banked a lot of favours so use some now.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21) As much as you want to move on or forward, you may still feel like you are at a crossroads. Ideally you are at least confronting inner doubts, fears and confusion. What you may be clear about is that you want more of what feels good. But what is the best means of getting what you want? Get ready for another round or research investigation and perhaps some soul searching.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21) The pace of change in your world has been steadily accelerating. It is affecting your regular routine and perhaps even your entire lifestyle. Trust and acceptance, adaptation and perhaps some sincere prayers will help see you through. You may well find yourself digging deeper for answers this week and into your stash of hidden talents, resources and reserves.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19) Casting a constructively critical eye towards your daily rhythm is in focus this week. Your perspectives and attitude may require some review. The objective is to see yourself and the world, and in the world, in a more empowered light. Yet, you must be willing and effective in your efforts to make a few adjustments. This will provide the foundation for key investments that are on your mind.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19) You have entered a creative and dynamic cycle. This is your opportunity to catch-up on any lost ground over the past several months. Establishing a more grounded, practical and aesthetically pleasing environment will inspire your focus. Cooperation remains a key word and your success will be best achieved by collaborative efforts.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) Centering your focus on home and family is likely now and over the coming weeks. It is also a time to both express and refine some of your best talents. Circumstances will require you to be flexible and versatile to meet the demand on a variety of fronts. Your ambitions and drive remain quite high and you stand to achieve a lot both personally and professionally.

Attention New Salt Springers!

Don't miss your opportunity for a great welcome visit. Call Jennifer today for your greeting, gifts & useful info. 250-653-9222



sports&recreation

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



GYMNASTICS

Revived gymnastics group celebrates an active year

More than 200 participants recorded

BY BRIDGET LEE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring Gymnastics Association's first two terms back in action have been met with resounding support and enthusiasm, with a final count of 210 youth and adult gymnasts participating in the various programs offered.

"It didn't take any time to rebuild momentum after the three-year gymnastics 'drought', which was a big relief," said James Cowan, chair of SSGA's board of directors.

A talented and energetic team of coaches contributed immensely to the success of

the re-launched gymnastics program, as well as the tireless behind-the-scenes efforts of a small but committed board of directors.

Coaches were pleased to welcome registrants from all of the island's elementary schools and from Salt Spring Island Middle School, as well as the youth and adult drop-in class participants from the high school. The dark, wet, winter Wednesday evening drop-in classes were especially well-attended. Islanders of all ages seem to appreciate having another option for indoor recreation in the winter months.

SSGA is committed to making gymnastics available and accessible to participants of all ages and abilities. This includes trying to accommodate gymnasts who are not



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Lily Campbell soars high at the Salt Spring Gymnastic Association's end of term gymkhana at Fulford Hall on Friday.

able bodied. Adult participants from the Community Initiatives and Choices programs enjoyed involvement in both the winter and spring sessions. When seeking grant funding, SSGA has an eye on

keeping coach-participant ratios low and eventually acquiring additional equipment that will better allow coaches to accommodate gymnasts with special needs. The mission of SSGA has

been to offer a recreational gymnastics program to youth of all ages with some programming for adults as well. In 2014-15, there will be an interclub class introduced for program participants who are interested in making the transition from recreational to competitive gymnastics. There have been enough students expressing a desire to extend their skills and commitment that Level 2 coach Kipp Nash recognizes the need to offer introductory competitive experiences.

"There are gymnasts bursting at the seams of the recreational program. This class will open the doors to new challenges, travel and, of course, shiny new suits."

Another new offering planned for the fall session is an all-boys class called the

Jets Program. It will be scheduled for every other Saturday. The aim of the class will be to train male youth of all ages to create new ways of moving in the air and on the ground. With a burgeoning interest among island youth in the edgy urban training discipline called parkour, the time seems right to present the opportunity to develop awareness of their capabilities. No experience is necessary to register.

Registration for fall sessions will open shortly. The classes that have run through the winter and spring sessions will all continue in the fall, with the addition of the Interclub and Jets classes.

To register for fall classes or for more information, please call Bridget Lee at 250-537-4865.

BASKETBALL

Johnston sisters reach new heights during provincial play

Teen twins win gold

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A pair of Salt Spring siblings capped an impressive season on the court with a pair of gold medals at the Basketball BC provincial finals in Langley on May 18.

The accomplishment represents the pinnacle of achievement for

U15 girls basketball in the province. "There's nowhere else to go," said Kiara Johnston.

Given the high calibre of talent among the tournament's 12 teams from across B.C., Kiara and Shayce weren't surprised most of their games were hard-fought battles that tested their skills and sportsmanship.

"Most of the games were pretty close," said Shayce.

The girls were at last month's tourney with teammates from the Nanaimo-based Central Vancouver Island district team. The effort and commitment required to play on the off-island team has meant family and friends of the Johnston clan can all lay claim to being a part of the twins' gold-medal success.

"It's been a whole community event," said their mother Shannon Johnston, the principal of Satur-

na Island School. "We had a lot of help."

Plenty of carpooling and ferry trips were required to get the girls to practice in Nanaimo at least three times a week. Weekends have been dedicated to basketball games for much of the spring.

"It was a wonderful, stretching, eye-opening and honouring experience for them both, but the part that most moved me was the amount of

people on our island who jumped in to help make this dream opportunity a reality," Shannon Johnston said. "It really did take a village."

In spite of an injury that left her sidelined for the final match, Kiara said she expects to be back in action well before next season, when both she and her sister hope to contribute to the GISS Scorpions senior girls squad in its hunt for a provincial title.

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