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Family fun on Saturday  
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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 47 **\$1.25** (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**BRAVO:** Five Tomb With a View cast members soak up audience applause at their Nov. 15 show at Mahon Hall. From left are Larry Woods, Kym Sheppard Bellavance, David French, Oni Freeman and Wendy Beatty. While the actors were celebrating, so were successful candidates after local election results were released the same evening.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS**

## Incumbents earn second term

Grams, Grove and McIntyre seal decisive victories

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A majority of Salt Spring voters who cast ballots in Saturday's local election gave Local Trust Committee members George Grams and Peter Grove another four years in office. Grove garnered a whopping 2,064 votes while Grams picked up an impressive 1,601 once results were tabulated Saturday at 9 p.m. Newcomer Christine Grimes placed third with 988, while Vincent MacDonald

came in fourth with 187 votes. All results are still technically considered unofficial by election organizers. Approximately 2,568 of the island's 8,220 eligible voters — or 31 per cent — cast ballots on election day, at advance polls or by mail. Capital Regional District director Wayne McIntyre was also returned to his post by a wide margin — 1,923 votes to 554 for challenger Garth Hendren. McIntyre said he would focus on promises

made in his campaign platform, including increasing the amount of CRD service management on the island. "I think it's going to be an exciting four years," he said. McIntyre's colleague on the Southern Gulf Islands, Dave Howe, was also returned, earning 1,988 votes over 869 for opponent Stephen Cropper.

**ELECTION** continued on 4

**TRANSPORTATION**

## Rainbow pathway gets nod

Up to \$1 million available for pedestrian/cycling infrastructure over 4 years

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The active transportation network in Ganegs village has received a much-needed funding boost, with voters agreeing to increase the tax requisition by up to \$1 million over the next four years.

A referendum question sponsored by the Salt Spring Transportation Commission to coincide with Saturday's local elections received overwhelming support, with 1,623 in favour and 821 opposed.

"I think that the community has given a strong vote of confidence behind the work of the transportation commission, which is producing active transportation projects that are workable," said SSITC chair Robin Williams.

CRD electoral area director Wayne McIntyre, who was elected for a second term, agreed the public sees the value of proposed projects.

"I think there's a lot of recognition of the safety and other benefits of pathways and other transportation systems," he said.

McIntyre admitted he was not expecting such a marked victory, but thought the two sides would be within a few points either way.

The result allows the commission to increase the maximum annual requisition for the transportation service to the greater of \$396,250 or \$0.1346 per \$1,000 of assessed property value from 2015 to 2018. Funds will go to capital and operating costs, starting with a new pathway for students and other pedestrians on Rainbow Road.

**REFERENDUM** continued on 2

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[driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com) 250.537.9933 [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

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SCHOOL TRUSTEES

# Macdonald, Wakefield, Pingle win SS seats

McKenzie and Middleditch  
joined by Lawson and Herlitz

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring voters welcomed back Rob Pingle and elected newcomers Nancy Macdonald and John Wakefield as their school board trustees for the next four years, during an election that saw a triumph of the incumbents in all categories across the board.

Coming in a year which saw divisive labour action and a call from teachers for more visible and vocal advocacy from the board, the decision proves both an acceptance of governance at the local level and a desire for practical experience.

Macdonald, a retired district superintendent with the Saanich school board and a former Gulf Islands high school principal, received the strongest mandate with 1,732 votes. Pingle followed with 1,628 votes and Wakefield received 1,391. Unelected candidates were Ken Lee (755 votes) and Neal Wilkinson (537 votes).

"I feel very honoured to have been elected as SD64 school trustee and wish to thank the voters, all of the trustee candidates, and my friends and former colleagues who gave me encouragement, advice and support," Macdonald said after the election.

"I take this position very seriously, and take nothing for granted. I promise to be an ear to the community needs, to consult and to take on the tough challenges when they arise.

"We have a very strong school system with an outstanding staff and we must continue to be innovative, reflective and future-thinking. I look forward to these discussions with enthusiasm and hope the public will provide me feedback as time goes on."

On Mayne Island, long-time incumbent May McKenzie was announced the winner in a race with challenger Jan Maynard Nicol. Official results had not been released as of Monday. Trustee positions on Galiano, Pender and Saturna islands were filled by acclamation, with Shelley Lawson, Anna Herlitz and another long-time incumbent, Susanne Middleditch, respectively filling those seats.

Pingle observed that unlike larger districts where political parties run slates of candidates, the Gulf Islands School Board consists of seven independents who aren't trying to push an agenda.

"It's a band of individuals that hopefully do a good job representing the needs of their community," he said.

**"The district is doing the right thing in the right environment and should stay the course."**

ROB PINGLE  
Salt Spring school trustee

The challenges of doing so — since powers, funding and choices are limited by the Ministry of Education — are in some ways eased by the district's unique character and small size, which allows for innovative solutions.

"I think the path that [district superintendent] Lisa Halstead has taken with the district review process is the path to creating a better understanding of the strengths and the challenges," Pingle said, noting the process involves all the schools and teachers, not just their principals.

"The district is doing the right thing in the right environment and should stay the course," he

added.

Creating more time for collaboration between teachers and for teacher preparation are desired goals, but difficult to achieve under the current contract, Pingle said. He also talked about needing to be honest about the realities of what school boards can achieve.

"The odds of really changing provincial education policy are really slim, but if we have a unified voice as teachers, administration, trustees and parents about where we want things to go, there's potential for getting small amounts of funding from the ministry to further that goal," he said.

Wakefield acknowledged the board has hard work ahead of it during the next four years, which for him will start with getting up to speed on how the trustee position works. Although unsuccessful in a previous election bid, he speculated voters chose him this time around because his broad view may have resonated.

"I think perhaps the community saw I'm willing to work on their behalf to make the commitment as to what the job requires," Wakefield said, stating he will strive to be open-minded about choices for the greater good rather than attempting to advance personal goals.

Wakefield has previously asked the board to revisit the four-day school week, and in particular to consider how it impacts the district's youngest students. He noted the concern was also brought up by a parent who attended the pre-election debate.

"It affects people, especially the most challenged people in our district, and that's something we need to look at. I'm committed to looking at that again," he said.

The first meeting of the new board will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at the school board office on Salt Spring. The public session starts at 1 p.m.

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## Downscaled plans aided by volunteer groups

REFERENDUM  
continued from 1

Transit needs are funded through a separate requisition and are not affected by the increase.

"I'm very happy with the result," said John Wakefield, a former SSITC chair who has just been elected to the Gulf Islands School Board.

"It shows there is very good support for the transportation initiatives on the island. That warms my heart."

The pathway project has received the strong support of the school district but was not endorsed by business owners on Rainbow Road who will be negatively affected by changes to parking.

Windsor Plywood co-owner Ken Marr has repeatedly said students should be taken off Rainbow Road

entirely, but he gracefully conceded the referendum results.

"The yes vote was strong," he said in an emailed statement to the Driftwood. "We will have a pathway on Rainbow Road. We all need to support our community's majority decision."

Williams speculated that one reason the community chose to support the requisition increase when two other recent referendums have failed is because of the innovative partnership between community volunteers and professionals that exists in Island Pathways and Partners Creating Pathways groups. Their involvement with Rainbow Road will potentially reduce costs from a more ambitious project that was suggested by the consultants who helped produce the North Gan-

ges Transportation Plan.

"I think it's an example of solid teamwork to really look at cutting costs but still deliver what the public is after in terms of safety in our transportation network," McIntyre said.

The CRD representative is also optimistic about more community involvement in infrastructure projects since engineer Keith Wahlstrom has recently moved from a temporary contract to being awarded the island's full-time position. Wahlstrom will theoretically be more available to the transportation sector and will be project leader on the next phases of the Ganges village plan.

The transportation commission cancelled its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday to gain time to digest the referendum results. Members will also have a special meeting to

deal with the island's transit review on Nov. 27.

Heading into December's meeting, Williams said he hopes to return to some of the issues that have been put on the back burner during the lead-up to the referendum, including the transit service. He said the commission will also start to lay out a game plan for 2015, which must start with a drainage study on Rainbow Road.

McIntyre noted public consultation on the next phases of the pathway network is not over even though the funding has been secured. The next segment after Rainbow Road will connect with Lower Ganges Road and should provoke considerable interest, especially as it could also connect with the long-delayed boardwalk project.

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# NEWS BEAT

## Heads up!

**Grace Islet Benefit Concert & Silent Auction**  
Saturday, NOV. 22  
Fulford Hall, 6 to 10 p.m.

### FERRIES

## Vesuvius-Crofton route death rumour swirls and sinks

Misleading TV news clip affects island

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Rumours about possible BC Ferries route and terminal closures affecting Salt Spring Island passed from concern about Long Harbour to panic about Vesuvius over the past week.

Insiders who work closely with the company as members of the island's Ferry Advisory Committee insist the rumours are just that — and in the case of Vesuvius have no foundation.

"Vesuvius-Crofton was not in any way, shape or form a target," affirmed Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga, although he agreed there is political pressure on the provincial level to examine the need for Long Harbour.

"BC Ferries certainly never mentioned that we would eliminate a terminal on the west side of the island and leave the two on the east side. In all the meetings I've been at there's never been any talk of eliminating that terminal whatsoever," he said.

The most recent rumour appears to have surfaced because of a CTV Vancouver Island television news clip that discussed the idea that one of the island's terminals "may be on the chopping block." Video footage and interviews conducted on the Vesuvius-Crofton route led viewers

to believe it was the specific route in question.

The original controversy stems from a single statement at the end of an efficiency strategies report that BC Ferries submitted to Ferry Commissioner Gordon Macatee in September.

The exact statement reads, "BC Ferries will also explore further potential efficiency opportunities including:

"The feasibility of a 'short link' between Saturna Island and Mayne Island; and

"Rationalizing the number of terminals on Salt Spring Island, which would also have implications for the other two routes serving Salt Spring Island: Route 4 (Swartz Bay to Fulford) and Route 6 (Crofton to Vesuvius)."

Missing from the second clause is the unspoken assumption that it is eliminating the Long Harbour terminal that would have potential impact on "the other two routes."

Heather Kim, CTV Vancouver Island news director, said her assignment editor drew a different conclusion from the report.

"Our assignment editor said that reading between the lines, the Crofton-Vesuvius run could be most at risk."

Deborah Marshall, BC Ferries' director of communications, told the Driftwood there are no plans to shut down any island routes, and that the decision to explore the pos-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

The Howe Sound Queen plies the Vesuvius-Crofton route on a busy day. Insiders say a route cancellation rumour is nothing to worry about.

sibilities does not rest with the ferry corporation.

"The efficiency plan is only meant to begin the process of consulting with all stakeholders, including the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee, regarding a number of options to explore," she wrote in an email. "Before we would pursue looking at any of the ideas outlined in our plan, the Ferry Commissioner has to first endorse some or all of the strategies for further study."

In the event Commissioner Macatee does endorse further study, local opposition to any service reduction will be strong. Long Harbour has been a constant source of debate

ever since the terminal was built, but Swierenga said all Salt Spring routes now have established traffic.

"I'm prepared to argue in favour of all three of them," he said.

Bob Jones, another long-time FAC member who just announced his retirement, agrees the Vesuvius terminal is in no danger, and questions whether Long Harbour is actually at risk. BC Ferries' plan to build two new ships for the Gulf Islands includes stationing one of them on Salt Spring as its home port, as discussed at various public meetings.

"I don't think Long Harbour is an issue, and certainly not in the short

run," Jones said.

"If [BC Ferries director of strategic planning] Dave Hendry is to be believed, nothing happens until 2020 — and by that point the new vessel will have been operating for two years."

"If everything operated as well as Vesuvius-Crofton, BC Ferries wouldn't have a problem — it's the only one that makes an operating profit," he added.

"So I can't imagine it. For me, it would be very low on the list for cutting."

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's recent practice of slashing coastal routes and service to save on operating costs has meanwhile come under fire through two economic analyses.

A report released Tuesday by the West Chilcotin Tourism Association finds that "major modifications" to ferry service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola amounted to a 46 per cent loss in total ridership during 2014. Related tourism losses throughout the region came in at \$3.9 million, which in turn meant \$870,000 lost in direct taxation revenues. Total estimated operational savings were \$750,000.

The Union of B.C. Municipalities released a report in September that examined the impact of rising ferry fares and service cuts to B.C.'s gross domestic product, tracking a \$2.3 billion loss between 2003 and 2013.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CFUW hosts Fertig

Salt Spring Island author, poet and publisher Mona Fertig will speak to the November meeting of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Her speech will touch on several aspects of her award-winning work as a writer and publisher. She will also sell signed copies of some of her books at the

event. The meeting takes place at the Harbour House Hotel at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22 and is open to all members of the public.

### Nursing changes for outer islands

Island Health is realigning nursing services on Galiano and Mayne islands.

Effective Friday, Nov. 21,

Island Health and Home and Community Care Nursing on both islands will be provided through a half-time position, instead of sharing one half-time position between them.

The realignment of nursing services will mean there is no longer a first-call relief nurse on either Galiano or Mayne during weekends. Islanders requiring medical attention outside of regular hours of the Galiano Health Care Centre can continue

to contact the practitioner on-call's pager at 1-877-457-3753. On Mayne Island, those requiring medical attention outside the regular hours of the Mayne Island Health Centre can page 1-800-866-5602.

### Development seeks fire aid

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District has received a request to alter its Letters Patent in order

to extend service to a new development that currently lies outside its boundaries.

Trustees discussed the request from Polaris Land Surveying at the board meeting Monday night and agreed to turn the matter over to Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner for further investigation. If the fire department determines it is able to extend services to the south-end strata, it will need to peti-

tion the government and receive an order in council. Trustee Bruce Patterson observed the process has taken around a year to complete in the past.

Fire board chair Michael Schubart suggested that a capital grant or fee might be requested in exchange, as is the case in some water districts. While the district has not asked for a fee in the past, he noted "every nickel and dime" is now being counted.

## Thank You!

"We are sorry to say goodbye to our wonderful customers and we want to thank you for your loyalty and patronage over the past 14 years.

"Calvin's Bistro has been sold. It is business as usual until December 31, 2014."

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*Rene Widmer* *Hermann Orth*  
RENE WIDMER & HERMANN ORTH



# Winners elated after count

## ELECTION

continued from 1

The numbers show Grove received a remarkable 80 per cent of votes cast, and Grams regained his post with a commanding 62 per cent of the popular vote.

"I have worked hard, with great enjoyment, to be involved with our community at many levels," Grove remarked when asked about his election win. "George Grams and I have fostered an open, respectful and collaborative approach to decision making, which I believe has been appreciated.

"Lastly, it's all about communicating: making sure people's concerns are addressed, understood and resolved, in one way or another."

Grove was thrilled to learn news of the win while par-

ticipating in the Salt Spring Sailing Club's annual Commodore's Ball.

Once Grove is sworn in for a second term, he plans to continue defending the Trust's preserve and protect mandate by "addressing climate change realities," resolving water issues and supporting a strong local economy with adequate housing for all.

There is also the Ganges boardwalk, Salt Spring's industrial land shortage, developing a long-term sustainability study for the island and ongoing governance issues, he added.

"It is so often tempting to take a short cut, to expedite matters, but such an approach can lead to disastrous results," he said. "So we must take the time to do things properly in an open, respectful and collaborative way."

### Grams wants to conclude governance study

Grams was dining with friends when results were announced Saturday evening.

"My reactions were elation, plus, I confess, some relief at not having to deal with the rejection that a negative vote would have triggered," he said.

Grams attributed the win to his ability to honour campaign pledges made back in 2011 and a sense of shared values with many islanders.

He anticipates starting the upcoming four-year term where he left off, tackling a priority list that includes completion of a water quantity review and working on an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

"On a personal note, I would like to conclude the governance study review already begun earlier this term," he said. "We have the impact study on the Islands Trust which should be made available by the ministry [of Community, Sport and Cultural Development] shortly and we await their decision on whether they will fund a full incorporation study."

During his three years as trustee, Grams confessed to having had to adapt to the slow pace of local government.

"We have to temper our ambitions to accord with the slow pace of our bureaucracy," he said. "That can bring a measure



PHOTO BY GAIL S.JUBERG

From left, former Salt Spring trustees Peter Lamb and David Borrowman, retiring Gabriela trustee and chair of both Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee and Islands Trust Council Sheila Malcolmson, and trustees Peter Grove and George Grams, who were given a strong second mandate in Saturday's election. The photo was taken after the last LTC meeting of the term on Nov. 6.

of frustration but it also has its benefits."

Working alongside other government agencies, such as the Capital Regional District, has proven important on a Trust level and, more recently, to the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority, he added.

### Grimes finds lessons in defeat

At 31 years of age, third-place candidate Christine Grimes was the youngest contender among this year's candidates. Speaking on Monday, she expressed gratitude for the nearly 1,000 people who voted for her campaign's focus on environmental protection.

"From the beginning, this campaign wasn't about winning; it was about creating a dialogue around climate change, about recognizing young people and families who are here for the unique, rural and artistic culture and lifestyles that Salt Spring is known for, knowing that it is not just monetary wealth that defines our values," she said.

Grimes says she will continue to advocate for a stronger democracy and the environment, and hopes to engage islanders to lobby local and national government agen-

cies to "enshrine our collective right to live in a healthy environment."

"We're not sure yet how the movement will take shape, but many groups are interested in participating across the islands," she said.

Trustees from each of the Islands Trust's Local Trust Areas will be sworn in during the next Trust Council meeting, held in Victoria from Dec. 3 to 5.

Results on other nearby Gulf Islands were as follows (with the first two names winning seats):

Galiano Island: Sandy Pottle, 587 votes; George Harris, 502; Dave Ages, 436.

North Pender Island: Dianne Barber - 663; Derek Masselink, 627; Gary Steeves, 504; Ken Hancock, 399.

South Pender Island: Wendy Scholefield, 199; Bruce McConchie, 118; Cameron Thorn, 106; Mike Jones, 3.

Mayne Island: Jeanine Dodds, 426; Brian Crumblehulme, 328; David Maude, 190.

Saturna Island: Lee Middleton, 160; Paul Brent, 151; Pamela Janszen, 131.

A referendum to requisition up to \$86,550 per year for the Galiano Health Care Centre passed overwhelmingly with 815 yes votes and 94 against.

Capital Regional District



### Notice of Open House

#### Ganges Sewer Wastewater System

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is working with the Ganges Sewer Local Services Commission (GSLSC) to explore the options for addressing the issues facing the aging and failing sewer infrastructure in Ganges. The three options identified all have significant financial impact on the Ganges Sewer ratepayers, and social or environmental impacts on the community.

The CRD and GSLSC invite all residents and business owners on the Ganges sewer system to an Open House to obtain information on issues, options, recommendations, costing and implications, complete the survey and to provide their feedback.

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
Time: 1pm to 3pm AND 4pm to 6pm (Drop-In)  
Location: Salt Spring Island Public Library,  
129 McPhillips Ave

If you are unable to attend the open house or would like to view updates, please visit the project website at [www.crd.bc.ca/ganges-sewer](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ganges-sewer). The feedback survey from the open house will also be available on the project website from December 2 to December 14, 2014 for those who would like additional time or for those who are unable to attend the open house.

Keith Wahlstrom, P.Eng.  
Manager, Engineering  
Salt Spring Island Electoral Area  
Tel: 250.537.4448  
Email: [kwahlstrom@crd.bc.ca](mailto:kwahlstrom@crd.bc.ca)

[www.crd.bc.ca/ganges-sewer](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ganges-sewer)

## GRACE ISLET

# Grace Islet 'defenders' host fundraiser

Event offers something for everyone

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After nearly six months of protests in Ganges Harbour, those who wish to see Grace Islet preserved as a First Nations cemetery are moving indoors for an evening of fundraising to help continue the fight.

Saturday's event gets underway at the Fulford Community Hall at 3 p.m. with Hul'qumi'num language classes provided by Luschiim, a Cowichan Elder also known as Arvid Charlie.

Charlie is a native Hul'qumi'num speaker with a deep knowledge of the region's history and keeper of the Cowichan war canoe that was a common sight in Ganges Harbour this summer. The event promises to enlighten and awe students who take advantage of this rare opportunity to delve

into the region's past.

"Luschiim is the chief and council's main elder and is one of the most well-respected elders for Cowichan Tribes," said Joe Akerman, an organizer of Saturday's fundraiser. "He is the one many turn to at potlatches and ceremonies for protocol."

The classes will be followed by a hot soup social and community talking circle, where participants are welcome to share stories about the battle to preserve the islet and their hopes for the future.

A silent auction will be open between 6 and 9 p.m., with evening events set to begin at 6:25 with a formal welcoming ceremony.

Arthur Black and Nomi Lyons will emcee an evening of live entertainment that includes local musicians Bill Henderson, The Barefoot Thieves, Peter Prince, Chris Arnett, Ubuntu, Vaughn Fulford and Phil Vernon.

Participants will be treated to recollections and updates from the ongoing Grace Islet campaign throughout the evening. The event also features an interactive community mural.

Proceeds from Saturday's event will pay for a Penelakut legal opinion on the status of Grace Islet. Information about an NDP effort to get the provincial government to strengthen the Heritage Conservation Act will also be provided. A bill to amend the act has been presented to the provincial government in Victoria for consideration six times.

Protesters have been fighting since June to convince regional and provincial governments to take steps that could prevent the ongoing construction of a private residence on what is considered an historic First Nations burial islet.

More information about the event is available on the Grace Islet Facebook page.

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**NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS**

# NSSWD ratepayers get hefty tax hike

Construction surcharge adds \$120 per parcel

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Infrastructure upgrades within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District mean ratepayers can expect to get dinged with higher parcel taxes in 2015.

Board members meeting on Oct. 22 voted to increase the annual parcel tax by 1.5 per cent and implement a Capital Construction Fund Surcharge of \$120 per household.

The money will help the NSSWD cover the costs of building a new water treatment plant at St. Mary Lake and handle projected infrastructure upgrades and maintenance in 2015.

"Funds collected . . . will be used to pay the interest on the construction loan, when the time comes, and to pay for other needed capital infrastructure upgrades throughout the district," reads a notice delivered to ratepayers earlier this month.

"The more money accumulated in the fund now will mean the less we have to borrow later, and the lower a future long-term borrowing surcharge will be."

Some of those anticipated capital projects in 2015 include tank maintenance, pipe replacements, expanding the fence around Maxwell Lake and completing detailed design drawings for the proposed new St. Mary Lake treatment plant.

NSSWD parcel tax rates are based on a property's size. The owners of properties up to one acre will be billed a parcel tax of \$478.30 in February 2015. Owners of properties larger than 10 acres will pay nearly \$660.

On Aug. 16, voters narrowly rejected a NSSWD referendum to borrow up to \$10.4 million for the plant, which would have increased parcel taxes by an estimated \$350 to \$400. A new treatment facility is required to comply with drinking water guidelines.

Representatives from Island Health participated in a Nov. 4 tour of the Tripp Road treatment plant to determine the best course of action in the wake of August's negative referendum result.

Speaking on Tuesday, NSSWD chair Marsh Heinekey said he has yet to hear about possible next steps from anyone at Island Health.

He said any proposed budget increases for the coming year must be submitted to the province for final approval before the end of December.



**Notice of Annual Open House:**

**Friday November 28, 2014  
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**@ Hart Bradley Hall (Lion's Club)  
103 Bonnet Ave., Salt Spring I.**

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ssiwpacoord@gmail.com  
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Islands Trust

**PARKS & REC**

# PARC manager departs on high note

Trail crews continue park improvements

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The general manager of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission is being seconded to the Capital Regional District's North Saanich office for one year to fill a staffing shortage at the Panorama Recreation Centre.

During her final day of work on the island, Lorraine Brewster led an informal walking tour of Duck Creek and Mouat parks with maintenance worker Kirk Harris to highlight the latest improvements to the island's extensive CRD trail network.

Last week, a trail crew put the finishing touches on three new interpretive signs along Duck Creek. The colourful signs, which are roughly the size of a small drafting table and cost about \$300 each, inform park users about the park's ecosystems and recreation benefits.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Park maintenance worker Kirk Harris and Lorraine Brewster, who has been Salt Spring's PARC manager but was recently seconded to the Saanich Peninsula, with a Duck Creek Park interpretive sign.

prone to erosion have been blocked off with split-rail fencing. Further restoration of wetland habitat in hard-hit areas is also planned.

"We've already seen regrowth," Harris said. "You're already starting to see skunk cabbage and certain types of ferns."

Another sign reminds people about the importance of taking a moment to appreciate the sounds of nature.

"[This sign] talks about sitting and listening to water and how beneficial that can be," Harris said.

New signage and trail improvements at Mouat Park are part of PARC's ongoing maintenance and upgrade program. During the summer, workers completed much-needed work on the Fern Creek Trail, off Isabella Point Road, and finished a new connection

through Mouat Park between Drake Road and Seaview Avenue.

Work on Duck Creek and Mouat — PARC's busiest parks — has already produced a great response from trail users, Brewster said.

The signage project has even attracted attention from the BC Parks and Recreation Association, where presenters highlighted the research process used to select what types of messages to use on each sign.

Brewster said plans are already afoot to implement Salt Spring's approach in other communities.

"It's actually going to be researched in the academic world," she said.

Brewster has served as PARC general manager for nearly three years. Dan Ovington begins work as the new manager on Monday, Nov. 24.

**"[This sign] talks about sitting and listening to water and how beneficial that can be."**

KIRK HARRIS  
SS Parks & Recreation

"This park is regularly used by dog owners, and that's part of the visitor use, but what we need to do is educate the owners about some of the ecosystems, the creek beds and erosion," Brewster said.

Shoreline areas especially

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

**What's the cheapest thing, Doc?**

So, what is the cheapest sort of dentistry? After doing this for over 17 years I have discovered that dentistry that lasts a long time and that doesn't have to be redone too soon is ultimately cheapest.

The most expensive dentistry is often what seemed to be the cheap option but fails and needs to be redone, usually in a more costly and complicated way.

Take for example a tooth with a crack in it. One option is to place a new top on the tooth so it won't fracture. This might cost \$1000 to \$1500, depending on your dentist. Another option is to "wait and see" which costs nothing. Recently I saw a lady whose tooth had split right to the nerve. OUCH! Now a root canal is required as well as the crown, doubling the cost and making the entire procedure less predictable.



Please discuss your budget with your dentist, and always ask yourself if you can truly afford the 'cheapest' option.

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**Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre**

FIRE DISTRICT

# Board explores asset options

Capital reserve amounts vetted

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District has responded to public opinion on its budgeting practices by raising the question of how to establish a capital reserve fund.

Chair Michael Schubart introduced the topic during the town hall session prior to the board's regular business meeting Monday night, stating some community members were not happy with the board's practice of financing major capital assets entirely through loans. The board also learned recently that it is expected to keep a capital reserve fund as per Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development policy.

The topic was raised again during the business meeting with the report from finance committee chair Ron Chamney, who recommended the board transfer part of the current surplus into a capital reserve fund, but keep back 10 per

cent of the 2015 budget to have some funds available if needed. The matter was tabled until January so trustees not on the finance committee could attend its next meeting.

"This is worth pursuing, so let's talk about it," Chamney said.

Schubart asked members of the public to enter a "philosophical conversation" about the merits of funding major asset replacements through debt alone or through a combination, and whether it would be desirable to add the funds for the reserve to the tax requisition.

According to figures put together by corporate administrator Andrew Peat, the district's buildings and vehicles equal \$4.45 million if bought in today's dollars. To completely fund replacement at the end of these assets' lifetimes without debt would require setting aside from \$255,957 to \$287,180 per year. Funding replacement through 25 per cent capital reserve and 75 per cent loan would require a minimum of \$24,000 per year.

During the finance

committee report, Chamney also responded to requests from the public to disclose employee salaries. After ascertaining that improvement districts are required to do so under the Freedom of Information Act, he suggested contracts could be included with the annual report.

Union president Jamie Holmes has asked the board not to release contracts because to do so could be potentially damaging to employees. Chamney said he intends to seek advice on what information might be damaging and then redact it if necessary before releasing the information.

Trustee Richard Hannah said he believed the firefighters should be entitled to privacy, "but if we are obliged to do so by law, so be it."

Also at Monday night's meeting, the board responded to public speculation that it was going to withhold information produced during the fire service review process currently being managed by Walker Resource Group. Mitch Forest made a particular request that

no portion of the review be presented in camera, and that the public get to see the full report one week after the district receives it.

Trustees voiced disappointment that the perception had circulated.

"From the get-go there's never been any intention not to disclose the entire report to the public," said trustee Mike Garside.

He added one of the points of the review is to rebuild the board's relationship with the public, and there would be no point spending money on the consultation if it didn't intend to consider the recommendations.

Garside also mentioned that consultant Richard Walker had advised an extension on his Dec. 31 deadline might be needed because of considerable public interest in participating.

Chamney said that he didn't agree with Forest's request for a one-week deadline for turnover since he wanted to be able to read and fully understand the report before having to answer questions on it.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

**IN SOLIDARITY:** An impromptu demonstration appeared Monday in Ganges to support protesters who are defying a court order to leave their camp on Burnaby Mountain so that Kinder Morgan can do work on its pipeline expansion project.

FIRE

## Cairns Place house ignites

Occupants' actions help prevent spread

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue members called to the scene of a house fire on Cairns Place Wednesday morning managed to contain the blaze before it spread to the rest of the house.

Fire Chief Tom Bremner said 21 firefighters responded to the page-out at 7:25 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12. When they arrived at the house they found the three adult occupants had evacuated the building and taken their pets outside with them. The fire had started in an upstairs bedroom but did not

spread to the rest of the house, in part because of the residents' quick thinking.

"They did three things that were positive," Bremner said. "They tried to extinguish the fire early on, they called 911 and they shut doors behind them when they left — which was huge."

One occupant suffered burns and minor cuts. All three were treated by BC Ambulance, who attended the scene along with Salt Spring RCMP.

Bremner said the cause was determined to be accidental.

"It was a very good knockdown and our crews did a very good job in acting efficiently and expertly," he said, adding no firefighters were injured during the call.

# Entry ballot for Salt Spring Island Red Letter Days Contest

Participating merchants will have a red letter appearing in their advertisements each week for five consecutive weeks. Contest participants must check the ads each week to spell out the winning phrase. The red letters will change in the ads each week.

All correct entries will be entered into a draw for 250.00 Driftwood Dollars. The Driftwood Dollars may be redeemable at any business participating in the contest (those with red letters in their ads).

Drop your entry off at the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Road. All entries must be in by no later than 5pm on December 18th. Winner will be announced on Friday December 19th.

Fill out here

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PH \_\_\_\_\_

ROADS

# Uneven line painting frustrates drivers

Contractor strives to make amends

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Line-painting work completed on Salt Spring's North End Road and Vesuvius Bay Road last week proved one of the more controversial public works projects in recent memory.

Noticeably oscillating centrelines laid down by the Nanaimo-based Georgia Strait Line Painting Corp. seemed destined to cause more harm than good on island roads, as locals were quick to point out.

"Now I know what to say to the officer who pulls me over and claims that I'm weaving," joked Henry Lum, in response to a posting and photos on the Driftwood's Facebook page.

The Facebook posting produced record results, with nearly 10,000 people quickly reached. Around 70 Salt Spring drivers who were mystified, amused or angered by the job also posted comments.

"One thing these folks forgot to obtain for the job they did . . . flag personnel," wrote Gregor Alan. "I came across them as well and was surprised there were not



PHOTOS BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring road lines seen just after they were painted, left, and again after a contractor fix-up.

flag personnel giving me warning that men were working in the middle of the road."

Georgia Strait principal Jason Knox told the Driftwood that he was not informed of the true scope of the work before he arrived on Salt Spring, expecting to do just one parking area in Vesuvius and 500 metres of passing lane lines. When he arrived, he said, he learned his company was expected to paint lines on 14 km of roads.

Knox decided to make do with the equipment he had with

him, with less than satisfactory results. His crew attempted to correct the worst areas immediately after on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 13 and 14.

According to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the full scope of the work was clearly laid out in the Invitation to Quote to which Georgia Strait Line Painting was the successful bidder. The quote included the painting of parking stalls, a bus area and six km of centreline.

"Since the work began last

week, ministry staff have been made aware of concerns about the painting," a MoTI email reports. "Ministry staff have contacted the contractor and will be meeting this week to discuss these concerns, as well as the remaining work and next steps."

Mainroad Contracting South Island on Salt Spring was not involved in the process but also received several complaints about the lines, which it forwarded on to the ministry, said foreman Dale Johnson.

FUNDRAISER

# Local NDP bazaar tradition continues

Christmas baking, crafts, garage sale items and more

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the Salt Spring NDP Club will hold its annual bazaar and garage sale, located as usual in the lower hall of the United Church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The money raised will be used to support MLA Gary Holman's work and future election. Club members hope that Holman will be able to join the event to talk with constituents.

The Christmas bazaar/garage sale is considered an institution that has been a major fundraiser for the club, which was formed and chartered in 1968.

The bazaar will feature plum puddings, Christmas cakes, cookies, breads, mince-meat tarts and lots of other edible goodies. There will also be various reasonably priced craft items for sale to put aside for Christmas gifts and a few special silent auction items.

In addition, there will be the usual "garage sale" items: books, tools, household items, and attic treasures.

Suitable leftover books will be donated to the Pauquachin Reserve in Saanich, which is now in the process of setting up a library of their own.

People interested in donating items for the bazaar or the silent auction are asked to bring them to the church on Friday, Nov. 21 between 7 and 9 p.m. Failing that, they are encouraged to come before 8:30 on Saturday morning. Clothing is not an appropriate donation.

Volunteers and those wishing further information are asked to call 250-537-5347 or 250-653-4100.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL:

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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FINANCE

# Island Savings says yes to First West

Merger will take place Jan. 1

Island Savings members have approved a special resolution that will see the organization join First West Credit Union on Jan. 1, 2015.

"This 'yes' from our members is really a vote for the continued success of Island Savings and for the cooperative roots that our credit union was founded on more than 60 years ago," said Rod Dewar, president and CEO of Island Savings, in a news statement.

"There's been a lot of information for our members to consider in a very short period of time, and so I give my deepest thanks and appreciation to the islanders who partici-

pated in this process."

Voting on the proposal wrapped up on Nov. 12 and saw ballots cast from 8,454 Island Savings members that hold either or both Class "A" and Class "C" shares. The special resolution voted on by Class "A" shares was approved by an 80 per cent majority. A separate but identical resolution voted on by Class "C" investor shareholders was also approved by 80 per cent. Both votes required an affirmative vote from at least 66.66 per cent of participating members for the special resolution to succeed.

Through First West's partnership model, Island Savings will retain its employees, branches, brand, local decision-making and community investment program. Effective Jan. 1, the organization will be known

as Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

The positive outcome of the Island Savings member vote also activates the \$2 million Island Savings Community Endowment that was announced on Oct. 27, 2014. Housed at the First West Foundation, funds granted from this endowment will benefit local charities and initiatives in the communities that Island Savings serves.

First West is British Columbia's third-largest credit union with \$7.7 billion in assets under administration, more than 177,000 members and close to 1,300 employees. It operates 38 branches throughout the province under the Envision Financial, Valley First and Enderby & District Financial brands.

*Wellspring spa*  
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Deep cleanse & enrich your skin with pure vitamin C and nourishing botanicals.

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# OPINION



**2014 CNA Awards**  
 Gold - Excellence in Rural Reporting (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)  
 Gold - Special Section (Best of Salt Spring Island) | Silver - Promotional Campaign (SS Conservancy Blackburn purchase)  
 Silver - Multimedia Feature (Pride Festival) | Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua)  
 Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker) | Bronze - Arts Coverage | Blue Ribbon Award - General Excellence

**2014 BCYNA Awards**  
 Silver - Special Publication (Gulf Islander) | Bronze - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence



## EDITORIAL

# Missing the boat

**B**ad stories can always happen to good people.

The combination of tight deadlines, a nebulous assignment and misinformation are the bane of any reporter's working day — and sleepless nights.

We can only hope that a meeting of these three factors can explain events that led to a TV story about the potential cancellation of ferry service between Crofton and Vesuvius Bay and the subsequent Salt Spring-wide clamour.

Terminal Teardown was the CTV Vancouver Island news clip title, which declared people who regularly use that connection could "soon" have to take a detour — one assumes through Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay.

Say what? That's exactly what we asked. Television coverage cued disgruntled ferry travelers, scratching their noggins at the prospect of losing their lifeline to the Cowichan Valley, and there was talk of job losses and a looming shortage of dangerous cargo goods like gasoline and propane. The potential fallout for school kids, commuters and sports teams was dire.

### THE ISSUE:

Ferry route cancellation

### WE SAY:

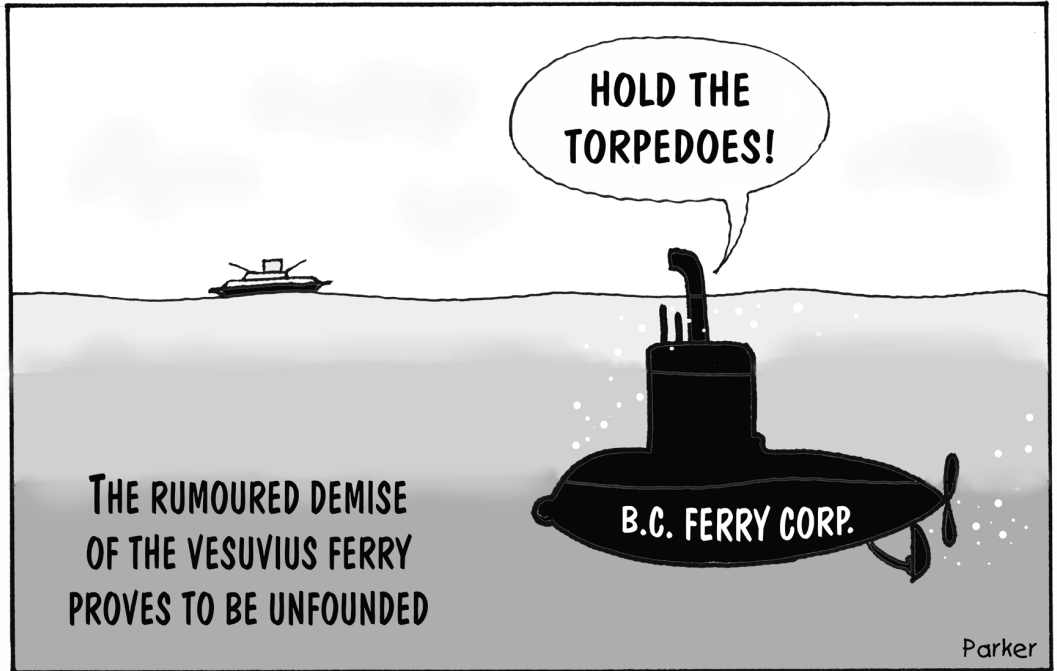
Look beyond headlines

Nearly everyone expressed concern, except for any spokespeople from BC Ferries or the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee, who weren't included in the news report.

That's because BC Ferries has never seriously suggested cancelling the route. Oddly, though, a story done by the same CTV Vancouver Island reporter more than two years ago when ferry cuts were in the news drew a similar conclusion without much to hang it on.

BC Ferries has long held that it may consider service reductions or cancellations on any of its smaller routes. And an ominous line about looking at "rationalizing" Salt Spring Island's three ferry terminals in BC Ferries' next performance term does exist, as reported in the Oct. 29 issue of the Driftwood. However, a combination of knowledge of the history and correct interpretation of that line would never lead to an assumption that the Crofton-Vesuvius route could be cut "soon" or in the foreseeable future.

Misleading stories such as Terminal Teardown do nothing to advance understanding of an issue in the communities affected or beyond, and everyone is unfortunately left dripping with the confusion left in their wake.



VIEWPOINT by Gary Holman

# Better recycling approach sought

A new model has been established by the provincial government to fund the recycling of packaging material from new fees on businesses and ultimately, consumers. This funding, to be managed by a not for profit entity called Multi-Materials BC (MMBC), will largely replace local government fees and taxes that currently cover recycling costs in the province.

But this new approach is being implemented recklessly, and is damaging some businesses. The closure of Syntal, the Saanich Peninsula facility producing construction lumber from plastics, is an example of this carelessness. The way these changes are being implemented is also threatening the viability of rural recycling depots throughout B.C. The "one size fits all," per tonne funding currently being offered by MMBC will cover, at most, only one-third the costs of recycling on Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands, without even factoring in the value of volunteer efforts.

I have been working with Lana Popham, our Official Opposition spokesperson for this file, urging the province to ensure that Multi-Materials BC lives up to its legislative mandate. We will press the point that there are significant differences in the costs of delivering recycling services across a very large, diverse province.

Funding allocations should also recognize that consumers in rural areas will be contributing as much to the cost of recycling through their purchases, as those in urban areas. A more equitable approach would be for MMBC to provide funding on a per household, rather than a per tonne basis. And finally, we will insist that MMBC's legislative mandate should not allow it to reduce the level of existing recycling services and the jobs required to deliver them.

The Capital Regional District has historically covered the cost of recycling in the region from tipping fees for garbage delivered to its Hartland landfill. Since signing on with MMBC, the CRD has agreed to maintain funding for Gulf Islands recycling depots until May 2015. This is to the credit of CRD, which I know as a former CRD director, has had a generally positive relationship with all of our non-profit recycling societies. However, continuation of this arrangement is not guaranteed in the future. The CRD Environmental Services Committee and ultimately the CRD Board will decide whether they are willing to continue current transition funding arrangements, if need be. But even if the provincial Liberal government and MMBC refused to adequately compensate rural recycling depots, and CRD had to continue funding, this would still leave the CRD with over \$4 million per year in revenue they did not have previously.

MLA Popham and I will continue to work with the Southern Gulf Islands Recycling Coalition, our CRD directors and the public to press for funding that fairly reflects the actual costs of operating small recycling depots in the Gulf Islands. However, we will also be reminding the CRD that it will be receiving millions from MMBC to fund recycling of packaging — costs that previously had to be covered by the CRD tipping fee revenue that Gulf Islanders help generate. Therefore, as a fallback, we will be requesting the CRD to continue the funding it has always provided to depots for the duration of the CRD's blue box contracts (four years), while we continue the fight for an equitable MMBC funding formula.

The writer is MLA for Saanich North and the Islands.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Are all three ferry terminals needed on Salt Spring?

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before

Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Should the Fulford Inn be torn down?

141



# Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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](mailto:inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)  
Website: [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday  
**Subscription Rates:** In the Gulf Islands \$52.50  
Elsewhere in Canada \$88.20\* Foreign: \$235.00\*  
Digital Edition: \$39.85 anywhere | Prices include GST  
Digital Edition with Print Edition subscription additional 1yr \$12.60 | 2 yr \$18.90

**Editorial:** Sean McIntyre, Elizabeth Nolan  
**Front office:** James Burton, Johanna Walkner

**Advertising:** Elena Dunn, Jennifer Lannan, Graeme Csath, Kate Gooding



Amber Ogilvie  
PUBLISHER  
[aoogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:aoogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



Elena Dunn  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
[edunn@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:edunn@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



Gail Sjuberg  
MANAGING EDITOR  
[news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



Lorraine Sullivan  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
[production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837  
International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council



# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If everything operated as well as Vesuvius-Crofton, BC Ferries wouldn't have a problem . . ."**

BOB JONES, JUST-RETIRED SSI FAC MEMBER

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked: Do you have a message for our newly elected local politicians?**



**RICK BLACK**  
*Do things right, and try to improve.*



**SCOTT O'REILLY**  
*As a cyclist, I wish there'd be promotion of a little more cycling on the island.*



**TREVOR HUTTON**  
*Keep up the good work.*



**JIM ROBERTSON**  
*Get the boardwalk finished.*



**KRISTIN SHOOLBRAID**  
*Whatever you start, make sure you finish.*

## 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. Send your letters to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### Election day - who knew?

The privilege to vote, the right to vote is the foundation of our democracy — that being said, I was quite surprised at the lack of "get out the vote" communication here on Salt Spring Island.

The Driftwood newspaper for the week of Nov. 10 and prior had few reminders. Where were the front-page text boxes reminding readers to get out and vote on Nov. 15? Even the change from daylight saving to standard time gets a text box! The Driftwood didn't print where to vote locations except in the What's On calendar — one had to be really motivated to find out where their voting place was.

Whose responsibility is it to advertise this information?

Plus, nowhere in down-

town Ganges was there a visible poster, billboard, street sign or any kind of communication reminding residents to vote on Nov. 15! Is it only when there is a contested race that the value of informational communication is warranted?

I'm writing this letter to the editor because several people at my voting place also were dismayed by the lack of public reminders to get out and vote.

**R. CARLIN,  
ROLAND ROAD**

*Editor's note: Large ads with voting station information were published by the CRD and Islands Trust on Oct. 22 and 29, and by the school district on Oct. 22 and Nov. 5, and it was in our Nov. 12 What's On calendar and one opinion piece. However, Richard's point is a good one and we will ensure the information is displayed more prominently for the next election.*

### Learned from candidates

Kudos to the four candidates for school trustee who were at the all-candidates meeting on Nov. 10. As Ken Lee said, as the evening came to a close, [we] learned a lot from the exchange.

One thing I learned: that when the B.C. government appointed a "public administrator," Michael Marchbank, to "assume all responsibilities" of the BCP-SEA board of directors, that was tantamount to firing the elected trustees who were members of that board. I'd say that was a rather shameful way to treat school trustees and the public school system as a whole.

Nancy Macdonald shared another example of how our provincial government is letting us down. One has to wonder why the Minister of Education chose a more

expensive, foreign-sourced information system, rather than one her school district had developed.

I feel confident that our trustees will do a good job of providing direction for our school board. I hope they will also take up the challenge described in last week's Driftwood article, to work as advocates for high-quality public education, educating the public as well as government officials.

John Wakefield contributed to this goal by directing the audience to a thoughtful article by Tobey Steeves on how teachers and other citizens have offered effective resistance to the "shock doctrine" tactics typical of our time.

One parent spoke of problems for her family as a result of the four-day school week decision. Personally, I think that decision is our best option, but it is troubling in that the burdens of

the change fell largely on low-income people — the support staff whose wages were reduced and families with little flexibility in work schedules.

The problem of inequity showed up in another issue: should school boards accept money from corporate donors, such as Chevron? We should be aware that this situation arises, surely, because Canada has the lowest corporate tax rates of any G8 country, so many big corporations are sitting on what former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney calls "dead money" while governments cut programs to meet deficit reduction goals.

School trustees can't solve such social justice problems by themselves, but they can help raise awareness, a necessary step towards better governance at all levels.

**JAN SLAKOV,  
SALT SPRING**

### Confusing question

I went to the polling station to vote on what I thought was a referendum regarding the CRD pathways and trails on the island, getting more funding by a tax increase from us.

However, when I read the "referendum" on the ballot sheet, there was no mention of trails or pathways. To my simple mind, it was all about the transportation on Salt Spring Island, which I assumed to be the wonderful bus schedule, etc.

Was I wrong or was the referendum written to confuse people, which after asking around to other people it did?

**ELAINE SHAW,  
SALT SPRING**

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 10

# Inn saga illustrates conditional state of affairs

BY DREW MILLER

The Fulford Inn is getting demolished, they tell you. It's been neglected for too long. We have to think about safety! The best thing to do is to forget about any hopes, dreams or opportunities for regrowth and change. Because change is frightening.

"Children and adults alike should not be allowed to play in there," says one CRD representative.

Maybe next time; maybe the next building can be governed by a more conscientious person.

Guess what? There is no "Planet B." The place is here and the time is now. We want, nay, need community space. A place to be safe. To be warm. To be passionate and creative. A place full of joy and love and acceptance. There's no room for fear and doubt here. Things are different here. When you participate in the unknown you cannot die, you must grow. New muscles and skills are developed. New understandings are realized.

What is home? How can someone be homeless?

Home is where you hang your hat. Home is where your family (friends) are. Home is where you belong. Where do we belong? What are our belongings? And when we're gone, what legacy do we leave for those walking down the path we blazed?

Is it fear, discontent and distrust or will it be an environment of immeasurable beauty, light and acceptance?

We are all neighbours. We may live across the street, across town, across the world or in the apartment unit right next to you. Some say that strangers are friends you haven't met. How can we meet and share experiences, memories and passions? What would that look like?

To the capitalists: spending is uncontrolled and rampant. Our national debt has never been higher but our government is asking for more of your money for improvements. Improvements like buying (not renting) a fence, lighting system and 24-hour security for

## INDEPTH

an abandoned building (that's getting torn down)? A million dollar sidewalk?

How about up to \$25,000

in corporate kickbacks from CRD coffers when you import and install foreign manufactured technologies that have never demonstrated any positive contributions to climate change or the cost of energy? Yes, we're talking here about Solar panels. Photovoltaics are not a green energy. The resources invested in creating this new hype have shown themselves to be a net-loss investment. The rare earth metals, labour and logistics involved in putting these on your roof will never be recovered.

Let's look at the high school. You residents raised over \$63,000 for those machines. Bullfrog Power contributed another \$20,000 and private donations bring the cost of acquisition to over \$106,000. That means that they have to save \$5,300 a year for all of the next 20 years just to break even. How much does the school currently pay for energy? Solar

is not good for our environment or our community. It's good for installers and pushers of an innately dirty technology and the governments that get kickbacks for every unit sold.

Are you an agent of change? Would you like to see properties like the Fulford Inn, Vesuvius Inn, Raven Street Market Cafe and Ganges gas station back in public hands for public use? If you said yes, now is the time to do something about it. Email us at OpenSourcedHeartSpace@gmail.com with a brief outline of who you are and how you think you can help.

Together, as a community, we can revitalize this island in meaningful and powerful ways that will serve as a beacon for the rest of the province, country and the world.

Thank you to the Driftwood for publishing this piece and to you the reader for considering its content. Wishing you safety and warmth this holiday season.

*The writer envisions Fulford Inn used as community space.*

**NEWS UPDATES**

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

# Book, study and film probe climate change



*"Hello, my name is Teresa McFadden and I've been with BMO for 38 years, in Victoria, Calgary, Toronto and White Rock. I love working with customers to achieve their goals, hopes and dreams and I'm passionate about leading a team and serving a community. I moved to Salt Spring this year and I'm an active community member. Did you know BMO was the first bank on Salt Spring and it opened in 1946. Please come in to say hello. Bring in this ad and receive a small gift!"*




**BMO**  
We're here to help.™

**BY MICHELLE MECH**

"This Changes Everything," states the title of Naomi Klein's new book, referring to capitalism's role in the climate predicament/disaster we face.

A 2013 study by professor Camilo Mora and colleagues at the University of Hawaii shows that if we continue emitting greenhouse gases on our current trajectory, the average location on Earth will experience a radically different climate by 2047.

The study also predicts the "year of climate departure" for various cities worldwide. For Vancouver, it is 2056. Cities in the tropics and among low-income countries are likely to pass the departure point much earlier. For example: Kingston, Jamaica by 2023 and Mexico City by 2035. And species in the tropics, which are unaccustomed to climate variability, will be particularly vulnerable to relatively small changes.

So often, when the reality of what we are doing to the life systems that we depend on sinks in, people are left feeling helpless. Thankfully, we have leaders like Elizabeth May and Naomi Klein who know we can still make a difference and are doing their best to bring us to our collective senses. And though the climate issue is, in many ways, terrifying, it does incentivize us to work towards transforming our economy so that it works for the common good, instead of for corporate dominance and greed.

Perhaps the most helpful aspect of Klein's

book is how she nails regressive actions and policies cloaked in bogus, green-hued sales pitches. Among the worst offenders are the "big green" groups that "underwent pro-business makeovers in the 1980s." They formed corporate partnerships and supported failed cap-and-trade and carbon-offset policies.

Even though it is widely agreed that carbon pricing is the best way to address climate change, in an open letter, climate expert James Hansen railed against the cap-and-trade bill being promoted during Obama's first term, stating, "You are choosing the path focused on corporate greed."

## This polluter-pay form of carbon pricing is much easier to administer than cap-and-trade and also has a positive social justice impact.

He proposed instead a fee-and-dividend program: a revenue-neutral price on carbon, with the fee placed on carbon-based fuels at the source (well-head, mine or port of entry) and a dividend that is returned to citizens on an equitable basis. In Hansen's words, "a transparent, honest approach that benefits the public." This polluter-pay form of carbon

pricing is much easier to administer than cap-and-trade and also has a positive social justice impact. The majority of lower- to middle-income households, which generally have smaller carbon footprints, would receive more in dividends than they would pay in increased fuel-related prices.

The Citizens Climate Lobby, a group founded in the U.S. in 2007, is working in a strictly non-partisan way to promote the fee-and-dividend solution. The Canadian CCL group started in 2010 and will be holding its national conference this November in Ottawa. Salt Spring's Nicole Melanson, the mother of two young boys, will be attending and will bring back direction and enthusiasm to share with our community. See [citizensclimatelobby.ca](http://citizensclimatelobby.ca) for more information on the Carbon Fee Prosperity conference and proposed fee-and-dividend legislation.

Meanwhile, if you missed the first three episodes of Years of Living Dangerously — a dramatic film series that takes you around the world to see places and meet people affected by climate change — each episode is essentially stand-alone, so come and see the next one at the library on Nov. 25. Admission is free, doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film starts at 7 p.m. The series was produced by Canada's own James Cameron and other notable filmmakers.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident with an interest in environmental issues.*

**Don't Miss Dramatic Series On CLIMATE CHANGE**

Years of Living Dangerously is a 9-part Showtime documentary television series focusing on climate change that premiered on April 13, 2014. A 2014 Emmy Award Winner for Outstanding Documentary, IMDb says, "... this documentary event series provides first-hand reports on those affected by, and seeking solutions to, climate change." You can begin watching at any time. Unique and vivid stories are told in each part.



**Part 4 airs on Tuesday, Nov 25.** Series showings will resume in January.  
**Location: Salt Spring Library, Program Room**

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.** Film starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.  
**Discussion afterwards**

Sponsored by: Transition Salt Spring, SSI Climate Action Council and the Salt Spring Library

**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 9

## Demographic considerations

There has been a lot of talk at the local election meetings regarding the imbalance of Salt Spring's demographics.

This exists everywhere when there is a limited variety of industries of jobs, e.g. mining, sawmills or other specific manufacturing.

In our case here on Salt Spring Island we have a lot of older people, pensioners, who had worked all their lives (with hardly ever a holiday) and had to discipline themselves in order to not be a burden on society and fled the devastation on the ambiance and neighbourhoods caused by the city developments.

Now many older people do tremendous good work as volunteers or by providing input with their gained experience for various projects on this island.

There are lots of jobs for younger people here on the island, especially to make it possible for older people to stay in their own homes.

Then we have tourism, arts, farms and all the trades. We don't need anymore manufacturing of more useless stuff with all the pollution and destruction of the environment.

We should have people who can repair electrical gadgets, e.g. electric kettles, toasters, coffee-makers, even fridges and washing machines. Because there are no parts for them they all have to be thrown out even though they are still in good shape, to make more garbage.

Thanks to our Islands Trust's hard work and foresight we still have a livable environment.

**RITA APTEKMANN,**  
SALT SPRING

## Revolution

Well then. Is this a tipping point? Has the revolution started?

In reading the papers and listening to the radio today only, the following stories came up:

- The people and local council of Burnaby fighting the federal government and Kinder Morgan on the building of an oil pipeline through their community and conservation areas.

- The people and local government of Clyde River in Nunavut fighting the federal government and oil companies exploring for deep water oil in the home to 85 per cent of the world's Narwal population.

- The people and mayor of Denton, Texas, fighting the federal government and gas companies by banning fracking within the town limits.

- The people and president of the Canary Islands fighting the Spanish government and largest oil company, Repsol, in their proposal to drill for oil off their coast. As President Rivero of the Canary Islands says, "Our wealth is in our climate, our sky, our sea and the archipelago's extraordinary biodiversity and landscape. Its value is that it's natural and this is what attracts tourism. Oil is incompatible with tourism and a sustainable economy."

Ring any bells?  
**RICHARD STEEL,**  
SALT SPRING

## Disappointed by vote outcome

I am personally a transit user and I feel that the right way to reduce automobile traffic into Ganges is to provide good bus service.

The service is good, and people are very appreciative. However, if people are to no longer need to drive into Ganges it needs to provide service to more places and have more buses, and to run later in

the evening.

Because of the cost, the service has added new buses and shelters slowly. The current transportation commission was formed in 2007 in part to enable Salt Spring to have a bus. However, the most emphasis has been placed on getting the path up Rainbow Road. So many positive things are supposed to happen with this Rainbow Road project, it is hard to believe. It has been said to us that the path will solve climate change, make our community more "vibrant," help the economy, etc.

I wish to clarify that there are two funding streams that Salt Spring taxpayers are paying for as connected to transportation infrastructure. The referendum that just passed does not in any way provide money for new buses or bus shelters. It is solely for paths. The tax increase for the bus approved earlier under an Alternate Approval Process (Bylaw 3901) increased the annual maximum requisition from \$79,560 to \$245,000 for the community transit service on Salt Spring Island.

The tax increase that passed on Nov. 15 asked to adopt Bylaw 3956 for an annual increase no greater than \$396,250 for "the purpose of funding the capital and operating costs of the transportation service, including further improvements to the North Ganges Village Transportation Management Plan."

None of the money just approved will go to the bus.

It is a shame that we try to help some people while our poorer neighbours who cannot get a rental in Ganges but must come in and out of town on the bus to work are not helped at all. If the kids getting off the water taxi in the morning who don't want to walk on Kanaka Road were the most serious social problem we had on Salt Spring, I could understand it. This just shows that one group is oblivious to the other.

So sorry to see this.

**JENNY MCCLEAN,**  
ATKINS ROAD

**B.C. Licenced Home Inspector**

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# RANTS and Roses

## Rants

News that there is a new Salt Spring Islands Trust bylaw officer appointed with no community involvement hit me like a thunderbolt. I had my ear-to-the-ground waiting for just such an opportunity. After all, who has more first-hand experience with bylaw enforcement than I? Perhaps it was my prior conviction for Cavorting-in-the-Park-with-Children that limited my chances for consideration. Being busted can indeed leave a blot on your record! My understanding is that Wolfie will still be in charge of livestock infractions. Maybe it will be me next time. Big Horse the rabbit

## Roses

Roses to Sue and Joanna and all at All-Saint's Church for donating soup to our Family Place program. We are so grateful for your support.

With handfuls of roses and high-

paws on our cats, the Salt Spring Island branch of the BCSPCA wishes to thank Nirmal Dryden and the kind folks at Heritage Place. We are grateful that you would devote your time and energy toward our in-care cats and kittens. Your gifted knitted and crochet blankets are so well appreciated by our temporary residents that often we send them home with them when adopted. Thank you, Nirmal for thinking of the benefit sharing your story with Driftwood readers has. Reminding residents of the value in helping the non-profit SPCA achieve better animal welfare through creative means. How sweet of each of you to give in the spirit of a generous heart!

SSIFR would like to thank the generous folks at Country Grocer for their annual donation of hot dogs and cocoa served after the Halloween fireworks! SSIFR would also like to thank the SS Chamber of Commerce, SS Rotary Club and the SS Harbour Authority for their contri-

butions to our Halloween fireworks show.

A big bunch of Kenyan Roses to Country Grocer. Your support of the Wine & Appies allowed 145 Kenyan school children to continue in school by having new uniforms. Also over 150 Kenyan school girls will be able to go to school every day of the month because they have reusable hygiene kits from the bridge tournament funds. Friends of Kenya

A matatu (van) load of Kenyan roses to those who helped make the bridge tournament such a huge success: To Thrifty's for providing the top score prizes; To SOLID, Mistaken Identity Winery, Harlan's Chocolates, the Seaside Restaurant and Salt Spring Books for providing items for the silent auction; to Mollie our fabulous baker and Ruth our #1 sales lady; to all the bridge players. Asante Sana (thank you very much). The school girls in Kenya will be able to go to school every day of the month. The Friends of Kenya

A bouquet of roses for the Community Gospel Chapel and Michelle. Thanks for opening your

doors again for the recent flu clinic. Your accommodation and generous hospitality was heartwarming from the start to the closing of the clinic for our community, the nursing staff and volunteers. With grateful thanks, the Salt Spring Island Health Unit.

A beautiful rose and one boutonniere to each of our volunteers — Rita, Wendy, Dawn and Paul — at the Salt Spring Island flu clinics. Thank you so much for all your time, work and your smiles. You are all greatly appreciated for your Salt Spring spirit of helping. With much gratitude, The Salt Spring Island Health Unit

Fields and fields of many flowers to Andrea Sowden and the board of Ganges Community Cemetery for taking such good care of this sacred area. This cemetery is filled with the graves of some of the pioneers on this island, along with folks from a diversity of denominations. It is well kept and reflects respect and loving attention. Sincere thanks for all the time you give to supporting the honour and integrity of this special place.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 10

## Keeping up the momentum

Heartfelt thanks to the Salt Spring Island community for honouring me with another term. A special thanks to my family and support network who were there to encourage and support me.

As in my first term I will focus on achieving the targets in my platform, which can be found on my election website: www.reelectwaynmcintyreccrd.ca.

I would also like to congratulate all those who ran for the various Salt Spring Island elected positions. Campaigns were respectful and positive and it was clear that all candidates were motivated to run to give back to our community.

I am also delighted to have the opportunity to continue to work with trustees George Grams and Peter Grove the next four years. We have built up a cooperative approach to community matters in the last three years and intend on continuing to operate in this manner.

**WAYNE MCINTYRE,**  
SSI CRD DIRECTOR ELECT

## Input encouraged for fire service review

Firefighters need your help to protect Salt Spring Island.

Every day, local firefighters use teamwork and training to overcome adversity and bring safety to the community. We train together to rescue people from cars, cliffs and burning buildings. We train as teams to offer life-saving medical aid. We train as a department to save homes from fire. We test our skills and equipment on a daily basis. And we teach our neighbours how to improve safety.

Every day we use our skills to protect our community. We count on each other to accomplish these tasks together as one team. And we feel pride and teamwork in our meaningful accomplishments.

Now we ask you to be a part of the Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue team by offering input about the fire-rescue services provided in our community.

As firefighters, we believe SSIFR is an excellent fire department. We have excellent training, excellent equipment and top-quality firefighters.

Composed of a skilled team of career and part-time firefighters, we utilize the most cost-effective staffing model known to provide high-quality emergency services. A recent study urged fire departments in Ontario to utilize the same model

already used on Salt Spring to reduce their staffing costs while maintaining quality services.

Alongside part-time firefighters responding to emergencies, a core group of full-time firefighters support our excellent team. These career firefighters provide leadership, train part-time members, maintain the equipment and manage day-to-day functions.

We want to hear what you think. We urge you to support public safety in our community, educate yourselves about our fire-rescue services and help improve the SSIFR team.

Currently, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District has commissioned an independent third-party study of local fire services by Walker Resource Group.

But few people have provided input to the study at recent community meetings. We encourage islanders to contribute to this independent study, seek out the results and share the report once its completed.

We're proud of our team and our accomplishments. And we look forward to improving our services with community guidance. We are confident this study will demonstrate that islanders receive high-value service in exchange for a modest investment.

For more information about the ongoing fire-services study on Salt Spring Island, please go to the SSIFR website at www.saltspringfire.com.

**MITCHELL SHERRIN,**  
FOR SSI FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION,  
IAFF LOCAL 4467

## SPARCKs campaign update

Our many followers will know that our campaign to raise funds for putting impoverished, bright, rural Cambodian kids into secondary education is now over for this year.

We would first and foremost like to thank those who made direct financial contributions — you have made a real difference in helping match, dollar-for-dollar, the grant allocation from U.K.

Our bottle recycling program has steadily piled up the cash. We would like to thank those who have set aside bottles for us to collect by the truck-load; and thank those who have credited their returns to the SPARCKs account at the IslandReturnIt Depot. We are now looking forward to next year's program.

The specific project we support (a college prep program) provides safe, secure, monitored, dormitory accommodations for young rural kids attending the nearest secondary schools — in the big city, Siem Reap. We want to commit to ongoing financing of operational costs — will you fellow Salt Springers lend your ongoing support to

the cause? Make it a Salt Spring cause?

In Cambodia, there are no state pensions, no income supplement, no EI, no social welfare, no Medicare, no free education system, no government-sponsored infrastructure to speak of. Education of the children — which SPARCKs supports — is the light in the firmament for this impoverished, war-torn, land-mine ridden, gutted country, to help them wean off international handouts and stand on their own feet. You think we got problems?!

Please continue to cash in your refundable recyclables for SPARCKs' benefit. Please let us know (www.sparcks.org) if you have an office party, a reunion, a wedding, any kind of gathering where SPARCKs can benefit from the refundable recyclables. If it's half a truck-load, we will collect from you!

And our last request is to pass the word!

**ROSS KING,**  
SPARCKS,  
BEDDIS ROAD

## Inappropriate response

We should all be outraged by the harassment suffered by two MPs in Ottawa and by many men and women every day.

The wishes of those individuals should be a primary concern and their wish for privacy should be respected. Such matters cannot be addressed in a press conference. Of course action must be taken and consultation with victims should determine what needs of theirs should be met.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's handling of this matter will make sure that anyone else will think twice before they ask for his help.

**PAT O'NEILL,**  
SALT SPRING

## Inconsistency

It has been said that the recent Supreme Court Tsilhqot' in decision is the most significant case in law in Canadian history for aboriginal people.

Really? Inconsistency still reigns supreme.

In September, just two months ago, at the inaugural World Conference on Indigenous People, when a consensus outcome document was presented for endorsement by the UN General Assembly, Canada was the only UN member nation to file an objection to the consent provision.

In the Nov. 7 Times Colonist, First Nations columnist Doug Cuthand writes: "... there are more aboriginal children in care today (removed from their homes) than there were in residential schools at the height of that program."

**ROGER BRUNT,**  
SALT SPRING

## Stay Connected

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Driftwood's online community.

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## Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring) will hold its AGM on:

**Friday, November 28, 2014**  
at 1:00 pm

**ArtSpring**  
100 Jackson Avenue  
Salt Spring Island

- Financial and Annual Reports will be received and considered
- The election of several Directors of the Society will be conducted

[www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca)



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Treasures of the Heart is inviting the Salt Spring Community to help us choose a new name for the store. Nobody seems to remember our current name so we would like you to choose a store-appropriate, simple, fun, catchy name that 'STICKS'.

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**CONCERTS**

## Choir sings in the season with Winter's Heart

Performances this weekend at ArtSpring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Themes of winter's mystery, reflection and joy pervade the latest offering from Viva Chorale!, with a concert celebrating the coming holiday and winter season called Winter's Heart on ArtSpring's stage on Nov. 22 and 23.

Viva Chorale! director Debbi Toole said two songs helped her build a magical and uplifting concert that finds the warmth embedded within the coldest months.

"I'm in tune with the beauty of winter's heart" — the evocative closing words from Mark Hayes' song Winter Heart — set the tone, while a line from Snow Angel, 'I know that winter shelters life,' became the subtext for the concert," Toole said.

With help from accompanist Chris Kodaly, the singers will bring audiences through time with choral arrangements from Palestrina's 1575 mass Hodie Christus to a jazzy rendition of the modern classic Winter Wonderland.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Viva Chorale! director Debbi Toole directs part of her choir in a special rehearsal for the five-movement Snow Angel piece for the Nov. 22-23 concert at ArtSpring.

The centrepiece of the show is the 20-minute, five-movement Snow Angel by young Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. Toole first met and became close to Quartel while taking a choral conductors' intensive workshop in Vancouver, but she didn't have the chance to hear her new friend's work until she attended a church choir performance of Snow Angel in Victoria.

"I was absolutely spellbound," Toole said.

"It's an absolutely stunning, beautiful piece of music, and it's uplifting."

The song cycle combines music with dramatic narration as spoken by three female angels representing different aspects and stages of human life.

"Through song and narrative, Snow Angel weaves together stories of love and light, rebirth and rejuvenation and highlights the strength and beauty a child's voice can bring to our often troubled world," Quartel's website explains.

Snow Angel was featured at

the 2014 Chorus America Conference and on CBC Radio's 2011 Christmas Eve broadcast, and has been recorded by the Lady Cove Women's Choir. Viva Chorale! has previously performed just the prologue, but will now give the entire piece its due. The group's women singers will be accompanied by cellist Jane Phillips for their performance.

Beginning with a sad little girl looking out the window into winter's night, the piece ends with the return of joy. Singers are called on to produce ethereal, haunting chords that evoke angelic voices and a rousing anthem call to overcome sorrow.

Perhaps the reason why this piece is so moving is its connection to the composer's deepest emotional life. Toole explained Quartel's father died when she was just 12; she wrote the first movement of what became Snow Angel when she was 19.

"Sarah as a young woman found her comfort and her solace and her connection with

her father through the snow, and the piece evolved from that," Toole said.

The winter concert's varied program also includes O Magnum Mysterium by Ivo Antognini, which was composed as a gift for those who came together to prepare Christmas songs. The beautiful Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Faure, Handel's Allelujah and Salmo 150 by Brazilian composer Ernani Aguiar give the concert a classical feel. A return to modern times comes with Snow from Irving Berlin's White Christmas.

The zesty Cuban Salsa piece Cantar! and the spiritual Amen will provide lively interest and get toes tapping. Vera Algoet will bring her percussion talents to the closing number, the Nigerian folk song Mojuba as arranged by Vancouver's Brian Tate.

Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 23. Tickets are available through the ArtSpring box office or online at tickets/artspring.ca.

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Debbi Toole, Director  
 Chris Kodaly, Accompanist

Ticket Centre: 250-537-2102 www.artspring.ca



FUNDRAISER

# Book sale and preview night on its way

Farmers' Institute set for popular event

Book lovers will be in heaven this weekend as the 8th annual Giant Book Sale unfolds at the Farmers' Institute.

A fundraiser for the Salt Spring Literacy Society, the sale sees thousands of quality donated books arranged in some 40 categories throughout the institute building on

Rainbow Road.

"Our volunteers do an amazing job of sorting, culling, cleaning, transporting and setting out the books for this sale," said society executive director Aletha Humphreys. "People are always so impressed with the quality of the books available and how easy it is to zero in on the subject areas that interest them the most."

Doors open at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 21 and stay that

way until 4 p.m. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.


An extra event has been added this year for current Salt Spring Literacy Society members, or people who would like to purchase a membership at the door on Thursday, Nov. 20 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will be emceed by author/actor C.C. Humphreys and features guest speaker Arthur Black.

Those attending can enjoy

refreshments and appetizers while socializing, peruse the books for the sale and purchase two (but only two), and be eligible to win door prize baskets.

The society is grateful to everyone who donated books for the sale, which is a critical fundraiser for SLSL programs, and to its many volunteers, partners and sponsors who make the event so successful.

**Let's Go to the Hop!**  
**FALL CONSERVANCY FUNDRAISER**



In the spirit of critters that depend on our efforts, let's have some fun and raise some funds for the Conservancy's work. Lively music, scrumptious desserts, visual presentations, and a gumboots and rain gear fashion contest. Prizes too!

DATE: **Friday, November 28**  
 TIME: **6:30 - 9:00pm**  
 LOCATION: **Community Gospel Chapel**  
 TICKETS: **\$25**, at the Conservancy office or at the door.  
 The Conservancy office is at: 338 Lower Ganges Road, #201, 250-538-0318

EXHIBITIONS

# National arts status in the works

Bequest makes biannual show with major prizes possible for Salt Spring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

By Thanksgiving weekend next year, the excitement of Salt Spring's first national-level art show will be at its height, with the opening ceremonies completed but the grand finale and the announcement of \$25,000 in prizes still to look forward to.

If everything goes according to plan, the new Salt Spring National Art Prize will have established the island as a venue for seeing the best artists in Canada and attracted thousands of visitors in the process. It's all part of an idea dreamed up by resident painter and sculptor Ron Crawford and made possible through the support of the Salt Spring Arts Council and a generous bequest by late painter Rosemarie Behncke.

The first aim of the event is to promote creative dialogue and collaboration between local artists and artists from across Canada. But the overall island economy also stands to gain from increased arts-based tourism.

"Something we have not been able to do, I think, is get people to come here to see art," Crawford said.

"If we can get artists showing here on a national level, we should get people following."

Regionally based juried shows have proven extremely successful in nearby Sidney and Sooke. Rather than replicate their format, Crawford's vision goes one or two levels up to encompass the entire nation.

The Salt Spring Arts Council, an organization that Crawford now chairs, was happy to take on the idea after receiving Behncke's generous \$500,000 bequest.

"They were very enthusiastic about it, and it was a good fit," Crawford said.

Crawford is hoping the generous prize amounts will attract a large number of submissions of original two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Local art



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 Rosemarie Behncke in her Salt Spring studio in 2011.

lover Joan McConnell is sponsoring the grand prize of \$10,000 along with a creative residency worth \$5,000. The jurors will select a short list of 50 exhibitors from the digital submissions, and then will choose the prize winners "in situ" on Salt Spring. They will make their selections from the work alone, without knowing the names of those who have submitted.

The Alliance of Salt Spring Artists is sponsoring the prize for best Salt Spring artist, assuming the jurors have selected some islanders among the 50 exhibitors.

"I think Salt Springers will do very well at this since we do well nationally and regionally as it is," Crawford said.

With the show running from Sept. 25 to Oct. 26 in 2015, events have been planned to span the period and keep visitors coming for the entire month. There will be gala evenings both at opening and closing, with announcement of the major awards on Oct. 24.

Including the annual interest from Behncke's bequest, the arts council has raised over \$50,000 for the initial venture of

what they plan to be a biannual event. Putting \$6,000 of lighting improvements into Mahon Hall to create a premiere exhibition space is just one of the strategies for success. The arts council recently secured a 60-year lease for the hall to ensure a long-lasting return on its investments.

So far, the idea has elicited a thoroughly positive response.

"The support from people that I've talked to about this has been just really excellent. I think it's time for something like this," Crawford said.

A new website at saltspring-artprize.ca, which launches this week, includes all the rules and specifications for submissions. These will be accepted online beginning Jan. 15, 2015 and running until May.

Anyone interested in volunteering before or during the event can contact Crawford at ronaldtc@telus.net, or contact the Salt Spring Arts Council at info@ssartsCouncil.com or 250-537-0899.

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# what's on this week



## Wed. Nov 19

### ACTIVITIES

**Death and Dainties - Our Cafe, Your Stories.**  
Dying With Dignity's Salt Spring Island chapter meeting. All welcome. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 1:30 p.m.  
**Raspberry Pi: Computer Programming and Robotics for Youth.**  
Youth will be introduced to computer programming and eventually robotics using a mini-computer the size of a credit card. Free event with equipment provided. Salt Spring Public Library. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
**Poker Night.**  
Hosted by Albert at The Local bar every Wednesday. Sign-up time is 6 p.m.  
**Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story.** Award-winning film will challenge your assumptions as to what constitutes waste. Screening will be followed by a live-streamed, interactive panel discussion with filmmakers and industry experts. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.  
**Parent Autism Resource Workshop.**  
Presentation and practical demonstration by therapist and consultant Judith Barnett will help increase your toolbox of knowledge to help your child. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m.  
**Extended Library Hours.**  
Open to 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. 7:30 p.m.

## Thur. Nov 20

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic With Ross & Dave.**  
Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Restorative Lunchtime Yoga.**  
Thursdays with Nomi Lyonnas at Gaia Yoga. 12:10 p.m.  
**Youth Book Club.**  
A discussion and activities on Wildwood by Colin Meloy, lead singer of the Decembrists. For ages 10 to 14. Salt Spring Public Library's Teen Room (Room 106). 3:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Giant Book Sale Preview Event.**  
Members of the Salt Spring Literacy Society can view the books before the Giant Book Sale opens on Nov. 21, enjoy refreshments and apples, presentations by authors C.C. Humphreys and Arthur Black, and buy 2 books. Memberships available to purchase on site. Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Evening Satsang & Meditation.**  
With Greg Marian. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. 7 to 9 p.m.

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## Fri. Nov 21

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Gene Grooms and Friends.**  
The Local. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Aidan Miller.**  
Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Giant Book Sale.**  
8th annual three-day sale of 15,000-plus gently used books begins. A fundraiser for Salt Spring Literacy. Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Games Night.**  
Board games and other interactive games, facilitated by Bryan Dubien. Free, open to all ages and without registration. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Farm Dinner and Art Show.**  
With artists Bly and Garry Kaye and Elaine and Bob Potter at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 p.m.

## Sat. Nov 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Barley Bros.**  
Live music at The Local. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
**Grace Islet Benefit Concert and Silent Auction.**  
Featuring many of Salt Spring Island's fine musicians and entertainers and MCs Arthur Black and Nomi Lyonnas. All proceeds will go towards legal funds to protect the burial ground at Grace Islet. Fulford Hall. 6 to 10 p.m.

## Sat. Nov 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Viva Chorale! Winter's Heart.**  
Choral program directed by Deb Toole travels across time from Palestrina's Hodie Christus to the modern classic Winter Wonderland, with Sarah Quartel's five-movement Snow Angel as centerpiece. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner.** World Rock N Roll Tribute Artist Champion and TV host presents her fabulous Tina Turner Tribute show. Salt Spring Local. 8 p.m.  
**Soul Shakedown.** Live soul music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Giant Book Sale.** See Friday listing. Famers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Anglican Parish Christmas Bazaar.** Crafts, gourmet baking, preserves, treasures table, and more. All Saints Church. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**NDP Christmas Bazaar.** Books, attic treasures, Christmas baking and gift items. Salt Spring United Church. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**CFWU Meeting.** Guest speaker is Mona Fertig of Mother Tongue Publishing. Harbour House Hotel. 10 a.m. All welcome.  
**Christmas Sale.** Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary sale at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop. Noon to 6 p.m.  
**Self-Publishing Workshop.** Easy workshop led by Linda Pearce. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 4:30 p.m.

## Sat. Nov 22

### ACTIVITIES

**Channeling Event With Tina Louise Spalding.** Tina will be speaking about and channeling messages from her book Great Minds Speak To You. Still Point Yoga Studio. 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Elf & Fairy Faire and Book Launch.** Join Roger Brunt as he launches his newest children's book with games, songs and activities. Every child in elf or fairy costume wins a coin from the Elf's Treasure Box. ArtSpring. 1 to 5 p.m.  
**Hul'qumi'num Language Class.** Offered by Luschiiim (Arvid Charlie) from Cowichan Tribes, including traditional place names and cultural teachings. Participants are welcome to stay for a shared dinner of soup and bread afterwards. Fulford Hall. 3 to 5 p.m.

## Sun. Nov 23

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Viva Chorale! Winter's Heart.** See Saturday listing, except time is 2 p.m.  
**Billie Woods.** Singer-songwriter performs at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Giant Book Sale.** Final day at SS Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Unitarian Fellowship.** Guest speaker is Mary Toynbee on Click Here to Save the World: the Lazy Road to Social Justice? Salt Spring Seniors Society. 10:30 a.m.  
**Christmas Sale.** Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary sale at The Lady Minto Thrift Shop. Noon to 3 p.m.  
**Rollerblading.** Sundays at Fulford Hall. 2:30 to 4 p.m.

## Mon. Nov 24

### ACTIVITIES

**ToddlerTime.**  
For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11 a.m.  
**iPad and eReader Tutoring.**  
Salt Spring Public Library. Two sessions available every Monday between noon and 2 p.m.  
**Chess and Scrabble Club.**  
Open to chess and Scrabble players of all ages and skill levels. Salt Spring Public Library. 2 to 5 p.m.  
**Salt Spring Antique and Classic Motor Club.**  
Regular monthly meeting. ArtSpring boardroom. 7 p.m.

## Tues. Nov 25

### ACTIVITIES

**Restorative Lunchtime Yoga.**  
Tuesdays with Nomi Lyonnas at Gaia Yoga. 12:10 p.m.  
**Improvisational Comedy Workshop.**  
Everyone age 16 & over invited to take part in this weekly workshop. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7 to 9 p.m. info: jan@janrabs.com.  
**Film Series: Years of Living Dangerously.**  
Next part of prize-winning documentary series exploring the human impact of climate change. Salt Spring Library Program Room. Doors 6:30 p.m., screening at 7.

## Wed. Nov 26

### ACTIVITIES

**Extended Library Hours.**  
Open to 7 p.m.  
**Poker Night.**  
See last Wednesday.  
**SongJam.**  
See last Wednesday.

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**Salt Spring Literacy's 8th Annual Giant Book Sale**  
Friday, Nov 21st & Saturday, Nov 22nd - 10am to 4pm  
Sunday, Nov 23rd - 10am to 3pm  
PLUS a SS Literacy Society members' Preview Event Thursday, Nov. 20th, 6:30 - 8:30pm  
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**CINEMA**

- Interstellar** — Final two shows on Thursday and Friday. A thrilling, thought-provoking and visually stunning film from writer-director Christopher Nolan, starring Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway and Michael Caine. With our time on Earth coming to an end, a team of explorers undertake an interstellar voyage... to travel beyond this galaxy to find a new home.
- The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1.** Mockingjay - Part 1 sets up the finale with a chapter loaded with tension, solid performances and smart political subtext. Katniss is in District 13 after shattering the games forever. She fights to save Peeta and a nation moved by her courage.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Wednesday, Nov. 19 is the last day to see **A Year to Love** multi-media art show of work by women participating in the Centre for Loving Inquiry mentorship program. **ArtSpring gallery.**

- Avril Kirby** presents **Favourite Things**, a photography exhibit of some of her favourite things, at the **Harbour House Hotel and Restaurant** through November.
- Salish Sea** themed art by several artists is on display both in the **library's display case** and the program room until Nov. 28. The show includes a wonderful range of media, including photography, textiles, oil and watercolour painting, as well as collage.
- Matriarchs:** A dual exhibition of classical graphite drawings and interpretive photographic art by **Rachel Scott** and **J. Wood** is showing at **KiZmit** for the month of November. Open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Salt Spring Photography Club** hosts **Margaret Benmore's** photography at **Country Grocer's cafe gallery** through November.
- Michael Wall** shows photos in an exhibit titled **Highway One - Finding My Country** Through a Lens at **Cafe Talia** through November.
- Mary Laucks'** new show — **Vision Unframed: Painting Outside the Rectangle** — appears in the **ArtSpring lobby** until Nov. 30.
- Nicola Wheston's 'Stuff'** paintings and **Michael Dennis' 7 Figures** in yellow cedar are featured at **Duthie Gallery** on Churchill Road. The gallery is open by appointment

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FAMILY FUN

# Fairy faire unleashes elfin magic

Event coincides with release of Roger Brunt's second elf book

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There may be a chill in the air but that's not enough to hold back elves and fairies across the island from celebrating a one-of-a-kind event on Saturday.

Salt Spring's very own "fairy door man" invites children young and old to step forward and behold an afternoon of celebration, song and magic during the island's inaugural Elf and Fairy Faire.

During the past 18 months, author Roger Brunt has gathered more than 2,000 letters from the fairy door mail box at the Tree House Cafe in Ganges. He's collected letters penned in French, Spanish, Chinese and Finnish. Visitors have come from across the island, throughout Canada and as far away as India, Germany and Korea.

The letters overflow from the pair of shoeboxed plastic bins Brunt uses to deliver the mail to elves and fairies on Salt Spring. Once the mail is delivered, he added, the elves and fairies get busy writing back to each of their correspondents.

"I take the letters up Mount Erskine, and we gather around a toadstool to write letters," he said. "It's a responsibility I take very seriously. To fail to honour the little people would be a serious breach."

## Erskine the Elf to the Rescue is the tale of a Sri Lankan family that washes ashore on Salt Spring in a life boat.

Children at the Saturday event have a chance to search for their letters to the elves amidst the hundreds of other notes. Lucky searchers will get rewarded with an elf coin or treat.

The event coincides with the launch of Brunt's latest book, Erskine the Elf to the Rescue.

The book, illustrated by Thomas McPhee, is the second in a series that began with 2013's How Erskine the Elf came to Salt Spring. A third book is in production, and work on a fourth installment is already underway.

Erskine the Elf to the Rescue is the tale of a Sri Lankan family that washes ashore on Salt Spring in a life boat. With help from the giant Stargazer cranes and his granddaughter, Imp, Erskine devises a plan to get the stranded travellers home safely.

Brunt said the story is loosely based on the plight of 490 Sri Lankan "boat people" who arrived in Victoria Harbour aboard a decrepit freighter in 2010.

The faire will feature a collection of fairy doors, a peek into the largest elf treasure box in the "Elfy World," elf tributes and the chance to test your strength in the troll's chamber of courage and endurance.

"This is a fun-filled event to help celebrate the elves and to give them a royal send-off to Santa's workshop for the busy Christmas season," Brunt said. "This celebration is also to thank everyone who believes in elves and fairies."

Children who dress up in their favourite elf or fairy costume will be able to select a coin from the elf's treasure box.

The Elf and Fairy Faire will be held at ArtSpring between 1 and 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 22. Admission is free.

More information about Brunt's work is available at fairydoorman.com.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Author Roger Brunt with Erskine the Elf to the Rescue, the second book in a series, and some of the more than 2,000 notes and letters Erskine has received from kids and visitors around the world at the Tree House Cafe fairy door. All things elfin will be celebrated at the Elf and Fairy Faire on Saturday afternoon at ArtSpring.

## Dorothy Price CERTIFIED YOGA TEACHER

**Dorothy has been teaching yoga on the island for 12 years. As well as welcoming newcomers, she has a committed group of students who are dedicated to staying healthy and well.**

"It is rewarding to see strength and stamina, in mind and body, grow in my students. We work on our core strength and our balance. We do poses that tone our nervous system, massage our glandular system and stimulate our immune system. We stretch our muscles and keep our bones healthy.

We get our heart rate up and focus on deep mindful breathing. I weave in modification options as we move through class so everyone is comfortable in the poses. All this in one yoga class!

Whether you are thirty or sixty you will notice differences in your body as you age. Doing yoga, along with a healthy diet, can minimize these changes and even help reverse those that are already established. I sincerely want my students to be the happiest, healthiest and best they can be! Come and join us on our path! Call me and I will help you determine where to start."

"My students tell me how strong they feel inside and out. I feel the camaraderie of "We're on this path together" in the class. I think that this camaraderie helps them get to class every week! The 'average' age of my students is late thirties to late sixties. I am dedicated to helping them all stay as healthy as possible."

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# ISLAND WHEELS

## TIRES

# Half of non-Quebec drivers still not on winter tires

Proper tire inflation also important

### SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Belief that all-seasons "are good enough" is the most common reason for not using winter tires, despite proven safety and performance benefits

Outside Quebec, where winter tire use is mandated by law, only 51 per cent of drivers use winter tires, according to a survey by Leger on behalf of the Tire and Rubber Association of Canada (TRAC).

The survey asked drivers if they had used winter tires this past winter. Excluding Quebec, the poll found that winter tire usage is highest in Atlantic Canada (73 per cent), followed by Ontario (56 per cent), Alberta (45 per cent), Manitoba and Saskatchewan (39 per cent) and British Columbia (38 per cent).

Many drivers cling to the idea that all-season tires offer sufficient traction and braking capabilities for winter driving. Among those not using winter tires:

- 63 per cent said that all-seasons are good enough for winter driving.

sons are good enough for winter driving.

- 27 per cent cited cost as a barrier for not using winter tires.

- 22 per cent said they don't drive enough in cold-weather months to merit winter tires.

"The fact that so many drivers are not using winter tires is a clear threat to road safety," says Glenn Maidment, president of TRAC, which represents tire makers. "Today's high-tech winter tires dramatically outperform all-season tires in all winter driving conditions. Despite all the evidence pointing to the fact that winter tires decrease collisions and reduce personal injury accidents, resistance to adopting winter tires remains strong."

### The Quebec experience

A study released by the Quebec government in 2011 found that winter road-accident injuries had dropped by five per cent in the province since winter tire use was made mandatory by law in 2008. This research revealed that universal winter tire use had resulted in 574 people not suffering an accident. The study also showed a three per cent reduction in deaths and serious injuries due to road accidents.

These findings are supported by a recent report from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation that concludes that winter tires provide superior traction, braking and cornering in all cold-weather driving conditions whether the road surface is dry, wet, icy or snow-covered.

### Shorter stopping distances

Superior braking is one of the primary safety features of today's advanced technology winter tires. The TIRF report cites research which indicates that on dry pavement at temperatures just below freezing, stopping distances for vehicles with winter tires are as much as 30 per cent shorter than for vehicles with all-season tires. The report also concludes that winter tires deliver better traction on an ice or snow-covered road surface at -30°C than all-season tires at 4°C.

The TIRF report can be viewed, along with a wealth of other information about the performance benefits of winter tires by visiting [www.tracanada.ca](http://www.tracanada.ca) and

clicking on "Resources" under the "Winter Tires" drop down menu.

### Improved fuel economy

Drivers who do not opt for winter tires due to the cost need to be aware that using winter tires in the cold-weather months and summer tires throughout the rest of the year can reduce fuel consumption by as much as five per cent. (Source: TIRF report) The cost of winter tires is also tempered by prolonging the life of summer tires, which saves money over time. Some insurers also provide reduced premiums to drivers using winter tires.

### Proper tire inflation

Drivers should pay particular attention to proper tire inflation during the winter months. Under-inflated tires have a smaller footprint, which weakens their grip. The result is diminished braking and handling characteristics, along with higher fuel consumption due to increased rolling resistance.

Tire pressures can fluctuate widely in winter, particularly when temperatures fall rapidly.

Every five degree decrease in temperature results in a loss of about one psi in air pressure. A temperature drop of 15°C, for example, typically results in a 10 per cent loss of inflation.

During the cold-weather months, tire pressures should be measured at least once a month using a reliable tire gauge. If the tire is found to be under-inflated, the pressure should be adjusted to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended level. The right pressure can be found in the owner's manual or on the vehicle information placard normally located on one an inside door jam or inside the fuel door. As well, pressures should only be measured when the tires are cold and the vehicle has been stationary for at least two hours.

### Methodology

A survey of 1,002 Canadian motorists was completed online between April 7 and April 11, 2014, using Leger's, LegerWeb panel. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

# Broader acceptance of fuel-efficient vehicles

## EVS

continued from 16

The number of plug-in electric vehicles sold in Canada has increased every year since 2011. From modest beginnings of 521 sales in 2011, EV sales are anticipated to near 4,000 vehicles by the end of 2014

Julian Sale, a car broker based in Sidney, has watched the growing EV market with a keen interest. Sale began selling hybrid-style vehicles like the Toyota Prius in 2009 and has since expanded his range to include many of the EV vehicles that have made their way to Salt Spring.

market. While it isn't a massive market share, it's miles ahead of where things stood only a few years ago.

"It's growing a lot," he said. "It's a double whammy. There's a lot more awareness about the ecological damage that occurs from driving and people are more receptive to the technology."

"There is a broader acceptance of fuel-efficient vehicles."

Whereas people once equated EVs with "some kind of wizardry," Sale said, a record number of people have begun to show an interest.

"People are understanding that these are totally mainstream."

Regenerative braking, extended battery warranties and a proven track record have already convinced drivers like Standen and other islanders that EVs are here to stay.

During the Leaf test drive, the car performed as one would expect any mid-range small to mid-sized vehicle. And that's the point.

Automotive engineers have spent untold hours trying to refine a driving experience that resembles what drivers are accustomed to from the seat, yet is altogether different beneath the hood.

"The degree of research and development was huge. They had to come out at a high level and they were able to do that," Standen said. "They got it right."

For more information about EVs on Salt Spring, follow the links at [transitionsaltspring.ning.com](http://transitionsaltspring.ning.com).





**"There's a lot more awareness about the ecological damage that occurs from driving and people are more receptive to the technology."**

JIM STANDEN  
Nissan Leaf owner

Sale has watched the EV market grow to three per cent of the automotive

## Jim Pattison

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### PAINTING

## Life work of artist Wright now up for grabs

Daughter seeks island home for father's art

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Jenny Wright is reaching out to help find a home for hundreds of paintings created during her father's prolific artistic career on Salt Spring.

"There are all kinds," Wright said during a recent visit to the island. "He's got some really beautiful paintings."

Wright, a resident of Vancouver, is giving priority to island community groups and public spaces but will consider private collectors who have an interest in her dad's eclectic portfolio of serene island scenes and galactic landscapes.

She launched the public appeal earlier this month to share her father's passion for Salt Spring with islanders.

"This was his home for 40 years," she said. "When I look at the trees or the ocean, I see his work."

In an interview before his death in 2013, Gordon Wright retained a strong sense of humour and an avid curiosity.

"These will be worth big money someday, but right now I'm accepting offers," he joked about some of his latest works, then on display in his room at the Lady Minto Hospital's acute care ward.

Wright and his wife Barbara



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Jenny Wright, daughter of the late Gordon Wright, who was a longtime Salt Spring resident and prolific painter, with some of her father's paintings she would like to see end up on Salt Spring Island.

moved to Salt Spring in 1975. The island served as a refuge from the city's busy daily grind, a place where the couple could share life closer to the natural world.

Wright had worked as a social worker and was active in the island's NDP club. He took pride in his family's do-it-yourself life-

style. The island's characters and rural beauty inspired a creative passion that produced hundreds of watercolours and oil paintings.

"I think many Salt Springers are very abstract in their observations of the world around them," he told the Driftwood in a 2012 interview. "It's a strange little private

world which we live in. I don't know how much reality there is in this place, but it's reality for the people who live here."

Details about Wright's work can be obtained on the Gordon R Wright Facebook page or from Jenny Wright at [jennywright3@gmail.com](mailto:jennywright3@gmail.com) or 604-266-3644.

## Men's Week on Now

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### SOCIAL HEALTH

## Generosity and thanks explored

Let's Get Experimental group thriving at GISS

### SUBMITTED BY CONNECTING GENERATIONS

This is the first in a series of contributions by the GISS intergenerational Writers' Group, Let's get Experimental project: strengthening the social-emotional wellness of youth through creative writing and multi-media storytelling.

"Generosity" was the prompt mentor Ahava Shira offered us for our writing session this week. Here is what one young woman wrote in 10 minutes:

- A simple act of kindness, a smile, sharing, giving. Something you know from your heart. Something you feel. Material or immaterial but so, so powerful. Like a roaring fire or raging storm. And rewarding. Imagine having nothing, but still finding ways to give, simple little things, gestures of caring and kindness. Imagine having nothing but being so happy because kindness grows, it grows inside you and around you and just keeps going. Imagine having everything but never giving, and imagine how it must feel to be missing that. Being unhappy and not even knowing it. Giving doesn't leave you with

less, it fills you up and spills over into the world around you. — Annika Berendt Grade 11

The multi-media part of our project includes the opportunity to create collages and themes for our creations have included images of our brains, histories of our hands and personal maps. One week our multi-media mentor Sam Barlow invited us to create collages with the theme of What I am Most Proud of, helping us to become aware of and appreciate our own strengths and to be kind to ourselves, something we often forget to do. Generosity towards ourselves.

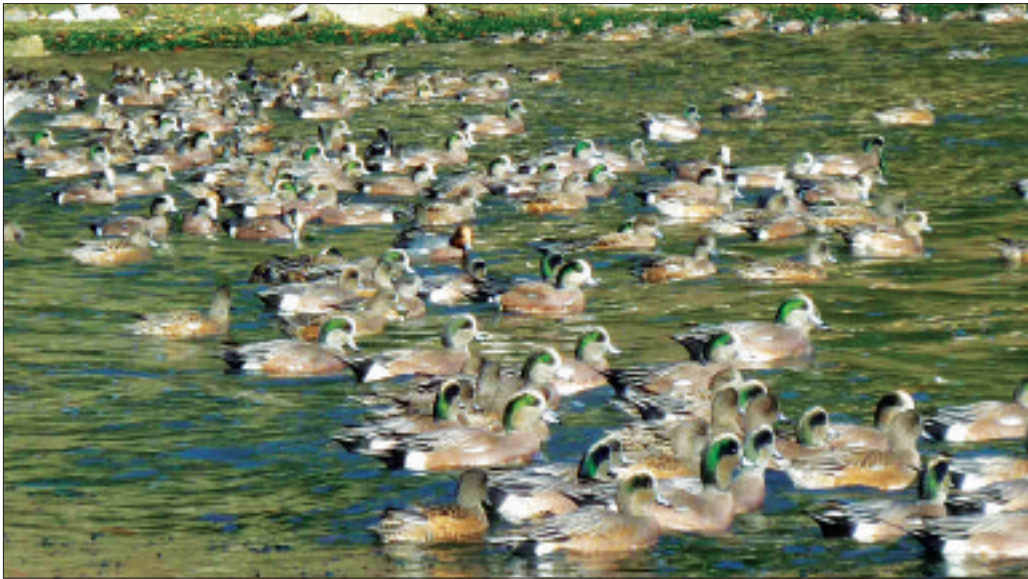
By the end of our sessions, the glow that comes with giving is visible!

The GISS Writers' Group would like to thank the numerous benefactors of their Let's Get Experimental project: the B.C. Arts Council, the Salt Spring Arts Council, School District 64 and Country Grocer, whose generosity in supplying us with refreshments for our meetings every week warms our collective hearts and fuels our creative spirits!

For more information about Let's Get Experimental or Connecting Generations, contact Sarah Hook-Nilsson at [shooknilsson@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:shooknilsson@sd64.bc.ca) or leave a message at GISS: 250-537-9944.

BIRDS

# Harbour duck interactions entertain



American widgeon ducks in Fulford Harbour.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN MASER

Widgeons, buffleheads and mallards feed at Fulford

BY KATHLEEN MASER  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It has become increasingly interesting observing the ducks who have entered the bay at Fulford Harbour.

At the head of the bay where two streams enter the water there has been a gathering of American widgeon — roughly 200 in all — for about a month now. They like to eat the green lettuce-looking algae and to do so they remain mainly upright with just their beaks going down for the lettuce.

Not many days ago a small flock of bufflehead turned up, maybe 25 in all.

They seemed to keep to themselves further out, joyously frolicking about, chasing each other, taking off and then skidding back into the group. They are the clowns of the bay and definitely our favourites, nothing like the calm widgeon, who in comparison appear quite staid in their activities.

The next arrivals on the scene were about eight mallards, who were very much an integral part of the big widgeon flock. However, they were easily identified as they dunk upside down for their fishing or seaweed gathering with their very prominent orange feet waving about indecorously in the air.

Then one day we noticed the buffleheads were approaching the widgeon group, getting as close as the fringes of the flock. An innocent enough manoeuvre, you might think, but what followed

was shocking! A small squadron of widgeon headed over to the buffleheads and purposefully and deliberately moved them right off. Clear as day! They did not like their kind. We were sad for those little buffleheads.

Oh but today, triumph for the buffleheads! They must have called in the troops, as there are now at least 100 of them. They are creating havoc for the widgeon. It's a foofaraw! They pop up where they like, land in the middle and skid about with great speed and just plain fun. It's a nightmare for the very composed stodgy widgeon ducks.

The eight mallards have chosen to withdraw altogether and keep to themselves, close along the opposite shore.

*The writer is an amateur birder and new resident of Salt Spring Island.*

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**NATURE**

# Tale-telling trash offers otter-ology

Impacts of hunting sea otters revealed in middens

BY BOB WEEDEN  
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

People throw stuff away. If they throw a lot of it in one place, and the stuff resists decay for a long time, the trash begins to tell a story.

One throw-away place, the ancient middens of First Nations, often have great stories to tell about local people and the natural resources they depended on.

Once upon a time I was a bird biologist (I've reformed!). I hung out for a while with marine biologists. One of them, Jim Estes, fascinated me with a story he put together from midden clues.

The middens were in the Aleutian Islands, an archipelago Aleuts have lived in for 2,500 years or more. Some of their middens were used for centuries as a place to put anything unusable, mainly food scraps. The middens became serial menus. Jim, a sea otter specialist, looked in them to see whether the villagers' use of otters changed over time. Indeed it did, but the careful excavations, sifting, and painstaking identifications of fragments soon revealed an unexpected story about local environments.

When sea otters were



abundant, Aleuts concentrated on the bounty. They were excellent hunters, good enough to decimate otters locally. The Aleuts then turned to fish and invertebrates, giving otters time to recover. Middens showed that the pattern was repeated over and over.

What intrigued Jim was what else was on the menu when otters were common fare and when they weren't, and what that implied about near-shore ecology as a whole.

The scientific story takes pages to tell, and I can only relate a snippet, like the publisher's dust-jacket come-on.

To put it in a nutshell, local Aleutian ecosystems can take either of two forms, both quite stable. With sea otters (which really chow down on sea urchins), urchins are scarce and the kelp they eat grows into lush under-sea forests. This delights fish that shelter, feed and lay eggs there. More fish leads to more seals and bald eagles. Kelp, a primary converter of sunlight into organic matter, supports diversity and abun-



A sea otter named Tanu surfaces at the Vancouver Aquarium — one of the few places the over-hunted species can still be found in B.C.

dance of near-shore life generally.

Without sea otters, the seabed becomes a carpet of urchins, sea stars, clams, and tubeworms. Kelp gets scarce. Octopus and predatory whelks thrive. Without the kelp forest to dampen wave action the water alongshore carries more organic material and tiny plankton, feeding a thickening crust of barnacles, periwinkles and limpets on rocks.

By comparing islands now with and without sea otters, Estes confirmed the stories told by progressive layers of debris in middens. Human hunters can change things dramatically, even without modern weapons. When any hunters, ancient

or modern, target species that shape local ecosystems, the effects of hunting can trickle up, down and sideways. The resulting communities might be thrown into turmoil, but might also be very stable. Whether we like the results is often a contentious question, but we might all agree that it would be good to know beforehand.

I often think of this when the subject of deer on our island comes up. We've chosen to create an environment where natural predators and human hunters are scarce and a keystone plant-eater thrives. Some of the consequences shout, some whisper, but they are all around us.

**CHRISTMAS**

# Seasonal events announced

Happenings begin next weekend

Salt Spring's Christmas on Salt Spring committee has been busy ensuring the season is both merry and bright.

Things begin on Saturday, Nov. 29 with the Light Up and Chili Cook-off from 3 to 5 p.m. at Centennial Park. Celebrity chef David Robertson, from the Dirty Apron in Vancouver, will be guest judge for local home cooks entering their best chili recipes. Carollers, musicians and street performers will also entertain.

From 5:30 to 7 p.m., Robertson will hold a book-signing event at Steffich Fine Art, hosted by Salt Spring Books.

Nov. 29 is also the night that local businesses will be judged in the Driftwood's Light-up Decorating Contest, and islanders are urged to vote for their favourite by Tuesday, Dec. 2 at noon. (See the ad on page 13 of this paper.)

On Thursday, Dec. 4, it's Open Late, Shop and Social, where holiday shoppers can find thoughtfully curated gifting options in Salt Spring's many boutiques. Mixologists will compete that night at the Harbour House in the 4th Annual Glowtini Contest to create the island's signature holiday cocktail starting at 8 p.m. with guest judge Rebecca Bollwitt (aka Miss 604) in attendance.

Other early season events include Santa arriving by floatplane on Nov. 29, and craft fairs at Beaver Point and Fulford halls on the Dec. 5 to 7 weekend. WinterCraft launches at Mahon Hall on Nov. 28 and runs until Dec. 22.

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FUNDRAISER

# Festival of Trees to raise money for island food bank

Golf club hosts  
Dec. 16-30 event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders will have a new holiday tradition to enjoy this year and a worthy cause to support at the same time with Salt Spring's own version of the Festival of Trees.

Those who have attended the grand-scale event at Victoria's Empress Hotel will recognize the format, in which businesses and associations decorate trees for charity. In this case the beneficiary will be Salt Spring's food bank, and votes for favourite trees will be cast as edible donations.

The event at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club is being organized by Mollie Colson and Lynda Turner, friends who are used to raising funds and supplies for a variety of groups around the world from Cambodia to Africa.

"I do a lot of work in Kenya. I go there every year — but this was my chance to give back to the local community," Turner explained.

There's no registration fee and no real prize for participants, although the public will be voting



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Mollie Colson, left, Jim Burrows and Lynda Turner pose where one of nine decorated Christmas trees will be on display for a food bank fundraiser being hosted at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club restaurant in December.

by leaving donations for the food bank under their favourite trees and the winner will be announced on Dec. 29. The real winners will be the island's hungry and those

striving to serve them, at a time of year when donations typically drop off after the Christmas rush.

"Lots of people do something for the food bank, but the more

the merrier," Colson observed. "They store the food and deliver it when needed."

Colson organized a similar event at the Galiano Inn and raised the idea of reviving it at the golf clubhouse, where she has coffee with friends several times a week. Though prepared to ask other venues if the club's answer was no, she said restaurant manager Jim Burrows was happy to comply.

"I think it's wonderful," Burrows said. "We're happy to do anything for the food bank. I think it will probably bring some customers in as well."

The Clubhouse Bar & Grill will host nine Christmas trees for the event from Dec. 16 to 30, with the majority to be located upstairs in the restaurant area. The trees must be artificial and draw on limited electricity to avoid giving the host location a major hydro bill.

"You just have to have an imagination and a theme," Turner said.

Friends of Kenya, a group that Colson and Turner belong to, will be decorating a tree with knitted "Mollie dollies" and African angels made by school children in Tanzania among the deco-

rations. Other groups that have signed on are SOLID, Grandmothers to Grandmothers, the Salt Spring Seniors Centre, Salt Spring Computer Service, Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods. There is still space for two other groups to come on board.

"I found when I did it on Galiano for two or three years, it's just fun," Colson said.

"It went over very well— it's just lovely."

Anyone who would like to add a tree to the event should contact Turner as soon as possible at loubelle92@hotmail.com. Those who would like to view the trees and add food bank donations are welcome during restaurant hours starting on Dec. 16. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. the rest of the week.

SSI FOUNDATION

## Fall grants support significant island projects

Second dispersal of funds for 2014 from SSI Foundation

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is pleased to announce the recent approval of over \$80,000 in grants to island charitable organizations. The funded projects tackle a wide range of community needs and will have a significant impact on the quality of life on Salt Spring.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada**

- To purchase supplies for mentors and students participating in the Salt Spring Island In-School Mentoring Program. There are currently 21 children matched with mentors at Salt Spring Island Elementary School. Funding is also being provided for a trial of this program at Fernwood School. This grant is partially funded by the CIBC Children's Foundation.

**GI Marine Search and Rescue Society**

- For the purchase of dry suits and thermal undergarments to ensure crew safety.

**Island Women Against Violence (IWAV)**

- For the From Surviving to Thriving program for women in second-stage housing fleeing violence and abuse. The program offers a 10-month series of facilitated workshops providing art therapy, journaling, guest speakers and community-building activities aimed at empowering women to break the cycle of abuse and gain skills for a successful future. Funding will also support the evaluation of this pilot project. This grant is supported by funds from the Unger Family Fund for Children and their Mothers and Senior Women in Need.

**Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool Society**

- To support the creation of a parking lot at the preschool that will enhance pedestrian

safety for children, families and the community at large.

**Salt Spring Island Conservancy**

- Toward the purchase and installation of a three-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system for the roof of the multi-use facility at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. The facility will house Conservancy offices and provide meeting and workshop space for the Conservancy and partner organizations. This grant is partially funded by the Jacqueline Booth Memorial Fund.

**Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society**

- Toward architectural drawings and the permit required for the construction of a multi-purpose community produce centre on Beddis Road.

**Salt Spring Historical Society**

- For a consultant to assist in resolving environmental control challenges in the Salt Spring Island Archives storage vault, and to purchase dehumidifiers and exhaust fans to control temperature and humidity in the vault.

**Salt Spring Island Public Library**

- For display units and easels to enhance the library's ability to connect the community with library resources.

**SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) Community Development and Research Society**

- To support the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project, which aims to foster youth leadership and increase the participation of girls and young women in their communities. This year, youth will plan, implement and evaluate a multi-component, community-wide violence prevention and awareness campaign.

In addition to the grants listed above, as part of its Smart & Caring Salt Spring initiative the foundation has established funds to target critical needs and help grow philanthropy on Salt Spring. Two organizations — Salt Spring Island Community Services and School District #64 — will receive Smart & Caring Salt Spring grants this fall.

Recognizing that access to mental health services is a high-priority community need, the foundation is funding a Community Services demonstration project aimed at developing an efficient and focused intake process that will provide advocacy, triage and referral/matching to clients requiring mental health services. The project will include the tracking of outcomes of intake and advocacy activities.

Supporting the efforts of island volunteers is essential to building philanthropy and developing a caring community. The foundation is funding a Connect and Learn E-Course, which will train community mentors in the Connecting Generations program, which aims to help youth realize their own resilience through intergenerational interactions.

The course will present guidelines, suggestions and interactive opportunities, including video interviews with former community mentors. Over the last three and a half years, Connecting Generations has connected 168 adults with youth in our community.

Through the generosity of community members, the Salt Spring Island Foundation has granted more than \$1.6 million to local registered charities since 1984.

To learn how to help the foundation support the important work of island charities, see www.saltspringislandfoundation.org or call 250-537-8305.

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**Pamela Margaret Marion Stone**

Pamela Margaret Marion Stone died on November 8, 2014 as gently and peacefully as she lived and surrounded by the love of her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Adrian, her brother, Peter, and sister-in-law, Eleanor. Pam leaves behind her sister, Meg (Tony); her children, Jennifer (Jon) and Brian (Susan); her grandchildren, Dave (Megan), Matt (Laura), John (Renee), Lindsay (Scott), and Allison (Jon) and step-grandsons Norm (Erin) and Dave. She delighted in her beloved great grandchildren, Lucy, Owen, Georgia and Eddie, Thomas and Ella. She will also be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Her family would like to thank the staff at both Meadowbrook and Lady Minto Hospital for their tender care for Pam and their support for all.

There will be a family gathering to honour Pam in the coming weeks.

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**Finbar McMillan**

Dec. 21, 1952 - Nov. 7, 2014



Finbar loved life and learning, and was always up for an adventure that involved the great outdoors. He taught us about the West Coast, by identifying mushrooms and discovering hot springs or leading hikes for yet another magnificent view from Mt Erskine on Saltspring or sharing photos of the Cameron Range on Haida Gwaii. He could repair an engine so it purred, designing the tool to do it, if needed; was an expert fisherman and captain; as Key Grip thrived on the creative collaboration of making movies with his peers and co-workers in IATSE, local 891; and was a master chef in his own kitchen, cooking feasts while listening to great music. He could hunt and build and love and play...supporting his family and friends with generosity of body and soul, a practical helping hand, patience and a wry sense of humour.

A strong and gentle man, Finbar was the quintessential island boy, part farmer and mechanic, part hippie and artist. He is loved by all who knew him on Saltspring, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Victoria, Cortes, Lasqueti, California, Haida Gwaii...

Predeceased by his parents, Peter and Mary, he is survived by his loving sister, Janice (Steve) and niece Caitlin; brother, Randal; daughters, Lauren and Patrice and wife, Sue and a very big extended family!

Finbar was a wild fish habitat advocate. He fed us well, respecting the limited bounties of the sea.

Donations gratefully accepted by Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society, 250-527-7580

Many thanks to Haywards Funeral Service, the doctors, nurses and support staff at Lady Minto, Royal Jubilee and Vancouver General Hospitals, the BC Cancer Agency, Inspire Health, the Gerson Therapy and Bloch Institute, among many other alternative health practitioners and friends and family who offered so much valuable knowledge, support and great food.

There will be a potluck celebration of his life on Saltspring Island, on Monday, December 22nd, at Beaver Point Hall, to be confirmed.

**splash** **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Salt Spring Pool Association**

Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 1:30pm  
Salt Spring Sailing Club 152 Douglas Road

*Everyone Welcome*

**FARM DINNER & ART SHOW**  
**Stowel Lake Farm**  
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**This Week's Horoscope**  
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**Tip of the Week:**  
The cycle of Scorpio is all but over. The New Moon in Sagittarius occurs on November 22 at 4:19 am PST. Scorpio time is always deep and intense somehow and this year's was even more so than usual. That triple conjunction Solar Eclipse is history now but its legacy will live on generally until the next Solar Eclipse in April and for everyone who felt the full scourge of Scorpio well... its effects will be forever more. As mentioned in last week's Horoscope, this is the 2nd of 4 New Moons occurring at 0 degrees of each respective Sign - Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn and Aquarius. 0 like 29 degrees, the alpha and the omega meeting point of a sign when viewed in its own singular light, are the first among equals regarding critical or 'anaretic' degrees in Astrology. Metaphorically speaking, 0 is raw, potent and packed with potential yet it is new, green and inexperienced. At the other end of the spectrum 29 degrees indicates an evolutionary theme that has completed its cycle through a particular lesson or area of focus yet it must now pass the big, final exam. It is worth noting that the 0 Scorpio New Moon has served to bring the whole issue of male/female equality linked especially to civilized and respectful sexual conduct to the fore, true to Scorpio's style as the sign symbolic of psychology and depth psychology in particular. Interestingly, there will be two New Moons in Aquarius, the sign of the process of democracy, the first at 0 and the second at 29 degrees. It may be said that this is life's way of saying 'okay humanity, it is now time to address this pivotal theme in order to advance to the left level of fulfilling the ideals of a genuine democracy'. As for this New Moon, although the Sun, Moon and Venus are close together in Sagittarius, Mercury and Saturn remain in Scorpio's sacred space. When closely aligned, Saturn the taskmaster and Mercury the student go to work to investigate research and probe deeply to produce insights which must survive the scalpel of their skeptical scrutiny. Yes, when together these two produce penetrating insights and this is especially so when in the sign of Scorpio. Stay tuned! (Learn more about it in my New Moon Newsletter - free sign-up on my website).

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
You have been moving slowly but surely through a tunnel of change these past months and this week you will feel the warmth of the light at its end. It will take another few weeks for you to fully and finally be through, however. Yet, the feeling of its completion is already evident. This final phase is contributing to the drive of your ambitions.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)**  
A whole new level of commitment to the future linked to some of your most intimate relationships continues. One feature of these is your career itself. A steady learning curve is implied. You are on the verge of an in-depth study cycle. It will leave you feeling transformed. This journey will last for quite a while, but it will officially begin this week.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
A series of endings and completions linked to your overall lifestyle have occurred of late and the process persists. Yet this week you will feel freer than you have for a while. Circumstances will also produce a busier social agenda. A weave of unique events and regular errands will keep you interested and alert. Celebrate the cycles of life that repeat but which are never the same.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
An extra creative cycle continues. It includes insights, investigations and investments for the future. You have felt both the brush and the sting of sudden change over the past while and it has activated your survival instincts. A blended attitude of deliberate action with patient resolve characterizes your approach. With each corner attended to, you will feel at peace.

**Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)**  
Processes of deep change close to home both within and without have been a source of action and intrigue. There is writing on the wall now that was not there just a few weeks ago. A creative response to these new realizations is the key to success. This includes acceptance and adaptation, mentally and emotionally. Trust the flow so you can better direct it.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
A wave of new perspectives and ideas are activating your pioneering spirit. They may also be directing you to dig deep into your hidden reserves of faith. Change is the law and you can feel it being enforced. Trusting this law will activate a proactive attitude versus one of futile resistance. Call upon your adventurous spirit and venture out where variety awaits you.

**Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)**  
A steady flow of change linked to finances and a process of re-prioritizations of your time will take a turn this week. Inspirations to explore new horizons and to socially engage where you have not gone before is featured. Cultural attractions will prove to be extra appealing. Travel is also a distinct possibility and could qualify to satisfy all of the above.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)**  
A whole new quality of self-expression has been gestating and will now reveal some sprouts. This trend will continue over the coming months. Although still in the early stages, it will lead you to many new creative perspectives. For now the emphasis is upon inspiration. Visualize a variety of avenues of expression where each brings its own unique returns.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)**  
The dawn of a new day is casting a warm glow in your skies. There remains enough dark to reveal the light of stars but these will fade soon. Breaking out of the comfort zone of sleep and dreams is the other side of the story. But some days are brighter than others with blue skies beckoning, and this is one of those days. Give thanks and get going.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)**  
You have been on a power roll these past several weeks and months. It has challenged you to draw upon your strengths even more than usual. Intimate and intense engagements as well have been a source of stimulation. At best you have advanced your position. Yet, you may be beginning to feel the call to retreat. Take heed because before too long it will be an outright command.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)**  
Stimulations in your social, public and professional life have been keeping you busy. These include new associations. As well, some of your most cherished philosophies have been stirred. Confrontations both within and without have been likely. These continue yet the time has come for you to step out and focus on the directions you define as forward.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)**  
A detour into the depths of your soul has summoned you these past several weeks. Now you know if you are enjoying the heaven state or that of hell or somewhere in between. Rest assured, all of the above states are ever changing according to our own attitudes and circumstances. Either way, this journey is ending now and pulling you back out into the world of material matters.

# 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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**MOTIVATED:** Head coach Ciaran Ayton is all smiles during the Salt Spring senior boys' huddle as they prepare for their provincial championship matches in Burnaby this week. The Scorpions were ranked second in their pool as of Tuesday morning, following up an initial 1-0 defeat by Rockridge on Monday morning with a 2-1 victory over Archbishop Carney that afternoon. Tuesday morning's game saw the Scorpions take Valleyview 2-0 before being disappointed by Southridge later that day. The team was set to play off against St. Thomas Aquinas for seventh place on Wednesday morning.



## SOCCER

# United outshines Bays in home match

Old Boys fall to Vic Scottish; Salt Spring FC rests up

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring United reinforced its hold on first place in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association's O30B division with a 3-0 victory against Bays United on Sunday afternoon.

United dominated the first half but only managed a single goal before the intermission whistle.

Sue-Anne Connolly got United on the scoreboard midway through the first after scrambling to connect with a well-placed cross from Liz Wilson in front of the net.

Rhea Davidson stepped up with a low, hard shot into the corner of the Bays' net after

battling heavy coverage early in the second half. Connolly sealed the win late in the game with her second goal of the match, scored on a breakaway effort.

Cheryle Johnson got the shutout. Sue Robinson received a special shout-out for her stellar defensive effort.

Salt Spring United hopes to carry the early season momentum into this weekend's fight for the division lead against undefeated Lakehill (5-0-1). Kickoff is on Sunday, Nov. 23 at noon at Portlock Park on Nov. 23.

### Vic Scottish tame Old Boys

A promising start from the Old Boys failed to thwart an impressive 3-0 campaign by visiting Vic Scottish at GISS field on Saturday morning.

Former Vic West player Dave

Toynbee missed two early opportunities to get the Old Boys on the board, while the hosts' defense broke down to allow a pair of first-half opposition goals.

"As is the way, chances missed at one end come back to bite you, and so it was with Vic Scottish capitalizing on a strangely lethargic Old Boys to quickly establish a 2-0 lead, despite heroics from Jim Witherspoon in net, who returned from his handbag coaching duties to prevent the scoreline from getting out of hand," said team spokesperson Fraser Hope in a post-match report.

Not even an undermanned Vic Scottish side offered hope for the Old Boys, who struggled with rotating keepers, including the "deputizing" of Salt Spring's Dennis Shaw and Sean Norgard to serve with Vic West.

"A question for a future

Sports Quiz: When did the home club provide all goalkeepers and substitute goalkeeper, including for the visiting team? Answer: Old Boys versus Vic Scottish, GISS field, Salt Spring, Nov. 15, 2014," Hope noted in his report.

Despite a late second-half Old Boys offensive flurry, Vic Scottish scored another to seal the victory.

Old Boys travel off island to face the Gordon Head Gunners at Tyndall Park on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m.

### SS FC prepares for Cermaq City

Salt Spring FC (1-2-5) enjoyed a bye week as players rest up for Saturday, Nov. 22's game versus Cermaq City (6-1-1) in Campbell River. The team's next home game is on Saturday, Dec. 13.

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• All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.

• Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.

• Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.

• The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.

• Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.

• For more information, call 250-537-9933.

**Teachers:** Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

## RUNNING

# Sneakers roll in to Las Vegas

Salt Springers take part in rock 'n roll race along with 25,000 others

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When the mercury begins to slide, snowbirds aren't the only ones who head for warmer climes.

Six members of the Salt Spring Sneakers running club enjoyed sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-teens at Sunday's Las Vegas Rock 'n Roll half-marathon.

The runners held their own among more than 25,000 competitors from across North America and beyond.

Two Salt Springers placed within the top-10 racers in their respective

categories, and all island competitors ranked in the top 20 per cent of their age groups.

"Amazing results," said Lynn Thompson, the Sneakers' team spokesperson. Eric Van Soeren finished eighth in the M60-64 age group with a time of 1:41:22. Marion Young crossed the finish line in 1:51:40 to grab seventh place in the F55-59 category.

Other finishers included: Marcia Jansen, 1:51:39; Keith Cloete, 2:02:55; Donna Cloete, 2:21:50; and Julie Van Soeren, 2:21:51.

"The gang performed well today," Thompson wrote soon after Sunday's race. "We have been following them online, and they are now all in and their times are great."

For more about the club, see runssi.teampages.com/