



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

GREEN GRIN: Melissa Cutshall gets into the spirit of the season with her handmade wreaths at the Fulford Community Hall Christmas Craft Fair over the weekend. See page 12 for more fair photos.

LIBRARY

Mental health impacts library

Volunteers to get extra training

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A series of disruptive episodes at Salt Spring's public library has caused staff to review policy guidelines and led the board to find new resources for volunteers.

Richard Dick was present for three such incidents during the past few weeks, which all occurred during

his regular Friday afternoon volunteer shift. The most recent involved a young woman having a complete mental health breakdown. Before it ended with a trip to the hospital, she had removed all her clothes and had to be sedated by paramedics.

Dick was not phased by the occurrence since he is a retired police officer and has had training on how to deal

with such cases. But he said library clients and other volunteers were understandably upset.

"They're not here to deal with confrontation," he said. "The most confrontation they want to see is 'My card isn't working.'"

Les Brost, the chair of the Salt Spring

LIBRARY continued on 6

ENVIRONMENT

Boat discharge rule change raises alarm

Islands Trust Council concerned about long-term environmental consequences

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council has sounded the horn over proposed changes to federal legislation that will weaken rules governing where recreational boaters can dump sewage at sea.

In a letter to the federal Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt, newly elected Trust Council chair Peter Luckham voiced opposition to proposed amendments that would permit pleasure craft operators to discharge sewage one nautical mile from shore.

The current limit is set at six nautical miles.

Luckham said the change would dramatically increase potential dumping areas within the Trust's jurisdiction and the Strait of Georgia. The relatively slow ebb and flow of waters through the Salish Sea has Luckham and other Trust Council members concerned about long-term environmental effects.

"The islands are in a soup, and we all share the same soup," he said.

Dumping raw sewage in sensitive marine areas will contaminate shellfish, decrease oxygen levels and increase chemical pollution, Luckham said.

Trust Council has advocated since 2009 to increase the current six nautical mile limit. It also wants a discharge ban within three nautical miles of any pump-out station.

News the government may weaken the rules surprises many environmental organizations and local governments in the region, Luckham said.

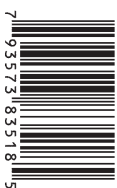
"Each vessel has a small impact, but the cumulative impact of the hundreds of thousands of vessels in the sensitive Salish Sea must be considered," he said.

MARINE SEWAGE continued on 2

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New tanker and oil barge inspections considered

MARINE SEWAGE

continued from 1

The federal government launched a public consultation process for the proposed changes in November.

In a statement that

accompanied the Nov. 19 announcement, a Transport Canada representative said changes to the Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals regulations are being considered to "update requirements to reflect new international standards; respond

to technical issues raised by stakeholders; and to make minor adjustments to the regulation."

Proposed changes include new requirements for tanker inspections, oil barges and ticketing procedures.

Transport Canada has

given local governments until Jan. 9, 2015 to comment.

Luckham said the proposed change comes at a time when lawmakers south of the border are considering an all-out ban on the discharge of sewage in Puget Sound in

Washington state.

Islands Trust Council wants to see the Conservative federal government focus on boater education, promote availability of pump-out stations and work to discourage or prohibit dumping at sea.



Trust chair Peter Luckham

LAW SOCIETY

Woodward receives Law Society citation

Business struggles in 2011 haunt QC

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Former Salt Spring resident Jack Woodward will face a Law Society of B.C. Discipline Committee hearing in April 2015 unless the matter is settled sooner.

The Law Society issued a citation to Woodward in October related to the writing of cheques on his law corporation and Harbour House Hotel accounts for a period of time in 2011. The society alleges Woodward wrote the cheques "for the purpose of concealing that there were insufficient funds in one or both of the accounts."

However, speaking from Campbell River, where he is currently living, Woodward denies the allegation, stating that he did not write "bad

cheques" during that period, and "nothing was concealed."

He says what occurred is that Island Savings allowed him to write cheques that exceeded his line-of-credit amount, without creating paperwork to formalize that arrangement.

"Nobody lost any money. Everyone was fully paid. And good relations continued before, during and after with the financial institution."

Melanie Tromp Hoover, Island Savings' communications specialist, said that "due to both privacy legislation and our own privacy policies, Island Savings is unable to provide comment on this story."

Woodward stresses that no trust funds were involved.

"The question is whether lawyers are allowed to make informal arrangements with their bank that are not recorded in writ-

ing and that allow them to exceed their line of credit in matters not relating to their law practice.

"Other citizens are clearly allowed to do that. But the question, to the Law Society, is whether lawyers are held to a different and higher standard even in their non-law business affairs."

He added that the practice ensured 50 Harbour House employees could keep their jobs during a difficult period for the business in 2011.

Woodward bought the hotel in 2004 and revived the old Crofton family farm to provide a supply of food for the hotel's restaurant. He said the business is successful, and is currently for sale.

Woodward founded Woodward in Company in Victoria in 1988 and is known as a First Nations law specialist. He received his Queen's Counsel designation in 2012.



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Jack Woodward at Maple Syrup Day at the Harbour House Hotel, Restaurant and Organic Farm in 2013.

TRUST COUNCIL

Salt Spring trustee on Executive Committee

Thetis Island's Peter Luckham takes on chair's role

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

For the first time in 12 years, a Salt Spring trustee will be part of the Islands Trust Executive Committee.

George Grams was elected one of three vice-chairs during a vote held in Victoria on Dec. 5. It was the first Trust Council meeting held since November elections.

The new Islands Trust chair is Peter Luckham, who has been a Thetis Island trustee since 2005 and a council vice-chair since 2008.

Joining Grams and Luckham on the executive are Laura Busheikin from Denman Island and Susan Morrison of Lasqueti.

"I submitted my candidacy for a seat on the Islands Trust Executive Committee in the belief that the

work I've undertaken as a trustee on Salt Spring Island has made a positive difference to our community and because I wish to make a difference at council and within executive," said Grams.

"I'm honoured at the confidence council places in my ability to undertake the duties of vice-chair and I look forward to the opportunity to repay council's trust."

Grams has been asked to chair Mayne, North Pender and Saturna local Trust committees and said he welcomes "the opportunity to learn more about each of those neighbouring islands and to participate in their efforts to preserve and protect their environments, and to improve their communities."

Luckham will be Salt Spring's LTC chair.

"I'm excited to have a first-hand look at what's going on on Salt Spring," he said. "I've admired what trustees were doing this



GEORGE GRAMS

past term and their re-election is an indication of their success."

As for being chosen Trust Council chair by his fellow trustees, he said, "I am honoured to

have been chosen by council to lead the Executive Committee for the next four years. Trust Council had the challenge of choosing from six worthy candidates for vice-chair and I am excited to work with the leaders council elected this morning. We will work together as a team to further the important work of the Islands Trust to preserve and protect these islands in the Salish Sea for all British Columbians."

As a Trust press release explains, "The Islands Trust Executive Committee oversees daily business of the Islands

Trust between quarterly meetings of the entire council. It has legislated responsibilities to consider approval of bylaws developed by local Trust committees and Bowen Island Municipality. Members also serve as chairs of the 12 local Trust committees that have authority for land-use planning and regulation in the Islands Trust Area."

Elections followed a session on Thursday afternoon, where nominees answered questions from trustees about the skills and values they would bring to the leadership positions.

David Borrowman was the last Salt Spring trustee to serve on the Executive Committee, in the 1999-2002 term.

Council also elected Hornby trustee Tony Law and Kate-Louise Stamford of the Gambier Island Local Trust Area to be council representatives on the Trust Fund Board.

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NEWS BEAT

Heads up!
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ACTIVISM

Citizens' Climate Lobby provides blueprint for hope

Nicole Melanson reports on Ottawa conference

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The knowledge that climate change is about to cause a major global tragedy — and that policy makers seem opposed to making the necessary changes to prevent it — can be so depressing, it leaves average citizens feeling there's no point attempting to impact the situation through individual choices.

Salt Spring resident Nicole Melanson found the antidotes to both apathy and despair when she attended a recent gathering of average individuals like herself in Ottawa — people who have deep environmental concerns but little access to power. During the Citizens' Climate Lobby conference from Nov. 22 to 23, she learned how to approach and work with the people who do have the power to make legislative change with an intriguing blueprint for moving away from fossil fuel use that could gain multi-party support.

"It actually felt like there was possibility for something to happen," Melanson said of her experience at the conference. "The people who are part of it are excited and they're full of hope. What a difference."

Melanson is someone who has always been environmentally aware and she has been involved in activism in the past, but the need to do something more became pressing after she read an article by Jeffrey Sachs this spring. The economist and director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University discussed the pressing need for governments to make real commitments to limiting carbon emissions at the 2015 United Nation climate change conference in Paris. Otherwise, he wrote, it will simply be too late.

"The way the article was written it was



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Regular Canadians participate at the Citizens' Climate Lobby conference in Ottawa. Salt Spring's Nicole Melanson is seen wearing a yellow jacket.

like 'Okay, I can't afford not to do anything,'" Melanson said.

She got in touch with local environmentalist Jan Slakov for advice, and through her learned about the Citizens' Climate Lobby. When an open invitation to attend the Ottawa conference came, a number of factors helped make it feasible on a personal level.

"I kind of hemmed and hawed about it because I was worried about flying to a climate conference," Melanson confided.

But since she had already booked off her regular Saturday shift at Island Savings for her younger son's birthday, and she had a cousin in Ottawa who could give her a place to stay, she decided to take the plunge.

"The Citizens' Climate Lobby is just everyday concerned citizens. They come from all walks of life. I was very impressed to see the range of ages represented there, from late teens to well into retirement," Melanson said.

An international grassroots movement that started in the United States, the lobby's main proposal is to impose a carbon fee on fossil fuel extractors and importers at the source, with monthly dividends from the fee to be paid

directly to citizens.

"This would increase the cost of production, and they would obviously pass that along to consumers, so everybody would pay more for gas and products," Melanson explained. "The idea is that increased costs are an alternative to having the costs of pollution internalized, because costs going up encourages research into shifting technologies over time [for the resource extractors]. And for consumers, if gas prices keep going up, the cost of an electric vehicle suddenly becomes more feasible."

The plan also aims to protect lower income people from an increased cost burden through the dividend payments, which they would receive even though they don't account for many high-carbon purchases. Even gas and oil companies would potentially want carbon priced, so they could know what their costs would be in the long term.

The lobbying part of the plan comes with having concerned citizens speak to members of senior government bodies and attempt to have them adopt the carbon fee policy as their own. Ottawa conference participants were coached by Mark Reynolds, executive director

of the U.S. group, on how to form relationships with the people being lobbied.

"Most activism I've been involved in has been antagonistic, but this was really amazing because it's based on building trust and respect," Melanson said. "Even if someone doesn't believe in the science of climate change, there are a whole bunch of other things you can connect with it ... just by finding similar values. It's just such a constructive way of going about it. It's a different way of establishing a dialogue."

Conference participants put their new lobbying skills immediately into action with people like Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May and Nathan Cullen, MP for Skeena-Bulkley Valley. Surprisingly, Melanson said, a lot of people had "amazing" experiences with conservative MPs and senators.

"When you're trained to see people as individuals, the situation is more open and you get way more favourable responses," she said.

Sunday's program was devoted to the economic benefits of the carbon fee and dividend scheme, with a panel discussion including people like green venture capitalist Tom Rand and Christopher Ragan from the C.D. Howe Institute.

"All of them were talking about how the economics of pricing really makes sense."

Melanson said perhaps the most promising part of the Citizens' Climate Lobby is showing people there can be an effective way to move away from fossil fuel dependency.

"It's not telling people that they're bad or making the wrong decisions, it's just saying there is a solution," she said. "No matter where somebody stands on the political spectrum they can stand behind it, whether from an environmental standpoint or implementing a market mechanism without increasing the size of government or impacting social programs."

NEWS BRIEFS

Road checks in effect

Salt Spring RCMP want to ensure the island's roads remain safe by stepping up roadside checks over the festive season.

Police issued three driving prohibitions for up to

90 days and one three-day prohibition to impaired drivers over the weekend. All four motorists are Salt Spring residents. Police have forwarded information to the Crown for possible Criminal Code charges in one of the cases.

RCMP have received

further reports of motorcycles accessing the Channel Ridge trail system. The suspects are reported to have damaged the area's sensitive environment.

Anyone with information about the incident can contact the local detachment by calling 250-537-5555.

Copper Kettle makes wish list for season

Copper Kettle Community Partnership has a few items it would like to have donated to help people in need this Christmas.

The Copper Kettle

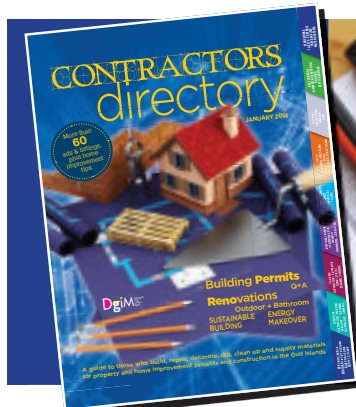
"wish list" includes women's socks, warm vests, high-quality rain gear, wool or woven blankets and sleeping bags — all new, or in clean and as-new condition.

A starter dish set for a specific family would be appreciated, and the group also needs dry, sea-

soned firewood.

To help fill the wish list, contact Cherie Geauvreau or Jewel Eldstrom at 250-537-5863.

Geauvreau adds that Copper Kettle would also like to see "homes for all" on Salt Spring Island provided for those in need of decent housing.



The Gulf Islands Contractors Directory will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.

If you are building, renovating or repairing, this guide is essential in helping you find professional contractors and suppliers to help you get the job done right.

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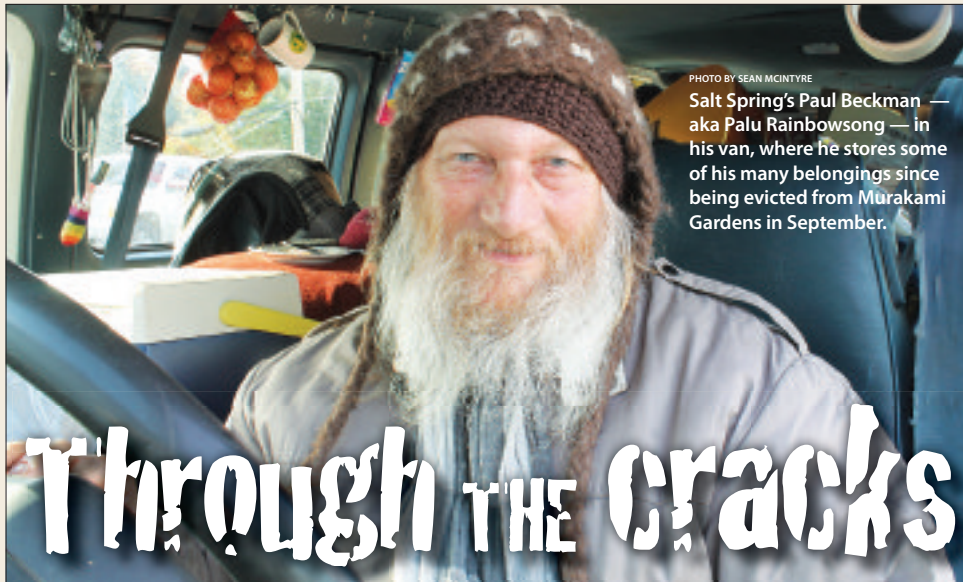


PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring's Paul Beckman — aka Palu Rainbowsong — in his van, where he stores some of his many belongings since being evicted from Murakami Gardens in September.

Through THE cracks

Palu's plight reveals island's supported housing gap

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Paul Beckman has had a year he'd much sooner forget.

The 59-year-old is an iconic presence at Salt Spring's Saturday market and a fixture on the streets of Ganges. With his tie-dyed T-shirt, sandals, solar meditation bow and didgeridoo, the man known to many as Palu Rainbowsong has, for years, offered glimpses of the cosmic truth.

Beckman briefly topped YouTube charts for a series of songs inspired by the Young and the Restless soap opera, he holds the unofficial record for the longest freestyle song and has wowed hosts of CBC's *Dragons' Den* with his trademark meditation technique.

Since he moved to the island in 1989, Beckman said he's managed the challenges of autism and Asperger syndrome to live life on his own terms in a supportive community setting.

Beckman's fragile balance was thrown into uncertainty in September, when he was evicted from Murakami Gardens, a Salt Spring Community Services-run affordable housing facility where he lived for six years.

The Residential Tenancy Branch decision followed years of debate over issues such as Beckman's objections to tenants smoking, facility management and leadership at Community Services, and Beckman's living habits.

Since his eviction, most of Beckman's possessions are in a storage locker, some are kept in his van, others are stacked in the uninsulated shack he calls home.

"I've gone from having a comfortable life with a kitchen and bathroom and all the modern amenities that one would expect in Western society to having no amenities," Beckman said.

He compares his lack of access to running water, a shower or heat to the living standards of a caveman. He talks about worrying when temperatures plunged below zero on the island for several nights in November and December.

"My fingers started to tingle, and I lost feeling in both hands," he said. "I was actually starting to freeze."

According to Beckman, his physical and mental health have steadily deteriorated since the eviction.

"It's become aggravated to the point where I will soon become unable to function," he said.

> FALLOUT

Affordable housing advocates celebrated the Murakami Gardens housing complex's opening in 2008. The 27 low-cost units addressed a desperate need in a rural community where affordable rental units are scarce or often fail to meet basic health and safety regulations.

The facility quickly drew a waiting list of nearly 50 prospective residents, months before work on the building got underway. Beckman was fortunate to find a spot among the first generation of tenants; it was a place he hoped to call home for the rest of his life.

While it may address part of the community's affordable housing shortage, Murakami Gardens fails to make up for an absence of what is called "supported mental health housing."

Supported housing comes in many forms throughout B.C. Some complexes offer 24-hour care, while others feature regular visits by a mental health worker. In every instance, supported housing strives to help residents manage mental health conditions and resolve disputes that could lead to self-destructive behaviour, conflict among tenants and the prospect of eviction.

"It's a standard part of the mental health continuum of services," said Rob Grant, executive director of Salt Spring Community Services. "It's a standard part of service throughout the province but not so much here though."

Grant estimates there are between 30 and 40 Salt Spring residents who could benefit from some form of supported housing. The lack of any such housing on Salt Spring or the southern Gulf Islands, he added, is widely out of line with what's available on Vancouver Island.

Grant said part of the reason for the disconnect results from a belief among many at Island Health that residents can easily travel to Vancouver Island for care.

"I've never been satisfied with that response," he said. "Every time we take the ferry, we realize that the trip into Victoria is onerous."

Research on Canadian supported mental health housing programs shows the absence of such facilities negatively affects the health of underserved patients and strains services on a community level.

"There are studies that have shown getting someone into decent, good housing — not on a boat with a kerosene lamp — with support can have an impact on the person and the community," said Carol Barteaux, a Community Services outreach worker and coordinator of the group's Housing First program. "It's a win-win all the way around. When someone has access to decent housing with support, the visits to emergency and that sort of thing just really diminish. For our front-line people like the RCMP and our doctors and nurses — and everyone — it just takes a whole load of pressure off."

The dearth of supported housing also increases the number of hospital beds devoted to mental health admissions. A 2010 Island Health study found up to 20 per cent of the beds at Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital are used for mental health cases, a rate nearly double the provincial average for rural hospitals.

More recent evidence compiled by Salt Spring Community Services suggests the island's cold-weather shelter has absorbed some of the stress caused by the housing shortage. During the winter of 2013/2014, Salt Spring accounted for nine per cent of all shelter use across the province. Of the 21,000 visits to cold-weather shelters across British Columbia, nearly 2,000 of those visits were on Salt Spring.

"There are three reasons for this: lack of a proper permanent shelter, lack of supported mental health housing and the number of people who require housing," Grant said.

"I've gone from having a comfortable life with a kitchen and bathroom and all the modern amenities that one would expect in Western society to having no amenities."

MENTAL HEALTH FAST FACTS

6% Increase in Island Health funding for Community Services mental health services since 1995.

23% Population increase in Gulf Islands Health Area since 1995.

Number of Salt Spring residents who could benefit immediately from supported mental health housing: **30-40**

20% Proportion of Lady Minto Hospital bed nights devoted to mental health admissions. (2010 study)

Estimated percentage of total population with "serious and persistent" mental health conditions: **2.9%** (provincial average)

Regional perspective:

SUPPORTED MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING

- ▶ **GULF ISLANDS** (Health area #64)
Population: **16,500**
Community-based mental health staff positions: **5.75**
Supported mental health housing units: **0**
- ▶ **ALBERNI** (Health area #70)
Population: **31,500**
Community-based mental health staff positions: **55**
Supported mental health housing units: **61**
- ▶ **VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH** (Health area #85)
Population: **12,000**
Community-based mental health staff positions: **14**
Supported mental-health housing units: **6**

> PROGRESS

Bob Hargreaves has watched supported housing services in the Port Alberni area grow steadily since 2003, when the community opened 15 apartments for people diagnosed with serious and persistent mental health conditions.

The number of supported housing units in the region, which serves a population approximately twice that of Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands, has grown to 61.

As executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Port Alberni branch since 1999, Hargreaves has seen supported housing's positive impact extend far beyond the residents it serves.

With several projects under his belt, he said, evidence shows an obvious community benefit. Port Alberni's success has made it easier to build on past victories and grow momentum for broader services.

"If you go up island, the amount of money spent per person on mental health is disproportionate," Hargreaves said. "We don't let that happen anymore."

Hargreaves' dedication to his work results from a deep sense of moral responsibility, a genuine desire to improve the quality of life for everyone in his community and loads of patience.

"All housing in every community has taken time to develop," he said.

According to a spokesperson from Island Health, there are signs Salt Spring's long wait could be nearing an end.

Communications coordinator Sarah Plank said Island Health plans to work with mental health providers and community groups in 2015 to meet islanders' needs.

"We recognize there is a need for supported housing on Salt Spring, and as part of our work to strengthen mental-health and substance-use services on the island, we will be exploring opportunities to engage with other partners to improve access to housing supports for Salt Spring residents," she said.

Rob Grant has heard the rhetoric before. Talking about improving "access" to supported housing, he said, differs from funding the island's first supported housing units.

Faced with the prospect of another chilly, wet winter, Beckman and the many other islanders forced to camp in the woods or pay for substandard, illegal housing have also grown tired of the talk.

"It feels like we're living in limbo," Beckman said.

GANGES SEWER COMMISSION

CRD rolls out \$4-million sewer plan

Upgrades needed to avoid system failure

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ganges Sewer commissioners must decide within the next few months how to move ahead with equipment repairs and replacement that could cost nearly \$4 million.

Information presented to visitors at a Dec. 2 open house in the Salt Spring library's program room states components of the sewage treatment plant in Ganges are "at or near end of life."

As costs to repair failing equipment accumulate, the volunteer-led commission has begun work with Capital Regional District engineering and finance professionals to implement a fix.

Installation of a new sludge thickening process is anticipated to cost \$500,000; rehabilitation of pump houses near the Harbour House Hotel and Manson Road could reach \$941,000; replacement of a membrane, cleaning tank heater, crane chain hoist and recirculation piping will total nearly \$750,000.

"Option one" will address all the sewer facility's operational problems. Without receipt of any provincial or federal government infrastructure grants, the solution would add an additional \$979 per year to ratepayers' annual parcel taxes for 15 years. The proposed increase is seven times property owners' 2014 parcel tax.

The second option will only address the most press-



FILE PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Ganges Sewer facility in downtown Ganges, which is in need of major upgrades after almost 30 years of operation.

ing issues and result in an additional \$419 parcel tax over the next 15 years.

"Option three" is the do nothing approach.

Though options two and three may appear cheaper in the short term, commissioners stress the prospect of further system failures if upgrades aren't completed soon.

"The costs of doing nothing end up being much more expensive than proactively dealing with existing and imminent problems that could have significant financial, environmental and social impacts," reads information presented at the open house.

Equipment failures could

require pumping and hauling of sewage or rental of temporary treatment equipment. Failures that release untreated sewage into Ganges Harbour could lead to fines from the province's Ministry of Environment.

"Fines are payable by the Ganges Sewer ratepayers," according to information provided by the CRD. "As well, recreational use of the area may be impacted."

The Ganges Sewer serves 419 taxable properties within the Ganges core and surrounding area. Proposed parcel tax increases would be the same for business and residential property owners. Owners of property outside the Ganges Sewer area will

not be affected by the proposed parcel tax increase.

The CRD will release results of the public engagement session before the end of the year. A referendum to approve the borrowing of funds for the project is expected in early 2015. Construction could begin by the end of next year and conclude in 2019.

More information about the project, including a public survey and a thorough overview of project costs for all three options, is at crd.bc.ca/project/ganges-sewer-wastewater-system-infrastructure-replacement-project.

The deadline for public comments is Sunday, Dec. 14.

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Christmas Season Advertising Deadlines

DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 24TH PAPER:

The office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day and Friday, Dec. 26 - Boxing Day
Open for usual business hours on Monday, Dec. 29

Display Advertising deadline: Friday, December 19, 10am
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 22, 9am
Classified Word Deadline: Monday, December 22, 9am

DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 31ST PAPER:

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will be closed on Thursday, Jan 1 - New Year's Day and will reopen for usual business hours on Friday, Jan. 2.

Display Advertising Deadline: Tuesday, December 23, 4pm
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 29, 9am
Classified Word Deadline: Monday, December 29, 9am

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FUNDRAISERS

Local recipes get ink

Garden club and preschool launch cookbooks

Salt Spring Island Garden Club members have pooled recipes instead of plants for their latest fundraiser.

Eating from a Salt Spring Garden is a compendium of favourite recipes from people who have discovered many ways to prepare and serve the bounty of their gardens.

"This book of recipes is a treasure," states a club press release. "Packed with seasonal dishes and ideas, there is something here for everyone."

Eating From a Salt Spring Garden is available at Country Grocer, Natureworks, Salt Spring Books, Salt Spring Mercantile and Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply.

It is also available through the www.ssigardenclub.com website.

The Salt Spring Co-operative Preschool has also launched its first cookbook.

The inaugural collection brings together the best recipes from Co-op families for the enjoyment of food lovers on Salt Spring Island and beyond. The cute, spiral-bound volume includes over 80 recipes that exude family-friendliness. It even contains a chapter dedicated to kids' favourites.

All currently enrolled families contributed recipes, as did many of their relatives and some alumni families.

The book is available at Country Grocer, Natureworks, Salt Spring Mercantile and other local shops. Sales can also be placed by phone and email to 250-537-8445 and saltspringcooperativepreschool@gmail.com. All proceeds go entirely to support the Co-op's not-for-profit early childhood education program.

See www.saltspringcoopreschool.com for more information.

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER LANNAN

WINDOW WONDERLAND: Mouat's Home Hardware co-manager Kim Young, left, and window decorator Sharon Sykes put their People's Choice Award ribbon earned in the Driftwood Christmas Decorating Contest into the award-winning display. The window also earned second spot overall from the Driftwood's judging panel. Sykes, who owns all of the elements, says she is looking for a location to display her collection permanently.

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Behaviour guidelines stressed

LIBRARY continued from 1

Island Public Library Association board, agreed that mental health incidents at the library seem to have increased. Although some would correlate this with the number of people seeking warmth in the public space, he said the problem is more indicative of Salt Spring's mental health crisis.

"Mental health issues do not only strike the people who have no place to live," he said.

"What we do know is the incidence of these types of issues tends to ramp up in the winter time, and it's not a reflection on homeless people.

"It's sad and very regrettable that taxpayers don't want to pay for facilities for these desperate people who need both care and shelter," he added. "Because ultimately, we pay one way or another."

Brost said all types of people are finding the new library a welcoming place to pass the day since it was intentionally built to be a comfortable and relaxing environment, standing in significant contrast to its

last two locations. The challenge is staying true to the spirit of a public amenity and ensuring all users are comfortable being there, including the library's vast army of helpers.

"It's no secret that the Salt Spring Public Library is unique in many ways, but one of the key aspects of that uniqueness is its volunteers," Brost said, noting it has one of the highest ratios in all of Canada.

Providing effective training in all aspects of the job is equally critical for keeping the operation running smoothly and ensuring the volunteers are happy in their work. Updating that training to include sessions on how to deal with mental health episodes will likely be a top priority at the January board meeting, Brost said. The matter will also require input from head librarian Karen Hudson, who is away on vacation now but is responsible for all operations.

Junior librarian Danielle Hubbard sent out an updated policy guide to volunteers this week, outlining acceptable conduct for patrons.

"In light of the increased number of unacceptable incidents in the

library in recent weeks, it is important that all library volunteers are familiar with behavioural expectations," she wrote.

The guidelines state patrons must not bring animals (except assistance dogs) into the library, avoid perfumes and other strong scents, refrain from using cell phones and voice-over internet protocol technologies without muting devices, refrain from eating outside of meeting rooms, refrain from smoking within three metres of the building, wear proper attire including shirts and footwear, and not make sales on library premises.

Illegal activities and improper use of library materials are also not allowed.

Although respectful behaviour must be adhered to, there will be no restrictions on the types of people admitted into the building.

"At our strategic planning meeting this year, the board identified as a key value the concept of the library as a democratic institution where all are welcome regardless of creed, colour or economic background, and we feel very strongly about that," Brost said.

ISLAND INSTITUTIONS

Transitions marks 17th birthday

Island Women Against Violence enterprise holds celebration

Transitions Thrift Store turns 17 years old on Wednesday, Dec. 17 and wants the community to help celebrate its birthday.

Once again pieces of "original Barb Slater chocolate cake" will be served at 2 p.m., along with Salt Spring Coffee donated from next door and hot apple cider.

Manager Roberta Temmel describes Transitions as "a hub of the town," since it's open seven days a week — except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day — and serves a huge range of islanders.

"It's so accessible to everyone," she notes.

Transitions is able to accept suitable donations every day due to strong volunteer support in addition to having paid staff time.

"We have a lot of people able to make it happen," she said.

Members of the Gulf Islands Families Together Society are among Transitions' much-valued helpers.

"It's been wonderful to build the relationship even stronger with new people at GIFTS this year."

Temmel reminds people that all store profits support the island's Transition House and other programs of Island Women Against Violence.

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FERRIES

Proposed tech upgrades to transform ferry bookings

Approval sought for major investment

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries has submitted an application to BC Ferry Commissioner Gord Macatee seeking approval for a major technology upgrade that would allow the company to transform the way business is done over the next decade.

The company is planning a number of e-commerce and information technology upgrades under its Fare Flexibility and Digital Experience Initiative. These would include lower pricing for

advance bookings instead of the company's current practice of charging extra for reservations on most routes, and discounts on low volume sailings.

"BC Ferries has heard from our customers that they want more flexibility in how they book travel in the future, more certainty at the terminal that they will be able to board the sailing they want and more opportunities for discounted fares," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' president and CEO, in a news statement.

"We plan to invest in information technology and e-commerce systems that will meet those goals while incrementally increasing traffic

and keeping fares lower than they would be under the current business model."

Under the Coastal Ferry Act, the BC Ferries commissioner must approve BC Ferries' major capital expenditures. If successful, the program will be introduced in several phases beginning in 2017 with discounted fares for off-peak travel times and the ability to book sailings online without a reservation fee on the Metro Vancouver-Vancouver Island routes.

Reservation fees are not currently charged on Route 9 serving Tsawwassen-Gulf Islands. There are no immediate plans to include the new system on the minor routes.

Harold Swierenga, who chairs Salt Spring's ferry advisory committee, said it's too early to know whether the investment will bring all the rewards the company is promoting.

"There's pros and cons. On the plus side it's a form of what we call traffic risk management," he said.

While Corrigan has said he hopes to eventually bring ferry travel in line with the airline model, in which 95 to 98 per cent of trips are booked in advance, Swierenga observed there is more potential for change in the average ferry user's schedule.

"It's much easier to know ahead of time on airline

travel than ferry travel," he said. "Someone in Vancouver might wake up on Saturday morning and decide to get on the ferry for an overnight trip on Salt Spring."

Swierenga also pointed out that ferry corporation decisions are required to be cost neutral, so some way of making up lost revenue must be found. Reservation fees amounted to \$13.4 million in the 2013 fiscal year.

Even if approved, the new system could take some years for passengers to get used to.

"It's certainly not going to change things overnight. Over time, yes, it should help them," Swierenga said. "But I give them credit for

doing something progressive like this."

According to BC Ferries, its current website and IT systems are "outdated, rigid and inflexible, and cannot support the new approach to pricing, capacity management and purchase of ancillary services."

Macatee has himself pointed to the company's IT needs, stating in his 2012 review of the coastal ferry system that accurate traffic forecasting was difficult given the tools at hand. Because of this, he said, "BC Ferries should place a high priority on upgrading its reservation and point-of-sale systems."

CONSERVATION

Donor adds to Blackburn reserve

Habitat for endangered species extended

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve has increased by nearly six acres, thanks to a donation of land by an anonymous benefactor.

The property managed by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy has grown from 32.6 acres to 38.4 acres, with the new parcel located along the reserve's former southern boundary. The forested upland, which had not been lived on, was a gift made in remembrance of the previous owner's deceased spouse.

In addition to protecting a larger corner of the island, conservancy biologist Laura Matthias said increasing the reserve's size is good news for conservation purposes.

"The reserve already has 16 spe-

cies at risk, so increasing the connectivity of habitat is really important. Connectivity is a real issue in biodiversity," Matthias said.

"One of the most important species that the new addition helps is the red-legged frog, because they require upland habitat to go to in the winter before they go to the wetlands to lay their eggs in the spring."

Having an upland buffer between Blackburn Lake and its wetland areas and developed areas further uphill also helps protect water quality from erosion. Blackburn Lake feeds into Cusheon Lake, which supplies over 200 households with drinking water. The buffer zone allows water to filter slowly down the hill instead of pouring into the lake.

Since taking ownership of the property, conservancy staff have removed one and a half tons of garbage stemming from illegal camping and dumping on the site. The haul included over 300

kilograms of glass and 136 kilograms of tins that were recycled plus three derelict vehicles.

Matthias said diapers dumped on the property and untreated sewage from the camps could easily have contaminated a creek that feeds into the lake, as could fluids leaching from the abandoned cars. Clearing away the trash will help improve the entire watershed over the years to come.

Conservancy staff have also mapped the property for invasive species and species at risk. They discovered one blue-listed species they hadn't found before on the Blackburn Lake Reserve: the Ozette coralroot, a rare forest-loving orchid.

Fencing is almost complete on the new addition, which is contiguous with the area where major wetland restoration work and replanting was done last month. The idea is to protect the area from deer so that native vegetation can regenerate.

FIRST NATIONS

Salt Spring part of land claim

Hwiltsum First Nation files for damages

The Hwiltsum First Nation is suing the federal and provincial governments for \$2 billion in damages and asking for lands in its traditional territories in the Gulf Islands and Lower Mainland be returned.

A notice filed in the Supreme Court of British Columbia this week states Hwiltsum First Nation claims Aboriginal rights and title "including, but not limited to, lands in and around Tl'uqtinus village, Xway Xway, Hwiltsum, including all lands at Brunswick Point, Westham Island and all or some of the lands at Salt Spring Island, Gabriola Island, Valdes Island, Galiano Island, Saturna Island, North and South Pender Island, Mayne Island, the San Juan Islands, the Lamalcha portions of Penelakut Island, Lummi and other loca-

tions throughout their traditional territory, including Musqueam, Chemainus and Coquitlam."

Hwiltsum First Nation includes around 250 members but is not recognized as an official band by the federal or provincial governments. Its members dispersed after the British Navy fired on their principal village at Kuper Island's Lamalcha Bay in 1863. Their chiefs were subsequently captured and executed.

Hwiltsum claim lawyer Jeffery Rath has said his clients are not seeking the return of privately owned lands in the claim areas.

The group applied for an injunction in November hoping to stop the province from selling 450 acres of crown land on Brunswick Point in Delta, but was turned down last week.

As reported in the Globe and Mail, Rath has indicated the latest claim is related to the Brunswick Point issue.

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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 BCYCA Awards
 Silver - Special Publication (Gulf Islander) | Bronze - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence



EDITORIAL

Left in the cold

The topic of supported mental health housing can be easy to overlook in a community where many residents proudly volunteer their time and skills to assist those in need.

For years, volunteers on Salt Spring Island have filled some of the large gap left by overstretched and underfunded community support organizations that deal with frontline care.

By working together we accomplish many things, but sometimes it's not enough.

While volunteers burn out, move away or pass on, severe mental health problems faced by about 2.9 per cent of the population continue unabated. The problem is especially noticeable when it comes to the availability of what is known as "supported mental health housing."

On Salt Spring there isn't any such housing.

There are as many as 40 islanders who could immediately benefit from a housing program that offers some degree of mental health support. As the discussion languishes, those who need help face

homelessness, a friend's couch or a shack in the woods. For many, travelling to Victoria is not an option. There are numerous cases when individuals who finally agree to seek help get thwarted because of the complications inherent in off-island travel.

Providing the support people need is morally correct and makes financial sense.

Access to supported housing drastically reduces the burden on hospitals and police, freeing up valuable time to pursue other community priorities.

It's time Salt Springers receive the calibre of supported housing that's working elsewhere in the country.

Though Salt Spring Island Community Services could deliver the service, work cannot begin until stable funding is provided. Having stepped up in other communities, Island Health stands out as a natural funder. Other areas have succeeded by courting national agencies and generous private donors.

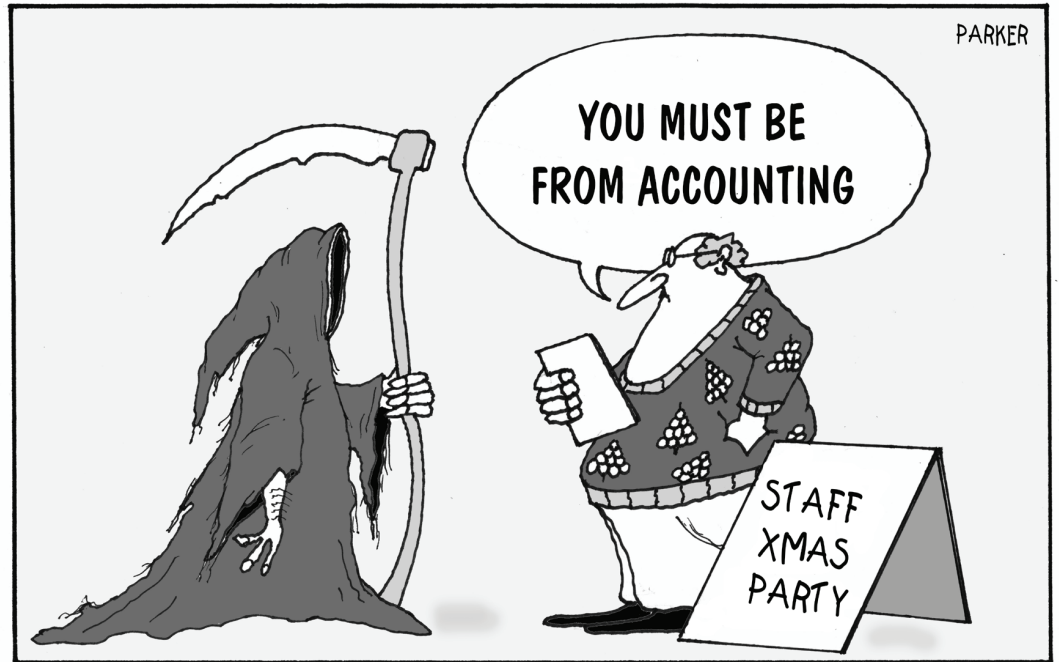
Island Health promises to assess and improve options for Salt Springers who face mental health and substance abuse problems in 2015. It's time for islanders to speak up and demand that Salt Spring receive tangible support in the form of supported mental health housing.

THE ISSUE:

Supported housing

WE SAY:

Gap must be filled



VIEWPOINT by SS United Church Social Justice Committee

Seek out common good above all

The following letter was sent to Premier Christy Clark and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

We perceive that something is seriously missing in the discourse regarding the Grace Islet development, that being a residential home being built over top of a First Nations burial site.

We as human beings are spiritual by nature, more or less so depending on our inclination and context. It is this spiritual element in us that generates the care and love for our parents, partners, children and friends, indeed our respect for fellow human beings. It is essential to our humanity. In fact, this inner spirit has inspired and guided the creation of our liberal democratic society, our foundation of justice and democracy, our tradition of social justice.

Today, late 2014, it is clear that there is an inequity of justice regarding the Grace Islet development. It may not have been so clear when nearby Grace Point was developed in the '80s or when the property was purchased in 1990. But today, the ground has shifted and the injustice of the current situation has moved beyond doubt in the eyes of a great many people.

How else can one explain the extent of the outrage in the Salt Spring community and beyond? Given Grace Islet is unquestionably a First Nations spiritual site, is it not required that the cultures in conflict here truly seek out common ground? Just as we would ask all the parties involved, we want to ask you and all those within the B.C. government, staff and political, "Have you stepped back to revisit the Grace Islet issue from your own sense of humanity?"

One can only speculate why this situation persists, especially

in light of the Tsilqot' in Nation Supreme Court decision and dissertations such as The Comeback by John Ralston Saul. As it now stands, there are no winners, everyone loses — Mr. Slawsky, First Nations, the provincial government, and the Salt Spring and larger B.C. community. On a broader scale, Grace Islet stands out as a visible continuance of past injustices. It signals a step backward from reconciliation and healing.

So, how to move forward to a winning Grace Islet outcome? Where there is the will, we believe that a return to first principles of humanity can enable the participants to find common ground. It may yet be possible to find a just and fair resolution to the Grace Islet issue. Given the visibility of this issue, such common ground may lead much further.

In British Columbia society we are at a historic crossroads. The question is not simply, "What should be done about Grace Islet?" but, "What impact might our decisions here have on the larger B.C. agenda of social and cultural reconciliation with First Nations affecting not only social justice but shared sustainable resource development?"

So Grace Islet is actually an opportunity. It can be the start of a sea change in accommodating our ancestral cultures within our developing society. So we respectfully ask you, Premier Christy Clark, to exercise leadership. The moment is ripe for a new direction driven by our humanity, supported by the federal Supreme Court decision. Great changes in the path of history often come from a decisive small step; let Grace Islet be the beacon to a positive new direction.

The above was submitted by the Social Justice Committee of the Salt Spring Island United Church.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does mental health impact your family?

Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you make an effort to shop locally?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "The islands are in a soup, and we all share the same soup."

PETER LUCKHAM, ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL CHAIR

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
What's the best way to stop illegal dumping?



MARK CUTTEN
I feel what is offered is extremely good. It's about attitude.



MATT BURROWS
More garbage cans, more signage and, perhaps, a truck that goes up and down the island once or twice a week.



EL HAAS
We should have a facility that accepts all waste, including contaminated materials like drywall with asbestos.



VALERIE TAYLOR
If people can't pay for garbage disposal, they have no other choice. I think it's a matter of desperation rather than ignorance.



AUDREY COTTRELL
Encourage recycling and more awareness about the environment.

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

Catchment no lifeline

Trustee Peter Grove's comment in the last Driftwood about feeling "very more positively toward the [Bullock Lake] proposal" if they pursued rainwater catchment is worrisome. As any Salt Spring gardener knows, we live in the rainshadow of Vancouver Island and receive little or no rain during the six months of the year when it is most needed.

This is not Vancouver or Toronto or the U.K. or Bermuda where I visited 45 years ago as a navigation cadet and marvelled at their low-tech roof catchment, but also how little water they consumed.

There are a few dedicated, careful folks here

on the Gulf Islands who have added to their ground water supply with roof catchment systems, but for Mr. Grove to casually ignore the realities of climate and geography and give this disaster of a development a lifeline that could easily hang its neighbours is frankly not responsible.

RICK LAING,
WILKIE WAY

Value diverse opinions

Re: "Forward, not backward," Dec. 3 Driftwood.

Thank you to Greg Spendjian for his thoughtful response to a previous letter to the editor regarding opposition to pipelines.

I would like to echo Greg's views that we must broaden our thinking

beyond a one-dimensional focus on the economy to one that acknowledges and embraces all the factors that support life.

However, the thrust of my letter is to express my appreciation to Greg for his ability to articulate his views in a respectful manner, without name calling that is prevalent in other letters to the editor that I read from time to time.

Like so many others who have been drawn to this island, I've fallen in love with Salt Spring, and one of the primary reasons I have is because of the community. We have a community which cares deeply and will speak up and get involved. I see, feel and hear the passion that exists throughout our population on a wide range of issues.

Of course, opinions dif-

fer, and thank goodness they do! We are not at risk of adopting a "herd mentality" that leads us off a cliff. Why? Because we have people who see things from wildly varying perspectives, who raise questions and "offbeat" angles to consider, and as a result, cause others of us to think twice.

There's no doubt in my mind that we are a far better community because of our diverse viewpoints and willingness to express them. Respectfully acknowledging every individual's right to their own views will continue to propel this community forward to even better heights. My deep gratitude to all those who do so.

KAREN WRIGHT,
SALT SPRING

Dedicated work on islet rewarded

Welcome news came last week that Steve Thomson, Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, finally has the mandate to negotiate with the owner of Grace Islet. Of course it is far from over.

That said, this issue moved forward because of the dedicated work of many people, far too many to name here. It was a community effort. Support and assistance came from First Nations and non-First Nations alike.

Thank you to those on Salt Spring Island who have made a strong

commitment to seeing a positive outcome for this Coast Salish grave island. There are many unresolved issues between the federal, provincial and First Nations governments and we all benefit when they come together to address them rather than running from them like they have for so long.

Thank you for your love, your compassion and your work. There is still a ways to go but I raise my hands in gratitude for what we have accomplished so far.

ADAM OLSEN,
MEMBER OF TSARTLIPFIRST NATION,
INTERIM LEADER, B.C. GREEN PARTY,
SAANICH

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

AGING IN PLACE: Vaccination beliefs

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF

Eleventh article in a series for 2014

"Your belief system is the rudder of your magic carpet!" So said a scrubby bit of paper I found in the pocket of my winter coat the other day. It reminded me that I'm hearing of a growing number of people who don't believe in being vaccinated against communicable diseases like influenza; instead, they're guiding their lives by rudders of "healthy living."

Maybe it's part of our nature to believe we're indestructible. Back in 1966, flu shots weren't widely available, but even if they were my first husband and I wouldn't have bothered. We felt stronger than a flu bug.

Then one frigid January night in northern Illinois, flu symptoms developed. By the time we got home four hours later, we barely had the strength to drag ourselves upstairs to bed, where we remained in a stupor for the next four days.

I never had flu like that again,

but I also don't take chances. I've been getting an annual flu shot for at least 20 years.

This year I went to Pharmasave where flu shots are free for those over age 65. (They also provide them for B.C. residents with chronic conditions and those who are caregivers.) While there, I learned Pharmasave also offers a wide variety of other vaccines.

Some are for childhood diseases like measles, mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough. When I was a kid, I caught them all and so did practically everybody else.

For decades, children have been mostly free of them because of public health vaccination programs. The idea is that if at least 95 per cent of the children are vaccinated, then it's unlikely a disease can spread.

But now a growing number of parents are signing "Personal Belief Exemption" forms, which allow them to refuse to have their children vaccinated. I've heard some say that fresh air, exercise and organic food are all they need to stay healthy.

In Los Angeles County, opting

out of vaccination is trendy in the wealthiest neighbourhoods. The Hollywood Reporter (hollywoodreporter.com) announced in September that parents in well-heeled neighbourhoods are deciding in droves that they don't believe in vaccination. The results: vaccination rates as low as those in South Sudan and Chad — and outbreaks of pertussis!

Known popularly as whooping cough, pertussis is a highly contagious bacterial disease that results in severe coughing attacks. Over the past four years there have been repeated outbreaks in North America. In 2010, the California Department of Public Health recorded over 9,000 cases, the most since 1947.

In 2012, Health Canada reported outbreaks across the country with the Fraser Valley being a hotspot. This year, pertussis is having a field day in Los Angeles County with 1,300 cases reported just in the month of September.

Does it come as a surprise that there's a correlation between these hot spots and high rates of personal belief that vaccinations are

bad for you? Dr. Deborah Lehman, associate director of pediatric infectious diseases at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, is predicting "a wildfire [of whooping cough cases] if vaccination rates continue to fall."

Pertussis is no picnic. My worst Christmas ever was in 1944, and I remember spending the day on the living room sofa whooping — not for joy but in the throes of uncontrollable coughing and gasping for breath. People who haven't heard a child with whooping cough might want to visit the Health Canada website and click on "pertussis."

Fresh air, exercise and organic food are great to help keep us healthy, but they're not enough.

In 1944, our Victory Garden supplied fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat, and manure. In those days, most food was organically grown, but we didn't have vaccinations and we caught every disease that was making its rounds.

As we age, diseases hit us harder and complications can develop more easily. So it's important for seniors to consider flu shots, vac-

inations against pneumonia and against any childhood disease we might never have had — especially since they are free of charge. Call Pharmasave first for an appointment.

Though costly, being vaccinated against shingles is also something to consider. Shingles is a burning, stinging rash that develops from the herpes zoster virus, the same one that causes chicken pox. The virus lurks in the body until our defences are down and then attacks. The older we are the more likely we are to develop a case of shingles. I have friends who have complained of extreme pain lasting for weeks. Several years ago, one died from complications that led to a stroke. The Shingles Prevention Study reports that the older we get the less effective the vaccine is in preventing a case of shingles, but it reduces the severity of the symptoms.

I'm not sure about magic carpets, but I do believe in ounces of prevention. What about you?



HELEN HINCHLIFF

RANTS *and* Roses

Rants

A rant to the owner of the big garbage truck that drives around the island belching filthy black diesel that is so bad I had to pull off the road until the visibility cleared. A number of others have complained about this truck in recent weeks. Bill Harkley

Roses

A garden full of Dora's finest red roses for Lynne, Wendy, Susannah, Sue and the entire crew and cast of SS Community Theatre's recent production of *A Tomb With a View*. You are among those special folks who make and keep us a community. Thanks also to Salt Spring Island Cheese and Salt Spring Books for their invaluable support. Bravo! Perry

The Salt Spring Public Library would like to thank the Salt Spring

Island Foundation for contributing funds towards the purchase of mobile display shelves in the library. These shelves will help the library showcase books and other items in the collection, and will help people visiting the library find the materials they're looking for. Thank you!

An ER full of roses to the conscientious doctors, nurses and staff at Lady Minto! Dr. Ian Gummesson, Dr. Camelia Barcan, nurse Israel and X-ray technician Arlene provided professional service with gentle good humour. From "Fractured Rib" aka DK

A rose for Ganges BMO branch ambassador Kristen Sayer, who quickly and pleasantly fixed an issue with my BMO credit card that the customer service people on the phone were unable to deal with. The text about Kristen in the Nov. 26 BMO ad in the Driftwood is right on.

A bouquet of roses to the following for helping with Santa day on Salt Spring: Salt Spring Air for flying Santa from the North Pole, Driftwood newspaper for photos and ads, Apple Photo, Jana's Bake Shop for baking hundreds of gingerbread men cookies, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue and all the helpers: Anthony Matthews, Keith and Thomas Simmons, Renee Sanden, Christie Rooome and family, Rosalie Matchett-Short, Rineke Jonker, Heidi Teichmann and friend Agnus, Bob Twaites and elves. From Scott Simmons, for Salt Spring Arts Council

A large bouquet of roses to Fresh Coast Catering of Salt Spring Island. Wonderful service and professional quality products.

A truckload of white velvet roses to Mouat's Home Hardware for the lovely Christmas village display. It's stunning! What a joy to see. MH

Lots of roses to the person who found my hat and turned it in to Pharasave. HW

Viva Chorale! choir would like to send a Salt Spring-sized bouquet of roses to all those who helped make our recent concerts such a wonderful musical experience. To our audience, thank you for your enthusiastic support; our music is ultimately for your enjoyment. For all of the sponsors who helped make this all happen, our utmost thanks. The retail community on Salt Spring is amazing in its support and we urge everyone to please patronize their businesses. We couldn't do it without their help. A bouquet each Sunday to Salt Spring Island Baptist Church for library and practice facilities for Viva Chorale! A special "great job" to Sue and Al Lehmann for their stage management, and Kim Elsser, Cathy Shearer and Cat Lightfoot for hosting the concession. To Jane Phillips, your cello helped Snow Angel soar, and Vera Algoet, your percussion work was awesome. To our amazing accompanist Chris Kodaly, you make the music come alive. And for our choir master Debby Toole, thank you for selecting such an exciting and challenging program. We

love you and our hearts send a million roses your way.

A beautiful traditional rose to Salt Spring Veterinary Services — Malcolm, family and staff — for their professionalism, compassion and understanding. You helped us through a difficult and "pawful" time with the passing of our beloved Maple. Neither words nor roses express our gratitude. Bud and Roxanne

Island Savings sends a dozen red roses to Erin Morris, Barb's Buns and Country Grocer for their support of the United Way. Your contributions helped make our campaign reach well past the goal. All of the money has been earmarked for support of projects on Salt Spring Island.

A busload of the finest Christmas roses to Alistaire, the bus driver, for his kind and thoughtful assistance to a passenger in distress. He was most respectful to someone who clearly needed a helping hand. A regular passenger.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

Focus on transit

I read with interest the Dec. 3 letter to the editor titled "Quality of life improved by pathways."

I guess the writer of the letter hasn't been to Toronto and travelled on the Toronto public transit system, otherwise known as the TTC, because if he had, he would know that Toronto has had a very well organized transit system and subway, as well as narrowed roads, for a long time.

In Toronto, the reason why the roads can accommodate bikes/scooters/pedestrians is because a long time ago the city planners must have made public transit a priority.

So in other words, you don't really need a car when in Toronto (and if you do have a car you can expect to pay a lot for parking anywhere), so people ride the bus, the street car and the subway.

I guess I am having difficulty understanding why the letter writer discusses the narrowed traffic lanes in Toronto when surely he must know, as everyone knows who has travelled the TTC, that this is very old news and the reason why Toronto is less car friendly has everything to do with public transit being user friendly.

Pathways are fine, just like narrower roads, but Salt Spring will not realize "traffic calming" and safer environments for walkers/scooters/cyclists/pedestrians until the number of cars on the road is lessened. The number of cars on the road cannot be lessened until a really reliable and user-friendly transit system exists.

Building "non-motorized transportation infrastruc-

ture," as the letter writer suggests, before having a good public transit system is like putting the cart before the horse.

If you want to see for yourselves, go to Toronto and actually use the TTC.

Anyway, it's no real concern of mine, as I've now relocated to another community. However, I have spent time without a car on both Salt Spring and in Toronto, and I could never get around easily on Salt Spring without a car like I could in Toronto, even if there were a pathway built to walk upon.

Good luck to the pathway, but you all really need better bus infrastructure.

LIZ RINGROSE,
DUNCAN

Class act

All good things come to an end.

That time has regrettably come for what has become an island institution — Calvin's Bistro, which has announced that it will close at the end of this month.

We for two would like to thank publicly the owners, René Widmer and Hermann Orth, and their entire staff, for many fine meals and wonderful memories. From the moment you stepped into their elegant space, you knew that you were in the care of true professionals. With René running the kitchen and Hermann carefully tending the front of the room, a good meal and an enjoyable experience were guaranteed.

We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. They are a class act and they will be missed.

ASHLEY AND WENDY HILLIARD,
MEYER ROAD

Island should not rely on rainwater catchment

Regarding roof rainwater catchment as a source of potable water on Salt Spring: with the growing demand for water on Salt Spring and in view of the limited capacity of the remaining resource on the island, the trustees of the Islands Trust seem to be actively promoting rainwater catchment as a source of potable water for single family dwellings.

But rainwater catchment, using a single dwelling's roof as the collection area, is not a consistent, reliable and safe long-term source of water; a key requirement for residential development approval.

Roof runoff can be contaminated by faeces from birds and rodents, as well as airborne bacteria, moulds, protozoa and other contaminants. As such, it must be adequately filtered and roof washing carried out, as well as disinfec-

tion. Water for single family dwellings supplied by individual sources does not fall under public health regulations and so is neither monitored nor regulated and therefore may constitute a health risk.

Long-term precipitation records indicate that in the past we have had prolonged very dry periods. For instance, in the period from 1920-1942, Mayne Island had a mean annual rainfall of 687 mm (27 inches). Had those Mayne Island residents been solely dependent on rainwater catchment they would have been out of water for an extended period of time.

Finally, from the community planning perspective, if thinly scattered development occurs all over the island based on rainwater catchment for subdivision approval and the granting of building permits, and the rainwater catchment fails, the cost of providing community water services would be prohibitive, even if water is available.

MICHAEL LARMOUR,
BEDDIS ROAD

SLEGG LUMBER CLEARANCE

Inventory Reduction

- many clearance items
- many items below cost

**SALE ENDS DEC. 16, 2014
OR WHILE QUANTITIES LAST**

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Christmas Story Writing Contest

- Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.
- 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!

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Thurs. December 11th. Win a cash prize for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

DgiM DRIFTWOOD GULF ISLANDS MEDIA

Tel: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613
328 Lower Ganges Road
email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

FLAMES OF MEMORY: Islanders gathered in Centennial Park on Dec. 6 for the candlelight vigil marking the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which honours the lives of 14 women killed by a lone gunman at École Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. Among the park attendees were Sharyn Carroll and Kevin Vowles of Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, which organizes the annual event.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 10

Parking lot?

In the fall of 2015 BC Ferries will proceed with its Phase 1 plan to address the obvious problems with the Fulford Harbour terminal.

Unfortunately their current plan means that they will widen the existing road to incorporate a full third lane, including a pedestrian walkway. This widening of

the road will extend past the current Beaver Point Road exit and bring the road to the virtual edge of some of the houses along that stretch of road.

This is a very short-sighted solution that will destroy the ambiance of the community of Fulford forever. Where else could a ferry corporation get away with turning a public road into a parking lot for their business? Imagine if this was how Costco or your

local mall resolved their businesses' parking issues in other communities. On top of that, this will not address bus service, pick-up/drop-off, or short- or long-term parking issues.

BC Ferries has already purchased property on the water side of the road to facilitate a second-phase solution and so are committed to further expansion to address all issues at the terminal. The community of Fulford needs your support

to force BC Ferries to implement a long-range solution that enhances the community now and for the future rather than the current path to destroy what is left of the community.

The ferry needs to create the parking area and the supporting functions for its operation on its own land or through infill connecting the property it purchased. The infill of this small area of waterfront has already been compromised by

the current backfill for the existing parking area and will provide a better solution for all the problems and a future asset to the community.

Please write to your local MLA, BC Ferries and Ferry Commissioner Gordon Macatee and help get the right solution before it is too late and the community becomes a BC Ferries parking lot.

TONY MAUDE,
MORNINGSIDE ROAD

AVAILABLE NOW
at the **DRIFTWOOD OFFICE**

AN ISLAND CHRISTMAS
Song Book
Chords and Melodies
Songs of the Season
D&M



My name is Michaela Wells Rothwell. I have been a Financial Services Manager with BMO since April and a resident of Salt Spring since 2007. I have a good understanding of what it means to run a small business, having had my own as a bookkeeper. My role as a Financial Services Manager combined with being a mother to three boys, I understand the need to find the best solutions quickly to help your life run smoothly. Did you know BMO was the first bank on Salt Spring Island, and it opened in 1946? Please come in and say hello. Mention this ad and receive a small gift!



We're here to help.™

Just put your lips together

You know how to whistle, don't you? You just put your lips together and blow.

That's Lauren Bacall in *To Have and Have Not* murmuring perhaps the sexiest two sentences in the history of Hollywood cinema. As a hormone-besotted teenager I was paralyzed when I watched that scene unfold on the big screen.

And I wasn't even sure what she was talking about.

Oh, I knew about whistling — a simple act (just put your lips together and blow, stupid) — but with unknowable consequences. There was that time, for instance, that whistling almost got me killed.

I was 16 years old, working as a deckhand aboard the S.S. Federal Monarch, an oil tanker bound from Dartmouth, N.S. to Venezuela. I was hustling along the deck, off to daub some paint on a lifeboat, whistling, if memory serves, O Susanna, when a hand attached to a muscular brown arm came out of nowhere and grabbed me by the jaw.

"What you doin', mon?" asked the voice behind the arm. It belonged to the ship's bos'n, a burly Jamaican named Archie. My mouth was too scrunched up in his hand to do anything more than mumble.

"You whistle on dis ship again, I slit you t'roat."

He was smiling when he said it, but he sported a wicked-looking hooked knife on his belt and if it was a bluff, I wasn't about to call it. Nor would I whistle on that ship — or any ship — ever again. Turns out that sailors are a deeply superstitious lot, and whistling is considered to be an invitation to the Gods to sink your vessel.

Just put your lips together and



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

blow. That's all Bing Crosby did in his recording of *White Christmas*, but the man played his lips like Louis Armstrong blew trumpet. He whistled a solo that's engraved on the memories of millions. Just by putting his lips together.

Back in the 1960s I met a couple of Canucks who had spent a month on Gomera, one of the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. They'd hiked to the top of an island mountain and were baffled because the people they met along the way always seemed to be expecting them.

When they reached the top of the mountain, villagers were gathered around an open fire where a goat had been killed and roasted for them. A feast had been prepared. Understand that this was long before cell phones and WiFi. Gomera was an exceedingly rural island. Most of the inhabitants had no electricity or telephones.

What they shared instead was a phenomenon called "Silbo Gomero." It's a language consisting of two vowels and four consonants which could be combined to make some 4,000 "words."

All of them whistled. News of the "estranjeros" had been passed along ahead of them by "whistle" telegraph — islanders just putting their lips together and blowing.

There's a teenager named Walker Harnden down in North Carolina who's only 19 years old but he's already in the Guinness Book of Records. He got there by putting his lips together and blowing the highest note ever recorded (B7 in case you want to give it a shot).

Harnden admits that he "whistles all the time" — up to four or five hours a day.

A lucky thing for the kid that he never went to sea.

Bed linens, duvets, pillow and throws.

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Come to our Gourmet Corner for many local and international food delights, including

village

- dips • spices • preserves
- baked brie dishes and toppings

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AT THE NESPRESSO CLUB WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY COFFEE MACHINE*
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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CRAFT FAIRS: Above, Donna and Ron Ateah of Salt Spring CNC peer through the ornaments at the Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair, while at right is David Barnes with his FoundWood Designs products. This Sunday sees the Legion's sixth annual Christmas Craft and Collectables Fair at Meaden Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the Community Gospel Chapel's first annual Last Chance Christmas Craft Show on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the meantime, the Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft show and sale continues daily at Mahon Hall until Dec. 22. A special SSAC members appreciation event is on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3 to 5 p.m.



ArtSpring presents
 Bolshoi Ballet
The Nutcracker
 LIVE SATELLITE BROADCAST
 Sunday, December 21 - 9:55am
 \$21.95 / \$18.95 / \$12.95
 537-2102 | www.tickets.artspring.ca

BALLET

Nutcracker broadcasts from Russia

Bolshoi Ballet production a beautiful treat

BY **CICELA MÅNSSON**
 ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most beautiful of all ballets, *The Nutcracker* comes to the screen at ArtSpring in a special holiday performance on Sunday, Dec. 21, live from the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow.

The delightful Christmas Eve story by E.T.A. Hoffman sweeps its audience away into the magical world of make-believe.

The star of the show is the handsome Nutcracker prince, who comes to life with a little army of toy soldiers and a whole assortment of other Christmas gifts. They are drawn into battle with the devilish Mouse King and his band of mice who creep out from under the floorboards.

When the young real-life daughter Marie comes to rescue the Nutcracker prince, he transforms into a handsome boy and a budding romance is in the air.

Snowflakes dance, the Christmas tree sparkles, and Marie and her

prince sail into the stars. But all is not bright, for the Mouse King will return.

Tchaikovsky's lush melodies, gorgeous waltzes, a magic castle, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the incomparable Bolshoi Ballet company all come together in an enchanting holiday special perfect for all families.

The ballet screening runs from 9:55 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the theatre at ArtSpring.

Tickets are available through the ticket centre in person, online at www.artspring.ca or by phone at 250-537-2102.

SEASONAL MUSIC

Christmastide brightens afternoon

All Saints' presents well-loved event

One of the highlights of the Christmas season for many islanders is the musical event known as *Carols for Christmastide*.

Established over 10 years ago by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish, the hour-long program has become popular both as a recital and as an opportunity to sing along with some of the season's favourite carols.

This year the event falls on Wednesday, Dec. 17 and offers an uplifting program with talented musician and choir director David Storm at the piano and organ.

"All Saints' Choir will be leading the more familiar carols, with soloists performing a charming selection of seasonal gems that bring Christmas straight to the heart," explains a press release.

Solo sopranos Jean McClure and Connie Holmes have treats in store, including *I Wonder As I Wander*, the lovely reflective Christian folk hymn traditionally sung as a carol.

Holmes will then join alto Dale Storm, tenor Lyle Eide and bass Alan Robertson to form a quartet with beautiful settings of *O Holy Night* and *In the Bleak Midwinter*. The audience will also be treated to a taste of *Wind in the Willows*, while reader Audrey Wild has a sweet story to tell from

the last chapter of the book *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson.

Perfect for those who may not wish to drive at night, the concert starts at 2 p.m. in All Saints' By-the-Sea, where the ambiance and beautiful acoustics lend themselves to the intimacy of this seasonal music.

The music is free, however, all donations will be directed to the local food bank.

Festive refreshments will be available after the music and will include Sarah's famously delicious Christmas cake, Ros' yummy mince tarts and Linda's melt-in-your-mouth shortbread with coffee, tea and mulled apple juice.

Celebrating our 10th season!
 Bach on the Rock presents
The Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra
 Conductor and Music Director
Jim Stubbs
 in the fourth annual
Sing Along
 performance of
Handel's Messiah
Sunday, December 21, 2014
2:00 pm at Fulford Hall
 Tickets available at RE/MAX Salt Spring and at the door
 Adults \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Students \$5.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Cabaret carol program gets festive

Full emotional gamut covered in D.S. al Fine show

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With retail outlets rolling into full Christmas mode the minute the Halloween decorations come down, a person can reach maximum holiday music tolerance before the first Advent calendar window is opened on Dec. 1.

There's a world of difference, however, between canned tunes running on repeat over store speakers and a live performance of those same songs. It's akin to a non-sports fan seeing a live game and suddenly understanding what all the excitement is about while immersed in the communal energy.

This writer is admittedly a bit of a curmudgeon when it comes to both Christmas music and Canada's national game. But just as I have been won over by a stadium experience or two, I couldn't help but get into the holiday spirit during A Musical Christmas, an event put on by the same folks who brought us A Taste of Song earlier this year.

Produced by Deborah Inkster-Bain and Suzanna Laine, the Christmas show offers a pared-down version of May's spectacular cabaret ensemble, with three male and three female singers

plus an emcee, and a four-piece band led by Karen Arney.

On the night I attended, Julianna Slomka was unable to perform due to illness, leaving Laine and Inkster-Bain to take on her parts in addition to their own numbers, while Randy Marchi, Scott Merrick and Clark Saunders anchored the men's chorus. Newcomer Jason Sampson was an enthusiastic host, while band members Arney, Marchi, Jim Shultz and Dave Milutinovic were alternately as enthusiastic and as softly restrained as the occasion demanded.

With cabaret-style banter and a massive seasonal prop linking 25 song selections, the group covered perhaps the most complete collection of holiday tunes that could be devised. Traditional carols performed by the five singers provided a classic touch, while jazzier modern numbers produced toe-tapping, finger-snapping good times. There was even a nod to host location the Legion, with three songs related to the sorrows of war.

Along with buoyant group numbers, each singer had the opportunity to shine in solo pieces, although the two producers with their greater experience rightfully occupied a little more stage time than their male friends. Inkster-Bain demonstrated the talent that has made her a professional piano bar sensation with the soulful



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the D.S. al Fine group get into the holiday spirit in preparation for their cabaret style show A Musical Christmas. The final performance is this Sunday at the Legion.

Amy Grant tune Grown-up Christmas List. Laine, with cute blonde curls and curves encased in ruby velvet, became an excellent siren both in Santa Baby and Baby, It's Cold Outside (singing opposite Marchi).

Saunders performed a musical in-joke with Blue Christmas — he offers an annual sermon at the United Church on the topic — although his heartfelt rendition was no laughing matter. Marchi channeled Louis Armstrong using both his instruments (voice and trumpet) for Christmas in New Orleans, and Merrick

produced real emotion with I'll Be Home for Christmas.

With the final performance evening taking place this Sunday, Dec. 14, there really isn't any reason to resist the pull of holiday music any longer. And the dressed-to-the-nines cast ensures it's an entertaining and moving affair.

The music portion of the evening begins at 7 p.m., with an optional dinner by Legion chef Jose Barraza at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at Ganges Stationary, at the Legion, or at the door. People who buy in advance can choose their seats.

FUNDRAISER

Christmas reading benefits Kenyan girls

A Child's Christmas in Wales performance set for Dec. 20

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Father Edward Evanko will once again call upon his training as actor to assist a worthy cause when he performs A Child's Christmas in Wales on Dec. 20.

The event at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church promises to be a lovely way to honour the season, with Evanko's dramatic reading of the classic Dylan Thomas poem to be followed by a carol sing-along and Christmas treats. In addition to enjoying the entertainment, those who attend can also feel proud to be helping one of the parishioners in her monumental quest to provide a home and schooling for orphaned Kenyan school girls.

Sponsoring one or two children's annual school fees is not that uncommon among Salt Spring residents, but Rita Balachandran has taken philanthropy to a whole other level through her organization Action For God's Love. She personally financed the building of the Our Lady of Grace orphanage and school at the foot of Mount Kenya and

employs the 13 teachers and 19 other staff members who work there today.

"When I first started, there was no way I could pay for each student, so I said, 'I will pay the teachers,'" Balachandran explained.

Seven years ago, when the school opened, there were just seven girls to worry about. Funds raised from Evanko's Christmas performance will go a little way toward furthering the education needs of the 246 girls now enrolled.

Balachandran views the operation as a home rather than an institution. The complex is located on land donated by the Catholic diocese. In addition to Balachandran's house, where she lives nine months of the year, it includes four dormitories, a school house with eight classrooms plus three kindergarten rooms, gardens and animal barns.

Balachandran has become "Mama Rita" to her charges and indeed looks upon the students as part of a large extended family.

"Sometimes you think you haven't done much. They're just there and you're providing a home. But then when you see them growing up and doing these things . . . it's just very gratifying," she said.

The youngest girl at the school is just two years old — one of four sisters who Our Lady of Grace took in at the request of children's services when their mother died suddenly.

"I just add another double-decker [bed] or two. There's nowhere else for them to go," Balachandran said.

Students are expected to keep their end of the deal, though, or risk seeing their "scholarships" revoked.

"They have to keep their marks up. I'm very serious about that," Balachandran said.

Balachandran will see the school's first four students graduate from Grade 12 this year. One wants to study law and the others will most likely pursue a vocation. Learning practical skills such as farming, animal husbandry, cooking and tailoring is an important part of the program that complements the academic education.

"My aim was to give them something to fall back on so they can continue their life on their own," Balachandran said. "You educate them and then you send them out on the street, and then what is there?"

A Child's Christmas in Wales begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. Tickets will be available at the door.

AVAILABLE NOW
at the **DRIFTWOOD OFFICE**
AN ISLAND CHRISTMAS *Song Book*
Concerts and Activities Songs of the Season
Dgim

Land of Make Believe
Friday December 12th
7:30pm ArtSpring
Salt Spring Concert Band & Swing Shift
Music Director Dawn Hage & Derrick Milton
Adult \$18 / Student \$5 250 537 2102

JULIETTE'S HAIR STUDIO
296 Wilkie Way - 250 537-9542
Grand Opening - December 1984!
30 Wonderful Years and Still Enjoying My Lovely Clients
Open House:
Thursday, Dec. 11th
10am - 5pm
Refreshments & Specials

ArtSpring presents
community christmas sing-along
THU DEC 18 | 7:30pm free!
ArtSpring
Bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank

ArtSpring presents
Wagner Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg
The Metropolitan Opera HD LIVE
Live Broadcast Saturday, December 13 - 9am
537-2102 | www.tickets.artspring.ca

what's on this week



Wed. Dec 10

ACTIVITIES
Computer Help Drop-in. Every Wednesday with John S. and John K. at the Salt Spring Literacy centre. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 250-537-9717.
SD64 School Board. First meeting of new board. Election of positions on board 9 a.m. Public portion of meeting resumes at 1 p.m. School Board Office.
Foot Care For Seniors. A free presentation by home care nurse Maureen Gix for all island seniors. Meadowbrook Lounge. 2 p.m.
Poker Night. Hosted by Albert at The Local bar every Wednesday. Sign-up time is 6 p.m.
Extended Library Hours. Open to 7 p.m.
SS Film Festival Screening: The Rocket. Winner of the Amnesty International Film Prize. A tense and gorgeous journey through today's rural Laos. ArtSpring. 7:30 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. Dec 11

ACTIVITIES
Barb's Bakery & Bistro Night Market. Shop & Social featuring some of Salt Spring Island's finest artisans and a cheese/martini bar. Barb's Bakery & Bistro. 5 to 9 p.m.
National Theatre Live: Frankenstein. National Theatre's thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein returns for two shows at The Fritz Movie Theatre. The 4 p.m. show features Johnny Lee Miller as the creature and the 7 p.m. show stars Benedict Cumberbatch. Advance tickets at Island Star Video and Salt Spring Books.
Salt Spring Women's Basketball All levels of play welcome. Every Thursday (excluding school holidays) at the SIMS gym. 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Thur. Dec 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Open Mic With Ross & Dave. Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Unitarian Coffee Meeting. Discussion group with Amanda Tarling follows up on December ministry theme of courage. Morningside Organic Bakery & Cafe. 11:45 a.m.

Fri. Dec 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
An Evening of Magic. Conjuring Club public performance appropriate for appreciative adults and well-behaved youth. Free event with limited tickets available at the library. Salt Spring Public Library. 5 to 6 p.m.
Land of Make Believe Concert. The Salt Spring Concert Band and Swing Shift present a fantastical musical journey in two separate programs, plus a special whole-group finale. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Angry Hippies. Rock 'n' roll band at Moby's. 9 p.m.

Fri. Dec 12

ACTIVITIES
Christmas StoryTime. Christmas stories and games with children's author Pamela McCall. Children and families of all ages are welcome. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.
Friday Night Madness. Family fun swim at Rainbow Road Pool on Fridays. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Gong Meditation and Meditation Evening. Gaiana Yoga. 7 p.m.

Sat. Dec 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Stories and Songs for the Season. Dramatic readings and music with performers such as Arthur Black, Jan Rabson, Sue Newman, Ann Stewart, Richard Moses and Clark Saunders. Proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. SS United Church. 7:30 p.m.
Dope Soda. Ska/funk band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec 13

ACTIVITIES
Met Opera Live Broadcast: Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg. James Levine returns to Wagner with a signature run of this epic comedy. Johan Reuter sings the central role of Hans Sachs. ArtSpring. 9 a.m. start time.
Last Chance Christmas Craft Show. First annual event at Community Gospel Chapel. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas Market in the Park. Special holiday edition, featuring local food producers and artisans. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. Dec 13

ACTIVITIES
Visit With Santa. Moutat's Garden Shed. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Men's Soccer. Salt Spring FC hosts Bays United at Portlock Park with a kick-off time of 2:15 p.m.
Save the Sacred Headwaters. An evening of music, speakers, and discussion with silent auction, door prizes and dinner by donation. Fulford Hall. 5 p.m.
Kids Creative Writing Workshop. A two-part workshop led by Nicole McCarvill, a UBC graduate student of writing and librarianship. Register ahead of time. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 7 p.m.
Santa Ship. Annual visit by Lions Santa Ship from Bellingham, Wash. Boat arrives at Ganges Coast Guard Dock around 6:30 p.m. Santa hears kids' wish lists afterward at Moutat's Mall.

Sun. Dec 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Stories and Songs for the Season. See Saturday listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.
A Musical Christmas. Cabaret musical evening with optional dinner at the Salt Spring Legion. Doors at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 and show at 7 p.m.
Wesley Hardisty. Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sun. Dec 14

ACTIVITIES
Christmas Bird Count. Info and registration: Tim Marchant - tim@timmarchant.com.
Unitarian Fellowship. Monthly singing service with Barb Slater. Visitors welcome. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.
Women's Soccer. Salt Spring United hosts Sooke at the high school field at 12:30 p.m.
Singalong Messiah Rehearsal. Last chance to practice up for the fourth annual Singalong Messiah with the Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra. Salt Spring Baptist Church. 1 p.m.
Rollerblading. Fulford Hall. 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Unveiling Nita Brown - Celebrating the ArtCraft Family Past and Present. SS Arts Council hosts its annual membership appreciation event with a special tribute to one of SSAC's founding members, Nita Brown. Mahon Hall. 3 to 5 p.m.
Root Causes Book Launch. With author Elaine Kozak. Open house at ArtSpring. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mon. Dec 15

ACTIVITIES
ToddlerTime. For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Chess and Scrabble Club. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 2 to 5 p.m.

Tues. Dec 16

ACTIVITIES
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@janrabson.com.
Tech Tutoring With John. All topics, including Macs. Sign up for the appropriate date and time at the Salt Spring Island Public Library. 2 to 5 p.m.
Celebration of Trees Grand Opening. Admire beautifully decorated trees and vote for your favourite by putting an item for the Salt Spring Food Bank under it. Salt Spring Golf & Country Club. 12 noon. Display runs until Dec. 30.

Invite the whole neighbourhood to your garage sale with a classified ad. CALL 250.537.9933



Wed. Dec 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Carols for Christmastide. Anglican Christmas celebration at All Saints' By-the-Sea. 2 p.m.
Home for the Holidays Improv Spectacular. GISS Improv and guests present an evening filled with surprise gifts and improvised comedy, stories, characters and scenes. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Celebration of Trees. Admire beautifully decorated trees and vote for your favourite by putting an item for the Salt Spring Food Bank under it. Salt Spring Golf & Country Club. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Transitions Thrift Store's Birthday Party. Celebrate the 17th birthday of Transitions with chocolate cake, coffee and more. Transitions Thrift Store. 2 p.m.
Extended Library Hours. Open to 7 p.m.
Poker Night. See last Wednesday.
SongJam. See last Wednesday.
Computer Help Drop-in. See last Wednesday.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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Dec. 12 - 16
 Fri.-Tues. 7pm
 Sun. 4 matinee and 7pm.

National Theatre Live
Frankenstein

Dec. 11
 Thurs. 4pm matinee & 7pm.

THE HOBBIT
 OPENS Wed. Dec. 17th 7pm.

ST. VINCENT

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CINEMA

- St. Vincent** — Starring Bill Murray and Melissa McCarthy. Vincent, a drunken, gambling war vet, gets recruited by his new single-mom neighbour Maggie to watch over her 12-year-old son Oliver. Vincent's after-school activities involve visits to racetracks and strip clubs. Eventually the mismatched pair begin to help each other mature.
- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies** opens on Wednesday, Dec. 17.
- National Theatre Live: Frankenstein.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. Advance tickets at Island Star Video and Salt Spring Books. The 4 p.m. matinee features Johnny Lee Miller as the creature and the 7 p.m. show with Benedict Cumberbatch as the creature. National Theatre's thrilling broadcast of Frankenstein returns for a limited time due to unprecedented demand. Please note: National Theatre Live shows do not get released to DVD, and are available only in cinemas.

EXHIBITIONS

- Denys James** Open Ceramics Studio of functional, figurative and sculptural clayworks with demonstrations by the artist is at **182 Welbury Drive** on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 11, 12 and 13 from noon to 3 p.m.
- Gallery 8's** annual Christmas 8x8 Exhibition of Small Works by gallery artists runs at the Grace Point Square gallery through Jan. 3.

EXHIBITIONS

- Wintercraft Christmas show and sale** by Gulf Islands artisans, put on by the Salt Spring Arts Council, runs at **Mahon Hall** daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 22. Special SSAC members appreciation event on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Gerry Munneke-Camping** and **Simon Camping** are showing photos at **KizMit Galeria and Cafe** on Beaver Point Road on Thursdays through Sundays (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.-ish) in December.
- Anna McColm** is showing photos of Snow on Salt Spring at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until Dec. 13. **Up Close & Personal:** The photographic art of Bob Rogers will follow beginning Sunday, Dec. 14.
- Judy McPhee** has an exhibition of photographs at **TJ Beans** through December.
- An exhibit of knitting is in the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** and display case in December.
- Patricia Brown** shows artwork in the **ArtSpring lobby** through Dec. 21.
- Sam Lightman's** photography is at **Island Savings**.
- Roger Donnelly's** artwork is hanging at Penny's Pantry.
- 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 (250-537-9606) till February. Sculpture park open daily.

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ARTSPRING

Wagner's comic opera at ArtSpring

Christmas sing-along runs
Thursday, Dec. 18

BY CICELA MÅNSSON
ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Back at the Metropolitan Opera for the first time in eight years, Richard Wagner's monumental Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (The Master Singers of Nürnberg) comes to ArtSpring on Saturday, Dec. 13.

This spectacular production conducted by James Levine features Johan Reuter in the central role of Hans Sachs, Johan Botha as the young knight Walther, Annette Dasch as Eva, the daughter of master singer Veit Pogner (Hans-Peter Konig) and Karen Cargill as Magdalene.

And what's this? A Wagner comedy? Die Meistersinger is Wagner's only comic opera. (He wisely ditched a youthful

effort called Das Liebesverbot — The Ban on Love — which was performed just once in his lifetime; a planned second show drew an audience of three and was cancelled.)

The story takes place in Nürnberg in the middle of the 16th century, and is based on real events and a historical central character, Hans Sachs, the most famous of Nürnberg's master singers. And unlike most of Wagner's operas, this one features no overarching myths, no gods and not a single death. But it does have a nice ballet and a bit of a riot for good measure.

The plot involves a contest to win the hand of the lovely Eva, whose father has decided she is to marry the winner of the Master Singer competition. But (of course) Eva is in love with the young knight Walther, who is not a master singer, and thus the shenanigans begin.

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg is long

— note the earlier than usual start time of 9 a.m. — but there are two intermissions, and refreshments from Brigitte's Patisserie and Salt Spring Coffee will be served.

Community Sing-along

On Thursday, Dec. 18, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., islanders can put their own master singing skills to the test with ArtSpring's annual Community Sing-along. Favourite Christmas carols and other seasonal songs are on tap and everyone is invited to participate in the lively and rollicking event.

Arthur Black, Rasma Bertz, Don Conley, Adina Hildebrandt, Cicela Månsson, Deb Toole and friends are on board to share in the fun of the evening, as well as a surprise guest. The sing-along is free, but people are asked to bring some non-perishable food items for the food bank.

Cider and goodies will be served at intermission.

PERSONAL CREATIVITY

Women artists find empowerment

Reflections on confidence-building and self-discovery process

BY AHAVA SHIRA
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Last month, the Centre for Loving Inquiry presented Pieces of Her Story: A Festival of Women's Voices at ArtSpring.

A multi-media exhibit and performance, the two-week festival showcased the artful and heartfelt collaborations of a group of Salt Spring women artists, all of whom were students of A Year to Love, a creative mentorship program led by myself.

The culmination of the artists' personal and collective journey of self-discovery and artistic exploration, community members who visited the ArtSpring gallery during the festival "opened the gate" into a space that was at once "delicate, mysterious, heartfelt, insightful and reflective."

Although there was hesitation for many in the group when I first invited them to exhibit their work at ArtSpring, seizing the opportunity to share their artistic expressions with the community transformed their perceptions of themselves as artists.

"We were so supported," writer and storyteller Rineke Jonker said about the safe, nurturing space created for the artists during the year-long program.

The chance to create an installation for the group exhibit helped Jonker find the courage and freedom to walk through her fears and share her story of Debbie Dutton's Buttons. As part of the festival, Jonker also performed her story for a live audience in the ArtSpring theatre, which allowed her to finally let go of her doubts.

"One of the things I reflected on, going back to the first thing I wrote as a part of A Year to Love, is how my story has always been that I am not creative," said Jonker. "A Year to Love allowed me to change that story. The doubt, fear and other beliefs about not being an artist have fallen away." She is now moving forward from a place of excitement, instead of fear and worry of being "not good enough."

Other students overcame fears of exposure and being judged by their peers. One student was surprised by the range of responses she received for her work, from supportive praise and positive accolades to blank stares and no response. At first she felt disheartened, although it did create an inner dialogue about why and for whom she was creating the work, something she saw as a good thing. In being faced with this situation, she accessed a strength inside her she says is new.

She also discovered that when she was creating her piece, she wasn't concerned about what others would think.

"Only when faced with what I perceived as 'dislike or criticism' was I impacted."

The secret to my students' transformations lies in the practice of Loving Inquiry, which encourages students to experiment and play in an environment of acceptance, curiosity and openness. As a mentor, I support students to explore who they are, what matters to them, what media they are drawn toward and what they want to create. I also emphasize how my role lies in believing in the students until they believe in themselves.

Each of the artists who shared her work is now feeling more confident to go further, to take more risks and discover what else they want to create and share. They are now in the flow of their creativity, dreaming into their next story or poem, painting or film.

Not only was the art show a source of inspiration for the artists themselves, it also helped open others to the possibilities for their own creativity, and demonstrated how sharing personal stories with the community can be an exciting, nourishing experience.

Anyone interested in unleashing their creative potential and overcoming fears, doubts and other blocks is invited to contact me.

I can be reached at 250-537-8767 or ahavashira@gmail.com.

The next A Year to Love creative mentorship program starts in January.

6TH ANNUAL LEGION Christmas Craft & Collectables Fair
At Meaden Hall
Royal Canadian Legion
Sunday, Dec. 14
10am-3pm
FOR DETAILS CONTACT FRAN @ mummyearth@gmail.com



NEWS UPDATES Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
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Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Seniors program gratitude

Salt Spring Better at Home began rolling out its subsidy-based service program in July. Offering housekeeping, yard work, simple home repair, accompanied errand/shopping rides to seniors, Salt Spring Better at Home is now, five months later, operating at capacity.

"This is a success with a downside," said Shellyse Szakacs, Seniors Wellness Coordinator, "that being the necessity of waitlists for our subsidized services."

There are still many of the long-standing Wellness programs available: senior peer counselling, friendly visiting and voices, and our new friendly readers in partnership with Salt Spring Literacy. The Seniors' Wellness Program has also renewed its VanGo program for seniors who, no longer driving themselves, wish to attend social activities outside their homes. "Yes, Better at Home also takes you to town!"

The Seniors' Wellness program is looking to expand its van activities program to make space for more seniors who would like to go on outings and is seeking volunteer drivers. If you are interested in helping seniors get out and about or in becoming a friendly visitor, please call the Seniors' Wellness office 250-537-4607.


"As we say goodbye to 2014 and start looking ahead for 2015, the Seniors Wellness Program would like to take this opportunity to say a very special THANK YOU to all of our volunteers: our senior peer counsellors, our friendly visitors, voices and readers, and our housekeepers, yard workers, handypersons and our drivers. Their contributions have made a difference in the lives of many seniors.

We wish you all a joyous holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2015!

— Shellyse Szakacs, program coordinator and Evelyn Smith, program assistant

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Seniors Program

Holiday Hours
(office support only)

December 22nd, 23rd, 24th and
December 29th, 30th, 31st and January 2nd
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

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people&community

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

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



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Therapeutic riding group goes 'world class'

Program coordinator and head riding instructor welcomed

BY DEB MCGOVERN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association is excited to welcome two vital new members to our team.

Erika Ponsford has come on board as program coordinator, responsible for ensuring all aspects of the riding program run smoothly. Ponsford is ideally suited for taking on the challenge of making SSTRa sustainable, having worked with non-profit organizations, both large and small, for over 25 years.

She grew up in Port Alberni, and she and husband Doug and daughter Kate have lived on Salt Spring for 12 years, moving here after working in Toronto and New York. Quite a change of pace!

She also has the equestrian know-how, owns her own horse and has ridden since an early age. SSTRa is



Erika Ponsford, left, with Laddy and Jane James.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

very fortunate to have an individual with Ponsford's enthusiasm, skills and experience to help keep the therapeutic riding program moving ahead.

Jane James is the new head riding instructor and we could not have hoped to find an individual with such an impressive resume in

the field of therapeutic riding, right here on Salt Spring. James has just retired from teaching at Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association, an organization she was instrumental in founding and where she was executive director for many years. James is a Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association coach and exam-

iner of therapeutic riding instructors in Canada and also sits on CanTRA's board as treasurer.

James has dedicated years to developing para equestrian sport both here at home in Canada and internationally. Back in 1996, James was Canadian team manager for the first Paralympic Games to include the equestrian sport of para-dressage and continued in this role until the Athens Games of 2004. Since then James has been travelling internationally as a steward at three World Equestrian Games, two Paralympic Games as well as other events.

To have someone with James' expertise, experience and reputation involved with our community program is extraordinary. James will be an invaluable, truly world-class resource to SSTRa's team of instructors, horses and most important of all the many riders — children, youth and adults — with special needs who enjoy and benefit from the lessons SSTRa provides.

For more information about the program, see www.sstr.a.ca.

Photos with Santa

CHILDREN'S PHOTOS
December 6th & 20th
PET PHOTOS: Dec. 13th

Mouat's Home Hardware
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INTERNATIONAL AID

Solar cookers prove life savers in Lesotho

Donations make great Christmas presents

Salt Spring's Raging Grannies group is once again promoting the Lesotho Solar Cooker Project, which sees islanders help buy an essential item for African families.

Grannies member Jill Willmott explains that every year two Canadian volunteers pay their own way to South Africa where they purchase stoves, pots and foodstuffs, and then take them to locally chosen villages in Lesotho for

demonstration and distribution to the neediest grandmothers.

"Can you imagine having to walk six to eight kilometres to gather wood to cook your meals?" writes one faithful annual donor. "Well, that's what some grandmothers do every day to feed the grandkids they are looking after because their parents have died of AIDS. Solar cookers and pots are life savers for these grandmothers. Furthermore, all the money donated goes towards buying these sun-stoves and pots and the foodstuffs used to demonstrate their use; no part of it goes

towards administration. Once I read about the project I decided this was a very worthy cause, because I knew 100 per cent of my money was going directly to help these grandmothers, and I have made a donation every year since."

Willmott notes that donating to the solar cooker project in someone's name is a good Christmas present for people who already have everything they need.

For more information or to donate, contact Willmott by phone at 250-537-8343 or email at jillwillmott@gmail.com.

Community Gospel Chapel
1st Annual Last Chance Christmas Craft Show

Saturday, December 13, 2014
10am - 4 pm

147 Vesuvius Bay Road

Free admission *Lots of parking*

ENTERTAINMENT

Magic show at library

Salt Spring Public Library hosts a free Evening of Magic, presented by the Conjuring Club, on Friday, Dec. 12 from 5 to 6 p.m.

The Conjuring Club consists of apprentice magicians who meet in the library on Friday afternoons under the tutelage of Shaun Luttin. The group of eight- to 15-year-olds has been hard at work practising a variety of magic tricks, including coin, card and rope tricks.

"The audience should come ready to be entertained by their skillful sleight-of-hand, finely tuned showmanship and abundant magical talent," states a library press release. "This will hopefully be the first of an annual tradition."

The free tickets are at the library.

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TRAVEL

Kos looks back on lifetime of travel

Tours formed lasting friendships

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As an author and illustrator, Maggie Snee knew exactly what to do with a camera full of pictures and a mind full of memories from a 2012 trip to South East Asia led by Salt Spring's Kay Kos; she produced a photo book.

The book recounts rickshaw rides through Hanoi, dining on seafood in Ha Long Bay, a cross-country train journey aboard the Unification Express, more traffic bedlam in Ho Chi Minh, elephant rides and border crossings, a river journey on the Mekong and dazzling temple architecture.

More than a list of must-see South East Asian sites, however, the book shows why Kos' tours have kept participants returning for more than 20 years: the friendships and the smiles.

Kos began to offer tours in the late 1980s, when she worked for the school district's continuing education program. The early trips focussed on shorter excursions to Vancouver Island, the province's north and the Interior. Funds from these initial trips subsidized many of the evening courses provided to islanders who sought to expand their education.

When the district discontinued its continuing education program, Kos wasn't ready to give up something she felt so passionately about. She soon began tours for adventurous islanders on a private basis.

"I decided to do it by myself," she said in a recent interview.



Kay and David Kos will celebrate retirement from the travel business with a trip to South East Asia.

Some of those early trips featured bus driver extraordinaire Hal Wright, who combined a deep knowledge of B.C. with a keen wit.

Kos had become friends with many tour participants, and people kept asking when and where she was off to next. So high was the demand that Kos began to work at Marguerite Lee's Travel Shop (which has since changed to UniGlobe) in Ganges once a week.

The bus tours continued, and

Kos organized her first overseas journey to the United Kingdom in 1996.

"It was a beautiful trip," Kos recounts of the journey through Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

With help from her husband David, who has extensive ESL teaching experience in South East Asia, Kos' European tours expanded to the Orient about 12 years ago. The couple has since spent a portion of every winter in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

David's connection with schools and charitable organizations across the region offered tour participants a path to meet some of the locals.

Anyone looking to get in a few rounds of golf or chill at the all-you-can-eat beachside buffet was in store for a shock.

"Our focus is cultural trips," she said, "We went where most tourists don't go; it was a discovery, really."

Kos' excursions usually catered to between 15 and 24 people and lasted up to 24 days. Most participants were well travelled and curious but had always found a reason to hesitate when it came to South East Asia.

Kos attributes the success of her trips to the mindset of the tour's participants. She said the wonders of travelling only begin to reveal themselves when people share an "openness to the moment" and can eschew their day-to-day comfort zone.

The tours have spurred friendships and book clubs on the island. Participants often gather for dinner to reminisce or talk of upcoming adventures. Kos and her clients continue to support rural schools, orphanages and other charitable projects in the region.

"It's not a job; we all became friends," she said.

With her last trip — a small-group excursion to Port Alberni in early September — in the books, Kos and her husband have already launched their unofficial retirement. They'll soon board a Bangkok-bound flight at YVR, but this time it's just the two of them and that healthy appetite for adventure.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Winter season sees switcheroos

Next week's combinations a mystery

BRIDGETRICKS

eroo partnerships, what with even more players heading for warmth, such as Gillian Mouat, Patricia Hewett, Catherine Gardiner and Ted Baldwinson.

One of the unchanged pairs sticking it out here came out on top, though, namely the Thomas-Taylor combo. Second place went to Lynn Thorburn, this time with Jennifer Quick in a farewell performance before leaving the island for the big city of Victoria. In the third spot were Jean Elder and Oleh Mycyk, and George Laundry partnered Jeff Bell to land in fourth place. What combinations will the next week bring?

For info about these games, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorage@shaw.ca. You'd get a warm welcome.



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Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966

BY JILL EVANS
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

*November's sky is chill and drear,
 November's leaf is red and sear.*

— Sir Walter Scott, Marmion (1513)

So of course it was raining on Nov. 24, but there were six full tables of players for bridge, meaning a return to Howell movements with everyone moving around. George Laundry and Paul Retallack led the parade, with Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor following. Third place went to Liz and Oleh Mycyk, with Flo Laundry and Lynn Thorburn in the fourth spot. But it was to be a fare-

well to several regulars who were escaping to warmer climes, such as Candyman Nick Beringer, artist Patricia Sutherland stepped into his shoes and managed to make them fit pretty well, so she will be manning (womaning?) the computer and posting results online during his absence. Mahalo, Paul, for all you've been doing.

Then it became December, and it was not only chill and drear but snowy and icy to boot. And "How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon," asked Dr. Seuss. Four and a half tables managed to get to Seniors on Dec. 1, and there were a lot of switch-

ISLAND LIFE

Zuri arrives for new life in B.C.

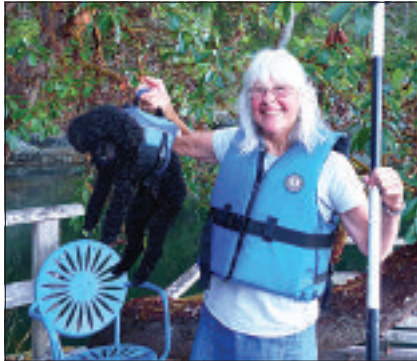


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tamar Griggs and Zuri in a life jacket at Bold Bluff.



Tamar Griggs

TALES FROM BOLD BLUFF

Bold Bluff writer adopts rescue dog from California

Most of you who know me know that my beloved Shepadoodle dog, Daisy, morphed into a toy poodle named Zuri (which means "precious" in Swahili).

I think Daisy, happy and free, joyfully brought me this little guy to be my perfect companion in my new life in Ganges. He weighs about 7.5 pounds! He is a relaxed snuggle-bug, bright, loyal, playful, alert and friendly to all dogs and people. How blessed I am that this little guy came into my life to bring me joy and companionship.

He certainly does not think he is "little" — his soul is as big as the world. Some of you who have seen him, exclaim, "Daisy shrunk!"

Zuri is a rescue dog from San Diego, Calif. Someone dumped him off at a rescue centre with two other siblings. Two twin sisters who work at Rancho La Puerta, where my daughter Maya teaches yoga, take rescue dogs, train them and find homes for them.

Connie adopted Zuri, fell in love with him, wanted to keep him, but she wanted a five-pound dog. When Zuri reached seven pounds she emailed me and

asked if I wanted him. It was perfect timing as Maya was coming to Tacoma in mid-August. She brought the little guy with her, and what a delight he is!

Shortly after arriving in Ganges, we hiked out to Salty's Cabin at Bold Bluff. It was fun watching him sniff all the intoxicating scents of our B.C. forests. He trotted ahead of me, always stopping to turn around with his right paw held up, watching to be sure I was following. Growing up in the mountains of Baja, Calif., he never was acquainted with the ocean and boats. When we arrived at the tiny cabin perched on the edge of the sea, I made a cup of tea and sat in a chair on the deck with Zuri snuggled on my lap, letting him soak up all the sounds of startling kingfishers, herons and gulls.

He nimbly scampered up and down the steep, mossy rocks of Bold Bluff, and lay like a rag doll on my lap for three hours while I continued photographing the wildlife in Sansum Narrows from my perfect blind under the old-growth Douglas fir tree on the steep bluff.

He never spooked when seals splashed or gulls cried. I was amazed. Here was a puppy who tolerated my sitting three to four hours in a tiny blind so I could continue my work.

A friend recently said that once you love a dog and lose, your heart cracks open, and you are ready to love a dog again, and again. Losing a precious being is hard. Somehow we manage to heal and welcome love into our lives over and over again.



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

A GLOWING GOOD TIME: From top, Lynsey Benson of Hastings House begins to create her entry in Thursday's Glowtini Contest; The Local Blackberry Blast made by Veronika Bebrova of The Local; top four winners, from left, Tom Messer of Salt Spring Inn, Cam Bremner of Moby's Pub, Melinda Divers from Barb's Bakery and Moonshine Mamas, and Alex Reid of Rock Salt. Reid earned top kudos from judges, with Divers second and Bremner and Messer tied for third.



Photos with Santa

CHILDREN'S PHOTOS
December 6th & 20th
PET PHOTOS: Dec. 13th

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Salt Spring Island

CHRISTMAS

Community Christmas dinner returns to Meaden Hall

All welcome to attend free event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A committed army of volunteers is busy this season, preparing a special gift for fellow islanders in the form of the annual community Christmas dinner at Meaden Hall.

Celebrating its 15th year in action, the dinner is a non-institutional gathering that feels like family at a time when some people are lacking in that area. Perhaps it's the fact that volunteers often bring their kids to help out, or

maybe it's just the unspoken motto of "community serving community" that makes the offering unique.

"We're appealing to the whole community, but especially to those who wouldn't otherwise have a Christmas celebration," said John Lugsdin, who has coordinated the event with his wife Diane for the past four years. "There's a lot of community in standing in line, loading up a plate and then standing in line again for a second portion. It provides people to be with."

One of the features in place to make sure all community members feel welcome is the

free price tag, even those who can afford to pay are forbidden to, so that no one feels singled out for charity.

Plans for getting more seniors out to enjoy the day outside their residential facilities is in the works, with ideas for providing bus transportation.

"It is a wonderful time for them to see people they don't normally see," said Richard Dick, a longtime kitchen manager at the event. "A lot of people aren't there for the food. They're there for the visiting."

Many community sponsors and a committed bunch of volunteers are required to

pull off the dinner. The Lugsdins begin their work in early November in securing donations from local businesses, in the form of both food and cash. While the island's grocery stores provide the heavy lifting in terms of food donations, many others are also responsible for making the day a success.

Salt Spring Coffee keeps the volunteers going starting at 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 24, when they show up at Meaden Hall for food prep, set-up and decorating. More coffee is needed on the actual day, with between 100 and 150 cups consumed just in the half hour

before dinner is served. A new practice the Lugsdins introduced two years ago is to open at 11:30 a.m. instead of waiting for noon when the dinner begins to be served.

Other important sponsors who contribute small but important details include Barb's Bakery and Bistro, which supplies the difficult-to-make vegetarian gravy. Embe Bakery provides all the pre-cubed bread necessary for dressing and cookies for kids.

The meal itself can involve the full turkey dinner, salmon, or vegetarian options. Dick said the cooks are especially vigilant regarding the latter,

making sure no spoon ever crosses over into the wrong pot.

Entertainment begins with coffee at 11:30 and resumes during the second half of the meal, after most of the lineup's happy chaos has subsided.

Anyone who is having doubts about whether to attend should consider the fact the dinner is as much a gift for those preparing and serving it as it is for those who drop in.

"It leaves you feeling very positive on Christmas Day, which is what you want," Lugsdin said.

expert ADVICE

250-537-9933 OR SALES@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

Dental



DR. BOB MCGINN

Snoring

If you or your bed partner are aware that you snore, you should be checked for an extremely serious medical disorder known as Sleep Apnea, (stopping breathing for at least 10 seconds). This usually results from an upper airway obstruction and may be able to be treated with an oral appliance fabricated by a Dentist trained in this procedure. Sleep Apnea can result in cessation of breathing perhaps 100's of times per night and can significantly lower night time blood oxygen levels, affecting virtually every degenerative disease from Alzheimer's to Heart Disease and Diabetes. Sleep Apnea/Snoring also affects relationships, and bed partners can lose sleep as well. To see if you qualify for treatment with an oral appliance, phone for a confidential assessment appointment. Substantially discounted prices are in affect for oral appliance treatment started before November 1, 2014.

Dr. Bob McGinn
FAMILY DENTISTRY
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#2201 Grace Point Square 250-537-1616

Cremation

The way to go!

Cremation has become the new way to go as it were, and funeral service providers are adapting well to the changes, including options for memorial services through to their selection of cremation urns. The vessel in which the final ashes are placed, can and should be an expression of one's character and passions. From gardeners to golfers, from spiritual to simply special, the vessel should be both provocative and uplifting, that is to say, befitting its contents. To paraphrase a letter from Saint Paul to the Corinthians, "We are but earthen vessels and within us lies a treasure more valuable than gold." Gold indeed!

Earthen Vessel sells cremation urns. Single edition works of art, exquisitely crafted by Canadian artisans. To view our selection, please visit our on-line gallery at www.earthenvessels.ca or call 1.778.533.3635 to visit our on-island gallery. They are also available through Hayward's Funeral Service.

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JOHN REID

Chiropractic

Always try Chiropractic first!

Except of course where there is obvious need for First Aid, or in the case of a life threatening crisis. That might sound like confusing advice at first.

You see, the definition of TOTAL HEALTH is, "All systems, working 100% efficiently, all of the time." It has nothing to do with how you might feel at any given moment.

The chiropractor's primary responsibility is to restore the function of the Spine and Nervous System, to the best possible level of efficiency available to each person.

Spinal misalignments exist in every person. Babies and small kids, all experience very subtle, jerks, bumps and falls and often the head and neck are whipped even if only to a small degree. The effects compound.

By 5 yrs old, on average we have suffered approximately 2000 falls, 200 of which were significant; none of which we remember. This leads to postural distortion and eventually skeletal pain of some kind in 98% of people.

To check your true health status, and body efficiency level, make an appointment to see a chiropractor soon.....ideally, before you are in pain.

Chances are, you'll be glad you did.

Dr. Bob Richmond
250.538.2262
#103 LANCER BLDG., 323 LOWER GANGES RD.



Real Estate

A Time For Thanks...



JAN MACPHERSON

As this holiday season advances we are all reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province, and in this country.

To my clients, friends, and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change and transition.

In 2014 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address our challenges ahead.

*Peace, Good Will, Prosperity,
And Good Health To All !*

Jan Macpherson - GOLD AWARD 2013/2014
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Fitness Expert

What Can I Do Over The Holidays To Reduce Stress?



BRENDA AKERMAN

With the Christmas Season upon us, we can all feel a little more stress in our day to day life. You start to put things off, or you say I'll miss just one fitness Class, then another!! THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA!

Exercise improves blood flow to your brain, bringing additional sugars and oxygen that may be needed when you are thinking intensely. When your neurons function more intensely, a toxic waste can build up, which fogs our thinking. Exercise speeds the flow of blood through your brain, moving the waste through faster.

After swimming a few laps in the pool or participating in a Aqua Fit Class, you will have more energy, feel calmer and be better focused.

Keeping your regular exercise routine, or starting a new one, can give you the fitness and stamina to make it through the demands of the festive season and beyond for a healthier you all year long.

Rainbow Road indoor pool
250-537-1402 • 262 Rainbow Road

Mechanic

Holiday trips in cold weather may require more than a well prepared vehicle



GYLE KEATING

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>

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DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM GIFTS	INFORMATION	INFORMATION




Valerie Screaton
August 30, 1943 - November 26, 2014

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our Wife, Mum, Gran and Great Gran. Val had many friends on Saltspring Island and we know you will all have a special memory of her. Smile when you are reminded of her! Grow a flower in your garden for her! Think of her when the sun is shining!

Thank you Charmaine for making the time we had left so special!

A celebration of life will be held in the new year.



CLARK LITTLE
May 02, 1986 to December 09, 2003

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too. We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keepsake, with which we will never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts. A million times we've wanted you. A million times we cried. If love could only have saved you, you never would have died. It broke our hearts to lose you. But you didn't go alone. For a part of us went with you... the day God called you Home.

- Author Unknown

Salt Spring HOSPICE



We make a life out of what we give to others.

250-537-2770
saltspringhospice.org



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A thank you to Joe Clarke, Cal Steel and Dave and Kay Kos for all their care and kindness and to all our friends who supported and respected Jerry's wishes giving him what he wanted. To die quietly and spaciouly at home. Without you we could not have managed on our own. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Alkoff family, Gay, Rene, Rose and Flora.

Dear Pharmasave Customers:

Our Customer Appreciation Day in December will be:
Thursday, December 18th
(as we will be closed on Christmas Day)

All customers receive 15% off most items in the store.

Wishing you and your family all the very best this festive season!

Jane Wright
May 6, 1953 - Dec. 1, 2014

We are greatly saddened to announce that Jane Wright (nee Barker) passed away on December 1st, at the age of 61.

She was predeceased by her father and mother Tom and Mary (nee Adams) Barker and her son Jack.

Jane is survived by her husband John, daughter Kate (Jason) Burrows, sons Nick and Henry, granddaughter Olivia, sisters Nicky (Mike) Taylor and Julia (Mike) Badham, and goddaughter Allison (nee Drake) Riley.

Born in Toronto, raised in Ottawa, Jane attended Queen's University and received degrees in Arts and Education. After graduation and marriage in 1975, Jane moved to BC, teaching school in Fruitvale, Trail and Surrey before continuing on to Vancouver, a place that became home for her.

Jane moved to Australia in 1981 and began raising a family. She made homes in Sydney Australia, Tumbler Ridge BC, Greymouth New Zealand and many times in Vancouver settling there in 1988. It never mattered to her children where they lived, as long as they were always home with Mum.

Jane was an active volunteer at her children's schools, the scorekeeper in softball and baseball and always a participant in her children's activities.

While raising her children Jane Barker Wright began to write, and had two novels published as well as multiple short stories and poems. As the children grew up Jane returned to painting and her portraits were shown successfully in Vancouver and on Saltspring. Jane walked miles for her art.

Throughout her life, she was an avid reader, a cryptic crossword expert, a Scrabble addict, a long range walker and an accomplished gardener. During the last 10 years she traveled extensively, with Easter Island and anywhere in Italy being her favourite destinations. Jane's second home was at Cusheon Lake on Saltspring. At first the island represented the annual one week family vacation and progressed to spending more time on Saltspring than anywhere else.

Her family, the extended Barker and Wright families and all her friends will miss her dearly.

We were all truly fortunate to have had such a person as a friend, a sister, a wife, a mother. Most fortunate for Jane was that she became a grandmother.

Special thanks to the BCCA medical staff (Dr Ho), Homecare (Sarah) and Jane's family doctor (Dr Storey) who took such good care of her and helped her to battle with dignity.

A party to say farewell will take place in the spring.

Hopefully everything reminds loved ones Virtue existed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

Thinking of volunteering somewhere?

Check out opportunities at:
www.volunteersaltspring.com
or phone Anne at 250-537-2054

CRD
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INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED??

Volunteers wanted to serve as members of various Commissions

Terms are for two years, starting January 1 each year.

Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission - includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. PARC is responsible for the establishment, ongoing operation and maintenance of community parks, trails and recreation services and facilities.

Salt Spring Transportation Commission - includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission serves in an advisory role to the CRD and to BC Transit on matters related to the transit service and to transportation related community needs and projects. On transit matters, the Commission advises on bus service funding, schedules, routes and other details of the service.

Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission - includes 7-9 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission is currently implementing a community economic development strategy for the island.

Application forms are available by email at Saltspring@crd.bc.ca
OR
at the CRD Electoral Area office at 145 Vesuvius Bay Road
Mon to Fri 8:30am-4:30pm
Phone 537-4448 for more information


Please submit your application form to:
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or Saltspring@crd.bc.ca

INFORMATION

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 22

CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

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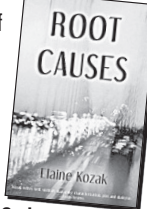
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COMING EVENTS

We are celebrating the release of **ROOT CAUSES**
A mystery by Elaine Kozak

Inspired by the creation of Garry Oaks Vineyard

Open House at ArtSpring
Sunday, December 14, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.



WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE

Saturday Dec 13, 9:00am - 2:00pm
at Built Environment (BE).
Next door to Barb's.

ATTENTION INSTALLERS. Many items at cost. Flooring adhesive, grout, mortar latex, paint & painting supplies, concrete refinishing supplies. Reduced pricing on American Clay & pigment.

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IT ALL HAS TO GO!

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

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www.blackpress.ca. You can also go to http://v1.bbb.org/directory/ and click on the 2014 BBB Accredited Business Directory

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103 BONNET AVE. - Lions Garage Sale & Drop Offs: Fridays & Saturdays only.

Built Environment Warehouse Clearance, next door to Barb's Buns, Sat. Dec. 13, 9am - 2pm.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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Professionally renovated and inspected (with permits) this home has too many comforts to list.

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1,068 SF for lease, Merchant Mews nr. Ganges. Skylights, baydoor, upstairs office.

1,127 SF at Merchant Mews near Ganges. Elegant office unit, mezz., conf. rm.

UPPER GANGES CENTRE 2nd Floor - 1 prof. office, Chair Lift, street level retail space.

HOMES FOR RENT

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RENTALS

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1994 GOLDEN FALCON 26 ft. camper, stove, walk-in shower, microwave, back bedroom, elec. furnace.

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OLDE STYLE - Converted Gilletter 35' X 10', 125hp Chrysler Crown gas engine.

Invite the whole neighbourhood to your garage sale with a classified ad. CALL 250.537.9933. GARAGE SALE logo.

This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor www.sunstarastrology.com

Tip of the Week: December 12, 2014 or 12-12-2014, may not have quite the same impact as 12-12-2012 had, but it does present its own opportunity to speak of some of the virtues of the number 12.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The sparks of new adventure are igniting a revolutionary spirit. The time has come to take action to break through old existing barriers and limitations.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) As your confidence levels steadily rise, they may also be pushing other issues to the surface. This is how healing occurs sometimes and it can produce a healing crisis.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) As your horizons widen so too is your perspective; like a revolving door each influences the other.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) The current flow is providing some needed inspiration. Your optimism and enthusiasm levels are on the rise.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Enjoying as much time close to home as you can is a lingering theme, or at least your dream.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) The sky is not the only limit; you can count your imagination in too. Your ambitions now include a weave of beauty and order.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) It is natural to want more but it is not necessarily stuff. Perhaps you want more involvement, or collaboration, or maybe opportunity, grace, charm or power.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) You are on the threshold of new adventures or perhaps you have already stepped through.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) Sometimes we have to dig deeper than others. Your reach is to hidden reserves and resources.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) The world is changing. Some call it the quickening, while others say ascension others yet speak of end times.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) The launches of new directives, both social and professional are underway. Sometimes opportunity is linked to who you know, sometimes to what, and often to both.

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



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

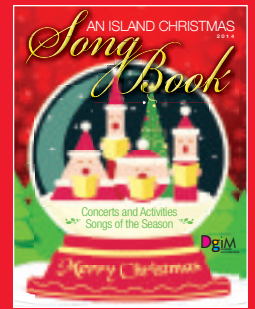
SERVED UP: Fulford Elementary School students Devyn McCrea, above, and Rebia Bartrim, right, play volleyball in a friendly Monday match with their Salt Spring Elementary School counterparts.

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WRESTLING

Salt Spring wrestlers launch new season

Novice athletes impress in Courtenay

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Head coach Leon Esquivel is always a tad nervous before each wrestling season, but results from a young new crop of island wrestlers offer him reason to anticipate great things ahead.

“For the first tournament of the season, I think the results we got were amazing,” he said.

Esquivel’s rookie wrestlers took to the mats at the 2014 novice invitational championships in Courtenay last week, earning a number of impressive finishes.

Danny Villa-Gomez sprang to the top of the 51-kilogram division for a gold medal. The 13-year-old Phoenix School student was also named the tournament’s most outstanding wrestler in his division.

His sister, 14-year-old Cathy Villa-Gomez, was equally impressive with a bronze medal in the 54-kg girls competition.

William Rithaler finished fourth in the 39-kilogram class, placing only one point away from a medal. Daniel Mitera finished sixth in the competitive senior boys’ 67-70-kg weight class.

Esquivel said the newcomers have bonded well with the team’s more experienced athletes. He’s optimistic about the

long season ahead. “They’re a new generation,” he said. “We’re working really hard and hopefully we’ll do well.”

“They’re a new generation. We’re working really hard and hopefully we’ll do well.”

LEON ESQUIVEL
Head coach, Salt Spring Wrestling

Salt Spring’s entire wrestling team travels to the annual Cougars invitational on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Cowichan Secondary School.

Although the team has only just begun to compete, Salt Spring wrestlers started practising in September. Esquivel said the long training regime is essential to ensure a strong performance during the short, intense tournament season.

“They need to get ready,” he said. “Everybody is getting mature and more experienced.”

Many young athletes appreciate wrestling’s fitness and strength-building aspects, especially when it comes to staying in shape for other sports like soccer or volleyball.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Danny Villa-Gomez of Phoenix School with medals earned at a novice championship event in Courtenay.

“It requires elasticity, force and stamina,” Esquivel said.

The team is always looking for more competitive and recreational wrestlers. Children curious about the sport are asked to drop by the Middle

School gym on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays between 6 and 8 p.m.

“The idea is just to give the kids an opportunity to explore another possible sport,” Esquivel said.

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ARIZONA IRONMAN

Hayden overcomes tough day in Tempe

Smile Train fundraising exceeds \$5,000

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Richard Hayden felt good through much of what he'd anticipated being his final Ironman race.

He'd just set a personal best in the event's opening 3.86-kilometre swim and cruised through a nearly six-hour cycling stage. Having laced up his sneakers for the grand 42.2-kilometre run finale, Hayden felt strong and in control. Everything soon changed, and he found himself seated, sick and shivering on the side of the road.

Hayden's years of training and experience had resulted in a DNE.

"It was a tough day for sure," he wrote in an email following the Nov. 15 event.

"I was either dehydrated or picked up something in the lake water. Either way, I made the choice to be done at that point."

Hayden, who has completed multiple Ironman competitions, may have missed the finish line, but he's learned several valuable lessons in defeat.

According to Lynn Thompson, a spokesperson for the Salt Spring Sneak-

ers running club, knowing when to pack it in when the going gets tough is the mark of a smart and mature athlete.

Hayden ranked 45th among 354 competitors after the swim component. Following the bike ride, Hayden was still 59th among 344 racers. Ten participants had already bailed by that point.

"I am deciding whether I want my last Ironman to be unfinished."

RICHARD HAYDEN
Salt Spring runner

Before and after the race, Hayden spent some valuable time with his father. The island-based dentist also raised more than \$5,000 for Smile Train, a charitable organization that provides corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates.

With the competition behind him, he now faces the toughest choice of all.

"I am deciding whether I want my last Ironman to be unfinished," he said.

RUNNING

Sneakers host Prediction Run

Food bank fundraiser nets \$500

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Sneakers hit the ground running for the sixth consecutive year to raise money for an important community cause.

Nearly 20 adults and five children participated in runs of between two and 10 kilometres on the weekend.

Runners competed not based on final times but rather on how accurately they could predict their finishing time for the event. Andrew Haigh's winning differential between predicted and actual time for his 10-kilometre race was seven seconds.

Haigh may have edged out competitors Janice Dickie, Eric Ellis and René Widmer by mere seconds to raise the championship trophy, but the day's real winners were the many islanders who will benefit from the Sneakers' \$500 contribution to Salt Spring's food bank.

The impressive result brings the Sneakers' contributions to more than \$2,000 since the event began. The 2014 Prediction Run represents the highest fundraising total in the event's history.

"Another first was the fact that nine of the runners were within 60 seconds of their predicted time," said Lynn Thompson, spokesperson for the Sneakers.

The coveted trophy for the "predictionally challenged" went to Doris Neufeld, who narrowly edged out Phyllis Wakelyn.

SOCCER

Old Boys 'slay the beast' at home

SS United trounces Vic Scottish

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys emerged victorious with a pair of late goals to seal a 2-0 decision against the Centaurs on Sunday morning at the GISS field.

"In Greek mythology a contest with Centaurs is a metaphor for the conflict between the lower appetites and civilized behaviour in humankind," said Old Boys correspondent Fraser Hope.

"Not quite sure if this was the case on Sunday . . . but it was a welcome return to the people's game after the cancellation of last week's fixture for Grey Cup shenanigans."

The match saw the Old Boys earn a historic first win against a dynastic Centaurs side. Hope said the home team got some help along the way from an undermanned opposition and the narrow natural grass GISS field.

"Centaurs and Old Boys started off brightly with both sides providing attractive approach work that gave the first half lots of exciting moments but no goals," he said.

"The consensus in the press tea room at the half was for a scoreless draw or a smash-and-grab 1-0 takeover win for the Centaurs."

Hope said both keepers were

star performers to keep the match scoreless.

With fans headed to the exits, Andrew Haigh connected with a pass from the speedy Stefan Cermak.

Moments later, Mike McCormick took advantage of some midfield confusion and "a scintillating through-pass" from Graham Tweddle to gallop into the Centaurs' box, where he powered a corner shot into the net to ensure the two-goal victory.

"Back to the metaphor, the struggle between civilization and barbarism — still not sure which team was which — but at least the Old Boys had slayed the Centaurs' hex," Hope said.

The Old Boys play Cordova Bay at Lochside Park on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

United keeps win streak alive

Salt Spring United players took advantage of some fine weekend weather to strengthen their lead in the Over 30-B division of the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association.

The hosts overpowered Vic Scottish 5-0, dominating the field throughout the game.

Kym Sheppard-Bellavance got the shutout as United's defensive and offensive players outmatched and outplayed their opponents.

LeeAnn Norgard got the rout underway with a low, hard corner shot. Sue Anne Connolly picked up the game's second goal

on a quick shot, while Norgard put United up by three. Connolly added her second goal for the 4-0 lead at halftime.

Players took advantage of their lead to try out some new formations and strategies in the second half. Norgard capped her hat-trick with three minutes left in the match.

United will try to keep its winning streak alive when Sooke visits the high school field on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 12:30 p.m.

Salt Spring FC looks for win

Salt Spring FC dropped to seventh place in its division after a 3-1 Saturday afternoon loss against division-leading Saanich Fusion.



Saturday's goal scorer John Emekoba

John Emekoba is credited as FC's lone goal scorer.

Salt Spring (1-4-5) will try to end a four-game losing skid when it hosts eighth-place Bays United (2-7-1) on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Portlock Park. Kickoff is at 2:15 p.m.

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