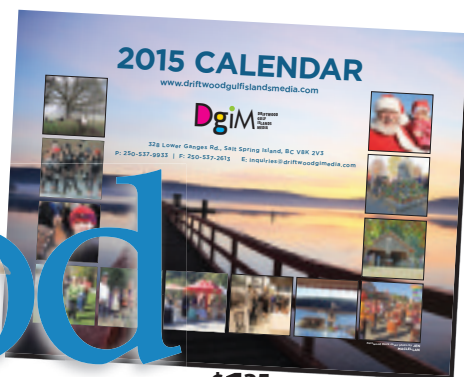




Cheese, please
David Asher shares how to make it
PAGE 3

2015 Calendar
Get ready for a new year
INSIDE



Wednesday, December 17, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 51 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

QUALITY TIME: Conor McGillivray, age 6, tells Santa what he wants for Christmas, while his sister Emma, 3, thinks about it. Santa visited Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands on the weekend aboard the Lions Santa Ship from Bellingham. See page 11 for more photos.

WATER
NSSWD plans second referendum

Trustees anticipate spring vote after revised design complete

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District commissioners will hold another referendum to get ratepayer approval for a new treatment plant at St. Mary Lake. A statement on the NSSWD's website states the vote will occur in the spring of 2015. Details about how much money the district needs to borrow are forthcoming. A referendum date will be announced in early 2015. Detailed design plans and revised costs for the plant will be released in February.

"Throughout the design process the district and the design engineers continue to look for further cost savings while ensuring that the design meets the long-term operating needs of the district and all necessary regulatory and site requirements," reads the statement on the site.

The news release suggests the proposed plant's reduced capacity will reduce project costs.

Ratepayers defeated the NSSWD's request to borrow up to \$10.4 million in a tight 283-281 referendum vote on Aug. 16. Approximately 2,560 property owners were eligible to vote.

Trustees used an Alternate Approval Process in May to seek borrowing authority. With more than 10 per cent of eligible voters submitting counter-petition forms, a referendum was forced on the question.

NSSWD continued on 6

TRAGEDY

Saturna struggles with loss

Search for missing islander called off

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The disappearance of 21-year-old Keenan Nicodemus has distressed the small community of Saturna Island, where searchers conducted a massive weekend search for the missing man.

"Everyone is absolutely devastated here," said resident Paul Brent. "Keenan was such an

amazing young man."

Brent recalls regularly seeing Nicodemus chopping wood for the island's Lions Club on Sunday mornings. He said Nicodemus was the kind of guy who was always willing to lend a hand without expecting anything in return.

"He'd always be there and always had a smile," Brent said. "People can't get it out of their minds; we just can't get over it. He was

just such a fabulous guy."

Like many of his neighbours, Brent spent the weekend walking the island's shoreline in search of the islander. He was back out there on Tuesday, trying to find closure for Nicodemus' family and the 300 people who call the island home.

NICODEMUS continued on 7

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HEALTH CARE

New community health website launched

One-stop source for service information

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Information on the diverse arenas of health service available on Salt Spring can now be found in one place, thanks to a partnership between Salt Spring Community Services and the local Division of Family Practice chapter.

FETCH, which stands for "For Everything that's Community Health" on Salt Spring Island, is a new online resource available at www.saltspring.fetchbc.ca. Anyone seeking information can use the search bar, view all the listings in alphabetical order, or search under category headings such as Child, Youth and Family, or Emergency and Safety. Results can be printed out for future access.



SCREEN SHOT

FETCH, a new online resource for Salt Spring health services, can be found at www.saltspring.fetchbc.ca.

Having one central source of information is a timely addition to the island's health scene, and was one of the recommendations listed by the Salt Spring Health Advancement Committee in a report it released last month.

"I think there's been an identified need in the community for a long time for a central place when you could find health resources," said Janine Gowans, who is the Salt Spring chapter coordinator for the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice.

"And it was an opportunity to build on our relationships with Salt Spring Community Services. Being able to find things that align with different community organizations makes a lot of sense to us."

The partnership has

meant the Division of Family Practice was able to develop the website using information that SSICS had already collected for a paper directory it published in 2009.

"It was really comprehensive and covered a lot of ground," said Rob Wiltzen, who is communications director for SSICS.

He explained that much of the same information was then reproduced within the Parks and Recreation Commission's biannual leisure guide, so the directory was shelved.

The emergence of a Division of Family Practice chapter on Salt Spring occasioned health providers and Community Services to revisit that data and put it into a more accessible format, based on a website the Nanaimo Division of Family Practice had created. Community Services will continue to build on the information

by maintaining and updating the website when needed.

"I think it's really important here," Wiltzen said. "There's a couple of reasons. Not only does it compile all the community resources that are dispersed over different public websites. The other thing it can do is provide a website for all those people who provide services that don't have a web presence, which can help people doing self research."

FETCH users will be able to flag any content that is not accurate for review, ensuring that the quality of the resource remains consistently high.

Listed organizations who are interested in managing their own profiles, and groups not presently represented who would like to request a listing, should contact the FETCH team at admin@saltspring.fetchbc.ca.

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARC serves up pickleball decision

Commission favours shared Fulford facility

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parks and Recreation Commission members drew the line Monday evening in an ongoing court war that's split racket sport enthusiasts on the island.

Commissioners voted unanimously to let Salt Spring Pickleball Association members paint lines for two permanent pickleball courts on a public tennis facility in the Burgoyne Valley.

The decision comes amidst strong opposition from the Salt Spring Tennis Association, which has denounced the plan on grounds that new

lines will confuse tennis players.

Up to four pickleball playing surfaces can be painted on one conventional tennis court. The site can still be used as a multi-sport surface once new lines are added.

At their November meeting, PARC commissioners suggested pickleballers and tennis players discuss a compromise to paint lines for two pickleball courts at the south-end facility.

According to Karla Campbell, Salt Spring's senior manager for the Capital Regional District, tennis association members refuse to budge.

"The tennis association is just not in favour because there are other [pickleball] facilities in Fulford," she said.

Pickleballers meet reg-

ularly at the Fulford Community Hall for indoor matches.

Campbell said the SSTA wants pickleball players to fundraise for a private facility, much like the tennis association's indoor court at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

Arguments failed to sway commissioners, who emphasized their mandate to serve the recreational needs of as many islanders as possible.

"We ought to make our facilities available to as broad a section of users as possible," said commission member Jon Suk. "While this is a tennis court, it is a Salt Spring Parks and Recreation facility that has the potential, with the addition of some lines, to add

another sport to this area.

"For one group to say 'we were here first' . . . I don't think is a strong argument. We have to provide recreational service, not decide who gets what based on who was here first."

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's CRD director, said similar disputes between pickleballers and tennis players are breaking out on courts across North America.

"I gather this pickleball versus tennis [thing] is quite a debate in California and probably for the same reasons," he told commissioners. "Demographics are changing and people want to stay active, but tennis is a little too active."

Pickleball players have agreed to cover the cost to paint additional lines.

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NEWSBEAT

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FOOD

'Cheese outreach' comes to Salt Spring community

Guerrilla cheesemaker shares passion with hungry audience

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Should you happen to live in a home tucked away in the woods of Salt Spring as I do, it's only a matter of time before cheesemaking comes knocking at the door.

Having lived on the island for nearly a decade, I'm amazed it's taken this long. After all, I've eagerly consumed cheese products for as long as I can remember, indiscriminately feasting on bricks of cheddar, dollops of soft mozzarella and rounds of Roquefort; restrained only by the weekly grocery budget.

When folks at the Farmers' Institute announced Saturday's workshop by Salt Spring cheese-

maker David Asher, it became clear the time had come to make room for another tool in that ever-expanding arsenal of island DIY skills like home brewing, food dehydrating and nettle harvesting.

Asher has lived on Salt Spring for about a year. The Black Sheep School of Cheesemaking founder moved to the island to complete a cheesemaking guide that's due for release by Vermont-based Chelsea Green Publishing in July 2015.

"I believe it is very important that we get involved in the processes that sustain us."

DAVID ASHER
Black Sheep School of Cheesemaking

He's devoted seven years to experimenting with everything from relatively sim-

ple yogurt cheeses to more-complex alpine varieties, camemberts and blues, all in the confines of his home kitchen.

"I believe it is very important that we get involved in the processes that sustain us. You don't really need any special equipment to make cheese," he said. "Giving control of our food to distant corporations can cause all sorts of terrible things. Taking back control can ensure that the food we eat is up to our standards."

Asher has developed a strong following among would-be cheesemakers on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Kootenays. His website offers tips about how to get started and some basic pointers he believes are missing from many of the traditional guidebooks on the subject. Visitors to the site from around the Gulf Islands and as far away as Morocco



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Cheesemaker David Asher displays some of his products at a workshop he hosted on Saturday.

share a resounding appreciation for Asher's expertise, willingness to experiment and down-to-earth teaching style.

"I bake bread and I

used to think that was a really mysterious thing, but it isn't. Now I make cheese," said Mike Lakin, one of nearly 20 participants at Saturday's workshop.

People in the room shared a desire to incorporate more local ingredients in their diets or unease about store-bought products with unrecognizable lists of ingredients.

While awaiting the curd we debated raw milk and the ethics of rennet — an enzyme sourced from the stomach lining of dead calves that's used to harden cheese.

Cheese may be delicious, but it can quickly get political.

Before he was lured towards the world of cheese, Asher studied engineering at the University of British Columbia, where he also volunteered on the campus' research farm. As the semesters wore on, Asher realized he was more inspired in the fields than he ever was in a lab coat. His newly discovered passion for agriculture eventually led him and a friend on a cycling tour of small farms in the Fraser Valley, where he had his first taste of homemade artisanal cheese.

Asher started making cheese soon after his return to Vancouver.

"Eventually, when my milk bills skyrocketed through the roof, I decided I needed my own goat," he said. "I decided to pursue life on the farm."

Trading in campus life for life on the farm, Asher made his way to Cortes Island, where he sampled raw milk and continued his farm education. Now he's started to inspire a following of his own and works to foster a new North American cheese culture.

"As soon as I finished my apprenticeship I realized that cheese was the way," he said. "I offer cheese outreach to show people it can be done entirely naturally."

"I'm really excited to put these ideas out there."

For more information about cheesemaking and Asher's Black Sheep School of Cheesemaking, visit thewayofcheese.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

FOR THE RECORD

A front page story in last week's Driftwood regarding incidents at the library contained inaccurate information. A young woman removed some of her clothes, not all of them, and was not sedated by the paramedics.

Used fire truck bought

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue has replaced a command vehicle written off to fire damage in September with a used Dodge Ram.

The 2004 model 4x4 quad-cab pick-up was purchased from Langford Fire Rescue.

"Not every fire department replaces a used fire truck with an older fire truck but that's

what we've done," said Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner. "We found a basic, reliable 'no-frills' tool to be fiscally responsible."

ICBC wrote off department's 2006 Dodge 4x4 crew-cab after an electrical malfunction in the siren and lighting system under the seats caused a vehicle fire. ICBC found contamination from smoke damage throughout the cab, Bremner said. SSIFR received \$27,000 in the insurance claim. The

"new-to-you" truck was purchased for \$18,000.

Earthquake rumbles strait

Alert island residents may have felt the aftershocks of a small earthquake that occurred in the Strait of Georgia around 16 kilometres west of Sechelt on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The 3.2 magnitude quake occurred just before 7 a.m.

and was located at a depth of 66.8 km. According to Natural Resources Canada, it was lightly felt in Powell River, Roberts Creek and on Salt Spring Island.

"There are no reports of damage, and none would be expected," the agency stated.

Project helps Penderites

Pender Island has been chosen for a pilot project

to assess delivery of non-medical support services to seniors in rural communities across the province.

The study will be undertaken by Better at Home, a program funded by the government of B.C. and managed by the United Way.

Anyone who works with seniors is asked to contact Debbie Sharp at 604-268-1300.

For more information, visit www.betterathome.ca.

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MATERNITY CARE

BC midwives arrive at deal with province

Initiatives will improve rural practice, says Salt Spring rep

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Midwives Association of B.C. has reached a five-year agreement with the Ministry of Health after working without one since April.

Registered midwives in the province ratified a master agreement that includes a 5.5 per cent increase in value over its term from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019. MABC says the deal will help grow and sustain the midwifery profession, enhance midwifery services and increase access to maternity care throughout the province, especially in rural communities.

"I just think overall, the reality is it's really good news for the profession and it's really good news for B.C. women and families," said Kelly Hayes, a Salt Spring resident and vice chair of the MABC board of directors.

"It recognizes the important role that

midwifery plays in provincial maternity care, and it will help us move forward and enhance that care throughout the province."

The agreement includes a number of provisions that should help improve areas of payment, education and recruitment. Measures that could have a strong impact on the Gulf Islands are those focussed on developing and sustaining midwifery practice in rural and remote areas.

One such item is an enhanced rural midwifery locum program, which helps provide replacements when community-based midwives want to take time off. Hayes said this builds on a pilot program that was funded in 2012.

"Now the program can grow and move forward, allowing midwives to have the breaks they need and ensuring midwifery care is available where it might be at risk because of lack of sustainability," Hayes said.

A renewed rural start-up program will provide supports and incentives that encourage midwives to set up practice in

areas where maternity care is difficult to access or not available. Research proves that having access close to home improves birth outcomes and is more cost effective.

Another item that could impact local maternity care in a positive way is the home birthing supplies program. Prior to 2012, midwives who attended home births had to pay for all supplies and medications out of their own pocket, while they were able to use the supplies on hand when they attended births at hospitals. The new program continues the reimbursement for supply costs and, perhaps more importantly, ensures midwives can easily access the medications they need.

Hayes thanked members of the public for supporting B.C. midwives during their negotiations, and also credited the Ministry of Health for reaching a positive agreement.

The Nov. 27 vote passed with 93 per cent in favour. MABC had put extra pressure on the government to resolve with its decision to withdraw clinical education services at UBC starting in July.

FERRIES

Input open on new vessel interior

Comment deadline is Jan. 15

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Passengers are being given the chance to weigh in on how the interior lounges of three new ferries currently under construction should look, including two vessels destined to serve the Gulf Islands.

BC Ferries hosted two public workshops on Dec. 6 and 11 with storyboards available for comment. Those who weren't able to make it to Richmond or to an early morning sailing aboard the Queen of Nanaimo can see the same information online and make comments until Jan. 15.

Harold Swierenga, who chairs Salt Spring's ferry advisory committee, attended the Dec. 6 meeting at the River Rock Casino and will also have several meetings with BC Ferries staff through the FAC. An upcoming meeting on Dec. 18 will include members of Salt Spring's business community who rely on tourist traffic, plus BC Ferries' catering manager.

Swierenga said the plans so far are for the boat that is ported at Long Harbour to have more amenities in the way of dining, although both Gulf Islands vessels will have cafeterias.

"It will be interesting size-wise," he said. "We're concerned about the Long Harbour one. It's going to handle a lot of tourist traffic."

While there isn't much room for input on the design, BC Ferries is looking for help on one or two specific issues. Whether seats should face each other in rows or face only in one direction could be one of the more relevant questions. A customer input form also asks for advice on wheelchair accessible washrooms, TV sets, vending machines and receptacles for recharging electronic devices, among other matters.

The two vessels coming to the Gulf Islands will be based on a new standardized design that will eventually be used on vessels of a similar size class throughout the fleet. Both ships will be in service during an extended peak season from April to October, while only one will run through the winter months.

"People are going to miss the Nanaimo. I'm going to miss her, but she's past her prime," Swierenga said, adding the ship's capacity doesn't work for either season.

Storyboards and an online comment form can be found at <http://www.bcferries.com/about/intermediatevessel.html>. The form can also be printed off and mailed in.

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

NEW CREW: Gulf Islands Board of Education trustees meeting for the first time since being elected in November are, from left, John Wakefield (Salt Spring), Anna Herlitz (Pender), Shelley Lawson (Galiano), Susanne Middleditch (Saturna), May McKenzie (Mayne), Nancy Macdonald (Salt Spring) and Rob Pingle (Salt Spring). The board selected McKenzie as their chair and Pingle as vice-chair.

FERRIES

Fuel surcharge dropped

BC Ferries passengers will enjoy the benefits of plummeting international oil prices through the removal of the 3.4 per cent fuel surcharge on fares starting today (Wednesday, Dec. 17).

"With the current favourable market conditions, we have been hedging our diesel fuel costs and are now in a position to eliminate the fuel surcharge, which is great news for holiday travellers," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' president and CEO. "We know that fare affordability is an issue for our customers

and we are pleased to be able to reduce the cost of ferry travel, as every bit helps."

The most recent surcharge was implemented in January 2014.

According to BC Ferries, every cent per litre increase in the cost of marine diesel fuel translates into a \$1.2-million increase in company expenses.

The first fuel surcharge on fares occurred in 2005. The practice is used to eliminate balances in deferral accounts until fuel oil prices meet the set price charged to the corporation.

TRAILS

Baker-Harrison trail reopens

PARC comes to new agreement with neighbourhood church

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A key link in the Ganges-area trail network has reopened after lengthy negotiations between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Bethel Pentecostal Assembly.

"There has been a willingness from them to renew the statutory right-of-way agreement," said Dan Ovington, general manager of Salt Spring PARC.

PARC staff closed the 560-metre Baker-Harrison Trail and removed fencing along the path in May, when commissioners refused to meet the landowner's demand for nearly \$7,500 in compensation. The figure was based on the 2014 BC Assessment data for the portion of church property occupied by the public trail.

PARC commissioners and staff refused to negotiate with church representatives, arguing it would set a costly precedent for right-of-way agreements elsewhere on the island. "Staff said we can't do that," Ovington said.

David Solmes, assistant

superintendent with the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada's B.C./Yukon branch, confirmed a deal had been reached with PARC.

According to the new agreement, the right-of-way can be revoked if the property is sold.

"It's not great news, but it's better," Ovington added.

The trail offers neighbourhood residents and hikers a connection between Baker Road and the end of Harrison Avenue, near Booth Inlet.

The Bethel Pentecostal Assembly's demand for compensation followed expiration of a three-year land-use contract in March.

INDUSTRY

Sable fish plant hits road bump

Noise issue still on radar

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's potential for a new and improved relationship with a local sable fish farm saw a small reversal with news that a key contact is no longer part of the operation.

"It's disappointing because we had some clear direction from the senior executive and now we have to start over," said CRD director Wayne McIntyre.

He had previously met with Richard Buchanan, the head of Golden Eagle Group, the branch of the Aquilini Investment Group that purchased the bankrupt Sable Fish Canada Walker Hook-area farm in September.

Buchanan and Aquilini president John Negrin agreed to meet with residents to address ongoing noise concerns. McIntyre

also hoped they would discuss their fish farm business plan and potential economic benefits for the island. Recently he learned that Buchanan is no longer with the company.

McIntyre has heard from Golden Eagle Sable Fish general manager George Nardi that noise mitigation measures are in the works. New fans have been purchased but are not yet installed. Information from a noise consultant has also resulted in plans to insulate the blowers. These actions are hoped to give some relief to neighbours who have found the constant noise to be increasingly loud and unbearable over the past year.

McIntyre still hopes to forge a connection with Golden Eagle Group to foster economic development on the island, noting that land-based fish farms and "vertical agriculture" are growing industries that could have local application.

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FIRE DISTRICT

District boundary expansion considered

FOIPPA request over salaries heats up

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The question of how to extend the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's boundary was raised once again during Monday night's board meeting with a petition by Skywater Strata Acreages.

The Mount Tuam development's representative Brent Taylor attended the meeting in person to underline the property owners' enthusiasm for joining the district. He noted the developers only recently became aware that the district boundary stopped short of the new strata.

"We would like to be part of the district, there's no question of that," he said.

"It's unfortunate we didn't know we weren't part of the district or we would have been standing here before you eight years ago, not tonight."

Trustees received the initial correspondence from Skywater at their November board meeting. Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner and trustee Ron Chamney then visited the site to determine the possibilities for service.

In a draft report that was received by the board Monday night, Bremner noted positive features and challenges to extending fire service to the development. The area contains

abundant surface and artesian water sources, but road and driveway accessibility could be an issue.

Bremner stated the developer and the district should ratify an agreement with acceptable terms and conditions. His specific recommendations are that the developer install a fire hydrant and stash firefighting equipment on the site, implement a wildland fire protection plan, establish a road maintenance/snow removal plan and contribute funds towards the purchase of a replacement tender truck or mini pumper for the Fulford fire hall.

"It's clear that additions to our firefighting responsibility area would incur some extra costs," chair Michael Schubart observed later in the meeting.

Establishing some sort of connection fee for joining the district was suggested as a topic of exploration at November's meeting. Corporate administrative officer Andrew Peat reported Monday that his reading of the improvement district manual is that the district can't do so.

The board voted to table the petition until January's meeting when they expect to receive written confirmation from the district's contact at the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. Staff were directed to meet with Taylor to discuss some of the issues raised in Bremner's report.

Schubart observed the pro-

cess to amend the district's Letters Patent can take up to 18 months, so nothing could be immediately accomplished in any case.

A report from Chamney on the latest finance committee meeting detailed two ongoing issues. The first referred to several requests from community members for the district to publish employee remuneration and supplier contracts in line with most public bodies in British Columbia, according to the Financial Information Act.

"It's clear that additions to our firefighting responsibility area would incur some extra costs."

MICHAEL SCHUBART
SS Fire Protection District trustee

Correspondence from resident Norbert Schlenker that was made available at the meeting contained notice that he would enter a request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as of Dec. 2 if the board wouldn't release the information voluntarily by Dec. 15.

"A freedom of information request under FOIPPA will

require you to disclose compensation information for your employees, because such information is specifically not protected under the Act," Schlenker wrote.

"One request from a citizen is all it takes to make this information public and, if you won't voluntarily disclose under FIA, that will happen."

Local union president Jamie Holmes has opposed the idea because of privacy concerns. Chamney reported the district is now seeking a legal opinion on the matter.

Chamney also discussed the committee's review of a reserve fund for replacing capital assets and how to fund it. He suggested this could be done by transferring a set percentage from any surplus left in the operating budget at the end of each year.

"What we're changing is how we're putting money into it and committing on a yearly basis," he said.

The committee will offer a full presentation and seek board approval at the January meeting.

In other fire district news, Schubart announced his immediate resignation as chair at the end of Monday's meeting, observing he had agreed to take the position on a temporary basis at the April meeting and that another person had indicated he was willing to take it. Trustee Dan Lee was elected by acclamation.

Mid Island Co-op's 12 Days of Christmas!

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Ratepayers set own meeting

NSSWD

continued from 1

News of the second referendum has already mobilized a NSSWD ratepayer group who want to minimize project costs.

Speaking after a meeting with NSSWD board members last week, a representative from the group said he is optimistic about the discussion's direction.

"We are getting good traction on bringing the price down as the board is responding to continued pressure," said William Coté on behalf of the NSSWD ratepayers group.

The group has scheduled a ratepayer meeting to discuss the treatment plant issue on Thursday, Jan. 29 between 7 and 9 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel.

More information about the NSSWD and the treatment plant project is available at www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca or the office at 761 Lower Ganges Rd.

NATIONAL POLITICS

Canada underwhelms in Lima

May calls government 'an embarrassment'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It didn't take long for Canada's federal government to make an impression on Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May at last week's COP20 climate talks in Lima, Peru.

"Here in Peru, the world is moving to climate action," she reported in a Dec. 10 video blog from the conference. "The negotiations are difficult, and I still don't know if there's reason for optimism about next year in Paris, where a deal must be done to achieve the reductions we need to avoid runaway global warming, but I can tell you this, Canada's role here at the federal level is an embarrassment."

May said provincial representatives from Quebec, Ontario and B.C. Environment Minister Mary Polak have been in the ballpark in discussions of greenhouse gas reductions and the consequences of inaction, but Conservative MP and federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq has been playing a whole different game.

As Aglukkaq presented the conference with what May called a "medley of PMO greatest hits and

predictable talking points" about her party's promise of a sector-by-sector approach to emissions regulations on Canada's lucrative oil and gas sector, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in Ottawa, where he succinctly summarized the feds' latest strategy.

"It is not the Embassy of the Conservative Party of Canada in Peru; it is the Embassy of Canada."

ELIZABETH MAY
Saanich-Gulf Islands MP

"Under the current circumstances in the oil and gas sector, it would be crazy, it would be crazy economic policy to do unilateral penalties on that sector, and we're clearly not going to do that," the prime minister said during question period on Dec. 9 in the House of Commons.

Back in Lima, May claims organizers of an invitation-only Canadian government-sponsored function snubbed her and many other Canadian COP20 participants. The discussion, held at Canada's embassy in Peru, featured Minister Aglukkaq

talking about incorporating traditional knowledge into environmental decision making.

"This event will bring together high-level international officials to discuss how traditional knowledge can support the development of successful environmental policies and programs in countries around the world," states an Environment Canada press release about the event.

The event is reported to have featured insights on how the Arctic peoples' traditional knowledge has contributed to Canada's "world-class polar bear management system."

"I would have liked to have imagined that, in the spirit of Canadians working together in foreign capitals, all Canadians in Lima for COP would have been invited. That would have been the case under previous federal governments," May wrote from Peru. "Certainly as the only other parliamentarian here, I should have been invited."

"It is not the Embassy of the Conservative Party of Canada in Peru; it is the Embassy of Canada."

A spokesperson from Environment Canada was unable to answer questions from the Driftwood in time for the paper's Tuesday afternoon deadline.



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Volunteers not giving up yet

NICODEMUS

continued from 1

Brent said he's not ready to give up looking for the young man who gave so much to the island. He carries the hope Nicodemus may have found shelter on one of the smaller islands around Plumper Sound.

Nicodemus is reported to have moved to Saturna from northern B.C. when he was 14 years old. He lived with his aunt and uncle and soon developed a reputation as a hard worker and friendly young man.

"Since then he touched everyone and he was going to go places," he said.

Nicodemus was a chef at the Saturna Lodge, worked at the island's pub and could be relied upon to step up whenever people needed a strong, enthusiastic helping hand.

Nicodemus and his friend had recently bought and moved onto a sail boat in Plumper Sound. The boat is said to have come off its mooring during the windstorms that swept across the region last week.

"While en route towards the sailboat, the rowboat capsized and submerged, leaving the two males in the frigid waters," said Cst. Tyson Gould of the Outer Islands RCMP detachment. "One male was able to swim to Mayne Island, where at

day break he was able to contact the Canadian Coast Guard and the RCMP to report his friend missing."

The friend, whose name has yet to be released by police, was treated for hypothermia and is recovering, but searchers found no sign of Nicodemus.

Rescue organizers called off the search Sunday evening. Emergency personnel from CFB Comox, Canadian Coast Guard, Saturna Island Volunteer Fire Department, and Salt Spring's ground and marine SAR teams found no trace of Nicodemus after an extensive weekend search of Plumper Sound and nearby islands.

"It wasn't a very big boat," said Darren Morley, a spokesperson from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria. "The water is cold, and it was pitch black."

He said neither man was wearing a life jacket when the boat capsized.

Saturday's search included a Comox-based coramant search and rescue helicopter and Coast Guard hovercraft from Sea Island.

Ground SAR volunteers continued to look for the man on Sunday, focussing efforts on the shoreline of Samuel Island.

Chuck Hamilton, a search manager for Salt Spring Ground SAR, said 10 volunteers covered the island's steep shoreline.

Searchers found the man's

lifejacket and other items from the rowboat Sunday afternoon off Samuel Island's eastern shoreline.

Per Svendsen, Salt Spring Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue's unit leader, said he and another volunteer spent the weekend searching Plumper Sound.

"We covered it at least twice," he said.

As an elected representative on the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee, Brent said he feels Nicodemus' disappearance highlights the worst-case consequences of the Gulf Islands' affordable housing crisis.

High land prices and expensive rent encourage many people to live aboard vessels moored off the islands, he said.

"Affordable housing is a problem on the island. To me, we are all responsible for this," he said. "It's time we stop talking about affordable housing and do something about it."

Outer Islands RCMP said Nicodemus is slim with blonde hair. He was last seen wearing a white T-shirt, blue jeans and gumboots.

The Outer Gulf Islands RCMP detachment continues to treat the case as a missing persons file. Anyone with information is asked to contact Outer Islands RCMP at 250-629-6171 or brcmp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

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OPINION



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

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



EDITORIAL

Pool lessons

Earlier this week BC Ferries announced plans to eliminate a 3.4 per cent fuel surcharge as the price of oil continues to reach new lows.

The decrease takes effect today (Wednesday), assuring travellers a modest Christmas bonus. Before topping up that second egg nog or upgrading the Christmas stockings, however, remember BC Ferries is still on course for its annual April 1 fare increase.

No joke, the 2015 jump is set at 3.9 per cent. Stories about ferry fare increases and service cuts, and islanders' efforts to fight back rank the topic among the most newsworthy of the past year. Sadly, all the talk continues to fall upon deaf ears.

Perhaps the powers that be at BC Ferries can follow the lead of Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission. On Monday night, commissioners voted to decrease the cost of an annual pass by roughly 30 per cent.

THE ISSUE:

Ferry fares

WE SAY:

BCF should follow PARC example

To the surprise of more than one commissioner, costs for the passes eclipsed rates in communities like Sooke, Westshore and Victoria.

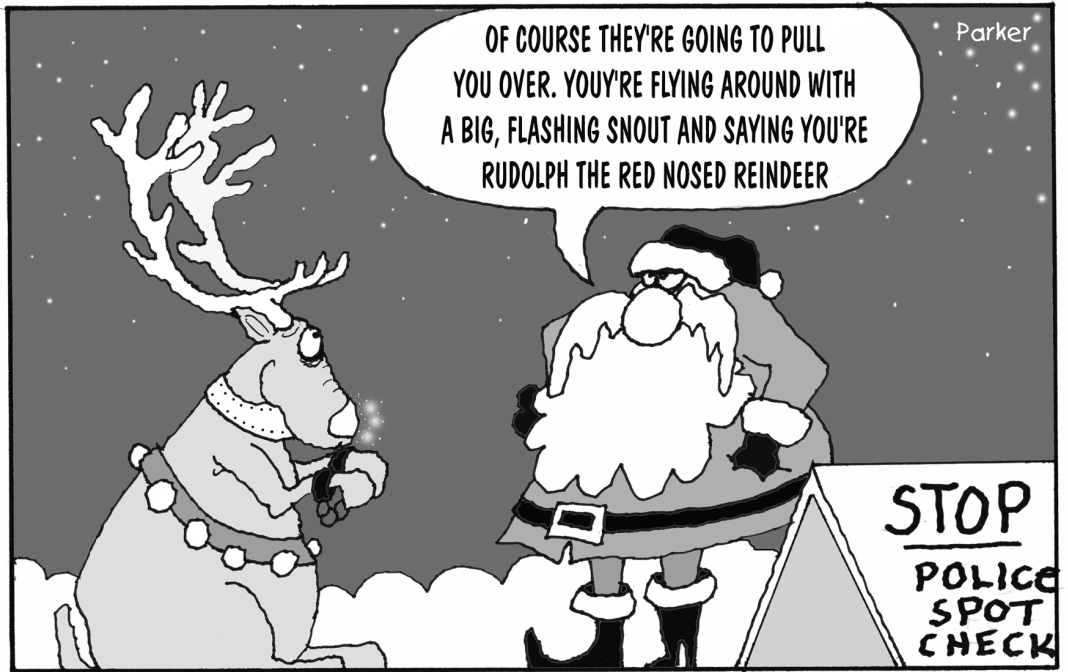
At the hefty \$563 price tag for an adult pass and the \$359 price for a child, PARC sold no kid passes and only six adult passes this year.

It took the keen eye of new PARC manager Dan Ovington to spot the anomaly.

Where Salt Spring faltered, other communities flourished. The recreation complex in Sooke (population 11,435) sold 76 annual passes in 2014, generating an impressive \$26,000 in revenue.

In recommending the price cut, Ovington noted the many studies that reveal an obvious correlation between lower prices and higher participation numbers. When cost barriers are eliminated, more people show up and revenues rise, he said during Monday evening's meeting.

PARC commissioners see the logic; it's too bad management at BC Ferries and the provincial transportation ministry cannot.



VIEWPOINT by Donald McLennan

Salt Spring transit huge success

A letter from a reader in last week's Driftwood calls for better bus infrastructure on Salt Spring. Who would disagree with that? But in point of fact, SS Transit is already one of this island's most admirable success stories.

SS Transit began operations in 2008. Passenger numbers climbed rapidly in the first years of service. In six short years, ridership has increased by more than 600 per cent from initial estimates to break through the 100,000 milestone. Service has been expanded not once but twice since its inception and ridership and fare revenues are continuing to climb ever higher.

Why are islanders rightly so proud of SS Transit? And why does BC Transit consider it to be such a huge success story?

- SS Transit received an award from the Canadian Urban Transit Association for outstanding performance and exceptional service; to achieve this in its first year of operation is exceptional.

- The recently published SSI Transit Service Review highlights the fact that Salt Spring leads all small systems in the province with its cost recovery rate almost double the average and its operating cost per service hour considerably lower.

- The system started with two buses and that number has doubled to four; that also means a few extra jobs for islanders, welcome news in anybody's book.

- SS Transit contributes to the provincially mandated policy on climate change. In 2007, the baseline year for B.C. communities, Salt Spring's greenhouse gas emissions were largely attributable to food and on-island transportation. Expanding our bus service is arguably the most important contribution the CRD and the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission can make to this province-wide goal.

Further planned service enhancements will fill in gaps in the

service and offer the best opportunity to further increase ridership. Expanded service encourages more residents and visitors to leave their cars at home, resulting in less congestion in Ganges village, especially on weekends when parking lots overflow.

It is important to acknowledge the work of the transit operator on Salt Spring. Ineke de Jong continues to deliver an award-winning standard of service. The system's drivers are well known for their helpfulness and friendliness with the public. They are the face of SS Transit and the successful partnership between the CRD, the SSITC and BC Transit, and are therefore a large part of its success.

Like all public transportation systems, SS Transit is not a money-maker; it is subsidized. SS Transit is funded from three sources: 25 per cent from ticket sales; 25 per cent from the Salt Spring taxpayer; and a 50 per cent subsidy from BC Transit. Any service expansion must be pre-authorized by BC Transit and cannot be undertaken solely by CRD or by the Transportation Commission.

In July 2013, CRD director Wayne McIntyre took to the CRD Board the transportation commission's recommendation that the transit tax requisition be increased. The increase was designed to fund future service enhancements, including the Walker's Hook/Fernwood service expansion plus the cost of leasing needed replacement buses for SS Transit. It is gratifying to see that the investment of these extra funds is earning such a positive return on behalf of the Salt Spring taxpayer.

Salt Springers have every reason to be proud of their home-grown community bus system.

The writer is the former chair of the SSI Transportation Commission.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Do you support the Site-C decision? 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: 55
Does mental health impact your family? 25
 NO YES

Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "People are going to miss the Nanaimo. I'm going to miss her, but she's past her prime."

HAROLD SWIERENGA, CHAIR, SSI FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What do you most look forward to about Christmas on Salt Spring?



BABETTE ARNOLDUS
Going to Europe.



STEVE KURIC
Visiting with family from elsewhere.



DAWN DAVIES
All of the community activities like crafts fairs, sing-alongs and people getting together.



CID NEWMAN
We don't really celebrate it, but it's a nice time of year. I like the idea of families getting together.



JANE ALBOR
No snow.

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

Park costs justified?

While really appreciating the upkeep of our parks, I sometimes wonder if the keepers go overboard and spend too much money.

Duck Creek now has interpretive signs, which I don't think sufficiently add to the experience to merit the cost. In fact, the signs serve to detract from the wild, natural feel.

Mouat Park now sports a fancy pair of (very well built and attractive) bridges at the McPhillips entrance. No. 1 crosses the stream and No. 2 promptly re-crosses it. The old path — effectively the third leg of a triangle with the two new bridges — is now cut off. What was wrong with it to merit two new fancy bridges? What additional functionality is provided for this expenditure?

Some week or three ago, someone (presumably paid) did a very nice raking job on the most travelled footpaths in Mouat Park. What's wrong with walking on leaves? Why do we have to have manicured footpaths in a forest?

If the Parks and Recreation Commission budget is that rich, I suggest culling it and saving taxpayers money.

ROSS KING,
BEDDIS ROAD

Eternal flame of hope

Last week's article about how the Citizens Climate Lobby provides a blueprint for hope might seem Pollyannaish. How can anyone feel hope after yet another international conference which leaves the world far short of a meaningful response to the climate crisis?

The amazing thing about this crisis is that the things we need to do to prevent a climate catastrophe are, by and large, the same things we need to do simply to deal with the effects of it without losing our humanity.

And, as Dorothy Cutting reminded me once, we would do well to look to Pollyanna for leadership now. Dorothy quoted George Marshall's great book on the climate crisis, *Don't Even Think About It: Pollyanna* "has become synonymous with dim-witted optimism, but in the original books by Eleanor H. Porter, the character is clearly shown to be coping with immense grief and suffering through her gratitude for what she does have — her friends, community and the joy of being alive."

I am reminded of lyrics from Bruce Cockburn's *Last Night of the World*: "I've seen

the flame of hope among the hopeless/And that was truly the biggest heartbreak of all/ That was the straw that broke me open."

He was thinking of Guatemalan refugees in southern Mexico, who had lived through horrible crimes, were starving, dying of disease "yet they faced their plight with discipline and this eternal flame of hope."

A good thing to meditate on at this time of giving and receiving.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Keep diseases at bay

You don't have to be a hockey fan to know that the mumps is making the rounds of the National Hockey League, affecting the likes of Sidney Crosby and, as of this

writing, 13 other hockey players. Why so many?

The mumps, measles, rubella (MMR) vaccine has been available since the early 1970s. Could it be that a large number of North Americans of a certain age didn't get their vaccinations or have a booster shot? Reportedly, Crosby got a booster shot last year. Experts are now suggesting booster shots every 10 years for those born after 1957.

Let's hope they come through their ordeal with no lasting damage, because mumps can be a serious business for adult males. My first husband caught the mumps when he was 34 years old. He developed a bad case of orchitis — painful, swollen testicles — and was hospitalized for a week. About one third of men with orchitis develop abnormal sperm with infertility being a possible consequence.

Children can also be negatively affected with the mumps. Complications when I was 11 kept me out of school for a month. At least I didn't develop childhood deafness or meningitis, both possible consequences of mumps.

In reaction to my *Aging in Place* article last week about growing beliefs in some quarters that vaccinations can do more harm than good, someone mentioned a daughter who got a negative reaction from her vaccination. It's true that a few people do react negatively to vaccinations. But that's not the case for most.

I hope we aren't on the verge of welcoming childhood diseases back into our midst.

HELEN HINCHLIFF,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Clearing the fog with a town hall the way to go

I appreciated reading Maxine Leichter's *Viewpoint* piece in the Nov. 26 *Driftwood*, urging early involvement by community members when it comes to planning public works projects.

In particular, I let out a quiet yip of approval when she wrote, "An old-fashioned town hall meeting can have tremendous power to clarify issues and inform participants, especially if decision makers and experts are sitting up front, not only to listen to audience members and answer their questions but to also ask them questions, and engage audience members in discussion and interchange."

As Maxine indicates, the trend in public-input gathering is to not foster such a free-flow of discussion and information, but to instead have open houses, where people can ask questions one-on-one with staff, or formal presentations augmented by neatly contained small-group discussions.

It's true enough that with a town hall you never know what someone will shriek out or what emotions might be aroused, so you can understand why government bodies shy away from that format. But there really is something

about a range of voices being heard in the same place at the same time that clears away the fog. It's as if everyone present in the room contributes to understanding of an issue, with misinformation neatly excised and replaced with the real goods. Using a seasoned facilitator makes the process even better.

Maxine had written her piece prior to the Nov. 15 Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission Rainbow Road pathway referendum and used the failure of both the fire hall and St. Mary Lake water treatment plant referendums as examples of how the public should have been more involved early on in order to increase their chances of success.

For the NSSWD water treatment plant referendum, some 70 people attended that body's annual general meeting in April of 2014 where a discussion about the project was held. The district also published, online and in print, reams of information about why a new plant was needed and the process that would unfold. It was all extremely informative



Gail Sjuberg

OTHER WISE

and well put together, but somehow it failed to inspire masses of ratepayers to give their blessing to borrow up to \$10.4 million, which would raise annual parcel taxes by between \$350 and \$400.

First an alternate approval process failed, with 361 voters (more than the required 10 per cent of the 2,560 eligible) filling out forms to express their opposition to the borrowing bylaw. Then an Aug. 16 referendum saw a 283-281 "no" vote nudge the NSSWD board back to the drawing board.

So far the NSSWD response to the referendum result has been to pass a bylaw increasing the parcel tax by 1.5 per cent, add a capital construction surcharge of \$120, and to give notice, via its website, that another referendum is planned for the spring of 2015. The Dec. 3 website article also states that detailed drawings are expected in February, which "will allow the board to revise the estimated maximum borrowing cost." We are assuming the revision will be in the downward direction, since the board has surely heard concerns about more

money than necessary being spent on the project, and they've already got a way to get some of it through the parcel tax hike and new surcharge.

Judging by the tone in its meeting minutes, the board is feeling frustrated by ratepayers putting up roadblocks through publicly questioning the process and costs, and not endorsing the treatment plant project as presented. That is understandable.

But as the most expensive infrastructure project ever proposed for Salt Spring, and coming through a form of government that lacks the usual oversight provided by, say, a local Trust committee or a municipal council, those footing the bill have every right to ask questions — even stupid ones — in public, and to have them answered in a respectful way that everyone can understand.

If the NSSWD wants a "yes" vote in the next referendum, its trustees should take Maxine Leichter's advice. Meet with the public at a town hall session to give them the best information and rationale for this specific project, ready to listen and share with a non-defensive and open mind.

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Display Advertising deadline: Friday, December 19, 10am
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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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RANTS and Roses

Roses

I would like to acknowledge with much thanks and a bouquet of roses those who maintain the Chris Hatfield trail. And especially to the gentleman whose forest sculptures are truly amazing. You bring much joy to many who enjoy this beautiful hike. All the very best, David L. Merke

The Salt Spring Elementary PAC would like to send beautiful rainbow roses to all the wonderful sponsors who contributed to our fall dance. Thank you to Al's Gourmet Falafel and Fries, Anne May RMT, Auntie Pesto's, Barb's Bakery and Bistro, Bohemia Consignment, Carolyn at Pernickety, Charlie's Excavating, Country Grocer, Dave Volrath, DjDj, Elderberry Yarns, Embe Bakery, Fieldhouse Knife and Tool, Ganges Street Food, Gulf Island Picture Framing, Harbour's End Marine and Equipment, Harlan's Gelato and Chocolates, Island Escapades, Moonshine Mama's Elixirs and Tonics, Mouat's Trading Co., North End Fitness, Odette Graham Florist, OMG Boutique, Outspoken Bike Shop, Pharmasave, Quench, Rainbow Road Pool/CRD, Ramona Lam Photography, Salt Spring Kitchen Co., SS Inn, Steffich Fine Art, The Blossom Tree Spa, The Source, Thrifty Foods, TJ Beans, Treasures of the Heart, Twang and Pearl, West of the Moon. Thanks also to all the parents, teachers and kids who donated to our classroom baskets, and finally, to everyone who came out to support the school at the dance!

Truckloads of flowers for the Lions Club again for the wonderful dinner at Meaden Hall. This was my first year alone and I was invited and cannot say how much it meant to me. I appreciated seeing so many old friends; the 4H Club young people who served the food; all the people who donated their time in preparing the lovely turkey dinner and waited on us; the people who played guitars and sang for us; Santa coming to

greet us; and the gift we received. It was overwhelming. Thank you, Lions Club. Dolores Bird

An overflowing Christmas hamper of roses to all of those generous Salt Springers who took the time and money to donate to our Fill the Fire Engine Food Drive, with special thanks going to Imagine That Graphics, the Driftwood, TNT Signs, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and the Salt Spring Island Volunteer Firefighters Association. Your support and dedication to our community has made this event a huge success. Thank you Salt Spring!

Our 18th annual Winterfest was a fun and festive success. Thanks to: Salt Spring Air, Iridescent Arts, Granville Island Brewery, Salt Spring Sea Salt, Home Design Centre, StageCoach Theatre, Aletha and C.C. Humphreys, Hips and Haws Cookery, David and Suzie Baukol, Charlotte Bowman and Bastien Simoneau, Elaine Floritto, Howard Holzapfel and Beth McDermott and James Cowan for donating prizes to the Winterfest raffle. Thanks also to: Country Grocer, Thrifty Foods, Natureworks, Pharmasave, West of the Moon, Rainbow Road Trading, Salt Spring Soapworks, Salt Spring Coffee and the Tree House Cafe for donations of food, crafting supplies and pocket person gifts. We are grateful to Tara Grand and Friends, and Fiddler's Hatchery, who provided fabulous musical entertainment. Finally, we thank the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, for sharing their space with us and making Winterfest possible.

A big wheelbarrow full of red roses to Ron and Donna Ateah for donating handmade horse decorations to the Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association riders.

Christmas roses to Lynn Thorburn and the great group of volunteers who make the Fulford Christmas craft sale happen every year. You are a wonderful team that embodies the spirit of the season!

To the love of my life, Jecelyn Boyecko, all the flowers in the world. I fell in love with you all over again when I was at your side during the birth of our son. You rock! You brought tears to eyes, and the most joy I have ever experienced. David

Hugs to all the staff at Lady Minto for the help bringing Thomas Richard Griffiths into the world on Dec. 12. Special thanks to Maggie for helping us through that very long day and even longer night. You made this all possible. I would also like to make a special mention to Gail and Jackie at Lady Minto and to Susan for everything.

A shopping cart full of old-fashioned roses to Country Grocer, Pharmasave, Thrifty Foods and one special donor from the Brinkworthy community for filling our prize table with their generosity. It was the "icing on the cake" to make our annual Christmas potluck such a successful and enjoyable event. Also, wheelbarrows of Christmas roses (Helleborus) to the garden club for the amazing table centres, and thanks to our volunteers who joined together to make it so much fun.

An armful of Christmas roses for you: you found my leather gloves one evening and brought them to the Visitors' Centre. Thank you so much. They are precious to me and it feels like an early Christmas gift. I am so happy. NW

Copper roses to the Salt Spring Folk Club, the members, volunteers and audience for supporting our efforts to help those less fortunate in our community. Thank you. With affection and gratitude, the Copper Kettle folk

A huge bunch of wonderful smelling roses to all the people who looked for me on Mount Erskine. And a special rose for Sheena, who found me and took me home. Billy

MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

Canadian smokescreen

Canada holds a new record, and once again proves itself to be an outlaw nation in the global environmental community.

At the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Bangkok in March of 2013, 180 member countries voted to extend protection to 76 endangered plants and animals. Canada was the only country to file "reservations" against all of them. No other country has ever taken such an action. In fact, in the 39-year history of CITES, by comparison, the U.S. has never filed a single reservation. A reservation is a unilateral statement that a country will not be bound by the provisions of the convention.

It was stated at the convention that it made no sense for Canada to opt out of its obligations to CITES when we don't even have a commercial interest in most of the species. "There is no logical explanation," it was stated. But there is an explanation if you dig a little deeper. A possible scenario emerges similar to that of a person who burns down their house to collect the insurance, burning down the whole block to disguise their crime.

Here's what I think: At the convention, the U.S. was to propose the addition of polar bear parts to a trade-ban list that already includes elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn. Canada is home to roughly 15,000 polar bears and is the only country in the world to permit sports hunting and trade in the animal's body parts. A quick search on the Internet confirms that to ban polar bear sports hunts would be a major disruption in the north. There are a

number of companies that offer commercial polar bear hunts for as much as \$30,000 per bear.

As well, there is a major political concern. The Inuit government of Nunavut insists polar bears are increasing, and that limits on the hunts will harm Arctic communities. It would also severely limit local communities' abilities to regulate the killing of polar bears. In the Arctic hamlet of Taloyoak in just two months this fall, six polar bears between one and two years old were killed as they scavenged in town.

Nobody asked me, but that's what I think.

ROGER BRUNT,
BRINKWORTHY

Documenting warning

One caution regarding reporting dumpers (Nov. 26 "Trashy behaviour" editorial) is to be careful about being seen documenting offenders. Their mentality is one of exploitation and some will be violent. As voters will not support proper levels of policing, you are at risk. I recommend carrying a bodycam.

When teenagers are the offenders, it illustrates the failure of B.C.'s school system to teach proper behaviour. That's the system that has not stopped bullying despite years of effort.

The general phenomenon is an example of "tragedy of the commons" — when everyone is responsible, no one takes responsibility.

There's a particular problem on Salt Spring Island: denial of the reality that it has good and bad people like anywhere else. That hampers efforts to address problems.

KEITH SKETCHLEY,
SAANICH

Thank you to our wonderful staff and loyal customers.

Happy Holidays

to all of you and your families from the Mouat's Clothing family.

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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

MAKING NEW FRIENDS: From left, McKenna Jason shares a new friend received in goodies from Santa, and a clown brings cheer and balloon animals as part of the entourage from the Santa Ship visiting Ganges on Saturday evening. The project, now sponsored by Lions Clubs on both sides of the border, has seen Santa visit Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands children since 1947.

Bliss and bawl of the woodchopper

I come to sing the praises of a simple, even brutish habit of mine. As a pastime it is physically exhausting, mind-numbingly repetitive, potentially limb-threatening, and eco-ethically tainted if not downright impure.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

It is chopping wood.

There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says: chop your own wood and it will warm you twice. I once repeated that to an old Finlander I knew in Thunder Bay. He smiled and shook his head. "Seven times" he said. "It heats you seven times."

Once, he said, when you trekked out into the bush to find a likely tree; twice when you chopped it down. Three times when you trimmed the branches and bucked it up into rounds. Four times when you hauled it back to the house. Five times when you unloaded it in your yard. Six times when you split and stacked it. Seven

times when you lugged an armful into the house, put it in the stove and lit the fire.

"Seven times," old Charlie Pelto nodded and winked at me. "Good deal."

There are some simple truths you learn while chopping wood. Soft wood splits less cleanly than hard. Dull axes are dangerous. Don't try to chop through a knot. Wear eye protection. Dry wood splits better than green.

Except . . .

Where I live there is a beautiful deciduous tree called the arbutus (madrona to Yanks). When it's dry

it burns like a dream — hot and bright, with almost no ash residue. You don't want to try and burn it when it's green, but that's when you want to split it. Green arbutus is a woodchopper's wet dream. It flies apart at the bite of an axe — when it's green. Swinging your axe at a piece of arbutus that's dried out is like trying to chop a cement block crossed with a rubber traffic pylon.

Eco-purists look askance at the practice of burning wood for warmth — and by extension, at the act of chopping wood to do it. They have a point. Wood smoke undeniably pollutes the air and falling ash besmirches the landscape.

So sue me. I am in love with the smell of wood smoke and I can think of few more cheery, life-affirming sights than a curlicue of grey smoke undulating up from a house chimney against a backdrop of Cana-

dian winter sky.

I haven't even mentioned that ultimate woodchopper's payoff — the rosy, drowsy-making glow of a roaring, well-laid fire. That's a pleasure you'll have difficulty extracting from your electric baseboard heater — or your solar panel, come to that.

A good fire is close to good sex. A fellow by the name of Charles Dudley Warner once said, "To poke a wood fire is more solid enjoyment than almost anything in the world."

Mister Warner was right — but first you have to get the wood into the fireplace. Now if you'll excuse me, I've got a cord of green arbutus in my front yard that's crying for attention.

As the Inuit say: "Yesterday is ashes, tomorrow is wood. Only today does the fire burn brightly."

But only after you chop the wood.

A Child's Christmas in Wales

By Dylan Thomas

Narrated by Fr. Edward Evanko

3 pm Saturday, December 20, 2014

Our Lady of Grace Church, 135 Drake Road

Followed by a Carol Sing-Along and Christmas goodies

Proceeds to Rita Balachandran's Children's Home and School in Kenya

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Thursday Dec. 25th Christmas Day Closed

Friday Dec. 26 Boxing Day Closed

Wednesday Dec. 31 New Year's Eve 9am-10pm

Thursday Jan 1st New Year's Day

Brunch 10am-2pm • Lunch 2pm-5pm

Dinner 5pm-10pm

A moment in time at the coffee shop

Coffee Shop Profile, 8:10 a.m.

Salt Springer Bob Weeden shared the following data compilation based on his recent observations of what people were doing in an island coffee shop.

He notes: "Anything real can be measured; anything measurable is real" (old proverb)

- talking to companion (9)
- listening to companion (1)
- talking to person 2 tables away (2)
- texting (3)
- talking on cell phone (2)
- listening to piped music (7)
- wincing at piped music (7)
- watching young servers move (11)
- young servers moving (6)
- young servers not moving (1)
- caregiver shushing noisy pre-schooler (1)
- caregivers not shushing noisy pre-schooler (4)
- looking for unleashed animal companion outside (2)
- looking for unleashed animal companion inside (3)
- watching the rain (7)
- watching weird newcomers (18)
- sketching weird patrons watching newcomers (1)
- reading (hard copy) (1)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

- reading (e-copy) (3)
- eating or drinking (21)
- dropping food or drink (2)
- ordering or paying (7)
- not paying (memory issue) (3)
- not paying (other) (1)
- returning to till with red face (1)
- changing diapers (includes changed) (2)

Patrons (31)
Servers (7)
Other (enumerator) (1)
TOTAL (39)*

*Totals do not equal activities due to multitasking

20% OFF

in December

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CONCERTS

Messiah sing-along returns for fourth year

Audience participation makes for special holiday event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A busy calendar of holiday concerts on Salt Spring will conclude on Sunday, Dec. 21 with an event that gives the audience equal billing with the performers.

By now a much-anticipated yearly event, Bach on the Rock's presentation of Handel's Messiah has grown in popularity and accomplishment ever since the first performance in 2011.

"It's sort of like the crowning Christmas event prior to Christmas itself," observed Bach on the Rock musician and administrator Laurie Stubbs.

Prior to its inaugural occasion, music director Jim Stubbs was hoping community members would take part. The concert can now be reliably expected to attract a maximum capacity audience at Fulford Hall with the singers in the crowd almost as well-practised as the Salt Spring Chamber Orchestra and Salt Spring Chamber Choir members.

"Open rehearsals have been very enthusiastically attended and we've had quite a few new people," Stubbs reported in the lead-up to the 2014 event.

"This year it was clear that a lot more people in the chorus were becoming comfortable. So every year there's more confidence in the audience."

Soloists familiar from past Messiah events will help lead the action from the official choir, including soprano Nancy Washeim and bass baritone Angus Bell. Tenor Don Fisher will be featured with a new aria, while the choir's alto section will perform the alto solo part this year.

"They have two big arias so it works very nicely," Stubbs said.

The Messiah has remained in constant popularity ever since its Dublin debut in 1742. The crowd was anticipated to be so great that warning signs were posted asking the gentlemen to leave their pistols and swords at home, while ladies were asked to leave off their fashionable hoops.



FILE PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

Fulford Hall during last year's Messiah sing-along with the Salt Spring Chamber Orchestra and Choir. Audience members are welcome to sing along with the choir or to simply enjoy the music.

Those strictures might not be necessary at Fulford Hall, but Stubbs noted the audience has grown with each performance, with the 2013 show attracting the largest numbers to date.

Fortunately for those wishing to attend, the Bach on the Rock presentation will be more in line with Handel's original production than what became the norm in later years.

Originally written for a small choir of 16 boys and 16 men plus two female soloists, who were accompanied by a modest orchestra, over the years the trend changed to see directors mounting super-sized performances featuring as many as 2,000 singers and 500 musicians.

In contrast, Salt Spring's chamber choir and orchestra numbers a mere 50 people in total, which leaves plenty of room for the community

to join in. Those who haven't attended a rehearsal but would like to sing are strongly encouraged to do so. Scores will be available either to rent or to purchase for those who don't already have one.

People who don't wish to sing are, of course, also encouraged to attend. Seating will be arranged by voice sections near the front, with room for listeners just behind them.

Tickets for the show are available in advance for a discounted price at RE/MAX Salt Spring. They will also be available at the door.

The show starts at 2 p.m. with doors opening at 1:30. Audience members who intend to sing should come early so they can warm up along with the choir and orchestra. A concession will be available on site.

COMMUNITY ARTS

Community painting items crafted

Project reaches wider audience

BY YAEL WAND
 SS ARTS COUNCIL

Earlier this fall, directors of the Salt Spring Arts Council brought brushes, paints and a large canvas to the Fall Fair. They set up the blank canvas and invited everyone to contribute.

The community painting was hugely popular, with visitors crowding around for a chance to add their mark. In time for the holidays, this collaborative painting has been reproduced on travel mugs, water bottles and puzzles as a fundraiser for the arts council.

"We wanted to connect with the public in a fun way," explains past SSAC president Stefanie Denz. "The arts council already engages with so many of the island's working artists, but we also want to reach out to the larger community creatively, letting people know about what we do and how they can participate."

Salt Spring's of all ages contributed to the painting, along with seasoned artists and those who had not picked up a brush before. The resulting painting is lively and whimsical, depicting the abundance of life and imagination on Salt Spring.

In keeping with the collaborative nature of the paint-



Painting created by many hands at the 2014 Salt Spring Fall Fair. The image was then photographed by David Borrowman.

ing, the project has grown with many local contributions. The canvas was donated by Dragonfly Arts Supplies, the painting was photographed by David Borrowman and printing for the retail items is donated by Persnickety Clothing.

Items can be purchased in Mahon Hall during Wintercraft until Dec. 22 and at other select locations throughout Salt Spring.

Celebrating our 10th season!

Bach on the Rock presents
The Salt Spring Chamber Choir and Orchestra
 with Music Director and Conductor
Jim Stubbs
 in a performance of the
Christmas Oratorio
 by **J.S. Bach**
 with soloists
Nancy Washeim, Soprano; Andrew Washeim, Treble
Carli Burdett, Alto; Brian Lee, Tenor; Angus Bell, Bass

Tuesday, January 6, 2015
7:00 pm at ArtSpring
 Tickets available at ArtSpring
 Adults \$20 Students \$5

MUSIC REVIEW

Bands share double music-making joy



PHOTO BY JOI FREED-GARROD

Salt Spring Concert Band, which includes several members of Swing Shift, celebrates after a fantastic evening of music presented by both bands.

Not-too-Christmassy program fills the bill

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

It had been a while since I'd attended a Salt Spring Concert Band show, but with my interest piqued by the lineup described in publicity materials for Land of Make Believe, I made tracks for ArtSpring on Friday night.

The concert band and Swing Shift, its big-band sister in the Bandemonium Music Society, teamed up to present a seasonal offering, but one that minimized an all-out Christmas carol motif. That suited me just fine.

Concert band director Dawn Hage always takes great care in crafting a program that works in all kinds of ways, both for her musicians — providing fun and challenge in equal doses — and for the audience, in sharing her passion for excellent repertoire and a cohe-

sive theme.

On Friday, a sense of crisp winter air, starry nights, bell-toting carollers and forest walks filled the theatre through pieces such as Gustav Holst's Winter Suite, Celtic Carol and Rosalind in the Forest of Arden.

Hage aptly warned us to fasten our seatbelts for the band's version of God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman, and that was definitely the case for both that song and by the end of the monumental Overture from Orpheus in the Underworld by Jacques Offenbach.

Swing Shift has since September been directed by Derrick Milton, who with his wife Wendy created the Bandemonium Music Society way back in 1992. While Swing Shift is traditionally seen and heard in dance situations on the island, this time they had the full attention of an ArtSpring theatre audience.

Swing Shift performers were clearly having a blast with their set, and especially Randy Marchi, who is known both for his animated trumpet playing and vocal talents.

One special treat was hearing 12-year-old Niko Reveley sing The Christmas Song with the confidence of a 25-year-old jazz singer. Her grandfather Mike Reveley, who created the jazz studies program at Capilano University, arranged this version especially for Niko and Swing Shift.

Collaboration between the two ensembles was evident with Hage playing trumpet in Swing Shift, and when Milton joined Richard Moses in the concert band's French horn section. I realized it was a rare treat to hear Hage play the instrument that propelled her into a musical career, when she played the lyrical solo parts in an arrangement of Antonio Carlos Jobim's Meditation.

The final song of the night was Land of Make Believe, a glorious version of a Chuck Mangione composition from the early 1970s. It saw both bands cram onto the stage and the amazing Carly Davenport take the mic for the vocal parts to cap off a perfect evening of entertainment.

MUSIC/FUNDRAISER

CD flows from pipeline protest

Salt Spring performers join esteemed list of contributors

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artists are among those who have signed on to a new musical collaboration aimed at halting the flow of fossil fuel exportation across B.C. lands and waters.

Clogged Arteries: Songs and Spoken Word in Support of Front-line Pipeline Resistance is a compilation CD featuring tracks from 18 different artists including local contributors Chris Arnett, Phil Vernon and Sweet Water Revolver.

The project itself was put together by Chris Fratwell of Compassion Gorilla, a Victoria-based group that enjoys a strong following on Salt Spring. Kinnie Starr and West My Friend are also among the prominent performers appearing on the CD.

"In response to proposed projects to increase the flow of tar sands oil and fracked gas to the west coast of Turtle Island, artists on the compilation address the blatant disregard for communities, ecosystems and democracy, for the sake of profit and power," information posted on the album's Bandcamp page explains. "They show many sides of the human response to the threat of these projects, such as the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Expansion Project, the Pacific Trails Pipeline, and the tar sands themselves. The songs call for support for the struggles of original inhabitants on unceded lands, and for action in response to injustices."

Vernon, a singer-songwriter and a key member of Salt Spring Islanders for Justice and Reconciliation, has often used his musical skills to help social justice causes. When he heard Fratwell was putting the album together last spring, he submitted his song Climate Blues.

"It feels good to be part of the cultural or musical engagement on the issue. That's something I've been involved with for many years — using song to highlight the discussion," Vernon said.

Vernon feels music has a special power to reach people on social issues, not by replacing education but

by acting in concert with other information for a deeper overall impact.

"We get inundated by all the bad news and we don't get a lot of good news. Poetry or spoken word or music — there's a different energy in that and I think people appreciate that," he said.

Arnett's participation in the compilation also seems like a natural fit. Like Vernon, he's been an active proponent of First Nations' rights to historic and sacred lands on Salt Spring, including Grace Islet. He also has a long history in socially-driven music, both as bass player for the punk rock group The Furies and as a solo artist.

Though currently in the midst of writing his Ph.D. thesis on Interior Salish culture at the Department of Anthropology at UBC, he set aside time to record a new track for Clogged Arteries.

"It's a different style of music than most people are used to hearing me play," Arnett said of his song End of the Bridge, which is the album's final track.

Arnett took a rough garage-style tune he'd created and turned it into a fully realized acoustic song with an upbeat folk rock sound at Paramount Recorders in Vancouver. Fittingly for the CD finale, the jangly guitar and quick rhythm will leave listeners pumped and ready for action rather than depressed. That's not to say the rest of the album is any less inspiring.

"There's a snowball effect when an artist takes an idea and filters it through their experience. It touches other people and it starts to grow," Vernon said. "That's how it works for me, and I'm happy to be part of it."

"It's really great to be associated with some of the musicians on there, and it's part of the effort to increase awareness on what's going on in B.C. Music is just another avenue," Arnett agreed.

Clogged Arteries can be purchased online at <http://cloggedarteries.bandcamp.com/releases>. Hard copies of the CD are also available in music stores in Vancouver and Victoria such as Lyle's Place and Ditch Records.

Funding assistance for the project came from the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group and the University of Victoria Sustainability Project. All proceeds will go toward "front-line pipeline resistance." Details will be posted on the Bandcamp site.

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

ArtSpring presents

**community
christmas
sing-along**

THU DEC 18 | 7:30pm **free!**
ArtSpring
Bring a non-perishable food item
for the food bank

Islands Trust

Our office will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 25, 2014 through Friday, January 2, 2015.

We look forward to serving you in the New Year.

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framing@pegasusgallery.ca

what's on this week



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 Christmas 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.
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.
Transitions Thrift Store's Birthday Party.
Celebrate the 17th birthday of Transitions with chocolate cake, coffee and more. Transitions Thrift Store. 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.

Thur. Dec 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic With Ross & Dave.
Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
ArtSpring's Annual Community Sing-along.
Everyone invited to sing favourite carols and see friends. Remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Christmas Trees.
See Wednesday listing.
Barb's Bakery & Bistro Night Market.
Shop & Social featuring some of Salt Spring Island's finest artisans, food products, clothing, and a cheese/martini bar. Barb's Bakery & Bistro. 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Fri. Dec 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Costners.
Live music at The Local. 5 to 8 p.m.
Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues Band Christmas Show.
Live blues at The Legion. 7:30 p.m.
The Academy Presents... Holiday Show.
Annual academy dance students show with special guests Naomi Jason and Lesley Smith. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.
Viva Choral! Carolers Sing Christmas.
Fundraiser for the Salt Spring Food Bank. Admission by food bank donation. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.
Ange Hehr.
Live at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Christmas Trees.
See Wednesday listing.
Games Night.
An evening of board games and other interactive games, facilitated by Bryan Dubien. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m.
Friday Night Madness.
Family fun swim at Rainbow Road Pool on Fridays. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Offering Prayer Service.
Marking the one-year anniversary of Lama Phuntsok's passing. Ganges Yoga Studio. 7 p.m.

Sat. Dec 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Barley Bros.
Live at The Local. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
A Child's Christmas in Wales.
Dramatic reading of the Dylan Thomas classic, plus carol sing-along and Christmas treats. Fundraiser for home and school for orphaned Kenyan girls. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. 3 p.m.
Living Water.
"Prayerformance" with original music and dance by Dance Temple and Imaginelle collectives at 7 p.m., followed by DJ dance party at 9 p.m. Beaver Point Hall.
The Riverside.
Rock/dance band at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Christmas Trees.
See Wednesday listing.
Christmas Market in the Park.
Special holiday edition, featuring local food producers and artisans. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Visit With Santa.
Visit Santa at the Moutat's Garden Shed. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

Sun. Dec 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Messiah Sing-along.
Annual Bach on the Rock presentation of Handel's Messiah with community sing-along. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.
Billie Woods.
Live music at Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Christmas Trees.
See Wednesday listing.
Bolshoi Ballet Live Broadcast: The Nutcracker.
ArtSpring screens the Bolshoi Ballet's live production of The Nutcracker with iconic music by Tchaikovsky, and choreographed by Yuri Grigorovich. ArtSpring. 9:55 a.m.
Dance Temple - Sacred Sundays.
Ganges Yoga Studio. 10:30 a.m.
Unitarian Fellowship.
No service this morning. Instead, potluck supper solstice celebration for members and friends at SS Seniors Centre. 5 p.m.
Christmas Carol SongJam.
Special Christmas SongJam event led by Wendy Milton. Moby's Pub. 7 to 10 p.m.

Mon. Dec 22

ACTIVITIES

Merry Monday.
Santa visits Fulford village about 4 p.m.; sing carols around the fire with Valdy in the SS Mercantile parking lot at 6:15 p.m. Plus Fulford stores open late for shopping and cheer.
Celebration of Trees.
Salt Spring Golf & Country Club. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ToddlerTime.
For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Festival of Lights Chanukah Celebration.
Annual Chanukah celebration at Centennial Park. Music, Chanukah doughnuts, dreidels, and chocolate gelt. 3:30 p.m.

Tues. Dec 23

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Trees.
Salt Spring Golf & Country Club. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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@driftwoodgimmedia.com

Wed. Dec 24

ACTIVITIES

Celebration of Christmas Trees.
See last Wednesday listing.
Christmas Eve Service.
Anglican carol eucharist with blessing of the creche. All Saints' By-the-Sea, 4 p.m., and St. Mary's church in Fulford, 7 p.m.
Candlelight Service.
Christmas Eve service with refreshments to follow. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass at St. Paul's.
Catholic service at historic Fulford location. St. Paul's Church. 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service.
Community Gospel Chapel. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass.
Anglican service with incense, carols and candlelight. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 10:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Mass.
Carols followed by Midnight Mass. Our Lady of Grace Church. 11 p.m.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

we are YOUR go-to-place for everything happening on Salt Spring

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

THE HOBBIT
THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES

Wed. Dec. 17 to Tues. Dec. 23 7:00pm. Sun. 3 matinee and 7pm.
Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
The Hobbit resumes Boxing Day Friday Dec. 26

get noticed board

Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

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ArtSpring's Community Sing-along
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CINEMA

- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies** — Epic and action-packed, the Trilogy ends on a rousing high note. Smaug rains his fiery wrath down upon Lake-town. Thorin sacrifices friendship and honour to hoard his reclaimed treasure. Sauron sends legions of Orcs to attack the Lonely Mountain. Dwarves, Elves and Men must unite or be destroyed. Bilbo fights for his life and his friends, as the future of Middle-earth hangs in the balance. Note that The Fritz is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Hobbit resumes on Boxing Day, Friday, Dec. 26.

EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8's annual Christmas 8X8 Exhibition of Small Works** by gallery artists runs at the Grace Point Square gallery through Jan. 3.
- 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.

EXHIBITIONS

- 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.
- Up Close & Personal:** The photographic art of **Bob Rogers** is on exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe**.
- 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.
- Heidi Van Impe** oil paintings are hanging 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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CREATIVITY

Workshops on the Rock seeks participants

Brochure production gets started for 2015 season

The Salt Spring Arts Council is starting to think about its plans for next year and is looking for islanders with creative skills to share to get in on the Workshops on the Rock brochure and website.

Organized by the arts council and supported by the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, this is the one-stop listing package for all workshops and classes taking place on the island. The goal is create Salt Spring as a destination for fun and experiential learning, with the early stages of planning for the 2015 edition already underway.

"We are ramping up for our third successful year and looking to include a wide selection of workshops happening here on Salt Spring Island to be listed in our brochure and on our new website," said coordinator Jane MacKenzie.

"Our goal is to expand our offerings by including workshops in food and agriculture, conscious wellness and woodworking,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A participant learns the art of encaustic painting at a Rosalie Matchett workshop held in October.

as well as writing, painting, drawing, photography, basketry, glass, jewelry, felting, weaving, knitting, quilting, spinning, dance and movement, yoga, reiki, Qi Gong, homeopathy, self discovery, sexuality, voice, and workshops for kids."

Anyone planning to host a one-day, weekend, two- or three-day, weekly or monthly workshop is asked to consider listing as the way to reach maximum coverage.

"Even better if you offer these workshops in the quieter months of November, January and February," MacKenzie said.

The Workshops on the Rock brochure is published each year in time for the Easter weekend, which falls from April 3 to 5 in 2015. To accommodate this date, the brochure deadline will be March 2. The brochure is distributed on B.C. Ferries, in Victoria and Vancouver as well as on the other Gulf Islands and in local venues.

Workshops can be added and updated to the website at www.workshopsontherock.com throughout the year.

For information please check out the website, subscribe to the blog or contact Jane MacKenzie at jemmanow@gmail.com.

E

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CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Uncle Wiggly rolls out the blues

Band plays Christmas show

Blues fans and anyone who'd like to hear Christmas music done with a little more soul will be in for the perfect night this Friday, Dec. 19 when Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues Band hits the Salt Spring Legion stage.

The band has been grooving since 1978, with a career that began humbly at the University of Victoria's Sub Pub. The band led the live music, independent recording and producing scene in Victoria during the '80s. They became RCA

recording artists and members of the Victoria Music Hall of Fame. Their extensive touring included opening for legends such as Muddy Waters, Joe Cocker, James Cotton, Koko Taylor and Paul Butterfield, to name a few.

More recently, Uncle Wiggly and friends won the right to represent B.C. at the International Blues Challenge in White Rock in July 2014 and they will travel to Memphis in January 2015 to compete. During 2014 they also released a new CD called Still Burnin it Up.

Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues bandmates are now looking for-

ward to bringing their special Christmas show to the Victoria region. A Tribute to the Blues Songs of Christmas is a collection of traditional tunes by the likes of Louis Jordan, Big Joe Turner, B.B. King, Eric Clapton, Charles Brown and Etta James, plus many more.

The band is made up of six members: Hank (Uncle Wiggly) Lionhart on vocals, Norm Piercy on bass, Mark Comerford on guitar, Brent Hutchinson and Salt Spring Island's own Dave Rowse on sax, and Ty Piercy on drums. Special guests for the show are former Streetheart mem-

ber Dennis Meneely on keyboards, Paul Wainwright on sax, and vocals from Deb Rhymer and Summer Hay.

The Christmas show played to sold-out houses and standing ovations in Alberta last winter. It's the ideal evening for anyone who wants to hear a great evening of fabulous Christmas blues tunes from the '20s to '60s.

Show time is 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available at the Legion bar.

For more information on the group, see www.unclewigglyshotshoesbluesband.com.

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DANCE PERFORMANCE

Solstice event offers two halves

Performance and DJ sets at Beaver Point Hall

The Dance Temple and Imaginelle collectives are inviting the community to participate in a special winter solstice celebration called Living Water, to be held at Beaver Point Hall on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The evening will be held in two parts, although guests are encouraged to join in for the entire program. The first portion, beginning at 7 p.m., will feature a "prayer-performance" with original music by Suzanne Gay accompanied by Ananda Sinclair, and a dance created and performed by Lesley Smith and Naomi Jason with special guest Kim Tebbutt.

The performance will then weave into a

live set by Gay and Sinclair with musical guests Nathan Debridge and Laurent Boucher. The audience will be invited to stretch and move if they would like to.

The second part of the evening will continue from 9 p.m. to midnight with a dance party hosted by Dance Temple DJs Cedar Soulfeather, Kaia Mitchell and Shauna Devlin. Savoury and sweet snacks will be for sale throughout the evening, with complimentary goodies available while supplies last.

Tickets for either portion or for the entire evening are available in advance at Dance Temple, from organizers, at Ethos food cart (at the Sea Breeze Inne) and online at <http://dancetemplesaltspring.weebly.com/events.html>.

Tickets will also be available at the door, but space is limited for the prayer-performance.

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ISLAND WHEELS

a driftwood guide to island transportation, sales, service, accessories and more!

NEW CAR REVIEW

Hyundai Sonata successfully raises its game for 2015

High-quality materials, thoughtful ergonomics, and superb fit and finish

BY NEIL MOORE
METROLAND MEDIA

Over three decades, few cars have come as far as the Hyundai Sonata.

Consider two popular mid-size sedans from the '80s: Toyota Camry and Honda Accord. Both were stellar rides for their time.

The Sonata was not.

Well, that's not entirely accurate, as the first Sonata, circa 1985, was a facelifted Stellar — a nameplate best forgotten — powered by two anemic four-pot engines inherited from the Pony.

Another vehicle best forgotten.

So while Camry and Accord have continued as benchmarks in their segment, Sonata had nowhere to go but up.

As it continues to do, with the all-new 2015 model that upgrades nearly every aspect, if not the look.

The revised styling bowed in the 2015 Genesis, with the new Sonata being only



PHOTO BY NEIL MOORE

Wearing crisper lines and a bolder front end, the Hyundai Sonata is slightly larger for 2015. This Sport 2.0T with Ultimate package gets 18-inch alloys and plenty of chrome detailing.

the second Hyundai model to receive this new treatment.

Both vehicles get less curvaceous and more taut sheet metal. It's a simpler design,

but at the same time more refined.

So while the new Sonata is somewhat conservative, it is at the same time more athletic with its longer and wider body,

fronted by a bold hexagonal grille. This is flanked by sweptback projector headlights and LED running lights for a more aggressive first impression.

And from the side, a bold character line follows the rising beltline to visually connect its wing-shaped tail lights to the muscular front wheel arches that house 16- or 17-inch alloy wheels in 2.4-litre models and big 18-inch alloys in the 2.0-litre turbo.

In back — also depending on model — are a choice of single, dual and quad exhaust diffusers, and an integrated spoiler.

There's a bevy of choices in the Sonata lineup, starting at \$23,999 for the base GL where Hyundai has held the line on pricing, while adding standard content like five-inch touchscreen and rearview camera.

It receives Hyundai's proven 2.4-litre Theta II four-cylinder with gasoline direct injection, making 185 hp and 178 lb/ft of torque. That's down from 190 and 179 last year as it results in better fuel consumption.

Other Sonatas powered by the Theta II are the GLS (\$26,299), Sport (\$28,399), Sport Tech (\$30,199) and Limited (\$32,999).

SONATA continued on 17



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SONATA

continued from 16

The turbocharged Sport 2.0T (\$30,999) and Sport 2.0T Ultimate (\$34,799) get a 2.0-litre, 16-valve four cylinder with gasoline direct injection and twin-scroll turbocharger.

I spent a week in both the Limited 2.4 and the Sport 2.0T Ultimate, and although they were only \$1,800 apart, each appealed to a different buyer.

The Limited 2.4 provides a content list that rivals many entry-luxury sedans. Standard features include leather seating that is heated and cooled in front, heated in rear and with eight-way power adjust for the driver.

It also includes proximity key with pushbutton start, dual-zone climate control (with rear console vents), eight-inch touchscreen navigation with rearview camera, heated steering wheel, manual rear sunshades and a nine-speaker Infinity audio system.

The back seat is roomier than before, able to comfortably handle three full-size adults. And with size comes a hefty curb weight — 1,572 kg for the Limited — so the naturally aspirated four-cylinder must work hard when pressed. Acceleration is adequate, but not exhilarating, which is on par with the last generation.

That being said, there's minimal noise intrusion from the four-banger, not to mention from the road or wind, thanks to abundant soundproofing materials, more structural adhesives and 51 per cent high-strength steel. Aerodynamics are also improved with a Cd of 0.27.

As a result, the cabin is luxury-class quiet, and the car's solid ride puts me in mind of the

previous-generation Genesis. So do its doors that close with a firm "thunk."

The more potent turbo models also benefit from the above, and for \$2K less than the limited, one can opt for a Sport 2.0. My Sport 2.0 "Ultimate," however, had all the luxu goodies for \$34,799.

Like the Limited, it includes upgraded audio, seat heating/cooling, touchscreen navigation and a load of nannies like blind spot detection and rear cross traffic alert (both available from GLS trim), lane departure warning, adaptive cruise control and forward collision warning. It also came with sporting touches like a flat-bottomed steering wheel with paddle shifters, alloy pedals and attractive leather seating.

Although performance may not be a prime mover for most buyers in this class, those who demand more than comfortable family transport will be pleased with the Sport's firmer damping and thicker stabilizer bars. Ride is fairly tight, and hard cornering generates less body roll than in 2.4 litre models.

Set the drive mode to 'Sport' (as opposed to Normal or Eco), and off-the-line acceleration is brisk, with minimal turbo lag. The six-speed kicks down readily and holds each gear longer for ample passing power when you need it.

Inside and out, the 2015 Sonata is starting to look and feel more like a previous-generation Genesis. This isn't a knock against the former Canadian and North American Car of the Year, but an endorsement of Hyundai's attention to high-quality materials, thoughtful ergonomics, and superb fit and finish.

All of which should challenge Sonata's mid-size rivals — Camry, Accord, Altima and Fusion — for top spot in this highly competitive segment.

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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



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Community Gospel Chapel Welcomes You to Join us in our Christmas Eve Service
 147 Vesuvius Bay Road
 December 24th, 2014
 7:00 - 8:30 pm



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Nita Brown, a co-founder of the Salt Spring Arts Council (formerly known as the Gulf Islands Community Arts Council) takes a moment from receiving accolades and flowers at a special event at Mahon Hall on Sunday afternoon. The Salt Spring Arts Council members appreciation event saw the unveiling of a portrait of Brown done many years ago by an as-yet-unknown artist. Brown, who still resides on Salt Spring, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 8.

EDUCATION

SSE music students get a welcome lift

Centre for Child Honouring makes donation for risers

Choirs and music students at Salt Spring Elementary will stand a little taller thanks to a timely gift from Raffi and the Centre For Child Honouring.

Through the centre, Raffi provided the funding required to purchase three sets of choir risers.

"This gift allows the students a better opportunity to see and be seen when in music class and especially when performing," states a press release. "It also allows teachers an opportunity to see and main-



RAFFI CAVOUKIAN

tain eye contact with each student during lessons and concerts."

The risers are portable and will reside in the music room/multi-purpose space at Salt Spring Elementary where they will be available for all students during in-class demonstrations and performances.

"What a wonderful gift from our great friend Raffi," said Shelly Johnson, principal of Salt Spring Elementary. "Our music program and the presentations, performances and

concerts given by the children help to build confidence and character. These risers will be an asset to the school and community for years to come."

Raffi Cavoukian, better known as Raffi, is a Canadian singer-songwriter, author, essayist and lecturer. He is also a music producer, entrepreneur and founder of the Centre for Child Honouring on Salt Spring Island. Child Honouring is "a global movement that views honouring children as the best way to create sustainable, peacemaking societies."

To contact the Centre for Child Honouring, call 250-931-3190 or visit childhonouring.org.

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Christmas & New Year Masses
CHRISTMAS EVE: Wednesday, December 24th:
 7pm Mass at St. Paul's Fulford
 11pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass at Our Lady of Grace

CHRISTMAS DAY: Thursday, December 25th:
 Family Mass @ 10am at Our Lady of Grace

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Thursday, December 31st:
 11pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Grace

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Thursday, January 1st
 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 8am Mass at St. Paul's & 10am Mass at Our Lady of Grace

www.ourladyofgrace-saltspring.ca
 Our Lady of Grace extends every blessing to you and your family for a Joyous Christmas and New Year



The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island
Christmas Services for 2014

Wednesday, December 24th

Carol Eucharists with Blessing of the Crèche
 4:00 p.m. All Saints, Ganges
 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Fulford

Icons, Incense, Carols & Candlelight
 10:30 p.m. "Midnight Mass" at All Saints

Thursday, December 25th

"And the Word became flesh"
 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP) at St. Mark's, Central

Thursday, January 1st

"The Naming of Jesus: New Year's Day"
 12:00 noon Eucharist in Celtic Christian Tradition at All Saints

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Community Christmas Dinner at Meaden Hall
 December 25, 2014, 12 noon until 2 p.m.

Worship Around the Breakfast Table
 December 28, 2014, 10 a.m.

250.537.5812



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

PASSING IT ON: Students in Fulford Community Elementary School's Grade 4-5 leadership group give proceeds of more than \$170 raised from pizza sale days to Ellen Hazenboom (in red) of the Salt Spring Food Bank, who also spoke to the kids about the local facility they had fundraised for.

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FUNDRAISING

SPARCKs campaign reaches first goal

Dormitory opens and bottle collection continues

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A Salt Spring-based campaign has reached its goal to open a new dormitory for a college prep program in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

"SPARCKs have landed and the embers are glowing brightly," reports campaign initiator Ross King.

SPARCKs, which stands for Schooling Poor and Rural Cambodian Kids, provided \$11,238, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by a U.K.-based trust that supported King's request for assistance.

All funds have now been received by the Homestay Volunteer Teachers Organization group. According to its

website, "HVTO is a non-profit NGO incorporated in Cambodia, and now the United States, that develops and manages projects directed towards helping the poorest Cambodian communities. Its fundamental goal is empowering people and creating the conditions necessary for sustainable development through education."

King was inspired to launch a fundraising initiative after visiting Cambodia last winter and meeting key people involved with HVTO. The money helps poor, bright children from rural areas get schooling that will help them reach post-secondary institutions.

"These kids are the future of Cambodia, a country gutted by the Khmer Rouge atrocities which only ceased in 1999, with two to three million people dead, mostly the educated, professional, business and political leaders, their

families and their children," said King.

SPARCKs is committed to supporting the program now that it is up and running, and asks islanders to donate their bottle deposit funds to the SPARCKs account at the Island Return-it Centre next to Uptown Pharmasave.

As well, if people or groups collect at least 250 beverage containers, King will pick them up. He can be reached at 250-537-0666.

"Just bag them up or box them," he suggests, noting that no dairy product or soup containers, broken bottles or garbage should be in the mix.

All other beverage containers are accepted, such as glass, plastic (alcohol, water, pop, juice), aluminum, TetraPak, wine boxes, steel and drink-sachets.

For more information about the program, see www.sparcks.org or www.hvto.org.

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David Griffiths and Jecelyn Boyechko on the birth of their son **Thomas Richard Griffiths**, a little brother for Rilyn, born on December 12, 2014.

Driftwood

GOOD NEWS: Blue balloons flew from the Mouat's Home Hardware flagpole on Friday, "announcing" the birth of store co-manager David Griffiths' son.



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(no referral necessary)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

VENDOR'S CHOICE: Karla Loor took time out from selling her Dermalove products to check out the offerings of other participants at the Legion Christmas Fair held at Meaden Hall on Sunday. Running for the sixth consecutive year, the fair has become an island Christmas tradition.

GANGES AND STILL POINT YOGA STUDIO

Do you like to DANCE? we have Latin based ZUMBA, AFRICAN DANCE with live drummers and musicians, and DANCE TEMPLE for free-flow expression with the best of world beat and contemporary sounds.

Do you like to SING? we have open, mixed groups for UBUNTU Sacred Chants and KIRTAN, devotion songs. SOUND TEMPLE for Men explores vocal expression for the male voice. CHAKRA TONING, balances physical energy centres by the use of toning sounds and will uplift and lighten your senses.

Do you like to STRETCH? we have mixed, group classes in EVERYBODYSTRETCH to the sounds of classical and contemporary music, and adapted, and varied YOGA classes for Every One. Yes, Every-One!

Do you like to MEDITATE? we offer traditional instruction in Vipassana meditation and teach concentration exercises in YOGA classes to help calm and clear your mind.

Do you like to PRAY? we help you to release unrealistic attachments to outcomes by teaching methods of CONCENTRATION in the PRESENT MOMENT.

Do you like to RELAX? YES!!!! Exercise, healthy eating habits and regular relaxation are ideal ingredients for HAPPINESS!

We offer special sessions called SUNDAY RESTSHOPS, with YOGA NIDRA : the quintessential, sublime practice of deep relaxation through focussed breathing.

OH YES! ...and all of this with our TEAM of dynamic, health professionals, at AFFORDABLE rates.

See our Unlimited Monthly Specials coming soon for 2015!

www.gangesyogastudio.com

You'll find us at Ganges Yoga in The Salt Spring Island Wellness Centre. Yes, that Blue and White Building across from the United Church Meadow on Hereford Road.

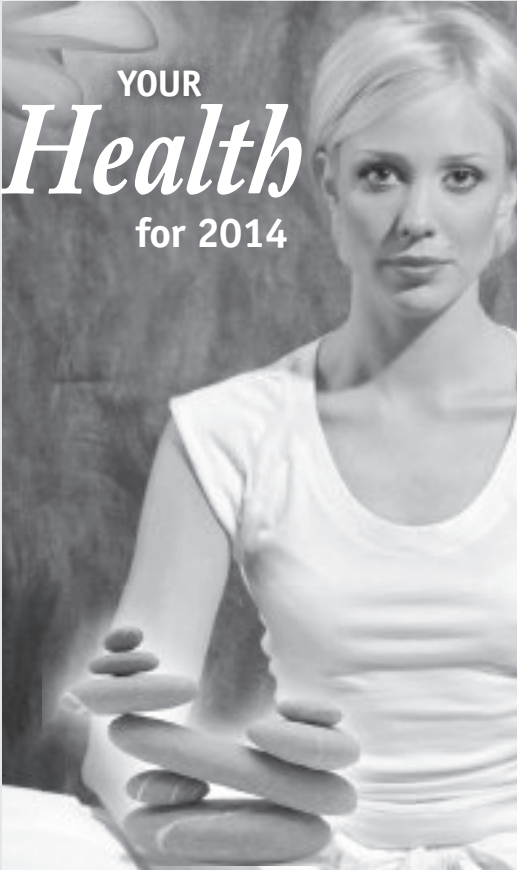
Thank you for choosing us to support you in maintaining your health!

We look forward to new shared incentives in 2015.

Happy Holidays!

Ganges Yoga Studio
At the Salt Spring Island Wellness Centre
250.537.2444 www.gangesyogastudio.com

Still Point Yoga Studio
At Harbour House Hotel



DOROTHY PRICE
CERTIFIED YOGA TEACHER
"Come and see what you have been missing"

Yoga For All Levels
Yoga for Beginners
Rejuvenating Retreats *SSI *Tofino
*Tulum *Tuscany *Provence

250-537-7675

Visit my website for class schedules & retreat info
WWW.SANTOSHA-YOGA-RETREATS.COM

Set in a Saltspring 'country' garden, our family dental practice offers you:

- A pleasant, warm atmosphere with friendly, professional staff.
- Our commitment to serve your needs by providing all aspects of general dentistry including the treatment of joint pain and bite imbalances, crowns and bridges, and root canals on molars as well as front teeth.
- A thorough and successful programme to prevent and eliminate gum disease.
- Our commitment to present and explain all treatment options and to offer a choice of available materials.

We would be delighted to have you as a new patient and we look forward to providing you with the highest quality dental care.

DR. WM. E. LEA & STAFF

LOWER GANGES DENTAL

BOX 210 GANGES P.O.
SALT SPRING ISLAND B.C.
V8K 2V9 CANADA
(250) 537-4141

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds 250-537-9933

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

PLACE AN AD

In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges
 By telephone 250-537-9933 or fax 250-537-2613
 By email to driftwood@driftwoodmedia.com
 By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,
 Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

Payment

By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.

DEADLINES

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



WHAT IT COSTS

3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS:
 \$14.00 - additional lines \$1.00 ea
 All ads are posted to BCClassified.com
EMPLOYMENT/LEGAL ADS:
 3 line rate \$16.50 - additional lines \$1.00 ea
DISPLAY ADS: \$12.88 per col. inch

YOUR AD ON-LINE

All ads booked in the Driftwood Classifieds appear on-line at www.bcclassified.com
 Auto ads also listed on line at www.bcautocentral.com

BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE

Book your classifieds online - open 24 hours a day
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or bcclassified.com



Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
ANNIVERSARIES	IN MEMORIAM	IN MEMORIAM GIFTS	IN MEMORIAM	IN MEMORIAM	INFORMATION	INFORMATION

Congratulations
 Bob & Helen Tara

On 60 years of marriage

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Finbar McMillan's Life Celebration
 December 22nd,
 3pm-11pm
 Beaver Point Hall
 Potluck at 5:30ish
 Friends, Food,
 Photos, Music and
 Dancing for our
 joyous memories!

Salt Spring HOSPICE

Your donation helps to provide support to those who are dying.

250-537-2770
saltspringhospice.org

Nairn Howe
 April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005 (48 years)

9 YEARS AGO
CANCER IS NOT SO POWERFUL!
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IT CANNOT DO...

*I cannot cripple love.
 I cannot shatter hope.
 I cannot corrode faith.
 I cannot destroy peace.
 I cannot kill friendship.
 I cannot suppress memories.
 I cannot silence courage.
 I cannot invade the soul.
 I cannot steal eternal life.
 I cannot conquer the spirit.*

NAIRN HOWE

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!

BIRTHS

Jasmine Dares and Onez Thornhill (Dill) are happy to announce the arrival of their son **Judah Naseem Samuel Thornhill**. Judah was born at 7:19 pm on Dec. 7/2014 weighing 7lbs. 7 oz. His aunt Alyssa and Grampa Danny were there with his mom and dad to welcome him to the world.

bcclassified.com

DEATHS

WHAT'S ON
 page 14

DEATHS

Esther Hengstler
 December 24, 1926 - Nov. 20, 2014

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our Mom, Esther Hengstler, on Nov. 30, 2014. She will be lovingly remembered by her four children, Walter, Raymond, Arnold and Marlene; her spouses Lea, Marita, Julia, and Gary; grandsons, Ben, Chris, Kevin, James, Jameson and Connor; great granddaughters, Samantha, Brooklynn, and Ellery; her twin sister, Clara Johnston of Saskatoon; sisters in law, Mrs. Edith Gark (Dave), and Mrs. Norma Hengstler; as well as many nieces and nephews, wonderful friends and neighbours. She was predeceased by her husband Arthur (Kurt) in June 2013. Mom was born in Saskatchewan on December 24, 1926 and met and married Dad in 1948. In 1955, they moved to Richmond BC where they raised their family and in 1972 moved to Salt Spring Island. Mom was never far from her garden or flowers. For many years she sold her flowers in the Saturday Market and to many businesses in Ganges. She was a member of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary and spent many Thursdays volunteering in the Thrift Shop. Mom loved music and though quite shy, she also spent many hours playing the piano and keyboard entertaining the residents of Greenwoods and Lady Minto Extended care. The family would like to thank the staff at Heritage Place for their kindness during Mom's short residence there. We would also like to thank Dr. David Woodley and Dr. Magna Leon, as well as the staff at Lady Minto Hospital, Acute and Extended Care, for their support and care during Mom's last few months. At Mom's request, there will be no funeral services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. Mom, we will always remember your beautiful smile.

DEATHS

Margaret Lauretta Schwalm Wayne
 August 14, 1919 - December 12, 2014

We are sad to announce the passing of Margaret (Peggy) Wayne on Friday afternoon Dec. 12th. She departed as she lived: quietly, gracefully and surrounded by people who loved her. She was born on the farm in Zurich Ontario, the 9th of 12 children born to Peter and Violet (Pfaff) Schwalm. It was a hot day in August and the threshing crew was hard at work. In her growing up years money was scarce, but love and companionship were there in abundance. After completing grade 10, (2 yrs early and always in the top 3 of her class) she went to London to work as a maid. It was here that the lady of the house took the time to teach her about opera, which she enjoyed all her life. The war came along and she joined the Navy, was posted to Halifax as a leading Wren and there met a handsome young sailor. It was during this time she became known as Peggy (although always still called Marg by her family). She married Bill Wayne in 1944. Following the war, they moved back to Ontario, building a house in Burlington. Two children were born there, Shirley and Kenneth. In 1957 they moved west, making a home in Kelowna, then Peachland, then Westbank. She loved God, flowers, music, cats, curling, knitting, her family and her church. In later years, she made her home with Shirley and Lorne here on Salt Spring, and the last year was spent at Greenwoods, where she received gentle and loving care. Peggy is predeceased by her parents and 10 siblings: Austin, Gordon, May, Mervyn, Laurene, Nelda, Violet, Lee, Ray and Karl, as well as her husband Bill. She is survived by her children Shirley (Lorne) Bunyan and Ken (Catherine) Wayne, her grandchildren Brad Bunyan, Courtney Mitchell, Ryan Bunyan, Robyn Mitchell, Alex Bunyan and William Wayne and her great grandchildren Edda, Jacob and Eric. She is also survived by her sister Florence Perdue (in Masset) and lots of nieces and nephews. A celebration of her life will be held at Salt Spring United Church on Monday, Dec. 22nd at 2:00pm. One of her favourite hymns was "Safe in the arms of Jesus". And that's where she is. Rest gently Mom. Until we meet again...

CARDS OF THANKS

Fulford Community Hall Christmas Artisan Fair
 Thank you's.

To the talented vendors for supporting our hall fundraising. Your contributions are vital for the hall's upkeep.

To ALL of our junior and senior volunteers extraordinaire, without your help, the fair could not continue.

To the public for the generous donations at the door.

To Moe, our creative chef, the "chili lady" Peggy Alborough, and the numerous bakers of fine desserts.

Many thanks to Janice, our photoshop whiz.

Special thanks to:

1. Country Grocer
2. Thrifty's Foods
3. Windsor Plywood
4. Mout's
5. Upper Ganges Liquor Store

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CELEBRATIONS

Happy 65th Birthday FJ

The CFUW SSI Wishes to Thank Donors for Their Generous Contributions To Our Christmas Auction 2014

Amber Casa	Pharmasave
Back on the Rock Music Society	Rainbow Road Pool
Brook Holdack	Rainbow Trading Co.
Dr. Richard Hayden	Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe
Fernwood Cafe	Salt Spring Air
Gallery 8	Salt Spring Clothing Co.
House Piccolo Restaurant	Salt Spring Dry Cleaners
Judith & Robert Borbas	Salt Spring Inn
Juliette Hair Studio	Salt Spring Vineyards
Love My Kitchen	Spa By Lenise
Magic Touch	Steffich Fine Art
Monsoon Coast	Sweet Water Ensemble
Mouat Trading Co.	The Fishery
Neal Wilkinson	The House Boat
North End Fitness	The Pod
OMG Boutique	Uniglobe Geo Travel
Pat Webber Pottery	Windsor Plywood

Run it 'til it sells!
 All ads appear at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com and bcclassified.com
 Your private party (merchandise only) classified ad will run in our next 3 insertions. If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 3 insertions. Extra lines at \$1.00

Proceeds are used to fund the CFUW SSI Hope Project. This project sponsors girls of potential in developing countries who would not otherwise be able to complete secondary education.



DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

ARCHERY LESSONS
Instructor: Ken Cameron, Archery Canada Coach
Place: Saltspring Island Rod & Gun Club
January: 5, 12, 19, 26
Youth: 6pm - 7pm / Adults 7pm - 8pm / Cost: \$75
Please pre-register by contacting me at: 250-537-1243 kc12@telus.net

The Weavers' Guild offers classes for children aged 8 & up beginning January 16th.

Students will learn the basic language of weaving, weaving tools and loom dressing in this hands-on course. Colourful yarns and looms provided. Each participant will come away with 2 finished items.
The six sessions will be held at ArtSpring, Friday's from 10:00 to 12:00. Maximum of 8 students. Cost is \$60.00. Loom and yarns provided.
To register call Sara: 250.538.6288

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

Community Christmas Dinner
Meaden Hall Dec. 25th 12 - 2pm
Doors open at 11:30am
Meals served from 12 noon to 2:00pm
Some of the Best Things in Life ARE Free!

INFORMATION

Advertise in the 2015 - 2017 BC Freshwater Fishing Regulations Synopsis
Please call Annemarie 1.800.661.6335 or email: fish@blackpress.ca

DID YOU KNOW? BBB provides complaint resolution services for all businesses and their customers. Look for the 2014 BBB Accredited Business Directory E-edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at www.blackpress.ca. You can also go to http://vl.bbb.org/directory/ and click on the 2014 BBB Accredited Business Directory

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift?
Consider West Coast Dancing. How about something that is good for you but cheaper and more fun than a gym membership; better for you and lasts longer than a box of chocolates; and can be enjoyed world wide? Why not give a certificate for membership in a club that provides an inexpensive physical, mental AND social work out. Suitable for couples or singles - how about the whole family. 12 weekly lessons starting Monday, January 12, 2015 for \$50.00 per person (couple or family rates available).
For more information, contact Marilynne at 250-537-5356 or almarcn@telus.net.

PERSONALS

MEET SINGLES right now! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 1-800-712-9851.

LOST AND FOUND



\$250 REWARD! Lost Siamese cat - our 2 little girls have lost their best friend Wolverine (aka Wolvie or Zed), 9 mos old Seal Point Siamese with ear tattoo. Last seen Oct. 18, by Christmas Hill. 250-389-0184 alinaf@shaw.ca

TRAVEL

TIMESHARE

CANCEL YOUR Timeshare. NO Risk Program. STOP Mortgage & Maintenance Payments Today. 100% Money Back Guarantee. FREE Consultation. Call Us NOW. We Can Help! 1-888-356-5248.

TRAVEL

RV LOT rentals \$8.95 a day. 362 days of sunshine, pets, events, classes, entertainment. Reserve by 11/01/2014. www.hemetrresort.com, call: 1-800-926-5593

LocalWork.ca
YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL JOBS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GET FREE vending machines. Can earn \$100,000 + per year. All cash-retire in just 3 years. Protected territories. Full details call now 1-866-668-6629. Website www.tvend.com

THE DISABILITY Tax Credit. \$1,500 yearly tax credit. \$15,000 lump sum refund (on avg). covers: Hip/knee replacements, arthritic joints, COPD. For help applying 1-844-453-5372.

WESTERN CANADA'S fastest growing chalk & mineral paint products for the DIY Craft Market. Adding new retailers now! Visit us online funkedup.ca/bc or call 1-855-386-5338 today.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

LocalWork.ca

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRESSIVE Industrial Vegetation Service Company is seeking a Branch Manager to oversee its operations in the Grande Prairie, AB region. The successful applicant will have management experience and excellent communication and people skills. This position offers a competitive remuneration package and time off flexibility in the winter months. Interested applicants can email their resume to mail@melbern.ca

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

INTERIOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR SCHOOL. NO Simulators. In-the-seat training. Real world tasks. Weekly start dates. Job board! Funding options. Sign-Up online! iheschool.com 1-866-399-3853

Train To Be An Apartment Manager
• Government Certified Home Study Course
• Jobs Registered Across BC
35 Years of Success!
www.RMTI.ca

MEDICAL/DENTAL

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION is an in-demand career in Canada! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get the online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareerStep.ca/MT or 1-888-528-0809 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

TRADES, TECHNICAL

CEDA is Hiring! Labourers & Operators - Turnaround Projects
Qualifications include:
• Physically demanding
• Clean driver's abstract
• Travel within Alberta
• Class 1/3 driver's license an asset
To submit resume please visit online: www.cedagroup.com

PERSONAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

RAPID DEBT RELIEF... NO Interest - LOW Payments
There is Special Government Legislation that allows you to reduce your DEBT by up to 100%
Call KYLE for a FREE CONSULTATION
1-855-812-6767
ABAKHAN & Associates Inc.
Real Estate/Brokerage/Consultants
414 - 1207 Douglas St. Victoria
1120 - 625 Howe St. Vancouver
Good people to know in times of trouble
Serving Communities Throughout Vancouver Island
www.abakhan.com
We'll help you get a fresh start!

ARE YOU \$10K Or More In Debt? DebtGo can help reduce a significant portion of your debt load. Call now & see if you qualify. 1-800-351-1783.

GET BACK ON TRACK! Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420 www.pioneerwest.com

NUTRITION/DIET

WEIGHT loss, 30 days, proven, healthy, money back guarant. Email: lb@osdda.com 250-900-1254

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

COMPUTER SERVICES

CALL BOB'S Computer Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please back-up your important data now!

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

CONCRETE & PLACING

GULF COAST MATERIALS
Serving the Gulf Islands
• Concrete
• Concrete Pumps
• Sand/Rock
• Rebar
• Bagged Cement
• Colour & Sealers
Small Load Pick Ups Available at Yard
345 Rainbow Road
250-537-2611

DRAFTING & DESIGN

LET'S GET STARTED
Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.
HELSET DESIGN
250.537.1037
Ask for Jim

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

FULL SERVICE Plumbing from Parker Dean. Fast, reliable, 24/7 service. Take \$50 off your next job if you present this ad. Vancouver area. Call 1-800-573-2928.

PETS

CKC CHOC/BLK lab pups, gorgeous, top quality, gentle nature, \$1200. 250-897-6275.

PETS REMEMBERED



Rita B and the Kennedy's sadly note the passing of our wonderful black lab "Boomer". Known to many on Salt Spring, he travelled with them everywhere. He especially loved going to Glad's for ice cream with Scotty McNutt and Nelson. Malcolm, Stephanie and Harold Bond, and Nora as well, took wonderful care of him. He will be missed by his numerous friends, both two- and four-legged.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

FUEL/FIREWOOD

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD
GUARANTEED CORD
Cut, Split & delivered
Cedar Fence Rails
250-653-4165

PAUL'S FIREWOOD GREAT SERVICE!

Serving Salt Spring for 33 years
250-537-4660
Paul Konig
Will BUY firewood logs

GARAGE SALES

LIONS GARAGE SALES & DROP OFFS: Fridays & Saturdays only. 10am - 12 noon. **CLOSED FOR DEC 26, 27, JAN 2 & 3.** We accept large appliances, draperies or clothing. Drop-off accepted Friday & Saturday mornings only. Please NO garbage!! 103 Bonnet Ave.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2010 YARD MACHINES
2-stage SNOW THROWER, 30" auger, electric start, yard light, manual & keys. NEVER USED. Best offer over \$500. Call: 250 537-9301

STORAGE CONTAINER SPECIAL

10' x 8' x 9' - \$3,500, + taxes
9' x 7.5' x 8' - \$3,000, + taxes
8' x 7' x 7' - \$2,500, + taxes
Great Storage, pump house, feed house, recycle. All new and lockable. Rodent and bug proof.

Call Ward 250 537-7195

DUNCAN FOAM AND FUTONS

Sofa cushions too soft? Mattress too hard or needs replacement? RV, boat cushions need work? We can help! Replacement foam, latex foam. We can sew RV or boat cushion covers.
4485 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan
1-250-746-0702

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

HOT TUB (SPA) COVERS. Best price. Best quality. All shapes & colours available. 1-866-652-6837 www.thecoverguy.com/newspaper?

MEAT GRINDER, commercial grade - Stainless Steel. Original cost \$3,000. Offers welcome. 250-537-9790

STEEL BUILDINGS (metal buildings 60% off! 20x28, 30x40, 40x62, 45x90, 50x120, 60x150, 80x100 sell for balance owed! Call 1-800-457-2206 or visit us online: www.crownsteelbuildings.ca

STEEL BUILDINGS. "Really big sale!" All steel building models and sizes. Plus extra savings. Buy now and we will store until spring. Pioneer Steel 1-800-668-5422 or visit www.pioneersteel.ca

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA Disklavier DCSM4T 67" grand piano rec/plays, quiet/silent modes w/remotes. Exc. cond. Asking \$50,000 Please call (250) 537-9659 More info at www.disklavier.ca

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Are you ready to make the move to "Sidney by the Sea" & buy your Dream Home? 1417sq ft Rancher home \$525,000 (price below current appraised value). Professionally renovated and inspected (with permits) this home has too many comforts to list. 5 bdrms, 3 bath, garage, generator, steel roof, wood burning stove, granite, maple hardwood, 60gal HW heater, 200 amp electric, etc. Perfect starter home that also boasts a legal suite or home office. Super cozy home minutes from everything! Contact Laura at 250-656-2851 or whitelt@shaw.ca to arrange a viewing.

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

1,068 SF for lease, Merchant Mews nr. Ganges. Skylights, baydoor, upstairs office, bhrm. Richard, 250-880-1669 (Vic.)

1,127 SF at Merchant Mews near Ganges. Elegant office unit, mezz., conf. rm. (250) 380-1669 Richard (Victoria)

UPPER GANGES CENTRE 2nd Floor - 1 prof. office, Chair Lift, street level retail space - 1072 sq.ft. Ample parking. Call Mary Lou: 250-537-5528

HOMES FOR RENT

1 BDRM. Lower level walk-out, newly renovated, 5 appliances, propane fireplace, great location close to hospital, \$850 + util. NS, references req'd. 250 537-6839

CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

HAPPY ISLAND Diaper Service
We are a complete cloth diaper pickup/delivery service. Once a week our friendly driver will arrive in our pink van and exchange your dirty cloth diapers for nice clean ones. Convenient and affordable, from just \$25.55/week! We make cloth diapering as easy as using disposables. No rinsing or scraping required. You can enjoy more time with baby while we take care of your diapering needs. As former islanders, we are thrilled to bring our awesome service to Salt Spring!
Please visit www.happyislanddiapers.com or call Jane & Shawn @ 1-866-922-7377 for more info or to get started!

CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

ADVERTISE IN THE 2015-2017 BC FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS
Please call Annemarie 1.800.661.6335 or email: fish@blackpress.ca

TENDERS

Capital Regional District CRD
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION No. SSI 2014-004 GRACE POINT BOARDWALK RAILING REPLACEMENT
The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites quotations from qualified bidders for the replacement of railings along the Grace Point Boardwalk.
Copies of the complete Request for Quotations may be obtained from the Capital Regional District, Salt Spring Island Office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, or copies may also be downloaded from www.crd.bc.ca/business, on or after Wednesday, December 17, 2014.
Quotations clearly marked Request for Quotation SSI2014-004 will be accepted until Wednesday, January 7, 2015 by 4:30pm. Please submit to: Capital Regional District Salt Spring Island Administration 145 Vesuvius Bay Road Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1K3 Attention: Dan Ovington, Manager, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation
Enquiries pertaining to this quotation may be directed to Dan Ovington at (250) 537-4448 or by email to dovington@crd.bc.ca or by fax to (250) 537-4456.

TENDERS

RV LOT rentals \$8.95 a day. 362 days of sunshine, pets, events, classes, entertainment. Reserve by 11/01/2014. www.hemetrresort.com, call: 1-800-926-5593

Run it 'til it sells. \$24.99
Run your classified ad in The Driftwood 'til it sells!
All ads appear on-line at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com and bcclassified.com
Your private party (merchandise only) classified ad will run in our next 3 insertions • If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 3 insertions Extra lines at \$0.95

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 23

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

ISLAND EXPLORER

Property Management Ltd.

www.islandexplorerproperties.com

250-537-4722
1-800-800-9492

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

ROOMS FOR RENT

1 ROOM, private entrance, ground level, outdoor bathroom - can use as storage also. \$400 Call: 250 537-6382

STORAGE

STORAGE

- All units heated
- Humidity control
- 9 foot height
- 24 hours access

MID ISLAND STORAGE
250-537-4722

TRANSPORTATION

CARS

1995 FORD ESCORT wagon, \$1,200 OBO. Air, power windows/locks, MP3 player, 4 cylinder automatic 250 537-9534

SPORTS & IMPORTS

2003 TOYOTA, 125,000km, serviced regularly, good condition, \$4,000. 250 537-1455

2008 KIA Rio 4dr Auto, White, AC, Htr Seats & Side Mirrors 40,000km \$5500. O.b.o. 250 537-8928

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE

1994 GOLDEN FALCON, 26 ft. camper, stove, walk-in shower, microwave, back bedroom, elec. furnace. Located in a beautiful fenced space to rent or you haul away. Toilet is missing, some minor flaws. Asking \$3,500 250 537-8787

TRUCKS & VANS

1996 GMC JIMMY \$4000.00 4 door, 4x4, New tires. 175,000 kms. (250) 538-8087

MARINE

BOATS

2 PLACE ULTRA-LITE Float plane \$12,000. Call 250 537-9605 for details.

OLDE STYLE - Converted Gillnetter 35' X 10', 125hp Chrysler Crown gas engine. \$10,000. Rod 250-538-8304

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM



**Need Packing Paper?
Puppy Paper?
Art Supply Paper?
Paper Table Cloths?**

Why not stop by the Driftwood and buy a Roll End
Prices \$5 and up.

Attention New Salt Springers!




Welcome Wagon
A Canadian Tradition Since 1930

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





Run it 'til it sells!
\$24.99

Run your classified ad in the Driftwood 'til it sells!



Your private party (merchandise only) classified ad will run in our next 3 insertions. If you need to modify the ad or run it again, just call us and we'll run it again for another 3 insertions.
Extra lines at \$1.00
CALL JAMIE 250-537-9933



Capital Regional District 

Notice of Adoption of Bylaw 3917, Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw Amendment

The Board of the Capital Regional District (CRD) gives notice that it intends to adopt Bylaw No. 3917, Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw No. 6, 2013, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2014, at its meeting of Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in the Board Room at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC.

The primary purpose of Bylaw No. 3917 is to amend Bylaw No. 3881, Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw No. 6, 2013 by:

- increasing the tipping fee rates from \$107/tonne to \$110/tonne
- banning the disposal of kitchen scraps at the landfill
- banning the disposal of residential packaging and printed paper at the landfill

A copy of the bylaw may be inspected between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday, excluding statutory holidays, from the date of this Notice until January 14, 2015 at the CRD locations listed below:

- Public Notice Posting Place, Main Floor Foyer, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- Hartland Landfill Administration Offices, Hartland Avenue, Victoria
- CRD website www.crd.bc.ca/bylaw3917

Select Bylaw 3917 from the list of bylaws.

Questions regarding the bylaw may be directed to Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management, Tel 250.360.3080 or 1.800.663.4425 (local 3080).

Dated December 17, 2014

Sonia Santarossa
Corporate Officer

This Week's Horoscope
by Michael O'Connor
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TIP OF THE WEEK:

The natural year is rapidly coming to a close and a new one is poised to begin. This alpha and omega meeting point is called Winter Solstice. From this day forth the hours of daylight will begin to increase again. It is something of an irony that this gradual increase towards longer days begins on the first day of winter. Christmas day is symbolically linked to this re-birth of the 'Sun' and when the increase of daylight is first noticeable. This is a generic cycle common to all. The science of measuring cycles and their probable expressions of events and timing can also be applied to our personal lives. Where are you at in your life cycles? With the assistance of Astrology and Numerology I can help you to know. What is extra special about Winter Solstice this year is that it coincides with an exact New Moon and counts as the 3rd of 4 in a row that occur at 0 degrees of their respective signs: Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn and the Aquarius. 0 degrees marks new beginnings. This is especially true of Cardinal Signs - Capricorn, Aries, Cancer, and Libra, which are the 'signs' linked to the Solstices and Equinox - the natural quartering of the year and advent of seasons which in turn constitute the basis of Western Astrology. Looking at the current state of the world, the plummet in the price of oil presents a strong synchronicity that suggests that things will not return to the way they were anytime soon. Yes, some big turns, trends and events are brewing and 2015 will prove to be remarkable in many ways. I will devote this portion of the column to continued updates of planetary alignments and their synchronicities. Although there is nothing new about change, some turns are sharper than others, some much more. Mercury, Venus, Pluto and in a few days the Sun in Capricorn and then Saturn entering Sagittarius on December 23rd where it will remain for 3 years, will add to the deepening plot and leave their stamp on the chart for New Year 2015. Read all about it in my New Moon Newsletter - free sign-up on my website.

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20) It is common to feel the extra weight at this time of year. Thus a mix of enthusiasm balanced by a dryer and more sober attitude will likely describe your current mood. Saturn's shift into your fiery cousin's sign of Sagittarius will activate a renewed spirit of adventure. It will activate a search for deeper answers and inspire creative determinations to advance to the next level.

TAURUS (APR 20 - MAY 21) You are on a creative and powerful role. Yet these do include some rather deep changes which have already begun. Not usually a big fan of change, these are compelling you to stand strong in your confidence based on all you have achieved these past few years. What stands to change most are inherited beliefs, convictions and philosophies.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21) Amidst an expanding social cycle, you also feel drawn inward. Some deeper and more serious thoughts, feelings and reflections about what you consider important are underway. How to balance the two is the question. Rich exchanges of communication with someone you trust to provide sound and unbiased feedback, perhaps over dinner, just might satisfy both.

CANCER (JUN 21 - JUL 22) Often this time of year is serious business. This is true whether you are actually in business or simply engaged in the efforts required to make the festive season just that. Whispers and secrets don't sound very jolly but they are prevalent now and there are other reasons yet why you feel the weight. Find reasons to feel grateful to uplift your spirits.

LEO (JUL 22 - AUG 23) Mixing business with pleasure feels especially right at this time of year. Yet, like a private investigator or even a spy there is mission and purpose behind your cheers. With an eye for detail you are determined to get everything just right. This includes contending with the individuality, special circumstances and antics of certain key players currently on your stage.

VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEP 22) Sometimes the more serious turns in life actually work well for us. This may be one of those times. The challenging tone, pace and implications of changes are activating your leadership qualities. Since true leadership is based on a genuine and deep sense of service, you may be a good candidate. However, expect to earn the confidence required.

LIBRA (SEP 22 - OCT 22) Attending to a host of details and tasks and on a variety of fronts is likely now. This includes creating an atmosphere of beauty, inspiration and celebration close to home. Words like security, integrity and confidence can be added to the list. Clearing the old to make way for the new is featured whether it is clutter, or the props of old interpretations, attitudes and perceptions.

SCORPIO (OCT 22 - NOV 21) A process of taking stock and inventory continues. At this point, beyond possessions you are re-evaluating all that you possess or have access to in terms of talents, opportunities, connections, affiliations and so on. You are entering a time which will require you to re-imagine and re-invent yourself somehow once again. Change your own mind and leave the rest as it is.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 21 - DEC 21) Saturn entering your sign this week should be enough to get your attention. It may feel a bit like coming to shore after a long while at sea. Imagine this metaphor was true and you landed on an unexplored island. You would first have to 'get your legs back'. Then wisdom would guide you to secure a basecamp. Explorations requiring courage would follow. Land ho!

CAPRICORN (DEC 21 - JAN 19) A new chapter is beginning for us all and beyond simply being aware you can feel it in every cell. It is and will continue to push you into your sense of leadership. A new kind of commitment is required. Old interpretations of security will have to be replaced by new ones. Although this process will take time you have arrived at the turning point.

AQUARIUS (JAN 19 - FEB 19) Much is stirring behind the scenes in your world, not least of all a barrage of thoughts and questions. A few concerns may be woven in as well. You are entering a time of returns. All being well, you have invested your time and energy well over the past few years. New associations, involvements and commitments are implied.

PISCES (FEB 19 - MAR 20) Saturn enters your solar career house this week. This will require extra measures of discipline and patience to handle. At best it will bring forth new levels of power and authority. This is a long cycle but it begins now. Focus to refine your knowledge and updating outdated models, approaches and perspectives.

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



SOCCER

Boys fall short

Strong effort ends in 2-1 loss

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Old Boys kicked off their weekend match against Cordova Bay faced with blinding sunshine and daunting odds in the team's last match of 2014.

"Second World War fighter pilots were warned of the danger of attacks out of the sun and this was a recurring theme in the match," said Fraser Hope in his post-game report.

The Old Boys dominated much of the first half, winning the possession and shots-on-goal columns, but failed to finish with a go-ahead goal. Graham Tweddle changed all that by scoring on a well-timed pass from Stefan Cermak with a special mention to Scott Howe in defence.

Cordova tied things up soon after with an "attack out of the sun" from 45 metres out that whirled past keeper Jim Witherspoon.

The home team took the lead thanks to a fluke deflection off a free kick that left the keeper and defencemen looking at each other in disbelief.

"Quel damage," Hope said. "Probably more like quel surprise, having experienced many such incidents over the years past."

Salt Spring returned to the pitch with gusto in the second. The team's offense narrowly missed an early equalizer, and keeper Witherspoon came up big to keep the visitors in the match.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

OUT OF REACH: Salt Spring's Sue-Anne Connolly races for the ball against Sooke's keeper in a game played at GISS on Sunday. The Salt Spring United Over-30B women's team shut out Sooke 7-0, capping a stellar first half of the season and finishing in first place in their division.

Photos with Santa

LAST CHANGE FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA!

Saturday, December 20
10am - 2pm

MOUAT'S Home hardware
Home Owners helping Homeowners
250.537.5551



Opportunity to Comment on BC Ferries' proposed Fare Flexibility and Digital Experience Initiative

The British Columbia Ferry Commission is seeking public comment on BC Ferries' application pursuant to section 55(2) of the *Coastal Ferry Act* ("Act") for approval of a major capital expenditure on information technology elements to support the Fare Flexibility and Digital Experience Initiative (the "Initiative").

In its application BC Ferries states that the Initiative will deliver the information technology elements required for the successful deployment of BC Ferries' Fare Flexibility and Revenue Management Strategy and the system-wide modernization of the Company's information technology platforms to support the Digital Experience Strategy.

Under section 55(4) of the Act the commissioner may approve a major capital expenditure if the proposed major capital expenditure is:

- reasonable,
- prudent, and
- consistent with
 - the current Coastal Ferry Services Contract, and
 - any long term capital plan established by the ferry operator.

BC Ferries' application is available at <http://www.bcferrycommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/BCFS-2014-12-02-FFDEI-section-55-Application.pdf>. Section 55 Application Guidelines as established by the Ferry Commission is also available at <http://www.bcferrycommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Section-55-Application-Guidelines-Revised-July-5-2014.pdf>.

Comments or submissions can be sent by email to info@bcferrycommission.ca or by mail to:

BC Ferry Commission
PO Box 9279 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9J7

Deadline for public comments is December 31, 2014. Comments submitted to the Ferry Commission may be published on its website.

RAINBOW ROAD POOL

Rainbow pool pass costs cut

Commissioners look to boost pool visits

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After less than a month on the job, Parks and Recreation Commission general manager Dan Ovington has his sights set on boosting attendance at the Rainbow Road Pool.

"If the pool is sitting there, the staff is sitting there, so let's fill it," Ovington told commissioners at PARC's monthly public meeting on Monday. "It's really about getting more users to use the facility but also being able to generate

more revenue as well."

Commissioners agreed to lower the cost of annual adult and child passes by approximately 30 per cent.

The decrease brings the annual pass prices in line with the average cost for similar products elsewhere in the Capital Regional District. The cost of an annual adult pass ranges from \$368 in Victoria to \$431 in Sooke.

The new price for annual pass on Salt Spring will be \$393.50 for adults and \$256 for kids.

PARC commissioners anticipate the pass price decrease will raise sales and encourage more islanders to get active. No children's passes

and only six adult passes have been sold in 2014.

PARC will implement a monthly payment system to gives users an alternative to paying for the pass all at once.

"I think the more we can take away the cost barriers, the more successful it's going to be," Ovington added.

"There's lots of studies out there that show that when you start to bring down the cost barriers, more people start to recreate and we just see more benefit and revenue as well, which helps to offset some of our expenses."

The price change will come into effect before the commissioner's annual review of fees in May.

WRESTLING

Island youth earn medal haul

Salt Spring team ranks fifth

Salt Spring Wrestlers stood their ground with pride and skill over the weekend as the team lunged to a fifth-place team finish in the Cowichan Valley.

Cathy Linna Villa-Gomez and Stefan Esquivel brought home gold medals in the 54-kilogram boys and girls events at the 2014 Cougar Wrestling Invitational, held Saturday at Cowichan Secondary School.

Danny Villa-Gomez (51-kg class) won a

silver medal, and William Rithaler (39-kgs) and Kevin Marr (135-kgs class) picked up third-place finishes.

"I'm really proud," said coach Leon Esquivel.

The team finished the event with 28 points.

Athletes have time to refine their moves and hone their strategies before a mid-January tournament in Richmond.

"There's always room for improvements," Esquivel said.