



Year in Review
Beyond the headlines
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MMA champ
David Puhky makes his mark
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Happy New Year Driftwood

Wednesday, December 31, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 53 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN
Gulls survey the scene from their Vesuvius dock perch.

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WASTE

Kitchen scrap ban takes effect on New Year's Day

Educational approach favoured

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional Dis-

trict has chosen to start the year with a lofty resolution.

The plan to decrease the amount of trash dumped into the Hartland landfill by as much as 30 per cent begins Jan. 1.

As of Thursday, residents and business owners are not allowed to toss out kitchen scraps with conventional trash. The ban includes leftover fruit, vegetables, dairy products, meat, grains, bones

and soiled paper.

Jim Watkins, manager of environmental resource policy for the CRD, said the district is working with private garbage haulers across the region to facilitate the transi-

tion. He expects it may take several months for people to fully adapt to the new system.

"We're not looking to implement draconian enforcement right from the offset," he said on Tuesday.

More information about the CRD kitchen scrap bylaw is available on the CRD website or by calling 250-360-3030. Additional questions can be addressed by the island's garbage collection contractors.



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SERVICES

Tree-chipping offered Sunday

Fire department spearheads food bank donation effort

Local volunteers are "chipping in" to help islanders clean up after the holidays with a Christmas-tree chipping fundraiser on Sunday.

"We are hoping to provide an alternative for people to dispose of Christmas trees in a way that will be safe, environmentally-sound and beneficial to the community," said Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin.

Islanders are invited to drop off Christmas trees (clean of ornaments) at SSIFR's Central fire hall, where they will be chipped to create landscaping material.

Machine-chipping services have been donated by Cal Mills of Mills Tree Services.

"Cal previously provided this valuable service to the community.

"We thought it was a great idea and we wanted to help him out to do it again by providing a space and some extra hands," said Sherrin.

"Cal previously provided this valuable service to the community."

MITCHELL SHERRIN
SSIFR

Volunteers from the Bring Your Branches program will also be on site to collect discarded trees. That

group has been helping islanders dispose of yard waste over the past two years through similar events.

SSIFR hopes to partner with the group more in the future, Sherrin said.

"Yard-waste burning is a major contributor to air pollution and it causes several brush fires each year. Alternatives help improve our health and safety."

Christmas tree chipping will be provided for a five-dollar minimum donation to the local food bank.

"Previously, Cal was doing this as a fundraiser for the food bank and we thought we'd keep supporting his idea," said Sherrin.

Islanders are welcome to drop off Christmas trees from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 4 at Central fire hall across from Portlock Park.

Notice to the Public

Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands Schedule Changes Reminder

Nine Wednesdays Removed from Service

BC Ferries reminds Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands customers that service will be removed for nine Wednesdays from January 7 to March 4, 2015.

On those Wednesdays, customers can use the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay and Swartz Bay-Southern Gulf Islands routes to travel between Metro Vancouver and the Southern Gulf Islands.

BC Ferries thanks customers for their understanding and patience.

For full schedule details, visit: bcferries.com/schedules



INFRASTRUCTURE

New pathway on the march

Harbour's End pathway planning nears completion

Having already completed a new pathway from Churchill to Leisure Lane earlier this year, Partners Creating Pathways is once again on track to further expand its Ganges Village Pathway Network.

A second project is in the offing, this time on the unsafe roadside at the end of Ganges Harbour between Moby's Pub and the junction of Lower and Upper Ganges roads. This area will soon see dramatic improvement.

The main funding agency is the Capital Regional District with a generous grant from its Active Transportation Innovative Infrastructure Program. Other contributors include the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission, the Salt Spring Foundation and four local businesses: Hastings House Country House Hotel, Moby's Pub, Salt Spring Marina and Harbour House Hotel. Thanks go also to the individual donors to Island Pathways' Step Up for Safe Pathways campaign.

The new Harbour's End pathway will include a safety railing along its entire length.

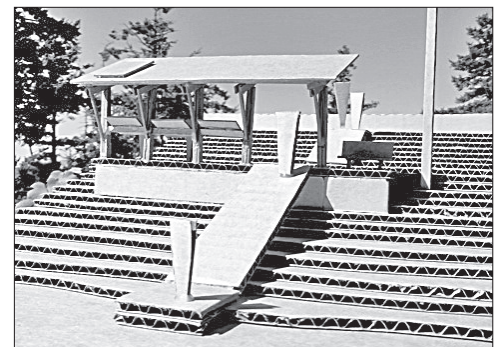


IMAGE COURTESY PARTNERS CREATING PATHWAYS

A model of the information kiosk planned for the new Harbour's End pathway.

But the jewel in the crown will comprise a special information kiosk overlooking the harbour with provision for solar lighting; three display panels will highlight the history of the harbour and the prominent role played by First Nations down through the years. The pathway will be 1.8 metres in width. When the good weather arrives, it will be asphalted.

Partners Creating Pathways' usual army of community volunteers has laid the groundwork for the project with survey and design work, land clearing and construction plans. The volunteer contingent has been expanded to

include invaluable input on the kiosk from a local designer and the Salt Spring Historical Society.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has given the project the green light. Partners Creating Pathways also sought and gained the approval of the Archaeology Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources since some of the works will be located in an archaeologically sensitive area. Tender documents will be released soon and contractors are anticipated to be on site in February.

Article submitted by Partners Creating Pathways.

NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

Christmas Tree Chipping:

Sunday, JANUARY 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Central Fire Hall -- \$5 donation to SS Food Bank

NEW YEAR

December doldrums provide ample food for thought

Islanders reflect on 2014, look ahead to new year

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Having dispatched the last of the cranberries, turkey bones and cream-filled chocolates, it's natural that appetites of late December yearn for the new year's fresh sheet.

But not until the clock strikes midnight.

We've taken care of Boxing Day, yet the five long days between Dec. 27 and the annual polar bear swim still escape definition. Some suggest the dog days of December be called Twixtmas or Slackmas. Others, as featured in a Vancouver newspaper headline, are happy enough to run with "the period between Christmas and New Year's Eve."

Suffice it to say this isn't a time when creativity traditionally flourishes.

Those resourceful Norwegians call it Romjul. In Norway, the down time between Christmas and a new year are devoted to lounging, visiting friends and family, sampling seasonal beverages, and breaking down and devouring the family gingerbread house.

Not having such seasonal purpose, many North Americans who rely on any kind of structure to survive these dark days of early winter turn to lists. There are lists for things we're proud to have done and lists for all the things we haven't done but want to do. We even have lists of things we shouldn't have done or seek to avoid.

Guys like Salt Spring author and farmer Brian Brett like to keep their lists low key.

Sure, Brett says 2015 will be a year to finish his last



BRIAN BRETT

memoir, regain control of the ferry system and protect the island — "especially from the tea partiers and the rude unneighbourly conversion of single-family homes into rowdy resorts" — but he's committed to starting simply.

"Quietly. A walk. Contemplating," Brett said with haiku-like precision to a question about how he plans to ring in 2015.

Li Read, a realtor and president of the island's Chamber of Commerce, credits the Scots with doing their best to chart a course through the interminable fog between Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



LI READ

Hogmanay is a Scottish tradition to celebrate the last day of the calendar year. The parades and dances begin early New Year's Eve day. The need for more recovery prompted the Scots to declare holidays on Jan. 1 and Jan. 2.

"New Year's Eve is a Scottish gift to the world," Read said. "Auld Lang Syne says it all. Thank you, Robbie Burns."

Though Hogmanay may run through her veins, Read still found time to create her own list of what she'd like to see in 2015:

- Finish the boardwalk
- Create an arts school
- Rezone land in Ganges for upper level residential accommodations
- Welcome back a buoyant Sea Capers celebration
- Put a three-way stop at the corner of Rainbow and Lower Ganges roads
- Encourage inter-island ferry routes
- Bring back those street-side pianos

"2015 is an opportunity to refresh," she said. "Even computers get to reboot. Jan. 1 says welcome; what's new? Hmm, what's your answer?"



MATT STEFFICH

Chamber of Commerce vice-president Matt Steffich has devoted much of the past year to making progress on the elusive Ganges boardwalk.

"This was one sleeping dog that needed to be woken up," he said.

He encourages islanders looking for a new year's resolution to consider volunteering for projects and working on qualities that make you

and fellow islanders prosper.

Rob Pingle, manager of Salt Spring's Saturday and Tuesday markets and a Gulf Islands School District trustee, suggests islanders work on anything that makes them feel good.



ROB PINGLE

"There are so many amazing individuals with unique ideas as well as the passion and drive to get them done that I look forward to seeing what surprises are in store," he said.

Like many of us, Pingle's priorities are found close to home. He strives to spend more time with family, walking his dog and enjoying the scenic beauty of Salt Spring and the surrounding Gulf Islands. As a school trustee, he looks forward to a calmer 2015.

"We have an incredible education system that I think can be even better with a united effort," he said.

Salt Spring librarian Karen Hudson considers the island's public library a natural extension of the education system. Her list of 2014 highlights includes the well-attended memorial exhibition for the late Jack Avison, supporting the high school's solar-panel fundraising effort and discussing Brian Brett's Trauma Farm during a Library Book Club session.

Having welcomed more



KAREN HUDSON

than 150,000 visitors in 2014, Hudson said she hopes the library can continue to encourage community collaboration through workshops and community gatherings.

Working to foster community development at the grassroots level is Ron Pither. The Salt Spring merchant farmer and "subcommander of the Mad Farmer Liberation Front" wants Salt Springers to herald 2015 as the year of the bee.



RON PITHER

"We need to grow, harvest, process and buy as close to home as possible more medicinals, ceremonials, magicals and sustainable marine-terrestrial goods and foods," he said. "All ages of islanders need to wake up and act up regarding our planet's code-red situation and, as a part of the solution, sup-

port food-system localizing . . . because Dearies, there is no planet B."

Pither will host a series of bee-themed pollinator actions with local service organizations in the coming year. He wants to emphasize bee gardens, nectar trails and pollinator pathways.

George Sipos began the year as the executive director of ArtSpring; today, he's living the life of a pensioner. He competed his tenure at ArtSpring with the widely acclaimed 20/20 show, a community-wide visual arts celebration.

"In the retirement half of the year, the highlight was realizing the world hadn't ended and that living here and meeting people was still as much fun as before," he said.



GEORGE SIPOS

As the chamber works on the boardwalk and Pither rehabilitates the pollinators, the former head of ArtSpring admitted it can be hard to feel positive about the coming year.

"Between environmental crisis, international conflict and bad government, it's sometimes hard to be optimistic about the future," he wrote. "But I did read my Voltaire some years ago, so I'll cultivate my garden and hope for the best."

To share what's on your list for 2015, drop a line on the Gulf Islands Driftwood's Facebook page.



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MARRIAGE

Campbells celebrate 70th anniversary



PHOTOS AT LEFT AND BOTTOM LEFT BY SEAN MCINTYRE
Clockwise from left, family members and close friends celebrate Jim and Lorraine Campbell's 70th wedding anniversary at a Harbour House lunch on Dec. 29; Jim and Lorraine's wedding photo; Jim, who is 96, and Lorraine, 93, at the Harbour House gathering.



Saturna couple's lifetime together compensates for short engagement

29, a mere two shopping days away. Mothers were frantic, fathers befuddled, but neighbours came together and the wedding went off without a hitch. More than a hundred people attended the ceremony.

leave his life partner. He's a strong believer that marriage is a lifelong commitment and considers himself lucky that Lorraine has chosen to stay by his side all these years.

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Jim and Lorraine Campbell have always been capable of following through with a plan.

"My mother had a wedding to deal with and she did it," Lorraine said. "People stopped her in the street and said: 'I hear your daughter's getting married today. Can I come to the wedding?'"

"I never wanted to leave this lady. I think she might have wanted to get rid of me a few times, but she never did," he said.

The couple is responsible for Saturna Island's world-famous Canada Day lamb barbecue. Both served as Gulf Islands School District trustees, and Jim represented the Southern Gulf Islands at the Capital Regional District. They built a farm, tended animals, milled logs, raised a family and are a big reason Saturna is what it is today.

"I never wanted to leave this lady. I think she might have wanted to get rid of me a few times, but she never did."

Perseverance, patience, loyalty and respect: the secrets of a lasting marriage have much in common with the couple's philosophy as Saturna residents.

JIM CAMPBELL
Lorraine Campbell's husband of 70 years

So it's no surprise the pair got to work straight away when they agreed to marry while Jim was on a one-month leave from the Navy in December 1944. Though the war was nearing an end, Jim and Lorraine weren't going to let another trip to sea obstruct their lives as newlyweds.

"It was informal in a formal way," she recalled.

Jim proposed on the way home from the train station in Vancouver, stopping on a scenic side road just as Lorraine had begun to question the reason for such an odd detour.

The couple celebrated 70 years of wedded life at the Harbour House Hotel on Monday afternoon, accompanied by about 20 family members and friends who span four generations.

The engagement was announced at Christmas and word spread quickly through Lorraine's Vancouver neighbourhood.

"We decided we needed to do something for them," said Nan Logan, one of the couple's three surviving children. "It's really amazing; they've lived on Saturna ever since. We still have the farm and it will continue."

"We had a limited time for her mother to organize that, but she really did a wonderful job," Jim said. The wedding day was set for Dec.

Of course, longevity doesn't hurt either; Jim is 96 and Lorraine is 93. The couple didn't get an especially early start. The war and schooling at the University of British Columbia, where Jim graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture and Lorraine earned a master of science degree, meant the pair was well into their 20s before they tied the knot.

Jim and Lorraine have always emphasized pride in their island home and encouraged younger generations to avoid the kinds of mistakes that have ruined beautiful regions in other parts of the world.

Speaking to students at Gulf Islands Secondary School in the late 1960s, Jim encouraged young graduates to set out to explore and learn from history.

"Vast changes are going to take place in our community in the lifetime of you graduates," he was reported as saying. "I hope you will go away and learn what it's like elsewhere. Then come back and help the islanders to avoid making the mistakes made in other parts of the world."

ATHLETICS

GISS grad has success in the octagon

David Puhky wins first MMA match

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Driftwood's coverage of people who grew up on the Gulf Islands and went on to find success in the wider world can now add a mixed martial artist to the list in 27-year-old David Puhky.

A graduate of Gulf Islands Secondary in 2006, Puhky was a natural athlete who was also a bit of a troublemaker before he turned martial arts training into a serious pursuit. Now living in Calgary with his wife and finishing off his final year of schooling for his electrician's ticket, the former islander has established the training discipline, drive and self-confidence needed to propel him to the top of a rapidly growing sport.

The crowning achievement to Puhky's commitment so far came on Dec. 19, when he realized a long-held dream by fighting — and winning — his first MMA match at Alberta's Havoc Fighting Championships.

"It's pretty much like a second job," Puhky said of his training schedule. "It's kind of the difference — if you don't put in the time, you don't win."

Not winning is something Puhky doesn't actually know much about. As a youth on Salt Spring he dreamed of being in the NHL and travelled to Vancouver Island to be part of the Midget AAA junior hockey league. He has studied martial arts for seven years, notably winning a kickboxing tournament in 2012, and is now part of Calgary's Smash Combat gym. Its members have not lost a bout since the facility was established



David Puhky is crowned winner of his first mixed martial arts match on live television on Dec. 19.

last year.

Puhky never lost a competition over the arduous four-year route to receiving his blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu (a type of grappling) and has in all likelihood become Salt Spring's first ever MMA fighter.

"It's probably the hardest mental sport I've ever competed in," he said. "It's almost more mental than physical. You can be the best athlete in the gym, but if you get out there and freeze up it's all for nothing."

"You have to have the will to win, that's what I've found out." Puhky regularly puts in an hour at the gym, five to six days a week. When he has a fight coming up he goes into training camp mode, working closer to three hours a day, seven days a week for eight weeks. During that time he has to lose at least 10 kilograms to make his 77-kg (170-pound) weigh-in.

"It helps a lot to have a

healthy lifestyle. I know a lot of people look at fighting as not a healthy thing, but I consider myself an athlete before a fighter," Puhky said.

The Havoc Fighting Championships event was held in Red Deer but attracted a crowd of 2,000 spectators plus countless other viewers, being broad-



Puhky enters the octagon.

cast throughout Alberta on Shaw Cable and around the world through Havoc's website. Puhky handily won the match in just a minute and a half using a jiu-jitsu chokehold.

"The feedback has been incredible. People who I haven't talked to in 10 years have seen it online. It's pretty cool," Puhky said.

Puhky was essentially unknown before the recent match, but has since received an invitation from Havoc to go pro in his welterweight class, something he intends to follow up with by March 2015. Another goal is to volunteer with youth. With a younger half-brother currently attending GISS and his own return to B.C. probable next year, island teenagers could be on the receiving end for some of his support.

"I always wished I had a few more role models in the community. That's why I want to get a rec centre going [on Salt Spring]," Puhky said.

"My main thing is, I want to be a role model for younger kids."

Puhky's advice for young athletes interested in excelling at any sport is to find someone who has the skills they want and to shadow or train with that person.

"Surround yourself with the best gym possible, or the best team possible. And if you put the hard work in, you get the results," he said.

Above all, Puhky emphasizes commitment to the project, whatever that may be.

"I always want to be the hardest working guy, because when you get in there, knowing you've put everything in for every situation [gives you the confidence to succeed]. Knowing you could have worked harder would be the worst thing in the world."

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FERRIES

Schedule adjustment hits Gulf Islands

Service removed on nine Wednesdays

BC Ferries is reminding customers of the Tsawwassen- Southern Gulf Islands route that service will be removed for nine Wednesdays starting Jan. 7 and continuing through March 4, 2015.

The service reduction is part of the cost-saving measures mandated by the provincial government last year, and has been scheduled to produce the least impact on passengers.

"Working with members of the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committees (FACs), BC Ferries was able find a scheduling solu-

tion that would meet the net cost savings targets established by the province as part of their service level adjustment process that occurred in early 2014," a BC Ferries press release explains.

"Looking to minimize the impact of schedule changes for their communities, the idea to remove service for nine Wednesdays on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route, rather than Friday to Sunday service throughout the fall/winter/spring period, was initiated by these FACs."

"Finding a way to avoid changes to vital, weekend sailings for people going to and from all Southern Gulf Islands was key," said Southern Gulf Islands FAC chair Brian Hollingshead. "Removing sailings

on nine, off-peak Wednesdays was an idea that would inconvenience the fewest number of people, and we were pleased to see BC Ferries could make it work."

During the off-service dates, passengers who normally travel directly between the Southern Gulf Islands and Tsawwassen via the Queen of Nanaimo will take the alternate route of travelling between Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay instead, with transfer at Swartz Bay to or from the Gulf Islands.

All schedule changes have been posted on BC Ferries' website since September and were also tagged in the printed schedule. Customers are encouraged to visit the website at www.bcferries.com to see specific sailing times.

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OPINION



2014 CNA Awards
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 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

Looking forward

Regardless of whether you're the resolution type, there's something about a new year that inspires.

We've crossed over the solstice, persevered through the holidays and thoughts will soon turn to spring. It may feel like 2014 passed in a flash, but a look over headlines from the Year in Review shows how far we've come. Islanders witnessed vocal debates over ferry fare increases and service cuts, an extended teachers' strike and unprecedented support for the First Nations cemetery at Grace Islet. We've faced referendums and a local election. The Ganges boardwalk has been revived and the Saturday Market has expanded to include the occasional Friday evening or Sunday. Old friends have moved on as new faces have joined the fray of island life.

Change may come slowly, but life progresses. People evolve.

THE ISSUE:

The year ahead

WE SAY:

Keep momentum rolling

year, respondents nearly unanimously touched upon the topic of Salt Spring's tireless volunteer spirit. Indeed, a quick look around is all it takes to appreciate the many people who offer time, money and energy to create the special island lifestyle we often take for granted.

Efforts like the boardwalk and market expansion will assist Ganges reach its potential as a worthy destination for locals and visitors. An ever-expanding pathway network continues to make the downtown core a more pedestrian-friendly place to walk and shop. Policies implemented by local commissions and efforts of agricultural groups strive to protect the island's attractive rural environment while promoting economic development.

All of this is a result of volunteer hours.

As we prepare for another year of debate over gun-club noise, water treatment facilities, sewers, fire halls and a looming federal election, why not take a moment to lick our wounds, inhale deeply and reflect? Participation in the Jan. 1 polar bear swim can also work wonders.

Done?

Great, now let's make 2015 a year to remember.

Despite the whirlwind of our island's weekly cycle of artistic accomplishments, anecdotes, public events and breaking news, there are constants.

In a far-from-scientific survey of islanders' wishes and hopes for the coming



VIEWPOINT by Ross King

Dog owners also need licensing

My Jack Russell terrier, Tiggah, was gratuitously attacked by a large, unleashed dog romping around in Creekside Park on Christmas Day, followed momentarily by its companion who pitched in for the hell of it.

The owners, lagging far behind, were totally ineffective in calling them off. Tiggah was injured and bloodied and there was no time to remonstrate, only to drag him from the jaws of these devils and get him out of there. Apologies were not enough.

This brings me to dog licences. Forget licensing the dog — license the owner! Having grown up on a farm with dogs, and been a long-time owner myself, my observation is that the large majority of dog owners have no clue about responsible dog ownership and — as a result — it is little wonder that so many dogs are out of control.

Owning a dog for one's own gratification only is irresponsible. A happy, mentally healthy dog has its own physical and mental needs beyond the occasional walk on a leash.

I think I am lucky insofar as I have been habituated with dogs since the earliest days on the farm, and can almost think like them and read their thoughts — as to primal needs, pack instincts, emotions, sustenance and companionship. We have been lucky in this mutual recognition, and that is why our respective relationships have developed individually, to suit and adjust as they may, and have been so rewarding both ways. As a result, I can let my dog be a happy, free-spirited dog, live a dog's life but

know his/her limits according to the constraints of human society, be off-leash most of the time, confident that (s) he will respond to my voice/whistle and behave well with other dogs and humans. We are mutually socialized and bonded. Responsible dog ownership is not much less challenging than parenting.

Compare that with the relationships you often see: dogs being dragged along unwillingly on-leash, screamed at, out-of-control by verbal means off-leash, and treated as chattel. (Is their canine life any better than zoo-existence?)

Responsible dog ownership is not much less challenging than parenting.

Taking ownership of a so-called "rescue dog" has special responsibilities insofar as such a dog might have been "rescued" for good cause . . . there are misfit dogs just as there are the Luka Magnottas of this world. Also, there are dogs who might otherwise have been perfectly "normal" were it not for their first (misfit? unfit?) owners.

Dog ownership should require that the dog licence be issued to owners only upon successful certification (think boat operator's licence). This would involve a mandatory dog obedience class for new owners and delinquent ones, with the emphasis being on the owner at least as much as the dog. (I would rename them "man/dog habituation classes.") The licence would be a "FIDO," a certificate attesting to Fellowship of the Institution of Dog Owners.

The writer is a Beddis Road resident.

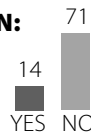
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Are you making New Year's resolutions?

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:

Will you attend church this week?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You have to have the will to win, that's what I've found out."

DAVID PUHKY, MIXED MARTIAL ARTS FIGHTER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's your new year's resolution for 2015?



ELIZABETH GAY
I think it's bollocks.



MICHELLE KUNZ
Probably to collect more anime.



PETER PARKER
Play more tennis.



ANETTE SCHRAGE
Something different than last year because last year's didn't work out.



METTA MCNAIRN
I don't really do resolutions but try to start the year fresh.

Letters to the editor

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

BC Ferries' elephant in the room

BC Ferries' announcement of their long-anticipated automated reservation system may well create some greater measure of convenience for the travelling public.

It may also save some people a small amount of money by choosing to travel on a sailing that is less than ideal for their travel needs, but additional out-of-pocket costs thus incurred may

well consume any minimal fare savings. Overall, we should not expect to see any significant fare reductions as a result of the automated reservation system.

The recently announced elimination of the 3.5 per cent fuel surcharge is welcome, but it simply reflects plummeting fuel prices, and doesn't address the overall fares or service levels. The reduction comes in advance of the April Fool's Day four per cent fare increase in 2015.

BC Ferries is trying, within its narrow man-

date, to manage the Kent Macaulay system as best they can within the contract given to it by the provincial government. And that's where the problem lies. Its mandate leaves it little scope other than to pick away at the edges of the problem. It is not empowered to deal with the elephant in the room. Fares are far too high and the service is less than what is needed.

The elephant that needs to be addressed is BC Ferries' huge debt load and the upcoming capital expenditures that are needed to maintain a

viable BC Ferries system for the good of all of B.C.'s economy.

Unless and until the province recognizes that its 11-year experiment with BC Ferries as a nominally independent corporation has been and is an abject failure and repatriates BC Ferries to more direct governmental control, covering the capital costs of our marine highways as part of the provincial highways budget, we should not expect relief in fares or service levels.

JEFF KEIGHLEY,
HALFMOON BAY, B.C.

Appeasing hunters

Following the publication of the report from the Lima, Peru meeting on global climate change in the Dec. 17 Driftwood, I am vastly relieved to learn from our federal Minister of the Environment, Leona Aglukkaq, that "traditional [native] knowledge has contributed to Canada's "world-class polar bear management system."

Thank goodness our minister, who is herself Inuit, has first-hand knowledge of these traditional

management strategies. For awhile I was worried that Canada, being the only country in the world to allow sports hunting of polar bears and the ongoing trade and traffic in their body parts, was out of step with the rest of the planet.

But still, I can't help but wonder: Do all these reassurances have anything to do with wanting to get re-elected by her constituents, who are mainly polar bear hunters?

Could it? In Canada?

ROGER BRUNT,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Surviving the fa-la-la-la-llout of the season

As this week's column begins to formulate itself in my brain, the last few days and hours of 2014 are wearily ticking away. Before preparing myself to throw the old calendar into the recycling bin, I mull over the events of the previous couple of weeks in a futile attempt to make some sense of it all.

I run my fingertips across my body to make sure that it is still intact and that I have indeed survived. Not only do I find all the parts present, but there are now a few extra inches around the midriff that have appeared seemingly out of nowhere. All this Christmas and post-holiday fallout (or should I say fa-la-la-la-llout) has taken its toll.

Was it the madness of last-minute Christmas shopping and the stress of trying to cross names off my list faster than new ones were adding themselves onto it? Could it have been the insanity of the Boxing Day blowout sales where all civilized human beings revert back to their Neanderthal roots? (Have you noticed that Boxing Day has now morphed into Boxing Week? If this lengthening trend continues, I assure you that at some point in the future we will be celebrating the one solitary day during Boxing Year when we pay full price and there is absolutely nothing on sale.)

These last few days of December have been filled with returns, refunds and regrets over what might have been given or received had we only been slightly more inspired. How many of us have dutifully stood in lineups at the customer service desk, waiting patiently for the opportunity to explain that we didn't really feel that the male nursing mammary

apron was an appropriate gift for someone in our demographic subgroup?

Likewise, we have also had to waste valuable time pleading our case at the Complaints Department in an attempt to explain that we had not noticed that the case of AAA batteries we had purchased had the disclaimer "batteries not included" written in impossibly fine print on the packaging.

Speaking of returns, isn't it all supposed to be about the return of the light at this time of year? We have made it through the winter solstice and the longest night. We have lit candles to celebrate the Festival of Lights. We have strung colourful arrays of Christmas lights over, under and around every object both within our homes as well as the trees and shrubs surrounding our abode. In short, we have stood up to the darkness and exorcized it from our lives.

Of course, we turn a blind eye to the fact that our winter solstice is actually the summer equivalent for penguins and other inhabitants of the southern hemisphere. Down there, they are celebrating the return of the darkness. Isn't it just like the reality of science to give a stiff kick in the pants to a perfectly good spiritual metaphor?

As we prepare ourselves to turn the calendar to a brand new page, we must first see to it that we have dealt with all the messy aftermath of the holiday season. I just found out that Christmas wrapping paper cannot be



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

sent to recycling because the shiny, glossy bits that go into its manufacture render it a contaminant of other kinds of paper products. Basically, its presence in a large, metal recycling bin may cause the rejection of all the other paper placed there.

Since burning the stuff is environmentally unsound and will probably bring about climate change that much more quickly and make Salt Spring sink down below the tidal waters to the point where Mount Maxwell will be renamed Mound Maxwell, we are forced to change our gift-opening customs.

Indeed, instead of ripping open the gift-wrap as quickly as possible, we must go through the procedure with the mindset that each piece of wrapping can be saved and reused (try telling that to a five year old). As a result, I now approach the task with the precision of a brain surgeon or a bomb defuser. The down side of this is that it has slowed me down to the point where I am still unwrapping Christmas presents in mid-May.

Then there is the matter of tree disposal. All those picture-perfect, tinsel adorned Christmas trees that have set up residency in our living rooms for the past month or so must now be cast out into the cold and darkness. Ecologically speaking, the best solution is to have them ground to smithereens inside a chipper, and then use the remains on pathways or as mulch around trees and shrubs.

Of course, if you had the foresight to dig up a little fir and keep it watered in a pot while you strung up the lights in its branches, you now have the option of planting your live tree in the great outdoors. Make sure you don't make the mistake we made about 20 years ago when we planted our skinny little balsam in a hollow just south west of our house. That tree (with some tinsel still hanging from some of the branches) now stands about 50 feet high and threatens to block off any glimpse of a sunset we might still have at this time of year.

Our latest foray into gift-giving this past Christmas has been something called "Secret Santa." In essence, everyone draws the name of someone who will be present at the gift exchange, and buys or makes a present specifically for that person. Our Secret Santa had an upper limit value of \$15. Amazingly, the person who drew my name was my five-month-old granddaughter. It's a sobering thought to realize that we are getting close to the point when we can share our diapers with each other.

Nobody asked me, but I don't think I'm going to be any too saddened when January rolls around and we can put the excesses of Christmas 2014 behind us. As we get back to our normal day-to-day lives, we must turn the page on all our holiday regrets and forge forward into the future.

Now where did I put that pile of neatly folded wrapping paper?

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

NOURISHING TREE: The Grandmothers to Grandmothers tree was declared the winner in the Celebration of Trees event on Monday morning, gathering the most food-item "votes" since Dec. 16. See a related thank you in Rants & Roses, below.

Beaver Point Hall thanks

Expressing appreciation to the community for its support is always difficult because words are never enough.

This island has a huge heart when it comes to giving to their community halls. As anyone who is involved in a local hall knows, it takes an immense amount of work and support to keep a hall running for its island neighbours.

The 2014 Beaver Point Hall fundraising Christmas Fair was the best ever and it is all due to the generous support of all our visitors, patrons, talented artisans, donors (individual and corporate) and hundreds of community volunteer hours.

For the restaurant our special thanks goes to these individuals: the chefs — Chelle (Friday night) and Lou (Saturday and Sunday); Phillip's soup; bread ladies Heather, Barb and Wendy; other ingredients from Katya and Steve, Ramona and Jill; decadent desserts galore donated from many of our island neighbours, including Ben's pies and Geri's scones.

Thanks as well to these fine food businesses: Barb's Buns, Kathy and James Scarfo, Country Grocer, Embe Bakery, Fernwood Coffee (Victoria), Rock Salt, Salt Spring Cheese Company, Stowell Lake Farm, Thrifty Foods; and to supportive businesses Moutat's and Windsor Plywood.
 WENDY ROSIER,
 SALT SPRING

We're simply goofy for our pets

This is an apology to the woman I passed this morning. I saw the alarm in your eyes, how you clutched your purse and veered around me as if you'd stumbled upon a rabid wolverine.

You'd noticed that while there was nobody with me, I was chatting away. Crooning, actually. Murmuring creepy Geezer things like "Aren't you a sweet girl?" and "Oh, what a beauty." I wasn't talking to you, ma'am. I was talking to my dog.

Alarming enough, I suppose. There's no law against addressing Pomeranians, Persians, palominos or parakeets as if they were sapient companions capable of a sage and witty retort, but as human behaviour goes, it is a touch goofy.

Guilty as charged. My old girl is 13 and a half, cloudy of eye and stiff of gait, but her tail still wags when she sees me and that is reward enough to risk looking ridiculous.

All pet owners carry the ridiculous gene — some more openly than others. We give our pets silly names and brag about their "human" qualities.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

Often the gene doesn't really kick in until our pet kicks off. Disposing of a pet's remains can trigger some truly bizarre behaviour. A lucky few get to repose in a shady spot under the backyard apple tree; others occupy an urn on the mantle.

Or there's the Celestis option. Celestis is a Houston enterprise specializing in flights into space. For a mere \$995 US, Celestis will load your pet's ashes into a rocket and fire them into eternal orbit around the earth.

Too remote for you? Then consider engaging the services of Dutch inventors Bart Jansen and Arjen Beltman. They can transform your taxidermied pet into a radio-controlled drone.

Don't laugh. When their pet cat Orville expired in 1912, they had him stuffed and fitted with wings

and a motor. As I write, the Orvillecopter is hovering somewhere over Amsterdam.

That's creepy, even by delusional pet owners' standards. Much better to spoil your pet when he, she or it is alive.

Which must be how the Halversen family of Lillestrom, Norway felt when they decided to take an extended vacation in Thailand. They couldn't take their bulldog Igor but they fretted that he would feel abandoned, even traumatized. So they hired a carpenter to construct a replica of the family living room and install it at a commercial kennel. The walls of the fake room were painted the same shade of grey. They found a matching coffee table — even installed the family chesterfield — plus of course, Igor's favourite bed, pillow, blanket and toys.

Was Igor fooled? Hard to say. He spent most of his time at the boarding kennel goofing around outside with his new BFF — a Saint Bernard named Helga.

The pet/pet owner dynamic is a puzzling one. Sometimes it's hard to figure out which party got the brains.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Editor's note: the following rose had a significant numerical typo when it appeared last week. This is a corrected version: A hamper full of poinsettias to the close to 100 volunteers who gave so generously of their time to prepare, pack and deliver 177 Christmas hampers. Special thanks to the Farmers' Institute for allowing us to use the building and the wonderful Barry Dunster for having the premises warm and coffee hot when we arrived each morning; Foxglove Farm and Garden for donating pet food each year; Soya Nova Tofu; Thrifty Foods; and Country Grocer for their continuous support. Also appreciated were the calendars given by Gulf Islands Driftwood and Moutat's Trading Co.

I would like to give a huge bunch of Christmas roses to the Christmas elf that filled in the potholes on my driveway on Christmas Eve. What a great act of kindness. Jacky

Garlands of roses to everyone who decorated an evergreen for the Christmas Celebration of Trees at the Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club: Grandmothers to Grandmothers (grand winner), Friends of Kenya (honourable mention), Country Grocer, Salt Spring Computer Services, Salt Spring Seniors Services Society, SOLID and Thrifty Foods. Thank you to Mollie Colson and Lynda Turner for organizing the event, as well as the golf club for hosting. A full vanload of edibles was collected to aid our local food bank!

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2014: A year of protests, triumphs and natural wonders

January

• Charges were laid in the murder of Jill Lyons, who was found dead in her New Westminster apartment in August 2013. Lyons had grown up on Salt Spring Island. Suspect Sarbjit Bains of Surrey was also charged in the murder of Lyons' friend Karen Nabors.

• Property values in the Gulf Islands dropped by nearly six per cent, according to BC Assessment's report for 2013. However, property sales saw a 15 per cent surge in December 2013, causing real estate statistic watcher Tom Navratil to predict an optimistic market for the coming year.

• Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee sparked a furor over new guidelines for public participation at its meetings that would limit speakers to specific times and subjects.

• The Salt Spring Physician Recruitment Committee officially transformed into the Salt Spring Health Advancement Committee and began its work with a roundtable discussion with the island's seniors service providers. A second round table on mental health care was scheduled for March, covering two of the top areas of need identified in several reports. The group would present its findings to the media and community leaders at the end of November.

• The Active Pass Lighthouse on Mayne Island was designated under the Canadian Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, making it one of the few in British Columbia to receive federal protection.

• A massive herring die-off at Southey Point alarmed and mystified local residents. "I've never seen any dead herring and I've lived here almost 15 years," said Sonja Collombin. The case became more mysterious when the dead fish vanished almost overnight. A DFO spokesperson said the fish had likely been released by a commercial fishing vessel that had exceeded its capacity.

• A deal between private landowner Richard Dewinetz, Galiano's

Local Trust Committee and BC Parks saw Bodega Ridge Provincial Park increase its size by 25 per cent or 65 hectares (160 acres).

• South-end residents protested Canada Post's plan to cut hours at the Fulford post office by 25 per cent. MP Elizabeth May encouraged people opposing the plan to contact Lisa Raitt, the minister responsible for Canada Post. "This is a public service that everyone expects in an industrialized, developed country. It shouldn't be beyond the reach of Canadians," she said. The service reduction went into effect as planned on March 17, despite proof the outlet's revenue had actually increased during 2013.

• Platform Properties submitted a revised rezoning application to Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee that would allow 50 cottages at Bullock Lake to be bought and rented as holiday accommodation and see construction of a 6,000-square-foot amenity building. In return for rezoning, Platform pledged community assets such as a conservation covenant on part of the land, a pedestrian/cycling path and public use of the amenity building.

• The infamous Ganges boardwalk got another crack at materializing when Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee agreed to pay up to \$3,000 for conceptual designs. Work to complete the missing portion of the boardwalk had stalled since 1991 through lack of agreements between local government agencies and waterfront property owners.

February

• The campsite of Norm Noganosh, a homeless man who was squatting in the woods outside Ganges, was attacked by unknown individuals. RCMP sought up to four perpetrators who spray-bombed his tent, slashed and etched a swastika into his tarp, and scattered his belongings. Noganosh received support from Salt Spring Community Services after the incident.

• Greenwood's Eldercare facility sought and received approval from

Island Health to install a sprinkler system throughout its buildings, after a tragic incident in Quebec resulted in the death of 32 seniors. The new sprinklers were installed in June.

• The B.C. government announced sweeping changes to provincial liquor policy, including plans to allow kids into pubs and Legions for meals, and tasting of alcohol products in farmers' markets. Local business owners celebrated the response to public consultation, noting many of the strictures were unnecessarily archaic.

• CFSI radio station owner Sukdev Dhillon appeared before a CRTC broadcasting commission to explain why his business had failed to supply required log tapes and records, or to respond to multiple requests for information. The CRTC findings, released in June, granted a temporary licence renewal from Sept. 1, 2014 to Aug. 31, 2015 instead of the regular five-year renewal, giving the commission time to review ongoing compliance with radio regulations.

• Salt Spring RCMP investigated a Family Day-weekend crime spree that saw break and enters at six island homes and businesses. Security video footage recovered from the Vesuvius Store and Café helped identify three suspects, who walked away with a haul that included cameras, a laptop computer and over \$500 in merchandise from their various targets. The thieves had attempted to disable the video camera by cutting telephone cables outside the store.

• Students belonging to the Environment Club at Gulf Islands Secondary School applied for official intervenor status in the National Energy Board's consultation hearings on Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion proposal. Islands Trust Council decided against similar action due to time restraints, but applied to be a commenter, and sent a letter asking the NEB to extend the application deadline.

• A major wind storm had fire-fighters and hydro workers racing to keep up with downed power lines on Saturday, Feb. 15, which



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A major snowstorm in February saw vehicles land in ditches, like this one on Robinson Road, and a loss of power throughout the region.

caused a bush fire on Langs Road and outages at many island homes. The power was back out the following weekend when the first extreme snow storm of the year hit. Transit service was cancelled and schools were closed on Monday, Feb. 24 as 30 centimetres of snow piled up in the lower elevations. With many residents stuck at home, the storm provided the opportunity for Salt Spring's Emergency Program to test its mettle.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Dead herring washed ashore at Southey Point appeared to be a mystery.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2015.
Looking forward to seeing you in the new year.


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PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Gulf Islands residents were among 2,000 protesting BC Ferries cuts in Victoria.



PHOTO BY MEGAN MANNING-BURTON

Kelda Logan, left, receives a SWOVA Changemaker award from MP Elizabeth May.



It's not often that a newspaper cartoonist gets to make fun of himself, but Dennis Parker did just that after a mishap at the gas station.

March

- Members of the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary Society started the island's first seed library. For a lifetime membership fee of \$20, participants could take out any of three dozen seed types to grow at home. The only condition was that borrowers consider returning some of their saved seeds from the subsequent harvest.

- Islands Trust Council approved a special tax requisition of \$110,000 for Salt Spring in order to fund water quality restoration and watershed management through the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority.

- SWOVA (Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse) presented a gala International Women's Day celebration that included its first Changemakers Awards presentation, with special guest MP Elizabeth May. Close to 30 local women and groups were honoured for their achievements in multiple fields.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District began a campaign to win ratepayer support to build a new treatment plant for St. Mary Lake. Its initial try was through an Alternate Approval Process for \$10.4 million in borrowing authority, which ratepayers would reject by a healthy margin in May. At least 256 people were required to sign forms to meet the 10 per cent AAP threshold; 361 voters did so.

- Fulford Water Service commissioners blasted the CRD for continuing budget over-runs during its annual general meeting. The rela-

tionship had been poor since the regional body bungled a water plant construction project in 2006. Only 100 subscribers were to finance what became a \$1-million project.

- Driftwood cartoonist Dennis Parker was struck by a pick-up truck at Salt Spring's Mid Island Co-op gas station as he crossed from the convenience store to the fuelling bays.

- Island artisans headed a winning enterprise with the first ever Salt Spring in the City craft show in Vancouver, which took place at the historic Heritage Hall on Main Street. In addition to some Saturday Market stalwarts, the show included other business representatives looking to attract Vancouverites to the island.

- CRD director Wayne McIntyre, LTC member Peter Grove and other members of the Salt Spring Ferry Action Alliance met with Transportation Minister Todd Stone over planned ferry service cuts first announced in the previous fall. The following week the group joined more than 2,000 protesters in Victoria calling for a new approach to the ferry model in light of looming service cuts and a fare increase.

- Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee received an application from the Capital Regional District for an 80-unit affordable housing development on Drake Road. The project is being developed on land donated for the purpose by School District 64.

- Transition Salt Spring's Community Energy Group and School District 64 launched the GISS Solar Scholarship Project, with plans to

install solar panels on the high school gym roof with funding through grants and community donations. Hydro bill savings were planned for a scholarship for students pursuing studies in renewable energies, renewable energy trades certification and similar endeavours.

April

- Hikers used to accessing a network of trails off Musgrave were frustrated when the Salt Spring Conservancy decommissioned a former logging road. The road, which had passed through private land to get to the new Bob and Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve, was transformed with help from wetland restoration expert Tom Biebighauser. As steward of a neighbouring property and a former acquaintance of the Makaroffs, Linda Quiring felt blocking access did not fit with the original owners' generosity.

- Over 70 licensed medical marijuana growers on Salt Spring breathed a collective sigh of relief with news that the federal government's plans to end the licensing program had been reversed by a court injunction for the time being. New regulations that had been set to go into effect April 1 ended the personal grower option and shifted medicinal production to commercial operators.

- A Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure crew visited Salt Spring to check out the return of the "Ganges sinkhole," nearly one year after the problem had been determined to be fixed. Island Escapades co-owner Jack Rosen was disappointed but unsurprised by the constant

water that once again washed down Fulford-Ganges Road. "It was basically just a Band-aid solution," he observed. Information from MoTI was that the ministry would review the situation to see whether further repairs were warranted. In the meantime, it would install a sign warning drivers about the bump in the road.

- Art Munneke was rescued from his sinking sailboat in the deep waters between New Zealand and Rarotonga after completing over a year of single-handing in the South Pacific. Munneke was on route to Tahiti when a powerful storm rolled his boat and damaged the hull. Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand launched the mission after receiving a signal from the Salt Spring sailor's EPIRB beacon five days later, which he activated when his bilge pump stopped working.

- Thieves targeted the Rainbow Road Pool changing rooms, walking off with cash, jewellery, shoes and clothing that had not been secured in lockers. Staff asked pool users to be more vigilant, and vowed to step up surveillance and security protocols.

- PARC and Salt Spring RCMP put their focus on safety in Centennial Park, after receiving a number of complaints about drug and alcohol use, public urination and aggressive behaviour from transient visitors as the spring weather hit. Police Sgt. George Jenkins said his detachment hoped to have the problems solved before summer. "It's not even the people in and of themselves, it's the behaviours that we're targeting. We would like everyone to have equal access [to the park]," he said.

- Island livestock breeders voiced concern about a proposed repeal of the Animal Pedigree Act, federal legislation that ensures only one organization can represent and monitor livestock and other pure animal breeds.

- Long-time islander Mike Reynolds suffered a tragic accident while snorkelling in Thailand during a dream vacation with his two adult daughters. Two Australian life guards who were on the same boat tour managed to pull Reynolds from the water and administer CPR. He was transported to Phi Phi Island Hospital and then Bangkok Hospital Phuket, where he remained in a coma for several weeks. Reynolds' wife Dora joined him in Phuket and stayed by his side until insurance officials and doctors okayed his transport home to Canada on May 14. Community fundraising efforts were launched to help the family. Reynolds passed away in Lady Minto Hospital on June 11.

- Residents brought attention to illegal dumping on the flanks of Mount Erskine, the Trustee Trail cul-de-sac and a nearby BC Hydro right-of-way. The matter was in the news again in November.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District took its first stage of action to protect the Maxwell Lake watershed by installing a No Trespassing sign and fencing. Additional measures such as surveillance by a security firm and cooperation with RCMP were planned. The cost of fencing along a 221-metre stretch beside Mount Maxwell Road was approximately \$25,000.

JANUARY STOREWIDE CLEARANCE!



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May

• The dispute over noise restrictions between the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club, its neighbours and the Capital Regional District took a new turn when Brian Milne and Jean Barakett launched a civil suit against Salt Spring bylaw enforcement officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser. The claimants sought punitive damages for trespassing and misfeasance of public office, alleging he failed to take proper action on noise complaints because he was a member of the club.

• A bright orange algal bloom surprised and concerned islanders when it appeared in sea water both on the north-east and north-west sides of Salt Spring. Though flashy, a Department of Fisheries and Oceans biologist said the bloom was non-toxic and not paralytic shellfish poisoning, commonly known as red tide.

• Bryce Chapman closed several trail heads on Channel Ridge by posting private property signs on land associated with Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. Chapman was an investor in the development company and had been its main spokesperson for many years until it went into receivership in 2013. Receivers Ernst & Young and would-be hikers denied Chapman's right to block access to the property under the circumstances.

• Salt Spring Recycling Depot manager Peter Grant warned residents that some recycling practices would change as of May 19, when responsibility for paper and plastic packaging passed to the newly formed entity Multi Material B.C. as a result of provincial stewardship regulations. Among the changes, hard plastic goods and books would no longer be accepted at the depot.

• Islanders rallied to help the family of former Salt Spring resident Skye Donnet. The 18-year-old was among four people who went missing after a canoe accident on Slokan Lake near New Denver.

• The Bethel Pentecostal Assembly asked Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission to pay nearly \$7,500 for the continued use of a trail linking Baker Road and Harrison Avenue. The request followed the end of a three-year land-use agreement that had expired in March. PARC hoped to resolve the matter without paying. As manager Lorraine Brewster observed: "It's not our practice to compensate for statutory right-of-ways."

• The board of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District approved a recommendation from Fire Chief Tom Bremner to commit up to \$90,000 on exhaust ventilation equipment for its three halls. Used equipment available for purchase from the View Royal fire department was estimated to bring a savings of 20 to 30 per cent. Ratepayers approved an Alternate Approval Process on borrowing the funds in June.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Cusheon Lake Road residents and local MLA Gary Holman, centre, launch a Kids Matter sign campaign to remind drivers to slow down on their narrow road.

• SD64 passed a draft budget of \$22,730,715 for 2014/15. The amount was \$300,000 less than in the current year, as the district predicted a decline in enrollment come the fall. Treasurer Rod Scotvold also warned the district would most likely face a small deficit of one to 1.5 per cent at the end of 2013/14 year.

June

• Salt Spring RCMP busted the crime ring that had targeted the island in February and March, arresting three 15-year-old males. The suspects were caught after breaking into a Rainbow Road residence. Their names were not released under provisions of the Young Offenders Act.

• The Parks and Recreation Commission approved a pilot project to extend market hours on the Canada Day, B.C. Day and Labour Day weekends. "This is a positive step forward as the Saturday Market is a key economic driver for the island as well as a social hub for residential island life," said Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director. The pilot project introduced extra market sessions on the Friday night and Sunday of the long weekends.

• After several years of toxic algal blooms and other problems, St. Mary Lake witnessed its best clarity level since 2007, according to Meghan McKee, water quality specialist for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. McKee stressed the importance of ongoing monitoring and broader action to address the lake's long-term water quality problems.

• Greg Clayton, the owner of the Hereford Avenue building that had housed Living Strong Studios, announced he had purchased the facility's gym equipment and would honour memberships under his plans for a new Salt Spring Wellness Centre. Clayton purchased the build-

ing and the equipment through court-ordered sales as a result of a Supreme Court of Canada case, which found that previous owner Sheena Bull owed considerable debt to a former partner.

• Salt Spring's ferry advisory committee was pleased to hear that one of its long-running goals might finally be realized. BC Ferries executives announced plans that would allow through-fare foot passengers travelling from Salt Spring to Vancouver to skip a trip to the ticket counter for a boarding pass.

• Speed bars and new signs stating "Kids Matter" were installed on Cusheon Lake Road in the playground speed zone, an area of much contention for local residents.

• Commercial user outcry caused BC Ferries to reinstate Wednesday dangerous cargo sailings between Crofton and Vesuvius, which had been removed from the schedule to comply with government-mandated service reductions. The sailings were to stay in place until traffic slowed down in October.

• Greenwood's Eldercare entered the second phase of a massive outdoor renovation project, installing paving stones and removing large bushes and trees to allow residents access to the side yards. Horticultural therapy beds, a composting station and a greenhouse were also planned in the design by landscape architect Peter Oro.

• A killer algal bloom struck Ganges Harbour, leaving a swath of dead mussels, crabs, sea stars and other species in its wake. Warmer than usual temperatures were suspected to have encouraged algal proliferation, producing the most intense bloom witnessed in the harbour since 1978.



PHOTO BY IAN GIDNEY

A pleasure boat on fire off Galiano Island. The couple and dog aboard escaped without injury.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

A bright orange non-toxic algal bloom at Booth Bay.

• Ian Gidney, owner and operator of Salt Spring's Outdoor Visions, was first on the scene when a pleasure boat caught fire around two miles off Galiano Island. Gidney and four passengers who were along for a whale-watching tour offered assistance to the couple and their dog, who were on board the burning vessel.

• The Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled that shooting noise at the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club constituted a nuisance to its neighbours Brian Milne and Jean Barakett. Justice Elliot Myers handed down a limited injunction instead of awarding damages or banning shooting completely. Myers required the two sides to come together on an agreement, but stated the arrangement should include reduced shooting hours, soundproofing the indoor range, extending outdoor side berms and providing a means to collect spent lead.



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July

- The Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority sparked widespread community outrage when it ordered the Tree House Cafe to cease serving alcoholic beverages at tables located on the walkway outside the restaurant, and warned the tables could no longer be placed there at all after the tourist season concluded. Tree House owner Mark LeCorre and landlord Mouat's Trading Co. entered into negotiations to resolve the issue differently, stating the loss would potentially halve the restaurant's revenue. More than 1,300 people signed an online petition asking HASSI to reverse its decision.

- The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority announced plans to monitor the amount of phosphorus entering St. Mary Lake from septic fields, as a key instigator of algal blooms. The action had been recommended five years earlier in the St. Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan.

- Public debate opened at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee level over an application to subdivide a 20-acre north-end property located within the Agricultural Land Reserve into two parcels. Although the owner did not seek to change the zoning, the LTC eventually rejected the request due to public opposition.

- Cyclist Matt Salo was sent to hospital in Vancouver after he was struck by a vehicle which left the scene on North End Road. Friends at North End Fitness launched a fundraising drive to help cover funds while he recuperated.

- BC Ferries announced the contract to build three new ferries, including two destined for the Gulf Islands routes, had been awarded to Polish firm Remontowa Shipbuilding S.A.

- Matthew Burrows was banned from Maliview Drive for 12 months after breaking the conditions of a 2013 sentence. Police officers who stopped Burrows while jaywalking determined he had been drinking and was carrying marijuana, activities that were prohibited under the previous conditions.

- CRD bylaw enforcement cracked down on pets at Centennial Park and the Saturday Market, including a repeat offender named

Big Horse. "Big Horse, the most famous and most photographed rabbit that ever lived on Salt Spring Island, is now branded a criminal," said miffed owner and market vendor Roger Brunt.

- The Islands Trust received a legal opinion stating Platform Properties had the right to "complete, occupy and use" all 123 resort cottages planned for the original site since the building followed zoning bylaws when construction was begun. Platform spokesperson Cameron Chalmers said the company would continue its rezoning application that limited the units to the 50 already constructed, plus an amenity building. The LTC rejected the rezoning bid anyway at its July 24 meeting, with a vote of 2-1.

- Nearly 70 households on Maliview Drive had disrupted water service when a water line ruptured. Residents experienced low pressure or no water at all in their taps for a period of about 12 hours before workers could repair the pipe.

- HSBC Bank Canada initiated bankruptcy proceedings against Sable Fish Canada Inc., owners of a controversial fish farm that had been operating on Walker Hook since 2004. Golden Eagle Group, one of the branches of businesses owned by Vancouver's Aquilini family, purchased the facility in early September. "We just hope to continue what [previous owners] were doing and expand the product," said Golden Eagle president Richard Buchanan.

- The annual Fulford Day celebration was cancelled due to lack of volunteers for the pre-planning and coordination stages.

- Salt Spring paddlers joined a large group from Victoria and elsewhere for Turning the Tide events on Pender Island, and then hosted the group at Ruckle Park. The weekend represented an arm-powdered protest to increased tanker traffic in the Salish Sea.

- The federal Green party membership adopted policy on the need to remove doctor-assisted suicide from Canada's Criminal Code. Salt Spring residents Joan Farlinger, Brian Smallshaw and Brian Finnemore provided the material for the resolution, which was passed at the party's convention in Fredericton.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Tim O'Connor takes the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.



PHOTO BY CONNIE HARDY

Jonathan Seagull at Connie Hardy's Cusheon Lake home.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

A dispute over use of the gravel area outside of the Tree House Cafe building made headlines in the summer.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Susan Wetmore, left, addresses a Centennial Park crowd for the unveiling of a nautical art piece, along with its creator Nycki Samuels.

August

- Salt Spring Fire-Rescue issued a warning about the rope swing off North End Road on St. Mary Lake after a string of accidents and injuries, due in part to lower-than-usual water levels. The final straw came when a young male with serious injuries had to be airlifted to hospital late on a Saturday night.

- The provincial government declared Level 3 drought conditions for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands as an unusually long, dry summer continued. The advisory included voluntary water use restrictions from municipal, agricultural

and industrial users. The North Salt Spring Waterworks District also recommended voluntary restrictions to its users and the Cedar Lane Water District advised its residents to monitor water use.

- PARC commissioner Hafiz Bhimji campaigned on behalf of a local pickleball society to get permanent lines related to the sport painted on the Burgoyne Valley's public tennis court. Despite total opposition from the Salt Spring Tennis Association, commissioners voted in December to commit to the project, encouraging the two factions to share the space.

- Jonathan Seagull returned to his friend Connie Hardy's home on Cusheon Lake for the 19th consecutive season, appearing earlier than he ever had before.

and industrial users. The North Salt Spring Waterworks District also recommended voluntary restrictions to its users and the Cedar Lane Water District advised its residents to monitor water use.

- Salt Spring PARC, community officials and the Salt Spring Lions Club unveiled a new installation in Centennial Park celebrating Salt Spring's nautical heritage. The idea was initiated and championed by local resident Susan Wetmore. Artist Nycki Samuels created the metal structure, which framed historic photos in a marine-inspired design complete with waves, a porthole and a captain's wheel.

- Islanders embraced the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge with the maximum possible enthusiasm, with a number of businesses and organizations taking the plunge and donating funds.

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PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

PARC trails crew members Blair Barrett, left, and Justin Byron after completing Fern Creek Trail improvements.



PHOTO BY CONNIE BRETT

Ganges Coast Guard vessel and crew of Cape Naden attend to a sailboat in Sansum Narrows.



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

Celebrating a successful fundraising campaign to install solar panels on the GISS roof are, from left, project manager Kjell Liem, students Jenna Aston and Ella MacQueen-Denz, and David Denning of the Salt Spring Community Energy Group.

September

• PARC trails crew members Justin Byron and Blair Barrett delighted hikers and their supervisors with the major restoration project they completed on the Fern Creek Trail. "It's really amazing what these guys do with very little supplies and very little budget," said PARC manager Lorraine Brewster. Often called the best short hike in the south end, the Fern Creek Trail had been rendered almost impassable earlier in the year by fallen trees and an eroded path.

• Salt Spring RCMP investigated after a Burgoyne Valley cat was shot by a pellet gun. The one-year-old family pet underwent surgery to treat wounds, including a broken leg.

• The CRD board voted unanimously to scrap any proposed amendments aimed at suppressing gunshot noise produced at the Salt Spring Rod and Gun Club after receiving nearly 300 responses to a request for public feedback — 98 per cent of which opposed the changes. The board noted that sound mitigation requirements had been imposed through the civil suit, and that the proposed 70-decibel level limit was rejected by both sides.

• A UBC study commissioned by the Islands Trust Fund found the Gulf Islands had higher than average bird biodiversity, standing carbon and capacity for carbon sequestering than other parts of the coastal Douglas fir bioclimatic zone, making it an important area on which to focus future conservation efforts.

• Salt Spring's Industrial Advisory

Planning Commission, a group created by the LTC, released its report on community need for industrial land. Called *Blueprint Towards a Working Community*, the report stated that industrial land should increase by at least 50 per cent to meet community needs within the next 25 years. It was estimated that 70 to 80 acres of land would need to be rezoned.

• Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue crews based on Salt Spring responded when a catamaran carrying five passengers struck a rock in Sansum Narrows. The passengers had abandoned ship and were rescued by a passing vessel before one of the boat's transoms submerged.

• The Capital Regional District's Building Inspection department declared the Fulford Inn to be a hazardous structure and recommended immediate action to restrict unlawful access to the building. The CRD ordered the owner to secure the site or face the consequences, with a Sept. 29 deadline for response.

• Sable Fish Canada had more problems to deal with other than just bankruptcy when its neighbours remounted a campaign to reduce the noise stemming from fish farm operations. Wendy Hartnett and Larry Nelson, who initiated a petition about the noise, said it had always been disruptive but had increased since the spring, making it impossible to leave windows open or enjoy being outside.

• The Salt Spring Fire Protection District rankled taxpayers by increasing its 2015 budget by 6.5 per cent for a total of \$2,529,000, although it

dropped \$50,000 off the initial proposal.

• Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce vice-chair Matt Steffich sought special permission to hold a third term on the executive in order to oversee plans to complete the Ganges boardwalk. The project, which ended without being completed in 1991, received new life when a group of business owners, property owners and government agencies met in August. The group established 2016 as the hoped-for completion date.

• The Local Trust Committee approved a three-year extension to the Salt Spring Abattoir's temporary use permit, allowing the facility to continue operations on a Fulford-Ganges Road property.

October

• The Union of B.C. Municipalities gave unanimous support to four resolutions related to coastal ferry service, calling for the province to increase its subsidy and roll back fares and service levels to what they had been in 2013. Transport Minister Todd Stone stuck to the party line that no more support would be coming, and criticized the report on which the resolutions were based as being "highly simplistic."

• Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue crew joined a massive rescue effort near Porlier Pass when a family's gillnetter capsized. Two adults and five children were rescued during the effort led by the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria.

• The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority extended its mandate to include water quantity as well as quality, with plans to review ground and surface water levels and management.

• Provincial coroner Lyn Blenkinsop released the results of her investigation into the death of 28-year-old Crystal Davidson in 2012. Cause of death was ruled to be accidental asphyxia due to loss of consciousness as the result of mixed drug intoxication. The report ruled out foul play or suicide.

• Gulf Islands Secondary School's Solar Scholarship Project got underway with the delivery of 84 solar panels. The installation on the gym roof would become the largest school-based solar array in B.C. Over 140 local businesses and individuals contributed to the \$63,000 goal.

• School District 64 introduced a new flexible learning program blending home schooling and in-class studies at Fulford Elementary School. Community need to expand the options surfaced at two open house events.

• Salt Spring's Community Economic Development Commission issued a report called *Toward a More Resilient Future*. The report identified six areas for action to improve the island's economic health, including opportunities for families and youth. "We actually can't keep going the way we are," said commission chair John Tylee. "There's a real symbiotic relationship between what the younger and older people need out of the island."

• The Islands Trust hired an additional bylaw enforcement officer to be based on Salt Spring. Newcomer Thomas Loo came to the position from the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

• Pender Island Fire Rescue received \$110,000 from the Robert L. Conconi Foundation and raised nearly the same amount in community funds toward upgrading the training facilities at its main fire hall.

• A former Salt Spring resident was revealed to be a member of Britain's intelligence operations during WWII. Eric Roberts, who moved to Salt Spring in 1957 and died there in 1972, had played a crucial role in infiltrating the network of British Nazi sympathizers, posing as an undercover Gestapo agent named Jack King. The information came to light when the British National Archives released Roberts' military files.

• A Kelowna-based company named Viewpoint Enterprises Inc. picked up 800 acres of Channel Ridge development land for \$6.6 million. The property had been in receivership since April 2013, with Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. amassing \$37 million in debt.

• The Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission raised the idea of calling a referendum to fund infrastructure improvement costs, estimated to come in around \$4 million. Meanwhile, Peter Lake, chair of the Liquid Waste Local Service Commission, vowed to resign if no progress was made on treatment capacity at the Burgoyne Bay septage and sewage facility in the next year.

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November

- The Capital Regional District issued a demolition permit for the Fulford Inn at the request of its owner, after RCMP and Salt Spring Fire Rescue members had to ask squatters to leave the derelict building. Demolition was originally scheduled to occur before Nov. 20 but had not happened by the end of the year.

- Members of the public who attended consultation sessions as part of a review of Salt Spring Fire Protection District operations named safety and governance their top concerns.

- The Salt Spring Island Conservancy undertook a major wetland restoration project at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, putting some 1,800 native plants into the ground and returning a filled-in area into a natural pond.

- Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee voted to forward a boardwalk implementation plan to the Capital Regional District to clarify roles and work out a timeline for completion.

- Writers throughout the Gulf Islands sat down at their keyboards for the National Novel Writing Month challenge, with the goal of completing 50,000 words in just 30 days. There were 61 participants who officially registered Salt Spring as their home base.

- Salt Spring's Riparian Areas Regulation bylaw received third reading and was forwarded to the Islands Trust Executive Committee and provincial government for review. Previous versions of the proposed bylaw had led to vast community outrage and contributed to a change of leadership at the LTC level.

- The former Blennerhassett Equestrian Centre found new life as the Blue Horse Equestrian Centre under purchasers Nancy Berman and Alan Bloch. Business administrator Tanya Akerman announced their intention to put more focus on youth education and agriculture.

- Rumours about ferry terminal closures on Salt Spring reached a fever pitch with help from off-island media outlets. A brief mention of plans to look at "rationalizing" the terminals in a BC Ferries efficiency plan re-opened the conversation about Long Harbour. The potential closure was then erroneously trans-

ferred to talk about the Vesuvius-Crofton run.

- A coalition of Gulf Islands recycling depot operators asked the Capital Regional District's Electoral Area Services Committee to support continued funding for their programs through Hartland Landfill tipping fees after the temporary arrangement expired in May 2015. Changes to recycling regulations in B.C. proved to be problematic earlier in the fall, when it became clear that MMBC baling fees covered only one third of actual depot recycling costs.

- Local elections on Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands produced a triumph of the incumbents, with candidates who chose to run again returned to their seats in every case. The biggest shake-up came to the Gulf Islands Board of Education, where newcomers were elected to two of three empty seats on Salt Spring and filled seats by acclamation on Galiano and Pender islands.

- Salt Spring voters also endorsed a referendum question attached to the ballot, giving the Salt Spring Transportation Commission the ability to raise taxes by \$250,000 per year from 2015 through 2018.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District voted to increase parcel tax rates by 1.5 per cent and implemented a Capital Improvement Fund Surcharge of \$120 per household for 2015. The move followed ratepayers' rejection of a borrowing plan both through the Alternate Approval Process in May and an August referendum.

- Island Savings members approved a merger with First West Credit Union, to take place on Jan. 1, 2015. Two identical resolutions affecting different types of shareholders each passed with 80 per cent in favour. At least 66.66 per cent approval was needed from both groups.

- Salt Spring drivers were alternately outraged and amused by the uneven work provided by the Nanaimo-based Georgia Strait Line Painting Corp. The company attempted to make amends by fixing the worst wobbly lines, saying it was not informed of the true scope of the job and had not brought the right equipment.

- Steve Price, mayor elect of Sidney, promoted the idea of connecting the town's Beacon Wharf with a water taxi network serving the Gulf

Islands. The plan had its roots in the Experience the Gulf Islands Project, which was introduced by Galiano resident Ed Andrusiak. It was further developed by Dave Howe, CRD director for the Southern Gulf Islands.

December

- Platform Properties' plans to finish 50 vacation cabins on Bullock Lake got underway with a request for 36 building permits from the CRD. Permit approval was contingent on meeting potable water requirements and obtaining a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure access permit, as well as meeting 2012 B.C. Building Code requirements.

- Salt Spring RCMP issued a plea for information after Portlock Park's main playing field was damaged by dirt bike tracks. Two youths subsequently turned themselves in and entered the restorative justice process.

- Peter Luckham, the newly elected chair of the Islands Trust Council, raised the alarm over proposed changes governing marine sewage discharge by recreational boaters. Transport Canada's suggestion to permit sewage dumping one nautical mile from shore instead of six, as currently permitted, was foreseen to have an extremely negative environmental impact. "The islands are in a soup, and we all share the same soup," Luckham said.

- Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member George Grams was elected as one of three vice chairs on the Islands Trust Executive Committee, becoming the first local representative to take the position in 12 years.

- The Ganges Sewer Commission hosted an open house regarding its need to repair and replace infrastructure, with an estimated price tag of up to \$4 million needed to solve all the problems with the 30-year-old system. A referendum for its ratepayers was expected for early 2015.

- Saturna Island residents mourned the loss of 21-year-old Keenan Nicodemus, who disappeared into the ocean while attempting to reach and secure his sailboat. Nicodemus was in a rowboat that capsized during the nighttime rescue attempt. His body was recovered one week later by an RCMP dive team that worked in tandem with a volunteer underwater



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

All-candidates meeting for Salt Spring Trust and CRD positions unfolds at ArtSpring. Incumbents Wayne McIntyre (CRD) and Peter Grove and George Grams (Trust) were re-elected.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Smoke rises from the Fulford Inn chimney after some squatters moved into the vacant structure.




PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Newly painted wobbly road lines on North End Road made for the most bizarre news story of 2014.

rescue and recovery group.

- North Salt Spring Waterworks District announced it would make its third attempt at securing funds to

build a new water treatment plant, with information on a second referendum date, detailed design drawings and revised costs to be released by February.



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Prizes and awards in various realms in 2014

• Gymnast Darby McIntyre headed to the BC Winter Games after picking up gold medals in the floor, beam and vault competitions and a silver medal in bars at the Vancouver Island qualifiers in January. She then placed first overall in her division in the Western Canadian Championships held in Saskatoon in April, earning the title of Western Canadian Provincial 5 Novice Champion.

• Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior boys basketball team won their third straight title at the Naim Howe memorial tournament.

• Paul Minvielle received gold and bronze medals in the dark category at the 2014 Big Leaf Maple Syrup Festival in Duncan.

• Salt Spring athletes were in top form at the Vancouver Island Wrestling Championships, which were hosted at the GISS gym in February. Four of the five local participants qualified for the provincial championships held in Prince George later that month.

• The Driftwood won nine national publishing awards, including first place honours for the Gulf Islander Visitors' Guide, the Best of Salt Spring supplement and reporter Elizabeth Nolan's three-part series on Salt Spring's doctor shortage, which earned the prize for Excellence in Rural Reporting.

• Trades students at GISS came home with three medals and won bronze overall for the South Island region at the 2014 Regional Skills Canada Competition, which was held at Camosun College. Student medalists include Samantha Jenson, who won a gold medal for culinary arts. Finn McGuffin and Drew Light earned silver and bronze medals (respectively) in carpentry.

• Salt Spring United's U18 girls silver soccer team ended their season as district champions.

• Anna Rithaler received a \$1,000 scholarship from Ram Canada, one of 100 awarded across the country to 4-H participants during the club's 100 anniversary year.

• Molly O'Donnell won the first-ever women's Greco-Roman wrestling match held at the Canadian Cadet Wrestling Championships in Guelph, Ont. The Grade 10 GISS student won four of her five matches in the 56-kg division, despite never having competed or trained in that wrestling style before.

• The Salt Spring Sneakers running club finished the 2014 Vancouver Island Running Series with three medals and nine top-10 finishes at the 10km final event in Sooke. Melanie Van

Soeren placed first in her F21-29 category, Susan Gordon took home the silver for F50-54 and Lise Fraser won the bronze in F55-59. Gordon followed up by placing second in her category at the 10-km Vancouver Sun Run with a personal best time of 41:36 and then a first-place finish at the BMO Vancouver Marathon in May.

• Salt Spring United won the trophy in the women's recreation division at the annual Challenge Cup tournament, with a 3-1 victory against Jun de Fuca in the final match.

• Twelve-year-old Lukas Booy earned First Class Honours with Distinction for his Grade 5 Royal Conservatory of Music piano exam, a result fewer than one per cent of students play well enough to achieve.

• Twin sisters Kiara and Shayce Johnston were gold medal winners at the Basketball BC provincial finals along with their Nanaimo-based Central Vancouver Island district team.

• Fulford Elementary student Anna Herman received a medal for being fourth runner-up in the Royal Canadian Mint's Heart of the Arctic drawing contest.

• Salt Spring's U16 girls softball team was off to the provincial championships after securing a fourth-place finish in the southern Vancouver Island C Bantam division.

• Jason Newport and Carlos Manzano formed one half of a silver-medal bocce team, representing Team B.C. in their sport at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games in Vancouver.

• Salt Spring Hospice volunteer Pat Desbottes was named Volunteer of the Year by the B.C. Hospice Palliative Care Association.

• GISS grad Kelsey Mech earned a place on Starfish Canada's list of top 25 environmentalists under the age of 25.

• Magazine Canada named Salt Spring Books the Retailer of the Year for outstanding work cultivating the connection between consumers and Canadian magazines.

• Sixteen-year-old rower Maia Beauvais earned three silver medals in doubles events at the BC Summer Games in Nanaimo.

• Cassidy Fraser returned from the North American Indigenous Games in Saskatchewan with one bronze, two silver and four gold medals in the U-19 category. She also set a new meet record in the 50 fly event.

• Salt Spring Stingrays swim team members made waves at the Vancouver Island regional championships. Cassidy Fraser earned four gold medals and Taylor Akerman took home



Clockwise from top left: Jason Newport, left, and Carlos Manzano with silver medals won at the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games as part of Team B.C.; Pat Desbottes with her Volunteer of the Year Award from the B.C. Hospice Palliative Care Association; Lukas Booy after earning First Class Honours With Distinction in his Grade 5 Royal Conservatory of Music exam.

two. Stingrays coach Kevin Nickerson earned a silver and a bronze for his races.

• Salt Spring biologist David Denning received an Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award.

• Artist Gail Sibley received the grand prize at Painting on the Edge, the annual juried exhibition put on by the Federation of Canadian Artists in Vancouver.

* 2013 GISS grad Tahani Peters was one of 25 recipients of the Standing Tall Award from Coast Capital Savings.

• The League of Canadian poets awarded Murray Reiss the 2014 Gerald Lampert Memorial Prize for his book *The Survival Rate of Butterflies in the Wild*.

• The Canadian Red Cross recognized Lorraine Norfolk's outstanding volunteer work at its medical equipment depot at Lady Minto Hospital with a merit award.

• Salt Spring Business Award winners were Windsor Plywood and Salt Spring Cheese for Business of the Year (for businesses with more than 15 employees, a tie); Twang & Pearl, Small Business of the Year (for businesses with fewer than 15 employ-

ees); Duthie Gallery, Tourism Business of the Year; Island Escapades, Green Business of the Year; Green City Builders, Trades and Construction Award; Duck Creek Farm, Agricultural/Farm Business of the Year; El Loco Taco, New Business of the Year and People's Choice Award; Jeremy Milsom and Salt Spring Inn, Outstanding Customer Service; Salt Spring Literacy Society, Non-Profit Association of the Year.

• Salt Spring competitors at the BC Seniors Games in Langley took home 16 medals. Lynn Thompson earned a bundle of silver and gold awards in track and field events. Peter Lamb, Anne Stewart, Jennifer Morgan and Bob Weeden earned gold in tennis competitions. Morgan also picked up a bronze with doubles partner Ron Perring. Mary and Peter Freeman won five medals in six cycling categories.

• A younger-than-usual senior boys soccer team from Gulf Islands Secondary School made it all the way to eighth place at the AA provincial championships in Burnaby.

• Salt Spring artists showed a strong presence at the Sooke Fine Arts Show. Seth Berkowitz and Nicola Wheston won two of the eight available awards of excellence, while Michael Robb received a juror's choice award. Judy Weeden earned an honourable mention.

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Power in numbers

Grace Islet actions and a prolonged teachers' strike were the most "active" local news stories of 2014



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Salt Spring residents and First Nations people join hands and sing during an occupation of Grace Islet on Aug. 26.

Grace Islet

March: Islet owner Barry Slawsky renewed a CRD building permit for a new home on the contested site, sparking a new and committed round of public protest. Salt Spring Islanders for Justice and Reconciliation and Salt Spring Residents for Responsible Land Use presented an information session with archeologist Darcy Matthews and anthropologist Chris Arnett on Coast Salish burial structures and the First Nations Shiyahwt village site in modern Ganges.

May: Green party interim leader Adam Olsen spearheaded a petition asking the province to designate the islet as a heritage site and compensate Slawsky for the real estate loss. He would hand off the petition of nearly 600 signatures to MLA Gary Holman to present in the legislature.

June: Islanders and other islet supporters marked National Aboriginal Day with a rally at Centennial Park. Speakers who called for the site's protection included leaders from the Penelakut, Tseycum, Tsartlip, Cowichan, Tsawout and Halsalt nations.

July: The Capital Regional District board got involved when Victoria councillor Ben Isitt introduced a resolution to take a strong stand on ownership transfer. The motion, which called for suspension of the heritage alteration permit, was seconded by Salt Spring's CRD director Wayne McIntyre and passed by unanimous consent. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations responded that it was "not in a position to unilaterally revoke the permit" and put responsibility for construction back in the CRD's court.

Briony Penn was among protesters who erected a mock house in Victoria's historic Ross Bay Cemetery on graves belonging to two of her ancestors.

Isitt launched an online petition asking the CRD to take ownership of the islet under the provincial Expropriation Act, with compensation to be paid to Slawsky. The ministry ruled out any possibility of the province doing so.

August: A flotilla of self-titled "defenders" paddled to the islet and prevented construction workers from assessing the work site. Slegg Lumber founders Patti and Ron Slegg ended their supplier relationship with the project.

A rally at Centennial Park on Monday, Aug. 11 attracted 80 people, including local MP Elizabeth May and MLA Gary Holman. Slawsky meanwhile refuted claims of disrupting archeological sites in a letter to the Times Colonist, offering his first public statement on the issue.

The CRD Board voted during an in-camera meeting against pursuing expropriation, feeling the action would surpass its authority. Directors said they would continue to urge the province to halt construction.

Protesters breached fencing and occupied the site on Aug. 26. RCMP officers settled on videotaping the participants and attempting to mediate a discussion between the group and a West Terra Projects construction crew.

September: Salt Spring protesters travelled again to the provincial legislature lawn to show their support while First Nations leaders met inside with senior members of the ministry.

John Alexander, a lawyer representing Slawsky, filed an injunction to stop protesters — including Tsartlip Chief Don Tom, Tseycum Chief Vern Jacks and MLA Gary Holman — from visiting the site. Court issued a four-week adjournment to give defendants a chance to prepare their case.

October: Protesters returned to the legislature lawn for the start of the fall session.

Alexander suspended the injunction application, stating Slawsky had "no interest in escalating tensions or claiming compensation from any protesters."

December: The provincial government reversed its position and revealed plans to buy the islet when Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, confirmed he received authority from the province to purchase the property. Thomson also appointed a mediator to resolve the dispute between Slawsky and First Nations. The Cowichan Tribes had threatened legal action if negotiations to buy the islet didn't begin.

Teachers' Strike

March: Teachers voted overwhelmingly to initiate the first stage of strike action as they attempted to negotiate a contract, beginning a months-long labour dispute that would keep kids out of school for three weeks. The first stage, which was implemented after spring break, had teachers refuse to communicate with administration using email or other written formats.

May: Teachers voted to move ahead with phase two, with a series of rotating one-day strikes to begin on May 29. BC Teachers' Federation president Jim Iker said the union was ramping up its

efforts in response to aggressive moves by government-appointed negotiator Peter Cameron. These included imposing a five per cent pay cut on teachers for providing reduced services during their job action and withholding benefit payments. Gulf Islands teachers spent their first day on the picket line on May 29.

June: After three weeks of rotating strikes, a full-scale strike was announced on June 16, effectively ending the school year for B.C. students. A Labour Relations Board ruling ensured provincial exams for students in grades 10 to 12 went ahead as scheduled and that Grade 12 students received final grades by July 20.

August: The B.C. government announced plans to pay parents \$40 per day of school missed after the usual September start date for those with children under age 13. The funds were presented as a way to pay for daycare or tutoring expenses incurred due to the strike. The Gulf Islands School District joined others in asking the government to rethink the plan and to put the money directly into education instead.

Sept. 2: Picket lines went back up on Sept. 2 instead of schools opening for the 2014/15 school year as veteran mediator Vince Ready declared the two sides to be too far away from each other to attempt mediation. A rally in support of teachers was held in Ganges.

Sept. 16: Mediator Vince Ready emerged from a Richmond hotel where negotiations were going on through the night to give reporters the good news that a tentative deal had been reached.

Sept. 22: First day of the 2014 school year for Gulf Islands students and staff.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Rally participants head to Centennial Park on Sept. 2.

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MARIMBA

Ruwadzano group keeps on shaking

Salt Spring marimba band celebrates 20 years

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If there's a party on Salt Spring, chances are good you'll hear Ruwadzano.

Members of the lively band have shared their blend of sound and colour with islanders ever since the group formed 20 years ago. Band members have long since become a mainstay at island traditions such as the Saturday Market in the Park, fall fair, Sea Capers, pride parade and a host of different fundraisers and benefit concerts.

To the Shona people of Zimbabwe and Mozambique, Ruwadzano is synonymous with working together for the common good. According to Chris Dixon, one of the band's longest active members, the group is as devoted to the cooperative ethic as they are to practising music.

"We rehearse four hours every week," Dixon said. "Zimbabwean music is rhythmically and melodically complex, so learning a song well enough to perform it is a big investment."

"It's sort of like the Olympics; you can't just step in and play, you've got to work at it."

The multifaceted group comprises several large, percussive marimbas and two distinctive types of shakers. Combined, the rhythms of



Ruwadzano Marimba Band at a practice.

PHOTO COURTESY RUWADZANO

each instrument lift the spirit and encourage movement.

As the band celebrates more than two decades on the island, the group is eager to recruit a new member or two for the upcoming season. With a membership of only seven or nine players, it isn't often that vacancies on the Ruwadzano roster become available.

The group meets twice a week at 4:30 p.m. for two-hour practice sessions. The band performs roughly every second Saturday throughout the summer.

Although a knowledge of music and experience in a musical ensemble setting are advantageous, anyone is welcome to apply for a position.

One of the band's greatest assets, Dixon said, is the "spectrum of humanity" that makes up the group.

"It was a really organic community right from the start," he said.

Dixon estimates approximately 50 people have served in the band since the first note was struck.

Ruwadzano fever touched down in North America from Zimbabwe during the late 1980s in Seattle. Marimba bands flourished across the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada before taking over the continent. The musical tradition's collective spirit and free-flowing sound made it a natural creative outlet for many

Salt Spring residents. Annual festivals dedicated to marimba can now be found around the world.

"It spread very quickly," Dixon said. "It's such infectious stuff; anyone who hears it wants to play it and dance to it."

Proceeds from the marimba band's concerts pay for practice space, teachers, instruments and repairs. The group has sent thousands of dollars to aid organizations in Zimbabwe for school supplies and school fees for elementary school kids whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS.

For more information about the band and how to join, call Dixon at 250-537-2840.

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 SALT SPRING CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

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Monday January 12 Tickets \$20 available at:
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 Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00) Stuff and Nonsense
 Show starts 7:00 Catering by Ramona Reigel



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SPIRITUAL CELEBRATION

All Saints' observes Twelfth Night

Unique program features music and poetry

The magic and mystery of the Twelfth Night of Christmas will be anticipated this year with a Vespers service at All Saints' Anglican Church on Sunday, Jan. 4.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on what is actually the 11th night, the service will include readings from scripture, congregational song and contemplation both in words and silence, in addition to performance aspects.

"In Christian tradition, Christmas is not over on Dec. 25," the Salt Spring parish advises. "It is only just beginning, with festivities continuing through to the Feast of the

Epiphany on Jan. 6 for one of the longest festival periods of the Christian calendar."

A variety of customs have been associated with Twelfth Night in different cultures and times, producing music and Shakespeare's famous play. The Salt Spring Anglican celebration will feature the All Saints' Dancers and their well-received piece on the Star of Bethlehem. Rasma Bertz will add eclectic and ageless music to the mix, from ancient Byzantine chant to traditional songs from Wales and Denmark to an American spiritual.

Readings of poetry by the 20th-century Church of Wales priest R. S. Thomas, contemporary theologian Walter Bruggemann and American poet Kate Farrell will also be included.

Coming directly after Twelfth Night in the Anglican calendar are services that observe Epiphany. According to the parish, "the word epiphany signifies a showing forth or revelation and the feast day celebrates the appearance in Bethlehem of the wise ones from the East, as related in Matthew's Gospel. These are gentiles who honour and worship the Christ-child with precious gifts, later assigned mystical meanings."

Epiphany liturgies will be celebrated at All Saints' on Monday, Jan. 5 at 9:30 a.m. (modern language) and 11:45 a.m. (traditional, Book of Common Prayer).

All are welcome to Twelfth Night events. There is no admission charge but donations will be gratefully received.

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
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Cari 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



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what's on this week

Wed. Dec 31 **Thur. Jan 1** **Sat. Jan 3** **Sun. Jan 4** **Mon. Jan 5** **Tues. Jan 6** **Wed. Jan 7**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

New Year's at The Legion.
Newfie New Year with Valdy beginning at 6 p.m., followed by a hot buffet dinner and then Thru-Fare beginning at 9 p.m. SS Legion.
Jukebox Social.
New Year's Eve at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
New Year's Eve with Jon & Roy.
Jon Middleton, Roy Vizer and Louis Sadava headline the evening, with other bands Carmanah and Barefoot Thieves. Benefit for SS Gymnastics. Beaver Point Community Hall. Doors are at 8 p.m.; music at 9:30.

ACTIVITIES

Proscenium: A Conscious New Year Celebration.
At Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. 8 p.m.
New Year's Eve Milonga.
Tango event with DJ Steve Morgan. Pre-booked tickets only. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 9 p.m.
New Year's Eve Mass.
Vigil Mass with New Year's Eve gathering in hall after mass. Our Lady of Grace Church. 11 p.m.

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic With Ross & Dave.
Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.
ACTIVITIES
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
New Year's Day mass held at St. Paul's at 8 a.m. and Our Lady of Grace at 10 a.m.
The Naming of Jesus.
Eucharist in the Celtic Christian tradition. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 12 noon.
Polar Bear Swim.
Annual family event at Vesuvius Beach. This year's theme is bright colours. Register from 11:30 a.m., splash in at 12 noon.

Fri. Jan 2

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime.
For children 3 - 6 years of age. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 10:30 a.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@driftwoodgimedia.com

ACTIVITIES

What is Awakened Relating? A Satsang & Meditation Retreat.
Greg Marian shares the direct path to spiritual awakening and self realization. For more info visit www.MeetingsInBeing.org. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. Noon to 6 p.m.

Sun. Jan 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wesley Hardisty.
Live music at Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Christmas Tree Chipping.
Islanders are welcome to drop off Christmas trees from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central fire hall across from Portlock Park for a \$5 donation to the Salt Spring Food Bank.
Unitarian Sermon - Awakening.
Regular guest chaplain Amanada Tarling leads fellowship in reflecting on a theme of 'Awakening'. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.
Dance Temple - Sacred Sundays.
Ganges Yoga Studio. 10:30 to noon.

ACTIVITIES

Pickleball.
Every Sunday at Fulford Hall. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Play Temple.
Sessions led by Mitchell Soulfeather and other artists. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 1 to 3 p.m.
Rollerblading.
All ages. Many sets of blades available for use. Fulford Hall. 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Twelfth Night.
Anglican service will include readings from scripture, congregational song and contemplation both in words and silence, plus live music, dance performance and poetry readings. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 4 p.m.
Lighting 101 Course.
First night of a 12-week course with ArtSpring's technical director Marv Coulthard. Learn about the history of theatre lighting, the latest technology of moving lights and LED fixtures, and how to light for stage, television and film. Open to people ages 15 and up. To register call 250-537-2102 or visit the ArtSpring box office. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Stay Connected
be part of the Driftwood's online community.
Visit www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for breaking news, extra content and to vote in our weekly poll; like us on Facebook for breaking news, photos and fun stuff and get all the news first by following us on Twitter.

ACTIVITIES

Epiphany at All Saints.
Epiphany liturgies will be celebrated at All Saints' By-the-Sea at 9:30 a.m. (modern language) and 11:45 a.m. (traditional, Book of Common Prayer).

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio.
All six cantatas, plus 10th anniversary celebration of Bach on the Rock. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tech Tutoring With John.
All topics, including Macs. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 2 to 5 p.m.
Classic Rock Bingo.
Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SongJam.
A 21st-century pub sing-along to vocal and instrumental backing tracks. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

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HELD OVER

Final Shows The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
Thursday to Tuesday January 1st to 6th 7pm
We will be closed New Years Eve. Sorry we cannot accept any coupons or passes for The Hobbit.

get noticed board

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

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GISS Music Show
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CINEMA

- The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies** — Final shows! 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 New Year's Eve. (Please note that coupons or passes cannot be accepted for The Hobbit.)

EXHIBITIONS

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

EXHIBITIONS

- 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 continues through January.
- The Salt Spring Photography Club is pleased to present the works of **Cliff Kelly** at **Country Roasters Cafe** during the month of January.
- Heidi Van Impe** oil paintings are on display at **Island Savings**.
- Roger Donnelly's** artwork is hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** features artwork by staff members.
- 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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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



Merry Monday



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Valdy, left, leads the Fulford community in song on Merry Monday, celebrated each year on the last Monday evening before Christmas. Above, chestnuts roasting on an open grill add a deliciously authentic touch to the celebration.



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TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Outdoorsy types set for January treks

Three groups list activities for the coming month

Hikers

Jan. 6: Sharon Sullivan leads a moderate hike through the north end of Ruckle Park from Meyer Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the south end of Meyer Road next to the trail head for the Chris Hatfield Trail just after 10 a.m. Back to the cars by 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 13: Mystery Hike. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at ArtSpring to choose a leader and destination.

Jan. 20: Join Tudor Davies for a hike around Ruckle Park. It won't be strenuous but it will be long and the rocks may be slippery. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the heritage farm parking area (just past the turkeys) in Ruckle Park at 10:05 a.m.

Jan. 27: Carol Melton and Jean Attop will lead a moderate hike from Maxham Road through the Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve to the rhodonite mine and then along to the Mountain Road waterfall. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

Walkers

Jan. 6: Jenny Meyer and Doreen Fen-ton will lead a Channel Ridge walk starting at the entrance at Merganser off Canvasback. Meet at ArtSpring parking lot at 10 a.m. to carpool or at 10:15 at Merganser.

Jan. 13: Mystery walk. Meet at ArtSpring parking lot at 10 a.m. to choose a leader and destination.

Jan. 20: Patricia Flannagan will lead a walk to the waterfall, Mountain Road area, from the end of Isabella Point Road. Meet at ArtSpring parking lot at 10 a.m. to carpool or at 10:15 at Drummond Park.

Jan. 27: Nieke Visser will be leading a walk to an as yet unknown destination.

Meet at ArtSpring parking lot at 10 a.m. to carpool. Destination information will be emailed to members mid-January.

Ramblers

Jan. 6: Sterling and Maureen McEachern lead a ramble to Mouat Park. After the ramble, we'll meet at Barb's for coffee or lunch. Meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park.

Jan. 13: Frauke will ramble with you in the Byron Road area, with a lunch stop at Frauke's house. Bring a bag lunch. Meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park for carpooling.

Jan. 20: Marilyn and Bill take us on a ramble in the Eagle Ridge area. Lunch will be at Marilyn's and Bill's house. Bring a bag lunch. Meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park for carpooling.

Jan. 27: Harold Page leads a south-end ramble over private property for about one hour, followed by lunch at the Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe. Meet at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park for carpooling.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 29: The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club's annual general meeting will be held at the Lions Hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. Following the meeting, Lynn Thompson will give a photo presentation titled Hiking Mount Albert Edward in Strathcona Park.

New Members

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

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

Stay Connected

be part of the Driftwood's online community.

Visit www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for breaking news, extra content and to vote in our weekly poll; like us on Facebook for breaking news, photos and fun stuff; and get all the news first by following us on Twitter.

Gary Holman, MLA Community Office Hours

1st Monday of each month 10:00am-1:00pm
Salt Spring Island Public Library

For assistance with provincial programs and agencies

To reserve an appointment, please call toll free 1-855-955-5711

Community Office: 2393 Beacon Ave. Sidney B.C. V8L 1W9
Web: www.GaryHolman.ca
E: Gary.Holman.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Twitter: @holmangary
Facebook: /GaryHolmanMLA



Islands Trust

Notice of 2015 Regular Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business such as applications received and planning programs.

Regular meetings are scheduled for:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday	January 8	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	February 5	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Friday	February 27	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	March 19	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	April 16	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	May 14	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	June 11	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	July 9	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	August 6	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	September 3	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	October 1	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	October 22	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	November 19	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday	December 17	9:30 AM Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue

The proposed meeting agenda is usually available one week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office or on our website.

Visit our website at: www.islandstrust.bc.ca
Contact us at 250-537-9144 or ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

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HEALTH

Moving from stress towards relaxation

The chemistry of stress explained

BY CORNELIA KRIKKE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

When was the last time you felt deeply relaxed, fully rested, and completely at peace? Feeling deeply relaxed has benefits. Aside from the immediate experience of openness, trust and even joy, this kind of relaxation has been dubbed "relaxation response." It is a physical, mental and emotional state that leads to the body systems healing and strengthening. It is good for us, can help us heal underlying disorders and promotes resilience.

Appropriate stress is also good for us. We learn and retain more, perform better athletically, and in all other areas. Appropriate "doses" of stress can build strength and resilience.

We get into trouble from the experience of prolonged stress and insufficient recovery. Here is a refresher

on how the body responds to stress. Energy in the body is redistributed. Energy moves to support the "fight, flight or freeze response." It moves towards large muscles, increasing heart rate and lung capacity. Blood vessels in the skin constrict to prevent bleeding and assist blood clotting and our pain threshold is boosted. To do this, digestion slows, blood sugar production is increased, blood pressure increases, and immune response diminishes. Prolonged and chronic stress results in distorted physical and emotional patterns leading towards a wide variety of maladies.

From a state of chronic stress, rest alone may be insufficient for recovery. Our bodies are locked into patterns of over, or under, response to stress and have misplaced the pathway to deep restorative relaxation. The "relaxation response" heals.

Ideally we experience stress and then quickly return to a "stress free zone." Information overload, a fast-paced life, work/family stress and illness are everywhere today. For



Salt Spring's Cornelia Krikke

most of us, deep relaxation requires active cultivation. Good nutrition, appropriate exercise, personal time, nature walks, saying "no" and good sleep habits are some keys. Cultivating good relaxation habits usually requires bringing new structures into our lives, shifting attention and changing habits.

Resistance comes when we shift habits; inner resistance and resistance from family and friends who

are impacted. So, to reduce the "stress" associated with re-learning deep relaxation, try finding a support system, such as a friend, or set goals and put them in writing.

Cornelia Krikke has an MA in Trans-personal Studies from Atlantic University, an MBA from UWO and a mentoring certificate from Atlantic University.

She is certified in Spiral-of-Fifths Sound Therapy in Virginia and is a certified practitioner and trainer of Energy Medicine with Donna Eden, EEM-CP.

She was certified in Ashtanga yoga at Downward Dog Yoga Centre in Toronto, studied Anusara extensively with Desire Rumbaugh, and was certified in Kundalini with Gurmukh Khalsa in Rishikesh, India.

Krikke's Jungian work started with the Toronto Jungian Society and she has studied Mindful Dreaming techniques for seven years. Ten years were spent as a student of metaphysics with Kenneth Mills.

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Happy Holidays and Bright wishes for 2015!

from Sam, Elizabeth, Tony, Jeff, Neil, Silas, Nick and Steve



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BEEKEEPING

Beginners' beekeeping course offered

March 3 is start date at the library

Organizers of an early spring beginners' beekeeping course want to get the word out now so people can make plans and sign up as soon as possible.

Bee masters Wendi Gilson of Black Horse Apiary and David Macdonald of Hives for Haiti are leading the Tuesday evening sessions that take place at the Salt Spring library from March 3 to April 14, 2015.

"Honey bees are responsible for one of every three bites we take," states press material about the course. "They are in

trouble; the threats that they face are not a mystery."

The top four reasons for the alarming decline in honey bee colonies are pesticides, mono culture, varroa mites and other pathogens, and migratory beekeeping, which is the moving of bees around the globe to meet intensive pollination contracts.

"It is clear that the answers to these problems will not come from the large commercial apiaries. Commercial beekeepers are caught in a trap of needing to supply bees at an unsustainable rate for intensive pollination. They are also pressured to supply honey, wax and other hive products

at prices that do not reflect the cost of production. This leads to quick fixes to complex problems. These quick fixes, such as chemical treatments, importing bees from other continents, intensive queen breeding, etc., endanger the survival of the species."

The first night of the program (March 3) is an open-to-the-public, by-donation event. It will include a Bees 101 presentation by Macdonald and Gilson with time for questions, followed by a showing of the inspirational film Queen of the Sun.

For the next six Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., course

participants will attend class sessions at the library, which will cover the fundamental essentials for beginner beekeepers to start their own apiary. The final two sessions will be in the field, working with honey bees at the Black Horse and Hives For Haiti apiaries.

The course is limited to 16 people. Seventy-five per cent of the funds generated will go to Hives for Haiti, an organization dedicated to helping the people of Haiti.

For more information, including fees and scholarships, or to register, email wendigilson@yahoo.ca or david@hivesforhaiti.com.

UNITARIANISM

'Awakening' service on Jan. 4

Amanda Tarling guides new year theme

The Salt Spring Unitarian Fellowship meeting this Sunday, Jan. 4 will offer a spiritual theme of reflection for the new year, with a service on "Awakening" by visiting chaplain Amanda Tarling.

Some of the questions Tarling will address during the sermon include: "What does it mean to be awakening? As we begin a new year with fresh resolve and resolutions how can these high goals help us to awake to our highest potential in ourselves and our communities?"

"What does awakening mean to us personally? What are we awakening to?"

The sermon takes place at the Salt Spring Seniors Services building at 10:30 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome.

Tarling suggests that when it comes to this ministry, asking the questions may be more important than finding the answers.

She will return to Salt Spring to pursue the theme again during a coffee morning at the Rock Salt Restaurant and Café on Thursday, Jan. 8 starting at 11:45 a.m. This event is meant to be an informal gathering where everyone is welcome.

Some of the questions to ponder are: "What were you taught as a child or young adult about 'awakening'? How does it feel in your body to have an awakening?" and "What was your biggest moment of awakening?"

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This Week's **Noroscope**

by **Michael O'Connor**
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HOROSCOPE FOR THE YEAR - 2015

Happy New Year! 2015 is a Universal 8 year and will prove very eventful and challenging and at a mass collective level. 8 is the power number symbolic of the culmination of the 9 year growth cycle. It can be compared with the harvest which implies abundance, on one hand, and hard work on the other. Number 8 is also a strong indicator of change and even transformation. All the signs are there, footings in place and the momentum is steady and strong. In terms of intensity, it can be likened to the playoffs or to end-of-the-year-exams. In this respect, an 8 year is also about returns on actions and efforts made in the past 7 years in particular. In this respect it may be accurately understood as a number of karmic returns. The returns may be very positive or very negative or something of a mix anywhere in between. February and November should prove especially eventful in terms of major new initiatives that come to mass attention, May will reveal a significant turning point where the plot noticeably thickens and key players leave the stage. July will reveal the ending of old alliances and the beginnings of new ones. (Visit www.sunstarastrlogy.com to read the longer version). Contact me to say: "Happy New Year, I read it in the Driftwood. And I will send you a \$20 coupon towards a Reading Session by email. sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com"

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) In 2015 you will embark upon new adventures. These will be marked by a mix of enthusiastic moves and a more serious approach to education. This will become especially evident by late summer. Take a pro-active approach to have a say in the outcome of that process. Deep changes in you over the past few years will now direct you to a dynamic new learning curve. For the most part, 2015 stands to be a time of inspirations and aspirations to balance a more serious approach to the acquisition of knowledge with a creative and playful orientation. **Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)** As 2015 gets underway there is reason to say that your confidence levels remain high. You will need all the healthy self-esteem you can muster as new developments, subject to a process of deep change, even what will in the course of time amount to nothing short of a metamorphosis, comes into effect. This will become increasingly evident over the first few months of 2015. You do have a say in this process and the change can be directed to occur at all levels - physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Expect it and work with it. Expect new alliances and coalitions to come to the fore before 2016 begins.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) A prolonged cycle of mixed extremes in 2014 brings you to the advent of hopeful aspirations for 2015. At best, new creative inspirations are stirring and these are awakening latent creative gifts and leading you to important new relationships and professional involvements. You will experience challenges to better know yourself, understand people and be up to date with larger trends and events affecting the world. Be aware to direct your energies to a variety of creative fronts but avoid scattering your focus. 2015 will be a year of renewed vigour and deepened commitments.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) In 2015 you will be focused to make some key investments. How to invest and where to best direct your time, energy and resources will prove important especially earlier in the year, and with extra emphasis yet between June and September. Philosophical and spiritual interests and curiosities may also guide your focus to unprecedented degrees. Although 2015 may not prove altogether peaceful as circumstances provoke heated emotions, it does stand to be a year which both widens and deepens your overall levels of knowledge and understanding.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) In 2015 it remains important that you continue to build for the future. This includes identifying what constitutes your greatest assets and aspirations for self-actualization. The key for the first half of the year is to initiate those projects and modes of self-expression that you feel moved and inspired to share. With these in place you can allow for a steady process of development for the coming few years. As well, this state or preparedness will support you to take yet another plunge into the deeper reaches of your subconscious to lay claim to creative gifts and treasures that await you.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) The time has come for you to retrieve some of your hidden reserves that have been waiting this time in your life. Your success may depend upon just how clear you are about your direction. This is a call to turn within. Even if you are clear about your worldly ambitions, this time represents an invitation and a golden opportunity to activate a stronger link between your conscious and subconscious, your personality and your soul. All outer reaches will ideally be complimented by your own inner connection. Do this now and by mid-summer you will have treasures to enjoy and to share with the world.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) The past few years may well have been a time of 'paying your dues'. Now the tide is turning and you will feel inspired to increase your overall scope of knowledge, to get more educated and in a variety of areas. It is quite important that you get going early in the year to establish a momentum. This will weave into an increase of your overall mode of self-expression which includes sharing your beauty, whatever form it may take. By spring you will feel even more moved to exercise a quality of grace, harmony and diplomacy in the light that it is more advantageous in many ways to express positivity, and to make friends.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) 2015 stands to be an expansive time especially in your public and professional sphere. An increase in your urge to be more creative and imaginative will persist as well for much of the year. You will become increasingly interested to increase your awareness and overall scope of knowledge. Much continues to gestate especially in terms of who and what you love and desire and why. You will choose your associations more deliberately and with more forethought this year than you have perhaps for some time. By the end of 2015 you will have cultivated interests and friendships that support your 'work' with serious interests to nurture new appreciations of creative genius.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) With Saturn now in your sign you will undergo a powerful process initiating a new phase of growth in 2015. It will require patience and commitment to reconsider what constitutes security. Summer 2015 could prove rather trying if you are not stable and focused upon clearly defined objectives, so begin that process now. However, if these over-emphasize the material side at the expense of the spiritual, the imbalance could well produce confusion and fragmentation. Focus to strike a balance based on the realization that you are a spiritual being having human experiences.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) You have come to an important turning point and it is time to activate a series of new commitments. This may well imply the completion of long standing involvements and/or these will have to undergo measurable changes. Improvements in your health and lifestyle in general are featured. On one hand this implies breaking free of limiting perspectives and destructive lifestyle habits and on the other engaging in some kind of apprenticeship and/or educational learning curve. Sometimes, this can come about simply by hands-on experiences. But the status quo of your life is changing. This will affect your public and/or professional life and will invariably affect your home and family life as well. This is a call to re-negotiate terms and to be inventive.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) You have been undergoing a deep purification process at subconscious levels and this will continue. At best, this is leading you to stabilize your focus upon your own heart center and higher mind, to gain solace in the spiritual aspect of your life. A core theme here is to accept and trust in the 'law of change'. The 'Serenity Prayer' serves to illustrate this point. This will prove true in 2015 and perhaps especially during the last quarter of the year. Meanwhile, returns for previous efforts will begin to roll-in. This will be accompanied by a steadily expanding social sphere of involvement.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Expect your overall focus to shift in 2015. Generating more confidence in your co-creative abilities will become even more important throughout the year. This includes an appreciation of the co-creative process which implies your deliberate will to participate, balanced by receptivity to higher powers and larger realities. Consolidating everything you have done, accomplished and achieved up to now in your life is especially wise and will prove invaluable from the latter half of the year on especially. So, focus to clear debts, tie-up loose ends, get your papers and affairs in order and get clear on your creative focus wherein all the preparations and ground work are well established.

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Firstborn of 2015 Contest

We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!

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Proud parents can choose a new toy with a \$25 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**, pick up a personalized outfit and blanket from **Persnickety's**, then stop by **Thrifty Foods** for some nutritious food for the family with a \$50 gift certificate. They can then pop into **Natureworks** for some vitamins (for mom!) with a \$50 gift certificate. **Happy Island Diapers** will provide one week's free service of cloth diapers. Pharmasave has a gift certificate available and a toy, while **Mouat's Clothing** is offering a fabulous outfit for the fashion-conscious arrival. **Mouat's Trading** has a surprise planned for the newcomer.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: a 1/8th page, colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!



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