



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 7 \$125 (incl. GST)



IMAGES COURTESY VESUVIUS STORE AND CAFE

Three people were caught on video leaving a Vesuvius business with bags of loot early Sunday morning. Salt Spring RCMP believe a rash of weekend break-ins are linked. Anyone with information can contact the detachment at 250-537-5555.

CRIME

Thieves caught on camera

RCMP investigating six island break-ins

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Officers at Salt Spring's RCMP detachment want the public's help to find whoever is behind at least six break-and-enter incidents that occurred during the Family Day long weekend.

The crime spree began on Friday afternoon when thieves stole an HP laptop computer from a residence on Woodland Drive near Vesuvius. The homeowners told police they believe the culprits

accessed the building through the front door while the house was unoccupied between 2 and 3 p.m.

Thieves later stole two cameras and "a number of pictures" after forcing their way through the front door of a home on Richard Flack Road on Friday evening.

Security guards at Gulf Islands Secondary School also reported three break-ins between Feb. 7 and 8. In one of the cases, two males were seen fleeing the building.

Natsuko Inaba, owner of the Vesuvius

Store and Cafe, spent much of her Sunday speaking with police and cleaning up the mess left behind by three suspects captured on video at approximately 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

"It's really shocking," she said. "Imagine how it feels if someone cuts your phone line, breaks through your door and messes with your things."

Surveillance footage shows three

CRIME WAVE continued on 2

FERRIES

Province sails forward with service cuts

Scheduling input open to Feb. 21

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ferry advisory committees and BC Ferries are working with the public to sort out the details of looming ferry service cuts and scheduling changes.

Transportation Minister Todd Stone announced last Wednesday that service reductions proposed by the government last November will go ahead as planned starting April 28. Service reductions on minor and northern routes are to bring in \$14 million in savings over the next two years, with another \$4.9 million to come from reductions to the major routes.

"All along we have been clear that service reductions would happen . . . Today I'm here to confirm BC Ferries is indeed make service reductions," Stone said.

"We're very disappointed they couldn't extend the deadline further," said Harold Swierenga, who chairs Salt Spring's FAC. "Four weeks is better than nothing but it's not very good." The ministry ignored the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs' request to delay making cuts for six months, after the high season had ended.

Cuts had been originally planned to start April 1 with the beginning of the new fiscal year. A second money savings plan will go into effect on that date: Stone confirmed the ministry will put an end to seniors' full passenger discounts from Monday to Thursday and they will instead pay 50 per cent of their fares those days.

Plans to introduce a gaming pilot project on one of the major routes will also be implemented.

Swierenga calls the decision to go ahead with the cuts purely a political one.

"This was not initiated by BC Ferries, it was initiated by the ministry. Given the fact they had so much feedback at the public consultation meetings from people saying they were against the cuts, it makes me think it was politically driven," he said.

When questioned at the press conference on whether December's round of public engagement sessions was a sham, Stone explained getting community feedback on when to schedule reductions was the point of the exercise.

FERRIES continued on 2

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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire district takes ownership of property donation

Subdivision signed off on at last

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Protection District has cleared one of the biggest hurdles in its decades-long struggle to build a new fire hall with the donation of land for the project finally cleared.

"We have accomplished a milestone. We now have the land — that's one portion of our program that's now complete," said trustee Michael Schubart, who oversaw the subdivision application process.

"It's been the most important and most problematic part of the project over the past 20 years," added SSFPD chair Bruce Patterson. "We

couldn't build a hall without acquiring land. We now know that sometime in the future, this will be the home of our new fire hall."

Fire district trustees have been involved in the process since 2011, when Tristar Properties owner Raymond Heung offered to donate a two-acre section of an unused 14-acre field at Brinkworthy Estates as a new hall site.

"If it wasn't for Ray Heung and Tristar, we wouldn't have this opportunity," Patterson acknowledged. "Now we have a secure property, and because it was a donation, it will alleviate the taxpayer from having to purchase property."

Schubart said he received notification of final approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure last week. Lawyers transferred the property to the district on Jan. 30.

Getting the subdivision approved by MoTI was just the final step in a long process, which began with seeking approval from the Agricultural Land Commission for non-agricultural use of property within the Agricultural Land Reserve. The application also had to go through Islands Trust and the Capital Regional District.

Patterson said the delay in obtaining title to the land, which the trustees had expected would happen much quicker, was doubtless one reason why a borrowing referendum to build the new hall held in October failed.

"There were a number of issues that confused or muddled our proposal, and one of them was the land, and misleading comments that it would never be our property," he said. "Now that issue is off the table, but there are other community discussions we need to have."

The district has put approximately \$180,000 into the project so far, which includes everything related to the new hall and site, beginning with the subdivision application. Around \$160,000 of the total went to architecture and engineering fees. Schubart said it would be a mistake to think of this as "wasted" money just because taxpayers rejected the first proposal.

"The costs cover subsoil reports, geotechnical reports, site development and drainage, all of which will have to be done whatever we build there — so it's an investment, it's not money flushed," he said.

The trustees said the architectural plans for the new hall created by Johnston Davidson Architecture and Planning will also be useful in terms of the relationships between people, equipment and space, as well as the mechanical systems, even if not all of it is incorporated into the end-design.

"The whole process of doing preliminary work, instead of just starting to build, is to understand these relationships," Schubart said.

"A good design gives you less probability of problems during the construction phase — it decreases surprises a year or a year and half later because no one anticipated them," Patterson said.

Despite owning the property to build the new hall and all the work that's been done, the trustees said there is a long process ahead for the district before a successful proposal can be generated.

How to move forward will be the work of the board's new public engagement committee and the citizens' task force it's in the process of assembling.

"We've got some issues that came up with the referendum, and we will have to process through these issues with the community," Patterson said.

The fire district's next business meeting takes place at the library's program room on Monday, Feb. 17 starting at 7 p.m.

Homes and school targeted in weekend break-ins

CRIME WAVE

continued from 1

people leaving the building with large bags containing hundreds of dollars in stolen merchandise.

It is believed the thieves tried to disable the store's video surveillance system by clipping tele-

phone cables that run along the building's exterior. The robbers entered the building by breaking through a window and unlocking a patio door.

"Police attended, found broken windows and observed evidence that the business had been gone through," said RCMP Sgt. George

Jenkins on Tuesday. "Police viewed the video and found three individuals with masks and gloves exiting the store."

Inaba is thankful to police for a quick response after she reported the crime on Sunday morning. She is confident the RCMP's ongoing investigation will result in the

arrest of whoever is responsible for the weekend's incident.

"I know the police want to solve this crime and protect our community," she said.

Inaba said neighbours and customers have been very supportive and Shaw Cable's staff promptly reconnected the store's phone

line.

Police say they believe all the events may have been perpetrated by the same individuals. They ask that anyone with information about any of the weekend's incidents contact the Salt Spring RCMP detachment at 250-537-5555.



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Protest planned for March 11

FERRIES

continued from 1

"That was what this engagement process was intended to do," he said, noting many communities had suggested that cutting mid-day sailings would be preferable to early morning or late evening runs, for example.

BC Ferries is using information from the public consultations to adjust its schedules. The most recent proposals will be available on its website starting today (Feb. 12). Gulf Islands residents should specifically look at Route 9 serving Tsawwassen and the Gulf Islands and Route 6 for Vesuvius-Crofton.

Public comment on the suggested changes will be open until Friday, Feb. 21.

BC Ferries will start working with the FACs on Feb. 24 to finalize schedules and the results will be announced March 31, giving passengers one month to plan for the changes.

Swierenga said although it chose not to do so at this point, the government will have to adjust how it approaches coastal ferries before Performance Term Four starts in 2016.

"If they don't do something, fares are going to go up to the point where no one can afford to go anywhere anymore," he said.

A large-scale protest

against the cuts is being planned at the Legislature lawn in Victoria on Tuesday, March 11. Coastal residents are being asked to bring "your voices, your placards and your energy to the to tell Premier Christy Clark to immediately put service cuts and fare increases on hold."

Protesters will also call for BC Ferries to be incorporated into the government as an important transportation service.

Information on transportation coordination, a speaker's list and other details will be posted at www.bcmarinehighway.org and www.bcferrycoalition.com leading up to the event.



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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

SSI Fire District public trustees meeting

Monday, FEBRUARY 17

SS Public Library. 7 p.m.

HEALTH

Islanders get steamed over unscooped dog poop

Children's health risk tops gross factor

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

You're about to use the payphone at Fulford ferry terminal to call a loved one to pick you up.

You're lying in the grass on a hot summer's day listening to free music at the park. You're taking a stroll down a popular public dock. You're picking up your mail.

The list of innocent activities you can be doing on Salt Spring and still step straight into a toxic pile of dog feces is essentially endless. On an island where the natural beauty of the surroundings is one of the few trade-offs for the high cost of living, and where the residents elected Canada's first Green MP to parliament, picking up after our dogs conversely — unfathomably — does not seem to be a priority.

The fact that many dog owners are remiss about scooping duties can be easily proven by the evidence of our eyes. During Christmas break, for example, a huge mound of excrement was slowly disintegrating into the Centennial Park lawn in a high-traffic walking area.

CRD bylaw enforcement officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser says in his opinion, the situation at Centennial Park has actually improved vastly since dogs were banned there several years ago, due to a combination of

unscooped poop, dog fights and dog attacks.

"From time to time I pop in and I'm pretty satisfied," Brunnwieser said.

He conceded that was not the case five years ago, when PARC maintenance personnel were dodging flying feces whenever they had to mow the grass.

"The other consideration was the playground. People used it as a doggy toilet and it was not very much fun for the kids to play in."

In addition to Centennial Park, dogs are no longer welcome at Portlock Park because owners were letting their pets "make deposits" on the track, leaving unwelcome surprises for the human users. Brunnwieser said other parks could be added to the ban if a problem is perceived.

The issue goes far beyond recreational space, however. Anywhere people might conceivably stand seems to have become a preferred drop site.

"It's quite a problem at every single mailbox — on my route, at least," reported Jason Charlebois, a Canada Post subcontractor for the south end.

The merger of private/public grounds is another potential battlefield. The Kingfisher Cove strata complex has only recently allowed dogs, following a vote from its members to allow pets up to 40 pounds. Strata president Jim Warren said he hasn't heard any complaints about pet waste disposal since the change.

"It's worked fairly well, actually.



Poop bags are provided at several popular dog walking areas, such as the entrance to Moutat's Park.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

There hasn't been a sudden rash of dogs, or anything," Warren said. "A lot of people here are on their own and dogs are good company," he added.

Few people would deny the benefits of having a pet, but Kingfisher resident Russell Logan feels too many people don't follow the basic measures required for public health. At particular issue is the strata's common green.

"People use it for practising their golf swing, it's used for bocce ball, small kids have flown kites there, they roll down the slope, and now we have people using it for a dog toilet. We

have a lot of grandchildren playing on that lawn," Russell said.

Research shows that children are indeed the most at risk from unscooped poop. Aside from the overall disgusting nature of coming into contact with the stuff, dogs are carriers for a number of bacteria and parasites. The longer their poop stays on the ground, the greater chance these things will pass into the soil. In the case of roundworms, once they do, there's almost no way to decontaminate the ground.

According to Public Health Canada, "Eggs can remain viable for

several years in moist, shaded soils when temperatures are cool." And because of a protective coating, they are impenetrable to most types of disinfectants.

Children up to age seven are most often infected by toxocarasis through intentionally or inadvertently ingesting soil or grass or from eating with dirty hands. In humans, roundworms don't enter the digestive track but migrate into organs such as the lungs. (A more common location for adults is the eye.)

The only real course of action is prevention. "Prompt removal of animal feces can help prevent infection since the eggs require two to four weeks to become infective once they are out of the animal," information from the USA's Centers for Disease Control states.

Taking advantage of the free bags at places like Rotary Park is a good idea; having something on hand and a plan for proper disposal when outside parks is more than just being neighbourly.

"Most dog owners are very responsible, but a few of them don't think the rules apply to them, and I can't watch the parks 24 hours a day," Brunnwieser said. "So we hope for people to be reasonable and responsible and we'll get along fine."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

'Derelict database' in works

Islands Trust staff are asking volunteers to help out with a plan to lower the number of derelict vessels on shorelines across the province.

Transport Canada is collecting data about the location and scope of problem vessels, barges and other

floating structures until March 5.

"We appreciate that volunteers collected this information in 2012, but Transport Canada requires that the information be resubmitted on a new form with pictures," reads an Islands Trust email.

The new information will be compiled in a derelict vessel inventory to prioritize and eventually resolve ongoing issues with "vessels of concern."

"Please spread the word

— this is the opportunity we have been waiting for to convince Transport Canada this issue needs attention. Required pieces of information are a picture, location of the vessel and any identification numbers," reads part of the Trust's notice.

A link to an inventory form is available through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities website at ubcm.ca or from Maria Stanborough at mstanborough@ubcm.ca or 604-270-8226, extension 113.

RAR plans pushed back

Mapping the island's final Riparian Areas Regulation-affected watersheds has delayed implementation of the provincial legislation by at least another month.

"The impact of final checks has meant a bit of a time lag," planner Stefan Cermak told trustees at the Jan. 30 Local Trust

Committee meeting. "We are maybe a month or two behind schedule but are making progress in terms of the results."

The final stage of mapping examines 19 RAR watersheds. Mapping of the island's major watersheds, including areas around St. Mary, Cusheon, Bullock, Weston and Stowell lakes, was completed in 2013.

Contractors hired to conduct the mapping will

present findings at the LTC's Feb. 27 meeting. Information will be posted on the Islands Trust's website when it's received and notices will be mailed out to any property owners who live within 30 metres of a RAR-designated stream.

Trust staff anticipate hosting a community information meeting about RAR and its implications for island residents in late March or early April.

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CANADA POST

Fulford fights cuts to postal service

Saturday service will end in March

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Opposition to Canada Post's plan to cut service at the Fulford Post Office by nearly 25 per cent as of March 17 continues to grow.

"All we're saying is, 'Don't mess with Salt Spring,'" said Ken Lee, president of the South Salt Spring Island Property Owners and Residents Association. "I understand that there's been a lot of activity. People are pleased that we are making an effort to push back. Apathy is not going to work."

Part of that opposition is a petition that will be presented in Parliament by MP Elizabeth May later this month.

A Canada Post representative confirmed the

Crown corporation plans to decrease weekday postal outlet operations by two hours a day and end Saturday service. The decision is based on usage rates observed at the facility.

"We look at the number of customers," said John Caines. "We are not going to be open, because we can't afford to be."

If more people were using the post office on Saturdays, Caines said, Canada Post would not be considering the cuts.

A spokesperson for the union that represents Canada Post employees said she met with management to discuss the cuts on Feb. 5.

"I stressed to them that there will be and has been a lot of concern from the community," said Barb Lincoln, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Postmasters

and Assistants Association's B.C. and Yukon branch.

Canada Post must officially notify the public 30 days before any service changes. Lincoln said she expects a notice will be posted at the Fulford office very soon.

"We will grieve these cuts and hope that the community does not put up with this blatant disregard [Canada Post] has for their community," she said.

"The area has grown in population and parcel volumes are soaring. Letter mail has slowed down but certainly not nearly enough to warrant these drastic cuts."

Almost 200 post offices across rural Canada have been slated for "severe service reductions" since January. Another "sweep" is anticipated in April, she added.

Lee said islanders' reaction demonstrates that Saturday morning service is very important to the south end residents.

"People are not happy," he said.

Petitions are available at Salt Spring Mercantile and the Rock Salt Cafe in Fulford, as well as the Visitor Centre and TJ Beans in Ganges.

"We're not alone," he said. "We are looking at a very big problem for the Gulf Islands."

For more information about the Fulford cuts, contact Lee at kennethvorlee@gmail.com or 250-537-4551.

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

TRANSPORTATION

Bike lane rubble makes use difficult

Annual service requirement insufficient

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Building bike lanes isn't enough to keep cyclists on the road if regular upkeep doesn't follow, say Salt Spring road users.

A recent open house hosted by CRD Regional Parks on possible improvements to Ganges Hill elicited support from island cyclists, but they also pointed to a need to look at the bigger picture.

"Something to consider is upkeep," Lucia Gabber said about the presented options for biking and pedestrian trails. "Road maintenance has to be given the job to sweep them."

"There's no good having bike lanes if they're full of gravel six months a year and the cyclists are afraid to use them," agreed Donald McLennan, who chairs the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

A survey of the new bike lane heading west from the intersection of Lower Ganges and Upper Ganges roads reveals a littering of sand, branches and gravel. But the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure contract for road maintenance

doesn't call for cleaning until the spring.

Mainroad Contracting forman Dale Johnson said the company's contract with the ministry requires road sweeping before April 15, but no cleaning is done from mid-November to the end of March because weather conditions mean build-up is almost immediate. After the annual spring sweeping, Mainroad monitors roads and may do another clean depending on the conditions.

"There's no good having bikes lanes if they're full of gravel six months a year and the cyclists are afraid to use them."

DONALD MCLENNAN
 Chair, Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

Salt Spring isn't the only community to find itself facing the issue. The Union of B.C. Municipalities

passed a resolution in 2011 urging MoTI "to amend road maintenance contracts to increase the frequency of bike lane and highway shoulder sweeping."

The ministry's official response was that it would "consider the benefits and extra cost of additional sweeping and . . . work with communities across the province to identify areas for consideration of additional service."

In the past, Island Pathways volunteers have swept the short bike lane in front of the BC Hydro yards on Lower Ganges Road. The organization's current chair Brenda Guiled points out the strategy probably isn't feasible for an extended area.

"Perhaps we need a citizens' brigade on the new bikeway, but we'd have to check with MoTI on this," she wrote in an email. "They may nix it, for liability reasons. Doesn't seem like much of a plan, anyway — too time intensive and easy for Mainroad to do, if they'd get a small sweeper machine for the job."

Since the bike lanes are still new, it's an issue that will have to be addressed and worked out, McLennan said. He is hoping SSITC can work with the ministry and Mainroad to bring about a favourable solution sometime this year.

FIRE REPORT

Chimney fire, car crash in week's fire news

Cold weather keeps calls coming

A recent cold snap kept local firefighters busy with eight calls over the first week of February.

Seven members of Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) worked with extinguishers, a hose, a ladder

and hand tools for an hour to extinguish a chimney fire at Wildwood Crescent on Sunday, which was caused by a build-up of creosote in the flue.

"Home owners are advised to have their chimneys cleaned and inspected by certified professionals at least once a year," said SSIFR Lt. Mitchell Sherrin.

This was the third chimney fire that SSIFR firefighters have responded to in 2014, he noted.

In other SSIFR news, a local firefighter was injured at a car crash on Musgrave Road on Saturday.

"The firefighter slipped on ice and fell. According to the doctor's report, we believe he sprained

his foot. He is expected to return to work in a week," said Sherrin.

Firefighters also responded to a report of a B.C. Hydro power-line fire, two medical calls to assist the B.C. Ambulance Service and three complaints about burn piles in contravention of provincial regulations.

TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

Students seek intervention status

Islands Trust elects to participate as 'commenter'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Students at the Gulf Islands Secondary School have applied for official intervenor status in the National Energy Board's public consultation phase of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline application.

"We are concerned about the increase in oil production and distribution, the resulting increase in tanker traffic, the effects of an oil spill on marine wildlife and ocean systems, the potential impacts on local economies and mostly, as youth, the impact on our future," reads

part of the GISS Environment Club's application. "As youth living on the southern Gulf Islands, we see what is truly at risk and we wonder how this project could be beneficial to the community.

"We are concerned about our future here on the Gulf Islands that is dependent on fishing, eco-tourism, and not oil. A spill would stop all economic activity in our coastal communities as well as the inherent social and health risks that this project presents."

Amy Cousins, a teacher at GISS, said the application process alone has been a difficult and complex one, something she feels has discouraged others groups from taking part.

In a vote by Islands Trust Council representatives last

week, trustees from the region's 12 Local Trust Areas and Bowen Island municipality voted against applying to get intervenor status.

Intervenors are able to present written evidence, question other participants on the validity of their submissions, cross-examine witnesses and provide a final argument.

Citing inadequate time to publicly address cost implications of intervening before the Feb. 12 application deadline, trustees opted to apply as commenters, which limits their role to submission of a letter for comment.

In 2012, Trust Council decided to oppose any oil pipeline projects that lead to the expansion of oil exports by barge and tanker from Canada's west

coast. Trustees worry increased shipments will increase the likelihood of a potentially devastating oil spill in the region.

The Islands Trust application coincides with a letter calling on the NEB to extend the application deadline.

"Because of the very tight federal deadline, Council's Feb. 6 decision was made by e-mail vote," reads part of the letter from Trust Council chair Sheila Malcolmson to the NEB.

"An extension to NEB's deadline would enable the Islands Trust Council, at its March 4-6, 2014 meeting, to consider public input and budget implications and publicly debate its decision about how to participate in the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project hearing process."

SECONDARY SUITES

TUP floated for illegal suites

Community info meeting set for Feb. 27

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Nearly a year after Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee legalized secondary suites in designated areas, trustees face a decision about how to handle illegal units outside of those neighbourhoods.

"Once we've done the work of determining where they're not acceptable, it's very hard to turn a blind eye against those suites," said Miles Drew, an Islands Trust bylaw enforcement officer, during the most recent meeting of the LTC. "My own belief is that . . . we will be shutting suites down."

LTC members legalized secondary suites on a pilot project basis to increase the availability of affordable housing. Exactly where those units can be was the subject of massive debate that incorporated transportation, sensitive ecosystems, watershed and enforcement concerns.

Trustees believe ensuring the intent of the pilot-project approach aligns with the unknown number of suites that exist across the island will partly depend on the effectiveness of proposed Bylaw 471.

The legislation, which has already received first reading by LTC members, will offer owners of secondary suites outside the pilot area a chance to apply for a temporary use permit to bring them into compliance with land-use regulations for up to three years. Such an option could be used by secondary suite owners who face enforcement pressure.

"It's another arrow in the quiver," said trustee Peter Grove.

Trustees asked Drew to consider a "progressive enforcement strategy" that would implement local bylaws in a "sensitive and tender" manner.

"I think your approach to most cases is progressive," Grove said. "You don't go in with all guns blazing."

Drew noted that any enforcement against illegal suites will require "multi-agency enforcement" and be pursued on a complaint basis. Island Health and the Capital Regional District are among other agencies that could be involved in enforcement measures.

A community information meeting for proposed Bylaw 471 will follow the LTC's Feb. 27 meeting.

"It's a bylaw that is still very much in discussion in the community," said planner Justine Starke.




Keep Smiling...

THOUGHTS & NEWS

7 Dental Resolutions for 2014

Here are seven practical steps for keeping your teeth & gums healthy for a lifetime.

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- FLOSS.** Yes, we know you tend to do it before dental appointments. However, 40% of your teeth are not being cleaned if you don't do it and a substantial percentage of cavities start in those areas.
- CLEAN YOUR TONGUE.** About 95% of patients don't do this. A couple of quick swipes on the tongue is usually enough.
- REDUCE YOUR INTAKE OF CANDIES/SWEETS:** It will reduce the incidence of cavities, improve your blood sugar & weight.
- DRINK MORE WATER.** In moderation, this is a great thing, especially after staining drinks like coffee, tea & wine. Want to reduce all that coffee/tea stain between hygiene appointments? Take a sip or two of water after you finish your drink.
- REGULAR MAINTENANCE APPOINTMENTS.** Seeing your Dentist/Hygienist for a checkup and scaling is truly the dental version of the oil change. Prevention is always the best option.
- GET THINGS FIXED SOONER RATHER THAN LATER (don't procrastinate).** Dentistry seemingly operates on an exponential cost scale as things get more involved & complex. Getting a restoration that costs a couple of hundred dollars (& is usually covered by insurance) is much better for you & your pocketbook than letting it turn into a multi-thousand dollar root canal/core/crown or implant. You are worth it!!



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Streets of Salt Spring!
dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



D.W. Salty
REPORTER
250-537-9933

OPINION



2013 CCNA AWARDS
 Gold - General Excellence | Gold - Front Page | Gold - Environmental Writing (Sean McIntyre)
 Gold - Special Section (Best of 58) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islands)
 Silver - Editorial Page | Silver - Outstanding Reporter Initiative (Sean McIntyre)
 Silver - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - Sports Photo (John Cameron)

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



EDITORIAL

'Fair' may not be right

If you were to ask any Canadian how to make Canada's electoral system fair, most could suggest a few ideas.

Addressing the dismal voter turnout rate, the rising campaign costs, negative advertising, or the absurdity of a system in which a party can win a majority by capturing less than 40 per cent of the popular vote are all worthy places to start.

Unfortunately a new bill proposed by the Conservative government last week called the Fair Elections Act proposes no such changes. Instead, the legislation will require registered voters to present more ID on election day, increase campaign contribution limits and sterilize Elections Canada.

As the government agency responsible for running elections and enforcing rules, Elections Canada's neutrality and oversight abilities should be paramount. Under the Fair Elections Act, however, the organization will be prohibited from investigating allegations of electoral fraud. Any such investigations will be carried out by the Justice Department, a ministry that is directly accountable to whichever government is in power.

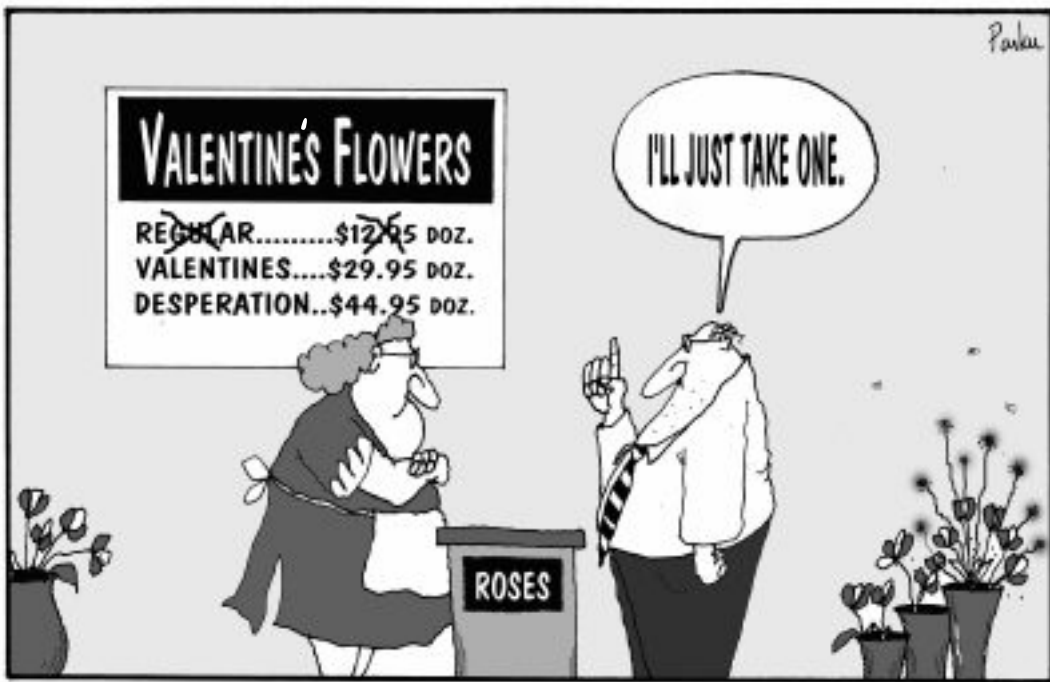
Marc Mayrand, Canada's chief electoral officer, said he considers the bill an affront to democracy.

Of even greater concern is the Conservative party's desire to rush the bill through Parliament with as little debate and consultation as possible.

It's not surprising that MP Elizabeth May of the Green party is concerned about the Fair Elections Act, but when a fellow like Andrew Coyne, one of the country's more right-leaning political pundits, describes the legislation with adjectives like "curious," "absurd," and "bizarre," it's time to take notice.

During a conversation with a Salt Spring Forum audience on Sunday evening, Olivia Chow, an NDP MP from Toronto and spouse of the late Jack Layton, spoke to the importance of breaking down political and ideological barriers in the interests of creating a better Canada.

It feels like Chow's message couldn't have come at a better time.



VIEWPOINT by Dan Jason

Happiness means healthy food

Only a few hours after I submitted my recent opinion article on "national happiness" to the Driftwood for the Jan. 22 issue, I realized that I wanted to say more in particular about the happiness of Canadians.

I believe that Canada has a golden opportunity to lead the way in creating happiness for Canadians as well as for people around the globe. We could be number one, and it's all about safe, wholesome food.

It used to be that Canada was regarded as the breadbasket of the world. Nowadays we're probably best (worst) known for the Alberta Tar Sands, but our country does resonate potently with agricultural excellence. There is no nation that is more blessed with such a winning combination of soil, sun and water.

Although one never hears it said, Canada is presently the pulse power of the planet. This is even more impressive, I think, than our previous leadership in wheat. Unlike grains, which are all about calories from carbohydrates, pulses are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals. Pulses are legumes that include lentils, chickpeas, favas, dried peas and regular dry beans such as pintos and kidneys.

Pulses are the food of the future, not only because they provide such high-quality nutrition but also because they enrich the soil through the amazing process called nitrogen fixation. They make the land more fertile simply by growing. Before our current madness of farming with poisons, hundreds of generations of farmers grew pulses without herbicides, pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Canada is currently the world's largest exporter of pulses. Many countries value pulses as the most essential component of their daily diet. From estimates I have read, Canada could have the abil-

ity to feed an additional billion people from the crop capacity of the Prairies alone.

It could also feed its own people with these foods that speak eloquently of a benign and harmonious relationship with nature. At present, Canadians consume less than 10 per cent of the pulses that are grown here.

The UN World Happiness Report included generosity as one of the six key factors relating to happiness. Canada is in a stellar position to be the most generous nation of all. An adequate and nourishing diet gives everyone a chance to be her or his best self.

Pulses could gainfully employ many people beyond those growing and distributing these wonderful legumes. They can be processed in simple ways to create all kinds of nourishing and delectable foods. Almost all food products these days contain genetically modified soybeans, corn and canola. With pulse ingredients, we could be enjoying cookies and pastas, ice cream and chips that would actually nourish us instead of contributing to our demise.

There are other crops that really stand out nutrition-wise that Canada is already producing on a fairly large scale but that could become much larger in world markets. These include hemp, flax, quinoa and amaranth. These, like pulses, are seeds with huge nutritional benefits that can be eaten whole or processed in myriad ways.

It is time for Canada to step out of the penalty box for bad behaviour and to score the winning goal. Happily, there are no losers in an Olympics that requires the utmost resilience and love.

The writer owns Salt Spring Seeds.

"Pulses are the food of the future."

DAN JASON
Salt Spring Seeds

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Is the Fair Elections Act really that fair?

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.

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: Are charges warranted in the Senate expense scandal?



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
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 Email: inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
 Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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

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

International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

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



ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "People used it as a doggy toilet and it was not very much fun for the kids to play in."

WOLFGANG BRUNNWIENER, CRD BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
Can you describe your ultimate Valentine's Day?



CARLY HUNSBERGER
Maybe to get a puppy.



PHILLIP RHEM
Passing up the commercialism but taking time to be with the person you love in a beautiful environment.



RABEAH MEYER
A surprise visit from my boyfriend in Germany.



DARLENE STEELE
Valentine's Day is about people who are totally and deeply in love to do something together with their whole heart; whatever that is, go for it.



SARAH ROBINSON
Probably to have my boyfriend come home from Thailand or get me a ticket to visit him.

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.

Negative impacts

The following is a letter to Premier Christy Clark and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

As a resident of Salt Spring Island and a senior, I must object strenuously to the proposed (although it's probably a done deal) ferry fare increases and service cutbacks.

There are many people on fixed incomes on Salt Spring, and one problem is the lack of doctors on the island. Which means that when there is a health problem we must use either the emergency room facilities at Lady Minto Hospital, which is already

operating at capacity, or travel off-island with the accompanying costs. As well, Salt Spring depends heavily on tourist dollars, and the fare increases will have a huge economic impact.

I beg you to reconsider.
ELIZABETH VAN AKKER,
MCALLISTER ROAD

Different tack needed

As someone who has visited residents who live near the gun club and have read comments and articles by both sides, including those in the Driftwood, I have come to a few observations.

While the opponents of

the noise and pollution of the club present rational arguments to support their opposition, the members and administration of the club prefer personal attacks against their opponents. They seem to prefer to "shoot the messenger" than to deal with the problems they are creating.

For instance, we have an article by a resident of Churchill Road who presents a well-written and thoughtful dissertation and notes the same observations that others on island have made: "The debate would be better served if Mr. Foley addressed the merits of the complaints instead of the merits of the complainants."

On the other hand, we have the members who instead of dealing with the issues, grasp at unreasonable diversions. The latest in your paper is the gentleman who admits that the gun club activities have had an adverse effect on the comfort and health of the immediate neighbourhood to such a point of reducing the values of their properties ("Established club attacked" letter, Feb. 5).

Instead of offering to reduce the noise and pollution caused by the members, he resorts to name calling and feels that the neighbours should reimburse the club for causing the damage and reducing

their equity. I find that logic rather bemusing to say the least.

The reality is that the club is too close to many residences. I agree with the letter published on Jan. 29, whereby the writer suggests that "the club is moved to a more remote part of the island, and the land it sits on now is used to build an outdoor skating rink, which would benefit a great many young families who now must go off-island."

The frequent defence of the club that it is "established" and has been around for many years is wearing thin and lacks substance in today's world. Things have changed. Is lead still used in the ammunition? It has

been banned in paints and gasoline for decades and for good reason. Local governments, including ours, have bylaws to control noise levels to observe the peace and quiet of our neighbours.

One thing is apparent: if the gun club wants to win public support, the members need to find a different tact. Insulting and belittling those who question the noise, pollution and club's location is not the right approach. The members' comments say more about them than the situation.

JOHN CALLAS,
GANGES

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Recycling depot hub of 'social' responsibility

Recycling on the rock isn't so much a chore or duty as it is a social network and a way of life. A trip down to the recycling depot on Tin Can Alley, just off Rainbow Road near the Farmers' Institute (as if anybody really needed directions), can make you feel like you are passing through the front doors of a swanky speakeasy where you are likely to rub elbows with Salt Spring's high society.

What makes it even better is that you don't need to have any inside connections or know the secret password and handshake to be able to consider yourself a part of this elite social club. All you really need is the trunk of your car to be full of cardboard or your pickup truck to be loaded down with glass jars and flattened cans and you can count yourself in as a chartered member. You can bet your rent money that you will run into anybody who is anybody at recycling.

Of course, you're not really there to schmooze, but who is it going to hurt if the talk turns to politics, art or just a little gossip. You can act a tad sanctimonious and self-righteous; after all, you are saving the earth and making it a better place by separating the white pieces of Styrofoam from the coloured ones. If it wasn't for good citizens like you, it would all end up being buried in landfills where it would slowly break down, dissolve in rain water, get flushed down the sea, and return to you in the form of food. Put simply, when you crack open a can of tuna, the tuna inside might have more tin can in it than the can has tuna.

People who have moved here from the city take a little while to get used to our kind of recycling. They have to adapt to the idea that recycling on the rock involves more than just stuffing anything they are not sure of into blue boxes, carrying them out to the curb, and then smugly brushing their hands together to signify a job well done.

No, here on the island you have to be much more intimate with your recyclables. You have to get "down and dirty" and learn to separate them into the different categories (hopefully before you actually get to the depot), very much like the process Noah had to go through when he was loading the Ark. You need to be aware that tin cans and glass jars go together about as well as a tiger and a lamb would have done for old Noah.

Recycling on Salt Spring wasn't always such a "sexy" indulgence. Not that long ago it was considered quite a political issue. Some people supported it from the very beginning, but for many others it was a needless expense. According to the naysayers, everything could be lumped into two categories. There was the stuff you needed, and the rest was garbage to be taken away and dumped somewhere.

It took quite a bit of vision and elbow grease to get the concept of recycling up and running. Before the depot reached its present location, it made a number of pit stops (among them



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

were the present day car wash, beside the Ganges Village Market and next to the old liquor store where Salt Spring Auto Parts presently resides).

It was at the last of these locations mentioned above that I was recruited in the late 1980s by Rick Laing, one of the unsung heroes who were responsible for making recycling a feasible reality. The torch had previously been passed to him by Donna Martin, an early proponent for cutting down on waste and the degradation of the environment.

Through Laing's determination and perseverance, the recycling movement grew. A Westpress baler was purchased and delivered to the island by Dietrich Luth (who is to this day still a permanent fixture at the depot). A series of small ongoing cardboard grants from the federal government as well as funding from Salt Spring Community Services kept the operation above water (just).

I remember those old days of doing my two-hour volunteer shift on Fridays in the little green trailer off Jackson Avenue. I would change into a pair of coveralls, pull some ear protectors and a face shield onto my head, and proceed to fill a 45-gallon drum with glass jars and then smash them to smithereens with a heavy metal bar. It was actually very therapeutic and much cheaper than Valium.

Eventually, in 1991, the Island Trustees at the time managed to secure a \$100,000 grant, and

the recycling depot moved up to its present location. Under the watchful and caring eye of Peter Grant and his team of "Re-psych-ables," the depot has thrived to the point that it has become the hub of socially conscious activity. On any given day, you can bring in your assortment of paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, tin cans, Styrofoam, waxed or plastic milk containers, Tetra Paks, hard plastic containers, or soft and stretchy plastic bags (all sorted, of course) and drive away knowing that they will be taken care of and given a new life.

There's even a place for your old appliances, your outdated computers (don't they all become obsolete five minutes after you remove them from their factory packaging?), and those plastic planter pots that you will only need as soon as you get rid of them.

They've even got a pilot project on the go in which they are accepting kitchen scraps for composting. Next time you end up with a savoury cheese and sour cream soufflé that failed miserably, bring it down to the depot and it will be given a chance to redeem itself.

Nobody asked me, but it feels good to know we have a place here on Salt Spring where we can assemble together to renew acquaintances with fellow islanders, while at the same time rid ourselves of those objects we no longer need or want (unfortunately, they are not accepting deadbeat husbands). Maybe one day there will be a bin there labelled "Senators."

RANTS *and* Roses

Rants

Rants to the person or persons who have been taking items from our silent auctions — shame on you. You deprive the hospital, extended care and Greenwoods' resi-

dents of benefits this money would provide for them. Next time you think of "taking" something, our newly installed camera will be watching you! Lady Minto Thrift Shop Committee

Roses

A hundred weight of steel magnolias to Derek Brazier for his large donation of antique equipment to the Salt Spring Blacksmith Guild at the Farmers' Institute. Henry

Baskets of golden roses for Island Savings employees who generously donated to SWOVA's Respectful Relationships (R+R) program

in 2013. Thanks for wearing your jeans on Fridays! The youth of Salt Spring Island appreciate it.

A bouquet of a dozen organic roses to Natureworks for their surprise gift card in January to their growers and suppliers. It's nice little gestures like this which make local food so essential to a community, and why it's so important to support our local businesses. Brian Brett



Islands Trust

ISLANDS TRUST MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will hold a Public Hearing within a Local Trust Committee Business Meeting on:

- Proposed Bylaw No. 159 – cited as "Mayne Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 144, 2007, Amendment No. 1, 2013"
- Proposed Bylaw No. 160 – cited as "Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, 2008, Amendment No. 2, 2013"

for the purpose of allowing the public to make representations to the Local Trust Committee respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws at **1:00 p.m., February 26, 2014, Mayne Island Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Road, Mayne Island, BC.**

At the Public Hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaws.

Proposed Bylaw No. 159 – cited as "Mayne Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 144, 2007, Amendment No. 1, 2013"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 159, is to amend Mayne Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 144, by establishing policy that would permit secondary suites within the Mayne Island Local Trust Area.

Proposed Bylaw No. 160 – cited as "Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, 2008, Amendment No. 2, 2013"

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 160, is to amend Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, by inserting wording to allow secondary suites having a floor area of 60 square metres or less to be permitted in the Settlement Residential, Rural, Upland and Agricultural zones. All subdivisions on community water systems have been excluded. Proposed Bylaw No. 160, contains several conditions that apply to the establishment of a secondary suite.

A copy of the proposed bylaws and any background material that may be considered by the Local Trust Committee in respect of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing February 12, 2014 and up to and including February 25, 2014.**

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) (e) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the proposed bylaws may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Mayne Island, B.C., commencing February 12, 2014. The proposed bylaws can also be viewed on the internet at the following URL: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/mayne/bylaws

Written submissions may be delivered to:

1. The office of the Islands Trust by mail at #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8, by Fax (250) 405-5155 prior to **4:30 p.m. February 25, 2014**
2. By email to: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca
3. After **4:30 p.m., February 25, 2014**, to the Local Trust Committee at the **Public Hearing at 1:00 pm, February 26, 2014**

The public is asked to send any electronic response by using the email address vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca. The Islands Trust does not guarantee that any email submission will be received by the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide email submissions, if they are opened and received, to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee for consideration, but the public should not rely on email as a means of providing a written submission.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaws may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Gary Richardson, Planner, at (250) 405-5157 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

NO REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Sharon Lloyd-deRosario, Deputy Secretary

Positive returns

Last week's Driftwood broadcast the welcome news that ridership on Salt Spring Transit continues to grow in leaps and bounds ("Fernwood brings ridership upswing").

In June 2012, one of our loyal SS Transit fans, Wendy Hartnett, delivered a petition to the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission requesting that consideration be given to introducing a new route to Walker's Hook. She expressed confidence that her neighbourhood would support such a route in droves. Wendy was right.

It is very gratifying for the BC Transit/CRD/SSITC partnership to be able to respond to a community request for enhanced service and to see it work out so well for all concerned.

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

SS Transit operator Ineke de Jong and her stable of super-friendly drivers continue to deliver an award-winning standard of service on Salt Spring.

DONALD MCLENNAN,
CHAIR, SSI TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Turkey award justified

Thanks to Sean McIntyre for his Jan. 22 article regarding the Heritage Turkey Award bestowed upon the B.C. Archeology Branch.

B.C.'s Archeology Branch, with the backing of the provincial government, has worked long and hard to earn this award. Routinely, Coast Salish First Nations receive barely a glance, let alone meaningful consultation, before the Heritage Conservation Act is pushed aside to enable development.

The HCA has a stated purpose "to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage property in B.C." Perhaps the decision makers never read the HCA, or most likely have reinterpreted the act to green light the desecration of so many sacred places.

How did they ever come to the decision that building one big house has more value than protecting the burial islet known to us as Grace Islet?

All British Columbians are

being robbed of their heritage, but even more troubling is our government's choice to continually deny First Nations people their heritage and cultural rights.

In our silence we give permission, so write, email, fax, phone, text, tweet any or all levels of local, provincial and federal governments and tell them how you feel about our Coast Salish neighbours being denied their culture and heritage forever lost.

Congratulations to the B.C. Archeology Branch for finally getting the recognition it deserves.

SHARON BYWATER,
SALT SPRING

Partisan issues

I'd like to weigh in on Senate reform.

I feel we still need a "chamber of sober second thought." Historically, the Senate has worked well in this role. I'm sure it has always been "stacked" left or right depending on the appointing prime minister.

I have long understood, however, that historically, PMs were encouraged to appoint senators on a less partisan basis. A less partisan senate is less inclined to interfere with the will of the Commons; more inclined to fulfill its role as adviser and emergency break only. I feel we've seen more "stacking" over the past few decades — wholesale of late.

The second chamber acts as a buffer against the vicissitudes of roughshod parliaments.

People are dismayed when parties form government with a small percentage of the popular vote and proceed to gut or drastically alter long-fought-for social advances, or previously established policies.

The parliamentary system is rooted in moderation and steady social progress. Our system's emphasis on the constituency and the equal agency of elected representatives gives it vigour. It also allows us to address our changing social dynamic in a timely and meaningful way.

Partisan politics is antithetical to its proper function.

Historically, the Senate existed to temper the impetuous Commons. Practically, it has acted as an adviser to legislation, rarely an obstacle.

It's doubtful a "stacked" Senate can perform its intended function. A partisan Senate is dead weight to the parliamentary system. It thwarts legislation, thus progress and agency.

These hindrances might be mitigated by tempering the danger of an impetuous Commons. This can only be achieved by lessening the negative effects of party politics. We must push now for some form of proportional representation. Were the Commons

run using proportional representation, a culture of consensus decision making must ensue. Thus a "stacked" Senate would be moot, and we might then consider its elimination.

In the meantime, with "first past the post" we need the buffer of a non-partisan second chamber.

Mr. Trudeau's recent move, though largely symbolic, is a step in the right direction.

A more thorough solution would be to change how Senate appointments are made. Senate appointments should no longer be made by the prime minister, as PMs are too prone to partisan influence. Instead they should be made by a committee of the House of Commons, formed from all political parties. This would ensure a Senate with balanced representation and allow it to function as it was intended.

Again, proportional representation might eliminate the need for "sober second thought," though a functioning Senate might give us time to work out any bugs in PR.

VAUGHN FULFORD,
SALT SPRING

Generosity should be recognized

I read the article in the Feb. 5 Driftwood piece by Charles Kahn ("Island-wide trail system needs public vision") with interest. He wishes to have public support to increase the Salt Spring trail network. The support hoped for is described as increased land donations from private property owners.

I believe that there are problems with that. The main issue from my point of view is that there has been no recognition of the generosity of the donations already given by private property owners. In the CRD booklet given out by PARC it appears as if all the trails are provided for by the "municipality." No one is informed of the contributions behind the trails. I can give many examples of community donations that have never been publicly acknowledged.

Since I was a child growing up around Ganges, a lot has changed. At one time it was a very cohesive community and any donation of land for the public good was acknowledged.

In the case of the furthering of the trail network, there is a lot of zeal behind these projects that can leave the citizens squished in its wake.

At this point, I would think very hard before I gave anything to the groups on these task forces, as there has been no effort made to thank people in the trail book or the paper.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
ATKINS ROAD

Rainbow Road is transportation group's top priority

BY DONALD MCLENNAN

An opinion piece in last week's Driftwood draws very welcome attention to a dangerous situation in the school district on Rainbow Road which has been unaddressed for too long.

A community response to this situation was spear-headed by a group of citizens which formed the Health & Safety Committee back in 2004-05. The group was reacting to the death of a senior citizen who was hit and killed on Lower Ganges Road in front of the Lancer Building. The same year, a student riding his bicycle on Rainbow was hit and seriously injured. There were no sidewalks or bike lanes in either of these heavily-travelled locations.

The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission is mandated to be a voice for the community. Having successfully completed Phase One of the

North Ganges Transportation Plan in 2013, the SSITC recommended Phase Two (the Rainbow Road project) as the top construction priority for 2014-15. The lack of a pathway for students who find themselves consigned to the roadway cries out for attention.

The current plans for Rainbow Road consist of: intersection safety improvements at Rainbow/Lower Ganges and at Rainbow/Kanaka, safer parking reconfiguration along Rainbow and a pathway serving both pedestrians and cyclists on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way. The project has been seven years in the making and has received the formal endorsement of CRD directors Gary Holman, Garth Hendren and Wayne McIntyre.

In 2007, the CRD's regional director responded to the community outcry by commissioning a survey and

IN RESPONSE

masterplan to enhance the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in north Ganges. The CRD engaged consultants Richard James & Associates to prepare a planning overview of the area. The project morphed into the North Ganges Transportation Plan (NGTP).

The consultants organized two open houses in March and May 2007 to review the project and to solicit feedback. Two separate public consultations were also conducted. All key stakeholders confirmed their support for the project and for the consultants' recommendations.

This clear expression of public support for the NGTP prompted the CRD to allocate additional funds for a detailed engineering study by

JE Anderson & Associates (JEA) in 2009-10. JEA also organized two public open houses in April 2010 and autumn 2010. JEA incorporated feedback from the open houses and from the SSITC in the final design.

It is important to state right off the top that construction is wholly dependent upon Salt Spring taxpayer approval of a referendum this fall to increase the SSITC requisition; it is also dependent upon the continuation of the federal gas tax program and a healthy allocation of gas tax funds to the project. At the present time, the SSITC tax requisition will fund only some \$70,000 worth of construction annually. Transportation infrastructure does not get built for free and it is not cheap.

The SSITC met recently with school principals from Gulf Islands Secondary School, Salt Spring Middle School and Salt Spring Elementary

School, plus a senior School District 64 representative to update them on the long planned project. Further meetings will be held with the school board and with school trustees. The objective is to reach consensus on final design options which meet the basic safety needs of the community at a price the community will support and can afford. In that sense, final budget details and design details continue to evolve.

It was the public which initiated and demanded the project to make Ganges safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Over the past seven years, there has been fulsome public consultation. An additional public session will be scheduled on the next phase of the NGTP in the run-up to the referendum in the fall.

The writer chairs the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

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In your owners manual there is a section on vehicle maintenance. In theory if you follow the book you should never suffer a breakdown. Of course there will still be the odd thing to cause a problem but you can limit the chances of that happening by staying on top of oil changes and all regular service work as recommended.

If your service provider makes a recommendation to have work done, do it in a timely fashion. Things will build up if left and may cause further problems making for higher than necessary repair bills.


Do a walk around your car looking for low tires, lights out, body damage, leaking fluids etc. If something shows up bring it in and let us have a look for you. A professional eye under the hood or car can often spot problems before they become critical, and usually more expensive.

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3. No strong smelling "Glade" type deodorizers please. Many people are allergic and buyers may ask, "What are they trying to mask?"
4. Doing regular maintenance (changing filters and any defective light bulbs for instance) is a good idea.
5. Try not to worry too much. Most inspections go through with only minor issues coming to light. I spent three days doing all the little repairs I should have done earlier, when selling our last house, yet the buyers' inspector still found some small deficiencies.

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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

ART AMBASSADORS: Members of the Grade 1/2 class at Salt Spring Centre School work on prayer flags, left, and show their creations with instructor Claire Ryder, who has taken them to Peru where they will be given to students in a class there. Ryder will also make flags with the Peruvian children, and bring those back to Salt Spring Island. She will also visit her daughter Rose Prieto, and take goods from islanders to an NGO that Prieto is currently volunteering with.

<p>Tree House Cafe</p>	<p><i>A Taste of India</i> Saturday 5-9pm</p>
<p>This Week's Music Friday 6 - 9 pm BILLIE WOODS AND WESLEY HARDISTY</p>	<p>\$10 Burger and Beer Thursday 5-9pm</p>
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HEARING & AUDIOLOGY

CONCERTS

Great Plains comes to SSI

Saskia and Darrel give Valentine's folk concert

Folk music performers Saskia and Darrel, a.k.a The Great Plains, will be on Salt Spring on Valentine's Day for an evening performance at All Saints-By-the-Sea.

Well-known for their years on the road with Juno Award-winner Gary Fjellgaard, the pair have also enjoyed touring with local folk hero Valdy. The veteran act has travelled throughout all of Canada and Western Europe, developing an easy, crowd-friendly style that instantly endears them to

any audience.

"This is true Canadiana; real songs drenched in our culture and heritage delivered in a comfortable highly skilled set with oodles of self-poking humor," a press release states. Their repertoire is described as "a taste of Celtic, a dab of bluegrass and lots of engaging stories wrapped around extremely ear-wormy melodies."

Audience members should be prepared "to enjoy a heart-warming evening of music, merriment, and mayhem, as Saskia and Darrel deliver a hot blend of folk music and an unpredictable series of songs that change every night.

"They delight their audi-

ence with tales about Louis Riel, war brides, love, miners, and David Thompson and then surprisingly will break into Swiss yodeling, some fabulous blues, or sing in Gaelic, Spanish, Dutch, German or French."

Their awards include top folk/roots album in Holland and the honours for top artist, album and songwriter of the year at the Saskatchewan Country Music Association Awards.

Tickets are available in advance at the church or by calling 250-537-2171, and will also be available at the door. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.thegreatplains.ca.

SIMPLY ORGANIC

Pipe organ concert offered

Don Conley touches on love themes too

The popular recital series Simply Organic returns to All Saints By-the-Sea on Wednesday, Feb. 19 with a varied and fun program.

Organist Don Conley will give a musical tour of the organ, highlighting the versatility of the pipe organ and his skill in the performance of music for the genre. Since February is traditionally the month when we ponder on love and things of the

heart, there will also be some love songs for sweeties. For those in love with Bach, there will be a sampling of the master's glorious music.

Conley, who is also a concert pianist, teacher and choir director, has been playing for Simply Organic for several years and is familiar with the particular nuances of the All Saints instrument. His musical knowledge, accomplished playing and charm are always a winning combination.

Free music begins at 10:10 a.m., followed by freshly baked muffins and coffee for \$2.

TOURISM

Workshops on the Rock program expands options

Blog and phone app in the works

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anyone intending to give a workshop on Salt Spring this year is invited to access the power of numbers by participating in the Workshops on the Rock program.

What started as a brochure put out by the Salt Spring Arts Council several years ago has steadily grown to include mul-

tiple platforms.

This year's edition will be supported by a new blog that includes frequent updates, and the potential for a designated button on the HelloSaltSpring app.

Starting in 2013, the arts council began a more assertive attempt to bring visitors to the island by distributing around 12,000 brochures on BC Ferries and in Vancouver and Victoria, as well as local tourist haunts.

Program coordinator Jane MacKenzie said workshop lead-

ers are starting to see the results in off-island participants, but long-term goals are also being worked on.

"It's a wide-spread campaign to get people to think of Salt Spring as a place you come to do workshops, kind of like Cortes Island," she said.

"The arts council is looking at the bigger picture. We want people to know that Salt Spring is not just a place where you buys things, but also a place to have experiences."

Art classes in disciplines

such as painting, ceramics and printmaking have always been at the core of the program, but MacKenzie said there is no limit to participation.

Cooking, writing and permaculture sessions are also among the offerings one can expect to find. Ideally, MacKenzie said, everyone giving a workshop of any kind would be listed in this one place.

Workshops on the Rock also has a strong focus on connecting through social media. Anyone can post their event to

WotR's Facebook page.

MacKenzie will host two information sessions today (Feb. 12) at Mahon Hall to discuss the benefits of joining the program, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. Application forms can also be printed from the art council's website at www.ssartscouncil.com.

For more information, contact MacKenzie at jemmanow@gmail.com. The deadline for registering is March 12.

MUSIC

SongJam brings group singing back to the pub

Wendy Milton hosts weekly session at Moby's

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new night that's starting up at Moby's on Wednesday, Feb. 19 promises a return to early pub traditions while giving people a place to sing for fun in a group.

SongJam is Salt Spring's answer to the informal Choir! Choir! Choir! group, which meets weekly at a Toronto bar. For those unfamiliar with the scene, it's a little like Glee without the performance aspect, and anyone can join in, says music teacher and SongJam founder Wendy Milton.

"After many years of teaching and learning music, I've come to believe most people can sing — even when they think they can't," she said. "More often it's just a lack of doing it in the right environment that affects everyone's judgement on this."

Milton is constantly active teaching large and small groups, as well as taking the role of music director for island musicals such as The Rocky Horror Show and the upcoming production of Rent. But SongJam fulfills a desire that she's had for many years. With inspiration from Choir! Choir! Choir!'s success and a partnership with Moby's owner Dale Schweighardt, the time has finally come.

"This is a venue that needs to be more things to more people," Schweighardt said.

"This is an opportunity to draw people that wouldn't necessarily spend a Wednesday night in the pub in the off-season.

"What I like about it, it



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wendy Milton.

can be anybody 19 years to 77. It could be the next big thing."

In fact, the potential "next big thing" is close to how pubs were originally used, when people coming together to sing or play music wasn't considered a special event, but just part of the fabric of everyday life.

While the ease of joining in may have been lost in modern times, those people who tend to restrict their singing to the car or the shower should not hesitate to take in a session. Nor should those who have the more structured experience of the island's many community choirs behind them.

The difference from a regular choir is that participants don't need to read music, will never have to take a solo and won't have to spend a lot of time learning repertoire, since the selections will be the most singable pop hits that everyone knows.

"Obviously there's interest in singing popular songs. And there's lots out there," Milton said. "This is the popular music of the past six decades. We call it

the soundtrack to people's lives."

Also unlike most choirs, commitment is not a requirement.

"We're happy to have repeat customers, but it's not necessary," Milton said.

Evenings will start with a socializing period at 7 p.m. Milton will then lead participants in singing a number of carefully chosen songs along with their vocal tracks, and then along with just the music tracks. After a break she'll divide the singers into smaller groups and work on breaking down one song into components and harmony parts. Songs will be selected for melody, universal lyrics and a workable voice range.

"I'll be including little bits of singing teaching, but it won't feel like choir practice, because we'll have a beer in our hands," Milton said.

Aside from the fun factor, group singing has been shown to have some serious benefits, from lowering stress to changing the brain.

"A recent study even attempts to make the case that 'music evolved as a tool of social living,' and that the pleasure that comes from singing together is our evolutionary reward for coming together cooperatively, instead of hiding alone, every cave-dweller for him or herself," Milton said.

"I know to some extent we all become that cave dweller during winter, so it's time to come out and have some fun."

The first two SongJam sessions on Feb. 19 and 26 will be free. After that, there will be a \$5 participation fee to cover costs. There is no limit to the number of participants — the more singers the merrier.

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IslandSavings

Annual General Meeting

Please be advised that Island Savings' Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the Island Savings Centre in Duncan, BC.

Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for four positions on Island Savings' Board of Directors; please visit iscu.com/agm for details on Director expectations, candidate requirements and application materials.

MONEY MATTERS

SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

RRSPS

RRSP contributions expected to rise by March 3 deadline

Younger Canadians showing more interest

Six in 10 Canadian adults (59 per cent) now own RRSPs, after dipping to 55 per cent in 2012, and the amount they plan to contribute by this year's March 3 deadline has risen to an average of \$4,653, up about \$500 compared to last year, according to the 24th-annual RBC RRSP poll.

The poll indicates that younger Canadian adults in particular — those aged 18 to 34 — are showing increased attention to RRSPs. Half (50 per cent) of this age group now own RRSPs — the highest number in the past six years and a full 10 per cent higher than 2012 — and

their planned RRSP contribution amount has jumped up by 39 per cent to an average of \$4,329 compared to \$3,104 last year.

While three-quarters (74 per cent) of those with RRSPs indicate they won't be making the maximum allowable contribution this year, this is not necessarily a cause for concern, according to Richa Hingorani, senior manager, financial planning support, RBC Financial Planning.

"Maxing out your contribution at the start of the year is great if you can afford it, but for most Canadians regular contributions throughout the year is a more realistic and effective approach," advised Hingorani. "By building RRSPs into your cash flow, you can start small and adjust as you go."

Hingorani added: "By making regular contributions to your RRSP, you ensure that time and compounding growth work to your advantage. And the best part is you don't have to scramble for cash as the holiday bills are arriving."

Other key findings about the RRSPs held by Canadians:

Regular contribution plans continue to be the top means for adding money into RRSPs, with 34 per cent making regular contributions. Of these:

- 61 per cent contribute regularly (weekly, biweekly, monthly)
- One-quarter (25 per cent) make one-time contributions
- 10 per cent contribute whenever they have some money
- One-quarter (23 per

cent) plan to contribute the maximum allowable

• 72 per cent of RRSP holders report they have unused contribution room. Of these, 78 per cent don't expect to be able to/don't know if they will use up all of their contribution room before they retire. Of these, 59 per cent aren't worried about unused contribution room impacting their ability to retire when they want to.

• 81 per cent are not planning to change the investment mix within their RRSP.

• Mutual funds continue to be the preferred investment choice for RRSP holders, with savings accounts and GICs/term deposits filling out the top-three investment vehicles.

CANADIANS' RRSP OWNERSHIP

2012
tax year: **52%**

2013
tax year: **59%**

AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT

2012:
\$4,150

2013:
\$4,650

CANADIANS' RRSP MIX

< Mutual funds: **43%**

< Savings accounts: **22%**

< GIC/Term Deposits: **20%**



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INCOME TAX RETURNS

Ways to reduce income tax

Students, seniors, transit users can benefit

At tax time, Revenue Canada has some reminders for Canadians to ensure they get the most benefit when they file a return.

1. Plan ahead – Register for My Account and sign up for direct deposit, so you'll be ready when you file your income tax and benefit return. You can use My Account to view your tax slip information, your RRSP deduction limit, your TFSA contributions, and more. Also, be sure to file on time to avoid late-filing penalties and fees and to make sure your benefit and credit payments are not interrupted.

2. Tax-free savings account (TFSA) – Using a TFSA is a great way to save money. Generally, interest, dividends, and capital gains earned on investments in a TFSA are not taxable — either while held in the account or when withdrawn.

3. Registered retire-

ment savings plan (RRSP) – You can save on your taxes and save for your retirement at the same time. Contributions to your RRSP are tax-deductible, and any income that you earn in your RRSP accumulates tax-free as long as the funds stay in the plan. The RRSP contribution deadline for the 2013 tax year has been extended to Monday, March 3, 2014, as March 1 falls on a Saturday.

4. Charitable donations – Donations of cash, goods, land, or listed securities made to a registered charity or other qualified donee may be eligible for a charitable tax credit. Also, take advantage of the new first-time donor's super credit on gifts of money to a maximum of \$1,000 made after March 20, 2013, if you are considered a first-time donor.

5. Families – There are many ways families can save at tax time. The activities you signed your kids up for may save you money on your taxes — save those receipts. If you care for dependents with a physical or men-

tal impairment, you may be able to claim up to an additional amount of \$2,040 when calculating certain non-refundable tax credits related to the family caregiver amount.

6. Students – Were you a student during 2013? You may be able to claim tuition, textbook, and education amounts, as well as the interest you paid on your student loan.

7. Public transit amount – If you use public transit, you may be able to save by claiming the cost of your transit passes.

8. Seniors – If you receive a pension, you may be able to split up to 50% of your eligible pension income with your spouse or common-law partner to reduce the taxes that you pay. You may also be eligible to claim the age amount, medical expenses, and the disability tax credit.

9. Home buyers – You may be able to save up to \$750 if you are a first-time home buyer in 2013.

Source: www.cra.gc.ca

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MONEY MATTERS SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

INVESTING

Perceptive reflection to anchor future choices

Non-profit group provides research and resources

The first robust portrait of Canadians' behavioural response to investment risk since the 2008-09 market meltdown debuted last week via an interactive learning tool that leverages new research about our complicated money-selves.

The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014, a national study conducted for Investor Education Fund (IEF) by The Brondesbury Group, provides a compelling look at how Canadians handle — or don't handle — risk, emotion, financial loss and decision-making when it comes to their investments.

It is a comprehensive analysis that provides financial institutions, public policy decision-makers, financial advisers and "everyday" investors with a perceptive reflection to anchor future choices and pursue better outcomes. The study highlights behavioural and attitude differences among demographic segments based on gender, household

income, age grouping and region, and also differentiates optimists from pessimists and high-risk from low-risk investors.

Some of the findings from The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014 include:

- Almost one-quarter of individuals who identify themselves as low-risk investors own "medium- to very high-risk" products; conversely, seven in 10 self-identified high-risk investors own "low- to medium-risk" products.
- One-in-three Canadian investors had a major loss (at least 20 per cent of their investment value) in one year. Of those who had a major loss, 51 per cent stayed the course and didn't change their investments in response.
- Just over half of investors have regretted an investment decision based on emotion, although most have done so only once or twice.

An executive summary of the full research study is available at the www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca website in the Research section.

To translate the findings into a meaningful and motivating vehicle for all Canadians, IEF has created an

infographic available under "Tools and Calculators" on the website. It shares fascinating findings from the national study and presents select survey questions to which users input their own self-reported investment behaviours and beliefs. They can then compare themselves against their fellow Canadians. From the output they receive, users will gain a better understanding of themselves and can access free and relevant investment and personal finance resources on the website.

"The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014 provides a research-based understanding of varying factors that affect investing," says IEF president Tom Hamza. "By prompting Canadians to compare themselves using the new tool, we're seeking to instill greater self-awareness of risk and how it affects your investments. We want to stimulate Canadians to think about money, emotion and risk-taking — while raising awareness of GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca as a source for the average Canadian to raise investment knowledge and make better decisions."

The study could also prove to be

of value to advisers, planners and investment brokers as it reveals why some investors may take excess risk, while others retreat from potential rewards. It also highlights the low priority Canadians place on having personal investment knowledge and pinpoints the top investing concerns for the next two years.

"Through The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014, individual investors get a new understanding of themselves. Financial advisers get a new source of understanding about their clients and financial institutions get new insight into risk perception among Canadians," notes Hamza. "If there's one common message IEF would deliver to all of these audiences, it's that Canadian investors should have more self-awareness about what influences sound decision-making."

About The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014:

The research underlying The Canadian Money State of Mind Risk Survey 2014 was conducted by The Brondesbury Group for IEF nationally via the internet in English and French in September 2013. Eligible

respondents had to have at least one of eight types of investments to participate. Some quotas were imposed to ensure an appropriate mix of age and gender. Regional quotas were also used to improve accuracy by region and major Census Metropolitan Area (CMA).

In total, 2,002 people responded, giving overall accuracy of +/-2% some 19 in 20 times. To get more in-depth results for several CMAs in Ontario, half the sample was drawn from Ontario. Some 400 interviews came from Quebec, 200 from British Columbia and Alberta, 100 interviews from the Prairie provinces and Atlantic provinces.

Investor Education Fund (IEF) is a non-profit organization founded and supported by the Ontario Securities Commission that provides unbiased and independent financial tools to help you make better money decisions. IEF offers research-based financial information to consumers via GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca and to students, parents and teachers through InspireFinancialLearning.ca and extensive classroom programs.

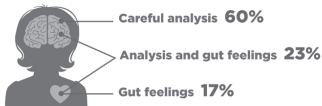
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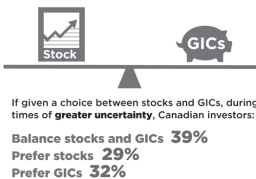
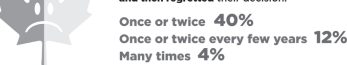
A recent Investor Education Fund* explored behavioural and economic factors that affect Canadians' risk-taking when investing.

The Canadian Money State of Mind RISK SURVEY 2014

Canadians invest based on:



Canadians who invested based on emotion and then regretted their decision:



51% of Canadian investors took no action after losing at least 20% in one year

Top 5 worries of Canadian investors

TWX (THE WORRY INDEX)	
1. INFLATION	62%
2. LOW EARNINGS FOR RETIREMENT	57%
3. LOSS	56%
4. GLOBAL EVENTS	54%
5. STOCK MARKET DOWNTURN	53%

Some of the actions Canadian investors took:



* Investor Education Fund. "Investor Risk, Behaviour & Beliefs." January 2014.



Source: GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca

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what's on this week



Wed. Feb 12	Wed. Feb 12	Fri. Feb 14	Sat. Feb 15	Sun. Feb 16	Tues. Feb 18	Wed. Feb 19
ACTIVITIES Byron Family History. Darrel Byron and other family members give a presentation at the SS Historical Society's monthly gathering. Central Hall. 2 p.m. How Spiritual Leaders Can Assist You. Fifth in a series of free info sessions presented by Hayward's Funeral Service. With Chaplain Louise Mangan. Call 250-537-1022 to book space. Hayward's Funeral Home. Noon to 1 p.m. Women Writing Memoir: Writing Our Lives. Six-week session led by Wendy Judith Cutler begins today. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Info/register: 250-653-4286 or winnie@saltspring.com. Workshops on the Rock. Information meeting about SS Arts Council's workshop brochure and website. Mahon Hall. Two sessions: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 5 to 6:30 p.m. Info: jemmanow@gmail.com. Texas Holdem Poker. The Local. Sign up 6:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Improvisational Comedy Workshop. Everyone (age 15 & over), from beginner to advanced, is invited to a free weekly improvisational comedy workshop with Jan Rabson. GISS, Room 208. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Film Screening: Gabrielle. An exquisite film that looks at a young woman's search for love and independence in the face of a genetic condition. A Best of the Fest presentation of the Salt Spring Film Festival Society. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Thurs. Feb 13 ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic Night. Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Random Johnson. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. ACTIVITIES Dance Temple. Devotion in Motion led by Cat Deva. Mahon Hall. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Nordic Tribes. Anthropologist, writer and television presenter Richard Rudgley presents a short talk. Part of the Salt Spring-based Fridtjof Fellowship Society's new monthly series. Beaver Point Community Hall. 7 p.m. Beer and Pizza night. The Local. 5:30 p.m.	ENTERTAINMENT Billie Woods and Wesley Hardisty. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Piano Bar with Venezuelan Pianist & Composer Andre Carrasquero. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. A Valentines Concert with Saskia and Darrel. Canadian folk group a.k.a The Great Plains. All Saints Church. 7:30 p.m. Live Radio Theatre. Renowned voice artist Jan Rabson leads actors in an evening of live radio theatre, complete with jingles. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. The Sutcliffes. Beatles tribute band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. Soul Shakedown. The Local. 6 to 9 p.m. With free appies at 5 p.m.	ENTERTAINMENT Valentine's Dance With Swing Shift, Tara MacLean & Rebecca Nygard. Live music plus foxtrot lesson with Ron and Kathy Weisner. Mahon Hall. Practice review from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dance at 7:30 p.m. Piano Bar with Venezuelan Pianist & Composer Andre Carrasquero. Harbour House Hotel. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Live Radio Theatre. See Friday listing. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Heartbreaker's Ball. With DJs Daniel Trump and Elev8. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.	ENTERTAINMENT Deborah Inkster-Kneebone. Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.	ENTERTAINMENT Dissolve: A One-Woman Play. ArtSpring presents a one-woman play about drink spiking and drug-facilitated sexual assault, by Vancouver playwright Meghan Cardiner and directed by Renee Iaci. With post-show discussion facilitated by public health nurse Trinda Gajek. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	ENTERTAINMENT Simply Organic. Organist Don Conley gives a musical tour of the pipe organ. Free music followed by a muffin and coffee for \$2. All Saints By-the-Sea. 10:10 a.m.
ACTIVITIES Pickleball. Paddles and ball provided. Fulford Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Wrestling Competition. Salt Spring Island hosts the Vancouver Island high school wrestling championships. Public welcome. GISS gym. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beer Tasting. The Local. 1 p.m. Artist Trading Card Social. Artists trade art work cards and connect with others artists at social event. Dragonfly Craft Supply. 5 to 7 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Pickleball. Paddles and ball provided. Fulford Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Pickleball. Equipment provided. Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to noon. Prostate Cancer Support Group. Monthly meeting. Farmers' Institute. 1:30 p.m. Salt Spring Vipassana Meditation. Weekly meditation and meditation teachings with Heather Martin. The Gatehouse. 7 p.m. SSI Farmers' Institute AGM. With guest speaker Kent Mullinix, director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute meeting room. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Pickleball. Equipment provided. Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to noon. Prostate Cancer Support Group. Monthly meeting. Farmers' Institute. 1:30 p.m. Salt Spring Vipassana Meditation. Weekly meditation and meditation teachings with Heather Martin. The Gatehouse. 7 p.m. SSI Farmers' Institute AGM. With guest speaker Kent Mullinix, director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute meeting room. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Prostate Cancer Support Group. Monthly meeting. Farmers' Institute. 1:30 p.m. Salt Spring Vipassana Meditation. Weekly meditation and meditation teachings with Heather Martin. The Gatehouse. 7 p.m. SSI Farmers' Institute AGM. With guest speaker Kent Mullinix, director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute meeting room. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Texas Holdem Poker. The Local. Sign up 6:30 p.m. Improvisational Comedy Workshop. Everyone (age 15 & over), from beginner to advanced, is invited to a free weekly improvisational comedy workshop with Jan Rabson. GISS, Room 208. 7 to 9:30 p.m. SongJam. Informal community singing of popular songs of the last 6 decades, led by Wendy Milton. First two sessions on Feb. 19 and 26 are free. Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century: Challenges, Opportunity and a Vision. A presentation by Dr. Kent Mullinix, director of Sustainable Food Systems at the Kwantlen Polytech University. Lions Hall. 7:30 p.m.

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ANCHORMAN 2: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
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Sunday 4 matinee and 7pm

National Theatre Live: Coriolanus:
Starring Tom Hiddleston
2 Shows only
Thursday February 20th 3pm matinee & 7:00
\$20 advance tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and The Fritz

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

Mon. Feb 17

ACTIVITIES

Connecting the Dots to Protect the Salish Sea.
Presentation by Gary McNutt and Andrea Palfaman. Lions Hall. 7 p.m.

www.driftwoodgimedia.com/calendar

Valentine's Dance

With Swing Shift and guest soloists Tara MacLean & Rebecca Nygard
Saturday, Feb. 15th at Mahon Hall

Doors Open: 7:00pm
Music Starts: 7:30pm

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CINEMA

- **Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues** — With the 70's behind him, Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell), returns to the news desk. Also back are Ron's co-anchor and wife, Veronica Corningstone (Christina Applegate), weather man Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), and the rest of the crew, all of whom won't make it easy to stay classy...while taking the nation's first 24-hour news channel by storm.
- **Advance notice of National Theatre Live: Coriolanus**, starring Tom Hiddleston. Thursday, Feb. 20 — 2 shows only: Thursday, Feb. 20 at 3 and 7 p.m. \$20 advance tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and The Fritz. When an old adversary threatens Rome, the city calls on her hero, Coriolanus. But he has enemies at home too. Famine threatens the city, the citizens' hunger swells to an appetite for change, and Coriolanus returns from the field confront the march of realpolitik and the voice of an angry people.

EXHIBITIONS

- **The Salt Spring Painters Guild** shows Explorations in the ArtSpring lobby through February.
- Photographer **Doug Wahlen** shares magnified views of the local tidal area in At the Beach, showing at the **Fernwood Road Cafe** from **Feb. 16 to March 12**. An opening reception will take place on Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Paintings by Salt Spring artist **Kristen Rae Finley** will be displayed at the **Harbour House** through the month of **February** in her exhibit called Inner Eyeland.
- **Discover the World of Local Guiding** is an exhibit of uniforms, badges and other current and historical items related to the Girl Guides of Canada on Salt Spring Island. In the **Salt Spring library program room** and display case through the month of **February**.
- Photographs by **Asia Petis** and mixed-media works by textural design artist **Sabrina Edwards** are showing at **TJ Beans Coffee Shop**.
- Artwork by **Tina Louise Spalding** is at **Barb's Bakery & Bistro**.
- **Judy Nurse** has paintings at the **Country Grocer Cafe** through **February**.
- **Doug Rhodes** has multi-media pieces showing at **Penny's Pantry**.
- Paintings of the North by **Judith Currelly** is now showing at **Duthie Gallery**. Winter hours are Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment at 250-537-9606.
- **SOLID at the Market Place** (in Gasoline Alley) shares African art by **Louise Adelle**.
- **Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art** on McPhillips Avenue has opened after a short winter break.

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

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GISS

Green grant nourishes composting project

Learning centre will open in April

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School students can expect to get their hands dirty this spring thanks to \$1,500 that will fund an innovative composting project.

Sky Losier, the Grade 12 student behind the winning application, said the Capital Regional District grant will help GISS complete a compost learning centre near the school's cafeteria.

"Our goal is to have a bit of everything at the site," he said. "It's part of a whole farm-to-table program."

The school aims to create a space where students and members of the broader community can meet, discuss and learn composting techniques that will handle a wide range of kitchen scraps. These techniques include standard worm composting, bokachi-bucket composting, tumble composting and digester composting.

The plan complements the school's greenhouse, a hydroponic



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Sky Losier, Kasea Campbell and Colin Buckley are among some of the GISS students who will benefit from a kitchen composting project that will open in April.

lettuce installation and fenced garden area.

"All the compost generated will be used in the greenhouse and garden," Losier said. "Right now, we pay to have [the kitchen scraps] taken away."

Students in the cafeteria and science classes stand to benefit the most from the project, he added. While many people can learn about

these techniques in textbooks or online, the learning centre will give participants a chance to see how things work from a practical perspective.

"The students are very excited to put their plans into action," said Judy Smith, School District 64's principal of special projects. "With the use of the funds, we will create a gardening learning centre to sup-

port the school's cafeteria, reduce our carbon footprint and educate students and the community about healthy living and eating, not only for ourselves but for the planet too."

GISS is one of four schools in the Capital Regional District that will receive between \$250 and \$1,500. Projects from other winning schools include waste reduction and education, building sustainable energy systems and alternative transportation.

The My Green High School Plan supports the CRD's Green 365 project. High school students were asked to propose ways to reduce their school's eco-footprint, raise student awareness and change behaviour.

"It's inspiring to see how innovative and ambitious these plans are as youth play a key role in shaping the future of our region," said Nils Jensen, chair of the CRD's Environmental Services Committee. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to support these students to improve their schools' sustainability."

Losier said students and other community members will be invited to an event to mark the learning centre's grand opening in the spring.

FALL FAIR

Fall fair theme announced for 2014 event

Family farming in focus

The United Nations has declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming.

The Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute enthusiastically endorses this initiative and has chosen the theme "Celebrating Family Farming" for the 2014 Salt Spring Fall

Fair, which is set for Sept. 13-14.

"Family farming is firmly rooted in the traditions of this island," says the Farmers' Institute.

"For more than 150 years, from the initial struggles of the pioneer days, through two world wars, a devastating economic depression, and the collapse of the dairy industry in the 1950s, family farming has been semi-

nal to this community. Today, we are witnessing a revival of farming on this island with the emergence of a new cadre of farmers — a very hopeful future."

The UN initiative is endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization, promoted by the World Rural Forum and by over 360 civil society and farmers' organizations worldwide. The goal of the International Year of Fam-

ily Farming is "... to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas ... to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders ... and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers."

The SSIFI notes that approximately three quarters of the world popula-

tion (often the poorest) is involved in family farming.

"For most, it is survival, to eke out a living, not make a profit. In most cultures, family farming is the link between the past, the present and the future. A World Bank study, which examined 61 countries, concluded that 'small-scale farms have the best potential for alleviating global hunger.'"

EDUCATION

Creativity sparks at multigenerational forum

Adult participants wanted for project

Connecting Generations, a school district program designed to bring together adults and youth for conversations about interests, skills and life experiences, is holding a forum about creativity.

The event will take place at Salt Spring Island Middle School on Wednesday, Feb. 26 between 1:15 and 3:15 p.m. Adults inter-

ested in an opportunity to engage in conversations about all aspects of creativity with students in Grade 7 are invited to contact the program coordinator.

Anyone who is artistic, creative and inventive, and ready to share their ideas and experiences with students and interested in hearing theirs should contact Sarah Hook-Nilsson at shooknilsson@sd64.bc.ca to register for an afternoon of magic and exploration.



PHOTO BY SARAH HOOK-NILSSON

Historian Charles Kahn interacts with students through the Connecting Generations program.

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ISLANDERS

Senior puts sewing skills to good use

Queenie Haddow's quilts destined for African babies

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It appears age is no deterrent to activity when it comes to Queenie Haddow, a Meadowbrook seniors' resident who will turn 99 this May.

Named for an aunt's comment of "Just look at my little Queen of the Prairie," when she was born in Saskatchewan in 1915, Haddow has filled her long life with crafts such as ceramics, paper tolle and sewing. Arthritis in her hands has now impacted her ability to cut material, but with help in that department from her friend Gwen

Denluck, Haddow is perhaps the reigning producer of baby quilts for charity on Salt Spring.

"I've always had a lot of hobbies," Haddow said during a visit to her apartment.

Her working life in Victoria also included hands-on tasks, from welding at the shipyards during WWII to creating crepe-paper decorated items for ladies' showers at the gift shop she owned.

Haddow's more recent interest in producing baby quilts came through her association with the Meadowbrook KnitWits, which started as a group producing items for a fundraiser sale that Haddow coordinated in 2006. When the KnitWits got connected to Salt Spring nonprofit organization SOLID, producing items such as

baby hats and dolls for birthing layettes, Haddow starting making soft-backed quilts for the baskets.

Haddow has been able to produce the cosy and cheerful items using cotton she's collected over the years, supplemented with donations from other residents.

"I was a quilter and I started it with my own material. Every quilter has a lot of material," she said. "I've made my last big quilt — my hands aren't too good."

Haddow's baby quilts are therefore of a simple design, with the top side's cotton fabric sewn onto flannel backing. She also sews a single panel into the centre to keep the two sides from flopping open. Getting a nice match between the front and back fabrics is important to her, and the centre panels

often have special touches — like embroidery of a lamb or rabbit done by other residents.

Far from losing energy, Haddow has so far exceeded SOLID's capacity to distribute her gifts. She's had 100 quilts packed up and ready to go for the past two years and is still working all the time.

"I try to do just a little some days, but some days I do it all day," she said.

SOLID volunteer Shirley McIntyre has been able to take two batches to Kenya. Another friend has connected with an organization that will be going to Africa to teach midwifery and distribute medical supplies.

"As long as babies in Africa get them, that's all that matters," Haddow said.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Meadowbrook resident Queenie Haddow shows one of the quilts she's sewn for donation to African mothers and their babies.

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Salt Spring

FOCUS ON SENIORS

Home safe home — finding middle ground

By LESLIE WALLACE
SSICS Seniors Activity Program

Talk to any senior, and almost every one of them will tell you they want to stay in their homes for as long as possible. For all of us, home is where the heart is, along with comfort, familiarity and, most important, freedom — freedom to make the moment-to-moment choices of what to do, when to do it and how to do it.

For many senior women who find themselves suddenly alone after the death of a loved one, the remaining "golden years" offer the first real opportunity to make those choices. Even the loneliest grief-stricken widow is seldom willing to relinquish freedom when relatives press in, concerned about her safety, with suggestions of a move to safer quarters — the dreaded "home."

What usually motivates family members to suggest that their senior relative (usually their widowed mother) move to a seniors' residence are feelings of worry and fear for that person's safety, often triggered by the death of that person's spouse. All of a sudden, Mom is alone in the house without that second person present to call them if there is a problem or to dial 911 in case of an emergency. Geographical separation of family members accentuates the family members' fears and the impetus to "do something" to insure that their mother will be physically safe.

Remain at home alone, or go into residential care. The heated discussions that take place between seniors and their families are exhausting and stressful for everyone concerned. With emotions running high, both parties can get entrenched in their own point of view, and resistance builds quickly to exploring a middle ground that could support the senior to continue living at home while also alleviating some of the safety concerns.

Athol Fugard's wonderful play *The Road to Mecca* that ran on Salt Spring last week tells the true story of a woman artist whose neighbour friend and former pastor tries to persuade her to leave the home that, following her husband's death she turned into a work of art much reviled by her community, for a room in a seniors' residence. The resolution of conflict in the play comes when Miss Helen chooses to stay at home — and says yes to suggestions made by the third character, her friend, to improve her physical safety and well-being. Being aware of the feelings and needs on both sides, holding all needs with care, and exploring solutions that meet needs for freedom and safety offers that middle path between extremes to strengthen family relationships instead of damaging them.



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TIMOTHY MICHAEL McBRIDE
Feb. 15, 1958 - Jan. 17, 2014

The McBride family invites you to a CELEBRATION OF LIFE, February 15, 2014, 1-4pm, at 126 Little Mountain Road. Come join us as we remember Tim and raise a glass in tribute to the life he shared with us all.

Tim McBride
Feb 15, 1958 - Jan 17, 2014

It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of the passing of my loving partner Tim, on Jan. 17th in Palm Springs. He leaves behind his parents Anne and Don McBride (Calgary), his brother Jeff and his daughters, Jenna and Michelle. I would like to express my appreciation of the compassionate care he received while in the Palm Desert ICU Unit. A celebration of his life will be held later in the spring at the golf club.

You will be in my heart forever.
- Love Franki

DEATHS DEATHS

JAMES RANDOLF HAWKINS
April 19, 1957 to February 2, 2014

It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Jim, surrounded by his loving family. Jim is survived by his wife Jan, daughter Emma and son Tim, brother Tim (Tiffany) and sister Jill. Nephews Arron, Jesse, Michael, Scott, Nicholas and Gabriel and nieces Natalia and Kirsty.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at the Salt Spring Golf Club on February 19, 2014 at 1:00pm.

CELEBRATIONS CELEBRATIONS

Jim Standen - You are the best husband I could ever have!! Happy Valentine's Day!

With all my loving care and affection.
▼ SHERI ▼

To My Mini and Big Ugo Valentines

I love you both so much!

Thinking of volunteering somewhere?

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

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering one
"Back to School" Bursary

Applicants must be mature students who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & application forms available at Thrift Shop (located at back of the Upper Ganges Centre next to Driftwood office) and on our web-site.

WWW.LMHAS.CA
Application deadline is March 31, 2014.

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering
two scholarships to students presently attending **Gulf Islands Secondary School**

In addition LMHAS is offering a **Continuing Education Bursary** to a graduate of GISS who has completed the first/second year of their course of study in a health care related field.

All applicants must be continuing their studies in health care related fields.

Completed applications must be submitted to the GISS Counselling Department no later than March 31, 2014.

CELEBRATIONS

Friday - Feb.14
8am - 6pm
"Share the Love for Autos Day"
@ SS Auto Detailing
290 Park Drive

FREE 20 min. Wash & Vacuum.

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 19

Salt Spring HOSPICE

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A Salt Spring Arts Council and Bandemonium event

Valentine's Dance with Swing Shift

DANCE SWING FOXTROT TO BIG BAND RHYTHMS
February 15, Mahon Hall
featuring vocalists Tara McLean, and Rebbecca Nygard

plus wonderful prizes, bar, nibbles doors 6:30pm
\$20.00 pp / \$35.00 couple
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DANCE LESSON REVIEW
6:30-7:30
just before the dance.

AGM of the SSI Farmers' Institute
Tuesday, Feb 18, 2014
7:30 pm Upstairs Meeting Room

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kent Mullinix, Director, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Topic: Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century: Challenges, Opportunity and a Vision

Workshops on the Rock

SS Arts Council Workshop Brochure/Website 2014-2015
Call for applications
Information meeting Wednesday, February 12 Mahon Hall

Two sessions - 10 - 11:30am & evening 5-6:30pm.
Application forms will be available
Refreshments served

All categories of workshops are welcome, ie food, writing & journaling, agriculture, healing & wellness, etc. as well as arts related workshops.

for more info jemmanow@gmail.com
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The 5th annual WCOWMA-BC Convention & Trade Show will be held at the South Thompson Inn and Conference Centre (3438 Shuswap Road) in Kamloops on February 20 - 23, 2014. Workshops, open forum discussions, networking opportunities and door prizes. Trade show admission is complimentary. Don't miss the only wastewater trade show and convention in BC. More info at www.wcowma-bc.com

JAPANESE Garden Society
AGM Thurs Feb 27th 3:30pm
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INFORMATION

Capital Regional District **CRD**
Notice of Budget Meeting
Beddies Water Service Commission
Date: Friday, February 28, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Portlock Park Meeting Room
145 Vesuvius Bay Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC
For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island Fulford Water Service Commission
Date: Friday, February 28, 2014
Time: 10:00 am
Place: Fulford Hall -OAP Meeting Room
2591 Fulford Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC
For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**
Notice of Annual General Meeting
Cedar of Tuam Water Service Commission
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Fulford Hall -OAP Meeting Room
2591 Fulford Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC
For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Full time Caretaker/ Manager required for Royal Vancouver Yacht Club outstation located in Long Harbour on Salt Spring Island BC.
Duties include; repairs, maintenance, and operation of the 11 acre property, 2600 ft. of dock, desalination plant, swimming pool, several buildings which include 4 A-frame cabins, common pavilion with kitchen, washroom / shower building and workshops. Office administration duties include cabin rentals, winter boat slip rentals and daily operations of the property. Some boating knowledge along with electrical, plumbing & carpentry skills required. Applicant must be a self-starter & work without direction with a strong work ethic and exceptional customer relation skills. Summertime is a very busy time for the outstation and requires the full commitment of the manager with daily rounds, cleaning and attention to detail. Private caretaker residence and truck provided. Apply with resume to calanbarnett@gmail.com.

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Qualifications:
Previous experience in a customer service role in a fast paced retail or similar environment.
To apply: drop off your resume and cover letter including availability to:
Government Liquor Store
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Weekend Round-up

PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left: Anthea Bohnet-Maul and Malina Moffet with a selection of Stellar Seeds at Seedy Saturday; Amy Elliot, an apprentice with Full Circle Seeds, displays her wares; Rob Miniville with his award-winning syrup at the Harbour House Hotel's 6th annual Maple Syrup Day on Sunday; Nathan Graham tastes mini pancakes drenched in syrup at the hotel's organic farm.



NORDIC TRADITIONS

Nordic tribes' worldview on tap

Anthropologist Richard Rudgley gives presentation

Anthropologist, writer and television presenter Richard Rudgley is presenting a short talk on the worldview of the ancient Nordic tribes at Beaver Point Hall's fireplace room on Thursday, Feb. 13.

The event, which begins at 7 p.m., is part of the Salt Spring-based Fridthgard Fellowship Society's new monthly series.

Oxford-educated Rudgley, whose TV series have appeared on the History Channel and Channel 4 in the U.K., has authored six books to date, including *Lost Civilisations of the Stone Age* and *Secrets of the Stone Age*.

Currently a resident of Salt Spring Island, Rudgley is also a trustee and spokesman for the Fridthgard Fellowship Society, which hosted the recent Nordic Yule Feast where funds were raised to benefit the Tsawout First Nation's Raise the Longhouse project.

The fellowship is hosting monthly meet-and-greets at Beaver Point Hall featuring short talks on a variety of topics related to the ancient, tribal cultures indigenous to Northwest Europe. Nordic ceremony and pagan folk traditions are also celebrated, led by fellowship priest Dan Miller.

Doors are always open to the public at fellowship's full moon moots, in the famous spirit of Nordic hospitality.

For more information, contact Miller at dan@millerfolk.net.

Special Resolutions for the Mid Island Co-op 55th Annual General Meeting

Member-owners wishing to put forth a special resolution at this year's Annual General Meeting must forward it in writing before April 2nd, 2014 to:

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MID ISLAND CO-OP
UNIT #103-2517 BOWEN ROAD
NANAIMO, BC V9T 3L2**

The 55th Annual General Meeting will be held
Wednesday May 14th, 2014.
Beban Park Social Centre at 7:00PM



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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

In your climb to higher places or at least new peaks you may have entered some fog over the past little while. Now it is time to reconnect with your dreams, intuitions and inspirations that have motivated your aspirations and ambitions. Discern between the dream and the reality to identify and clear any illusions, delusions and confusions.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

Some reality checks linked to your professional standing, status and reputation are rolling-in. Circumstances of late are not allowing you to relax into distractions. Yet, this is a good time for some stimulation perhaps in the form of culture. So, how can you have both? Answer: Enjoy cultural activities that positively influence you professionally.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Career questions are on your mind. Deciphering your best approach and direction is on your mind. At worst you feel at a loss. You may feel overwhelmed by the spectrum of possibilities and choices available. Either way, the future beckons. The answer is linked to the choice that provides expansion and increased opportunity, especially regarding relationships.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

A process of soul searching has begun. Who am I or what do I need and want now in my life, or what is the best direction for me and so on... are likely sorts of questions now. Your career and/or social status in general are under review. New affiliations, associations and relationship strategies both at home and work are good approaches to get answers and achieve resolution.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)

What do others want and need from you? Your response will ideally include a confident conviction of your sense of authenticity versus simply yielding to the audience. Yet, balance is ever the ideal. The time has come to strike a better deal, to decipher that fine line between who you are and what others need and want from you.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

Reflections upon how to best express yourself in your more important relationships are pushing you back to the drawing board. Adaptation and adjustment are features of the game, so don't sweat it, just do it. Creatively building upon existing foundations is probably your best option. And look within at least as much as without for guidance and approval.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

A good deal of analyzing matters has been occupying your thoughts. Hopefully you have not run into analysis paralysis; too much thinking and not enough action. The time has come to be more assertive and to try new angles. Taking an experiential and experimental approach will evoke the right spirit. Yes that will do, yes that is what you will do.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)

Home is where your heart is... literally. In as much as this is true you are free or at least covering a lot of ground. Independent, creative thinking is the style of genius and you have plenty of it fire in your belly. So, you have to get in, to access it, in order to get it out. This may be a call for solitude. Then again intimate gatherings may be the best formula for the magic to work.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)

Your lights are on now. As if suddenly a steady stream of new perspectives, perceptions and realizations are flooding your mind. The train has arrived at the previously vacant station. If you are wondering what to do now, the answer is simple, get on the train. A new adventure is beginning and it will lead you to boldly go where you have not gone before.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)

Sometimes circumstances ask us to put our head down and plough. This may be one of those times. Family matters woven with professional ambitions are featured. The danger is that you might over bore the core, causing casualty of sorts. The balance you seek probably requires input from others. These include professional training and/or perhaps healing techniques rendered to you.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)

A sudden turn of recent events is inspiring your ambition, drive and focus. New incoming information is altering your perspectives. You are being directed to seeing a bigger picture. Still, practical tools are required. While some of your dreams, hopes and wishes are coming true, you also need to persevere practically with all four hooves connecting firmly with the turf.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

All the great achievements in life are the results of great dreams and dreamers. At least this is true in the conception phase. The other end of the deal includes planning, strategy, execution and follow-through; lights camera and action. A few changes in your approach and attitude may be required. Be open at least and for best results, ask and reach out for assistance.

sports&recreation

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

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



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Wrestling mania heads to SSI

GISS hosts Island Championships

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders have a rare chance to watch the region's top high school athletes grapple, flip and pin opponents during the Vancouver Island Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

As many as 150 competitors will face off at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gym to qualify for a spot in the provincial championships, hosted later this month in Prince George.

Coach Leon Esquivel, who coaches Salt Spring's stable of aspiring grapplers, said he's optimistic about the home team's chances.

"I have a good feeling," he said. "They have very good standings and are working very hard. We are a small community, but our wrestlers have been doing excellent work in the province."

The rise of Salt Spring on the high school wrestling radar follows years of hard work by parents, volunteer coaches and the athletes who've fundraised and trained hard to make a big impression against their

competition.

Having built a reputation in meets across the province, Esquivel said, hosting a major tournament on home soil is a great honour. Along with the provincial and national championships, he said, this represents one of the big three tournaments.

"This is the first time the island championships have been held outside of Vancouver Island," Esquivel said.

Representing Salt Spring at this weekend's event will be Kevin Marr in the 110-kg class, Jorel Anderson-Perez in the 63-kg class, Karol Esquivel in the 57-kg group and Stefan Esquivel in the 45-kg class.

Islanders are encouraged to show support for the local team while getting a close-up view of what real wrestling is all about.

"Wrestling isn't about violence," Esquivel said. "It's a friendly sport that requires speed and agility."

Preliminary rounds will be held in the gym between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15. Finals in all categories take place between 2:30 and 4 p.m.

Admission is free, though donations will be accepted to offset the costs of hosting the event.

RUNNING

Sneakers have 'best day'



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring Sneakers members show off hard-earned honours on the way home from a race in Cedar on Sunday.

Three of six runners win medals

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

All six Salt Spring Sneakers registered in a 12-kilometre run in Cedar on Sunday posted top-10 finishes.

"The total club points for the day was 98, which is our best day ever in terms of points per runner," wrote Lynn Thompson in a post-race email.

The result gives Salt Spring an impressive seventh-place rank among 58 teams from

across the region.

"We're averaging 13.2 points per entry which is like averaging an eighth-place finish for every entry we've had," Thompson added.

Susan Gordon was the first Salt Springer to cross the finish line in the Feb. 9 race, completing the course in 53:23. The result gave her a third-place finish among the 24 runners in her F50-54 race category.

Marcia Jansen ran the course in 56:30 to grab third spot in the F40-44 group. Thompson was Salt Spring's third medalist of the day,

completing the event in 72:44 for a third-place finish in the M75-79 category.

The club will try to extend its great start to the Vancouver Island Running Association's 2014 winter race series when participants convene at the circuit's fourth event on Sunday, Feb. 23. The Hatley Castle eight-kilometre race will be on the grounds of Royal Roads University in Colwood. Start time is 11 a.m.

For more information about the Salt Spring Sneakers, visit runssi.teampages.com.

SOCCER

Old Boys soar through chill

Frozen field sidelines Westcastle FC

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys soccer club concluded a three-game road trip with a 3-1 win against the Island Blues on Sunday afternoon.

In contrast to the slower starts that defined the team's past few matches, the Old Boys soared from the opening kickoff. The effort was soon rewarded as Mike Davis deftly headed the game's opening goal into the Blues' net.

The Blues evened the score after a fast break up the field, but Ben Cooper answered back with a surprising left-footed chip shot past the bewildered keeper.

Mike McCormick sealed the victory with an insurance goal in the second. The match

was inches away from becoming a rout as McCormick had a couple of shots bounce off the opponents' crossbar.

"A good way to finish our three away games," said Graham Tweddle, a spokesperson for the team. "Hopefully home field advantage next week."

Fans will get a chance to support the Old Boys when players host the Castaways at the GISS field on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 10:30 a.m.

In Vancouver Island Soccer League play, Westcastle FC had both of its weekend matches cancelled. The team's next scheduled match isn't until Saturday, March 8 against Hellas FC at Portlock Park. Kickoff is at 2:15 p.m.

Salt Spring United's O30B women's team won its match by default after the Sooke side failed to field enough players. The women travel off island this weekend to play Lakehill at noon on Feb. 16.

If we want to keep our watersheds healthy, we're going to need to work together!



The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority is an innovative example of collaborative watershed governance in British Columbia. In endorsing this collaborative model, member agencies including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Health, the Capital Regional District, the Island Health Authority, the Islands Trust, the North Salt Spring Water District, and the Fernwood/Highlands Local Service Commission have committed to pool resources and gather and share information. We will integrate and prioritize key policies, and coordinate action for improved raw water quality (before treatment) and the health, protection and ecological integrity of groundwater and surface water in ALL Salt Spring Island watersheds. Starting with St. Mary Lake, we are breaking down the silos. We are collaborating. That's new, and exciting!

It's time to join forces and work together to keep our watersheds healthy.

Find out more about the Salt Spring Island LTC Special Property Tax Requisition: www.ssiwatersheds.org

Give us your feedback at: budget2014@islandstrust.bc.ca