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Wednesday, February 26, 2014 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 54TH YEAR — ISSUE 9 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

WEATHER

Winter blast causes island mayhem

Power outages follow road disasters

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's children were delighted to have a rare snow day called on Monday, but with schools back in session Tuesday, the adults were left cleaning up the effects of an intense winter storm.

As much as 30 cm of snow piled up in the lower elevations during the storm, which started on Saturday afternoon and continued on through Monday evening. Hazardous driving conditions sent a number of vehicles into the ditch, while most Salt Spring Transit service was cancelled for part of Monday and then resumed only on the main routes connecting to ferries.

Heavy, wet snow was also responsible for a number of trees and power lines falling across roadways, causing closures of Fulford-Ganges Road at Cranberry Road and Lee's Hill.

"What you saw yesterday was an event that was continually happening," said Salt Spring's Emergency Program coordinator Elizabeth Zook, speaking from headquarters Tuesday morning.

"It wasn't that it snowed and that's it. It wasn't just a freak windstorm that came in and came out."

Instead, wet snow falling for more than two days caused a cycle of accidents, power service disruptions

STORM continued on 2



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Vehicles creep under a tree held up by telephone lines on Fulford-Ganges Road just south of Cranberry Road on Monday morning.

THEFT

Manx instrument loss touches millions

Salt Spring musician grateful for response and recovery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What started as the terrible loss of a prized possession has turned into a largely positive experience for Salt Spring musician Harry Manx.

The bluesman lost the primary instrument he's

played for decades on Friday after a thief walked away with it from a baggage carousel and then out the door of O'Hare International Airport, taking another man's bag along with him. Chicago police told Manx a suspect was caught while trying to steal more luggage.

"He eventually gave up the location of the instrument and it was recovered," Manx said on Facebook Tuesday. "The police now have it in their possession. I plan to return to Chicago next Tuesday to pick it up."

The Mohan veena is a specialty, 20-stringed instrument that is played like a slide guitar and combines elements of guitar and sitar. It was created by Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, who Manx studied under in Jaipur, India. The Mohan veena is the core of the trademark blend of blues and eastern sounds that has gained Manx fans and critical acclaim around the globe.

MANX continued on 4

ATHLETES

Gymnast scores provincial gold

Darby McIntyre triumphs despite illness

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While Canadian women's and men's hockey teams were thrilling the nation by bringing home the gold from Sochi Olympic events this weekend, 14-year-old Salt Spring gymnast Darby McIntyre was grabbing a little gold of her own.

McIntyre was one of six girls from the Vancouver Island-Central Coast Zone-6 team participating at the BC Winter Games' gymnastics event in Mission. Despite less-than-ideal boarding conditions and a serious case of the flu, McIntyre pulled off first place in bars and beam, as well as her first ever all-around gold medal. She also achieved second place in vault, with overall points that helped her team earn bronze.

"I was surprised and happy," said Darby, who travels to Duncan several times a week to train competitively.

"I just had to go and not give up. I had to do my best and perform my best."

MCINTYRE continued on 24

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Emergency crews on non-stop duty



PHOTO ABOVE BY KRISTINE MAVES, PHOTO BELOW BY RICK NEUFELD

Above, a vehicle rests on its side on the Big Dip on Robinson Road, while below, a moving van travels on Fulford-Ganges Road near Cusheon Lake Road with a fir tree hovering over the road.

STORM

continued from 1

and repairs that rolled out during and after the storm. Residential outages continued well after the snow stopped as conditions started to warm up and branches kept on dropping.

The snowstorm meant the first live test for the Salt Spring Emergency Operations Centre during an actual event. Zook managed to reach the uptown Ganges office at noon on Monday and kept the centre open until 9 p.m. Her first action was to meet with local responders and coordinate strategies.

With a team of volunteers manning the phones and radios at the centre and working by computer from remote locations, Zook was able to issue updates every two hours, using Facebook and direct emails to media outlets and the network of neighbourhood POD group leaders. The system seemed to work well, she said, for its first trial.

"I think we can improve," she said. "That's one of my goals in getting feedback [from POD leaders] today is to find out how."

"I think Salt Springers were well aware of the challenges we had," Zook added. "Staying at home and not attempting the roads was the safest thing to do, and we did not get any serious 911 calls, which was lucky."

Near-serious accidents did occur, however, keeping local responders on the road almost constantly for the duration.

"The snowstorm kept us very, very busy," said Salt Spring Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin.

"We were so swamped that some firefighters just camped in cots between calls at the fire hall."

Total man hours for 31 emergency responses exceeded 100 hours during a 66-hour span, Sherrin said. Incidents included four car crashes involving a total of eight vehicles, seven medical calls and 13 power-line fires.

Among the storm's many incidents, firefighters rescued two people with hydraulic tools after their vehicle rolled off Robinson Road and into a creek on Saturday night.

"It was very slippery on the 'Big Dip,' which caused two separate vehicles to crash off the road and roll. We couldn't even get our fire trucks down there so we carried our tools to the bottom," Sherrin said.

Multiple agencies involved at the event included SSIFR, RCMP, BC Ambulance and Mainroad Contract-

ing, whose staff plowed the road so two ambulances could access patients. Salt Spring Island Ground Search and Rescue was also placed on alert to use their four-wheel-drive response vehicle for transport, if required.

"Fortunately, none of the occupants at the Robinson Road crash sustained life-threatening injuries. Extreme conditions definitely led to a delayed response and it would've been very difficult if they were in critical condition," Mitchell said.

The number of homes without power fluctuated throughout the storm and affected between 3,000 and 5,000 on Monday. Crews often repaired lines only to have them come down in another place, said BC Hydro community relations manager Ted Olynyk.

By Tuesday morning when melting snow was turning to ice, the outages across the Gulf Islands reached a peak of nearly 10,000 customers without service between 8 and 9 a.m. A dozen crew members were working to restore service across the islands, with extra resources brought in from the Lower Mainland.

"I think Salt Springers were well aware of the challenges we had."

ELIZABETH ZOOK
Salt Spring Emergency Program coordinator

"What exacerbates the problem for us on the Gulf Islands is road access, [due to] uncleared roads and abandoned vehicles," Olynyk said.

"It makes it very challenging for us to reach areas where vehicles are essentially blocking the road."

Zook credited BC Hydro crews, Mainroad Contracting and the island's various emergency teams for their fantastic response, as well as local Legion president Jay Small and the emergency services volunteers who opened the Legion building as a reception area on Monday evening.

"It's the community spirit that really makes it work," Zook said of the island's emergency program.

"But it shows the challenges we have of being an isolated community — we definitely have huge challenges here."

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NEWS BEAT

Heads up!

SS Local Trust Committee

Thursday, FEBRUARY 27

Lions Hall, 9:30 a.m. Town hall at noon

ENVIRONMENT

Grassroots group works to end fossil fuel dependency

Upcoming events aim to inform and inspire

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There's an old Frank Sinatra song about an ant that wants to move a rubber tree.

What makes it possible to move that tree? Well, he's got high hopes. He can also lift 50 times his body weight. In fact, the smaller an animal is, the greater the power of its muscles.

Here on Salt Spring, a recently formed grassroots group also has high hopes. Islanders coming together under the provisional banner of Save the Salish Sea Salt Spring have plans to resist the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in new pipelines and tanker traffic, to facilitate a low-carbon economy and to build capacity for democracy and environmental protection. Their dreams may seem huge, but the power of the small could accomplish something big.

"I think the interesting thing about this group is that there's people with very different interests," said participant Jan Slavok.

"There's room for people contributing in many different ways to creating healthy communities in the Salish Sea."

A town hall session sponsored by the group was held last Monday to "connect the dots" on various concerns and ways of addressing them. Around 70 people turned out for the event, which was co-hosted by SOLID founders Gary McNutt and Andrea Palframan and local environmental activist Christine Grimes, and featured an address by Saanich-Gulf



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEYOND BOARDING

B.C. snowboarders investigate fracking in Prince Rupert, as seen in the film Northern Grease. It screens at The Fritz Movie Theatre on Feb. 27.

Islands MP Elizabeth May.

"This is the first time that we're properly having to deal with large-scale extraction and distribution of fossil fuels, within British Columbia and more specifically the Salish Sea where we live," McNutt said after the meeting.

"As a province we have big decisions to make over the next year; we should base our decisions on what kind of living habitat we wish for our descendants. Residents of B.C. should take the time to research for themselves the effects on our oceans, the repercussions of polluting our air and what the future looks like for the 'Beautiful British Columbia' we are custodians of."

"There is the obvious concern about how these projects will damage wildlife, even if there were no

catastrophic spill," Slavok added.

"But underlying the concern is the knowledge that our current economy is unsustainable. In other words, to allow it to continue on its present course is to say 'yes' to economic and ecological disaster.

"If the actual costs of these fossil fuel projects were factored into current prices, they would not be economically viable. It is only because those who stand to profit from these projects are not required to pay for the damage being caused by them that they make any economic sense at all."

Community members who attended the town hall meeting were encouraged to share what they knew about the plans to increase fossil fuels moving through the Salish Sea, and how to prevent that from happening.

Palframan offered grounds for hope in examples of action already taken around the world in a slideshow presentation.

"In only a decade, Samsø, Denmark transformed itself from a coal and petroleum dependent island community of 4,300 to one entirely run on renewable energy," Palframan said.

"Without any direct subsidy from the Danish government, the islanders built a \$70-million wind, solar and biomass community energy system. Local investors raised 80 per cent of the capital to become 100 per cent fossil fuel free."

Closer to home, the T'Sou-ke First Nation was named Canada's first Aboriginal solar community, having installed a 400-panel solar energy system. They have achieved net-zero hydro consumption and developed a commercial greenhouse project, working toward self-sufficiency in food production and attracting ecotourists in the process.

Palframan pointed out that initiatives to transition away from fossil fuel dependency are already happening on Salt Spring. What's needed now are to identify common ground between established groups, as well as identifying priorities, goals and the resources available to accomplish them.

"An underlying theme of the entire effort to resist turning the Salish Sea into a 'fossil fuel corridor' is resistance to self-censorship," Slavok said.

"Activists acknowledge the importance of being able to provide factual information to counter the pro-development 'fact spills' that serve to justify these large industrial projects.

But they also insist that life is about much more than financial bottom lines and winning arguments. They want to conduct their struggle in ways that affirm their deepest values."

Two events coming up this week showcase both the impact of industrial fossil fuel production and the values of those opposed to it. On Thursday, Feb. 27, Beyond Boarding will screen Northern Grease at The Fritz starting at 7 p.m. The film follows snowboarders hoping to make a difference, including Salt Spring's Jasper Snow Rosen, as they travel around B.C. on a mission to understand Canadian resource extraction projects. Then on Friday, McNutt will facilitate a town hall on liquified fracked gas at All Saints By-the-Sea at 2 p.m.

Ideas for future action include getting together a group for boaters to develop tactics both on and off the sea, organizing a presence at the Saturday market to inform to fellow Canadian tourists, and bringing in more expert speakers, among others.

"This movement can't help but grow, because this is in our own backyard," McNutt said. "Salt Spring is at the centre of the Salish Sea and always has been. That's important to know and keep in mind."

More information can be found at the group's Facebook page called "Save the Salish Sea. Saltspring Island."

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



NEWS BRIEFS

FOR THE RECORD

Last week we mistakenly identified parent Robert Anderson as a wrestling coach and Jorel Anderson as qualifying for B.C. wrestling championships.

Study reviewed

A group opposed to the proposed rezoning of a Bullock Lake property is feeling buoyed by a review of a hydrogeological impact assessment.

Friends of Bullock Lake commissioned GW Solutions Inc. to review a report produced by Waterline Resources Inc. last May that indicated the area's water resources

could support a 50-unit resort development on Bullock Lake. Gilles Wendling of GW Solutions concludes that "there are still too many unknowns" about a number of factors, including the impact of the development on neighbouring wells and Bullock Lake. He also noted that Waterline pumping tests were not undertaken in the dry season.

"I think that report is a game

changer," said Friends of Bullock Lake member Rollie Cook.

It will be presented at Thursday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting, during the delegation section of the meeting beginning at Lions Hall noon. Cook urges anyone concerned about the Bullock Lake resort proposal to attend.

The full agenda for the LTC meeting is available on the Islands Trust website.

Protest tickets

The Salt Spring Ferry Action Alliance is arranging bus transportation to an upcoming rally at the BC Legislature on March 11, so as many people as possible can join in.

Islanders who want to protest ferry fare increases and service cuts should buy their tickets in advance at Salt Spring Books, so the organiz-

ers know how many buses to arrange. The cost to ride the bus will be \$10 return.

Passengers should car pool to Fulford and board the 9:50 a.m. ferry to Swartz Bay as pedestrians. Buses will be waiting at the terminal. The group plans to return by the 3 p.m. ferry to Fulford.

More info: Peter Grove at 250-537-1117 or pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca.

JUST SAY NO!

A Vancouver developer, Platform Properties, wants 50 new vacation rentals on Bullock Lake. The local Islands Trustees are meeting on Thursday to consider this request.

- **If you run a B and B** this will grab some of your business!
- **If you live near** the block Central Hall, Starke Road Robinson road! Mansell Road and Upper Ganges Road, this may impact your well!

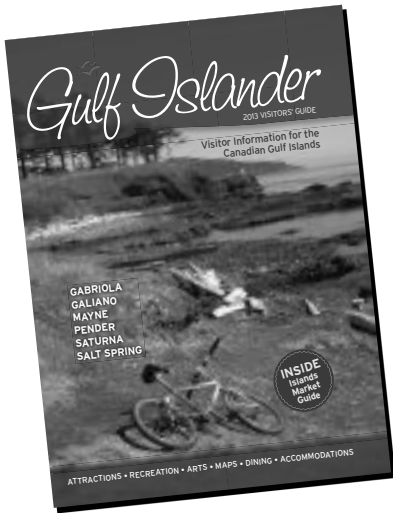
This development will probably add phosphorous to the lake and that spells algae bloom trouble. If you value local food this is an issue!

Tell the trustees **JUST SAY NO!** To a huge development on a tiny lake. The developer will make money and leave us with the problems. It just doesn't make sense for the island!

- **If you value** the habitat for herons, trout, frogs, salamanders, kingfishers among others, no environmental review has been done!
- **Bullock Lake Farm and Redwing Farm** use the lake for irrigation to grow food for the island.

Call the trustees or come to the meeting Thursday, 11:45am, Lions Hall.

Let them know how you see the threat to the water on tiny Bullock Lake!



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PHOTO BY SHERI HICKMAN

WHAT TIME DOES THE SKEENA QUEEN LEAVE AGAIN?

Two bald eagles sit on pilings in Fulford Harbour by the ferry terminal on Friday as if waiting to board the 9:50 a.m. sailing of the Skeena Queen. This photo also appeared on the Driftwood's Facebook page on Friday. Like the Gulf Islands Driftwood page on Facebook for breaking news plus extra photos and videos.

Manx happy on return of Mohan veena

MANX
continued from 1

"I had the instrument for about 20 years," Manx told the Driftwood on Monday while on the road to Montreal. "It was given to me by my teacher in India, so it was quite a shock to discover it was gone."

"It took me a few minutes — actually, it took me most of that day — to get over the idea."

In all the years Manx has travelled, he's never before had an instrument stolen. But he learned that his experience is something millions can relate to after he posted a Facebook message about the loss, shortly before going on stage in Chicago on Friday night. To his surprise, just a few hours later the post had already been viewed by 50,000 people. By Monday the number had grown exponentially to reach a staggering five million views, and had been shared thousands of times.



WWW.HARRYMANX.COM

Harry Manx with Mohan veena.

ENVIRONMENT

Lively LNG discussion on tap

Friday afternoon at All Saints

Proposals for fracking to enable liquefied natural gas projects are in the news all across B.C. these days.

On Friday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. at All Saints, Eoin Madden of the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee, Dana Hibbard of Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition and Salt Spring's own Jasper Rosen will lead a lively discussion called LNG: B.C.'s Tar Sands?

According to a press release, the talk will pro-

vide context for Christy Clark's claims that fracking and LNG are here to employ British Columbians and save the B.C. economy.

"While industry and government would have us see hydraulic fracturing as the cure to British Columbia's financial woes, these three speakers will share their research and perspectives on the impacts of a massive scale-up in LNG for export through B.C.'s interior and our coastal waters.

"We are being sold LNG as a magic bullet to cure all of B.C.'s economic woes. As citizens of B.C., let's look at what our options

really are when it comes to LNG. With the kind of vision that brought about Canada's first carbon tax, B.C. could be making the shift to renewable energy. From hearing about Jasper Rosen's grease-powered-journey through the backcountry of B.C. to learning about how Skeena watershed communities kicked Shell out of the sacred headwaters, learn how citizens' initiatives can overcome short-sighted fossil-fuel development to chart a new, renewable, and just vision for a B.C. we can all agree is beautiful."

Admission is by donation.

NEWS UPDATES

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Valdy, Bill Henderson and friends in a special island mix including Claire Lawrence, Brian Brett, Shilo Zylbergold, Kaya Hunter and more!

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One of the things Manx has learned since the theft is how to play songs for Mohan veena on other instruments. The other is the basic goodness and generosity of "all sorts of people." Countless strangers responded to his post with their sympathy, their own tales of loss and in some cases, offers to supply him with new instruments.

"I didn't know about that before, so that was nice," he said of the widespread generosity.

As to why so many people around the world had such a strong response to his story, including interview requests from NBC and Fox news, Manx has a theory.

"The instrument is something beautiful, and produces a lovely sound, and if you contrast it with the ugliness of the theft, that's a strong story."

"A lot of people relate to losing a possession and wanted to share," he added. "But you know, they made it hard to stay miserable. That was good, they cheered me up."

TRANSPORTATION

Rainbow Road group goals advanced

Bike lanes to be monitored

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission took a tentative step toward achieving Phase Two of the North Ganges Transportation Plan during its regular meeting on Feb. 18 by voting to create an internal working group.

Identified as SSITC's next priority, the Rainbow Road phase of the plan aims to put a multi-use pathway for students and other users on the north side of the road, from the crosswalk at Lower Ganges Road to the public pool.

Reporting on the meeting to the Driftwood, SSITC chair Donald McLennan said the

working group will strive to achieve consensus on a design for the project that would meet a number of objectives. The design should meet the basic safety needs of the project as identified in the James Report (2007), take long-term infrastructure maintenance into account, be likely to garner community support, and keep costs within the amount budgeted in the five-year capital plan SSITC passed in December.

"In addition to any interested commissioners, representatives from the school board and from Partners Creating Pathways will be invited to join the working group to facilitate the process of reaching a community consensus on the way forward," McLennan said.

He said the group will likely

start work by determining the basic design considerations of the pathway, such as its location, width and surface treatment, its delineation from the roadway and the rural "look" of the project, the nature of planned intersection improvements at Lower Ganges Road and Rainbow Road, and a possible 2.6 metre-wide parking lane starting from the SD64 maintenance depot.

The group's findings will be presented during the SSITC's monthly meetings for discussion in the public domain.

In other SSITC news, the commission discussed the issue of bike lane maintenance following information that Karla Campbell, the Capital Regional District's senior manager for Salt Spring, received from the Ministry of Transportation and

Infrastructure. Branches and gravel that have been collecting in the new bike lanes on Lower Ganges Road has been noted as making use difficult.

Campbell said the ministry's maintenance contract calls for one annual sweeping of standard two-lane roads, usually in the spring, although extra sweeping may be done if debris is considered hazardous to highway users.

Mainroad Contracting, which holds the contract on Salt Spring, does not have a sweeper truck, and has not encountered the same problem before on the Gulf Islands because the curb and gutter construction of the new section is uncommon on roads under MoTI's purview.

Campbell said the ministry will conduct a site visit and then consider the options.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Mail-in ballot option examined

Improved voting access sought by CRD committee

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Eligible voters living in the Capital Regional District's electoral areas could have greater capacity for exercising their democratic privilege come November.

A resolution by the CRD's Electoral Area Services Committee recommends implementing mail ballot voting for people who are absent on voting day. A second recommendation is to amend the Elections Bylaw to allow use of the provincial voters list to register resident voters.

Wayne McIntyre, CRD director for Salt Spring, said the resolution received unanimous support from the three electoral area directors during the vote at last Wednesday's committee meeting.

"Basically, it affords people the opportunity to vote on things that are important to their lives," McIntyre said.

He added the issue of mail-in voting for Salt Spring's part-time residents was raised frequently during his 2011 election campaign.

Local elections are held every three years and include Islands Trust trustees and school board trustees in addition to the CRD electoral area directors. The CRD administers the elections by contract and recovers partial costs from the other bodies.

The CRD staff report outlines how prior to 2008, the Local Government Act allowed mail-in voting only for people with disabilities or people living in an area that was remote from a polling station. The act now permits the measure for people who are absent from the polling area during the election for any reason.

Amendments to local election bylaws are necessary to incorporate the change.

McIntyre said increasing ways for people to vote can only benefit democracy, even though Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands already enjoy higher-than-average participation rates at 41 per cent and 73 per cent respectively. Salt Spring's rate especially could improve, since 17 per cent of property owners are part-time residents.

"The CRD could choose to use mail ballots on its own, whether or not the Islands Trust Council wished to do so."

CARMEN THIEL
Islands Trust
legislative services manager

In the past, polling stations in Richmond and Sidney have been set up to accommodate non-resident voters and those not at home on election day.

If the resolution is supported at the CRD Board level, putting the change into action will then require support from the Islands Trust.

"Mail ballots have been used for a number of years for some of our remote islands (not in the CRD) as this was permitted prior to 2008," Carmen Thiel, legislative services manager for the Islands Trust, explained by email. "We also enter into contracts for elections administration with the six other regional districts in the Islands Trust Area that run elections and some of them did use mail ballots in 2011."

Cowichan Valley and Powell River Regional Districts offered ballots to absent voters in the 2011 election, which affected the Trust areas of Lasqueti and The-

tis islands. An Islands Trust staff report shows that very few voters took up the offer.

Thiel said the details of how each election is administered are worked out in the contracts with regional districts, but the Salt Spring trustees are on record as supporting the idea. Trust Council will discuss the matter of mail-in ballots at its March meeting, with potential for a motion to amend the bylaw in June.

Other jurisdictions that are considering offering mail-in ballots to electors that could affect the Islands Trust area include Nanaimo Regional District, Comox Valley Regional District, Greater Vancouver Regional District, and Sunshine Coast Regional District.

School districts will also decide whether to participate in each case.

"The CRD could choose to use mail ballots on its own, whether or not the Islands Trust Council wished to do so," Thiel observed. "However, I think the preferred approach is for us to use a consistent approach (with the CRD and the school district) so that voters have the same process to follow when casting their votes for the three different organizations. It is not really feasible for us to each hold separate elections, administered in three different ways."

Increased costs that could be expected to arise include postage, advertising and staffing. Other potential challenges include a delay in learning election results, Canada Post timing and the validity of ballots, the CRD staff report stated.

The second part of the resolution, which would permit the CRD to use the provincial voter list during elections and other circumstances such as referenda, is expected to aid the system since the database is updated more frequently than the CRD is able to do.

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THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

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We are all looking for a bit of relief.

Many people lament that they don't have any dental benefits and only a small portion of their dental care is tax deductible. There may be a CRA approved plan that can help you get relief from dental issues as well as the tax man.

As I understand things, if you are self employed or incorporated you can have a Private Health Services Plan. These plans seem easy to set up and are tax efficient.

I am a dentist not an accountant. I can give you great advice and create solid comprehensive treatment plans for your dental and oral health. Tax info is NOT my bag so talk to your financial advisor and see if these plans might benefit you.

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OPINION



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EDITORIAL

Snowed under

It's been a few years since the Gulf Islands were paralyzed by snow or other heinous natural weather events.

But the results of incessant snowfall from Saturday through Monday night more than made up for the string of winters consisting of relatively benign weather.

Fortunately, no "serious" incidents had occurred as of Tuesday afternoon, i.e. no one died in a car crash or fire. But dealing with vehicles that slide into ditches, trees that fall across driveways or multiple days without power is no picnic for anyone.

For people who've not experienced a serious snowstorm on the Gulf Islands in the past, the apparent lack of official response can be shocking.

On Salt Spring, at least, it takes forever for plows to show up on residential streets, while the highways contractor struggles to keep ferry route roads passable. The island's many hilly roads only add to the challenge.

THE ISSUE:

Emergency response

WE SAY:

PODs are best bet

Experienced island dwellers know the only thing to do is to get home as soon as possible once snow starts to fly, and to stay off the roads until they're clear.

With only 12 BC Hydro crews reportedly available

this time to tackle problems on Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna islands, it's no surprise that everyone's lights and heat were not blazing within 24 hours of an initial power outage.

The storm provided the first real test for the Salt Spring Emergency Program since paid part-time coordinator Elizabeth Zook took the helm and organization of neighbourhood PODs progressed to a much higher level. The program's Emergency Social Services group was also ready and able to help with a reception centre at the island's Legion branch.

The ability of hydro, road maintenance and emergency services crews to respond to individual needs in times of crisis will always be limited, which is why the official emergency program is so important.

Use of neighbourhood groups — the "pods" — that have an inventory of nearby human and equipment resources, including established ways to communicate within their area, is the best vehicle we have for ensuring safety and comfort in rare times of calamity.

For areas that have still not organized themselves with the ample help available from Zook and the emergency program, the recent storm should be a wake-up call.



VIEWPOINT by Rodney Polden

Data collection raises ethical issues

The following letter was written to Information & Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the collection of personal and private data from individuals throughout British Columbia, facilitated by smart meter/AMI technology.

There seems to have been very little interest in safeguarding that data on the part of the authorities that mandated and executed the installation of smart meters into nearly two million private residences across the province, a pattern that we have seen replicated throughout North America, wherever governments and utilities have taken an uncritical attitude to adoption of these devices and the grid they connect to.

There has been equally little thoughtful discussion in the public realm as to why such broad-ranging surveillance, information gathering and storage is justified solely for the purposes of more efficient electricity metering and "load balance analysis." As we now know, every electrical device in use in the home has a characteristic signature and pattern of operation that, once recorded and analyzed, permits a very detailed picture throughout the day and throughout the year of the presence or absence of occupants, their domestic habits and lifestyle preferences, from switching on a bedside lamp to using a table-saw or an electric oven. It seems that very few members of the public are well-informed as to what the collateral features of this technology provide to those gathering and making use of the data stream.

Little to nothing in the way of details has been released either

by the B.C. government or BC Hydro as to how the information will be encrypted, utilized, stored, further disseminated through government agencies, sold to corporate third-party customers, or safe-guarded from misuse or hackers etc. Apparently devices are now available on the internet for under \$20 that permit hacking by unauthorized persons of the smart meter data, potentially enabling thieves and others to know when the residence is occupied or unoccupied, among other things.

Surely it is high time for a full investigation and realistic appraisal by your office of what damage to privacy, confidentiality and civil rights is being permitted by this entire area of technological development so recently introduced province-wide in a rapid and universal roll-out, without any opportunity for oversight and informed consent by citizens whose data is being collected and possibly traded. The huge cost of the entire project is being financed by customers of the utility through their rising electricity bills, and plans are well underway for the same change to come to both gas and water metering.

I sincerely believe that the people of B.C. deserve to be fully informed regarding this program and its implications, and to receive better, more ethical consideration from their government and public utility. Effective action is called for to represent the interests of private citizens who deserve peaceful enjoyment of their own homes and domestic lives without concern for unceasing surveillance. Do you agree?

Thank you for the important work you undertake on our behalf.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

There seems to have been very little interest in safeguarding that data

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you have a functioning neighbourhood POD?

Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the SSIWPA tax?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I just had to go and not give up. I had to do my best and perform my best."

DARBY MCINTYRE, MEDAL-WINNING GYMNAST AT BC GAMES

SALT SPRING SAYS

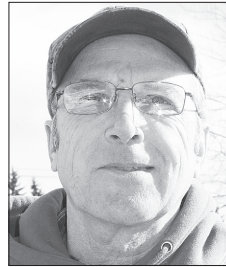
We asked: What was your best or worst moment of the snowstorm?



AYLA & SENECA CORSINI
Ayla: All the power is out and we can't really do much. Seneca: It was really fun to play in but it's getting colder, and I don't really like being cold.



ELIAS BALEC
Vehicles stuck and you won't get them out until the snow melts [is the worst], but it's really beautiful.



JON MCASTOCKER
The best just happened — the snow plow came just before we had to leave.



WENDY TAYLOR (WITH TAHOE AND JAY)
Playing with the puppies in the snow.



CHRISTA RODGERS
Best: Thinking of how simple life can be.

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.

Price we pay

So many of us depend on motor vehicles to travel here and there that our daily practice of going places feels like the most fundamental of freedoms: something we take for granted and are ready to defend to no end when — however briefly — it is suspended. Similarly, the ease and speed of transporting one's self across modern distances reinforces a belief that getting somewhere should neither entail delay, nor expose us to the wild influences of west coast weather systems.

Behind the belief that our freedom to move is a benign benefit afforded to us by our collective will and effort are the costs we all pay to empower very, very heavy

objects to travel at very high rates of speed in order to transport us from point A to point B. And while the negative impact of motor vehicle emissions on our changing climate is widely known, the costs of automotive trauma are not.

Writing in the Feb. 4 edition of the Canadian Medical Association Journal, Donald Redelmeier notes that motor vehicle collisions are the most common cause of death in Canada from birth to middle age; that seven Canadians die every day in a car crash; that 50 per cent of related deaths occur within moments of impact; that for every death an additional 80 people sustain injuries and 300 suffer financial losses; and, that these collisions collec-

tively cost Canadians \$100 million every day.

On Salt Spring we have a population that is generally fit and active. We have a hugely successful transit service that is both affordable and responsive to growing demands. Importantly, such community assets are supported by a culture that engages "island time," honours innovative solutions such as car stops, and supports roadside facilities that improve the safe movement of pedestrians, persons using mobility scooters, and cyclists.

Redelmeier's key insight is that while most motor vehicle collisions are preventable the rate of collisions suggests a failure of prevention. As a profession, he wonders how physicians

can play a more direct role in prevention. As an island community we might well ask the same question.

JOHN ROWLANDSON,
SALT SPRING

Frustrating NEB process

I went to an inspiring meeting last week put on by a new group on Salt Spring, Save the Salish Sea. Their goal is to bring people and organizations together to fight the expansion of fossil fuel extraction and shipping on our coast, through our waters and past our islands. Be on the lookout for more from them.

Of course, the topic of the Kinder Morgan pipeline hearings, or should I say "charade," came up at the meeting. I've applied to submit a letter of

comment to the National Energy Board review process, charade or no, but I am beyond angry about the transparently inadequate framing of these hearings.

The co-opted panelists will consider evidence about "environmental impacts," but they have explicitly excluded the topic of climate change. Oil spills yes, climate change no.

Do they not understand the essential scientific facts? The impacts of a major coastal oil spill would be truly terrible (not to mention the effects of constantly leaking tankers), but the most alarming consequences of fossil fuel expansion lie elsewhere: in the devastation that climate chaos in all its forms will bring to every ecosystem, and not just in our backyards and beaches, but

throughout the earth.

To take just one example: ocean acidification. In the long run it won't matter how many oil spills can or can't be prevented, or mopped up, if the invisible but much more devastating acidification process that is underway, right now, is allowed to continue and worsen.

And it will worsen, upping the concentration of carbonic acid in every ocean, if we do not get on with the urgent need to adopt and expand a non-carbon energy system — right now.

But I can't say that to the National Energy Board's review panel.

JUDI STEVENSON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Let's help Cambodian schoolchildren thrive

BY ROSS KING

I have recently returned from Cambodia. Cambodians are gentle, kind, warm, friendly people in the Buddhist tradition.

The country is however in a generational crisis: firstly, as a result of the murderous regime of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge in the 1970s-'80s, who systematically exterminated most of the middle and all of the educated-classes in Cambodia. Khmers Rouges forced everyone out of the cities to be "re-educated" in a fundamentalist agrarian regime. The socio-economic system collapsed completely. Millions starved to death, or were murdered in cold blood, including small children and babies who were a burden to the regime. Between two and three million people died.

In one tragic story, one mid-level bureaucrat in Phnom Penh gathered his extended family about him, 30 in total, as they were driven out of the city to till the fields. Ultimately he escaped to Thailand; on return he found he was the only survivor. Another Cambodian (whom I met) was one of seven survivors of the high school in Phnom Penh, S21, a torture centre: through which about 22,000 were "processed."

Secondly, an AIDS epidemic wiped out a high proportion of the survivors, the parents of today's orphans. There's a scarcity of money, drugs and doctors to help, despite best efforts by NGOs.

Thirdly, owing to the various conflicts that raged through the country in the second half

of the last century, there is a widespread problem with indiscriminately laid land-mines, which still continue to kill and maim.

The end result is that three generations of Cambodian leaders, intellectuals, teachers, engineers, lawyers, priests, etc. — the middle-classes — were torn out of the social fabric of Cambodia. In 2014, Cambodians are still struggling to replace these "Elders" and rebuild from their youth so as to provide social capital for the upcoming generations. They need all the help we can give them.

So what can Salt Springers do to help?

I am proposing a multi-step program, starting with one-on-one school-pairing projects with schools in Cambodia . . . "CASP" (Cambodian School Pairing Project). Our first project has been launched, pairing Fernwood Elementary School with a school, HVTO, near Siem Reap (Angkor Wat area) . . . Google it.

This is a low-cost educational opportunity, serving needy Cambodian children while providing real-life educational experiences for our youngsters too, covering many aspects from language and communication skills, through the raft of humanities' subjects, fostering international understanding, to learning media skills. This may lead, when these kids are older, to student exchanges. It will likely be a lot of fun for all the participants too.

For me, I am also volunteering my time and

INDEPTH

out-of-pocket expenses to developing an English enunciation program, and launching it in Cambodia this time next year.

It will include multi-media reference material. What is the reason for this? As a result of the genocide, it is typical that there are no professional teachers in rural areas. Free education is provided to Cambodian children until about nine years old, after which education has to be paid for privately. (This means that many bright children are condemned to an agrarian lifestyle and effectively barred from further education and elevation to the professional and managerial levels — where they are desperately needed by a gutted society.)

English, which is learnt from the earliest level, is taught in these schools by those few, lucky alumni who have progressed to higher education, who are duty-bound to return to teach English to the younger children. As a result, errors get perpetuated, and the English language slips irrevocably into a local patois that all locals can understand perfectly, but other English-speaking people — from outside the area — can't! Hopefully, my program will help restore universally understood English for this generation, and some generations to come.

A third, exciting potential project has just arisen: HVTO School caters to 600 children in shifts, and is looking to expand. For \$22,000, they can buy contiguous land, fill to grade, and build an

extension sufficient to their needs. I have undertaken to see if Salt Spring Island can fund this for them: that's \$2.20 per man, woman and child on Salt Spring.

I should add that these initiatives have been enthusiastically endorsed at the Cambodian end, and I look forward to matching them with a positive response from Salt Springers to this compelling cause.

I was very moved by the plight of the youngsters, many of them orphans, often without grandparents either. So, Salt Springers, can we help by building educational bridges to facilitate the advancement of functional English and assimilation of computer skills, and promote secondary-school opportunities for them?

I appeal to everyone reading this to send me your expressions of support, ideas and offers of help . . . please lobby other school principals, your fellow parents, your friends and anyone else who might facilitate a successful outcome to this worthy, mutually advantageous, long-term endeavour. I am looking for a "rolling-snowball" growth from this first school-pairing endeavour to bigger and better things as I have enumerated, and there is a lengthy list going forward. Drinking-water projects, electrification, perhaps orphan adoption. These people deserve all good things we can provide for them: they have tantamount to nothing compared with our lifestyles.

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Surviving a doctor-patient break-up



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

It's been months already and I'm just now beginning to heal. Breakups are never easy but when you get dumped by your doctor, the feeling of rejection can be overwhelming.

It started with those words no patient wants to hear: "There's something I have to tell you." Immediately I went into panic mode, wondering what part of my body had now gone into total rebellion.

She sensed that I had drawn the wrong conclusion and tried to break it to me gently. She told me as compassionately as possible that she would no longer be able to see me.

I immediately went into guilt mode and blamed myself for the breakup. I scolded myself for not being a better patient. Perhaps I should have not made as many appointments and relied more on a healthy lifestyle (or more likely, self-medication). Then again, maybe I should have gone the other direction and booked a complete physical every week or each time I had an "owie" on a finger or toe. After all, a doctor has to make a living.

I reviewed our entire relationship in my mind, wondering where I had gone so wrong. Memories of hours spent in the waiting room flooded back to me. Why had I been so uncaringly selfish not to have returned the magazines back to their proper places on the rack? How stupid was it to have torn a quiche recipe out of the July "Good Housekeeping" and stuffed it into my pocket with nary a thought about how that would impact the other patients?

And what about all my trivial complaints once I was called into her office? I knew no doctor likes a patient who pulls out a long list of symptoms and ailments, and yet I always brought one with me because I knew my failing memory would cause me to forget the main reason I had made an appointment. Why, oh why, did I have to mention my

night sweats on my last visit? That must have been the final straw.

I pleaded with her. I begged her to give me another chance. Maybe the spark had gone out of our patient-doctor relationship, but I was certain we could bring the magic back. I suggested we go for counselling.

"It's not you; it's me," she explained. "I have to get on with my own life." She told me how a doctor has no private life here on the rock. When she's not in the office, or making rounds at the hospital, or taking her turn on call at the emergency ward, she's still a doctor to everyone whose path she crosses during normal day-to-day activities. A simple trip to the grocery store for milk and eggs turns into two or three "mini-consultations" from patients who feel that anytime is a good time to "talk shop" and ask that she have a look at a suspicious mole or check out an erratic pulse.

I suppose I should have felt better with the knowledge that it wasn't just me she was dumping. All the patients in her entire practice were being cut loose. This must have been the same sense of utter abandonment that the thousands of followers of Krishnamurti, the Indian mystic and world-famous Theosophist, had experienced in 1929 when he set them adrift with the words that he no longer considered himself their teacher and guru. In short, he told them to "piss off" and find their own path to Truth and Enlightenment.

This also must be how the bird in the proverbial "gilded cage" feels when the door to its luxury prison is left propped

open and it is told that it is free to fly off into the wild blue yonder. The euphoria of total liberation is immediately offset by concerns of who will now be filling up its cup of bird seed.

I didn't want my doctor to set me free. I wanted her to think about our long medical history together. She knew me inside and out (especially inside). How could she just walk away from all those lab reports, blood tests and referrals to specialists? Where would she find another chart half as interesting as mine?

I was having a personal health crisis. But it wasn't just me and it wasn't just here on Salt Spring. In the city of Vancouver, one out of every six residents does not have a family doctor. It gets worse. Rural areas have half as many doctors per 100,000 population as do urban centres, so the percentage of people without a family doctor is much higher.

Are there any solutions out there? Most larger centres have walk-in clinics (perhaps they should more accurately be called "limp-in" or "crawl-in" clinics) where patients don't have to make appointments and can be seen by a doctor without waiting a long time. The disadvantage, of course, is that the patient doesn't have a choice of which doctor will be doing the examination, and the doctor usually has no medical history of the patient and usually must treat only the most recent complaint instead of the whole person.

Smaller regions, Salt Spring for instance, don't have these type of open clinics. A person who has no family doctor is often forced to turn up at the emergency ward of the local hospital in order to be seen by the doctor on call. Unfortunately, this kind of activity tends to clog up the emergency room and make it more difficult for patients with real trauma symptoms to be treated immediately.

Another possible solution to the family doctor shortage

is the implementation of nurse practitioners to help lighten the caseload on GPs. As the name implies, nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have received special training which allows them to treat and care for many of the cases that are presently seen by medical doctors. There are over 3,000 of them in Canada and every province and territory in Canada has legislation in place for them to practise their skill.

This health crisis has not gone ignored by the powers that be. A partnership between provincial doctors, the health ministry and community services have set up Division of Family Practice (DFP), a body dedicated to "organizing community-based groups of family physicians working together to achieve common health care goals." You can think of this body as a type of support group for medical practitioners to help them cope with the pressures of running an overstocked practice before they burn out.

Under the umbrella of DFP, a more specialized body called "A GP for Me" has now been formed to connect patients looking for a family doctor with GPs who have room for a larger clientele. I have no idea how the whole thing works, but I imagine it must be kind of a glorified on-line dating service like Lavalife or Plenty of Fish except you don't have to tell lies to make your profile look better (or maybe just disclose a few of your 450 complaints so the doctor won't reject you because you're too high maintenance!)

Nobody asked me, but I think I've survived the four stages of grief and am through to the other side. I'm ready to commit again. Luckily my previous doctor was able to smooth my transition to a new physician, but it feels like I've been returned to "Go" on the medical Monopoly board, starting back at the beginning all over again. Now where's that list?!

Spirit of Salt Spring



The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits.

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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 vice-president Lorne Bunyan presents a cheque to Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society vice-president Brad Grindler and other GIMRS members for the purchase of rain-proof jackets. The GIMRS is the charitable organization that supports the local station of Royal Canadian Marine-Search and Rescue, Station 25. The jackets will help to identify RCM-SAR Station 25 members when they carry out boating safety activities in schools and other public places.

Unacceptable spot

In 2011 I thought I should inform myself about the controversy surrounding the Salt Spring Metal Recycling location. I met with the owner, John Quesnel, and called some of the neighbours, hoping there might be a way to accommodate the business at its present location.

I came to the conclusion that it was unreasonable to expect the neighbours to continue to put up with having an unregulated metal recycling business in their residential neighbourhood. Later I found out that our official community plan stipulates that such waste facilities are to be located in areas of "low or very low density residential use." There are many other reasons why the present location is unacceptable.

Maybe the most appalling thing about this controversy is how justice is not being served. There has been so much PR, including a petition filled with false accusations, that people incorrectly assume there are no other businesses on the island that can recycle vehicles and appliances.

Salt Spring's contentious political climate only exacerbated this situation. But people on both "sides" of the incorporation debate have failed to stand up for our bylaws and our community.

This letter is a plea. I understand how people have hoped to find a way to accommodate the business at its present location. I hoped for that myself once. After eight years of speaking up at Trust meetings, of enduring real injustice, the neighbours need wider community support. There are other locations where a metal recycling business could get the zoning it requires. But even if there were no other viable location for the business, it would be unfair to allow it to continue to operate in its present location.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Case undermined

Ms. Kathy Thomas responds with indignation ("Respect rights," Feb. 19 Driftwood) to Charles Kahn's Feb. 5 article on the need for an island-wide trail system. But her letter is crammed with errors.

She seems to tarnish all trail users as miscreants, littering with abandon everywhere they go, disturbing vegetation and wildlife and leaving a worn footprint (whatever that means). Really? I've walked many of the public trails on the island and am amazed at the widespread absence of cigarette butts, beer bottles and other rubbish. My experience is that the vast majority of trail users are extraordinarily respectful of the environment. And frankly, we aren't talking here about hordes of people tramping across the countryside. I walk some of the trails on Channel Ridge regularly, and many other Salt Spring trails occasionally; during an hour's walk, I have rarely encountered more than a couple of others on the same route.

And trail users don't pay taxes? Where does that irrelevant (and obviously false) comment come from?

Ms. Thomas states, "The eco-system here is fragile..." I'm always puzzled when I read vague statements like that. As a biologist I'm actually amazed at how resilient the natural world is. In any case, the whole purpose of providing a defined trail across a tract of land is to minimize disturbance of the land around it.

She feels that the British rights-of-way system "is not comparable to the situation on Salt Spring" because we have many parks and public paths. Is she suggesting that we have many more parks and public paths than "Britain"? If so, she's quite wrong again, as millions of Brits ramble on their thousands of public paths every year.

She refers to liability issues. Mr. Kahn's article states explicitly that here "there is no liability to landowners who allow people to walk on their land [if no fee is charged]." If she has heard otherwise from "a lawyer and an insurance broker," she could not have explained the scenario to them accurately.

Finally, with regard to us living "in a country with property rights": When I read that I wondered, "Did Mr. Kahn really suggest that landowners should be forced to grant public right-of-way through their property?" Of course he didn't. It's all about negotiating agreement freely between each landowner and the relevant public agency. Who could have any objection to that?

Having spent a lifelong career in academia, I enjoy exhilarating discussion and debate with anyone; but to be productive, it is essential that an argument be based on objective criteria and stated in a respectful manner. By setting aside these basic principles, Ms. Thomas undermines her own case.

REUBEN KAUFMAN,
SALT SPRING

CEOs' pay escalates

From the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' February newsletter comes the following: Canada's top highest paid CEOs for 2012 averaged \$7.96 million, which is 171 times the income of the average Canadian working full time for a full year for \$46,634.

The average compensation of Canada's highest paid CEO increased 73 per cent between 1998 and 2012, while the average wage in Canada increased six during the same period. That's a 12-times rate of increase of the rich getting richer than the average Canadian with a full-time job.

CEO compensation packages were reflected in base salaries (average \$1,008,280) of only 12.6 per cent of their total compensation. Other compensation elements received average cash bonuses of 21.8 per cent (\$1,730,000); grants of company shares, 28.1 per cent (\$2,240,000); stock options, 21.3 per cent (\$1,690,000); other compensation 9.4 per cent (\$754,000); and pension value increases of 6.7 per cent (\$533,000), for a total pay packet of \$7,960,000.

Global wealth has soared by 68 per cent over the past 10 years to reach a new all-time high of \$241 trillion, with the United States accounting for nearly three-quarters of the increase, according to analysts at the Credit Suisse Research Institute in Switzerland.

While average global wealth per person peaked at \$51,600 per adult, this amount is spread unevenly as the richest 10 per cent own 68 per cent of total global wealth. The top one per cent own 46 per cent of total global wealth.

For the source of this information, see www.policyalternatives.ca.

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SSIWPA tax needs business plan

BY LUISA MAFFI

George Grams' Feb. 19 Viewpoint — "SSIWPA tax concerns addressed" — is a response to my earlier letter. In the end, Grams states that he trusts he has addressed my concerns.

Not so. In fact, his piece raises more questions than it answers.

In my letter, I pointed to an apparent lack of information about the actual breakdown of the proposed \$110,000 requisition for coordination of the new Water Protection Authority. This breakdown could not be found in the proposed 2014 Trust budget. Instead of openly telling the community what the breakdown is, Grams refers readers to an obscure briefing note from Islands Trust planner Justine Starke to Trust Council's Financial Planning Committee, dated Nov. 13, 2013, posted on the Trust website. That is where one learns that almost the entire amount of the proposed requisition (\$104,000) is to be devoted to the coordinator contract itself, at \$50/hour for an estimated 40 hours/week — which amounts to \$2,000/week for 50 weeks.

This is shocking. No justification is provided in this briefing note for such an exceptionally

INRESPONSE

high estimate of time for this contract, or for the proposed hourly rate. And there seems to be little justification possible, even more so that the budget breakdown specifies that the contract may be split between a part-time administrative coordinator and a part-time higher-level coordinator. In fact, it is hard to imagine that the duties and responsibilities involved (also listed in the same briefing note) would take that kind of time to perform and command that level of compensation.

In his piece, Grams actually acknowledges that the trustees have little idea of what may be involved in this position. In his words, "because this is a new position, we can only make estimates on the likely time that coordination will require." Is this kind of imprecision what we should expect of our local decision makers when asking us to put over \$100,000 into this position?

With such vagueness and lack of transparency, and a like-ly bloated estimate, it is all the

more perplexing that the trustees would expect the community to agree to the proposed requisition. In a previous article, Grams pointed out that this special requisition would amount to adding just \$3.38 in tax for every \$100,000 of residential property value. That is wholly beside the point. What matters is the merit and justification of the requisition itself. Such justification, in my opinion, is totally lacking.

The other key point in my letter was about the qualifications, criteria and process for the choice of the WPA coordinator. I noted that, since the WPA has professed its commitment to restoring health to our watersheds and lake ecosystems, the community should expect the coordinator's qualifications to be pertinent to the specialized field of ecosystem health. Grams doesn't at all address this point. In fact, the duties and responsibilities specified for this position show that even just generic expertise in environmental issues is not considered a must, but only an "asset." Lack of appropriate expertise in ecosystem health in my view would seriously undermine the effectiveness of the coordinator's role.

As for selection criteria and process, Grams only states that the related information is confidential and cannot be publicly shared. This doesn't inspire much confidence in the transparency of the hiring process. Furthermore, the same briefing note shows that a WPA coordinator was hired initially on a short-term, \$8,000 contract at \$35/hour. Are the trustees suggesting that this initial contract would roll over to a full-time position, at a compensation in excess of \$100,000, at a higher hourly rate, without a new, open and widely publicized search?

Finally, Grams makes much of the collaborative approach to watershed governance that SSIWPA supposedly represents, bringing together representatives of local, regional and provincial agencies. However, it seems dubious that there is much real buy-in by these agencies when, collectively, they can't even support the position of a coordinator, instead pushing the whole burden onto Salt Spring taxpayers.

This situation calls urgently for clarity, transparency, accountability and a well thought-out business plan before any further action is taken.

Paul Zolob
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INVESTING

Borrowing to invest: make an informed decision

The Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) produced this bulletin to help investors learn what's involved when using borrowed money for investment purposes.

Borrowing to invest is sometimes used to potentially enhance returns. It may be appropri-

ate for some and not others. As with any investment tool, you must recognize and understand the potential risks and benefits to determine if and when borrowing to invest is appropriate — given your overall financial situation, risk appetite and ability to withstand loss.

Here are some tips to help you make an informed decision:

Consider your overall financial situation

It's important to look at your whole financial picture if you are considering the use of borrowed funds to purchase securities. For instance, borrowing to invest may not be appropriate for an investor whose primary concern is preserving capital. That might include someone who is retired or nearing retirement, or who may need access to their money in the near future.

You may also want to think about other factors such as:

How secure is my income?

What is my cash flow like?

What other debts do I already have and can I afford to pay for them?

Asking yourself these questions could help you decide if borrowing to invest may be appropriate for you:

How does the investment fit into my overall financial plan? You probably have specific reasons for investing. Be certain the investments you make with borrowed funds will get you closer to those objectives.

Do I have money set aside or adequate cash flow to make my loan payments? Keep in mind that you have to repay the amount you borrow and make interest payments even if you are losing money on your investment.

Can I afford to lose what I have put up to back the loan (the collateral)? There is no guarantee the value of your investment will go up. In certain circumstances, the collateral you borrowed against — be it your home, investments or other assets — could end up belonging to your creditors if you're unable to repay the loan or make interest payments.

Ensure you understand all the terms of the arrangement

Borrowing-to-invest strategies might include borrowing to top up your RRSP, borrowing against the equity in your home, and borrowing "on margin" in your brokerage account — an arrangement in which the firm lends the investor cash to buy stocks with the account serving as collateral for the loan.

Whatever the form of the loan, make sure you understand how it works, including the interest rate, how interest is calculated, and any other risks and conditions associated with the arrangement.

There are several types of borrowing-to-invest strategies and some forms are riskier than others — some could lead to losses beyond the amount you invested. Be sure you understand the risks associated with any borrowing-to-invest strategy.

Have a plan for covering your borrowing costs — even if your investment is losing value

Although it's tempting to believe an investment will pay back the loan and even cover interest payments, in reality, there is no sure thing.

For instance, when you buy a stock on margin you borrow part of the purchase price from the brokerage firm. In this arrangement, your investment serves as equity to secure the loan. The understanding is that, should the stock price fall below certain pre-set levels, you may be asked to repay all or part of the loan. You could make this repayment by depositing additional cash into your account, putting up other investments you own, or by selling some of the securities in your account to cover borrowing costs.

If you can't meet these requirements,

the brokerage firm may sell all or part of your stock holdings — which eliminates or reduces your chance to regain losses should the stock price rise again. Since you still have to pay back the loan and make interest payments, you could end up losing more money than you invested.

Similarly, a line of credit or loan that's secured by the equity in your house puts your collateral, i.e., your home, at risk if you can't make loan payments.

Be aware of the potential tax implications

The tax rules that apply to an investment loan could depend on the purpose of that loan. For example, financial institutions commonly offer loans designed to help investors to "top up" their RRSP contributions. You should be aware that interest payments on RRSP loans are not generally deductible for tax purposes.

Recognize all the risks, especially those explained to you by your financial advisor

IIROC requires the firms and representatives we regulate to meet strict supervisory and suitability obligations when they recommend, or become aware that their clients are using borrowing-to-invest strategies. Requirements include ensuring clients are fully aware of the risks, including three key considerations:

- using money borrowed from others to purchase investments involves greater risk than a purchase using your own money;
- you have a continuing obligation to repay principal and interest even if the value of the investment goes down;
- use of a borrowing strategy could result in far greater losses than an investment strategy that does not involve the use of borrowed money.

HAS YOUR ADVISOR:

- explained fully the risks of borrowing to invest?
- asked about your whole financial situation, including any investment or other loans outside of your account with the firm?

Take a holistic approach, including informing your advisor about any loans you have

As an investor, you also have obligations. If you are using, or intend to invest with borrowed funds, it's crucial to let your financial advisor know about it. Whether a bank loan, a line of credit or another type of third-party investment loan, borrowing can affect your overall financial circumstances and your ability to achieve your financial goals.

HAVE YOU:

- discussed with your financial advisor your short- and long-term goals for your money?
- informed your financial advisor about any debts, including money you've borrowed for investment or any other purposes?

IIROC is the national self-regulatory organization that oversees all investment dealers and trading activity on debt and equity marketplaces in Canada. There are more than 28,000 individuals and approximately 200 firms under IIROC regulation across the country.

Be an informed investor!

For helpful tips, useful tools and more important information, visit the IIROC Investor Resource Centre at www.iiroc.ca

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INCOME TAX RETURNS

Getting things organized for your business tax filer

Don't dump shoebox of papers on accountants

Small Business Canada has compiled a checklist of items a tax accountant or other income-tax preparer will need in order to complete a tax file for a business.

- Revenue and business expenses for the year. (The Canada Revenue Agency defines business expenses as "certain costs that are reasonable for a particular type of business, and that are incurred for the purposes of earning income. Business expenses can be deducted for tax purposes. Personal, living, or other expenses not related to the business cannot be deducted for tax purposes.")

- Business use of auto — Auto operating expenses and vehicle driving log with business kilometres driven

- Asset additions
- Business use-of-home details
- Last year's Notice of Assessment
- Amounts paid by instalments
- Last year's income tax return if you're a new client

Other records your tax accountant will need will depend on whether you're asking him or her to prepare a T2 (corporate) or T1 (personal) income tax return. If the latter, your tax accountant will need all the relevant information slips and tax-related documents. Here are some of the most common:

- T4 slips (if you have employment as well as business income)
- T4A commissions & self-employed
- T5013 Partnership Income
- T3 Income from Trusts
- T5 Investment Income
- RRSP contribution slips
- Charitable donations
- Medical and dental receipts
- Child care information

Other tips

Summarize and tally records wherever possible. Cheques, invoices and business expenses should all be categorized and totalled. Sort all your information slips by type. If you have several businesses, you will have to have separate revenue and business expenses figures

for each business, as business income has to be listed by individual business on the T1 form.

Be as organized as you possibly can. For example, clip groups of receipts together by type and put a post-it-note stating what the category is on the top. The less your

accountant has to figure out, the less time she or he will be spending on your file.

Remember, having a tax professional prepare your income tax return isn't costing you as much as you think when you see the bill — it's a legitimate business expense.

CURRENCY

Dollar needs consideration when it comes to investing

Dropping loonie could have impact

BY KIM INGLIS
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

With the Canadian dollar at four-year lows, attention has turned to the economy and the impact of the loonie's devaluation on investors. Many economists are forecasting that the Canadian dollar will fall below the 89-cent (U.S.) level in 2014.

National Bank analysts believe that the large current account deficit, and hence the dependency on capital inflows, leaves the loonie vulnerable to further declines. However, they view this development as a net positive for the economy and for S&P/TSX earnings.

Canaccord Genuity North American portfolio strategist and quantitative analyst Martin Roberge observes that ever since the loonie rose above 90 cents in 2009, Canada has produced a chronic trade deficit. Roberge concludes that the weaker dollar is likely to prevail because a number of key drivers remain bearish, such as stronger U.S. retail sales, lagging commodity prices, and foreign outflows of Canadian bonds.

Such movements will impact investors with exposure to foreign currency. Given the outperformance of the American markets over the last

few years, many investors have large holdings in U.S. investments. For those with unhedged investments, a falling loonie is a good thing because it enhances returns on the U.S. holdings. Conversely, investors holding hedged positions aren't necessarily in a difficult spot. They may miss the added gains, but are protected should the loonie turn around.

There are many ways to invest in the falling loonie, with plenty of unhedged exchange-traded funds and mutual funds on the market. Investors can also look for individual companies that benefit from a weaker dollar. An example would be a company whose costs are mostly in Canadian dollars, but with the majority of its sales in U.S. dollars. Companies who will be relatively unaffected are those with both costs and sales primarily in U.S. dollars or match to the local currency. Most susceptible are companies with costs in U.S. dollars but revenues in Canadian currency.

Some data indicate that trying to benefit from currency movements may not be worth the effort. RBC found that over periods of 15 years or longer, the impact of exchanges between the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar on investment returns gets closer and closer to zero.

Hedging can also lead to significant additional costs and act as a drag on total return over the long term. While less of a concern when hedging U.S. dollars, it becomes an issue when dealing with emerging markets and some of the more difficult markets to hedge.

It can be argued that hedging is unnecessary in a properly diversified global portfolio. Through diversification, a portfolio comprised of multiple different currencies will be subject to less foreign exchange risk. Ultimately the diversification acts as a natural hedge because a rise in one currency tends to cancel out another and vice versa.

Investors who wish to be cautious with their hedging could apply a hedging strategy to some of the portfolio and leave the balance unhedged. This will furnish some protection in the event that the dollar rises, while also providing some upside should the loonie continue to weaken.

Kim Inglis, CIM, PFP, FCSI, AIFP is an Investment Advisor & Portfolio Manager with Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management, a division of Canaccord Genuity Corp., Member - Canadian Investor Protection Fund. www.reynoldsinglis.ca. The views in this column are solely those of the author.

Markus Wenzel wishes to announce that his financial planning practice has added a downtown office to help service his clients:

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Housing ends homelessness

Jennifer Blyth
Black Press

Housing is a fundamental human need, yet here in Victoria, the high cost of living, often paired with health or social factors, can put this basic necessity out of reach for many.

For the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, that's simply not acceptable.

The Coalition's mission is to end homelessness by 2018, so that all people facing homelessness in Greater Victoria will have access to safe, affordable, appropriate, permanent housing, with support if they require it.

"We understand that people will continue to experience homelessness in our community due to economic, health or other reasons outside of their control," says Andrew Wynn-Williams, executive director of the Coalition. "Our goal is to prevent homelessness where we can and shorten the time people experience it."

A partnership of all levels of government, service providers, business members, the faith community, post-secondary institutions and private citizens dedicated to ending homelessness in Greater Victoria, the key to the Coalition's success will be its ability to bring partners and organizations together to build affordable housing, supportive housing and create additional rental supplements.

How urgent is the need?

The Housing and Homelessness in Greater Victoria report identified some of the myriad needs facing the Capital Region. Beyond the lack of available housing for those with low incomes, the report also identified a shortage of supportive housing for those with complex needs.

In one year, 1,617 unique individuals accessed Greater Victoria's emergency shelters, yet even this does not reflect all of those in need. During the Coalition's February 'point in time' count exploring how many people sought, on that one night, temporary accommodations such as emergency shelters, transitional houses, budget motels and hotels, the number totalled 1,170. Further, 1,545 applicant households in Greater Victoria currently



More supported housing like Pacifica Housing's Camas Village, shown here at the 2011 opening with Supported Housing Coordinator Angela McNulty-Buell, would help address homelessness in Greater Victoria.

sit on the Housing Registry, a list of those in need of subsidized housing.

While it's clear Greater Victoria's significant housing shortage for those with lower incomes is a primary driver of homelessness in the region, additional factors exacerbating the situation include poverty, domestic violence, challenges facing on- and off-reserve Aboriginal people, untreated mental illness and addiction.

How do we address the challenge?

While it's difficult to state exactly how many housing units are required to address the need, the Coalition offers a few educated estimates based on the evidence.

Research shows at least 13 per cent of those 1,617 shelter users would require supportive housing and since not everyone in need of supportive housing visits a shelter, at the bare minimum, 250 supportive housing units are needed. If 250

is minimum, other data indicates the need could be as high as 719 units.

For affordable housing, the 'point in time' count and the Housing Registry waitlist, paired with the unknown number of people living in vehicles, couch surfing, sleeping outdoors and experiencing other types of homelessness, suggest at least 1,500 units are needed.

However, a plan to increase housing must be considered in the context of a broader strategy addressing the many other underlying causes of homelessness.

"Our success is evident on the streets of Victoria," says Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin, Coalition Co-Chair. "Since the Coalition began in 2008, we have built 706 units of supportive and affordable housing and provided rental assistance with supports to more than 90 of our hardest-to-house citizens. We have accomplished a lot, but ending homelessness in our community will take more work. Now is the time to renew our commitment."

STREET SURVIVAL GUIDE

If you're living on the street and hungry, where can you go for a meal or a hot cup of coffee? Where can you access a hot shower, do your laundry or find employment support?

All that information and more is found in the Street Survival Guide, providing vital information about resources and services available in Victoria to survive, and move on from, homelessness.

A one-stop resource for those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in Victoria, the guide was created by a group of dedicated individuals with street-life experience and contains more than 80 resources, including housing, food, laundry, harm reduction services and more.

The pocket-sized, waterproof guide is available at many service agencies across the region and has proven extremely popular; it's currently being updated with the hope of having more copies on the street in March.

"There was a great need, absolutely," says Hilary Marks, a member of the group that worked with the Coalition to create the guide.

The Victoria project is unique in that it was the local homeless community that recognized the need to have the information in one place, in a compact, durable format, and it was homeless individuals themselves who did much of the research and information-gathering, with the help of the Coalition, Marks says.

"It was something that was needed and the homeless community that got together and said, 'Let's do it.' For people who think homeless people are lazy and not smart, this proves them wrong."

For more information or to view the guide, visit www.victoriahomelessness.ca/streetsurvivalguide



How can you help?

For more information about homelessness in Greater Victoria, visit victoriahomelessness.ca. To support the Coalition's members, visit victoriahomelessness.ca/members

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ART REVIEW

Large-format photographs reveal nature's finer details

Doug Wahlsten shows photos at Fernwood Road Cafe

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A photographic exhibition currently showing at Fernwood Road Cafe highlights aspects of the natural world the naked eye would usually miss, revealed through a combination of large-scale printing and the keen observation of artist Doug Wahlsten.

Having moved to the island in 2012 after a career in research science, Wahlsten has a certain clinical precision to his photography. Recently this has come to include working out the exact formula for enlarging digital photographs to their maximize size while still achieving crystal-sharp resolution. At the same time, he shows a whimsical delight in the natural world that goes beyond merely scientific observation.

At the Beach, Wahlsten's new series of photos, follows up on his joint show with painter Heidi Van Impe at the Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art last fall — work that was inspired by their walks together on Fernwood Beach. Fernwood also forms the subject matter of many



Fernwood Beach crab photographed by Doug Wahlsten.

of the new photos, with additional material taken at Wickaninnish Beach near Tofino.

Wahlsten has worked on enlarging photos for detail ever since he captured an amazing shot of a cougar at a nature reserve. Viewing it on the computer screen, he learned that each hair of the animal's pelt measured at a single pixel across. To print the photo large enough to show each hair in detail (for ideal gallery viewing), he determined the print should be 39 inches wide and include 5,000 pixels.

Another example is Bubbles at Sunset, taken at Wickaninnish. Viewed at a distance, the raft of tidal foam makes a lovely composition, with swirls of movement and ripples of bright and shadowed blue tones, depending on where the light hits. Up close, the viewer becomes aware that the setting sun is reflected as a miniscule orange orb on the curve of every single bubble in the lighted area.

Wahlsten pointed out the colour was not touched up, with the blue and orange tones accurately depicting the sky on that December day. One of the only far-reaching views in the show, entitled What the Bubbles Were Seeing: Seven Waves Orange Sky, provides the proof in a flip side of the intensive shot.

"I didn't want to create those effects," Wahlsten said. "The whole point of going out and taking those pictures was to capture the beauty in nature I see."

Red-faced Crab is at first glance a close-up view of the Dungeness species, enlarged to become a 36-inch specimen. The microscope-type effect allows the viewer to spend time on aspects that might normally be glossed over, like the ridges and scratches on the crab's broad shell, the grey algae and barnacles growing there and the line of poetry in braille along the shell's top ridge. In addition to the main feature, the enlarge-

ment also provides a rich tapestry in the seaweed-covered beach floor, in which points of light become tiny sunbursts and form constellations in a deep green sky.

In this way, the close view transports the viewer to the deeper understanding of the scientific observer, and then moves past it into loving respect for nature's mysteries.

This reverence is underlined in Wahlsten's intentionally ironic write-up for Swirl in Time.

"How can we explain the graceful curves and gradations of colour?" he asks of the weathered driftwood tree. "Add up everything we know about nature, and the answer is not just improbable but impossible. It must have come from another world."

The world's finer details can be viewed through Wahlsten's eye at the Fernwood Road Cafe through March 12.

FUNDRAISER

Scrabble returns

African families benefit

BY DIANE LUGSDIN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Salt Spring Grand(m) others to Grandmothers group is sponsoring their sixth annual Scrabble Fundraiser in March to help turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Recreational and competitive Scrabble players are invited to participate in a weeklong series of games. The event begins on Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5 at the Salt Spring Inn at 2 p.m. and ends at the Clubhouse Bar & Grill (Salt Spring Golf Course) with final games, a silent auction and awards on Saturday, March 8 at 6 p.m.

There are several ways to play and donate — get pledges, pay to play, or if you can't get out to a game, the Grandmothers suggest inviting some friends in for a private

event. Charitable tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more.

Pledge sheets are available at the Island Savings display.

A great success last year, over \$9,000 was raised to support African grandmothers who have buried their own children and are courageously raising orphaned grandchildren. In 15 sub-Saharan countries, over 300 projects funded by the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign provides funds for food, school fees and uniforms, income generating projects, health clinics and counselling in areas devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Scrabble Fundraiser Games Schedule 2014

Tuesday, March 4: Salt Spring Inn — 2 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5: Salt Spring Inn — 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 8: Clubhouse Bar & Grill — 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information, call 250-931-6830.

The photos he selected for At the Beach are those that benefit most from this type of enlargement because of the inherent details, as he explained at the show's opening reception. For example, an enlarged view of a grainy driftwood log called Swirl in Time reveals the many layers that texture the wood, including numerous holes made by burrowing beetle larvae that appear tiny even in the large format.

"You'd miss that if you didn't print it large — it's really visually rich," Wahlsten said.

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WORLD MUSIC

Matuto returns to thrill crowd

Brazilian beats and southern roots meet

Back by popular demand, Matuto returns to Salt Spring Island after a string of sold-out shows across the U.S. and Canada.

The talented Brazilian bluegrass sextet wowed crowds at their folk club appearance last year, so organizers encourage fans to pick up tickets soon for the March 3 show at Fulford Hall.

According to a press release, New York City-based Matuto is emerging as one of the world's hottest international touring acts. Matuto has been hailed as "seduc-

tively cross cultural" by the Chicago Tribune, and praised by the Sun Times as "the height of world music sophistication." Rolling drums and quicksilver accordion licks, earthy vibes and hot jams mingle to create Matuto's Appalachia-gone-Afro-Brazilian sound. On stage, the instruments swirl together the Latin syncopations of Brazilian music and the folk traditions of the American south.

Band founder and guitar player Clay Ross has been an instructor and performer at Salt Spring's annual Fiddleworks camp, teaching percussion and guitar. Ross is excited to return to Salt

Spring with a full band for a full-tilt boogie as part of a tour that will see Matuto cross North America.

Opening for the band are Salt Spring's own Wesley Hardisty and Billie Woods. Two of Salt Spring's most extraordinary musicians have teamed up to explore the fusion of Brazilian-inspired guitar combined with award-winning contemporary fiddle creations.

Doors are at 7 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. Sips, snacks, sweets and treats will be served all night long.

Advance tickets are at Salt Spring Books.

This all-ages show is a benefit for Save the Salish Sea.

ACTIVISM

One billion rising on March 8

Islanders join global justice campaign

Salt Spring Islanders will hit the streets and join activists around the world with the One Billion Rising campaign on Saturday, March 8.

McPhillips Avenue, by TJ Beans, will be closed from 12 noon to 1 p.m. for the event, which will see people speak and dance for an end to violence against women on International Women's Day.

According to local event organizer Julianna Slomka, "the campaign will build upon the energy and momentum that was created on Feb. 14, 2013 when one billion activists in 207 countries and territories came together to rise, strike and dance in the biggest mass action in human history to demand an end to violence against women and girls.

"This year, we will focus on the issue of justice for all survivors of gender violence, and ending the rampant impunity that prevails globally. One Billion Rising is a call to women, men and youth around the world to rise up for justice where women and girls deserve to feel safe but too often are not."

Free classes to learn the choreographed dance called Break the Chain are being held Tuesdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at North End Fitness.

People attending the March 8 event do not need to know the dance moves, however.

"This is not a performance. It is a dance revolution to end violence," said Slomka.

Posters and signs can also be made for the day.

People are asked to not park on McPhillips Avenue that morning until after the event is over.

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Fitness Expert

Muscle Cramping

A muscle cramp occurs when your muscle tightens & therefore shortens causing sudden & severe pain.

The exact cause is still unknown, but some theories are: -Muscle fatigue -Inadequate stretching -Low blood sugar levels -Dehydration -Depletion of electrolytes, salts and minerals i.e. potassium, magnesium and calcium -Working out in heat

Treating Muscle Cramps: Cramps usually go away on their own. **Some tips to help help the healing process:**

- Stop the activity -Gently stretch and massage the muscle cramp
- Stretch after exercise -If you sweat a lot, consider a sport drink that will replace lost sodium and electrolytes -Eat more bananas, peaches, cheddar cheese, dried apricots, chocolates, prunes, seafood, cod liver, etc. To keep your potassium, magnesium and calcium concentration in your blood. -Cramps can also occur if you have been sitting to long in one place without moving a muscle, or even when you're just lying in bed. These cramps are not related to activity, but can be treated the same way.

If cramping happens often and becomes severe there could be other factors. Talk to a nutritionist about your diet a pharmacist to go over medications that you are taken to check compatibility, or visit your Doctor for a check up.



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No need to delay listing your house if you have a few things "to do". Time is needed to create marketing brochures while you start your "Honey Dew List". When one party sees your home, they are not the entire market. There are fewer houses for sale "sooner" (hence *less competition*), since supply expands greatly in springtime.

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While there will always be breakdowns that can't be anticipated, reading your Owner's Manual and sticking to the recommended maintenance schedule supplied by your vehicle's manufacturer should give you worry-free driving.

Conditions you operate your vehicle in can have a dramatic effect on how often it needs service, possibly more often than recommended in your manual. Talk to your service provider and make sure you are getting your vehicle in often enough to avoid costly and time consuming breakdown repairs.

If at any time you feel something doesn't feel quite right or has changed, get it attended to as soon as possible.

Remember, maintenance is cheaper than breakdown repairs.

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MUSIC & MUNCH

Curds and a countertenor served at M&M

Vocalist Larry Woods promises delicious recital

The next lunch-time program presented as part of the Music and Munch series serves up the delicious and dulcet tones of local goat cheese maker and vocalist Larry Woods.

Entitled Curds and a Countertenor, this a cappella menu will feature the songs of John Dowland, George Frideric Handel and George Formby, whose work can collectively be used to demonstrate the nature, range, flexibil-

ity and playfulness of the baritone and countertenor voices.

Having earned a Performer's Certificate for the countertenor voice from Trinity College London in 2002, Woods may be best remembered by island audiences for his role as Armand in last September's wildly successful Pride week production of Mama Priscilla's Cagey Revue.

During this concert, the Iraqi-Andalusian connoisseur Ziryab will step out of the kitchen to inspire Dowland's medieval chart-topper, Flow My Tears, the Englishman's subsequently more familiar hits, Come Again, Say Love, and Fine Knacks for Ladies,

and his more obscure, yet other worldly, What Poor Astronomers Are They. So while this program will not be about the people of northern Iraq, interesting culinary curiosities from Middle Eastern and other cultures will be pursued along the "whey," as will several cheese-making secrets.

Aware of the challenge of getting these notes and lyrics past your eyes and ears, Woods — also known to radio listeners as The Classical Cheese Maker — will hope the next two courses are not too hot to handle as he turns first to George Frideric's cool arias, Where'er You Walk, O Sleep and Ombra Mai Fu. Completing the

package will be Formby's When I'm Cleaning Windows and Leaning on a Lampost, chosen to highlight his artisanal appeal and factory feel.

Joining Dr. Cheese on the bill to reprise two old-time duets first heard during the recent Community Theatre production of Jenny's House of Joy will be spicy Salt Spring siren Hannah Brown.

This delightful cheesy concoction will be presented for islanders' enjoyment at Music and Munch, All Saints By-the-Sea church, on Wednesday, March 5 beginning at 12:10 p.m. followed by the usual delicious light lunch (optional) for \$5.50.



February 28 - March 2
Pick up your
2014 Film Festival Guide
at
Salt Spring Mercantile,
Salt Spring Books
and the Library

FILM FESTIVAL

Advice for 2014 film festival

Some changes in store amid great films at GISS

BY PATRICIA LOCKIE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The 15th annual documentary film festival starts in two days at GISS. The Gala Night presentation of Finding Vivian Maier on Friday evening is sure to appeal to anyone who loves a good story with an element of mystery and is prepared to be wowed by some of the best street photography of the 20th century.

That's a tough act to follow, and the films screening throughout the weekend are up to the challenge. They will entertain, anger, provoke debate, lighten the heart, perhaps recharge a commitment to do something for a cause or a community in need. What filmgoers take away from their festival experience is, of course, personal. Sometimes it's extraordinary.

The secret to a rewarding festival visit lies in the approach. The festival is not just about seeing a few movies. It's an event, one which asks patrons to surrender to the atmosphere, inviting them to engage with different layers of festival activity. That could mean sampling delicious food, checking out the tables at the Social Justice Bazaar where a diverse mix of community groups will be happy to engage in discussion, and maybe it means hooking up with friends and neighbours to share a unique island experience.

On the food front, coordinator, Melissa Searcy says the big news is the exciting project piloted by chef Mark Kilner and Milly Sinclair. The school's award-winning greenhouse, vegetable garden, plus the living lettuce wall actually inside the cafeteria, will be producing food items for the festival.

Kilner will be serving up the smoked meat, duck and salmon that are among his trademark dishes. There will also be local organic grass-fed beef, delicious baking, buns and pitas made by students, as well as hearty soups, pastas and the famous GISS salad bar. Add to all of that the irresistible gluten-free treats from Laughing Daughters and bracing coffees from Ometepe and you have some wonderful eating choices.

This year, the festival might feel different. It certainly has a different look, from the spiffy program guide, the user-friendly, interactive website changes, the imaginative decor, and, yes, the biggest change of all: How people get into the festival. No more admission by donation (although donations will be still gratefully received).

Festival goers must now either buy a weekend pass, which includes the Gala Night, for \$35, or a day pass for \$15. Gala Night passes cost only \$10. All passes are available at the door. As well, the weekend passes may be purchased in advance from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre.



There are also a number of subsidized passes available at the door on request. These have been made possible by a generous donation from the Salt Spring Royal Canadian Legion.

Now, imagine this not improbable scenario: You bought a pass in advance arrive at the festival entrance, a program under one arm, primed to watch films until your eyes bulge. Except the line isn't moving as quickly as you'd like. So, what's the hold-up? Now you're worried about being in time for that first screening, the frustration is building and you're just about ready to start complaining. One word: PATIENCE. Here's a "remember list" to help you max out on the festival experience without stress:

- Take a breath. There may be lineups, so plan ahead and allow some extra time. The volunteers at the door will move things along as quickly as possible. Extra volunteers will be on duty this year at the box office and hospitality tables. They are happy to answer any questions, but please don't vent at them. Inside, your pass will be exchanged for a wristband. You will need to show this to get into the screening rooms.
- If you've purchased a weekend pass, don't forget to bring your wristband with you each time you visit the festival.
- There is no reserve seating and no standing is permitted in the screening rooms in accordance with fire safety regulations. So, try to allow extra time for a film you really really want to see.
- Check your guide and make a note of which films are being repeated, just in case you don't get in to your top preference. You may get a second chance.
- Remember to eat before or after seeing a film. No food will be allowed in the screening rooms.
- Bring your own water bottle. There are water fountains for refills.
- Quiet in the hallways is appreciated so as not to disturb other film viewers. Please be respectful of hall monitors if they ask you to shush.

Finally, enjoy and savour all that this magical community event can offer. The festival runs Feb. 28 to March 2. Program guides are available at Salt Spring Books, the library, Salt Spring Mercantile and at the door.

	A Taste of India Saturday 5-9pm
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NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for trustee (2 positions) will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. Tuesday March 11th, 2014
and 4:00 P.M. Friday March 21st, 2014**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Thomas Moore at (250) 472 0059.

The two (2) Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 28th, 2014 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2017.

The Election to be held on Saturday, **April 26th, 2014** at the **Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.**. An Advance Voting opportunity will be held at the Lions Club Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island on Wednesday, **April 23rd, 2014** between the hours of **9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.**. Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250)472 0059.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Nominees must meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1.to 4. above and nominators of a person for trustee must also meet the conditions of paragraphs numbered 1. to 4. above.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 24th day of February 2014

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

what's on this week



Wed. Feb 26 **Thurs.** Feb 27 **Fri.** Feb 28 **Fri.** Feb 28 **Sun.** Mar 2 **Mon.** Mar 3 **Wed.** Mar 5

ACTIVITIES
Alzheimer's Education. Understanding Dementia with speaker Meriel Randerson at Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 1 p.m.
Poker Night. The Local. Sign-up at 6:30 p.m.
SongJam. Informal community singing of popular songs of the last 6 decades, led by Wendy Milton. Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Film Screening: Northern Grease. Part of The Beyond Boarding's Winter 2014 Film Tour. Documentary follows snowboarders as they travel in a vegetable oil-fuelled bus on a mission to understand Canadian resource extraction projects. With Salt Spring's Jasper Snow Rosen. The Fritz Movie Theatre. 7 p.m.
Book Launch: Shirley Graham. Local poet will read from her new book called Book of Blue. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.
Open Mic Night. Hosted by Johnny Manouvers & Random Johnson. All styles of music welcomed. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Fulford Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting. Fulford Hall, seniors annex. 10 a.m.
SSI Watershed Protection Authority Monthly Meeting. Portlock Park portable. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Story Time at the Library. For families with elementary school-aged children. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.
Beddis Water Service Commission. Budget meeting. Portlock Park portable. 1 p.m.
Liquefied Fracked Gas Townhall. Eoin Madden of the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee, Dana Hibbard of Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition and Salt Spring's Jasper Snow Rosen lead a lively discussion called LNG: B.C.'s Tar Sands? All Saints By-the-Sea. 2 p.m.
The Body - Health & Sickness. Newly published author and channeller Tina Louise Spalding offers a 2-hour talk and channelling experience. Salt Spring Public Library. 5 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
15th Annual Salt Spring Film Festival. Gala Night, with a special presentation of Finding Vivian Maier. Gulf Islands Secondary School. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Sat. Mar 1
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
March of Fools. StageCoach Theatre School fundraiser - the annual costume ball featuring Sweetwater Revolver and Ruwazano Marimba Band, with pizza sales and prizes. Salt Spring Elementary gymnasium. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Met Opera - Prince Igor. Borodin's defining Russian epic, with bass-baritone Ildar Abdrazakov and Gianandrea Noseda conducting. ArtSpring. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

15th Annual Salt Spring Film Festival. Documentary films, plus social justice bazaar. Gulf Islands Secondary School. Doors open at 9 a.m.; first films at 10 a.m.
Break The Chain - Free Rehearsals. Practice of dance moves for March 8 One Billion Rising event. North End Fitness. 1 to 1:30 p.m.
Mad Hatter Dance. Fundraiser for Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Society. Tunes spun by David Jaquest. Fulford Hall. 8 p.m. to midnight.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Metamorphosis by Figura Theatre. Icelandic one-man theatre company combines his skills as puppeteer, classical musician, illustrator, woodworker and martial artist. ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
15th Annual Salt Spring Film Festival. Documentary films, plus social justice bazaar. Gulf Islands Secondary School. Doors open at 9 a.m.; first films at 10 a.m.
Foosball Tourney. The Local. 1 p.m.
Rollerblading. For young and old. Fulford Hall. 2 to 4 p.m.
Spirit Point Dragons AGM and Potluck. Salt Spring's medal-winning dragonboat team. New members welcome. 128 Old Divide Road. 3 p.m.

Mon. Mar 3
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Matuto. Brazilian beats and southern roots, back by popular demand. A benefit for the Save the Salish Sea group. Fulford Hall. Doors at 7 p.m., music at 7:30.

ACTIVITIES
MLA Gary Holman's Office Hours. First Monday of every month. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
ToddlerTime. For parents and children under four. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m.

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

Tues. Mar 4
ACTIVITIES
Scrabble Fundraiser. Drop by and play in Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers annual fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m.
Break The Chain - Free Rehearsals. See Saturday listing, except time is 7 to 7:30 p.m. at North End Fitness.
Salt Spring Vipassana Meditation. Weekly meditation and meditation teachings with Heather Martin. The Gatehouse. 7 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Curds and a Countertenor. Music and Munch recital by vocalist and goat cheese maker Larry Woods, featuring the songs of John Dowland, George Frideric Handel and George Formby. All Saints By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.
GISS Improv. Final show of the year. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/
 view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings
 we are YOUR go-to-place for everything happening on Salt Spring

Thurs. Feb 27
ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Monthly public meeting at Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m., with town hall portion beginning at 12 noon.
Meditation and Chakra Toning. Meditation with one of The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success, followed by a session of chakra toning with chakra chimes and music. Still Point Yoga Studio. 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Feb 28
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Edwin Coppard. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Soul Shakedown. With free appetizers at 5 p.m. The Local. 6 p.m.
Compassion Gorilla. Live worldbeat, Latin, folk, dance music. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

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CINEMA

- American Hustle** — Held over! Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Christian Bale, and Amy Adams. Funny and impeccably cast, about one of the most stunning scandals to rock our nation. A con man, along with his partner, is forced to work for a wild FBI agent. The con man's unpredictable wife could be the one to pull the thread that brings it all crashing down.
- Northern Grease** — This film follows three snowboarders Tamo Campos, John Muirhead and Jasper Snow Rosen as they travel in a vegetable oil-fuelled bus on a six-month journey through northern Alberta and British Columbia communities, areas which are increasingly at risk with each resource extraction project. They spend time with the people who, using alternative and renewable energy sources, lead lifestyles that present solutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Photography Club** members have an exhibit in the lobby of ArtSpring through February. Beginning in March, Salt Spring Painters Guild members show an exhibit called Explorations.
- Photographer **Doug Wahlen** shares magnified views of the local tidal area in At the Beach, showing at the Fernwood Road Cafe until March 12.

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**.

www.driftwoodgimedi.com/calendar

Salt Spring Film Festival
 Weekend of Documentary Films at GISS
 Friday Evening, Feb. 28th
 Saturday, Mar. 1st & Sunday, Mar. 2nd - All Day
www.saltspringfilmfestival.com

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Angora goats' character and fleece worthy of praise



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Angora goat raiser June Simmons cuddles up to a three-day-old kid, left. Above, Bear the angora buck peers through the fence of his separate enclosure at Simmons' north end property.

Value-added products extend marketing potentials

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A coveted natural product that was restricted to the Ottoman Empire for centuries can now be found on small holdings in Canada, where hobby farmers and fibre enthusiasts have discovered the joys of raising angora goats.

The goat, whose name comes from the city of Ankara, is the sole animal to produce silky and durable mohair. Europeans had desired the breed for its remarkable capacity ever since they learned about it in the 16th century, but less than 200 years ago they were still limited to purchasing finished products such as carpets and clothing from Turkey, where the Sultan had banned the export of angora goats and their fleeces.

Even today, mohair producers seem to take up only a small fraction of farm animals bred in North America. But as Salt Spring hobby farmer June Simmons can attest, there are many positive aspects to raising these small, friendly herbivores.

"They're just a joy. I love them," she said, looking at one of two new kids born during the past week. With their pure white coats and delightful capering, the baby kids could double for Mary's little lamb — a happy addition to any yard or school house. Even as adults they retain a friendly disposition and look quite striking with their twisted horns and ringlets.

Simmons acquired her first set of angora goats from a breeder in Alberta five years ago, getting three does and one buck. She has been increasing the herd since then and now has 11 animals. Her main experience with farm animals previously was raising poultry, but the family inherited an old angora goat with some pygmy goats they got for their hillside farm on Walker's Hook Road.

"I just thought he was really, really cool," Simmons said of that first angora. "After he died I decided to do it."

In addition to clothing, Mohair has been desired for upholstery and other uses "where strength, beauty and durability" are required. The fibre is similar to wool in its chemical composition and its size, but is actually a hair. Because of this it is elastic and stronger than wool, as well as being less likely to shrink.

The angora goat's curly fleece is usually shorn twice a year, with an average yield of

two and a quarter kilograms (five pounds). Simmons gets double that from her large buck named Bear, although the fibres get rougher as the animals age. Males that haven't been castrated also produce rougher fleeces, so keeping younger animals who don't have other duties is recommended.

Simmons has had to deal with two early births this season so far. In one case the kid was born during the middle of the night and didn't catch on to nursing. Simmons received emergency help from Sally Dailly of North End Farm, who eventually got him going using a feeding tube.

Simmons protects her delicate newcomers with tarped enclosures and heat lamps until they are established enough to join the larger pasture area. But she said her stock is probably harder than some, having come from Alberta where kids are safely born in -20 degree weather.

Challenges to angora goat breeding include susceptibility to internal and external parasites. Having enough pasture area to rotate animals into clean areas is necessary to prevent worm infestations.

"We have a bad climate for that because things don't freeze, things don't die off like they do in a lot of climates," Simmons said.

Lice and mites can also be a problem.

Other challenges include ensuring the goats are getting adequate nutrition. They are natural browsers and will take down a thicket of blackberry canes in a short time. Simmons also feeds them local hay and supplementary grain. But as she notes, "You don't realize until they're sheared how thin they can be."

Their digestion is also more delicate than other goat breeds, such as the pygmy goats Simmons describes as "pretty-much bullet proof."

She also lost one doe who ate a poisonous plant that trailed over the fence from a neighbouring yard. Her advice for any potential angora goat farmers out there is to get good fences.

"They go under, they go over. They will test them," she said.

Simmons' experience with angoras has prompted her to enter the fibre market, which is a relatively new pastime. In 2013 she started taking her fleeces to the Gulf Islands Spinning Mill for carding.

She sells both pure white and died scans at the Saturday Market along with Salt Spring Island Artisan Vinegar, a business she operates with Bree Eagle of Bright Farm. With enough production, she could also send sup-

plies to retail outlets like Stitches and Elderberry Yarns, both of which feature local materials. Plans for a home studio to sell mohair products and vinegars are also in the works.

Simmons said she's surprised there isn't even more of a demand for locally produced natural

fibres, but seeing people's reactions to her product has been rewarding.

"It's really fun selling mohair at the market. A lot of little girls buy it for doll hair. They're really excited to see it and find it, and it's just really cool to see."



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people&community

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

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



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 2-4 pm, Salt Spring Inn
 Sat, Mar. 8th - 6 - 10 pm
 (with silent auction)
SS Golf Clubhouse Bar and Grill
 Proceeds to Stephen Lewis Foundation



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

FOR A GOOD CAUSE: From left, Anne Zeller makes a bid on a silent auction item, while others peruse their choices at an event held Saturday at Meaden Hall to raise funds to improve the courtyard garden pathways for Greenwoods Eldercare Facility residents.

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COMMUNITY GROWTH

Tools for change assembled at IWD events

Changemaker awards, Sparkfest and workshops run March 7-8

In the spirit of the United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2014, SWOVA and IWAV have teamed up to present a weekend of exciting workshops and two inspirational evening events, with the generous support of the Harbour House Hotel.

Festivities kick off the evening of Friday, March 7 with Sparkfest, an evening of entertainment showcasing female performers that brings the community together to celebrate youth and young female mentors.

Saturday, March 8 will feature Tools for Change: Creating the Change You Want, a full day of inspiring and energizing workshops and skill-training sessions.

On Saturday evening, Green Party of Canada leader and local MP Elizabeth May will host an evening of inspiration and celebration.

"It will be an evening of great entertainment, fabulous food and awesome connections showcasing the southern Gulf Islands' movers and shakers," explains Andria Scanlan, coordinator of the Salish Sea Girls Leadership Project. "Nearly 30 women of all ages from our community have been nominated for 'Changemaker' awards."

Tickets are already sold out for the Saturday night event, but people can still get tickets for Sparkfest on March 7, and for the March 8 workshops.

Workshop descriptions

• 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. — **YOGA** with Celeste Mallett, much-loved Salt Spring yoga instructor proprietor of Still Point Yoga Studio.

or
DANCE OUR WAY HOME, with Vanya. Dance Our Way Home uses a perfect balance of facilitated and non-facilitated dance. Dances to invoke curiosity in self, practicing in a real, embodied way a "feeling at home" with one another, in community and in the world at large.

• 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. — **PROMOTING YOUR VOICE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET**, with Julie Nowell. Learn how to use social media and the internet to share your passion and promote your business or cause. Understanding the purpose of websites, blogs, Twitter and Facebook will help you connect with the people you need, and harness the power of the internet to work in your favour.

or
FINDING OUR VOICES THROUGH WRITING, with Ahava Shira. In a circle of trust, openness, and respect, participants will be supported to: recognize the limiting beliefs that impede them from writing freely, speaking out, and sharing their voices with others; shape and share their personal and imaginary stories on the page and "on the stage"; express their feelings, desires, obsessions and uncertainties in fresh, curious and creative ways.

• 12:30 to 2 p.m. — **SEX: TAKING CHARGE OF PLEASURE**, with Jenny Redpath, Caffyn Jesse and Tiffany Wightman. Our society,

entrenched in sexism, has resulted in resounding shame around sex, and specifically around women being pleased by sex. Being stripped of true pleasure negatively affects women and compromises relationships. This workshop will allow room to explore one's experience with pleasure and sex. It hopes to open the door to fun and meaningful conversation around adopting a feminist model for sexual pleasure. Laughter is likely, as the workshop will respectfully approach with candid humour what we don't usually choose to explore: Our own pleasure.

or
FINDING OUR VOICES: BUILDING OUR CONNECTIONS, with Maggie Ziegler

This session is an opportunity to speak from our hearts and with our true voices about what matters to us. We will weave ourselves into a collective tapestry that will provide strength and support to our individual aspirations as changemakers.

• 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. — **WORLD CAFE**, with Dana Peace and members of the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project. The challenges of life in the 21st century require us to find new ways to access the wisdom and intelligence inherent in groups both small and large. Café conversations are one way that communities and people from all walks of life are using to create a common purpose, share knowledge, make more intelligent decisions, and call forth life-affirming action together. The World Café is set up like a café, where people move around the tables and have a series of guided conversations on issues that are most prominent in the lives of girls and women in our community.

Childcare is available onsite. Pre-registration is a must.

This fabulous day of workshops costs only \$10 for the entire day (\$5 for 19 and under).

People should get their tickets soon to avoid disappointment. They can be purchased at the Harbour House Hotel or the SWOVA office at 390 Lower Ganges Road.

For more information, see the event website at www.changemakers2014.com, email ssgirlsleadership@gmail.com, or phone 250-537-1336.

Tools for Change: Creating the Change You Want
March 8th, International Women's Day

Workshops 9am - 5pm Childcare available onsite @ Harbour House Hotel. PreRegistration a must! Tickets available at SWOVA and Harbour House Hotel.

WORKSHOP TIME	WORKSHOP TITLE	WORKSHOP FACILITATOR/S
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Yoga	Celeste Mallette
	Dance Our Way Home	Vanya
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Promoting Your Voice Through Social Media and the Internet	Julie Nowell
	Finding Our Voices Through Writing	Ahava Shira
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Sex: Taking Charge of Pleasure	Jenny Redpath, Caffyn Jesse, Tiffany Wightman, Maggie Ziegler
	Finding Our Voices and Building Our Connections	
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm	World Cafe- A Community Conversation: Opportunities and Barriers Girls and Women Face. Moving the Agenda Forward	Dana Peace & the Salish Seas Girl's Leadership Project

Presented by: SWOVA, IWAV and the Salish Sea Girls' Leadership Project

TRADITIONAL LIFE

Tanning students learn sheep tricks

Salt Spring Abattoir fundraiser

BY MARGARET THOMSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Tanning sheepskins using natural methods is an ancient craft rarely practised today, and even more rarely taught. But on Salt Spring last weekend a group of 12 students got together at the Farmers Institute with teachers Klare Yakabuski and Jean-Claude Catry to learn all they could about tanning.

Some of the students brought their own previously salted and frozen hides, and others reserved one from the Salt Spring Abattoir. The first day covered how to trim the hide, remove the flesh and fat and wash the wool with warm water. Using a borrowed washing machine in the back of a pickup the wet fleeces were spun as dry as possible and clamped to a line in a warm room with fans running overnight.

The second day when the wool was dry but the hide still moist the real work began. Without chemical baths the work takes elbow grease as well as added fat rubbed in. Vegetable fat from the grocery store was used, but sheep's brains would be the traditional product of choice.

There's more than one way to tan a hide, and Yakabuski and Catry demonstrated the method of oil tanning. Yakabuski is self-



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Jean-Claude Catry prepares skins for tanning in a workshop held at the Farmers' Institute.

taught and has attended primitive skill gatherings. Catry, originally from a French village in the Pyrenees, has spent the past 20 years studying and practicing ancient crafts. He brought along many useful tools, a frame for stretching hides and some finished hides that had been smoked.

The students came from Saskatchewan, the Lower Mainland and two other Gulf Islands as well as Salt Spring. Most were farmers who raise sheep or goats, and they would like to make use of more than just the meat and wool. As Susan

Astill put it, "It breaks my heart to see hides composted," which is the alternative disposal method.

The event was a fundraiser for the Salt Spring Abattoir, which has now been in operation for over a year, but is not yet working at full capacity year round. This means that covering expenses in midwinter is a challenge. This workshop aimed to raise enough money to cover the overheads for one month, and did so.

Thanks are due to sponsors Pat Donnelly of Elderberry Yarns in Ganges for her financial support, and to Astill of The Salt Spring

Wool Company for organizing and advertising the workshop. Volunteer Kerry Lee of Falcon Farm prepared the food, and Rod Martens of Chorus Frog Farm baked bread on site. Cheese was given by Susan and Julia Grace of Moonstruck and David Wood of Salt Spring Cheese.

For more information about the Salt Spring Abattoir, or to make a donation to this community-owned facility, please go to saltspringabattoir.ca. To enquire about future tanning classes, complete the Contact Us form on the abattoir website.

NATURE

Hear February's lush sounds of silence

Small sounds beckon throughout the year

BY BOB WEEDEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

LISTEN!

It's February, so it must be raining. Listen. The falling rain "arrives with a high sprickly sound, a shurring so light that it only blurs the glassy surface." (Thanks to Robin Wall Kimmerer for letting me hear these wet sounds.) Then – pit, pit, pit, pit, pit as small drops from hemlock needles hit the water. Bloink! Bloink! Big drops launch from big-leaved maples, whack the pool surface and erupt back out like tiny volcanoes. (Who'd a thunk it? Water is elastic!) An alder joins in: Plopp! Plopp!

The more we mindfully listen, the more we hear. The more we hear, the more we find that we have no words for. Compelled to be human, we can't rest until we create the word. "Pop! Goes the weasel!" Oink! Goes the pig. Popp! Bloink! Sshhhh!

Then a wren fashions its song of jewelled silver and displays it just for you. It tinkles on, jingles on; how can a bird hold its breath so long? It comes sometimes from deep salal, sometimes from a moss-



spangled rock. Listen!

Our island isn't big on big natural sounds. No booming surf. Hardly a thunderclap a year. Storm winds loud enough to hear coming are events to remember. So I listen for small sounds, like the little lip-lip of wavelets that sparkle the sand at Bader's Beach. Or like the sound of arbutus bark shredding and shedding in September sun, sounding like salt shaken onto newspaper, or like ants sharpening their jaws. Hearing it, I felt I had intruded into a private act, a quiet changing of garments meant to be presented, like a woman now dressed for a ball, as a finished miracle.

A geologist I know once sauntered past a stone wall bounding his place and laid his hand against the rough, sun-warmed granite. "I felt a tiny, seismic impulse," he

wrote, "followed quickly by a faint, almost metallic clunk in the distance... A stone in the wall had shifted its position... Perhaps a tree root had finally thrown the wall out of balance, or a mineral grain between two stones had given way... Never before had I heard and felt the clank and shock of stones moving in a wall."

On a calm day, squat at the edge of a slowly ebbing tide. Crabs no bigger than your fingernail move in and out with each tiny swell, hugging every morsel that comes their way. Just above the undulating frontier of water, barnacles close up shop for the hour or two they will be bathed in air. After a moment you realize that you can hear things your eyes can't see. Barnacle valves snap shut. Hidden crabs blow bubbles. Worms whip down into burrows. The spasms of clams squirt jets of enhanced seawater into the air — or, perhaps, your face. Below that is a sound, not water, nor the thin salt breeze — a drinking, sucking, sifting sound of small things, sentient, just out of reach.

When full dark comes, step onto your porch. Can you hear them? Tree whiskers, star whiskers, the falling breath of giants. A night owling, a far howling, the endless din of silence.

LISTEN!



School District # 64
(Gulf Islands)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION has been extended to Thursday, March 13. If you are new to the district and have a child who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2014 (born in 2009), please register them at the school in your residential catchment area.

CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS must be completed by parents/guardians who wish to transfer their child to a school out of their catchment area. This form can be found at http://sd64.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/cross_boundary_request.pdf and must be signed by both Principals and the Superintendent. Upon receipt at the School Board Office the form will be time and date stamped. The deadline for accepting cross boundary request forms is Thursday, March 31.

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION and MY SEEC (Middle Years Shared Ecological Education Centre). Please contact Saltspring Island Middle School for application forms. Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to School District Policies/Procedures 530 and 700 available at <http://sd64.bc.ca/district/policies-and-procedures/>. The deadline for accepting Late French Immersion and MY SEEC registration forms is Thursday, March 13.

Capital Regional District

Notice of Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel 2014

- North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Highland and Fernwood Water Service
- Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Fulford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Malview Estates Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Water Second Service (Pender Island)
- Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service (Pender Island)
- North Pender Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

Take Notice that the annual sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter will be held at 12:00pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at the Capital Regional District, Room 651, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, British Columbia to consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation.

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

A copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm M-F and the Ganges Building Inspection office, #206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (above the Post Office), Ganges, BC from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm M-F, commencing February 26, 2014.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 26th day of February, 2014.

Diana E. Lokken, CPA, CMA
General Manager, Finance & Technology Dept.
Capital Regional District

ISLANDERS

Broken neck no deterrent to dream

Update on Jade Bell in advance of film festival

BY BETH STUPPLE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

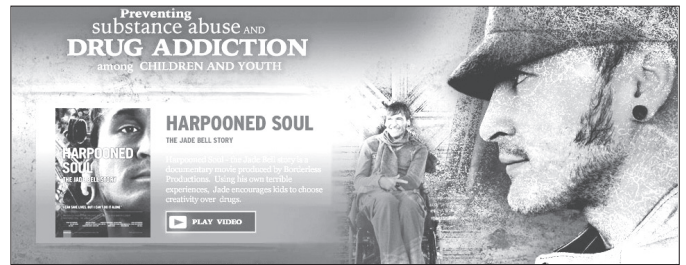
Stories like Jade Bell's are testaments to the strength of the human spirit.

Without being able to see, speak clearly, use his arms or legs and bound to a chair, Jade has managed in the last year alone to: head his non-profit foundation, co-create the groundwork for a music program for at-risk youth, prepare the launch of a full band CD release and fundraiser event, all while his third full-length album is well underway in the recording studio. Through this work, Jade continues to stay true to his poetic spirit by writing lyrics, creating musical collaborations and dreaming of life to come.

If that weren't a full plate; on the morning of Dec. 2, 2013, en route to the recording studio, Jade was parked on the landing outside his front door. To the shock of Jade and those with him, his brakes weren't on and he did a face plant off the six-inch drop, onto the lawn. The ambulance was called and Jade was brought to Lady Minto where he was treated for injuries to his forehead. He was released with six stitches and the notion that he'd suffered whiplash and a concussion. Five weeks later when the pain didn't seem to be subsiding, Jade got a CAT scan revealing news that was even more painful; he had in fact broken his neck.

Jade Bell suffered an anoxic brain injury in 1997 from a nearly lethal injection of heroin and cocaine while heavily intoxicated with alcohol. As a result, he lost his sight and mobility from a muscle disorder called dystonia and became dependent on 24-hour care. To communicate, his head taps sensors mounted on his chair, translating Morse code into letters, words and sentences. Since his overdose he has devoted his life to educating youth on the dangers of drug use and his message has reached over 200,000 students in our country with the aid of his computer-generated voice.

When asked how his neck feels today and what his ambitions for the future are, he smiled; then slowly mouthed letter by



Screen shot of Jade Bell's website.

letter to his caregiver, who interpreted what he said.

"It feels like King Kong Bundy has had me in a headlock for the last month. Some people assume, because I'm in a chair, that I'm paralyzed and can't feel anything neck-down. My condition is quite the opposite, for my sense of touch has only enhanced since my overdose. Sure the pain I felt with breaking my neck is indescribable, but I'm so grateful to still be able to feel, and to have the mobility I do have with my body.

"It seemed like the universe was being a big comedian when it happened because I was in the midst of organizing a fundraiser and CD release event for my second album War Stained Skin, plus working on my third album. The last thing I thought I needed to deal with was slower means of communication. I didn't postpone my event plans in trust that it would come together with the help of the community, and my team of angels who help me with my emails.

"My ambitions for the future are to live the emotions that inspire my creative expression. I believe pain has been a way to tap into a higher intelligence and creativity has been a tool for me to express my experiences with both pain and love. I hope to have a successful album release fundraiser, complete my third album, Black Swan and to launch a Kickstarter campaign that will fund a trial run of my dream project, the Salty Rock Music Recording and Mentorship Program. This is a program that encourages youth to explore creative expression, rather than harbouring their

feelings inside and masking them with drugs."

Jade wanted to end our short but poignant interview with this acknowledgement.

"I want to extend my appreciation to the collaborating artists and musicians who I have had the privilege to work with in the last seven years. It's been nothing less than magical to collaborate with artists like Ananda Sinclair, a soul brother who connects with my lyrics and mirrors their emotion with authenticity and conviction in his beautiful voice. As well, I want to thank the collective of totally amazing local talent that have volunteered their time to bring my words and message to life, in song, on March 28."

On March 2, the Salt Spring Film Festival is screening locally-filmed Harpooned Soul: The Jade Bell Story, which captures this man's inspirational quest to help kids choose a creative path over the use of drugs. Be sure to come and check out this life-changing film at the Gulf Islands Secondary School and follow the journey to the album release and fundraiser event on March 28 at ArtSpring. All funds raised at the War Stained Skin album release, and proceeds from Jade's album sales, will go directly to helping establish and sustain the Salty Rock Music Program.

For more information about the documentary and the Salty Rock Music Recording and Mentorship Program please visit Jade's registered non-profit foundation at www.jadeskids.org.

CREATIVITY

Writing group releases inner vision

GISS writers and adults meet weekly in Finding Our Voices

BY MAJA NORDINE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In the small Connecting Generations room in the confines of Gulf Islands Secondary School, great things emerge, unknown to most.

The writers' group members are equipped with nothing more than a pencil, paper, tea and our own thought-provoking voices. Our once small group, now open to any aspiring writers that want to swap beautiful words and stories in the community, has grown substantially in the past month.

We meet once a week, for an inspiring two hours on a Wednesday evening. I cannot help but relish and appreciate the words that are spoken from each person afterwards. Because not only is there pleasure in writing with an accepting group of people found at writers' group, but conversing is another tool and one which we experience all together.

Getting a taste of everyone's minds, even just a snippet, is such a treat for someone like me who feeds off the tales and imaginations of others.

Writing is such a lost art I feel in this day and age, something that is a task unwillingly completed through tedious English assignments and essays.

What most people are unaware of is that true writing is simply your most inner thoughts and feelings finding their own way into words. I never feel the need to force my writing, because if I do I know it's not worth writing. Writers' group has taught me all these things, coaxed my inner voice out of me to share and grow with others.

I am always eager to throw around the ideas and thoughts that have been banging around my brain all week, and I suspect the same from my fellow writers. Activities usually include 10 uninterrupted minutes of silent writing, followed by short pieces inspired by prompts, and discussion.

Food is essential at all our meetings, and I would be lying if I said that 50 per cent of the reason I love arriving at the Connecting Generations room every Wednesday is the tempting chocolate chip cookies and apples waiting there.

So I guess this all has just been to say, come stop by! Check us out, and maybe we'll check you out in return!

The writer is a Grade 10 student at GISS and this is the first in a series of Finding Our Voices submissions.



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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - MARCH 11 - MAY 16, 2014

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

Housing Matters



The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee is considering allowing Temporary Use Permits for residential uses such as secondary suites and care cottages.

Come Find out More. Snacks Included!
Community Information Meeting and Workshop

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INFORMATION	INFORMATION	IN MEMORIAM GIFTS	COMING EVENTS	COMING EVENTS	COMING EVENTS	INFORMATION

Artcraft CALL FOR NEW APPLICATIONS

ArtCraft 2014, B.C.'s longest running, juried, arts and crafts show, representing the best of the Gulf Islands runs from June 13th September 14th.

Registration deadline for both returning exhibitors, and those new and to be juried is May 9th. This year all jewellery and metalworks will be juried as well as anyone not in ArtCraft 2013.

Registration and information forms are available on the "ArtCraft" page at www.ssartsCouncil.com or please phone Richard Steel, ArtCraft manager on 250 537-0899 for more information.

COMING EVENTS COMING EVENTS

Join Spirit Point Dragons Sunday, March 2 @ 3 pm

Meeting & Potluck - 128 Old Divide Rd.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vera Payne
August 3, 1921 - February 18, 2014

Vera passed away peacefully at 92 years of age on Tuesday February 18 at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island.

She was predeceased by her husband Ron in 1998. She is survived by her son David and daughter-in-law Kathleen.

Vera and Ron had been long term residents of Salt Spring when she and Ron retired to the island in 1974. Vera had been a long time volunteer for over 25 years at the hospital Thrift Shop in Ganges. She was also an active member of St Marks and All Saints Anglican Church parishes.

A service is to be held at All Saints Anglican Church in Ganges on Friday, March 7 at 1:00pm. Vera has requested in lieu of flowers that donations be given to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, Ganges in her memory.

The family would like to extend its sincerest thanks and gratitude to all nurses, doctors and care aides at Lady Minto for the care and compassion given to my mother during her time of need.

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

Contact the Driftwood for more information
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

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LocalWork.ca HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

Driftwood Gulf Islands Media is now hiring for the position of ACCOUNT MANAGER

The ideal candidate must have excellent organizational skills, the ability to build relationships with clients and offer superior customer service.

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This job will be a good fit for you if you are: eager to learn; open to implementing new ideas to help customers grow their business; able to meet deadlines and work with minimum supervision. Must have reliable transportation and valid drivers license.

Deadline for applicants is Friday March 7th, 2014.

Driftwood Gulf Islands Media includes our websites and:
Gulf Islands Driftwood,
Gulf Islands Real Estate,
Gulf Islands Aqua,
The Gulf Islander Visitors Guide,
gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Elena Dunn
Driftwood Gulf Islands Media
edunn@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 23

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association

Saturday, March 22nd,
10am
at Meadowbrook

INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW? BBB Accredited Businesses must pass a comprehensive screening process. Look for the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory E-edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at www.blackpress.ca. or go to <http://vl.bbb.org/directory/> and click on the 2013 BBB Accredited Business Directory

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Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Accepting applications for the position of **Corporate Administrator**

This is a part-time contract position. The successful applicant must be able to work flexible hours, which includes some evenings. On average this position does not exceed 20 hours per month.

The position of the Corporate Administrator is defined in section 738.2 of the Local Government Act of BC, found at www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96323_00

The successful applicant must demonstrate excellent personal and organizational skill. Good written English is essential. Prior experience with public or government organizations an asset. This position does not require bookkeeping, finance or an accounting diploma, experience or skills but it would be considered a benefit. Excellent clerical and computer skills required.

Works directly with the Board of Trustee's and takes direction from the Chair.

Remuneration will be based on skills and experience.

Please send resumes by 5:00 pm, March 14, 2014.

TO: Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Attention: Mary Gillies, Chair of the Human Resource Committee.
Gangers Fire Hall
105 Lower Ganges Rd,
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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 23

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

ROAD KILL:

Gord Lee displays a beaver he found dead on the side of the road near the Lower Ganges and Booth Canal intersection, making a stop at the Driftwood on his way to Mainroad Contracting's disposal site.

GULF ISLANDS SECONDARY

GISS honour roll names released

Gulf Islands Secondary School has announced its honour roll, recognizing students who have achieved academic excellence during term two.

HONOUR ROLL

Honour Roll Criteria:

- 80% average of marks in all courses taken in a full course load.
- Term marks are used to calculate Honour Roll.
- Achievement in all courses must be 60% or higher (no incompletes).
- Work habits must be S, G or E.

Jacob Adelson, Christopher Akerman, Svea Anstis, Michaela Appel, Austin Archer, Jonah Baker, Carla Bangert, Jade Barnard, Teija Baxter, Jade Beauvais, Maia Beauvais, Tim Berninger, Maggie Birch, Megan Brooke, Anya Bruhn, Willem Burnaby, Isaac Byron, Kasea Campbell, Isabella Carlyle, Niamh Casey, Eric Cermack, David Chan, Paul Charowsky, Sijia Chen, Cody Clayton, Andrew Cobban, Chloe Cochran, Rocio Contreras, K'sana Cook, Maddy Cooper Smith, Catelyn Creswick, Roxie Dailly, Kyle Dow, Brendan Elwell, Atom Emery, Louis Everest, Emily Fraser, Jane Fraser, Sid Fraser, William Fraser, Aaryn Funk, Alli Gaines, Anibal Galleguillos, Monica George, Arthur Georgeson, Billy George, Jennifer Glover, Ocea Goddard, Jake Gordon, Alexander Graham, Isaiah Halliday, Devan Hanson, Nathan Hanson, Zoe Hasenfratz, Jennifer Hernandez-Pinedo, Karl Hoepfner, Ellis Hoffmann, Alexander Holiovie, Shane Hooper, Antonia Huepkes, Amrei Hunter, Haruno Inoue, Dan-

iel Irving, Amanda Irwin, Taylor Jensen, Samantha Jensson, Connor Jurgensen, David Kang, Chase Kazakoff,

Laura Klemm, Jessica Kliaman, Alandra Lara-McLeod, Andrea Lee, Marcus Lee, Tai Levitt, Patrick Little, Leaf Lund, Taylor Lundy, Alison Macdonald, Willow MacDonald, Thiara Manriquez Correa, Maylin Man, Jackson Maron, Kevin Marr, Accalia Martin, Gianni Martin, Brittany McAree, Josh McCamley, Olivia McDaniel Feilden, Matthew Menard, Simone Miller, Alise Millions-Colley, Sam Montalbetti, Taylor Montalbetti, Keiko Nishioka, Miyu Nonaka, Maja Noridine, Molly O'Donnell, Liam Palcu-Johnston, Nixie Palm, Marilia Penas Destre Silva, Myshiiia Pinney-Dimock, Owen Quiring, Brogan Renwick-Shields, Heather Reynolds, Anna Rithaler, Sebastian Rouger, Andre Ruckdaeschel, Kyra Sandberg, Zoe Savage, Wyatt Scheres, Bani Sethi, Rex Palframan, Dylan Shaver, Andrew Sinclair, Liam Sinclair, Ocea Skrodolis, Sierra Steele, Julia Sutherland, Blue Thomas, Holly Thorson, Kelsea Tippett, Luisa Villa, Margarethe Von der Luthe, Hamish Walde, Jackson Walde, Andrew Walker, Kathryn Walker, Abigail Walkner, Jana Wallberg, Crystal Wang, Eric Weatherby, Daniela Wendler, Lukas Wenzel, Nadeen Whitcutt, Liam Lenihan-Wright, Lily Zazalak, Dorothy Zhao.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Principal's List Criteria:

- 90% average of marks in all courses taken in a full course load.
- Term marks are used to calcu-

late Principal's List.

- Achievement in all courses must be 60% or higher (no incompletes).
- Work habits must be S, G or E.

Jill Ackfeld, Marijn Andringa, Jenna Aston, Noal Balint, Charles Beaver, Kephra Beckett, Sam Besley, Emma Bishop, Nigel Bisnar, Connor Budd, Heather Burdett, Mark Camps, Safiya Carroll-Labelle, Maya Cook, Kai Corley-Jory, Kaja Dauelsberg, Ryan Dixon, Jacob Parfitt, Aaron Elsser, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Norees Gasper, Rowyn George, Hannah Grant, Aidan Haigh, Olivia Hayne, Stephanie Hedler, Bradley Hoffman, Nicholas Howe, Sebastian Howe, Carly Hunsberger, Daniel Hunter, Hannah James, Molly James, Kiara Johnston, Shayce Johnston, June Kano, Riley Kirkpatrick, David Kos, Emma Kyle, Rowan Landaiche, Genevieve Lightfoot, Sky Losier, Alexandra Macdonald, Alexander MacKenzie, Ella MacQueen-Denz, Hannah Martens, Nuria McKettrick, Rabeah Meyer, Arielle Middleton, Eliza Moat, Narue Nakabayashi, Keenan Nowak, Johanna Pape, Gwen Patrick, Erik Perrins, Sofia Pickstone, Indigo Porebska-Smith, Brynn Powelson, Noah Price-McGillivray, Noor Ramley, Jacob Richardson, Jessica Schweighardt, Noah Sherrin, Junessa Sladen-Dew, Mark Smith, Tanner Smith, Berit Spreckelsen, Jimmy Steel, Becki Steel, Jarod Sutherland, Dana Swan, Amber Tuttle, Shane Webster, Troy Wheadon-Rajala, Blythe Wilde, Fianna Wilde, Zorah Wiltzen, Lennon Wotzke, Aina Yasue.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Triple-cork tricks among feats landed

Bridge reporter admits to Olympic Games addiction

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It must have been the twisted aerial somersaults of slopestyle snowboarding in the early days of the Olympics that convoluted time and caused the Feb. 3 bridge results to get left out of the last report, so here they are.

The super-tweaked backside triple-cork tricks were landed by Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor, while Gisela Welsh and Jeff Bell managed tweaked double ones. Next came a tie, with the air-to-fakies 1260 executed per-

fectly by both the George Laundry-Paul Retallack and the Charles Kahn-Judy Norget pairs. Blanche Poborsa and Patricia Brown had to settle for a mere switch backside 900.

The Feb. 10 results were already reported, so now we leap to Feb. 17 and the finals of Ice Dancing. Five tables were able to resist watching TV, and the most breathtaking lifts went to the Welsh-Bell dancers, with the Laundry-Retallack combo excelling in the twizzles. Liz and Oleh Mycyk were experts at the step sequences, and it was John Jefferson and Brent Vickers who managed to pull off the spins without getting dizzy.

For more fun with this game, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

Attention New Salt Springers!



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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstaraastrology.com
sunstaraastrology@gmail.com
1.888.352.2936

Tip of the Week:

We are now in the final stretch to spring and there is a lot happening with planetary activity. Mercury turns 'Direct' on February 28 at 6 am PST. Interestingly, the New Moon in Pisces occurs at 11:59 pm PST on February 28 as well. This is the completion of the first of three, 3-week retrograde cycles that occur annually. So, Mercury has now entered its 'shadow' or recovery period, essentially retracing its path which extends precisely to Spring Equinox. Spring this year occurs on March 20 at 9:57 PST. As mentioned previously, here and in my New Moon Newsletter (free sign-up on my website), both Mars and Saturn too are poised to turn retrograde on March 1st and 2nd respectively. The retrograde period for Mars is March 1 to May 19th. The focus of this particular Horoscope forecast will devote some attention to the general influences of Mars Retrograde for each sign. While I will elaborate further in coming weeks and in my newsletter, here is the basic gist. Mars is symbolic of action and assertion in the world; it is the verb in the sentence. When retrograde, Mars turns away from the material to fulfill psychological and spiritual needs first and material needs and aspirations become secondary for a while. So as with all retrogrades, we can learn to understand and tune-in to make the most of the otherwise 'unusual' energy patterns it indicates. Mars in Libra is the other factor. Libra is one of the most challenging sign positions for Mars. The main challenge is that people tend to be inordinately influenced by others and feel pushed from their own center and generally off balance. Awareness helps to overcome the negative repercussions. Mars has been in Libra since December 7, 2013 and due to the retrograde cycle will be there until July 25, 2014.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20). Mars is the planet that governs your sign and with it in Libra, the sign of relationships, you have a clear indication of its influence now and over the coming months. Where you have been quite assertive of late, you will now feel or be moved by circumstances to yield or slow down. This is a time to communicate better, to assert less and to listen more.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21). The time has come to be that much more deliberate in your actions. By slowing down you can actual do things better or make improvements where needed. Yet, be aware of tendencies to be too critical of yourself and others. Take deeper breaths and acknowledge yourself for achievements to date. As well, enjoy more quality time with friends for a while.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21). Mars Retrograde in Libra indicates a time for you to recharge your creative batteries. This is a good time for a review. What have you done, what has worked and what has not been so satisfying? Then affirm that there is only now and next. Reach out to new cultural activities or go on an adventure. Increase your receptivity to others and allow for fresh inspirations.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22). Sometimes we feel the need for added support, perhaps even to lean on others a little more than usual. This is likely to be one of those time periods. Turn within for a while; allow or ask others to take the reins. Perhaps tending to hobbies or home projects will do. A meditative cycle or spiritual retreat might be in order. Either way, make room to be cozy, caressed and comforted.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23). This Mars Retrograde cycle is a call for you to become more sensitive in your approach to others. This includes your attitude and style of communications as well. How can you give more with less, as in less is more? Becoming more patient with yourself, others and circumstances is highlighted. Take and give more breathing room on all fronts.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22). A period of adding to, renovating and or rebuilding existing foundations altogether is a feature of Mars Retrograde for you. Expect to be busy, intend to be steady and avoid comparisons. At best, this will prove to be a very creative cycle. There is even a strong streak of inventiveness indicated. While not exactly whistling while you work,

productivity is likely. **Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22).** Mars is retrograde in your sign along with the Lunar North Node. Together, they are influencing you to be more assertive than usual. Though you may yearn for support, it may not be so available. This could lead you to overcompensate, to even become aggressive. Make extra efforts to trust in and go with the flow.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21). Mars in Libra generally and retrograde specifically will find you digging deeper than usual. This effort will be to clear the past. Hidden anger, resentment, negative memories and other such complexes need to be identified and healed. They block fulfillment in your most intimate relationships and it is time for them to go.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21). The time has come to dream a few new dreams. You might as well because you will be less inclined to act on them, at least over the coming weeks. Stimulating these by way of communications and exchanges with others is ideal and likely. Yet do not be swayed by impulse or the determinations of others, at least not yet.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19). Making key decisions that you feel will significantly affect your future is up for you now. Yet following through will feel all the harder because it means so much. While you may feel frustrated that others are holding you back, look closer and you may discover that it is actually you. Aim to close the gaps from the past so you can advance with confidence.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19). Freedom! The cry for it will get louder over the coming weeks. What you want freedom from or what you want to do with it depend on your situation. Look for opportunities to get away from it all, to travel or retreat. If a getaway is not available, send out a message that you will not tolerate being told or pushed. Yet curiosity will lead you into new experiences.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20). Will you aspire to realize your higher ideals or waste this cycle of opportunity on worry and nervous tension? This is a call to gain a new measure of mastery over your desires and appetites. What hungers haunt you depend on you. Fears of loss, rejection and even death could block and distract you. Determine your higher ideals and make achieving them a central goal.

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



Athlete's character soars above the flu

MCINTYRE

continued from 1

Held biannually, the winter games include up to 2,220 athletes, coaches and officials from across the province participating in 18 sports.

"[The games] are a stepping stone for athletes towards provincial and national teams and ultimately international competition."

In gymnastics, the competition consists of a team event, individual event finals in vault, uneven bars, beam and floor and all-around (the total from the four apparatus).

Darby's mother Kim McIntyre said the family believes the scoring on her daughter's floor routine was questionable and that the Zone-6 team could have achieved a silver medal. Even so, she's more than pleased by the weekend results, especially as Darby achieved them sporting a fever, dizziness and a sore throat.

"I was just so proud of her to see her character come through," McIntyre said. "A lot of kids wouldn't have got up at all."

Already feeling ill at the start of the trip, Darby had to incorporate sleeping on a school's gym floor and bussing to another school for dinner into her training schedule.

"It was nice because the gym the competition was in was the gym we were staying in," she said.

Darby had started the day of competi-

tion feeling like she was going to pass out (something she hid from her mother) and spent the time between events huddled in her sweat pants and hoodie, either sleeping in fetal position on the floor or sitting with her head between her legs. When it was time to go, however, she was all business.

"She went in for the team competition and just did a brilliant job," McIntyre said. Later, Darby pulled off perhaps the highest vault she ever achieved, moving from sleep to a burst of energy down the mat and then back to sleep again in matter of minutes. Her result was good enough that she left it at one try, instead of the best of two results as usual. It was enough to earn her a silver in that category.

McIntyre said all in all, seeing her daughter bring home her first all-around gold medal was "just the icing on the cake."

"We were really thrilled she was rewarded well, despite her makes on the floor," McIntyre said.

Darby's commitment to achieving excellent personal results also translated over to her team, who would not have placed without her score contribution. That kind of commitment and skill will hopefully bring her more success at the provincial gymnastics championships in Kamloops from March 14 to 16, where she will be jockeying for a place at the Western Canadian championships in April.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

GO GET 'EM: Members of The Committed roller derby team get going at the Tuff Love derby they hosted at GISS on Saturday. For more photos, see the Driftwood Facebook page.

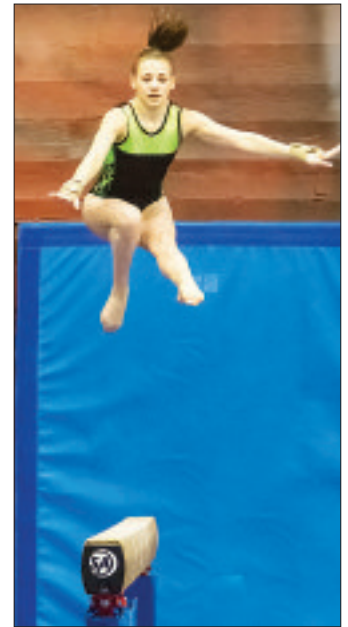


PHOTO COURTESY BC WINTER GAMES

Darby McIntyre leaps in the games beam competition.

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Model not exactly as shown. Call for details.

Winner Sharon May (right) with Selene Finlayson RHIP/Owner



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OUTDOOR REC

February treks all lined up

Trail and Nature Club schedule

Social Evening

Alison Moran, a hummingbird specialist of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory presents Hummingbirds of British Columbia on Thursday, March 20 at the United Church at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments provided by donation. Open to the general public.

Ramblers

For all Rambles, meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park, unless otherwise noted.

March 4: Harold Page takes us for a ramble to the south end. Lunch at the Rock Salt Café.

March 11: John Heddle rambles with us at Maracaibo. Lunch inside.

March 18: Sterling and Maureen McEachern lead a Leaders Choice ramble. Rain or shine.

March 25: Marilyne and Bill Harding take the group to Sidney, with lunch in Sidney. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at Centennial Park to carpool. We take the 9:50 a.m. ferry. Rain or shine.

Walkers

March 4: Join Terry Ison on a walk along North Beach Road with a view over the sea. Each will walk at our own speed and choice of distance. All return to the starting point to have a good lunch in the Fernwood Road Cafe at 12 p.m. After lunch, walk for 30 minutes. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m., or at the bottom of Fernwood Road at 10:15 a.m.

March 11: Barry and Sheila Spence will lead an off-island walk in Holland Creek Park, above Ladysmith. Meet at Portlock Park for 8:30 a.m. departure. Carpool to Vesuvius ferry.

March 18: Deborah Miller leads a walk through the Andreas Vogt Reserve; some steep parts. Meet in the ArtSpring parking lot to carpool at 10 a.m. or the end of Sarah Way at 10:15.

March 25: Donna and Paul Way lead the daffodil walk in Burgoyne Bay. Meet at ArtSpring parking lot to carpool at 10 a.m. and the Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10:15.

Hikers

March 4: Charles Kahn, the indomitable, will lead us on a long rambling hike on most of the Channel Ridge trails. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m.; meeting place for Channel Ridge will be announced later by e-mail.

March 11: Ross Evans leads a moderate hike with some steeper uphill sections, from Armand Way towards and around Mount Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the Dukes Road/Fulford-Ganges junction at 10 a.m.

March 18: Nigel Denyer will lead a moderately strenuous hike in the Musgrave area. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at Drummond Park at 10 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead on Musgrave Road.

March 25: Tudor Davies leads a moderate hike in Ruckle Park from Cusheon Cove to Grandma's Beach. Expect wet trails with some slippery sections. A car will be left at the heritage farm parking lot to carry drivers back to Meyer Road to pick up the cars. Meet at ArtSpring to carpool at 9:45 a.m. or the cul-de-sac beyond 107 Meyer Rd. at 10:05 a.m.

New Members

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

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