



**Dynamic duo!**

Shamisen & taiko drum concert part of Blossom Fest

PAGE 15

**Classic image**

New stamp has island connection

PAGE 17

GULF ISLANDS

# Driftwood

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 13 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**WOMAN OF ABSTRACTION:** Salt Spring artist Helen Ormiston Smith with her 10-foot-long ceramic wall piece Escarpment, part of the Five Women of Abstraction exhibit at Mahon Hall and the Easter Art Tour beginning this Friday, April 3. See the Exhibitions section of our What's On calendar on page 10 for various art show details, and visit [www.saltspingeeasterarttour.com](http://www.saltspingeeasterarttour.com) for more details.

## TRANSIT

# Double-deckers ready to roll on Salt Spring

Naming error inadvertently boosts ridership capacity

An obvious but gargantuan error in the ordering process for the new Salt Spring Transit buses due to go into service this spring has resulted in four double-decker BC Transit buses heading to Salt Spring Island instead of the four 28-passenger buses expected.

The "Salt Spring Island Transit" name was mistakenly printed on the new vehicles.

The usual informed sources at BC Transit have, not surprisingly, been unavailable for comment, but unidentified personnel speaking off the record stated that the error was found only after all funds available during the current fiscal year for bus purchases had been spent.



Salt Spring Transit name adorns new double-decker buses originally slated for Victoria.

As there were no other cities where the double-decker buses could be put into service at short notice, it appears that Salt Spring Transit has no choice but to take delivery of them and put them into service this spring when the current 20-passenger buses are returned to BC Transit.

BUSES continued on 5

## NSSWD

# Voters back plant borrowing

\$8.4-million project moves forward

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Third time's the charm for North Salt Spring Waterworks District board members in their quest to build a new water treatment plant by St. Mary Lake.

Having rejected the NSSWD's two prior requests to borrow money for the project, ratepayers voted 359 to 310 in favour of borrowing up to \$8.4 million for the new facility. Votes were tallied on Saturday evening. One

ballot was spoiled.

The 670 ratepayers who participated in Saturday's referendum vote and two advance polling dates represent approximately 26 per cent of the district's eligible voters. Only 14 per cent of ratepayers in the district cast a ballot to approve Borrowing Bylaw 264.

"I thought maybe more people would have shown up, but it is what it is," said Marshall Heinekey, NSSWD chair. "This makes it easier to go forward."

Heinekey anticipates moving ahead with the project's next phase in about three weeks. A list of qualified bidders will be assembled and bids to construct the dissolved air flotation unit near the end of Tripp Road will be collected.

Should all go according to plan, Heinekey said, work could begin on the new facility by August.

NSSWD continued on 4

We're 15,  
Thanks SSI!

Salt Spring Books



## INSERTS

- Country Grocer
- Home Hardware
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Sears
- Thrifty Foods
- Rona

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BC FERRIES

# Salt Spring's three-terminal status will be examined

BC Ferries CEO confirms four-year plan

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Whether or not it makes sense for Salt Spring Island to continue having three ferry terminals will definitely be studied at some point in the next four years.

BC Ferries president and CEO Mike Corrigan told the Driftwood on Friday that following the direction of BC Ferry Commissioner Gordon Macatee, a study of some kind will be done.

"He has asked us to go out by 2020 and basically decide what needs to be

done, if anything, and he specifically asked us to look at two areas — the three terminals on Salt Spring and the three terminals in Nanaimo."

Corrigan said BC Ferries has no preconceived notions about the outcome of such a study.

"We have not done a lot of analysis on it," he said. "But I've said from the beginning that we are going to do it in consultation with the communities, with the customers, with the government and with the ferry commissioner. Because everybody has to work at this together and come to the same conclusion."

Corrigan acknowledged Salt Spring's terminal situation is unusual.

"I do know that the system that we've inherited — three ferry terminals — is probably not the most efficient way [you would do things] if you were to start over today to build a ferry system, but that's not where we are at. They already had three terminals."

But, he added, "You can't make the assumption that if you downsize one or two terminals or make the other one or two bigger that you are going to get some efficiencies to offset the cost of doing it."

Harold Swierenga, Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Committee chair, said news that the terminal issue would be examined is not unexpected.

"I'm quite prepared to argue the

case for maintaining all three terminals and would not be at all surprised to see all three stay [after a study is concluded]."

Corrigan said a full analysis of the options and impacts of any possible changes would be undertaken with community input and recommendations made by 2019.

In the meantime, he confirmed that two new 145-car intermediate-class vessels for Route 9 (Long Harbour to Tsawwassen) and Route 5 serving the Southern Gulf Islands will begin service in 2017. The first ship is tentatively set to begin sailing in February and the second by June.

The public should stay tuned for

word of a ship-naming contest later this spring, and for opportunities to provide input into schedules for the new ships. An exploration of scheduling options, expected to take one year, has just begun.

The Queen of Nanaimo, now serving on Route 9, will be sold, said Corrigan.

As of today (April 1), BC Ferries users on the major and minor routes will pay 2.9 per cent more in fares than they did yesterday. The originally scheduled increase was 3.9 per cent, but BC Ferries last week announced a fuel rebate amounting to one per cent would come into effect at the same time.

AWARDS

# Driftwood in headlines at national newspaper contest

Best all-round among various honours

The Driftwood learned Friday that it has won nine national newspaper awards in two annual competitions.

The paper was named best all-round in its circulation class in the annual Canadian Community Newspapers Association competition, and also earned top spot for best front page and best editorial page.

Staff writers Sean

McIntyre and Elizabeth Nolan earned first place in the feature series category for their Oceans Apart series comparing marine-related legislation in B.C. and Washington state.

Dennis Parker's cartoon of a protestor who can't afford to attend a rally in

Victoria to protest high ferry fares also won first place.

Nolan captured two second-place writing awards: one for a story on the animal pedigree act in the agricultural story category and the second for an editorial written on fire board issues.

In the Great Idea Awards

segment of Newspapers Canada competitions, the summer 2014 issue of Aqua magazine took top spot for community newspaper magazine, with the Gulf Islander Visitors' Guide in third place.

The Driftwood is also a top-three finalist in general excellence in the Ma

urray Awards of the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspaper Association, as is the Oceans Apart series by McIntyre and Nolan in the environmental writing category.

Winners are announced at a gala evening in Richmond on April 25.

## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, April 3 - Good Friday** and will reopen for usual business hours on Monday, April 6.

**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday April 8 edition will be as follows:**

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Thurs. April 2, 12 noon**

**CLASSIFIED DISPLAY DEADLINE: Mon. April 6, 4 pm**

**CLASSIFIED WORD DEADLINE: Tues. April 7, 9:30 am**

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FULFORD INN

## Late offer for Fulford Inn site falls short

Housing opportunity has 'left the terminal'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District has ruled out any hope of a non-profit society's 11th-hour proposal to refurbish and repurpose the Fulford Inn.

In mid-March, members of the Abbeyfield Housing Society offered to buy the dilapidated Fulford-Ganges Road property and convert the structure into seniors housing.

"We know that we've lost it as an inn, but it could have been saved," said Olive Mann, chair of the Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society. "Because the zoning was for eight hotel units, those rooms could have been repurposed in a variety of ways."

Mann likened negotiations to trying to catch a ferry on time.

"We cut it a little too fine," she said. "The barrier is down and the ramp has been raised."

On Monday, CRD's senior manager of building inspection was on the verge of

signing the contract to have the structure demolished. Robert Gutierrez confirmed the contract was being awarded to a Salt Spring-based company but could not be more specific.

The Abbeyfield society's offer to buy the property expired on March 26.

### "The barrier is down and the ramp has been raised."

OLIVE MANN  
Chair,  
SSI Abbeyfield Housing Society

"We knew time was of the essence. We put in quite a lot of energy to try and talk with various people to try and slow that process down," Mann said. "At the end of the day, we would have required the CRD and the owner's cooperation to think of things in a new way."

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's CRD director, said the CRD board has ordered the building be demolished due to concerns about safety, security and liability.

"There was a very last-minute request

to stop the demolition process which had been in process for some time, and the contract award was virtually complete when the [Abbeyfield] request was made," McIntyre wrote in an email.

Any costs incurred by the CRD as a result of work on the site will be charged to the owner's property taxes. The property will stay on the market once the building is torn down.

Abbeyfield may have missed the boat, but Mann said board members are optimistic about the prospect of catching another sailing sometime soon.

"I think [this process] has regvanized our board," she said.

The Abbeyfield Housing Society is an international organization devoted to providing seniors with a semi-independent, community-minded living environment. The Salt Spring chapter strives to build an Abbeyfield house on the island's south end.

The Salt Spring AHS secured a communal three-bedroom home for low and moderate-income senior women aged 55 years and over in 2012.

For more information about the society, visit [www.abbeyfieldonsaltspring.ca](http://www.abbeyfieldonsaltspring.ca).

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# NEWS BEAT

## Heads up!

**Easter Art Tour:** Fri.-Sun., April 3-5 at Mahon Hall + all around the island

### MEDIA

## Green FM programmers leave station in frustration

CRTC hearing to consider multiple infractions of licence

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The last batch of Green FM staff and volunteer programmers has terminated its relationship with the local radio station, citing financial turmoil that has dogged operations ever since a change in ownership was announced two years ago.

Four paid programmers and a raft of volunteers hosts named March 31 as their official last day, although many had broadcasted their final shows sometime earlier in the week. Station manager Radha Fournier put in her final shift at CFSI (Green FM) on Sunday, March 22.

While programmers say the station's financial difficulties and owner Dave Dhillon's absenteeism have made work difficult, the final straw was notice of a second CRTC licensing hearing on May 13, in which Dhillon must address a number of possible infractions to broadcasting regulations.

"I believe firmly that the CRTC licence should be revoked," Fournier states in an intervention

submitted to the government regulator.

The CRTC hearing will consider whether Salt Spring Radio Corp.'s licence will be renewed after it expires on Aug. 31, 2015 and, if so, whether for a temporary basis. The body granted a previous one-year extension following a non-compliance hearing held in January 2014.

New CRTC concerns include the station's failure to provide annual returns and financial statements, an outstanding balance of \$500 on Canadian content funding contributions, a \$2,873 shortfall in tangible benefit payments, a failure to provide quarterly reports for two periods, and discrepancies in ownership information.

Richard Moses has been a program host for the station's entire run since 2009 and before that helped develop the business model and programming concept with station founder Gary Brooks. Moses said the current staff asked Dhillon to provide a sales manager and give them the ability to pay bills by the end of March.

"We desperately need that. So we proposed that and we received no response at all," he said.

"Mr. Dhillon has been a seemingly uninterested and certainly

absent owner. Many of us have tried to communicate with him and have met with little or no success," stated Hannah Brown in another CRTC intervention. "He promised us, when he bought the station, that he was dedicated to community radio and that he would work weekly with us on continuing its successful course. This has not happened."

Fournier has been a radio host for five and a half years. She took on paid positions as an office manager in November 2013 and interim station manager in May 2014. Her CRTC intervention outlines a "litany of bounced cheques" to staff and lack of payment to utility providers that resulted in disconnected services and interruptions to broadcasting. The south tower broadcasting at 102.1 FM was off-air from mid-January to mid-March, and the station itself has been uninsured since August, Fournier states.

She also points to the loss of advertising contracts and Dhillon's failure to hire a sales manager. Fournier was not given authority to take care of finances herself. Her ability to meet CRTC regulations was also compromised. For example, she was unable to reconcile



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO  
Green FM/CFSI radio station owner Dave Dhillon.

music logs because the logging machine is located in Surrey.

Speaking to the Driftwood on Thursday, Dhillon said he has hired Anita Mehta as the new station manager and that she will have full signing authority, and that he is looking at applications for sales manager. He added he wasn't worried about programmers leaving or about the CRTC hearing.

"If the CRTC rules we must make payments we will make them at

that time," he said.

Dhillon feels the main problem facing the station is the island terrain, which negatively impacts the radio signal. He hopes to solve this by changing dials.

"We're looking for a flat parcel so we could make a switch to an AM repeater. With AM they will be able to pick us up anywhere," Dhillon said.

"I think everything's working out good now," he added. "It will be better as we go along."

The volunteers and staff that have stuck with the station until now have lost all confidence in Dhillon's plans. They are suggesting instead that another evolution in ownership could one day put Salt Spring radio back in the hands of community members.

"It's been several years that I've been doing this and I've absolutely loved it, even getting up at five in the morning," said morning show host Scott Merrick. "There were some ongoing, unresolved issues that made it difficult to continue, but I really hope to come back in the future."

The deadline for CRTC interventions on Salt Spring Radio Corp.'s non-compliance issues and licensing renewal application is April 10.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### July 25 chosen for sewer referendum

Ganges Sewer Commissioners have set July 25 as the date to obtain ratepayer approval to cover \$3.9 million in upgrades for the aging Ganges facility.

Specific costs associated with the project, including interest and debt servicing fees, will be addressed in a community notice anticipat-

ed by April 10.

Commissioners have applied for a federal grant that could fund up to two-thirds of the project's cost.

### CRD costs rise for 2015

The owner of an average-assessed Salt Spring property will pay an extra \$50 in taxes for Capital Regional District and hospital district services in 2015.

The CRD passed its 2015 budget on March 25, with operating expenditures set

at \$203 million, covering more than 200 CRD services to over 371,000 people in the region.

An average residential property on Salt Spring is valued at \$473,340. Owners of an average property will pay \$885.61 for CRD services this year. Those residing in a CRD-administered water or sewer district will have extra charges.

The bulk of the general Salt Spring increase is attributable to the 2014 referendum authorizing \$250,000 in taxation for four years to pay for a Rain-

bow Road pathway and other roadside improvements in Ganges.

### Police search for break in B&E case

Salt Spring RCMP need information to help track down whoever is responsible for a March 25 break and enter at a Mountain Drive home.

A toaster, side table and jewellery were reported stolen from the home, and evidence suggests the cul-

prit had a nap on one of the beds inside the home.

"Police are not sure what could have made him or her so sleepy, but the fact that the residence was not occupied by its owners at the time indicates there might be some familiar knowledge of the property to result in a criminal being so bold," reads an RCMP press release.

Anyone with information about this or any other crime can reach the Salt Spring RCMP detachment by calling 250-537-5555.

### A good day for a joke

Readers should note that a few stories in this April 1 issue of the Driftwood may not be true.

Some of our faithful readers could not resist submitting evidence of their creative imaginations and we could not resist printing them.

Reporter Sean McIntyre also provided a gem of his own.

We're not sure about the status of the police item to the immediate left of this column.

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# Water board spots available at month's end

NSSWD continued from 1

"That might be optimistic, but I like to think optimistically," he said.

Island Health has ordered NSSWD to upgrade its Tripp Road water treatment plant to comply with provincial water quality guidelines.

Borrowing for the new plant will cost NSSWD ratepayers between \$250 and \$290 in annual parcel tax fees over the next 20 to 25 years. NSSWD office manager Anne Williams said it's premature to specify

when and by how much parcel taxes will increase.

She said the district still intends to launch a donor campaign later this spring to cover a portion of the costs.

Discussion about the plant in the months preceding Saturday's vote pitted project proponents against opponents who wanted to see the project completed at the lowest possible cost.

Ratepayer Bill Coté was among a group of islanders who hosted a January public meeting and presented a petition against the project

to trustees in February. Speaking on Monday afternoon, he said opposition and awareness about the project encouraged the NSSWD board to lower costs from the original request to borrow up to \$10.4 million.

"I'm pleased with the outcome," he said. "I wished we could have saved more money, but I would say our group is pleased to have cut \$2 million.

"We saved \$2 million. That's better than not saving anything."

Moving ahead under the current plan, he added, is far better than hav-

ing Island Health or another provincial government-mandated body take control of the project in the wake of another failed referendum.

Coté said he hasn't ruled out running for one of three available positions on the NSSWD board at the group's April 28 AGM.

"I am contemplating, but I think the frustration would be pretty overwhelming," he added.

More information about the plant and the upcoming AGM is available from the district at 250-537-9902 or northsaltspringwaterworks.ca.

**GET NOTICED**

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**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST -  
Fulford & Fernwood Elementary Schools  
Proposed School District 64 Programs  
commencing September 2015**

At the March 11, 2015 School District 64 Public Board Meeting, a motion was passed recommending that multigage classes be opened at each of Fulford and Fernwood Schools in September 2015, provided that the overall enrolment in the school makes a full or part time program financially viable.

Preliminary conversations indicate the development of programs focused on ecological place-based learning and play-based experiential learning with a curriculum that is compliant with BC's K-9 Transforming Curriculum document. Place-based learning is a foundational component of the District's SEEC & MYSEEC programs and incorporates cultural studies, nature investigations, real world problem solving, and immersion in community life and mentorship. Program structures to be explored include a cohort model with parent participation that blends classroom, outdoor, and home learning. Additionally, class size and staffing would be in compliance with the Collective Agreement.

We request that parents who would like to express interest in enrolling their child contact Marie Mullen (Fulford Principal) or Kelda Logan (Fernwood Principal), by Wednesday, April 8, 2015. Marie can be reached at [mmullen@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:mmullen@sd64.bc.ca) and Kelda can be reached at [klogan@sd64.bc.ca](mailto:klogan@sd64.bc.ca).

## FIRE DISTRICT

# Trustee candidates outline positions

Three seats up for grabs on April 18

The four candidates running to fill three seats on the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees were each asked to provide answers to four questions to help aid voter decisions. Answers to two questions are published below, with the other two published in next Wednesday's paper.

Linda Lee was elected by acclamation to an additional seat with one year remaining on its term, and was therefore not asked to participate.

Eligible ratepayers can cast their votes at the Salt Spring Public Library from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 or during the advance poll on Wednesday, April 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1) Why do you seek a position on the board?

**Mitch Forest**



**MITCH FOREST**

I believe that I can help make a difference. The fire department and the ratepayers have been drifting apart, creating what appears to be opposing views about fire protection and cost. Attending board meetings has pointed out

a need for major attitude changes, less arrogance, more listening. My purpose would be to bring clarity to the situation and help us get what we all want on Salt Spring: proper protection for islanders and our firefighters, and the use of proper procedures and policies by the board that are affordable, transparent and appropriate. I welcome public input and their participation on committees.

**Derek Hill**

I've attended many fire hall meetings and left them all feeling an opportunity for open communication and frank discussion with the public didn't happen. I believe this led to the failure of the referendum for islanders to get the much-needed new fire hall. I hope to bring to the board of trustees my independent voice and experience to help implement the recommendations of the recent fire service report. I feel the board, as an employer, must balance what fire protection we, the taxpayers, are willing to pay for and what the firemen would like.

**Maxine Leichter**

In my 12 years on Salt Spring, I have been publicly advocating for improvements in local government, including

meaningful public participation in government decision-making, something I have not seen here. I was excited to hear that the fire trustees had commissioned an independent report and more so when I read its excellent recommendations and that the fire trustees were implementing them. I thought, Wow! What a great example is being set. I want to use my experience and knowledge to help.

**Norbert Schlenker**



**NORBERT SCHLENKER**

Personal observation of board meetings since the fire hall referendum failed 18 months ago indicates that fresh eyes are required. The board insisted the need for a new hall #1 was urgent in 2013, but the voters' rebuke took the wind

right out of the board's sails. It's 2015 and the ship is still becalmed. Time to row.

Some people ask why I'm running "with" three other people. I've known Derek Hill for years because we share an interest in good governance. Mitch Forest I heard speak at a fire district AGM two years ago, and I don't think I spoke to him again until nominations opened. I first met Linda Lee a few months ago, in the parking lot after a fire board meeting. All three made an impression on me, not because we agree on issues, but because they are concerned citizens who have been paying attention. I look forward to exchanging argument and opinions with them in open session. It's the only way to win the public's confidence that fair and informed decisions are made.

2) What skills/experiences do you have that will contribute to your abilities as a trustee?

**Mitch Forest**

I was raised within a fire department family. My father was a career firefighter and my close friends had dads who were firefighters. We were all family. It was natural for me to join the fire service, becoming a volunteer firefighter in my community, achieving rank of 2nd Lieutenant. I was an elected fire commissioner for three years with a mandate to manage the budget. This role was equivalent to the fire trustee's role on Salt Spring. I am educated and experienced in how a fire department can be managed.

My business acumen comes from having owned a retail store for 33 years. In my community of fellow business owners I was one of the founders and the first

president of our merchant association where I encouraged independent thinking for our decision making.

**Derek Hill**

As a captain and co-pilot at Air Canada for 35 years, I experienced how emergencies and/or problems in interpersonal relations could be solved quickly with good listening and communication skills, or could stall. As a pilot, I needed independent thinking not only for myself, but from others, to reach quick but correct decisions. These same skills served me well as a former municipal councillor. As a councillor, I also learned there were many opportunities to use the excellent expertise of residents to help solve the needs of the community.



**DEREK HILL**

**Maxine Leichter**

I have experience in all three aspects of government: as an outside community advocate, a government employee and in elected office. Serving as a commissioner on the CRD Liquid Waste Commission, and attending Local Trust Committee and many other local government meetings has made me very knowledgeable about how local government works on Salt

Spring. I combine this local knowledge with my previous experience as a policy analyst with the City of Los Angeles, where my job included finding solutions to community problems and tendering contracts according to a fair and transparent process, and with my experience serving as an elected director of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District that delivers water to 13 cities and entities in Southern California.

**Norbert Schlenker**

I have been a financial advisor to individuals for the 15 years I've been on Salt Spring. I've been treasurer of the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club and ArtSpring. I know my way around budgets. I welcome the Walker report recommendation that the fire district use zero-based budgeting. I have also been president of volunteer organizations on the island, and feel those roles can aid in reaching the consensus — both at the board and in the community — we need to address the big issues that face the fire district, in particular a new hall and upcoming union negotiations.



**MAXINE LEICHTER**

**FIRE SERVICE**

# Exhaust systems installed at fire halls

Extraction resolves threat of diesel particulate for firefighters

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue is in the process of resolving a long-standing health issue with installation of point-of-contact exhaust extraction equipment at all three fire halls set for completion by the end of this week.

"This is a first in the Salt Spring fire service — firefighters will have the ability to start vehicles inside the hall and not have exhaust blowing in their faces," said Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner.

The need for a more advanced system capable of dealing with diesel particulate was identified by North West Environmental Group, which performed a series of tests in May 2013. The installation also meets WorkSafeBC regulations, which state "effective local venting for the exhaust gases must be provided in vehicle areas in fire halls."

At their May 14 meeting, the district's board of trustees approved Bremner's recommendation to purchase a used rail system from the View Royal fire department and to supplement it with new components. Bremner estimated the plan would save taxpayers around 25 to 30 per cent on costs.

District ratepayers then approved the board of trustees' plan to borrow \$90,000 for the project through an Alternative Approval

Process held in August of 2014. Installation was delayed because the View Royal's new fire hall took longer than expected to complete.

Speaking last summer when funding was approved, Capt. Jamie Holmes said firefighters were "glad to hear that the ventilation system is finally going ahead, after years of trying to work with the department and the board to make it a reality."

"We're ecstatic that our workplace is going to be a safe environment," he said.

The point-of-contact system attaches a duct directly over a truck's exhaust pipe with an electro-magnetic component, so any fumes are captured immediately. The ducts travel with trucks via overhead tracks and automatically detach as vehicles leave the hall.

Firefighter Jim Pohl, who was at the Ganges fire hall during the mechanical installation, said knowing the system is in place is especially good news since his daughter Chantal is a fellow volunteer.

"I'm riding with my daughter on calls. I never thought I'd see that in a million years," he said.

Since 2012, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified diesel exhaust as a known carcinogen, while the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety has cited fire stations as being among the primary locations where workers face "some of the highest levels of the exhaust, and are at increased risk for illness."

Local firefighters suspect diesel exhaust was a factor in the death of Lt. Travis Guedes, who succumbed to a rare brain cancer in 2013.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
Salt Spring Fire-Rescue paid-on-call firefighter Jim Pohl with new exhaust system connected to a fire truck.

**SALT SPRING LIBRARY**

# AGM highlights 'wonderful year'

Organization caps membership drive

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Keeping the momentum flowing in times of success is the greatest challenge facing Salt Spring's public library volunteers and staff, according to board chair Les Brost.

"Maintaining focus is not hard when your organization is thriving," Brost told about 20 people gathered for Thursday afternoon's AGM in the library program room. "However, success brings many opportunities to lose that organizational focus and concentration."

Volunteers and board members spent much of the meeting celebrating lofty accomplishments and new milestones achieved in the past year. Memberships are up 30 per cent to 7,458. Sixty-six per cent of islanders have library cards. Nearly 200,000 visits were recorded in 2014. Online visits surpassed 68,000. The



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
Salt Spring Island Public Library Association board chair Les Brost addresses the group's 52nd AGM.

library's 175 volunteers contributed combined work hours valued at \$625,000.

"People are using the library in many different ways," said Karen Hudson, Salt Spring's chief librarian. "Across the board things are increasing."

Hudson said the remarkable membership increase results from an active campaign on behalf of volunteers. Hosting the local government elec-

tion, held in November 2014, also contributed to the rise in numbers.

Revenue from fines rose roughly 33 per cent in 2014 to \$34,350. The increase has been linked to the high number of people with outstanding dues who renewed their library memberships.

The Salt Spring library operates on revenue gathered from Capital Regional District property tax requisitions, government transfers, fines and donations.

The CRD tax requisition increased from \$241,460 to \$308,0580 from 2013 to 2014. Provincial funding accounts for nearly \$60,000 in funding. Donations raised \$44,235.

"The annual report shows that 2014 was a very successful year," Brost said. "The report shows the depth of community support, both in circulation of materials and for the products, programs and services that we offer. It also shows a strong upswing in new patrons, particularly in our youth community and older patrons drawn by new programming that's adding joy and value to their lives."

"That success, my friends, is due to the difference of our library team," he added. "We have one of the largest and highly skilled groups of library volunteers in Canada. Our staff component, under the dynamic leadership of Karen Hudson is tiny, but it's mighty."

For more information about the 2015 AGM and a comprehensive list of library programs and services, visit [salspring.bc.libraries.coop](http://salspring.bc.libraries.coop).

## Keep Smiling...



### THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

## Tax time.

*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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**Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre**

# Opportunity seen for tourism boost

**BUSES**

continued from 1

Some Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission members and the Salt Spring Transit operator have expressed concerns regarding generating sufficient ridership for the larger buses and

about the tight turnaround at the Fulford ferry terminal.

They said local arborists will be contracted to cut back numerous trees to accommodate the higher vehicles.

However, SSITC chair Robin A. Williams put an optimistic spin on the BC Transit error.

"I think with a little effort in the marketing department the double-decker buses could lure more tourists to the island. Then if we light a fire under the CRD to upgrade hidden gems like Peck's Cove Park in Ganges, there'd be a really nice place for the buses to park."

# OPINION



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

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



## EDITORIAL

# Broken record

**S**parse turnout in local elections is nothing new, but the dismal participation in Saturday's North Salt Spring Waterworks District borrowing bylaw referendum verges on a new low.

Chances are good that 74 per cent of readers have already moved on to the editorial cartoon and letters to the editor after reading that opening lead. That's the proportion of the 2,550 eligible voters who chose not to cast a ballot on referendum day or at two advance polling opportunities held during the past two weeks.

The ballot question sought ratepayers' approval to borrow up to \$8.4 million for construction of a new water treatment plant at St. Mary Lake. It may seem like small potatoes but it's anything but when you

### THE ISSUE:

Voter turnout

### WE SAY:

Conversation fuels democracy

consider how relatively few people will be paying the bill.

Non-voters often cite apathy for staying home on election day; they feel their vote won't make a difference in a system that's fundamentally broken.

But that argument doesn't hold water in Saturday's vote, where "yes" meant anticipated parcel tax increases of between \$250 and \$290 per year for the next 20 to 25 years and the alternative was a call to rethink the proposal and consider cheaper options. Either way, those are two very distinct outcomes.

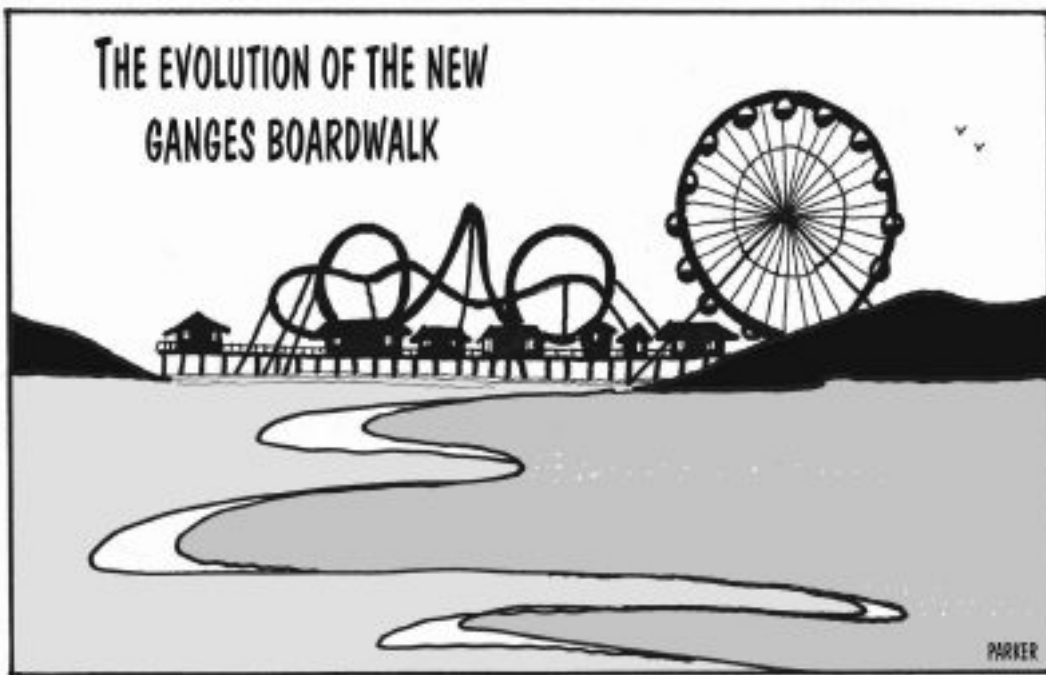
Despite extensive FAQs mailed to ratepayers, posted online and printed in newspapers, and various letters, opinion pieces and articles published in the months ahead of the March 28 vote, it wasn't enough to captivate voters' attention. Many property owners seemed unaware that they are part of the NSSWD.

One missing ingredient may be a renewed dialogue between neighbours, family and friends. Politics has long been taboo as polite dinner conversation, but this recent vote suggests the topic has totally fallen off the table.

Speaking in an interview after Saturday's votes were tallied, NSSWD chair Marshall Heineke expressed surprise at the low voter turnout.

"It is what it is," he concluded.

With fire protection district elections around the corner, a Ganges sewer borrowing decision to be made this summer and a full-fledged federal election down the line, we say "it is what it is" isn't good enough.



VIEWPOINT by Ron Chamney

# Mutual aid talk needs more facts

I wonder about the motives of people who do not include all the facts when furthering their political agendas. Julia Lucich's remarks concerning fire mutual aid (March 25 letter) speak only partially to the truth.

When I spoke about mutual aid at the meeting Ms. Lucich referred to, it was in the context of the level of service required of our fire department. My comments were to clarify that as a structural firefighting service on Salt Spring it is mandatory to maintain a full-service department as there is no one else on our island to do it, and that there is no mutual aid that can arrive in a timely manner to enter a burning building such as a hospital, school, seniors' facility or your home to evacuate anyone trapped within.

A free burning fire can double in size in one minute. If mutual aid from a nearby island is an hour or two away via ferry, it is not mutual aid in a practical sense — it is a clean-up crew.

Many seniors and disabled people are unable to evacuate themselves in a fire emergency; they must "defend in place" and await rescue. Salt Spring cannot afford to wait for a full-service fire department to arrive from off island to action an interior attack and rescue. When it comes to life safety in a structural fire, we stand alone.

Fighting forest fires is the responsibility of the provincial government. Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue is primarily a structural firefighting service, which also

fighters wildland urban interface fires for the protection of residents and their property. We hold the line until provincial forest fire crews can arrive. When forestry arrives on scene they take charge of all wildland fires.

However, forestry helicopters will not respond to a hospital fire, forestry helicopters will not search for lost students in a school fire, forestry helicopters will not set up an internal attack line to protect egress of our seniors and homeowners; our men and women of SSIFR will. We are a full-service fire department.

**To confuse a full-service structural fire discussion with a wildland fire situation is misguided at best.**

To confuse a full-service structural fire discussion with a wildland fire situation is misguided at best. I am worried that Ms. Lucich might be trying to minimize the risk of structural fires and the importance of having a full-service fire department able to competently serve the island we live on.

Can our community afford to put our pocketbooks ahead of common sense and public safety? To question the need for a full-service fire department on Salt Spring is a healthy exercise and a learning opportunity for those not aware of what that means.

Salt Spring Fire Chief Tom Bremner will be giving a presentation at the AGM in April explaining what a full-service fire department does.

*The writer is a retired Calgary firefighter and community safety officer, and a current Salt Spring fire trustee.*

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

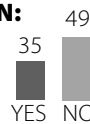
## Are Ganges seawalk ideas too ambitious?

Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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:

## Is a 1.9% annual ferry fare cap fair?



# Driftwood

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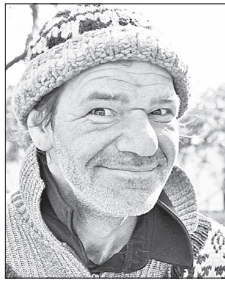
# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Maintaining focus is not hard when your organization is thriving."**

LES BROST, SS PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CHAIR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** How are you preparing for the possible eruption of Mt. Maxwell?



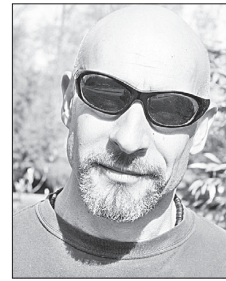
**RORY MUNROE**  
*We're always prepared. We live on a boat and will pick up whoever's out swimming.*



**CAYDEN REYNOLDS**  
*I'll grab my helmet.*



**ETHAN REYNOLDS**  
*I'll make sure there's a water gun in my emergency kit.*



**BANANA JOE CLEMENTE**  
*I'll be standing by, ready to get it all on video.*



**DYLAN DAVIES**  
*I'll try to enjoy the mountain for as long as I can, which could be for a while to come.*

## Letters to the editor

### 14 per cent not majority

I hope the Driftwood is careful about how they characterize the headline in this week's paper about this so-called approval of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District referendum.

Eighty-six per cent of ratepayers did not approve this. Only a handful of people, about 14 per cent of NSSWD ratepayers, approved the borrowing of \$8.4 million to build a new water treatment plant for St. Mary Lake.

Only 26 per cent of 2,550 eligible people bothered to vote. There ought to be a law about referendums requiring a minimum percentage of affected peo-

ple to participate in such monumental decisions that will affect our parcel tax amount for the next 25 years.

While the Internet has everyone so consumed with their pet "global issues," they don't vote locally where it actually matters and concerns them. This was a pathetic turn-out for such a big-ticket item affecting the rest of us for years to come.

**PAUL MARCANO,**  
VESUVIUS

### Road line update

A group of us met recently with Brad Boyden from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to express our concern about the faded

state of the road lines on the island.

He explained to us that Salt Spring Island is not due for a touch-up to the lines until summer of 2016. However, he offered to work with Mainroad Contracting to apply markings to certain areas. These would consist of yellow and white luminous tape, along with reflectors. His view is that the tape works as well as and even lasts longer than the paint generally used. He said this application would take place this summer.

If you would like to communicate with Mr. Boyden about this partial solution to the terrors of night driving on the island, his email is Brad.Boyden@gov.bc.ca.

**WENDY HILLIARD,**  
SALT SPRING

### Independent thought valued

In putting my name forward to become a volunteer fire board trustee, I have steered clear of personal attacks. They only have a divisive effect on the community.

Thus I feel I must respond to Maxine Leichter charging that I would not be open minded and consult with the other trustees if elected (March 25 Viewpoint). It is simply untrue. It is a shame Maxine didn't see fit to talk to me about my beliefs and strong independent views before attacking me based on her wrong assumptions.

To run as a possible fire trustee and attack another candidate without prior personal knowledge, just second or third-hand opinions, is at best shallow. It's certainly negative for all concerned.

Had Maxine been to more than a few meetings she would have picked up the common feeling from the audience, where I have regularly been a concerned listener, of how eager the public has been to be heard and understood by the board.

I value democracy and independent thought.

**DEREK HILL,**  
SS FIRE TRUSTEE CANDIDATE

### Priorities

Bob Mackie is correct ("Higher level" letter, March 25).

Replacing the Harper

government should be the priority this year. I promise to stop being offended by Elizabeth May's smears and ignore them just like Mr. Mackie.

**PAT O'NEILL,**  
HOWELL LANE

### Appreciated Bill's letter

Thank you, Bill Henderson, for your clear yet passionate "Preserve our culture" letter in last week's paper regarding the sad state of affairs surrounding the Tree House Café.

It is a shame that so few people can wreak such havoc on your tiny town.

**CONNIE KUHN'S,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Honour, hope and healing at Tseycum event

BY SUSAN PAYNTER

On Tuesday, March 17, Salt Spring was invited to a ceremony on the Tseycum nation in Saanich to acknowledge the decision of the B.C. government and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to protect and restore Grace Islet.

I know there are conflicting emotions about this decision, but I'd like to share my feelings about this issue with those who didn't make it and those who feel buying this islet in 2015 was too costly.

First, let me describe the scene. We drove past the beautifully landscaped high-end homes lining Saanich Inlet until we came to the Tseycum First Nation land, our goal, the Big House. There was no parking lot so we parked on the grassy roadside and walked past small, modest homes until we came to the huge longhouse, an imposing structure of dark crooked boards and creaky doors. Gulp!

We had been instructed in dress protocol and told to hang our troubles outside the door and not take personal or professional issues inside. A few folks met us and after knowing we were from Salt Spring we were directed to the benches on the right side of the huge arena. Upon entering, any preconceived notions we had of an authentic First Nation ceremony evaporated. It was dark,

somewhat smokey and hushed inside. Two huge fires blazed, giving off warmth, the smell of burning wood and generally a feeling of togetherness. Five or six layers of bench seating rose from the floor to high above, huge 100-foot posts held the A-frame wooden structure, and openings in the ceiling allowed smoke to escape.

I estimate 500 to 600 people were present, including about 100 Salt Springers, 14 hereditary chiefs from around the province and a few politicians. This was totally opposite from a "white" conference with its pristine tablecloths, sparkling lights, shiny gleaming floors and the hum of schmoozing movers and shakers. This reminded me of sitting around a large bonfire with my extended family discussing events of the day.

Soon the elders were asked to line up and fill their plates from the heavily laden food tables. We had to eat on our laps, but no one seemed to mind and after about an hour, when everyone had eaten, the tables were removed and Vern Jacks, the hereditary chief, welcomed everyone and the ceremony began.

This was a secret, private event, with no photos or videos allowed and we showed our respect by quietly being witnesses to the proceedings. Most of the event was

done in native language so many of us had no clue as to what was happening, although occasionally Chief Jacks would turn and translate to us in English. The laying of blankets, introduction of chiefs and their witnesses, donning of robes and regalia, and giving of tokens proceeded until there was a line-up of significant people between the fires. I'm not sure why, but they faced "our" side of the hall.

Suddenly, the drumming began and about 20 gaily dressed, masked dancers began dancing around the fires. Wearing brightly painted masks, feathers, scallop shell rattles and robes, these dancers and their partners continued for about 35 minutes. Everyone was exhausted when one by one they left and the drums stopped.

What did it all mean? I have no idea, but I had the feeling I had just witnessed something special that few whites had seen.

The fires were adjusted, things were packed up and the chiefs returned to their seats. Several people spoke of the need for cooperation, the idea of respect and understanding between nations.

Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, apologized for the length of time it took to solve the problem of Grace Islet and claimed to be "moved" by the events of the evening. He

was gifted with a beautiful wooden carving.

Several speeches called for mutual honour, respect and a need for cooperation. It felt like a turning point in First Nation and white relationships. You could feel the anxiety of those who needed to catch the last ferry, but before going the room gave a huge thank you to those who attended and those who helped bring the issue of the desecration of the ancestral burial ground on Grace Islet to the forefront. There was generally a feeling of goodwill and respect but also a palpable feeling of hope.

Perhaps the subsequent firing of George Abbott before his job even started as chief commissioner of treaty negotiations was not the best way to celebrate this feeling, but I am still hopeful. In true potlatch style we were all given gifts and those who had to leave were thanked and filed out. The rest of us gathered up, said goodbyes and thanked our hosts for allowing us to be witnesses.

We left with full hearts, a deep sense of hope and grateful for a glimpse into a culture we mostly don't "get," but generally everyone had good feelings as we left for home. Thanks for allowing me to tell my side of the story.

*The writer is involved in social justice activities on Salt Spring Island.*

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Holy Thursday April 2  
Mass of the Last Supper - 7pm

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Holy Saturday April 4  
Easter Vigil Mass - 8pm

Easter Sunday April 5  
St. Paul's, Fulford - 8am  
Our Lady of Grace, Ganges - 10am

A happy and blessed Easter to all.  
www.ourladyofgrace-saltspring.ca

### Dr. James Buchan Medical School Awards

Under a trust under the will of Dr. James Buchan, provision is made for annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited medical school on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary.

Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is May 19, 2015 to the Counselling Office at GISS.

## MORE LETTERS

### Take the seawalk further

I attended Nancy Krieg's presentation on her vision of a seawalk. I spoke with her afterwards and suggested that she didn't go far enough... physically that is.

The private property at the Upper/Lower Ganges Road intersection needs to be acquired by either the CRD or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. It could become the centre point in a park/seawalk that extends from Thrifty Foods completely around the harbour to Moby's and Salt Spring Marina.

Partners Creating Pathways volunteers have been working hard on the Harbour's End pathway that would help complete this vision. We have had several work parties at the end of the harbour building an information kiosk highlighting the history of Ganges Harbour. While working we have been able to enjoy the view of the harbour in early morning light, bright sunlight, mist and fog... it is a captivating scene. Why not make it more accessible to more people? Even though we are an island we have precious few water views to enjoy.

With the underbrush cleared and the land exposed this area is a natural for a park setting. It could be terraced, landscaped and groomed to invite all to see the beauty of Ganges Harbour. Picture the land at the end of the harbour landscaped or terraced down to the beach forming a natural amphitheatre with benches and picnic tables.

Maybe we could take the vision even further by holding music festivals emanating from a barge in the harbour. Kaslo has a fabulous jazz festival held outdoors on the water at its harbour's end. Maybe some ambitious group could start up an annual Salt Spring folk/jazz/blues festival. Or even impromptu Saturday evening music events could be held during the summer, highlighting Salt Spring musicians. (The island certainly has an

abundance.)

The audience would use the natural amphitheatre configuration to bring their own seating and enjoy the show. It has the potential to boost tourism on the island.

It is a waste not to be able to enjoy the beauty of our harbour. Let's just do it!

**GARY LEHMAN,  
SALT SPRING**

### Don't destroy boardwalk

I was outraged to read in the Driftwood about Nancy Krieg's "vision" for the Ganges boardwalk "extending far beyond a mere plank and piling extension of the current structure."

Her vision includes a "floating structure to be used for performances," "new areas of commerce" and "a sunrise coffee cart." Surely Ganges has enough of this yuppie paraphernalia without destroying the town's one unique feature, its 25-year-old unfinished boardwalk.

If there is to be a boardwalk, let it be a quiet and peaceful place zoned only for dog walking and eating ice cream, and remain a monument to the ordinary person's fight against bureaucracy. I love the boardwalk as it is, planks rotting out and having to be replaced while the Cudmore gap is never filled in, and those goofy signs telling us to be careful because visibility is limited after dusk.

I loved the best April Fool's joke ever printed in the Driftwood, which was the story of how vandals had finished the boardwalk in the night.

Ms. Krieg, please take your visions elsewhere. This is too much like the emperor's new clothes.

**BARBARA DE BURGH,  
PREVOST ISLAND**

### Community rep needed on harbour board

I would like to applaud the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island for seeming to be committed to working toward a solution to the Tree House Café debacle.

("Harbour authority shares its outlook," March 25 Driftwood piece by Kathy Scarfo.)

It was also nice to see the harbour authority acknowledge that beyond their very limited core mandate of providing dock space for the few remaining fish boats, they use the very substantial revenue they earn from visiting, winter moorage, permanent moorage boats and their tenants (Coast Guard, search and rescue, police, ambulance, the water taxi and the airlines) to maintain and upgrade these facilities.

I was disappointed to come back from a winter holiday and find that most of those people the harbour authority is supposed to be serving don't seem to have any representation on the board.

I would quite happily run for and run against anyone else who wanted to put themselves forward for the community representative seat on the board.

Right now we have a very small special interest group making decisions without any public input or public debate.

All that really needs to be done is to hold a meeting of the community members. It could be done in the parking lot on a Sunday morning. Publicize and call the meeting.

You can publicize a call for nominations in next week's Driftwood and have the election the week after.

**GREG MIDDLETON,  
SALT SPRING**

### Mutual aid not fast enough

The letter from Julia Lucich in last week's Driftwood implies that mutual aid from other fire departments is readily available.

Fires can spread quickly so aid from other departments must arrive quickly and with necessary equipment.

During the Bullock Lake fire, which she used as an example, I was a volunteer in Salt Spring's Emergency Operations Centre and was tasked with picking up the first group of relief firefighters that arrived by police boat. While two groups of firefighters did come over, they had no equipment other than what they could carry (their turnout gear) and

arrived approximately two hours after the fire broke out.

Mutual aid can be very good in prolonged incidents such as forest fires, but we cannot afford to be dependent on other fire departments to come to our aid in the case of structure fires. They just can't get here fast enough.

**ROLF DAMMEL,  
HEAD STREET**

### New society holds inaugural meeting

I would like to draw your readers' attention to a Notice of Inaugural Meeting of Salt Spring Island "Cast-Off!" Society this Wednesday evening, April 1 at 7 p.m., at Fulford Hall, addressed by guest speakers Al Gore and David Suzuki.

We aim to set an example to the rest of Canada by repudiating on Salt Spring any goods and services which serve to increase global warming and environmental pollution, including but not limited to:

- Bulk marine transportation of fossil fuels via the Salish Sea that threaten our shores.

- Pipelines (as proposed on March 27 by the egregious Harper government) to cross the southern Gulf Islands for transporting same.

- Ditto transmission lines for electricity consumption (deleterious electro-magnetic emissions).

- The abolition of microwave electronic communication devices.

- All fossil-fuelled vehicular or marine transportation.

- Importation of all foreign-grown foodstuffs (requiring fossil-fuelled transportation and distribution).

- Importation of all non-bio-degradable products.

Let's walk the walk, not just talk the talk!

We look forward to a full house. See you there. Support "The Cause" in the interests of our children and future generations.

Please contact me for carpooling.

**URSULA PANDATIT,  
RAINBOW ROAD**

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

## RANTS and Roses

Buckets of fresh, fragrant spring roses to Blaine, Cheryle and Don at Johnson's Automotive for going way beyond the call of duty to get the part required to fix my car so I could get away on my mini vacation. We're very fortunate indeed to have such great service! Elizabeth

To Paul Large, the largest, most sweet-smelling country rose of all time. This is to say thank you for all you do for our island community. You have made a big difference. A happy Save-a-Tape benefactor at Country Grocer.

Mr. Lee and Ms. Bateman's Grade 6-7 classes from SIMS send canoes full of roses to each business and parent who helped with fundraising for the class's field trip to Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. Thank you to Salt Spring Coffee, Imagine That Graphics, Spa by Lenice, Culture Aveda Concept Salon, Salt Spring Inn, Bohemia Consignment, Country Grocer, CIBC, Jana's Bake Shop, Dave's Blasting, Akerman Electric, Salt Spring Fire Department, Sweet Haven Hands, Island Savings, Slegg Lumber, Salt Spring Sound, Salt Spring Lions, Salt Spring Legion, Windsor Plywood and the GISS improv group!

A truck load of roses for Dave Phillips, who saw me struggling with too much baggage down the walkway to the ferry at Crofton. He stopped to invite me to put my load in his truck, for which I was extremely grateful. He then parked at Vesuvius so that I could transfer my gear. This spontaneous act of kindness and consideration certainly deserves roses. Tony Burridge

A truckload of flowers to the three strapping young men who came bounding across the road to help a senior lady who'd fallen down on the sidewalk across from Country Grocer on Thursday. They picked her up, swung her around onto her walker chair and then escorted her to the store. Gentlemen with a capital G!

A generous bouquet of pussywillows and catnip go out to Taz, Kevin and Reign, who took in my sister's three cats and gave them a loving home out of the kindness of their hearts. Our love and appreciation, Avril, Bunny, Mimi and Rennie



# Citizen scientist contributions can have powerful impact

BY BOB WEEDEN

In B.C. it is as if there were two classes of wild animals. In one group are things you can catch and eat or hang on a wall. In the other is everything else.

The Ministry of Environment employs biologists — never enough, but some — to keep track of the edibles and trophies: deer and bears and such. They hire one person to look after the rest.

She came to talk with interested Salt Springers recently. Purnima Govindarajulu, animated and infectiously enthusiastic, told of the fascinating lives of frogs, salamanders, lizards and snakes. She told us, too, of the serious troubles that threaten roughly half of all species in those groups in the province.

Then she described her initiatives in “citizen science.” Dr. Govindarajulu taps into the springs of affectionate interest so many people feel toward our companion Earth-riders, does a lot of organizing, and — voila! Unpaid help! Frog Watch, Bird Watch, Butterfly Watch (which some islanders started up here a few years back) all are designed to translate that interest into information useful to an impossibly stretched staffer.

Purnima related an especially heart-warming incident from the citizen science program. School kids discovered a snake hibernaculum on a rock-armored dike on the Fraser River Delta. Within days of the discovery (it turned out to be the biggest congregation of hibernating garter snakes yet found in B.C.) a contractor came along to repair the dike with earthmoving equipment. There was a conversation, mutual respect and a compromise. The sleepy snakes were brought to cool safety until

## INDEPTH

normal wake-up time in April. Next fall the snakes will go home to the hibernaculum, now rebuilt — clumsily, maybe, because ‘dozer operators don’t do this often, but we hope acceptably to the snakes.

The notion of citizen science set me thinking. Let me back up a little while I tell you the trail I followed.

The whole idea of science, disciplined thought based on evidence and experiment, is admirable. It is a milestone in human history. The results in practice, however, are mixed. No one can dispute the conveniences we have, the communication we can enjoy (or not) so effortlessly, or the enormous horizons science has opened to art and the imagination.

Neither can we deny the evils loosed on the world when scientists have run with the wolves of governmental or corporate power, bequeathing us atomic warheads and grain fields toxic to every creature except the crop. Science hasn’t changed human nature, just magnified the power of every contradictory aspect of it.

That worries me. It also worries me that science has become less and less accessible to folks like us. Scientists have enabled, then used, technologies revealing things about our planet that are far out of reach of our senses, our personal experience, and our full understanding and empathy.

They have dived past cells, past elements, past atoms, photons and mesons, into the never-never of quarks and quanta. Scientists have risen from Earth to solar

system to visible star to invisible star to black holes to — guess what? — quanta.

All that really tiny stuff (and non-stuff) is discoverable only through abstract math. It’s a devilishly hard language to learn, much harder than Greek or Nepalese. And the real trouble is this: when you master a new word language you open up a different perspective on human life and experience. If you learn the abstract math of astrophysics, where do you emerge? In the vast emptiness of M theory and N universes across which probabilities spark like the corpses of fireflies in the stellar wind.

The gap between citizen and big science is huge. Given that, and accepting that the combination of science, technology and power is capable of great good and great mischief, we know that ordinary lives and democratic process are in serious trouble. “Majority rule” is a sham when the majority doesn’t and can’t understand what’s happening. Our role is just to pay, through taxes or the price of goods and services, to support the minority’s rule.


That’s where Dr. Govindarajulu’s citizen science comes in. When we talk about stewardship of Earth and its life we are solidly in our comfort zone. Our personal experiences and the accumulated experiences of millions of folks through many generations that we call common sense (note the relationship of “senses” and “sense”) are worth something. That’s what we give when we send some coordinating group a note about the summer arrival of nighthawks, the crowd of frogs crossing a dark and rain-slicked road, or the tiny brown snake found coiled and calm under a slab of slate.

Taking part in citizen science is an act

of caring, an act of community, and act of bridge-building. It is an act that shores up the weakening foundations of democracy. It is an act, finally, that

gives back the gift given to us: life.

*Bob Weeden is a retired university professor and a scientist, writer and farmer.*



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 All Saints by-the-Sea, 110 Park Dr, Ganges  
 St. Mark's, 961 North End Rd, at Central  
 St. Mary's, 2600 Fulford-Ganges Rd, Fulford

*Holy Week and Easter Services*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**  
 Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m. All Saints'

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2**  
 The New Commandment of Love and the Lord's Supper  
 7:00 p.m. All Saints'

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**  
 Proclamation and Meditation at the Cross of Christ  
 12 noon All Saints'

Entombment of Christ 4:45 p.m. All Saints'

**EASTER EVE, APRIL 4**  
 Contemplation of Light, Our Ancient Stories,  
 and Signs of Water, Bread and Wine  
 10:00 p.m. All Saints'

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**  
 9:30 a.m. All Saints' BAS Festival Eucharist  
 11:15 a.m. St. Mark's BCP Festival Eucharist  
 11:45 a.m. St. Mary's Festival Eucharist

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

### Thrifty solutions

I would like to thank everyone who has responded to my petition regarding an escalator or stairway between the upper and lower levels of Thrifty Foods. Here is the reply from Ralf Mundel of Thrifty's and my reply to him.

“Thank you for your effort and your thoughts on how this might be accomplished.

What I will commit to is keeping an open mind. Once we settle into our new space ‘upstairs’ with The Local, then we will assess customer flow and look at feasibility of options. I know this may sound empty at this point, but I’ve never been one to ‘over promise’...”

My response: “I do hope you won’t disappoint us and will come up with an acceptable solution.

“In my last note a perfect solution would be to install an elevator especially for the elderly people on Salt Spring Island.

Many thanks.”

**ANN VAN OEVEREN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Leave E-Plus in place

Islanders using BC Hydro’s Electricity-Plus program for heating are getting a letter regarding the phasing out of the permanent system.

We are asked, Option 1, whether to maintain the present rates, or, Option 2, what is the reasonable time frame to phase out the E-Plus program and what would be the fair-est way to do so.

When first started in the late 1980s, the E-Plus rate was about 50 per cent of regular electricity. In April 1991 the rate began a change to two-thirds of the regular rate. Over the years, electric charges have continued to rise: April 1, this year, by six per cent, and the next three years by 4.5 per cent, 3.5 per cent and three per cent.

Certainly the E-Plus should remain.

Efforts of BC Hydro to be profitable, yet forced to accept expensive independent power producers at the behest of incompetent government, should not be reason to break its promise of a permanent E-Plus system.

I quote from a letter to customers, Jan. 7, 1991, as saying, “. . . the rate would never exceed two thirds of the regular price of electricity. Naturally, we stand by that commitment.”

The 10,000 E-Plus customers have aged and are dwindling in number. E-Plus is not transferable to another house or owner, and the problem will solve itself, if rates are left alone.

**TOM CARTWRIGHT,**  
VESUVIUS

### Appreciation for Skeena ferry captain

We would like to express our appreciation to the captain of the Skeena Queen for her willingness to delay departure from Swartz Bay of the 5 p.m. sailing of Saturday, Feb. 21 and of the 7 p.m. sailing on Thursday, March 12, both due to the late arrival of the ferry from Tsawwassen.

In the past, some other Skeena Queen captains have shown less regard for the patrons of the ferry service by placing their schedule over the needs of the people they are serving. BC Ferries doesn’t have any competitors and consequently has shown less concern over providing meaningful customer service.

Therefore, the actions of this Skeena Queen captain stand as a shining example of how BC Ferries service could become more people oriented and in doing so gain greater support from the communities it serves.

We commute weekly on BC Ferries.  
**FRANCINE CARLIN,**  
SALT SPRING

## VOTE FOR Maxine LEICHTER for Fire District Trustee



### VOTE

Wednesday April 15 11-4

Saturday April 18 11-5

Salt Spring Library



#### Maxine’s Priorities:

- Engage the public in meaningful dialogue about each service provided by the Fire Department and how to save money without reducing community safety.
- Engage professional assistance in negotiating a fair and affordable contract with unionized firefighters.
- Undertake a meaningful public involvement process to design a new fire hall that will be acceptable to the community.
- Implement the Walker recommendations through a respectful collaboration between the Trustees, staff and the public.

#### Maxine knows how government should work

- For decades she has been involved in public participation and government decision making. On Salt Spring she has been promoting inclusive and effective public involvement in government decisions, making presentations to the Islands Trust, community groups and writing in the Driftwood.
- Retired policy analyst with the City of Los Angeles finding solutions to community problems.

#### Maxine has leadership experience

- Elected Director of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District providing drinking water to 13 cities and entities in Los Angeles County.
- Served on the board of many non-profit organizations.
- Currently a Commissioner on the SSI Liquid Waste Commission.

**The other candidates are running together.  
 Maxine is the only INDEPENDENT candidate in the race.**

# what's on this week



What's On - the go!  
Scan this barcode with your smartphone to download, instructions below.

**Wed. Apr 1**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### Music & Munch.

Patricia Flannagan sings favourite songs from Scotland. Free recital followed by optional lunch prepared by the Anglican Caterers. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

### Drop-in Computer Help.

Free assistance with computer, tablet, smartphone problems every Wednesday at Salt Spring Literacy. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Queen Margaret's School Information Evening.

Info evening about Duncan independent school. Harbour House Hotel. 5 to 8 p.m.

### Wednesday Night Poker.

Hosted by Albert, sign up at 6:30 p.m. The Local.

### Library Murder Mystery Fundraiser.

Celebrate April Fool's Day with a unique fundraiser event with mystery, murder, wine, and cheese. Salt Spring Library. 7 p.m.

### SongJam.

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

**Thur. Apr 2**

## ACTIVITIES

### Alanon.

For friends and family of alcoholics. At Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 noon.

### Tech Tutoring With Lisa Pearce.

Windows and tablets. No Macs. Salt Spring Public Library. 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

### Art Show Opening.

New work by Anais LaRue and Slug-fae Blume at Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.

### Poetry Open Mic.

Featured poet Rowan Percy, plus open mic. Salt Spring Public Library. Signup at 6:45 p.m. Readings at 7 p.m.

**Fri. Apr 3**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### Brent Shindell.

Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

### Jill Louise Campbell Art Gallery Opening Reception.

New work from journeys in France. 4 to 7 p.m.

### Melanie Williamson Exhibit Opening Reception.

Part of Steffich Fine Art 23rd birthday celebration. 5 to 7 p.m.

### Easter Art Tour.

Opening reception for Five Women in Abstraction exhibit and three-day art extravaganza. Mahon Hall. 6 to 9 p.m.

**Sat. Apr 4**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### The Barley Bros.

Every Saturday at The Local. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

### Easter Art Tour.

Self-guided tour of 35 galleries, studios and exhibits, including Mahon Hall Five Women in Abstraction exhibit.

### Chess and Scrabble Club.

Open to chess and Scrabble players of all ages and skill levels. Salt Spring Public Library, Room 103. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association AGM.

Meeting in the Meadowbrook lounge. 10 a.m.

### Easter ToddlerTime at the Library.

Especially suited for children 3 and under, with stories, songs, an Easter egg hunt, and a special visit from the Easter bunny. Salt Spring Library. 10:30 a.m.

### Bob Masse Poster Release.

Artist will hand-sign posters made for SS Garlic & Music Festival at Steffich Fine Art from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Part of Steffich Fine Art 23rd birthday celebrations.

**Sun. Apr 5**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### The Barley Bros.

Every Sunday at Moby's Pub. 3 to 6 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

### Easter Art Tour.

See Saturday's listing.

### Easter at the Cheese Farm.

4-H animal display, baby animals, Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunt. Salt Spring Cheese Company. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Unitarian Fellowship.

Amanda Tarling asks: How can acknowledging our vulnerability contribute to our spiritual growth? Salt Spring Seniors Services. 10:30 a.m.

**Mon. Apr 6**

Library closed for holiday.

**Tue. Apr 7**

## ACTIVITIES

### The Beer Bottle House of Norfolk Island: Another True Yet Unbelievable Keough Story!

Pat and Rosemarie Keough are Probus meeting guest speakers at Meaden Hall. 10 a.m.

### Community Dance Workshop.

Choreographer Claire French from Restless Productions, one of Vancouver's newest dance companies, teaches a workshop for all levels leading to April 9 Lobby Dance. ArtSpring. 5 to 8 p.m.

**Tue. Apr 7**

## ACTIVITIES

### Kevin Vowles Book Launch and Art Opening.

Introducing book and art project called Gender-Based Violence and Peace-Building: A Journey To See The Forest Through The Trees. Salt Spring Coffee Company. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Wed. Apr 8**

## ACTIVITIES

### Nina Raginsky Stamp Celebration.

Toast islander Nina Raginsky's accomplishment in having her Shoeshine Stand photo honoured with a Canada Post stamp. Ganges Post Office. 11 a.m. to noon.

### Salt Spring Historical Society.

Richard Blagborne from Saturna Island Heritage Archives talks on The Past & the Present. Central Hall. 2 p.m.

### League 181 Interpretations II Art Talk.

Join artists exhibiting at Salt Spring Public Library in discussing work in current show. 6 to 8 p.m.

### Drop-in Computer Help.

See last Wednesday's listing.

### Wednesday Night Poker.

See last Wednesday's listing.

### SongJam.

See last Wednesday's listing.

# getnoticed board

Send your submissions to [news@gulfislands.net](mailto:news@gulfislands.net) or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

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

## 9th Annual Easter Art Tour

Five Women of Abstraction exhibit at Mahon Hall - April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>  
Plus Self-guided tour of Salt Spring Galleries & Studios - April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>

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## EXHIBITIONS

- **Ninth Annual Easter Art Tour** runs from Friday-Sunday, April 3 to 5, with a self-guided tour of 35 galleries and studios, plus the **Five Women in Abstraction** exhibit at Mahon Hall from April 3 to 12 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and an opening reception on Friday, April 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Steffich Fine Art** celebrates its 23rd birthday with two special events: an exhibition of new works by **Melanie Williamson**, with an opening reception on Friday, April 3 from 5 to 7 p.m., and the SS Garlic and Music Festival poster release by **Bob Masse** on Saturday, April 4 with artist hand-signing posters from noon to 3 p.m.
- **Imprints 2015**, an exhibition of woodcuts, etchings, linocuts and monoprints by **Arnold Shives, Jan Smith, Richard Tetrault** and **Richard York**, runs at **Duthie Gallery** from April 3 to 30, with an artists' reception on Sat., April 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. Gallery hours are Fri-Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Salt Spring Gallery** presents **Animal Magick - New Works** by **Anais LaRue**, and **Soaring on Broken Stapled Wings - New Works** by **Slug-fae Blume** from April 2 to 16, with opening night on Thursday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Until then, see Brought to the Light - The Watercolour Art of **Lorne Shantz**.
  - **Jill Louise Campbell** shows original paintings from her journeys in France from April 2 to 4, with a reception on Friday, April 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at **Jill Louise Campbell Art Gallery**.
  - **Bill Underwood** holds a photography exhibition called **Outposts** at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until April 11.
  - **The Salt Spring Library Program Room** exhibit for April is **Interpretations II**, work by the **League 181** artists. A special talk about the work and process is on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m.
  - **Avril Kirby** shows photographs in an exhibit titled **China** at **TJ Beans** through April.
  - **Kevin Vowles** shows artwork at **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** in Ganges.
  - **Ingrid Korner** shows watercolour paintings at **Country Roasters Cafe** through April.
  - **Heidi Van Impe's** oil paintings are on display at **Island Savings**.
  - **Doug Rhodes'** photos are hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- [www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/](http://www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/)  
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...a bouquet of events all month long!

**Welcome to the fifth annual Salt Spring Blooms in April spring celebration!**

The island's gardens, farms and public spaces are bursting with new growth and activities this month, with details on the following pages.

Beginning with the opening of the **Saturday Market in the Park** on **Saturday, April 4**, there are special events taking place every weekend during the month.

**April 3-5 is Easter Weekend**, with the **Easter Art Tour** on tap.

See the special exhibit at Mahon Hall and tour island galleries and studios.

**Saturday, April 4** marks the start of a fun-filled month of activities for the entire family. Salt Spring will burst with a variety of events, including studio tours & art shows, garden tours, **Earth Day Celebrations**, the annual **Japanese Garden Society's Blossom Festival** and culinary treats and wine tasting at **A Taste of Salt Spring**, and shopping at the island's famous **Saturday Market**. Many of the activities are free!

*Join us this April for our annual "end of hibernation" celebration!*



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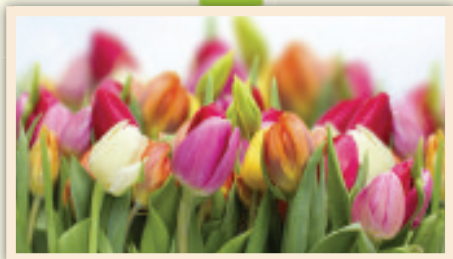
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# Salt Spring BLOOMS in APRIL



**Saturday, April 4**  
Opening day of the famous Salt Spring Saturday Market in Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Friday-Sunday, April 3-5**  
Annual Easter Art Tour takes place in various locations on the island, plus the Five Women in Abstraction exhibit runs at Mahon Hall from April 3-12, with an opening reception on April 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. Learn more at [www.saltspringeasterarttour.com](http://www.saltspringeasterarttour.com). This event is supported by the Salt Spring Arts Council.

**Saturday, April 4**  
Easter Toddler Time at the Salt Spring Public Library starting at 10 a.m. Bring the kids from 6 and under, but all kids of all ages are welcome. Easter Bunny will be there hopping!

**Easter Sunday, April 5**  
Great day to be at Salt Spring Island Cheese for the annual Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Cheese Shop will be open from 10 to 5 and the 4H Club will be there with a display of animals. Learn more at 250-653-2300.

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and Taiko  
at Mah

**Wedn**  
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literary event tal  
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**Fri**  
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roads, or the overpopulation  
cats in adoption centres all

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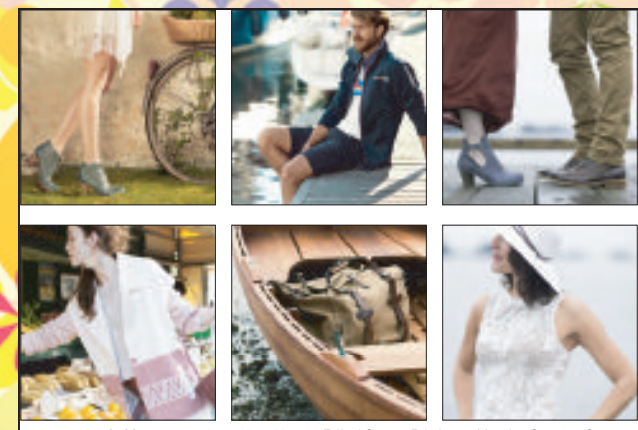



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**ts for You to Enjoy!**

**Thursday, April 9**  
 Performance called A Tapestry of  
 Vol. 2. Dynamic Shamisen  
 Drum Duo performs  
 on Hall. 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 15**  
 Selected Works with Brian  
 Webb. This free Read Local BC  
 takes place at the Salt Spring  
 Public Library at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 17**  
 Concert Band presents  
 award-winning anime films  
 with beautiful selections by  
 composers. One night only and  
 ArtSpring Theatre will host  
 performance and tickets are  
 at the box office or at:  
 www.artspring.ca

**Saturday, April 18**  
 Blossom Festival hosted by The Japanese  
 Garden Society of Salt Spring Island. Join the  
 community in the Peace Park on Jackson  
 Avenue  
 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 Food, music, demos, booths and more!

**Sunday, April 19**  
 A Taste of Salt Spring – a food and wine-  
 tasting extravaganza at the Harbour House  
 Hotel from 4 to 6 p.m. For only \$17 in advance  
 or \$20 at the door, you will enjoy tastings  
 from various  
 Salt Spring restaurants, wineries and brewery.  
 Tickets at the Salt Spring Chamber  
 or Harbour House Hotel.

**Wednesday, April 22**  
 Earth Day in Centennial Park for  
 live music, food, outdoor yoga  
 and tributes to Mother Earth!

**Friday-Sunday, April 24, 25, 26**  
 StageCoach Theatre students present  
 James and the Giant Peach,  
 with improv students opening the show.  
 ArtSpring. 7 p.m. on April 24-25,  
 and 2 p.m. on April 26.

**Saturday, April 25**  
 The Annual SSI Garden Club Plant Sale  
 is on from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the  
 Farmers' Institute at 351 Rainbow Rd.  
 This is the place to see and purchase shrubs,  
 herbs, flowers and veggie plants.  
 Bring a box, they fill up faster  
 than you think!

**Tuesday, April 28**  
 Buffy Sainte-Marie at the SSI Folk Club  
 at Fulford Hall! 7 p.m.  
 This will be a fantastic show.  
 Tickets at Salt Spring Books –  
 cash only please.

STAGECOACH  
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 BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2015 GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

# JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

April 24 & 25th 7pm  
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**Arnold Shives, Jan Smith, Richard Tetrault & Richard York**  
**April 3-30, 2015**  
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## League 181 artists revisit interpretations

Initial success inspires sequel

Painters with a league of their own are exhibiting at the Salt Spring Public Library through April with Interpretations II.

"League 181 was established in 2013 by a small group of experienced painters," explains press material. "The central idea was that they would

benefit by painting together in a group, both by discussion of the craft and by observation of one another."

The artists' initial Interpretations exhibit was held in December of 2013.

"The basic idea was to compare and contrast the range of interpretations each artist made of the same subject. There were few rules: elements of the image could be eliminated, re-arranged

or duplicated, or new elements could be introduced — the objective was to see how to make the strongest painting possible from the starting image."

A public talk is set for Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m. in the library's program room.

League 181 members in the exhibition are Peter Eyles, Don Hodgins, AFCA, Herb Otto, Wendy Wickland and Dulcy Wilson.

**OPENINGS**

## Williamson and Masse featured at Steffich

Anniversary events held April 3 and 4

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Steffich Fine Art celebrates its 23rd birthday in style with two art release events held over the Easter weekend.

On Friday, April 3 from 5 to 7 p.m., local artist Melanie Williamson is on hand to celebrate her first major gallery show. Born and raised on Salt Spring, Williamson has made her commitment to fine art official with the release of 18 new paintings.

"Her creative gift and technical skills are self-evident. She is a very welcome addition to the gallery," Steffich said.

Williamson has done a lot of computer graphics work, so when she's painting she feels it's important the finished pieces clearly show they were done by hand. Her expressive style includes a building up of dark and light tones and then adding pigment to create the image.

New works in the show focus on three subject areas: animals, people at work and nudes. All three, Williamson observes, can be boiled down to the importance of how subjects hold themselves.

"I think with all of these, it's really gesture: a tilt of the head or posture or stance of somebody doing something, you really get a sense of mood," she said.

Williamson is pleased to have Gabrielle Jensen's masterful skills available on island at Gulf Island Picture Framing.

"I kind of feel with her and Matt [Steffich] I'm being guided in a really good way. It's so nice," Williamson said.

On Saturday, April 4, the gallery will release local artist Bob Masse's poster for the first annual Salt Spring Garlic and Music Festival, which will take place on Aug. 8 and 9. Masse will be at the gallery from noon to 3 p.m. to sign collector-sized posters in a limited edition of 100. The event marks the official release of the music festival's promotions, with Masse's artwork to adorn souvenir posters, T-shirts and flyers in the months to come.

Masse is famed for his characteristic rock posters, with top recoding artists from Neil Young to Nine Inch Nails having their shows immortalized in the Mucha-meets-psychedelic style. For the upcoming music festival's first look, though, he chose to step a little outside those lines.

"This style is something I really haven't been working on before," Masse said.

Masse was inspired by a Maxfield Parrish landscape of water, sky and golden oaks, transforming it with a Salt Spring festival stage and arching blue skies. His characteristic organic framing design and stylized lettering in shocking pink and orange complement the golden scene to create a wholly original composition.

Masse will also create another poster in the coming months to focus on the garlic and organic foods aspect of the festival. He said that poster will feature more of his traditional Art Nouveau elements.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 Melanie Williamson with a self-portrait at ArtSpring. Her Steffich Fine Art show will feature 18 new works.



IMAGE CONTRIBUTED  
 The legendary Bob Masse will sign limited numbered posters on Saturday.

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## DANCE

# Moment of Forgetting melds forms

Lobby dance also part of ArtSpring evening

BY ANNA HALTRECHT  
ARTSPRING DANCE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Choreographer Claire French is looking forward to what she calls the "Salt Spring Experience."

Along with composer James Maxwell, this will be her first visit to Salt Spring and the first time their company, Restless Productions, one of Vancouver's newest dance companies, will be on the island. Five dancers and four musicians will perform *The Moment of Forgetting* at ArtSpring on Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

*The Moment of Forgetting* explores in movement, sound and performance the

human experience of being abandoned by our knowledge; the shock of meeting an absence where we most expected a presence. It captures that paradoxical space and time—at once an instant and an eternity—between action and stasis, familiarity and surprise, in a performance that is simultaneously jarring and comforting, sensuous, hypnotic, humorous and pensive.

Aesthetically, the work highlights the physicality of both musicians and dancers, giving the audience an experience that cannot be easily classified in either discipline; dance audiences will see musical performance brought to the fore, and music audiences will be given an intimate encounter with contemporary dance. We see the score as a kind of surrogate memory, the removal of which provides a metaphor for the

absence associated with forgetting.


Want to experience playing with these ideas yourself as a Lobby Dancer? Now is your chance. French and Maxwell will lead a performance workshop for dancers of all levels (teens and adults) on Tuesday, April 7, 5 to 8 p.m. The workshop will create a Lobby Dance to be performed before *The Moment of Forgetting* performance.

The workshop is also on the theme of forgetting, which lends itself to physical ideas like stopping and starting, abandoning movements, greeting someone for the first time over and over again, leaving objects in the space and coming back for them.

Registration is through ArtSpring. People can come early to the April 9 performance at 6:45 p.m. to enjoy the Lobby Dance and wine bar.

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## MUSIC

# Local composers air creations

Song contest plus Trinity Forbes EP

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's musical side is bearing audio fruit this spring season, with a number of creative outputs now ready for listeners' pleasure.

A casual island group that meets every three weeks or so and is known as the Stone Soup Singers could become the next voice of the nation, with their original song in the running for a contest sponsored by British Columbia's Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon.

"It's in a sense an anthem, but it's done in the folk style, so it's a little different that way," explained Susan Worrall, who co-wrote the tune *This is Canada* with Joi Freed-Garrod and Vera Algoet.

*Sing Me A Song*, which is now in its second year, is a program

meant to promote music and community spirit, with the overall goal of producing an original song in the lead-up to Canada's 150th birthday celebrations in 2017.

The song had to be written and performed collaboratively by a British Columbia-based amateur, community or school group with a minimum of eight voices.

A number of familiar islanders can be heard singing Stone Soup's song on the YouTube video, which can be found under the title *This Is Canada 3*. Each entry will be reviewed by a panel of musicians from around the province with the possibility of receiving a \$1,000 award in one of three age categories.

"Our plan, if it wins, is that we would have a small bursary for a student in music to continue their studies, and then we'll use part of it to do a workshop to guide us through some songs," Worrall said.

Another artist flexing her creative muscles is local producer and singer Trinity Forbes, who has just released "I am\_\_\_\_," the third EP under her Firewood Poetry moniker.

"While writing the three songs, my heart was both filled with love for a man and lacking in love for myself," Forbes said. "Each track represents the relationship we have with ourselves and one we may have with a lover.

"My appreciation for the man who inspired this EP cannot be described. I have been shown happiness and sorrow, heartbreak and love, and most importantly I have been shown that the acceptance of impermanence is a beautiful thing."

The title of the EP is meant to inspire listeners to search for what they identify with.

It will be released digitally through ABTC recording. Tracks can be heard on Firewood Poetry's SoundCloud page.

## CONCERTS

# Japanese sounds blossom on island

Garden society sponsors April 9 show

The Japanese Garden Society will bring two young musicians with Japanese traditional instruments to Salt Spring Island as part of the group's annual celebration of spring blossoms.

A Tapestry of Japanese Sounds Vol. 2 is the concert coming to Mahon Hall on Thursday, April 9, featuring shamisen player Koji Yamaguchi and taiko drum player Yoshihiko Fueki.

According to a press release, both artists have trained from a young age

and have become highly accomplished musicians. They are active in introducing and promoting Japanese traditional music both in Japan and abroad through their dynamic performance.

Yamaguchi grew up surrounded by the sounds of traditional shamisen, taiko and Okinawan sanshin. He started studying the shamisen as an apprentice when he was 12, and from a young age began performing as a solo artist. He has since won many awards and made successful appearances in the U.S., Malaysia, China and Canada.

Yamaguchi has been invited to play in royal palaces, temples and at the FIFA World Cup 2012.

He is passionate about introducing shamisen to the world, as well as performing and visiting schools to run workshops and teach music programs all over Japan.

Fueki grew up immersed in traditional Japanese music and instruments such as the koto and shamisen, and started learning the taiko drum when he was 15. He started his career as a solo artist with an appearance in Cambodia in 2006.

Fueki collaborates with various traditional and contemporary Japanese music groups. Recently he was invited to Georgetown University as a guest instructor to teach taiko drumming, and he holds workshops around

the world.

Both artists are keen to share their enthusiasm for Japanese traditional music by performing and conducting workshops whenever they have the opportunity. They are hoping to meet people on Salt Spring after the concert and share their heritage with them.

Proceeds from the concert will go toward maintaining the Heiwa Garden and other activities to acknowledge the Japanese-Canadian pioneers on Salt Spring. Guests are invited to come to the hall early and see the Easter Art Tour feature exhibit before the 7:30 p.m. concert, or stay after to chat with the musicians.

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

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## LOCAL HISTORY

# Saturna Island history in focus at historical gathering

Archives' growth also discussed

The April 8 meeting of the Salt Spring Historical Society will feature Richard Blagborne from Saturna Island.

Beginning at 2 p.m. at Central Hall, he will present a program on Saturna Island history and the newly developed Saturna Heritage Archives.

In 1791, First Nations people were startled by the still rare sight of a Spanish schoo-

ner exploring the most southern of the Gulf Islands. The Saturnina gave its name to this hilly island, which was settled slowly, as it was well removed from the traffic of Active Pass and devoid of the fertile soil of many other islands.

The first British settler arrived in 1868 with Peter Frazier purchasing Crown land for one pound an acre. Four years later, a 1,400-acre homestead facing Plumper Sound was developed by Charles Trueworthy.

After a ship went aground at Boiling Reef in 1886, land for the East Point lighthouse was purchased from well-known Gulf Islands pioneer Warburton Pike for the installation of a coal-burning lighthouse. Today, East Point is the

home of the Saturna Island Heritage Archive. Blagborne will explain how it came about.

Tea and coffee will be served at the end of the meeting, which is open to everyone.



## SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING FOR TRUSTEES

### ELECTION BY VOTING

**Public Notice** is hereby given to the electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District an Election by Voting is necessary to elect, for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 20th, 2015 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2018, to fill the offices of three (3) Trustees on the Board of Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District and that the persons nominated as candidates at the Election and for whom the votes will be received are listed below:

**TRUSTEES** - three persons to be elected:  
Surname Given Name Residential Address

	Surname	Given Name	Residential Address
<b>FOREST</b>	Mitchell		267 Suneagle Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
<b>HILL</b>	Derek		221 Chu-an Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 1H9
<b>LEICHTER</b>	Maxine		706 Mt. Belcher Hts. Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2J3
<b>SCHLENKER</b>	Norbert		30 Bittoncourt Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.,

AND THAT the one year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April twentieth (20th), 2015 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2016 for which nominations were received:

**TRUSTEE** (One person to be elected)  
Surname Given Name Residential Address

	Surname	Given Name	Residential Address
<b>LEE</b>	Linda		220 Park Drive, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2R6

### ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

**VOTING DAY** for the election of Trustees will be open on **Saturday the eighteenth (18th) day of April 2015, TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** at:

**SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 129 McPhillips Avenue**

AND SUCH VOTING PLACE SHALL BE OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF **Eleven (11:00) A.M. and Five (5:00) P.M.**

**ADVANCE VOTING** for election of Trustees shall be open on Wednesday the **fifteenth (15th) of April 2015 TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALTSRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** between the hours of **eleven (11:00) A.M. and four (4:00) P.M. at the Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue.**

Given under my hand at Ganges, B.C. this twentieth (20th) day of March 2015.

Thomas F. Moore  
Returning Officer

### ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

You are qualified as an Elector if you are:

- A Canadian Citizen
- eighteen years or older on Voting Day
- a resident in the Province for at least six months before Voting Day
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- an authorized agent, designated in writing as the said agent, of a Board or Corporation that owns land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners are entitled to 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. **Please note that when checking the list of owners provided by the B.C. Assessment Authority the multiple ownership of some properties may not have been recorded. If the property that is being used for voting purposes is held in multiple ownership it is recommended that the persons intending to vote bring suitable identification, as listed below, to avoid any inconvenience.**

If you are not on the List of Registered Electors you may register on Voting Day providing you produce two pieces of identification, one of which has your signature, preferably with pictorial identification, e.g. drivers licence, and documentation proving ownership of the land for which you are owner, e.g. tax notice, assessment notice or duplicate certificate of title.

## GISS PERFORMING ARTS

# GISS improv team off to nationals



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

GISS Senior Improv Team members take a break from a fundraising frenzy which is needed to get themselves to Ottawa later this month.

## April 11 show and online campaign support trip

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School Senior Improv Team has won the dream opportunity to play with and learn from the best during a trip to the Canadian Improv Games in April.

The seven-member group will perform with the top 20 teams from across Canada at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, taking the time to visit Parliament Hill and the nation's most important cultural institutions while they're there.

Most of the teammates have been doing improv together since Grade 7. After watching older teams move on to the nationals before them, going to Ottawa has a special significance.

"Having a dream in the back of my mind and having it come true is absolutely the best," said Taylor Montalbetti.

"It's something I've hoped for, but it hasn't ever been something I was sure was going to happen,"

added teammate Max MacKay, who said he kept the idea of attending the nationals in the "what if" category of possibilities.

"Now that it's happening, I feel I should honour it by not having any expectations, but keeping the 'what if' in going there."

In a way, the Salt Spring team can be viewed as a bunch of rural kids headed into the unknown territory of the nation's capital like typical sports movie underdogs. But at the same time, the skills they've developed over the past five years have already introduced them to a wider world where they're comfortable being judged on the public stage. Quick thinking and creativity are just some of the positive by-products that will aid these students in their future adventures.

"It's definitely given me a confidence in public speaking and just talking to people," Montalbetti said.

And coach Jason Donaldson enthused: "Improv is the only word you need on your resume! It's transferable into every vocation."

GISS will be attending the games because they won the wild-

card contest, which is open to any high school team across Canada. Instead of performing live, teams perform four out of five possible events and submit a video recording for the Canadian Improv Games judges to evaluate. GISS is the first school in Canada to win the wildcard more than once, having sent a previous team to Ottawa that way in 2012.

Donaldson characterizes the GISS style as a combination of hardball and whimsical — an idea that is visually summed up in their KISS-inspired logo on denim team jackets. There's also a healthy dose of the absurd, thanks to early training with Bob Twaites.

"You can't do it without a magical ensemble that's working at the top of their intelligence," Donaldson said, but acknowledged, "I think we do have it in our hearts that we're a curve ball that other teams don't quite know what to do with."

Taking their own approach to a highly formalized art-form may have hurt the team at the judging stage, but Donaldson said the students are reconciling the fact that they're competing with the need to stay true to who they are and where they're from. This was particularly evident at the Vancouver Island regional finals, which was the team's last appearance of the season.

"I think even though we came in fourth and it was our last [event], I don't think any of us would have traded what we did for anything else," MacKay said. "I think we have a style that's very unique to us and we have a lot of fun doing it."

GISS Improv will leave for their week in Ottawa on April 20. It's an exciting but costly endeavour, so the group has initiated a number of fundraising efforts to help realize their plans.

Donations can be made directly to the campaign on [www.fundrazr.com](http://www.fundrazr.com). Raffle tickets are now for sale with the potential to win big prizes donated by local businesses.

Community members will have the chance to see what the fuss is about, and receive a fine night of entertainment into the bargain, during a Saturday, April 11 performance at ArtSpring.

GISS teammates will also be at the Saturday Market's season opener on April 4 to give the crowd a taste of their skills.

BOOKS & ART

# Local author sheds light on socially learned violence

SS Coffee book/art launch on April 7

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring peace advocate Kevin Vowles is aiming to take down the fences that prevent people from moving past violence with a new book and art project devoted to the topic.

Gender-Based Violence and Peace-Building: A Journey To See The Forest Through The Trees is a multi-platform project in which Vowles puts together current events, academic research and artistic expression.



KEVIN VOWLES

The book, which is the first in a new series called Everything Salt Spring being published by Sheena Bull, contains a series of mini essays Vowles has written over the past four years plus some of his poetry and artwork. His intention is to facilitate the building of emotional intelligence, allowing the reader to gain empathy and understanding of damaging, but regrettably common, social behaviours.

"While people still have to be accountable and responsible for their actions, the essence of this book is shedding light and understanding on preventing violence," Vowles explained.

Vowles is familiar to many in the community as one of the key facilitators of SWOVA's Respectful Relationships program along with Christina Antonick. He has furthered his research into violence prevention at Royal Roads University, where he is currently working on a master's degree.

Sexual violence has become a hot topic during the course of the past couple of years, with bullying cases ending in the suicides of Canadian teens Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons and the accusations against celebrities like Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby. Vowles takes these issues as a launching point to delve deeper into the underlying issues, which he explains are socially based.

"In talking about the more high-profile cases we can understand a little more about why this is happening," Vowles said. "It's important for men to acknowledge that gender-based violence is learned behaviour, that we've all learned sexism and how we've participated in it."

Vowles' first experience in creating art was another way of expressing some of the ideas behind the written work. The results can be seen at the Salt Spring Coffee Company Café throughout the month of April, with some pieces also reproduced in colour in the book.

Vowles said he was inspired to try creating art after seeing a show by American artist Niki de Saint Phalle in Paris in 2014. Themes like vulnerability, emotional connection, peace-building and what a world without violence could look like have gone into his mixed-media works and acrylic paintings.

"It really surprised me what came out. I hope it will be really interesting for people and spice things up," he said.

The larger artworks will be sold through online auctions on Vowles' website at www.peaceadvocacy.org starting in the last week of April. Smaller pieces based on the peace sign will also be available at the café.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to hear more about the project during a launch event at Salt Spring Coffee from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7. The book will be available on order through Amazon at first, with paper copies expected to arrive for local purchase by mid-April.

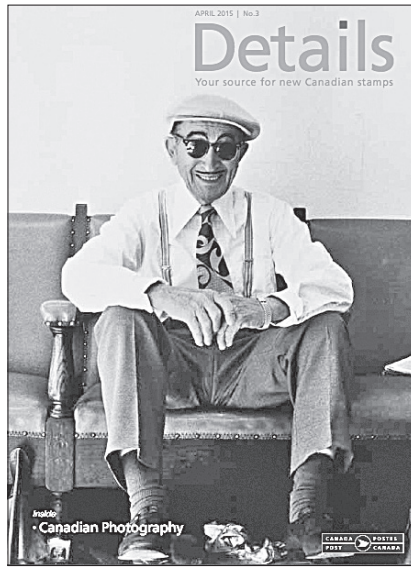


IMAGE COURTESY CANADA POST  
Nina Raginsky's photo Shoeshine Stand is on a new Canada Post stamp and the cover of the current Details magazine. Her achievement will be celebrated at the Ganges post office at an event on Wednesday, April 8 between 11 a.m. and noon.

PHOTOGRAPHY

## Raginsky image fêted

'Shoeshine Stand' gets stamp of approval

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Nina Raginsky hung up her camera in 1980, yet that hasn't prevented Canada Post from choosing a picture she took more than 40 years ago to represent the best of Canadian photography.

Islanders can toast Raginsky's accomplishment during a one-hour celebration at the post office in Ganges on Wednesday, April 8 between 11 a.m. and noon. The event will feature refreshments and cake to mark the launch date of a domestic postage stamp that features Raginsky's Shoeshine Stand image.

"It's really all about her," said Susan Batchelor, a Canada Post employee. "We're just celebrating her."

Before street photography became the buzzword it is today, Raginsky thrived on the genre as a freelancer. She worked mainly for the National Film Board in the '60s and '70s. Assignments took her across Canada as well as to Mexico and Europe.

"It was just always something that I enjoyed; it was never a career," Raginsky said in a recent interview from her Salt Spring home.

Her work is displayed at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and has been exhibited around the world. She was named to the Order of Canada in 1985.



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VISITOR SERVICES

# Electric vehicle tourism grabs hold

Charger grants still available

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first of five new electric vehicle charging stations has been installed at a Ganges area B&B amidst high hopes of transforming Salt Spring into a premier electric road-tripping destination.

"It will only increase, so we felt we might as well be at the forefront," said Peter Lloyd-Jones, owner of the Hedgerow House Bed and Breakfast on Park Drive. "I think the fact that people recognize that the island is an environmentally friendly destination kind of goes hand in hand with electric vehicles. It's all about trying to be friendly to the environment."

He and his wife Jayne said they've noticed more guests have begun to arrive in electric vehicles since they bought the property in May 2014.

Until last week, the only option for electric vehicle owners at Hedgerow House was to charge their vehicles through a regular electrical outlet. Installation of the level-two 240-volt charger cuts charging time by more than half and sends a clear message that visitors with electric cars are welcome.

"I think the very fact that we have a charger like this is important," Lloyd-Jones said. "If people are thinking about coming here and we don't have a charger, they can feel awkward about asking, whereas this way they know it's there and it's free."

The charger installation was possible because of a \$250 grant issued by Transition Salt Spring. Transition received more than \$1,250 in funding for the project through the Capital Regional District's grants-in-aid program.

By offering B&B owners a rebate that can amount to approximately 25 per cent



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

of the charging unit's cost, Transition Salt Spring member Peter Lamb said he hopes eco-minded accommodation owners will be encouraged to hop aboard.

Increased range, affordability and reliability have resulted in a surging demand for the current generation of electric vehicles. Annual sales of electric vehicles in Canada — led by the Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf — have doubled since 2012. Though it may still be marginal, the national market share of plug-in electric vehicles rose from .03 per cent of sales in 2011 to .27 per cent by the end of last year.

Lamb, who bought his Nissan Leaf in 2014, said Salt Spring is an ideal place for electric vehicles. With approximately 37 vehicles now here, he said, the island may have the highest concentration of

electric vehicles among any jurisdiction in North America.

Transition Salt Spring has awarded three of its five charging-station grants to island accommodation owners. Information about the application process is available from Lamb at plamb@shaw.ca or 250-537-4859 or transitionssaltspring.com.

"With a greater increase in EV ownership — over 20 were purchased on Salt Spring last year alone — and a stronger U.S. currency, we can only expect many more visitors to come from off-island in their electric vehicles," said Transition Salt Spring president Andrew Haigh. "Promoting Salt Spring Island as an EV-friendly tourist destination supports the local economy and a healthier environment."



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COMMERCE

# Whale of a cheese set to make waves

Local company pursues a first

The Salt Spring Island Cheese Company announced plans Monday to produce the world's first marine mammal cheese.

Marketing manager Dan Wood said the long-time south-end firm was proud to be partnering with the Vancouver Aquarium on this bold initiative.

"Having increased our sales targets for 2015, we were looking for ways to create new products with a local flair. As far as we know, this will be the first orca milk cheese in the world. We were looking for something unique and are confident we have found it. The orca is a symbol of the Salish Sea, thereby allowing us to connect with the area's First Nations heritage as well."

Dr. Jonah Finn, lead researcher for the Vancouver Aquarium on this proj-

ect and a long-time advocate for healthy seafood alternatives, confirmed that this is a world first.

"Who would have thought of pursuing the connection between cetaceans and cheese? It is so Salt Spring. We are always looking for new ways to commercialize aspects of marine animal life and are most excited to be working with our friends on the Gulf Islands."

"It's always great when customers suggest new products," said company president David Wood. "That's how we got into the gelato business. Our Ruckles line of goat's milk cheese came about that way, too. With whale milk cheese, we believe our customers have done it again."

Anyone who has ever milked an orca is asked to contact the cheesery at 250-653-2300. Anyone who wants to try should also call.

**CVRD**

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**Liquid Waste Management Planning – Amending the Central Sector Plan**

The Cowichan Valley Regional District is working with the City of Duncan, Municipality of North Cowichan and Cowichan Tribes, to update the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan. This update (called an "amendment") focuses on reviewing options for moving the treated wastewater outfall that services the Central Sector area, from the Cowichan River to a new location.

As part of this review, the CVRD and partners will meet with stakeholder and community groups during a series of spring infosessions. Questions to be addressed during these sessions include:

- How is wastewater currently managed and treated?
- Why is a new outfall location needed?
- Where would the outfall go if it is moved?
- What alternatives have been considered?
- How much will it cost and who will pay?

Anyone interested in learning more about the project is invited to visit the project pages at [www.cvrdb.ca.ca/lwmp](http://www.cvrdb.ca.ca/lwmp). Members of the public interested in attending a project infosession should contact the project team at [cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca](mailto:cslwmp@cvrd.bc.ca).

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## This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor  
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### TIP OF THE WEEK:

By now, many people are experiencing, not just feeling, the synchronistic effects of the recent solar eclipse which occurred on March 20th at 29 Pisces 27, the last degree of the Zodiac and a critical degree at that. It was also the second 29 degree New Moon in a row and was preceded by four 0-degree New Moons, the first of which was also a solar eclipse and all of these framed by a tetrad of lunar eclipses and the now much mentioned Uranus/Pluto square which will remain operative especially throughout 2015. These signs of our times reveal that humanity is taking a sharp turn right now. The solar eclipse which occurred on the eve of the official moment of spring waxes to full on April 4th and culminates into a lunar eclipse. Moreover, it is the 3rd lunar eclipse in a rather rare series of 4. Prophets everywhere are thumping about this series which ends in a super moon lunar eclipse on September 27th as constituting a 'sign in the heavens' with echoes of end times on the airwaves. Altogether these are a feature of a much larger constellation of change. Often we have to step back to see the bigger picture to gain a real sense of whether or how these might be interpreted in terms of representing powerful turning points. The final series of events and thus the sum total of their destined influence have yet to occur. September 27 and January 2016 when the 9th Uranus/Pluto Opposition occurs will bring it to its closure.

**READ MORE ABOUT IT ON MY NEWSLETTER - SIGNUP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.**

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** It is the presence of the Lunar South Node in your sign that is provoking you, shaking you awake. The destined purpose is to make you more aware of the give side in relationships. There are many ways to give yet those who know best how you can give are those you are giving to. This requires that you check in with them and avoid making assumptions. The time has come to fortify foundations.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)** Making your dreams reality requires you to somehow get out of the way. Doubts, inner fears and resistance, procrastination, lack of focus and the like are some of the common features of blocking our own progress. On the other hand, there is a flow and while the charging bull approach has its time and place so too does idly grazing until inner intuitions and outer signs prompt assertive actions.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)** Engaging in social and cultural activities has summoned the leader within. As is often true, leadership includes giving more. Fortunately, you feel inspired to do precisely that. Dealing with rebellious urges of late implies the paradoxical act of directing the energy to be more cooperative; a double back of sorts. Creative multi-tasking without losing focus is included in this call to take the lead.

**Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)** Sometimes when the challenge is to 'go big or go home' yours are the first set of tail lights to be seen. It is hardly because you are afraid and not up to the task. Rather it is about the monumental efforts required in gladly suffering fools and tolerating control freaks. Yet while you are happy to walk away, even run, you may feel compelled to hold them... for now.

**Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23)** A process of clearing the old to make way for the new continues. It is likely less about stuff and more about old beliefs, philosophies, visions and self-concepts. Convictions we hold about ourselves and the world and our roles and duties within it can be like mountains before the sandy shores we sometimes seek. The time has come to take a few new risks that challenge the old ways.

**Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)** Some very real stirrings on relationship fronts are causing you some concern, perhaps even frustration and stress. However, at best it is these very feelings that are goading you to new perspectives. It may be certain existing relationship patterns no longer work or serve you or others. These discomforts are leading you to new solutions and approaches. See the silver lining.

**Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)** Circumstances in some of your closest relationships continue to activate you to assert yourself. Financial concerns and/or considerations are featured. One way or another you want certain people to pay. You may simply want them to pay their own way but you may also feel the urge to exact some revenge. Focus on getting them to pay in such a way that you are not left with the bill or other karmic returns.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21)** Sweet surrender has its time and place. Ironically, while it might sound like defeat and may in fact indicate victory and wisdom too. Timing is of the essence and as the principles of the Tao and common sense as well suggest, it is good to know when and when not to engage. At deeper levels this is a summons to experience new lifestyle choices and rhythms.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21)** The spirit of new adventures continues to rise. It is calling you to make meaningful contributions to humanistic causes. These can come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Usually in the natural scheme of things the answers to give to whom or what and how is already within your scope of awareness and reality. Ask how you can give and your will receive answers and inspirations too.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19)** A steady series of rumblings and even shakes and quakes close to home continue. They are meant to push you to assert new levels of leadership and responsibility. The twist is that these are meant to be of the feminine sort where empathy, emotional intelligence and nurturance take the place of calculation, logic and command, or at least are ample enough to counterbalance them.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19)** New realizations challenging old interpretations are prompting you to see a bigger picture. Sometimes we must first stretch our mind before we can see let alone act upon new possibilities. This process has been described as inner work. As we entertain new considerations we are pushed out, at least in our mind and emotionally, of comfortable, familiar and secure perspectives, like now.

**Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)** Finding new ways to make money and/or to realize the abundance and health you desire is now in focus. This requires the cultivation of new skills and talents and/or the polish of existing ones. Taking key initiatives and adjusting to improve as necessary is implied. Exercising self-control to rise above lower appetites, summon inspiration to overcome apathy and cooperate to create win/win deals.

### PETS

# Toxic trip sends dog to hospital



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Jason, left, Jodhan and Laura Mogus with their cherished pet Stella, who has fully recovered from a frightening episode after ingesting marijuana last month.

## Local family raises awareness of marijuana's effects

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A local family is urging dog owners and other community members to be vigilant about discarded joints and drug paraphernalia after nearly losing a cherished pet to marijuana toxicity.

Salt Spring residents Laura and Jason Mogus spent a terrifying night thinking their two-year-old King Charles spaniel cross Stella was about to die from mysterious causes. They were stunned to learn that pot was the likely culprit.

"It was like a paradigm shift. It took me a moment to take it in," said Laura Mogus, who had resigned herself to believing her dog had shown the first signs of a terminal seizure disorder.

The situation apparently started with an innocent visit to the meadow behind the Salt Spring United Church, where Laura's husband Jason had entertained Stella and three preschoolers one afternoon. It wasn't until two hours later that anyone noticed something might be off, but even then it was just that Stella had vomited once — not an uncommon experience for a dog.

But by 9 p.m., Laura found Stella slumped on the hallway floor. The dog looked terrified, couldn't stand or move and was extremely cold to the touch.

"It was creepy the way her body looked — it was not normal at all," Mogus said. "You could see in her eyes her spirit was going."

The Mogus family got in touch with an emergency veterinary service and concentrated on keeping Stella warm and awake, fearing she might slip into a coma she would not come out of. Subsequent tests revealed her heart rate and respiration were normal, but

she showed signs of neurological damage and extreme hypothermia.

"The only thing I could think of was she'd been poisoned by rat poison," Mogus said, but since there were no signs of internal bleeding, the actual cause was a troubling mystery.

As the evening progressed it looked certain that Stella, who was more like the fourth member of the family than a pet, wouldn't last much longer.

"We were really preparing ourselves for losing our dog, and what made it so painful for us is we lost our first child. It was just very heartbreaking to go through another loss," Mogus said.

By apparent miracle, though, Stella started to recover her reflexes and mobility through the early hours of the next day. By morning she was fully recovered. After speaking to their family veterinarian Malcolm Bond, Mogus was astonished to learn what had actually occurred.

Bond saw his first ever case of marijuana toxicity in dogs near Vancouver during the draft doggers' heyday in 1970. His Salt Spring Veterinary Services practice now sees one case or more each month. Dogs apparently like the smell and taste of pot, and it's a familiar enough situation that he is able to assess the cause almost immediately upon hearing the symptoms. According to Bond, most cases happen either after a walk in Mout or Centennial parks, or when dogs find their owners' stashes.

A certain diagnosis can be difficult and costly, since urine samples must be sent off-island for testing and the results usually come back long after the symptoms have faded. Sudden onset is one of the clues that marijuana is the culprit. Unlike a slower-acting toxin like rat poison or antifreeze, signs tend to occur within one to three hours of ingestion.

"It catches people by surprise. The good news is basically none of them succumb to it," Bond said. Although very few deaths have been attributed to marijuana toxicity, dogs can experience serious symptoms because they don't have the liver enzyme that breaks down THC. Symptoms can include any of the following: anxiety, profound lethargy bordering on unconsciousness, depression, drooling, vomiting and diarrhea, extreme responses to sudden movement and noise, loss of muscle control, trembling that appears like a seizure, rapid breathing, hypothermia or hyperthermia and coma. More serious situations arise when THC is combined with another pet toxin, for example in chocolate brownies. Bond said cats would most likely experience the same effects, except they have no interest in eating joints or trays of pot cookies. Most dogs are fine within 48 hours of ingestion. According to Bond's veterinary toxicology manual, body temperature and cardiac rate and rhythm are usually the only signs that must be monitored. Doses of activated charcoal can be administered to absorb the chemicals in severe situations. Since avoiding the situation may be difficult on a liberal West Coast island, especially since medical marijuana regulations have come into play, unsuspecting pets and their owners can face a rough day or two that is no fun for anyone. "I think people have to understand it's really not a joke," Mogus said. She is proposing community members work together to keep parks clean and try to prevent any other terrifying and potentially costly situations. "I think on this island it's a great conversation to have . . . even if just to recognize the symptoms and the way it can present," she added.

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**LEGALS**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SCOTT POINT WATERWORKS DISTRICT will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday April 21, 2015 at the RYVC Pavilion at 241 Scott Point Dr. Trustee reports and meeting documents will be available at [www.scottpointwaterworks.com](http://www.scottpointwaterworks.com)

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**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DEATHS**

**Paul Adams**  
Oct. 14, 1952 - March 23, 2015

Paul passed away at age 62, with family by his side. He will be remembered as a wonderful father, friend, husband, and skilled carpenter on Salt Spring for over 35 years.

Please join us for a memorial tea on Sunday April 5 at 3:00pm at the Beaver Point Hall to celebrate Paul's life.

**Christopher Fraser Metcalfe**  
JULY 31, 1955 - MAR. 17, 2015

Christopher died suddenly in his sleep on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. He is survived by his partner, Tangerine Penny; mother, Devon Metcalfe; sister, Rowan Metcalfe, daughter, Amanda Marcaso; son, Jason Metcalfe; and five grandchildren.

Chris was an adventurer who had a passion for photography, nature and boats. When he was not sailing or working on his boat, he enjoyed the peace and tranquility of his life with Tangerine in Lake Cowichan.

A memorial will be held on SSI at a later date.

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**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DEATHS**

**Andrew Gibson**  
December 22, 1919 - March 22, 2015

Andy Gibson was born in Toronto, Ont. Canada and passed away peacefully on March 22, 2015 at Lady Minto Hospital, Salt Spring Island at the age of 95.

Andy was predeceased by his wife Betty (2012) and son Peter as well as his sister May.

Andy is survived by his daughter Molly, his sisters Barbara and Kay and brother Art. He is also survived by his three grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

A master mariner and WW2 veteran in the Merchant Navy (1937-1945) Andy chronicled his life at sea in his book Head of Oak.

After the war Andy with his wife Betty and sister and brother-in-law built and operated a fishing lodge in northern Ontario that still operates today.

Later Andy had a successful career as an Ontario land surveyor until in 1962, he moved his family to southern California. Always guided by his strong environmental, political and social conscience Andy and Betty were both active in the 1960's civil rights and anti-Vietnam movement.

After several years in California Andy returned to Ontario to continue land surveying and in 1984 retired to Salt Spring Island.

Editor and prolific writer Andy was the lyricist for the Salt Spring Raging Grannies for many years as well as a founding member of O.G.I.F.A. (Ometepe Coffee).

World traveller, amateur musician and astronomer Andy was invited to teach astronomy to many high school classes in California.

Andy was a lover of languages and all things Shakespearean a history buff and a community activist.

Although Andy loved travelling he always looked forward to returning to his island home.

His family wishes to thank Dr. Gummeson and all the wonderful staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their kindness and compassion.

We would also like to thank Greenwood's and Braehaven staff. A special thank you to Jean Brown whose support has been invaluable.

A celebration of Andy Gibson's life will be held at a later date in order that family members can attend.

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**Call for Community Music Scholarship Applications**

Salt Spring Singers invites community members to apply for a \$500 scholarship toward music studies. Preference will be given to candidates who intend to study voice and/or are members of a community or school choir.

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 25, 2015 For more information & an application package, please go to <http://www.saltspringsingers.ca/scholarships.html> or contact John Moore at 250.653.9763 or [johnmoore@shaw.ca](mailto:johnmoore@shaw.ca)

**COMING EVENTS**

**Salt Spring Island HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
2:00 pm Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at Central Hall.

**Richard Blagborne. Sturna Island Heritage Archives. "The Past & the Present"**

HELP PRESERVE SALT SPRING ISLAND HISTORY. Tea/Coffee to follow the meeting. Use Box 131 at Country Grocer for your grocery tapes. All are welcome.

Check our website: <http://saltspringarchives.com/historical> for more program details.

**NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES**

Notice is hereby given that at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on April 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, TWO trustees are to be elected, to serve for a period of three years.

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed, seconded, with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, April 13, 2015.

**NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR**

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act. Visit the "Who We Are" page on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office.

Anne Williams,  
Office Manager

[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca) 761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1 (250) 537-9902

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page 18

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association**

Saturday, April 4th, 10am  
At Meadowbrook Lounge, 121 Atkins Rd.



**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Meeting Notice**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) will be held on 20 April 2015 at the Salt Spring Lions Club Hart Bradley Hall 103 Bonnet Avenue Commencing at 7:00pm

The election results will be announced, as well, the District auditor's report, Fire Chief's report & Trustees annual report.

A meeting of the SSIFPD's Board of Trustees will commence following the AGM.

Fire District ratepayers and the general public are encouraged to attend.

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**to our patients**

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Monday April 20 & Tuesday April 21, 2015  
and  
Monday April 27 to Monday May 18, 2015

We will have Dr. Philippa Tattersall, locum for April 22, 23 and 24

The office will re-open  
Tuesday May 19, 2015 at 10:00

We are very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE ATTEND LADY MINTO HOSPITAL**

# 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](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



**RUNNING**

## Trail runners to revisit Channel Ridge race

April race kicks off new season

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

High-fives will be flying high on April 11. That's when the Salt Spring Trail Runners host the first of three island events geared to push competitors to their limits while having a whole lot of fun.

It's been more than a year since Salt Spring's Dave Melanson acted on his vision to put Salt Spring on the trail running map. Events had been popping up in communities large and small across North America for years.

Having spent much of his life running on and exploring the island's extensive trail network, Melanson determined Salt Spring was a natural venue to host top-quality trail races.

"This course winds its way through some of the best single and double track trails of Salt Spring's north end, running through young fir forests, arbutus groves on mossy bluffs, to views of Vancouver Island, to open fern-covered forest on the back half of the course," reads information posted online about the event. "The midway point marks a steep climb that will have the lungs burning before easing off until the downhill."

The inaugural Channel Ridge 8K in April 2014 and an 11-kilometre run through Ruckle Park in October have spawned a



FILE PHOTO BY MATT CECILL

Shari Hambrook and Dean Crouse near the end of the Channel Ridge 8K last April. This year's 9K version is on Saturday, April 11.

modest tribe of runners who meet on an almost weekly basis to train and talk trails.

Last year's races at Channel Ridge and Ruckle Park even attracted a strong contingent of runners from Vancouver Island.

The 2015 race schedule features the nine-km Channel Ridge event on Saturday, April 11, an 11-km romp through Ruckle Park on

May 30 and an 18-km race at Burgoyne Bay tentatively scheduled for Oct. 24.

All events are hosted by volunteers. Prizes will be drawn after every runner has been cheered across the finish line. The event is being held with cooperation from the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

Online registration for the Channel Ridge race is available until April 4. It can also be done at the event on race day but only subject to availability. Visit [saltspringtrailrunning.org](http://saltspringtrailrunning.org) for more information.

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**SOCCER**

## United finishes with heart

Old Boys close season with tie

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

They may not have finished on the highest-possible note but players on Salt Spring United's Over-30 women's soccer team can look back to one heck of a year on the pitch.

Salt Spring faced off against the Cowichan Cougars in the final match of the Frank Leversedge Cup on Sunday afternoon, keen to conclude what's been a spectacular 2014-2015 season.

Salt Spring finished on top of the standings in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association's O30B division with a 13-1-0 record, eight points ahead of second-place Lakehill.

The team dominated their opponents in Leversedge cup play to qualify for Sunday's final. Given the previous week-end's 6-0 semifinal performance against the Vic West Scottish, it was hard to believe anyone could stop United's winning momentum; yet the rise of the underdog is the true

essence of sport.

Finding themselves down by two players at halftime, Salt Spring was thrust into the unfamiliar predicament of playing catch up. Keeper Sue Spencer's trusty hands kept the team within reach for much of the match, but the undermanned United side couldn't stage a miracle comeback.

Though all players showed huge heart throughout the match, Salt Spring came out on the losing end of a 3-1 score.

Anne May received a special mention for a great game at defence. Susan Robinson was given extra thanks for keeping the team organized and on track for much of the past season. Players expressed their huge thanks to coach Dick Davidson.

### Old Boys play to 1-1 draw

With many of the team's starters on spring break holidays to exotic locales, the Old Boys coaching staff mixed things up for the team's last regular season match of the season.

The decision to play three

forwards rather than two in its Sunday afternoon game against Vantreights in Victoria failed to provide the anticipated offensive spark as the visitors soon found themselves behind by a goal.

"Salt Spring was inches away from taking the lead, only to go down 1-0 to Vantreights on one play thanks to a keeper who could kick the ball 60 metres or more down the field," said Graham Tweddle in his post-game report. "On one such kick, after one bounce the ball was in the net."

The Old Boys responded quickly with an equalizing goal from Ben Cooper, who connected with a pass from Stefan Cermak.

"What followed was a goal-keeping clinic," Tweddle added, "with the Vantreights netminder stopping everything that came his way, and three times when he was beaten the crossbar kept the ball out of the net."

Vantreights upped the pressure in the game's final 15 minutes but couldn't get past Tweddle's desperate stand in goal. The final whistle blew with the score tied at one.

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# Agency bans night cycling

Vehicle restrictions could be next: report

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A coalition of local government agencies and community groups has voted to implement "after dark" cycling restrictions across much of Salt Spring Island.

"Following careful analysis of the pros and cons of cycling between dusk and dawn for both cyclists and wildlife here on the island, our committee has concluded that modest cycling restrictions will prove beneficial to all concerned," said Patrick Shaftsbury, chair of the Salt Spring Wildlife Treatment Foundation (SSWTF). "We're confident this will be a win-win for cyclists and for deer."

Last week's decision follows increasing concerns about the number of collisions between cyclists and deer since the shift to Daylight Saving Time in early March.

"It's almost as though they're waiting out there in the hedgerows for a cyclist to ride by; then they jump out into the road," said Art Palmer, a Vesuvius-based ungulate behaviour specialist.

Palmer said he believes the deer are attracted to the gentle whir of bicycle tires on the pavement and the reflective material and flashing lights popular among night cyclists.

"They basically perceive cyclists as fast-moving colourful toys," he added.

Palmer does not recommend cyclists switch to dark clothing as an alternative. "That would be silly," he said.

The cycling ban will be tested on a trial

basis along Fulford-Ganges, Lower Ganges, and Vesuvius Bay roads, as well as several smaller streets. Authorities said cycling privileges will be revoked if individuals are caught disregarding the new after dark restrictions.

Rhonda Grimsby, a traffic pattern analyst consulted in the study, said the restrictions have been specially designed to limit but not restrict options for island cyclists.

"Under the current framework, a cyclist who finishes work after dark will still be able to get from point A to point B," she said. "It may take a little longer, but the benefits are worth it. Think of it as a great workout, and the deer will thank you."

RHONDA GRIMSBY  
*Traffic pattern consultant*

The restrictions will not apply on clear nights within four days of a full moon, Grimsby added.

The SSWTF report recommends further bans on skateboards, rollerskates, bicycles, scooters, motorbikes and cars along certain roads to protect deer in neighbourhoods where populations are deemed at risk, an area which includes much of Ganges village. "That guy on the unicycle should still be okay," Grimsby said.

A decision will be made when results of the cycling pilot project are released on April 1, 2016.

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