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Our annual seniors magazine
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GULF ISLANDS

Driftwood

Wednesday, April 29, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 17 \$125 (incl GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

RECOGNIZED: Salt Spring resident Jan Mangan finds herself in a photomontage at the Faces of Salt Spring show put on by Tamar Griggs that opened at ArtSpring on Sunday evening. See page 10 for a story and page 9 for a thank-you note from Griggs.

REAL ESTATE

Channel Ridge offer withdrawn

Development's plight still uncertain

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

One month after the closing date for a tentative deal to buy the Channel Ridge Properties Limited development, plans to find a buyer for the beleaguered Salt Spring real estate project have reached an impasse.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia approved a \$6.6-million offer by Viewpoint Enterprises to buy the 800-acre property in

October 2014. The transaction was scheduled to close on Dec. 8, 2014 but was subsequently postponed to Dec. 30 and again to March 31.

Marshall Heinekey, chair of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, confirmed Tuesday that water supply concerns were among reasons for the company's decision to withdraw the offer.

Heinekey said lawyers who represent the NSSWD and Viewpoint are discussing the sta-

tus of nearly 200 lots affected by the district's decision to impose a moratorium on new water connections.

"It's a legal matter and we think we have a strong case," he said. "They wanted us to give them some assurance that they would continue to receive water, but there's 177 lots that were never paid for."

CHANNEL RIDGE continued on 2

FIRE

Washroom fire at SIMS extinguished

Investigation into cause continues

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue attended the scene of an averted tragedy on Monday morning when a fire was discovered in a Salt Spring Middle School bathroom.

Deputy Fire Chief Arjuna George was the command officer at the scene. He reported six crew responded and were on their way in under a minute. Although the initial call-out was for commercial alarm bells, the dispatcher changed the call to being an active fire while crews were still on route in the truck.

"We were met by staff that let us know there was a small fire in the washroom," George said. "We went in and it basically looked like the staff had successfully extinguished it."

The source of the fire was determined to be in a garbage can. A sprinkler in the washroom had also been tampered with, which George said could have been a serious matter if the fire had reached high enough temperatures to set it off.

"The intent is still an issue," he said, adding RCMP, the school district and Salt Spring Fire-Rescue are investigating the circumstances.

George praised the maintenance staff who put out the fire and the teachers and other staff members who got all the students safely out and organized.

"It was definitely a close call," he said. "At the middle school, and all the schools, there's a lot of kids so it's a very high-risk incident."

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BLANKET VIEW: GISS students and guests from the aboriginal community participate in a blanket exercise at the high school on April 21 to mark the signing date of the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement in School District 64. According to aboriginal education coordinator Shannon Johnston, "The hour-long exercise reflected the history of the First Nations here in B.C. from past to present in a meaningful, experiential way. Students were powerfully moved and expressed deep heartfelt reflections at the end."

EDUCATION

Bill 11 alarms school trustees

Intent of legislation not clear

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

British Columbia school trustees and teachers are concerned about the impact a new piece of provincial legislation could have on local education providers' ability to fulfill their duties.

According to a letter to Minister of Education Peter Fassbender from the BC School Trustees Association dated April 20, "The predominant view of trustees from across this province is that Bill 11 as written is a challenge to the autonomy and authority of locally elected Boards of Education."

Bill 11, the Education Statutes Amendment Act, which was tabled on March 26, proposes many changes that will "help school districts reduce overhead costs, establish a modern framework for teacher professional development and put a stronger focus on accountability for student outcomes."

According to Fassbender, "British Columbians expect

our K-12 system to be run efficiently, that teachers and students have the supports they need, and that everyone is focused on what matters most — student learning. That's what these amendments are all about.

"British Columbia has one of the best education systems in the world, but we can't just sit back. We need to pursue new, innovative approaches that promise better results for students."

School trustees say if passed, the bill will override their function as elected officials.

Key concerns are the proposals to broaden the minister's authority to issue administrative directives, and to allow the ministry to appoint special advisors in the place of school boards it feels are failing, at the cost of local districts. As well, school districts will be held responsible for poor student outcomes.

Additional worries relate to a requirement for boards to share services, the sharing of student information with outside agencies and the ministry's right to determine what teachers do for professional development.

"We have vibrant professional development now, it is one of the main thrusts of the B.C. Teachers' Federation," said local union president Deborah Nostdal. "Government wants to control it and direct it. How they would oversee this is problematic. They're not talking about putting any more money into ProD."

Nostdal added the privacy issues raised by the bill are disturbing, as the amendment would allow public bodies to disclose student personal information without the protections that exist now.

"I should think parent advisory committees will be upset by this and speak up," she said.

BCSTA is demanding "an immediate review of the intent of Bill 11 legislation and an opportunity to recommend amendments prior to final adoption as well as the formation of a management partners' working group to participate in the development of any subsequent process or resulting regulations."

Second reading of the bill is expected to take place soon.

What are Emergency Social Services Reception Centres?

Salt Spring Island has 6 reception centres that are equipped with resources and volunteers to assist island residents in an evacuation and to provide support for first responders. For more information or if you want to volunteer contact: SSI ESS Director, Neva Hohn at ssiessd@crd.bc.ca.

<http://www.ess.bc.ca/index.htm>

Water supply a factor at Channel Ridge

CHANNEL RIDGE

continued from 1

Heinekey said he would provide more details during the NSSWD's AGM on Tuesday night. Highlights from the April 28 meeting will be available online Wednesday at gulfislandsdriftwood.com and in next week's paper.

"All we know is that we don't have any water for those lots," Heinekey said, adding that the development also faces significant challenges due to an inadequate and aging sewer system.

Heinekey said NSSWD has an agreement to supply water for 120 lots associated with Channel Ridge Properties Limited.

Brian Lovig, listed as the sole director of Viewpoint Enterprises, could not be reached to explain specifics about why the deal fell through. Representatives

from Ernst & Young, the court-appointed receiver tasked to sell the remaining Channel Ridge assets have also failed to return repeated calls and emails.

"All we know is that we don't have any water for those lots."

MARSHALL HEINEKEY
Chair, NSSWD

Lovig and an undisclosed number of unnamed investors associated with Viewpoint Enterprises had planned a downscaled version of the original Channel Ridge project. The new plan would have seen construction of 243 housing units in a combination of single-family homes and duplexes over the next 15 years.

In an interview following news of the bid to acquire the property in October, Lovig looked forward to the site's potential while acknowledging risks associated with a development of this kind.

The proposed \$6.6-million sale price was considerably lower than the property's original \$17.5-million list price and slightly below the land's \$9 million appraised value.

"Their loss is an opportunity for me," Lovig said of those who'd infested in the bankrupt project.

Channel Ridge Properties Limited had amassed more than \$37 million in debt before the 2013 foreclosure order. As of October 2014 the company's debt includes \$30 million to Equishare, \$7.2 million to Calgary's Olympia Trust Company and a \$271,000 construction lien to Salt Spring Island Excavating.

SALT SPRING SINGERS SAY

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ISLANDS TRUST

'Impact Analysis' outlines Trust's possible options

Salt Spring's incorporation means higher taxes or fewer services for remaining islands in Trust

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new report that examines how Salt Spring's potential transition to a municipality could affect the Islands Trust warns of big decisions ahead.

"With significant reductions in tax revenues from Salt Spring Island, the Islands Trust would face choices as to whether it should significantly reduce services and expenses, raise taxes in unincorporated areas, or deploy some combination of these two potential strategies," reads the Islands Trust Impact Analysis.

The loss of property tax contributions from Salt Spring residents, who account for roughly 40 per cent of the Trust's population, would decrease Trust revenue by \$800,000.

The report suggests reducing Islands Trust service levels by as much as 35 per cent to accommodate the shortfall. The change could reduce the number of Trust staff from 51 to 33. Since nine of those affected positions would be on Salt Spring, researchers say

those positions could be incorporated into Salt Spring's new municipal structure.

"At this stage it is uncertain how staff transitions may occur," the report's authors write.

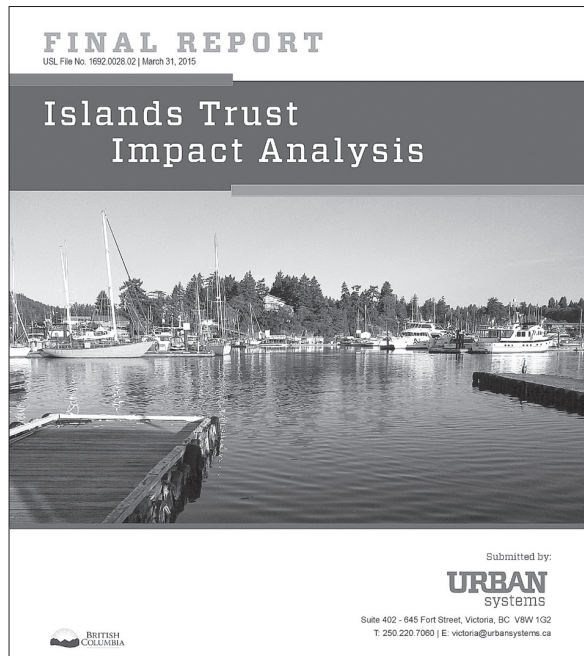
"Potentially staff may have opportunities to join a newly incorporated municipality or transition to other roles in the Islands Trust."

The report called such staffing reductions substantial, adding that cuts would make it "difficult for the Islands Trust to carry out its mandate in the way it does now."

The "substantial impact" of mass cutbacks, the study adds, could be averted by raising property taxes for outer islands residents. Making up the nearly \$1 million revenue shortfall would mean implementing a 23 per cent property tax increase. For residential properties, this represents a jump from approximately .75 cents to .93 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value, or a \$62 annual increase for a residential property valued at \$350,000.

The report also presents two options that would result in more staffing cuts and less severe tax increases.

"If Salt Spring Island were to incorporate as a municipality, the ultimate shape of the Islands Trust response would be at the discretion of the Islands Trust," reads the report.



The Islands Trust Impact Analysis was released on March 31. It can be downloaded by following the links at www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

Cliff Jones, former president of recently disbanded Islanders for Self Government, is confident the Trust will be able to avoid either extreme. Whatever the eventual result of a possible incorporation referendum, Jones said he is satisfied

the study removes the "fear factor" from the debate.

"What I love most of all is the timing of this report," he said. "I don't think the Trustites, as I call them, can use the Trust-will-disappear argument."

"To me, I think [the study] is a positive thing."

Others, like representatives from the Gulf Islands Alliance, aren't so convinced.

David Steen, chair of the GIA, worries the study deals exclusively with the financial fallout of Salt Spring's incorporation.

"It fails to consider the question: 'Would turning Salt Spring into a municipality spell the end of the Islands Trust mandate to 'preserve and protect' this unique island?'" Steen said. "To suggest, as this study does, that the Trust and those who support its mandate should confine their opinion on Salt Spring's incorporation to matters of expenses and revenues is dodging the larger issue."

The Islands Trust Impact Analysis was prepared by Urban Systems. The document, which can be downloaded by following the links at www.islandstrust.bc.ca, was released on March 31. The report's publication coincided with the provincial government's decision to provide \$120,000 for a Salt Spring governance study. Staff from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development will work with locally elected officials to outline the study process.

A volunteer committee will be tasked to oversee the project. Results are anticipated by March 2016.

NEWS BRIEFS

Student writer wins prize

Phoenix Elementary School student Uma McIninch Terwiel won second place in the Vancouver Island Short Fiction Contest, with results announced on April 23.

The annual contest is co-sponsored by the Nanaimo Arts Council, the Vancouver Island University Department of Creative

Writing and Journalism and the Vancouver Island Regional Library, and is open to writers on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. McIninch Terwiel received her prize in the junior (12 and under) category for her story The Whisperer.

The winning entries will be posted on the Nanaimo Arts Council and VIU Creative Writing Department websites.

Naturalists converge on island

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club will play host to 52 federated naturalist clubs from all corners of the province when the 2015 BC Nature Conference and Annual General Meeting comes to the island from May 7 to 11.

According to a press release, BC Nature provides a

unified voice for the conservation, protection and education of all aspects of nature. Each year one of its member clubs organizes the AGM and creates the conference. This year's event will take place at ArtSpring over for three days, while workshops and meetings are at the library's program room.

The 2015 conference theme is Living by the Salish Sea, Protecting its Ecoregion. Keynote speakers are

Ian McAllister of Pacific Wild; Ramona de Graaf, executive director of the Sea Watch Society; Anne Murray, one of the driving forces of the BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project; and Salt Spring's David Denning, an indefatigable cinematographer and spokesperson for the Salish intertidal zone.

McAllister will repeat his presentation for the public on Saturday, May 8. See page 15 for details.

FOR THE RECORD

A story in last week's Driftwood incorrectly stated Brinkworthy Estates converted to bare-land strata in 2011. The proposal was turned down.

A different story named Elehna de Sousa's birthplace as India instead of Hong Kong.

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PHOTOS COURTESY FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SALMON STEWARDS: Fernwood Elementary School students released salmon fry they had raised from eggs into Duck Creek last Wednesday and also did plantings and other restoration work along the side of the creek. From top is Lauren Ashford writing some observations from the day and Evie Lejniaks at the side of the stream. The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society partnered with the school in the project.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust's Victoria centre queried

Study would examine staff deployment

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A member of Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee believes it's time to study the logic of basing two-thirds of Islands Trust staff in Victoria.

"I expect there are those who will accept the current office geography and be happy if the Trust areas continue, in perpetuity, to export large amounts of their tax dollars to support jobs in Victoria rather than in their own communities, but I feel there is a basic injustice in that arrangement, and all I am asking is for that injustice to be impartially reviewed to determine whether it could be remedied, either in part or entirely," said George Grams in an email.

Grams and fellow LTC member Peter Grove voted to include the request for a study on a list of priorities for the Trust's upcoming strategic plan review. Other strategic plan priorities suggested by Salt Spring's LTC are lowering the Trust's ecological footprint, protecting and restoring economic diversity, and enhancing economic sustainability.

The recommendation looks to improve the Islands Trust's cost effectiveness and resilience by examining the "organizational structure and location of the Islands Trust."

Salt Spring LTC members said the study could determine if relocating staff positions would reduce the proportion of Trust taxes exported out of the Trust area, give staff more exposure to the communities they serve

and shift job opportunities to the Gulf Islands.

Approximately two-thirds of Trust staff work out of the Fort Street headquarters in Victoria. Grams said he is unaware of any such review that has examined the reasoning and economics of Trust staffing.

"If, for cost reasons or because the organizational disruption would be too great, a review vindicated the current head office location, I believe that would be accepted by our communities," Grams wrote. "However, leaping to such a conclusion without appropriate study is not the way to make that decision."

"I feel there is a basic injustice in that arrangement, and all I am asking is for that injustice to be impartially reviewed."

GEORGE GRAMS
Trustee, SSI Local Trust
Committee

Grams cast his gaze southward to the San Juan Islands, where local government staff are based largely on the islands they serve. He wondered how the nearly 16,000 residents of San Juan County would react if those positions were relocated to the state capital at Olympia.

"Do you believe that San Juan residents would support such a move if it resulted in cost savings and provided the administration with a larger labour market?" he asked.

Linda Adams, the Trust's chief administrative officer, said the Trust has never formally studied the staff location issue. Should Islands Trust Council decide to include this request when it approves an updated strategic plan in September, she added, such a study could be initiated before the end of the year.

The Trust currently has 30 employees based in Victoria, nine on Salt Spring and 11 on Gabriola Island.

"My understanding is that there are historic reasons [for locating employees in Victoria]," she said. "When the Islands Trust was evolving (pre-1990) it was at one point part of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and all the staff were located in Victoria."

She said some elected Trust representatives have noted the strategic importance of locating higher ranking staffers close to provincial agencies in Victoria. Some trustees have also cited concerns about an ability to attract and retain staff in smaller communities, she said.

"A study would give Trust Council more definitive details about the costs and benefits, upon which it could then make a decision," she said. "The topic of moving all staff positions into the Islands Trust Area has been informally discussed in the past, but not formally studied, to the best of my knowledge."

"I believe this has generally been because of the anticipated costs and disruption that might be expected from relocating staff positions, finding or building office accommodations, paying relocation or severance costs, etc."

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARC fee changes proposed

Changes take effect Sept. 1

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A remarkable spike in pool passes sold during a March campaign has spurred Parks and Recreation Commission members to consider permanently lowering annual membership fees.

The one-month sale saw 47 swimmers snatch up annual passes. Sales generated nearly \$20,000, a figure equivalent to approximately 10 per cent of annual pool revenue.

The popularity of discounted prices has, according to PARC manager Dan Ovington, served to highlight that the current \$562 cost for a pool pass is beyond the reach of most islanders' budgets.

"The current pool membership fees are outside of most people's monthly and annual recreation expendi-

tures," Ovington wrote in a staff report presented to commissioners at PARC's April 20 meeting.

Commissioners are considering lowering the price of an annual pass by 30 per cent to \$410. A proposal is also being made to offer free admission for all children aged five years and under and approve a modest price increase for drop-in visitors.

PARC anticipates the fee changes, along with plans to raise park and pool rental fees by two per cent, will translate into increased pool revenue for the coming year. Additional money is needed to cover a scheduled two per cent increase for staffing costs and the pool's operating contract with Recreation Excellence.

"Raising fees annually to offset additional staff costs is needed to maintain our current service level," Ovington said.

Adding further strain to PARC expenditures in 2014 was the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's decision to increase rates. PARC staff have already noticed a considerable cost increase for water use at the Rainbow Road Pool and other PARC facilities. A report presented at last week's meeting reveals a 65 per cent increase in water costs at the pool between 2013 and 2014. Centennial Park water costs rose 58 per cent while costs at Portlock Park jumped 54 per cent, from \$12,700 to approximately \$26,400.

Commissioners are expected to revisit the fee change proposal at PARC's May 11 meeting. A complete list of current and proposed fees can be downloaded through the "document library" link at www.crd.bc.ca or by calling the Salt Spring PARC office at 250-537-4448.

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EDUCATION

Cuts propel district shake-up

New programs also approved

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Administrative staffing changes for the Gulf Islands School District announced on April 21 are the direct result of cuts to education funding ordered by the provincial government earlier this year, district superintendent Lisa Halstead has confirmed.

SD64 is required to reduce spending by \$117,163 in 2015-16 and an additional \$102,003 in 2016-17 as its part of the \$54-million B.C.-wide cuts to school administration. As a result, Judy Smith will move from being the district's principal of special projects to being princi-

pal of Phoenix Elementary School on Aug. 1. Smith will retain responsibility for implementing the MyEducationBC student information system.

Current Phoenix principal Sue McKenzie will become a new vice principal at Gulf Islands Secondary School with responsibilities associated with Phoenix Place. She will also coordinate programming for Student Learning Centres and Learning Design Programs throughout the district.

"I think in these tough financial times, the changes align these people with their talents and will help us be strong educationally as well," Halstead said. "We are really looking at some of the education services we offer, and at creating

structures that can better support and serve student enrollment in the district."

Additional changes will see Shannon Johnston, principal of Saturna Elementary, assume administrative responsibilities for the Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC) effective May 1. Steve Dunsmuir, SEEC's founder and principal educator, will continue to facilitate the program as a teacher.

Jude Shugar, acting vice principal of Salt Spring Island Middle School, will continue in that role for 2015-16. Mayne Island School's acting principal Matti Girardi will take the position permanently as of Aug. 1.

Halstead said one of the things the district hopes to do is encourage enrol-

ment by strengthening Student Learning Centres on the outer islands. New programs that have recently been approved are hoped to have a similar effect by drawing in families who aren't interested in the typical classroom model.

The school board approved in principle a concept for two mixed-grade alternative classes on Salt Spring in March. It has since received enough expression of interest from parents to confirm the programs will go ahead this fall at Fernwood and Fulford elementary schools. At its April meeting, the board approved another alternative program proposal that will be offered at Pender Islands School for grades 4 to 8.



PHOTO BY CRAIG HODGE/BCYCN

YES, WE'RE PROUD: Driftwood writer Elizabeth Nolan, left, accepts a first-place award for environmental writing at the B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Ma Murray Awards gala on Saturday in Richmond from Brenda Thompson of sponsor Thompson Rivers University. Nolan and Sean McIntyre won the award for a marine series published last June. The paper also won third place for general excellence, and Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg received a Silver Quill Award recognizing her 25 years of community newspaper service.

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire Underwriters Survey released

Rates improve but water supply problematic

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Property owners within the Salt Spring Fire Protection District may find better insurance rates over the next five years compared to the last period, with improved grades registered in the 2015 Fire Underwriters Survey.

The district contracted Burnaby-based Opta Information Intelligence to update the grades that insurance companies use to create fire insurance policies in the community.

According to the resulting report, the total cost benefit of fire protection at current levels is \$5,320,649 per year.

Fire Chief Tom Bremner credited the leadership of the district's board of trustees for improving the rating, along with the hard work done by fire service members. Much of the reason for the improvement was the department's success at achieving superior tanker shuttle accreditation in 2011, giving it the ability to carry water to fire sites.

"I am very proud of the women and men of this organization for providing this safe, reliable service," Bremner said.

"We need to make sure to undertake a good review of this, so we can provide a service that brings benefit to the public. This report shows us if we are wise in how we direct our funds and future levels, we can protect our service or enhance it."

The 2015 report shows an improved Public Fire Protection Classification System rating from a mixed grade of six, nine and 10 in 2010 (calculated on a scale of one to 10, with one being highest) to an overall rating of six. The PFPC grading system "evaluates the ability of a community's fire protection programs to prevent and control major

fires that may occur in multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings and course-of-construction developments."

The Dwelling Protection Grading System grade, which concerns the ability to handle fires in small buildings, also improved.

"This is an excellent report in giving us the answers to questions people ask over and over," Bremner said. "Taken together with the Walker report, it provides clear direction about the things we need to address, as well as indicating the Salt Spring fire service is average or above average service for less cost than what other communities are providing."

The PFPC grade comprises four sections, with fire department operations worth 40 per cent, water supply items worth 30 per cent, fire safety control 20 per cent and fire service communications 10 per cent. The 2015 FUS grades highlight difficulties particular to Salt Spring, including the island's governance and geography. Strengths of the fire department include what it has done to meet these challenges through things like equipment and apparatus, training and inspections.

While the department achieved a relative rating of five for the fire department and three for fire safety control, water supply ranked nine, the next lowest after no protection at all.

The communications section was graded at one, the highest possible mark.

Adding to the lower scores in the fire department section was the distribution of companies (halls)/response time, which achieved only 20 per cent of its possible grade.

The report explains, "The low credit score in this item is due to the road network and large rural geography of Salt Spring Island. Additionally the lack of a ladder apparatus has an effect in this item. Adding response

facilities or optimizing locations of facilities would add credit here; however, this is understood to not be feasible for Salt Spring Island."

The lack of a ladder truck drew points since the island has seven buildings over two storeys. The report observes, however, that an improved insurance grade may not be a good enough reason to acquire such a vehicle.

The number of line officers and total available fire force were two more areas that lowered the grade. The report notes that staffing levels had improved since the previous FUS report, but that no credit was available for outside aid, "which would be typical in other communities." Again, the authors caution against making fire insurance rates the only basis of hiring decisions.

"Providing additional staffing either being career or auxiliary is a serious matter that requires careful consideration. There are many factors to consider and the fire insurance grading is only one such factor."

One of the report's recommendations is to create pre-incident plans for all commercial, institutional, industrial, assembly and multi-family residential occupancies. The department has created 55 so far, but the FUS states those should be updated and the rest should be done.

Water supply assessment was based on the North Salt Spring and Fulford water districts. Both received poor marks for reliability of pumping capacity and fire flow by mains. Reliability of the principal mains to continue supply if a three-day shut-down occurred was calculated at just 0.7 per cent for NSSWD and 0 per cent for Fulford.

Bremner observed that water supply issues are outside his authority, but said the district must heed the FUS recommendations when possible to improve or just maintain current grades.

Keep Smiling...

THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

Don't take this personally...

"But I hate dentists." If I had a dollar for every time I've heard that line! I don't take it personally, though I take it as a challenge. I see people every day that have had unfortunate experiences with tooth pain or in their dental history. We all know that fear is a difficult thing to overcome and no amount of reason is going to make it easier.

I took my daughter to the park and she was scared to go down the slide. No reason, she was just scared. After a few times down with hand held and then a few with me standing beside the slide, she then felt comfortable enough to go down on her own. Now she wants nothing to do with me when we are near the slide!

- Take small steps.
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- For severe anxiety some medications may help.
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OPINION



2014 CNA Awards
 Gold - Excellence in Rural Reporting (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islands)
 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

Uncharted waters

The year 2017 will mark a sea change for ferry users in the southern Gulf Islands and that means all of us stand to feel the fallout.

Who has never bemoaned the Queen of Nanaimo's pre-dawn departure from Long Harbour or the three-plus hour sailings to reach Tsawwassen? How about the anxious crossings and heart rate-raising obstacle course drivers must negotiate to make "thru-fare" connections at Swartz Bay? Let's not even get started about the complexities of inter-island travel.

Talking ferry schedules is a classic island gripe, but participants now have until May 7 to possibly make a difference through a survey available at www.bcferries.com that seeks comments on the future of ferry scheduling.

The survey, which focuses on routes between the southern Gulf Islands and Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay, is the first-stage of a nine-month process to develop schedule and route proposals

THE ISSUE:

BC Ferries survey

WE SAY:

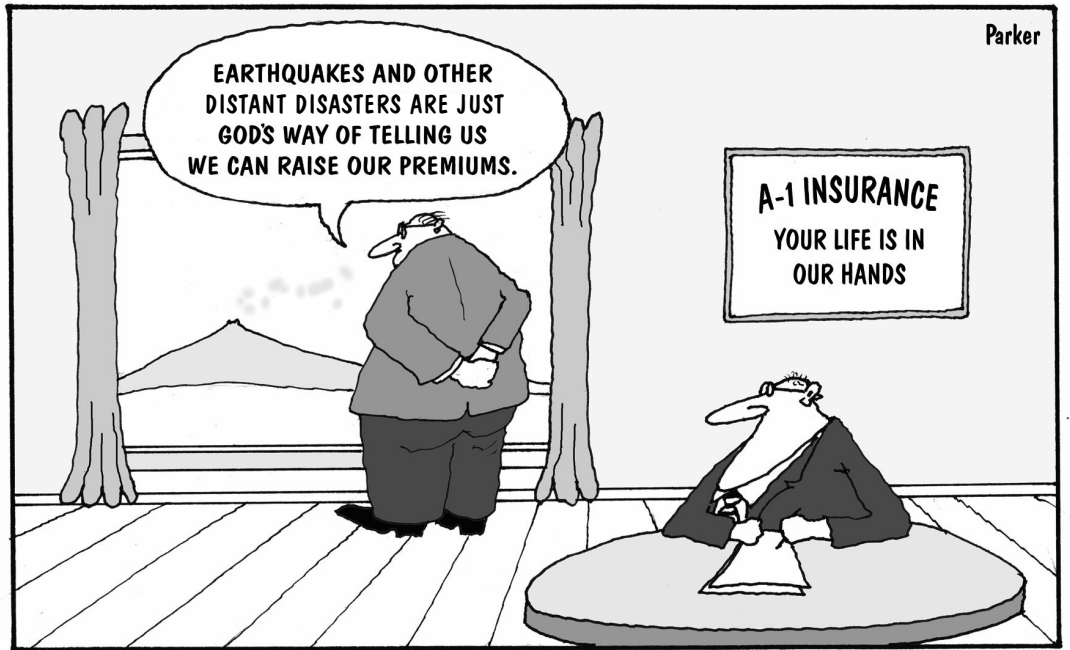
Puzzling questions

ahead of the Queen of Nanaimo's 2017 replacement. Questions take only 10 minutes, but answers will set the tone for further outreach events scheduled until early 2016.

Islanders have long sought greater connections between the people and places of the southern Gulf Islands. More opportunities to meet with and learn from other residents in the region will nurture and strengthen our communities. Likewise, greater connections give visitors a chance to organize holidays on multiple islands or arrange convenient day trips from a central base like Salt Spring.

Much of the frustration about fare increases and scheduling shortfalls in the past has been fuelled by a ferry corporation that's seemingly immune to the needs of island residents. Now that BC Ferries has opened a discussion about the future of ferry scheduling, it falls to us to log in or pick up a pencil.

For those who will find fault with the survey's limited options and closed-end questions, rest assured there's plenty of space at the end for comments.



VIEWPOINT by Cicela Månsson

ArtSpring family accomplishments

On April 13, ArtSpring held its annual volunteer appreciation reception.

Approximately 125 people attended that event—though there are many who were unable to join us. The number of attendees clearly demonstrates the strength of community that Salt Spring offers.

As I approach the end of my first year as executive and artistic director of ArtSpring, I think back to the warm welcome I received when I moved to the island, an island which now feels like home. Seeing all of those members of the ArtSpring family come together shows what can be accomplished when we work toward a common goal.

ArtSpring truly is a community arts centre. In 2014, a total of about 270 events took place in that building, which is an astonishing number in a community our size. Fully three-quarters of those events were performed, sponsored, or produced by members of the community—not by ArtSpring itself.

Yes, we have a well-deserved reputation for bringing in world-class performing artists and I am very excited that we are able to provide islanders with an opportunity to hear them perform, see them dance and watch them act. Every year a number of those visiting artists go into the schools to work with students, sharing talents and broadening horizons. That, too, is an important part of bringing them here, and something of which the community is usually unaware.

But what ArtSpring really does—what it was designed to do—is offer community members in the broad field of "the arts" the opportunity and the space to produce their work, to display it, to listen to excellent speakers, and to participate, learn, imagine and be entertained by the many things that go on there.

Every month, a local artist displays his or her work in the lobby. Most weeks of the year the Painters' Guild and the Spinners and Weavers meet to learn, share and create their art. We've had pottery, print-making, felting and fabric workshops, book launches, poetry

readings and lots of local meetings. Painters, photographers, sculptors, basket-makers, weavers and all kinds of other creators showcase their work in the galleries.

School children of all ages attend shows and are transported into a magical world of imagination. You should hear them laugh. Other students refine their talents dancing, singing and performing music and theatre on our stage.

People come to see heart-warming or heart-breaking films hosted by the Salt Spring Film Festival Society. The Salt Spring Forum brings extraordinary speakers in for a dialogue with the community.

The list goes on and on, all of it reflective of a community dedicated to the arts and, believe me, a very fortunate one to have all that opportunity.

The importance of the arts in our society cannot be overestimated, though it is too often undervalued. We cannot put a dollar sign on an artistic skill learned or seen. We cannot measure the joy received by people of every age as they are carried away by opera, a dance troupe, a string quartet, an enchanting voice, a riveting play, a creative puppeteer. We cannot estimate the value of creativity, but we can be enormously enriched by it.

It pleases me so much to see ArtSpring's volunteers feel a sense of ownership of the organization that they help make work, as I did on the evening of our reception. We cannot do what we do without them all.

Ultimately, our success is driven by the community. We could not be where we are without the extraordinary talents, vision and dedication to the arts by both the creators and their audiences. ArtSpring is for you, and by you—a shared asset that is growing in value all the time.

The writer is ArtSpring's artistic/executive director.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Trust staff be relocated to the islands?

 Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you satisfied with the federal budget?

27 YES 54 NO

Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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

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

Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837
 International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

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



ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I don't think the Trustites, as I call them, can use the Trust-will-disappear argument."

CLIFF JONES ON ISLANDS TRUST IMPACT ANALYSIS REPORT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What will you do with your income tax refund?



MAX HAIGH
I'm just going to put mine away.



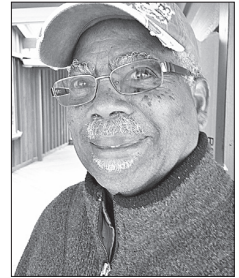
KURT SHARPE
No plans for a refund yet; hopefully I'll get one.



LETITIA VOGEL
I just found out I didn't get one, which makes no sense, but I suppose that's the price to live in paradise.



JOHN SINCLAIR
We haven't received a refund yet, but we'll probably put it toward the credit card if it arrives.



JACOB DAVIDSON
I'll just put mine in the bank for a rainy day.

Letters to the editor

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

Who asked for more help?

It is great to see fresh faces on the board of trustees of the fire department!

I am sure I speak on behalf of many ratepayers in hoping we see improved performance and communication with we who are the "financial backers" of such improvement districts.

That said, I think the Driftwood reporter at the AGM missed a rather succinct piece of information that came out regarding an FOI document brought forward by Julia Lucich. It revealed no documented record regarding Jamie Holmes' planning strategy for hiring two new union firefighters.

Given the lifetime cost of each new position, I was dismayed when Fire Chief Tom Bremner indicated he himself had not requested more firefighters. Certainly his AGM report was very upbeat and positive as usual but indicated no such deficiency either past or present. One would think that logically, those on the front lines, like the chief, would be the ones best qualified to request additional professional firefighters, not the board or the union itself, whose interests may or may not be in sync with actual community needs. Oddly enough, unincorporated improvement districts like ours are rarely if ever serviced by union firefighters to begin with so we are somewhat vulnerable in that respect.

I think the shoddiness in archiving the official record on those proceedings may call into question the legally binding nature of the contract itself. Ratepayers were not well-served or represented properly at a time in 2010 when the fire budget was going into an orbit all on its own. As it stands, a former board is now seen to have agreed to take on two new lifetime firefighters without record of an official plan that ratepayers can study and understand. I hope the new trustees (without looking backwards too much) will research this issue for any chance to modify or renegotiate, this time, through a professional union negotiator.

Everyone needs to realize that a recent census showed negligible population growth

on Salt Spring Island and many of the projected development projects have simply gone bankrupt or not come to fruition. In fact, a recent moratorium on any further water hook-ups by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District indicates this reality may not change in the foreseeable future.

In closing, I wish the new trustees all the best in fulfilling the challenges ahead of them. The Walker report suggests that finally we may see a much needed master plan. It also looks like the community may look forward to a reasonably priced and properly located new fire hall that ratepayers can afford and ultimately endorse.

PAUL R. MARCANO,
VESUVIUS

Selfish acts

It seems that there are a small number of people who feel entitled to damage, mutilate, or otherwise harm public property or assets that are otherwise intended for community use and enjoyment.

In particular, I note that on public lands, trails, parks, road allowances and nature preserves, the trees are protected in law as public assets. No person without lawful authority or permit may cut, trim, top, hack or mutilate trees on these public spaces. To do so is a violation of established norms of social conduct that is contrary to the objectives of civility and respect for the common good. Neither can anyone other than an appropriate authority approve the alteration of public property.

For those who may regard such anti-social behaviour as a minor consequence, it may be prudent to reserve opinion before witnessing the environmental and aesthetic damage that has been wrought in some affected neighbourhoods.

May public sanction suffice to end these thoughtless and selfish acts of vandalism. This is an issue which has been simmering for far too long. It is past time for it to be raised for public discussion.

BILL WARRINER,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Best laid plans and hoses defy smart gardener

Call me a hoser. I deserve it.

It all stems back to late last fall when I carefully put the vegetable garden to bed for the winter. The raised beds were given a topping of compost and manure and then covered with a warm coat of freshly fallen maple leaves mixed with good quality unseeded straw. Any overwintering plants or seed stock had the bedding pulled up around their necks to keep them warm and snugly from possible surprise January cold snaps. (My own bed should look so neat and tidy.)

The plastic from the greenhouse tomato and pepper sheds had been rolled up and placed at the foot of the PVC hoops that framed the structures. The long strips of irrigation tape had been detached from their black tubing manifolds and drained.

What made me particularly proud was my handling of the numerous hoses I had used for watering the different areas of the garden that lay outside of the irrigation grid. In past years I had rolled them up willy-nilly, and carelessly tossed them in a pile until they would be needed again in the spring. Inevitably, I spent each April cursing my lack of attention to detail as I tried in a futile effort to untangle the holy mess I had created. This time, I vowed it would be different.

First, I drained all of the hoses of any water and then meticulously rolled them up into tight yet manageable coils (giving each loop a half twist to eliminate any possibility of kinks in the line). I connected the male and female ends of each hose together to

keep any critters from moving inside and setting up cozy nests for the winter. I then used orange baling twine to tie each roll in two places and used masking tape and an indelible felt marker to label which hose had been used in which part of the garden so that I wouldn't have go through the usual hit-and-miss guessing game when it came time to set the hoses back in place come springtime. Finally, I suspended the hoses from hooks under the garden shed eaves so that they remained covered and protected from the ravages of wind and weather.

So it was with a bucket full of confidence that I wandered down to the garden this last week in April. The air was warming up and I figured the time was right to get my hoses back in place so that I would be able to give the young seedlings an occasional shot of H₂O to quench their thirst.

I went through a mental flow-chart checklist, intending to follow my steps in the exact opposite order from what I had done when storing the hoses away. At first, everything proceeded just as I had planned. One by one, I pulled the hoses off their hooks and laid them down in the garden pathways. After removing the baling twine and unscrewing the two ends of each hose, I pulled the old rubber washer from the female fitting and replaced it with a shiny fresh one. I then care-



Shilo Zylbergold
NBODY ASKED ME BUT

fully began uncoiling the first hose (remembering to give each loop a half twist in the opposite direction).

It was all going perfectly. I now had the hose lying in a straight line with one end ready to be connected to the water supply valve. There was one problem though; it was the wrong end of the hose.

My careful planning had gone for nought. Still, this was no time for despair. All I had to do now was to pull the hose back along itself until I reached the middle and then haul the other end of the hose back towards the main valve. The solution seemed quite simple.

Or so I thought. As I started to pull the hose along the ground, it began to resist my actions. First it started to loop back into the same coils that it had been kept in over the past several months. Every effort I made to fight this resistance made the hose get more ornery.

I grew angry. I grew frustrated. The more I tried to straighten the hose, the more it wanted to curl and kink. In fact, it seemed to want to break into some sort of demented dance! In desperation, I gave it a powerful yank. My dance partner suddenly went slack and submissive, causing me to spin around a couple of times, lose my balance and, almost in slow motion, flop down right on top of my newly transplanted cauliflower starts.

To add insult to injury, the hose had man-

aged to wrap itself around my ankles, in coils of subversion.

In desperation, I struggled to free myself from the grasp of this plastic garden "snake". Eventually, with the aid of a few well-chosen cuss-words, I managed to get back onto my feet, step out of the tangled mess and survey the situation. Whatever calm and order I had attempted to introduce into my annual fiasco with the garden hoses had now fallen by the wayside. I was back to tugging and pulling and swearing and cursing.

Eventually, it all came together even though there were more than a few glitches along the way. Almost all of my new rubber washers had managed to fall out of the hose ends and get covered up in the dirt (there are probably enough of them buried in the pathways to warrant my declaring this garden patch Salt Spring's only rubber plantation).

In addition, my frustration turned to impatience and I managed to cross-thread the hose fitting onto the main water valve, which resulted in a stream of water shooting directly at my face every time I opened the valve.

All's well that ends well, I guess. Nobody asked me, but I think the world's a safer place because a hoser like me has never been hired to man the fire hose for the fire department.

But enough about hoses. I think it's time to finally take down the Christmas lights and put them away for the summer. I've got this great idea on how to store them so they don't get tangled up into a bloody mess again this year.



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

EARTH DAY IN THE PARK: Roots and Wings storyteller Eric Gordon takes time out of performing to make a bird feeder with his son Gabriel "Bob" Gordon at Earth Day last Wednesday, while below is a display of some panels from the Corky Freedom Banner project, which aims to end the holding of orca whales in captivity. Earth Day events at Centennial Park included a Conversations for the Wrong Listeners presentation, and other music, displays and activities. See the Driftwood's Facebook page for video footage.



Silence sounds good to me



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

I'd like to lodge a complaint about our public washrooms.

Or as I like to call them: Aural Abuse Centres.

It's not the flushing toilets or the inane washbowl chatter. Nor is it the free-form toots, blatts, frips and rolling thunder of human alimentary canals warming up in the Cubicle Choir.

It's those bloody hand dryers.

Used to be there were paper towel dispensers to handle that chore. Tidy and efficient but, alas, an environmental no-no. Washroom users eventually wearied of being harangued by earnest Elfin creatures (Mister, did you know a tree died so you could dry your hands?). Hence, the "touchless" dryer — you stick your mitts in, shake hands with yourself and hey, presto! Your hands are (sorta) dry. You also have a bad case of self-inflicted tinnitus — your ears are jangling from the banshee wail the touchless dry emits while it works. Makes a chain saw sound like a Mozart sonata.

Ho hum. One more annoying, pointless audible intrusion in lives already overloaded with honking horns, screaming sirens, howling lawnmowers, thumping helicopters, chattering cellphones — and other people's sound tracks.

Makes me want to move to Green Banks, West Virginia.

Not much of a place to look at. Just a wide spot in the road through Pocahontas County, nestled in the Allegheny Mountains, population 143. Green Banks only has a semi-restaurant — Henry's Quick

Stop. There's no shopping mall. Not even a baseball team.

What it does have is silence — electronic silence, anyway.

There are no cell phones in Green Bank because there's no cell phone service. Neither is there WiFi. Or smart meters. In Green Banks, all wireless signals are forbidden by law.

That's because Green Banks also has The Green Banks Telescope. The GBT is one of the world's most sophisticated radio telescopes and at 485 feet it towers over tiny Green Banks.

How sensitive is it? Sensitive enough to record the energy given off by a single snowflake hitting the ground. But it needs pristine conditions to operate. That means no electro-magnetic interference from the ground it sits on. The federal government helped out by legislating a 13,000-square-mile National Radio Quiet Zone around Green Banks in which all use of airwaves is strictly regulated.

How do people in Green Banks survive without iPhones, tablets and internet fixes? Very well, it seems. One Green Banks resident explains in his West Virginia drawl: "People ask me wot dew yew dew here? Ah tell 'em ah'm dewin' it raht now. Listen. Listen to the nature all around yew."

Easier to do in Green Banks than most other places on this fractured, frazzled planet where we buy recordings of waterfalls, birdsongs and surf to block out the wall of noise around us.

If I find out the washroom in Henry's Quick Stop has paper towel dispensers, I'm on my way.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Address root causes

In last week's paper, Ralph Smith of Victoria said that after reading our MP's latest newsletter he felt compelled to ask, "Is an MP holding these views one who we should have in Ottawa in these dangerous times?"

I read that piece and I would have to answer "absolutely." We currently have a government that ridicules those who would look for "root causes," and engages in bombing campaigns while making statements like "Obviously no government can be worse than the Gaddafi regime."

As our MP points out, if we are going to respond effectively to terrorism, we need to address underlying issues. As she said clearly and succinctly: "To help prevent terrorism, the focus must be on peaceful assistance to local and international organizations working to resolve conflict, to protect local culture and sustainable practices, and to engage in the building of strong democratic institutions."

Before Canada joined the campaign to bomb Libya, when then-Foreign Minister John Baird was asked about the possibility that it might just make things worse he

derisively replied with the sentence above. We now know that after we bombed it, the situation in Libya got worse, not better. Canada is currently engaged in a similar bombing campaign in Iraq and Syria, and I really believe we need to find a better approach to solving these problems.

Yes, Mr. Smith, we do need an MP with these views in Ottawa.

BRIAN SMALLSHAW,
BAY RIDGE PLACE

Novel ideas

I am in complete agreement with letter writer Carole Eyles who expressed such fresh and novel ideas regarding the study underway for possible incorporation of Salt Spring Island. ("More options, please," April 22 Driftwood.)

As the wise man said, if it ain't broke don't fix it! Saving tax dollars by remaining rural makes nothing but good sense, as does avoiding further levels of bureaucracy with their attendant free lunch and entitlement philosophy. Beware. More paid managers, CEOs, CAOs, COOs, VPs and on it goes ad nauseam.

Look no farther than the City of Richmond for the blueprint for excess. It was the corporation of the city of Richmond. Then the steroids kicked in and it became a consultants' paradise with more high-paid salaries there than any-

where. Richmond is now a good place to be from.

This island needs more suggestions and options as presented by Ms. Eyles.

DAVID L. MERKE,
SALT SPRING

Apology response

I would just like to write to the young person who wrote the "Apology" letter in last week's Driftwood:

Thank you! Hopefully this is the start of making your life a better, happier place to be in. We have all made mistakes at some time or another. Facing them and acknowledging them is hard — good for you!

ELAINE SHAW,
SALT SPRING

Just asking

A couple of questions about two current story lines in the Driftwood.

Does the access to the ramp at Kanaka dock need to be wider than the ramp itself?

Does the discovery (in Mouat Park) of an old charcoal kiln used by settlers of Japanese descent, coupled with long-standing First Nation claims in this area, suggest that it's time to find a more appropriate (and less ironic) name for the park?

Just thinking . . .

CHRIS DIXON,
MANSELL ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Notice to the Public

Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
5 pm to 7:30 pm
Harbour House Hotel

Meetings are open to the public.
For more information, please contact:

Herald Swierenga, Chair
Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee
Phone: 250-653-4950

or

Darin Guenette, Public Affairs Manager
BC Ferries
1-877-978-2385 (toll free) or
darin.guenette@bcferries.com



It's time to modernize the Access to Information Act

BY AARON WUDRICK

Between elections, what tools can Canadians use to hold their federal government to account? One important tool is the Access to Information Act.

You may not have heard of it, but it's a vitally important law that lets any Canadian request information about what the government is doing, including just what our tax dollars are being spent on, and by whom. And even more importantly, it creates a legal responsibility for the government to provide the information.

In March, Canada's Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault released a special report containing 85 recommendations to update the act. The current law has been in place since 1982 and without major reform since, in spite of the fact that, as the commissioner puts it, "much has

changed within government since that time, including how the government is organized, how decisions are made and how information is generated, collected, stored, managed and shared." So it only makes sense that this law be adapted for the realities of the 21st century.

The first big recommendation is extending the act; currently, many parts of government are not even covered. Some, like the House of Commons and Senate, are familiar to Canadians. Others, such as the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, are virtually unknown—even though their budget is over \$500 million. Other entities that are partly arms-length from the government, such as Canada Health Infoway (which has received more than \$2 billion in federal government funding since 2001), are also not covered by the act.

INDEPTH

There's no good reason why these taxpayer-funded bodies are not covered. There's little point in a transparency law that doesn't follow much of the money in the first place.

In terms of the type of information released, another important recommendation would require the government to provide data in an "open, reusable and accessible format." The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has on many occasions requested information, only to receive boxes of blurry, photocopied documents, which were obviously printed off from a program like Excel. This is a pointless waste of everyone's time, money and paper; in 2015, there's simply no reason most data can't be

supplied electronically.

Perhaps most importantly, the commissioner suggests that when grants or loans are given to third parties — referred to in some circles as "subsidies" or "corporate welfare," that the recipients not be permitted to withhold information about repayment. Under the current rules, many large corporations claim "commercial sensitivity" as a reason not to release details. To take just a single example of dozens, consider Mitel Networks of Ottawa, which received \$60 million from the government in 2002. To this day, the company has refused to let the government disclose any information about repayment of that loan (if there has been any repayment). This needs to change.

In addition, the commissioner recommends that government pro-

actively publish information about all grants and loans given by government, including the status of repayment and compliance with any terms — rather than forcing Canadians to request the information first. When governments spend money, the default position should be to account for it.

It may not be the sexiest political issue during an election year, but transparent and accountable government is extremely important in any democratic society. With her report, the information commissioner has drawn attention to some of the defects of our current Access to Information Act. The government would be well advised to take action on many of its recommendations.

The writer is federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Exhibit organizer gives heartfelt thanks to her community

BY TAMAR GRIGGS

The opening of the Faces of Salt Spring photo exhibit held Sunday evening was a resounding success. Three hundred islanders attended to celebrate our community. Everyone was astonished by the magnitude of what has been captured on film over the past 20 years.

I neglected to thank the people who helped bring this show to fruition when I gave my little talk. Here they are:

Diana English: for her unwavering calm spirit setting up the database to keep track of all the islanders in the show (we have 503 entered into tap forms for signed releases, and more are coming). Also she typed and formatted all the

130 stories by islanders and kept me calm when things went crazy!

Christina Heinemann: for designing all the promotion and the website for this show. She has worked with me since 1995 when I was running Bold Bluff Retreat, and we continue to have fun creating together. She is amazing!

Joanne McKay: for hanging the show. When she first walked into my studio she was overwhelmed by the photos scattered on all the tables and floors, and said she was dizzy before she even looked at what I had. She advised me to simplify the show and to put all the photo-montages that could not fit onto the ArtSpring walls into archival notebooks.

Gabrielle Jensen: for mounting the entire show and for keeping calm when things went haywire.

Apple Photo: for their patience with me when I flooded them day after day with hundreds of photos to copy into the montages, and took up one entire counter.

Philip Reece from the Salt Spring Exchange: for promoting this show and believing in it.

David Borrowman: for photographing all the montages displayed on the walls and getting them ready for the web. I enjoyed your dry sense of humour!

Valdy and Kathleen: for creating the fun,

fun song of islanders presented at the opening night.

Daphne Taylor: for taking care of all the food for opening night.

Nora Layard: for handling the flowers for the occasion.

For all the sponsors of the show — see www.facesofsaltspring.com or the list posted at the show for a complete list — and mostly for our island community who endured my camera for the past 20-plus years — a giant thanks to you all!

Please come by to take in the fleeting moments of island life. The show runs at ArtSpring through noon on Tuesday, May 5.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Heritage roses and many thanks to TNT Signs and Shaw for our Ruckle Farm Day banner presentation; to Moonstruck Farm for donating the cream for butter churning; to the CRD, K2Park Services and Country Grocer for your generous donation and continued support to help make everything come together for another day of free family fun at the farm coming up on May 3. Many, many thanks! Mike & Marjorie Lane for Ruckle Heritage Farm Day. See you Sunday!

A beautiful swinging bouquet of roses to Kip and Zack of Salt Spring Gymnastics. Your energy and enthusiasm exceed

our expectations every week. Your skills in inclusion and accessibility are unparalleled. Thank you.

A passel of peach blossoms for everybody involved in putting on one of the best shows I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing! Kudos to Adina Hildebrandt and all for their estupendo production of James and the Giant Peach, including the original musical score (terrific!); the costumes (incredibly creative!); the direction, production and, of course, the cast. I haven't enjoyed an afternoon like that in ages, so thanks again.

I went with my good friend RhiAnnon and we both were transported to another world. Well done! Maureen Phelan

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Happy trout

I was at St. Mary Lake on April 22 when the provincial government truck arrived to stock the lake with rainbow and cutthroat trout — 2,500 of them, if I heard the fisherman correctly.

As I suspected, these are all triploid trout, as they have no gonads when I clean them. Their purpose in life is therefore a simple one: eat and get big to gladden the hearts of anglers. They cannot reproduce, even if there was a place to do so in our beloved "St. Mary of the Crystal Waters."

As for those who say the

lake is so polluted they have to "fix" it, they should have seen all those little trout frisking about in their new home with big grins on their faces.

ROGER BRUNT,
BRINKWORTHY

Bike to Work Week ready to roll

My chain is greased, tires inflated, cables tuned and brakes checked. I'm ready — nay, aching — for Bike to WorkWeek 2015.

It's not like I haven't been riding, it's just that this is an extra special time of year. For seven solid days — May 25 to 31 — I witness hundreds of healthy, happy Salt Springers

hop on their bikes and pedal to work, to play, to home and away.

I can already feel Ganges Hill melting beneath my treads. I sense the joy of cruising from Country Grocer to Ganges village on our very own bike lane.

I can taste the food specials available to Bike to Work Week participants.

And I can feel the spirit that an active lifestyle inspires. I'm also hoping to win the grand prize: a cycle tour trip for two from Prague to Budapest.

If you'd like to register a Bike to Work team contact Jan Slakov or visit www.biketowork.ca.

Go Team Telecommute!
JOHN ROWLANDSON,
FULFORD HARBOUR

CRD

INCORPORATION STUDY – REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We have been invited by the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to assemble a volunteer committee to guide the incorporation study process and to ensure that the study and engagement with the community are neutral and balanced. The Committee will manage the public discussion of the implications of island incorporation; report the outcome of the public consultation process to the Minister; and may recommend that an incorporation vote (referendum) be ordered. The Minister considers the recommendation and other information in the decision about whether or not to order a vote.

The Committee will select a consultant to undertake the incorporation study. The consultant will be an objective technician with local government expertise who will gather information, prepare a written report and help facilitate the public discussion. The consultant does not take a position on incorporation with the committee or with the community.

We invite applications from qualified electors to sit on the Committee. There are up to ten places available and the Committee should represent a broad range of island interests. Applications, in writing, are invited from interested parties setting out the reasons they wish to serve and the qualities and qualifications they would bring to the process. Applications can be emailed in pdf format to any one of the three elected officials at the address below and/or delivered to the CRD office:

Central – 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, V8K 1K3.

Please mark clearly in the subject line of an email or addressed envelope:
Attention Incorporation Committee

George Grams, Trustee, Islands Trust: ggrams@islandstrust.bc.ca

Peter Grove, Trustee, Islands Trust: pgrove@islandstrust.bc.ca

Wayne McIntyre, Director, Salt Spring Island, CRD: directorssi@crd.bc.ca

arts&entertainment



EXHIBITIONS

Get set to be mesmerized by Faces of Salt Spring show

Local history captured in massive body of work

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Tamar Griggs' photo exhibition Faces of Salt Spring sounds like a fairly simple concept at first. The title sort of says it all, no?

When you step into the ArtSpring gallery and see just how comprehensive the show is, though, you realize the effort

required to display almost 20 years of work was anything but simple. First of all, the sheer volume of images makes it probably the fullest exhibition ever to grace ArtSpring's galleries. Every possible wall and divider is covered with black panels, each one holding up to six smaller panels comprised of three or more individual shots. There was so much to work with, the overflow can be found in binders set around the room.

Then there's the organization. The images are loosely grouped by theme or location such as Burgoyne Bay, Fall Fair and Saturday Market. But then each panel also has its own logic, with the smallest units composed sometimes by colour, sometimes by similar poses or other concepts. It all holds together remarkably well.

One of the most interesting aspects of Griggs' collection is that it truly is Salt Spring's faces that tell the story of the island. Though most of the shots were taken outside (and Griggs is a gifted nature photographer), in these images Salt Spring's natural appeal is left to the edges so that the beauty of its community shines through.



Photographer Tamar Griggs in front of a handful of exhibit photos.

Like most personal photos, these ones are most interesting when you recognize the faces. There are plenty of pleasures to discover. As a viewer, you might learn that someone you are acquainted with used to have dreadlocks, or that the Driftwood's editor hasn't aged in 11 years. You can see couples that no longer exist smiling together, and you can see cou-

You can match faces to names and enjoy "ah-ha" moments.

ples that are still going strong doing the same. You can match faces to names and enjoy "ah

ha" moments.

Viewers who don't remember men like Shilo Zylbergold, Donald Gunn or John Bateman before they went grey — or never knew them otherwise — can see what they looked like with pigmented hair. The ill-informed can discover the origins of children whose parents now have different partners.

Some of the people appear again and again, so another interesting aspect is seeing how those people changed over the years — in some cases, with two or three images spaced out within the same large panel. Special events in the island's history are also recalled: protests over Texada logging and the sables fish hatchery, the ill-fated Fulford Freedom Camp and the successful campaign against gypsy moth spraying are all documented.

Attending the show is certainly rewarding, but viewers should budget enough time in their schedule for a good visit, or else plan on going back several times. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 5, except today (Wednesday, April 29), when it is in other use.

Provence

en plein air paintings

HEATHER CALDWELL

Artists Reception

Saturday, May 2nd, 5 - 7pm



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Gallery hours: Friday, Saturday Sunday 11 - 5

LOOKING
UP

Bill Underwood Photographs
Suzanne Prendergast - Art
MAY 1-31

ARTSPRING LOBBY
Salt Spring Island, B.C.

EXHIBITIONS

May library displays feature book art

Program room and display case

Art displays at the Salt Spring Public Library will have an especially relevant theme during the month of May, with two exhibitions exploring local artists' work with books.

Illuminate is an exhibition of illustrators' work, which can be found in the program room from May 4 to 30. Viewers will see some wonderful examples

from Salt Spring artists including their early sketches and working drawings, providing a glimpse into their unique processes.

Feature artist Aidan Cassie's first children's book was A Salt Spring Island Activity Book, which she created for the Little Red Schoolhouse Preschool. Cassie started her illustration path when she created an award-winning animated short film at Emily Carr University. Since moving to Salt

Spring she has returned to her first love of children's books.

Allan Hancock is another local artist to appear in the library show. Although his paintings appear in three books, he is a full-time gallery artist first and an illustrator only by request. Amazing Animals: The Remarkable Things That Creatures Do by Salt Spring author Margriet Ruurs contains 50 of his original paintings.

"Every day I am

inspired by nature, whether hiking in the mountains, walking on the beach, or driving to the store," Hancock said in an artist's statement. "Through my artwork, I strive to share those moments of inspiration with the viewer."

The library will also host a unique exhibit in the lobby's display case for the month of May, featuring altered book art by Andrea Spalding.

Spalding has enjoyed a successful career as a professional author with

a specialty in children's literature for over 30 years. The Most Beautiful Kite in the World was selected as a Canadian Children's Book Centre "Our Choice" title. Since then, her 30-plus books have garnered many awards and nominations.

Andrea and her husband David Spalding have lived on Pender Island for many years. One of their most recent books is Seasonings, Flavours of the Southern Gulf Islands.

BOOKS

Plot thickens for Saturday literary celebration

Writers converge for bookstore birthday

Activities are shaping up for Authors for Indies Day at Salt Spring Books this Saturday.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the store will be full of authors serving customers, recom-

mending books "and generally causing chaos," notes a press release.

At both 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., a selection of authors will be given three minutes to tell everyone in the store why they should read one of their books. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentations.

Participating authors booked to date are Kathy Page, Arthur Black, Derek Lundy, Chris Smart, Margriet Ruurs, Gillian Campbell, Kim Thompson, Patrick Taylor, C.C. Humphreys, George Spos, Murray Reiss, Phyllis Smallman, Nathaniel Poole and Brian Brett.

People can also get their books signed by the authors and ask them skill-testing questions.

Since it's the store's 15th birthday, cake will also be offered.

See www.authorsforindies.com for more information about the nation-wide event.

Ruckle Heritage Farm Day

**MAY 3,
10 am - 3 pm**

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FAMILY FUN**

Facepainting, & Fishpond for the kids;
Blacksmithing; Spinners, Weavers
& Quilters; Butter & Ice Cream Making;
Sheep Herding Demo; Antique Tractors;
Farm Animals; Music & More!

Lion's Club and
4-H Food Concessions

**FREE PARKING
FREE ADMISSION**



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

STAGE STARS: Giant insects try to hear a plot being discussed down stage (far left) while the improv group creates a snap-shot pose of an audience suggestion at the StageCoach Theatre School year-end show at ArtSpring on the weekend. Reviews of the musical production of James and the Giant Peach and other elements were decidedly positive.

RECITAL

Hardisty shares recent musical growth

Music & Munch on May 6

The noon-hour Music and Munch concert series at All Saints' By-the-Sea church continues on Wednesday, May 6 with the popular Wesley Hardisty once again taking the stage.

Hardisty is a fiddler/composer from the Dene First Nation in the North West Territories. Largely self-taught, he took up the fiddle at age 13 in Fort Simpson through the outreach program of the Kole Creek Fiddle Association and it proved to be a natural fit.

At age 15 he was encouraged to come to Salt Spring Island and enrol in the Gulf Islands School for Performing Arts.

Now 21, this talented young man is not only proficient at the fiddle but also guitar, piano, bass, drums and vocals. He has played for audiences up to 25,000 in size, and at hundreds of gigs and festivals over the last five years.

Recent gigs of note included the NWT Days during Winterlude in Ottawa, an aboriginal youth conference in Prince George, and festivals in Coquitlam, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

As well, his debut CD won the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples' Choice Music Award for Best Fiddle CD.

Although Hardisty's musical roots are in northern, Metis and west coast fiddle music he also combines with these sounds country, folk, rock and Celtic for his own original compositions. The passion he feels for it is tangible when he plays and is compelling for his audience to hear and see.

His show begins at 12:10 p.m.

It is followed by the usual but optional delicious light lunch put on by the Anglican Caterers.

CONCERTS

Singers explore season of love

Spring concert hits ArtSpring stage this weekend

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Singers are offering the community a musical bouquet of songs touching on themes of love and renewal for their upcoming concert called Salt Spring Fever.

With two shows stirring up the action at ArtSpring on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m., the singers will explore historic and contemporary compositions spurred by the passions that only spring can inspire, moving from Renaissance madrigals to swinging jazz favourites.

"Basically it's a lighthearted look at love and romance and the fever that occurs sometimes," said choir director and conductor Don Conley, adding the theme is expressed through a fun and varied program.

"There's lots of colour, lots of contrast — there's something for everyone and lots of tunes they'll recognize, so it's fun."

The first half of the show opens with five madrigals, four of which are English and the fifth is from France.

"It gives you the Renaissance flavour of what some of these ideas might mean, and some of these madrigals talk about unrequited love — the 'Oh, woe is me' kind of thing," Conley said.

Steve Maddock, an acclaimed singer and musical theatre performer from Vancouver, will appear for several solos. During the first half he will sing a Gerald Finzi setting of Shakespeare's love poetry as well as The Roadside Fire by Ralph Vaughan Williams, part of a song cycle based on the poems of Robert Louis Stevenson.

The program then moves to a sampling of how themes of love are addressed around the globe, with selections from the U.S.A., Nigeria, Russia and China. The choir will be

singing in the language of each country.

"What the choir is enjoying about the first half is it's very lighthearted and fun and expressive. We're poking fun at what happens when people experience spring fever and then this thing called falling in love," Conley said.

The music turns to jazz for the second half, when accompanist David Storm will be joined by percussionist Laurent Boucher, Ian Van Wyck on bass and John Moore on soprano saxophone.

"That will be really fun for audiences because we'll be engaging our combo band," Conley noted.

"There's lots of colour, lots of contrast — there's something for everyone and lots of tunes they'll recognize, so it's fun."

DON CONLEY
SS Singers director

The singers will perform numbers like Fever, Unchained Melody and music from Missa Gaia, a modern mass in celebration of the Earth by Paul Winter. Maddock returns to the stage for jazz songs related to springtime, and is certain to inspire some fever of his own with his deep baritone voice and good looks.

Conley said having a professional performer like Maddock join the community group is a pleasure both for the audience and for the local singers who will perform beside him.

"It raises the game of the whole concert, I think, because the choir rises to the occasion," he said.

"You get the homegrown flair and also something that's quite special. Steve is a very talented performer and improviser, and he does complex songs with ease."

Tickets for the show are available through ArtSpring.

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What's on this week

Wed. Apr 29 **Thur. Apr 30** **Fri. May 1** **Sat. May 2** **Sun. May 3** **Tues. May 5** **Wed. May 6**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

International Dance Day Show. Kristen Lewis & the Children's Dance Workshop present The Dance is in All of Us. ArtSpring. 6:30 to 8 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.

South Salt Spring Seniors Monthly Meeting. Events include a visit from OAPO regional director Shirley Lowe and a presentation from Dr. Brian Finnemore on Dying with Dignity. Fulford Hall annex. 2 p.m.

Salt Spring Golf and Country Club AGM. Annual general meeting upstairs at the clubhouse. 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Thur. Apr 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sparkfest. The young women of Pass It On present a great evening of music, entertainment, prizes and fun, with performances by Ashleigh Ball of Hey Ocean!, Tara Maclean, Suzanne Little, Morgan Klassen, GISS Ladies Improv and more. Harbour House Orchard Room. 7:30 p.m.

Beltane Dance. Live music from Dirty Grace and Red Haven. Phoenix Farm. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Big Show. Local bands compete for a chance to perform at the first Salt Spring Garlic and Music Festival. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tech Tutoring With Lisa Pearce. Windows and tablets. No Macs. Salt Spring Public Library. 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Youth Jam Night. Part of Youth Week events. Core Inn. Time TBA.

Fri. May 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani. Live music, plus free appies made by Dagwoods. The Local Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Friday Night Jazz Cafe. Classic jazz every Friday with Lloyd and Myles English and special guests. Fernwood Road Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Downtown Mischief. Hip Hop/roots band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime. A free, interactive program for children and families, particularly suited for children 3 to 6 years of age. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Friday WineDown TGIF at Salt Spring Vineyards. Bring your friends to wind down the week with wine and music in the beautiful winery setting. Salt Spring Vineyards. 4 to 6 p.m.

Gary Cherneff Opening Reception. Presenting Gone Fishing: a show a new paintings. kiZmit Galeria and Cafe. 5 to 7 p.m.

Games Night. An evening of board games and other interactive games, facilitated by Bryan Dubien. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Madness. Youth Week special features free admission for grades 6 to 12 and an exciting inner tube water polo match. Rainbow Road Pool. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Sat. May 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Downtown Mischief. Hip hop/roots band. Morningside Organic Bakery & Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Salt Spring Fever Concert. Salt Spring Singers choir with conductor Don Conley and accompanist David Storm. Special guests Steve Maddock and Laurent Boucher. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Aidan Miller. Live music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market. Famous market event with all items made, baked or grown by Salt Spring residents. Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Marine Garage Sale. New and used marine gear sale. A fundraiser for Salt Spring's RCM Search & Rescue unit. 261 Fulford Ganges Rd. 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Invasive Plant Drop-Off. Accepting gorse, broom, blackberry, ivy, holly, periwinkle, yellow iris and other imported weeds except Giant Hogweed. By donation. Portlock Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toddler Time. Stories, rhymes and more for kids three and under and their families. Salt Spring Library. 10:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Authors for Indies & 15th Birthday Bash. Local authors will serve Salt Spring Books customers, recommend books, answer questions and sign books, plus give presentations in a fun contest at both 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Authors in attendance from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cake also served for SS Books' 15th birthday party.

Girls Softball Games. Salt Spring's U14 fastpitch team hosts a double-header with Duncan at the Fulford ball field. Games at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Fundraising BBQ from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Satsang, Meditation, & Inquiry Intensive. Falling in Love with Beauty and Truth: A Satsang & Meditation Intensive with Greg Marian. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. Noon to 6 p.m.

Tech Tutoring With John. Saturdays at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Salt Spring Island Public Library.

Art Show Opening. Reception for show of plein air paintings called Provence by Heather Caldwell. Duthie Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.

Sun. May 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Fever Concert. See Saturday's listing, except the time is at 2 p.m.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Mariachi los Tesoros. Youth mariachi band directed by Michelle Cormier. Royal Canadian Legion. 3 p.m.

The Barley Bros. Live music every Sunday at Moby's Pub. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Ruckle Heritage Farm Day. Old-time skills, great food, games, displays, animals and more at Ruckle Provincial Park. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Unitarian Fellowship. Amanda Taring explores what it means "to present." Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.

Youth Week at the Climbing Wall. Youth get free access to the Climbing Wall. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Mon. May 4

ACTIVITIES

Tech Tutoring With Conrad. iPad, Tablet and eReader Tutoring with Conrad Koke. Salt Spring Island Public Library. Sessions every Monday at noon and 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Transportation Commission. Monthly meeting, rescheduled from last week. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 4 to 6 p.m.

Salt Spring Abattoir Society AGM. Annual general meeting. Farmers' Institute. 7 p.m.

Stay Connected
be part of the Driftwood's online community.

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

ACTIVITIES

Hospice Film Series. Screening of Consider the Conversation - A Documentary on a Taboo Subject. First in a series of four Tuesday evening films about end-of-life issues. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch. Fiddler Wesley Hardisty is guest performer. All Saints Church. 12:10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Drop-in Computer Help. See last Wednesday's listing.

Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting. Semi-annual public meeting with BC Ferries executives in attendance. Harbour House Hotel Orchard Room. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Roy Henry Vickers & Lucky Budd Book Launch. Introducing new work Storyteller and Cloudwalker. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 6 p.m.

Wednesday Night Poker. See last Wednesday's listing.

SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing.

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CINEMA

- Woman in Gold** — The remarkable true story of one woman's journey to reclaim her heritage and seek justice for what happened to her family. Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren), a Jewish survivor of World War II, sues the Austrian government for the return of a painting of her aunt the Nazis stole from her family.

EXHIBITIONS

- Provence** - en plein air paintings by Heather Caldwell runs at Duthie Gallery from May 2 to June 4, with an opening reception with the artist on Saturday, May 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Until April 30, see Imprints 2015, an exhibition of woodcuts, etchings, linocuts and monoprints by Arnold Shives, Jan Smith, Richard Tetrault and Richard York.
- After the Fishing Ends** is potter Gary Cherneff's first solo painting exhibition, which opens on Friday, May 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at kiZmit Galeria & Cafe. Open Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.ish.
- Ilse Leader** presents **A Symphony of Colour**, felted collages and wall hangings at Salt Spring Gallery through May 14.
- Faces of Salt Spring**, a photo show and much more presented by Tamar Griggs, is at ArtSpring daily, except for April 29, until May 5. (See story on page 10.)

- Symbolically 8**, an exhibition of all gallery artists, marks the sixth anniversary of Gallery 8 in Grace Point Square. Open daily through May 10.
- Elehna de Sousa** shows photos in a series called **Goa, India: Street Portraits and Vignettes** at Fernwood Road Cafe. The cafe is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except closed Wednesdays, and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Steffich Fine Art** celebrates its 23rd birthday with an exhibition of new paintings by **Melanie Williamson**.
- David Baughan** shows work in the lobby of ArtSpring through April. Then from May 1 to 31, **Bill Underwood** shows photographs and **Suzanne Prendergast** has artwork in a show called **Looking Up**.
- The Salt Spring Library Program Room** exhibit for April is Interpretations II, work by the **League 181** artists. Then from May 4 to 30, see **Illuminate**, an exhibition of work by illustrators **Aidan Cassie** and **Allan Hancock**.
- Altered Book Art** is a unique exhibit by **Andrea Spalding** seen in the display case at the **Salt Spring Library** through May.
- Avril Kirby** shows photographs in an exhibit titled **China** at **TJ Beans** through April.
- Kevin Vowles** has artwork hanging 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**.

people&community

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

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



SENIORS

Researcher studies aging LGBT community

Findings hoped to result in better services for rural residents

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The unique issues facing members of the queer spectrum as they get older are beginning to interest health professionals and researchers, with the boomer wave and the first "out" generation combining for a new demographic.

Salt Spring's Robert Beringer is one of the people who is tracking the issue, with a particular focus on how aging affects LGBT seniors living in rural areas. With a self-professed fascination with aging that led to a master's degree in gerontology, he has recently started coursework for a social science doctorate at Royal Roads University and plans to begin the research component by fall of 2016.

"An enormous percentage of the research done has been in urban populations," Beringer explained. "I think it's important to know the challenges and also the positives of aging in a rural community. Once you know those stories better, you can help provide services in the future."

One of Beringer's recent research contracts involved creating an online end-of-life resource for LGBT seniors in British Columbia. Topics include housing, counselling services, support groups and even

a funeral home, with entries rated either formally or informally LGBT-friendly (depending on whether the organizations state it outright or else say "everyone welcome"). Not surprisingly, most of the resources listed are found in the Vancouver area or in Victoria.

"We got good feedback from the Vancouver community, but those are just first steps of what needs to be done to get the information out there," Beringer said. "Groups haven't been researched in rural and small-town B.C."

"There's a big hope this won't be an issue in 20 years because the world has changed."

ROBERT BERINGER
Salt Spring researcher doing Royal Roads doctorate

As he has found, small community groups like GLOSSI on Salt Spring do exist all over the province, and the aging demographics of the overall population point to a growing need to consider how being gay impacts other parts of senior life.

A number of unique challenges have been identified. Beringer said minority stress has been associated with a number of chronic conditions such as higher rates of depression, alcohol and tobacco abuse, and some types of cancer. This may



Robert Beringer, Salt Spring-based researcher.

be exasperated as seniors feel forced back into the closet by new housing situations.

While sensitivity training might become more available for caregivers and health professionals, it can be the other residents who hold on to stereotypes. Beringer points out that homosexuality was illegal in Canada until 1969 and considered a mental illness — treatable by shock therapy and other methods — before that. Decriminalization in the U.K. started with gradual changes occurring in England and Wales in 1967. People who lived through that period on either side of sexual identification will have internalized the horrors and the attitudes of the times.

"There's a big hope this won't be an issue in 20 years because the

world has changed," Beringer said.

However, he noted LGBT youth are still at an elevated risk of suicide compared to others in their age group, so the question is how much has actually changed.

End-of-life preparations are also challenging. Older gay men are much less likely to live with a partner or family member than heterosexual men, and may have difficulty finding someone to call on for support or to act on their behalf when their abilities fail.

On the plus side, Beringer said, there is also something called "positive marginality." For example, gay men have probably learned coping skills to deal with their challenges and being discriminated against as a senior is just one more thing to deal with. Heterosexual white men who were used to being at the top of the pecking order might find themselves in the opposite position for the first time as seniors, and without any coping mechanisms.

Beringer is hoping to gain information about all these issues and more as they affect rural residents when he starts his research on Salt Spring next year.

"The ultimate end-goal is to have information that will help inform service providers," he said. "And I also think there's value in itself of having people share their stories and have a voice."

More information about Beringer and his work can be found on his website at www.vibrantsaltspring.ca.

STEWARDSHIP

Pernicious plants wanted at drop-off event

Bring your broom and other invasive species this Saturday

BY JEAN WILKINSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

As May rolls around so does Salt Spring's annual invasive plant drop-off.

People wanting to get rid of broom, gorse, blackberry, spurge laurel, ivy, lamium and more can bring these to Portlock Park this Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Because these weeds will be chipped the public is asked to remove dirt and stones from the roots. Volunteers will be on hand with coffee and cookies, to help unload the plants and to collect a small donation to cover chipping costs.

For those unable to deliver their plants, please call me (Jean) at 250-537-4877 to arrange a pickup.

Anyone who can help pick up these invasives with a vehicle, please call me to volunteer.

This season's yellow Scotch broom flowers signal the best time to cut this rapidly spreading, highly flammable, non-native weed.

"Cut broom in bloom" is the advice from broom-busters. Don't pull. Cut the flowering plant as close to the ground level as possible, before the summer drought sets in, so as to deplete the plant of resources to survive.

Pulling broom thicker than a pencil disturbs the soil and exposes the many broom seeds to light. Light triggers the seeds to sprout. Cutting helps avoid a forest of new seedlings.

The Blackburn Road Transfer Station does not accept invasive plants and can be fined for putting them in with the garbage. The Annual Invasive Plant Drop-off is a unique opportunity to get rid of these weeds (except for giant hogweed which cannot be accepted due to its highly toxic properties). It is also a chance to dispose of dead dry broom, a serious fire hazard.

Since green broom is a natural vermicide, or intestinal worm destroyer, it can be useful for goats. Call Jan Steinman at 250-653-2024 to arrange for a drop-off of green, seedless broom plants for his goats on an on-going basis.

"Broom is bad but gorse is worse" is another slogan. Unfortunately, gorse is spreading along the roadways on Salt Spring. Due to the prickly nature of this invasive non-native plant, it is harder to eradicate.

"While we are getting a handle on how broom grows, spreads and can be removed, we do not understand how to successfully remove gorse so it does not re-grow," says Jane Petch, a member of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's stewardship committee.

"Take a quick look on the internet at the havoc gorse is creating in other countries like Australia. I see more and more gorse every time I drive to town. It's a scary plant. If we act now we will avoid a huge amount of effort and money."

A focus of the stewardship committee this coming year will be to research the properties of gorse and ways to prevent it from irrevocably taking hold here on the island.

The Invasive Plant Drop-off is sponsored by the conservancy in co-operation with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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VOLUNTEERISM

Firefighter returns from Peru mission

Mitchell Sherrin reflects on volunteer experience

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A volunteer experience in Lima, Peru has given Salt Spring firefighter Mitchell Sherrin a window on how the service is offered in a very different part of the world, and renewed his appreciation for local practices in the process.

Sherrin spent nearly three weeks of this month with Firefighters Without Borders Canada in Lima, where he lived and worked in a fire hall located in the working-class neighbourhood of Breña. His primary duty was to share the basics of firefighting with a recruit class of 106 men and women, but he also responded to a harrowing list of fires, traffic accidents, HAZMAT calls and rescues that occurred outside of teaching hours.

"Fundamentally the thing I came away with is that I live and work in a culture of safety — and safety is not what governs them," Sherrin said.

Sherrin has always been interested in pursuing some type of volunteering abroad. Having served with Salt Spring Fire-Rescue for 12 years and performed teaching duties for 10 of those, he felt he had enough experience to share some of that knowledge. After learning about an upcoming deployment of Firefighters Without Borders Canada from Metchoshin Fire Chief Stephanie Dunlop last winter, he applied and was accepted for service for this spring.

"I like travelling but I'm not really big on being a tourist," Sherrin said. "I like to connect with people on a deeper level."

While most of the 2015 deployment team was tasked with travelling to small mountain villages, at the last minute Sherrin was asked to stay in Lima and train the new recruits at Hall 14. He agreed, and decided he'd better read up on the location.

"I was stunned to discover Lima was a city of 10 million. I was thinking it might be like Vancouver or Victoria, which would be more my scale," Sherrin said. "A city of 10 million is like... nothing else. Especially in South America."

Perhaps even more surprising is that the city's fire response is entirely volunteer based, with 5,000 firefighters working out of 58 halls. Paramedics are also volunteers and don't have a licensing body. Despite their incredible commitment and pride, with volunteerism linked to families' historic connection to halls and often extending through multiple generations, Sherrin learned the emergency service garners very little respect from the rest of the community.

Although the Peruvian government recently invested in 70 new fire trucks, one for each of its halls, much of the equipment



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Lt. Mitchell Sherrin with fire truck donated to Peru by the South Galiano Fire Department. Sherrin volunteered with Firefighters Without Borders Canada in Lima earlier this month.

used is at sub-par level. Mitchell saw many trucks that had been donated from other places — including lots from British Columbia and one from South Galiano Island — but many of these are now 30 to 40 years old. His very first day involved a call-out to a crash between a fire truck and a bus that sent eight people to hospital after the fire truck's brakes failed.

In addition, volunteers aren't trained on how to use the new equipment, so they often prefer to leave items in their wrappings.

Working through recruits who were fluent in English and could act as translators, Sherrin and his teaching partner Steven St. Denis from Salmon Arm, B.C. concentrated on sharing the basics, especially hands-on learning in things like hose-handling, ladder work and vehicle rescue tools. They also offered some tips during calls, like how to change the hose pressure to actually be effective.

"There was definitely a lack of knowledge and training on the equipment, even though everyone there has computers and smart phones," Sherrin said.

"We couldn't quite figure out what the barriers to learning were. That was the thing that was consistently hard to comprehend."

Sherrin actually stopped attending ambulance calls after the first few days, since the driving was reckless and terrifying and Peruvians won't yield to emergency vehicles. He also made sure to wear breathing apparatus when he entered burning buildings, unlike most of the local team members.

"I don't know if they have the knowledge of how bad it is to breathe in toxic air and

superheated gases," Sherrin said, observing just one breath of the latter can kill you, while repeated exposure to the former can take years off a life.

"In that respect it was completely insane."

Sherrin felt his services could have been more useful if the teachers had been able to work with other instructors instead of leading one class of recruits for two weeks, but that wasn't something the local organization seemed interested in. However, he did enjoy the camaraderie of living and working with one group for an extended period of time.

"That would be one of the things that's universal — when you're in the fire service there's that sense of belonging," he said.

Coming back to Salt Spring, Sherrin has a huge appreciation for North American safety requirements.

"Here we've learned it's things like inspections that prevent fires, and we have safety regulations for vehicles, and for workers. That's what makes Canada such a great place to live. We have all those underlying systems that work well. There, it's not working, because they don't have those systems in place."

Something else Sherrin came away with was a great respect for the entire volunteer team of Firefighters Without Borders and its founder Bob Dubbert of the Vancouver Fire Department, who is responsible for finding equipment donations, shipping them and delivering on the ground to the places that need them, in addition to organizing volunteer deployments.

"If I had the opportunity I'd definitely go back," Sherrin said. "It feels like there's valuable work to do there."

FUNDRAISER

Riding group hosts 'lucky 13' trail event

Mother's Day ride and walk returns

The Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association is hoping 13 is lucky when it hosts the 13th annual Ride/Walk-a-thon event on Sunday, May 10.

As one of the most important fundraising events of the year for the association, it sees participants go to their family, friends, doctors, dentists, teachers, hairdressers, co-

workers, neighbours and whoever else they can think of and raise pledges.

Participants will leave at 11 a.m. on Mother's Day from the SSTRa barn at 1860 Fulford Ganges Rd. The route leads both riders and walkers through a beautiful forest trail and continues on to Burgoyne Bay. A guide will lead the walkers on the trail.

This year, under the direction of the program's new head instructor, Jane James, riders in the Salt Spring Therapeutic

Riding lessons will take part in a special riding contest during the week leading up to the Ride/Walk-a-thon.

Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$30 in pledges. In addition to the guided Ride/Walk-a-thon, a lunch with music will be part of the event for all registered participants.

Both intended riders or walkers should let program coordinator Erika Ponsford know they will be participating. Phone her at 250-653-

9925 or email to info@sstra.ca. Entry and pledge forms are available at www.sstra.ca.

The event is an opportunity for the folks who benefit from the program — and everyone who supports this unique community resource — to help SSTRa raise part of the critical funding that is needed to bridge the gap between the minimal, non-prohibitive user fees charged and the true cost of delivering the program.

ENVIRONMENT

Threats charted in new McAllister book

Rainforest champion headlines two Salt Spring events

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Twenty years ago, Victoria-based environmentalists Peter McAllister and Bernadette Mertens McAllister made a stop on Salt Spring during a regional tour to raise awareness of a little known but profoundly important ecosystem located further up the coast.

After cutting their activism teeth at Clayoquot Sound, they had mounted a campaign to save a 32,000-square-kilometre swath of temperate rain forest stretching from the northern tip of Vancouver Island to the Alaskan border. McAllister started the Rain-coast Conservation Society and named the area Great Bear to propel a global movement and save the area from destruction by logging.

Now residents of Salt Spring, McAllister and Mertens McAllister will play host to their son Ian McAllister, the award-winning photographer and Time Magazine honouree, when he visits the island on a similar mission next month.

"There's a lot of issues facing the coast on marine and terrestrial fronts, but one of the outstanding ones is making sure the government lives up to its commitment to protect the region," McAllister said. Speaking during a telephone interview from his home in the midst of the Great Bear Rainforest on Denny Island, he noted clear-cut logging is still taking place in critical areas like previously pristine watersheds.

During two appearances on Salt Spring — as the feature presentation for the annual meeting of BC Nature on May 8 and then during a public event at ArtSpring on Saturday, May 9 — McAllister will give audiences a snapshot of the Great Bear Rainforest,



PHOTO BY IAN MCALLISTER

A Great Bear Rainforest sea wolf hunts for herring eggs at low tide. The wolves live on deer and what the ocean can provide.

its life cycles and its amazing natural beauty "from the headwaters of the region's unexplored river valleys down to the hidden depths of the offshore world."

"Even people who live in B.C. find it really remarkable that this is out our front door, so I'm really looking forward to sharing it," he said.

"Vigilance in the environmentalism world is key. As soon as you're not looking, the logging industry is back at it, the government is changing laws — so vigilance is critical."

IAN MCALLISTER
Author, photographer, speaker

A new coffee-table-sized book called Great Bear Wild is McAllister's latest offering of stories and photos giving the public a glimpse of that world. It follows on the previous and equally stunning books The Great Bear Rainforest and The Last Wild Wolves, and features the same quality photos that earned him the North America

Nature Photography Association's Vision Award.

Bears and wolves seen against old-growth forest and ocean backdrops, breaching orcas and technicoloured corals and sea creatures in crystalline waters are some of the images found within. McAllister's narrative recounts his own constant wonder at what he sees, his interactions with local inhabitants and fellow scientists, and important facts and statistics that are easily digested within the lyrical text.

McAllister was attending university when he first visited the rainforest that would become his permanent home and the source of his life's work, serving as a deckhand during one of his father's initial forays into the area by boat in 1990. He has now spent more than two decades researching and cataloguing the ecosystem that is home to the famous white "Spirit Bear," sea wolves, salmon and whales.

Work championed by Rain-coast Conservation Society and joined by Greenpeace, ForestEthics and the Sierra Club of Canada's BC Chapter, along with local First Nations, helped secure a protection agreement from the provincial government in 2006. The 2009 Central Coast and North Coast Land and Resource Management Plan banned logging in 33 per cent of the Great Bear Rainforest and made a

commitment to implement ecosystem-based forestry management throughout the entire area.

Pacific Wild is the nonprofit conservation organization that McAllister and his wife Karen co-founded to carry on the earlier work. Making people aware of what is at stake through photos, filmmaking and personal stories has proven effective in the past — The Great Bear Rainforest has been called one of Canada's most influential books. But as McAllister points out, frequent reminders are necessary.

"Vigilance in the environmentalism world is key. As soon as you're not looking, the logging industry is back at it, the government is changing laws — so vigilance is critical," he said.

"One of Pacific Wild's greatest assets is being situated to study natural history and secure it from threats from the front lines. We're in the field year-round and can bring back all those aspects. Being able to do that in real time on an ongoing basis has been an important aspect of our work."

The forest industry remains one of the region's greatest threats, with a strong soft wood lumber market and increased demand for raw log exports to Asia. More recent threats include energy sector proposals for diluted bitumen pipelines and increased tanker traffic. The provincial government's mission to develop a liquified natural gas industry based on the north coast, which McAllister said is unproven and no cleaner than other fossil fuel-based industry, carries the same risks. This time it's not just the forest but the marine environment that's at risk.

It may be an exciting time for marine conservation, McAllister said, but "Pacific Wild feels we have to document and educate ourselves and others [about what is there] as quickly as possible because, unfortunately, there is not a lot of time left."

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YOUTH

Islanders getting psyched for youth week

Festivities planned for first week of May

Kids on Salt Spring are gearing up for a week of fun, celebration and excitement as businesses and organizations get ready to launch Youth Week events.

Salt Spring Community Services, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Salt Spring

Library, Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods are some of the groups that will host events to foster youth solidarity, inspire pride in their community and strengthen connections between young people and the broader community.

Events get underway on Thursday, April 30 with a musical jam night at the Core Inn. Friday, May 1 features free admission for young people between

grades 6 and 12 and an exciting inner tube water polo match at the Rainbow Road Pool.

Youth will get free access to the Climbing Wall during regular opening hours on Sunday, May 3 and Thursday, May 7.

As well, the Salt Spring Library hosts a contest for young writers between the ages of 13 and 18. Entries to a maximum of 5,000 words can be dropped off at the library's

main reception desk before 5 p.m. on May 7 or sent to librarian@saltspringlibrary.com. Information about prizes and contest details are available at the library. A special presentation of youth fiction will be on display at the library during the week.

On Thursday, May 7, Thrifty Foods wraps up the festivities with the third annual Buck-A-Burger Bar-B-Q at the Core Inn.

Community Services encourages all island youth to participate in the activities.

"We're pleased to be part of this community collaboration in honour of island youth," said Rob Grant, executive director of Salt Spring Community Services. "The Core Inn was born out of community efforts to support youth and this is a great opportunity to continue that tradition."

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PHOTOS BY IRINA FLOERCKE

BEST DRESSED: Salt Spring's Thrift Shop was the spot for the first GISS Grads fashion show on Sunday. From left are models Alandra Laramacleod, Kai Kikuchi, Genevieve Milner and Nick Graham. Organizer Irina Floercke also thanked models Joanna Lussenburg and Amelia Milner, her assistant Sharon Mellander, helpers Jan Dunn, Marilyn Harding, Irene Gibbs, Beverly Lumley and Luda Romanenko, and Letitia and Lorraine of Grateful Heads Hair Design, as well as the Thrift Shop itself.

Tuesday Night Film Series

Salt Spring Hospice and Salt Spring Public Library invite you to this May's Hospice Month Film Series

Tuesday May 5th 7 pm CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION: A Documentary on a Taboo Subject
Winning 8 film awards, this thought-provoking film looks at many of the issues that we all face at end-of-life.

Tuesday May 12th 7 pm GRIEF WALKER
This NFB documentary, filmed over twelve years, presents a lyrical, poetic portrait of Stephen Jenkinson's work with dying people.

Tuesday May 19th 7 pm CONSIDER THE CONVERSATION 2: Stories about Cure, Relief & Comfort
This film explores the effect of modern medicine's success on the patient/doctor relationship.

Tuesday May 26th 7 pm DEATH BY JOY: Presented by Pender Island Film Maker Jim Cribb
This is a provocative look at a passionate journey; a tale of warmth, laughter and music; a sharing in the fascinating visions of Mary's travel across the "borderline".

ALL FILMS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE LIBRARY'S PROGRAM ROOM
Facilitated discussion to follow each film. Free admission thanks to donor support.

Salt Spring Hospice for more info 250-537-2770
www.saltspringhospice.org

Salt Spring Island Public Library

DEATH

Films explore end-of-life issues

Part of Hospice Month on Salt Spring

With Hospice Month being marked through May, the Salt Spring Hospice and Salt Spring Public Library are co-sponsoring a Tuesday night series of films that delve into matters of consideration at the end of one's life.

All films begin at 7 p.m. in the library program room.

The first one is on Tuesday, May 5. Winner of eight awards, Consider the Conversation: A Documentary on a

Taboo Subject is a thought-provoking film that looks at issues everyone faces at the end of life.

Then on Tuesday, May 12, the NFB documentary called Grief Walker will be screened. Filmed over a 12-year period, it presents a lyrical, poetic portrait of Stephen Jenkinson's work with dying people.

Consider the Conversation 2: Stories about Cure, Relief and Comfort is shown on May 19. It explores the effect of modern medicine's success on the patient/doctor relationship.

On Tuesday, May 26 the film is

Death by Joy, presented by Pender Island filmmaker Jim Cribb. It is described as "a provocative look at a passionate journey; a tale of warmth, laughter and music; a sharing in the fascinating visions of Mary's travels across the 'borderline'."

Facilitated discussions will follow each film.

Thanks to public and private support, the series is offered with free admission.

Call Salt Spring Hospice for more information at 250-537-2770 or go to www.saltspringhospice.org.

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OUTDOOR REC

Club hosts BC Nature AGM

Salt Spring Island will be busy from May 7 to 10 when the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club hosts the 2015 BC Nature AGM & Conference. Over 175 visitors from all over B.C. are expected. The theme is Living by the Salish Sea: Protecting our Ecoregion. It features many workshops, presentations and outings. Pre-registration is required. More information is on our website.

Annual Broom Pull

The annual Broom Pull will take place on Tuesday, May 12 in Burgoyne Bay. All members are invited. Volunteers should bring pruners, loppers, small tree saws and any other tools they deem useful. Suitable work clothing and gloves should be worn. A packed lunch should also be brought so we can work until about 2 p.m. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at 10 a.m. at the Burgoyne Bay parking lot.

Hikers

May 5: Nigel Denyer leads a moderate hike around Mount Sullivan from Musgrave. Some bushwhacking. Meet to carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

May 12: All hikers are invited to join the Broom Pull.

May 19: Lynn Thompson leads a moderately strenuous hike from Mount Maxwell to the Shepherd Hills and back. Some sections are off-trail and a bit rough. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the corner of Fulford-Ganges Road and Cranberry Road at 9:50 a.m.

May 26: Ashley Hilliard leads a moderate hike, with some side slope, in the Blackburn Lake area. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve parking lot, at 265 Blackburn Rd., at 10 a.m.

Walkers

May 5: Mystery Walk: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to choose a leader and destination.

May 12: All Walkers are invited to join the

Broom Pull.

May 19: Anke Smeele will lead us on a walk at Victoria's Playfair Park rhododendron and perennial borders. We will picnic in the park. Meet before 9 a.m. at ArtSpring parking lot to carpool, or meet at the 9:50 Fulford ferry. To get to Playfair Park take the Pat Bay highway, turn off at Quadra Street, follow Quadra Street and turn left on Rock Street, gathering at the Playfair Park parking lot by 11:15. After lunch, if anyone is interested, Anke will take us to UVic Finnerly Gardens via Cedar Hill Road for more rhododendrons and unique trees in bloom. Some might wish to return on the 3 p.m. ferry to Fulford.

May 26: Marjie and Brian Radford lead a walk up Mount Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at Toynbee Road at 10:15 a.m.

Ramblers

May 5: Jean Gelwicks will show us the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Bring a lunch. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

May 12: Ramblers who are not participating in the Broom Pull can join Marilyn and Bill on a Mystery Ramble. Bring a lunch. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

May 19: Explore Cowichan Bay with Frauke. Meet at Portlock Park at 9:45 a.m. to take the Vesuvius ferry to Crofton. Lunch will be in Cowichan Bay.

May 26: Ramble with Maureen and Sterling along Old Scott Road. Bring a lunch. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

New Members

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

More info: www.saltspringtnc.ca.

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ROYAL LEPAGE



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TOUR ANNIVERSARY: Salt Spring Studio Tour marked its 25th anniversary at a special event at Lions Hall last Tuesday evening. Artisans attending who have been involved with the tour for more than 20 years are, from left, Donna Johnstone, Vaughan Walters, Sandy Robley, Darlene Lane and Margaret Threlfall. Twenty-eight studios and farms are participating this year.

SUSTAINABILITY

Transition group plans projects

AGM celebrates productive year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Transition Salt Spring had many achievements to celebrate at the group's annual general meeting on April 21, but that isn't stopping its members from being equally ambitious for 2015-16.

Speaking after the meeting, Andrew Haigh, president of Transition Salt Spring's board of directors, outlined some of the accomplishments and new goals toward making the community more resilient and sustainable.

The Community Energy Group started the year with a highly successful renewable energy conference held at Gulf Islands Secondary School last April. Around 200 islanders attended discussions in 14 different workshops. Local politicians participated in A Climate Change, Carbon Neutrality and Community Action panel discussion.

The high school was not just the venue but the focus of the CEG's major fundraising and awareness initiative, which involved buying solar panels for the gymnasium roof and creating a scholarship for students studying alternative energy from the hydro savings. The 84 solar photovoltaic panels went live in December, becoming the largest school-based solar array in the province, and the seventh largest array overall.

The electric vehicle group counted success in the fact that the island's population of vehicles rose from around seven to 39, with several more known to be on the way.

"We believe we are the highest density of EVs in Canada," Haigh said.

An EV group committee devoted to creating more charging stations helped local bed and break-

fast owners promote EV tourism through a rebate program, with funding from the Capital Regional District. The group also worked to connect local businesses with other organizations to access donations and grants. Over the past year, new charging stations have been put in at Salt Spring Inn, Hedgerow B&B and Gatehouse Lodge B&B, with another major announcement coming soon.

Farm tour potlucks organized by Transition Salt Spring last summer attracted good crowds, as participants got to see where their food was coming from and enjoy a healthy and delicious meal in the process.

"We believe we are the highest density of EVs in Canada."

ANDREW HAIGH
President,
Transition Salt Spring

Green Drinks continues to be a popular event on the last Thursday of each month, currently taking place at the Harbour House Hotel.

Transition Salt Spring also partnered with the public library to offer a film series by donation.

A brainstorming session at the AGM suggested several new ideas for the future. Haigh said those ideas will be refined over the next few months with the addition of a couple of new directors.

"At our first meeting of the board we will look at these ideas and try to come up with one-year and five-year priorities, with goals set," he said. Then volunteers for projects and committees to undertake the work will be established.

The return of the Eco Home

Tour is one thing on the list to definitely go ahead, with the date set for July 26. An electric vehicle show with dealers from Tesla, Nissan and others is planned for the previous day on July 25.

The Farmland Trust has asked for Transition Salt Spring's help in doing work on the site of its new produce centre on Beddis Road. Haigh said that will also definitely go ahead, but the idea has been seeded to establish a volunteer work crew that could team up with other groups for various projects. The participants of The Plenty Project are one possibility.

The Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Co-operative, which is a separate entity that offers small loans for green projects, grew from 32 to 45 members over the past year. Haigh said the goal for the coming year is to raise the membership — each participant can loan out a maximum of \$5,000, so more members means more money available. The co-op is currently investigating five projects for possible loans, and has approved a Black Horse Apiary proposal to help local bees.

"And near and dear to my heart will be bringing back the 'Nut Capital of Canada in More Ways Than One' campaign," Haigh said, adding, "Long-term thinking is what Transition Salt Spring is all about."

The campaign encourages local residents, business owners and organizations to plant nut trees for long-term food security.

Other ideas in the mix include establishing a glean group to make use of the island's unpicked tree fruit, creating a tool library and hosting a repair clinic for items that might otherwise be thrown out. A general membership drive is also in the works.

More information on the organization's activities can be found at transitionsaltspring.ning.com. Those interested in volunteering can contact transitionsaltspring@gmail.com.

This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrology.com
sunstarastrology@gmail.com

1.888.352.2936

TIP OF THE WEEK:

'May Day, May daze, May days ahead...' Amidst the sensual and lovely weather of this time of year many important movements are underway. From the astrological perspective, Mercury enters Gemini where it has much to say and on the heels, or is it hooves, of the Taurus New Moon (May 17th), the winged messenger turns retrograde (May 18th) yet again for the second of its tri-annual 3-week retreats. This time in its own sign where Mercury proves extra sharp, we will all be 'hearing all about it'. As the Bull watches on and goats push the likes of Bill C51 forward leading sheeple astray, the rams must decide which side to support. Brutes uphold laws that curtail freedoms and rights and the collective are challenged to see through the darkness of night. Baffled with bull and dazzled with brilliance, many eyes are distracted while real business (as usual...) cut deals behind closed doors favoring the few. So what are we to do in this time of great deception when private agendas well hidden in plain sight reveal clever intentions to obscure mass perceptions? Among the simpler answers, and spiritual ones too, is to realize how powerful and important your free will is to you. Acknowledge with awareness what you call 'corruptions projected' and simply voice your vote as: "No, such actions are not accepted!" Then share your thoughts with those who will hear and with full faith that the universe is all ears. (This riddle will be further unraveled in my newsletter.)

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

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20) A busy, multi-tasking time continues. This includes reaching out to stimulate your network on both social and professional levels. Your ambitions are on the rise again. You are willing to travel if you must; especially if doing so allows you to weave business and pleasure. Satisfying simple curiosity is featured. The time is right to exchange knowledge and skills.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21) A dynamic cycle has begun. You are determined to get a lot done. Yet you are keen to work smarter than harder. Making information technologies and other such tools work for you will gain your full attention. At deeper levels, in order to advance you must be willing to make or undergo some significant changes. The future beckons and you are happy to move forward.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Amidst a swirl of dreams and plans gestating in the back of your mind, you also feel inspired to explore new angles of approach. You feel extra creative yet your energy levels or resolve may not be so high...yet. This will change in a few weeks so for now prepare the ground and be open to new ideas and possibilities. Focus on ideas and actions that support feeling secure.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) Breaking through old lines of resistance is activating your sense of individuality and what you deem your rights. Many thoughts are running in the back of your mind and these may even amount to a process of inner debate. Weighing various perspectives and options against one another will lead you to making carefully considered actions. Tending to family will lead to beautiful expressions.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23) The time has come to make your presence more fully known. Many new ideas and plans have been available, especially if you have been on the search. These continue to support your ambitions. Increasing your social outreach will prove helpful both professionally and regarding social popularity. As this is such an expansive time in your life, use this flow to advance your position.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) Looking to the bigger picture will prove satisfying now. Doing so will coincide with new perspectives and perhaps the acquisition of new tools. You stand to also gain some deep insights both regarding the human condition and about the role you are destined to play at this time. Since every bit counts, you have the opportunity to think global and act local for both spiritual and material success.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22) A process of clearing and even of purging continues. Altogether, you have entered something of a regenerative period. Financial interests and considerations are featured. You also feel inspired to engage in various social activities. Knowing what is happening in the world touches upon joyful events, where the human spirit shines brightly, so you can share in the inspiration.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21) Your relationship world continues to open wide. As eager as you are to engage, you also feel moved to approach things and especially certain people with some caution. Call it testing the waters or sounding the depths. As these clichés suggest, appearances can be deceiving and many realities can remain hidden beneath the surface. Taking carefully calculated risks will feel right.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21) The initial stages of a rather epic ascent have begun. You are wise to pace yourself. There is reason to say that you have encountered some companions to share the adventure, perhaps unexpected ones. With each step your vista over the expanse below widens revealing what you could not clearly see just a short while ago. Find reason to enjoy the journey.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19) You have entered an extra creative cycle. It will require that you give more than you might like to and to pay extra close attention to the details. As well, you may feel the urge to exert a rebellious approach, to defy or push through the existing status quo. If you are not already getting support of one kind or another, be willing to ask and you will very likely receive.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19) Establishing a new base of operations on the home front continues. Creative thinking and conceiving new angles of approach will prove inspiring. Sometimes it is more about process than outcome, at least in the short term. Opportunities to expand your social sphere are brewing so remain alert. Returns for past efforts are headed your way but will require sincere effort to maximize their potential.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) Many thoughts, ideas and plans are running through your mind. You would like to establish a more secure base. To this end you may have to take an inventive approach to succeed. Traditional methods will not serve you so well now. Yet, you may have the breakthrough your fears to even think this way. Brainstorm to outline a list of innovative possibilities.

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DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM GIFTS	IN MEMORIAM	COMING EVENTS	

JONATHAN PEMBERTON MILLER YARDLEY

Nov. 28, 1939 – April 24, 2015

You'd be hard pressed to find someone who loved life as much as Jonathan did. Whether learning a new piece of music for one of the many choirs he sang with, painting a foggy rain-soaked horizon, or helping to restore some of Canada's most cherished heritage buildings, Jonathan always committed himself fully to everything he did.



Born in Lichfield, England, Jonathan made his home on Salt Spring Island with his wife Sue (née Wall) in 1974, renovating their beloved Southdown Farm, growing a massive veggie garden, and raising sheep, goats, cows, pigs, chickens, geese, horses – and three children.

In his life on Salt Spring, Jonathan always shared his warmth and joie de vivre with everyone around him, from hosting live Christmas nativities in the barn, to dancing the grapevine on the lawn to celebrate friends' birthdays, to taking midnight dips in the pond just to see the stars.

A graduate of the Birmingham School of Architecture in England, Jonathan managed to quietly carve out an extremely successful career on the western edge of Canada. Though he was too humble to ever announce it, he received dozens of provincial and national architectural awards (including a lifetime membership award from the Architectural Institute of B.C.), and had a hand in the preservation of nearly every renovated heritage building in downtown Victoria and Vancouver (not to mention some of our most cherished ones here on the island – Ruckle Provincial Park, Mahon, Beaver Point and Fulford Halls, to name a few).

An avid traveller, he and Sue have explored many parts of this world, taking equal pleasure in the sublime (soaring cathedrals) and the simple (a baguette and wheel of hard cheese). Venice was a special spot they shared with their closest friends on a number of trips, but walking the Camino de Santiago across France and Spain in 2003 with eldest son Thomas was a life-defining experience.

Taken by prostate cancer too soon with still so much life to live, Jonathan will be desperately missed by wife Sue, sons Thomas (Michelle Yardley) and Ben (Jessie Carlson), daughter Emma (Daniel Squizzato), granddaughters Lucy, Lila and Grace Yardley, and sister Jennifer Chapman, as well as many relatives in England and the U.S.A.

The family would like to thank Dr. Manya Sadovsnyk and all the nursing staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their compassionate care. A private ceremony will be held for family. Please send your good memories of Jonathan to 316 Isabella Pt. Rd., S.S.I., B.C. V8K 1V4.

To honour Jonathan's memory, the family requests that you speak to your health professionals and government representatives about Dying With Dignity (dyingwithdignity.ca), in the hopes that Canadian law will be amended to eliminate unnecessary end-of-life suffering.



Phyllis Aileen Henderson (nee Abraham)

Jan 12, 1912 – Apr. 21, 2015

Phyllis passed away peacefully in her sleep at Greenwoods Eldercare Facility, after a brief illness. She was 103 years young. Her family is very thankful for the excellent care Phyllis received while a resident at Greenwoods. She was predeceased by her husband of more than 50 years, Gerald Wilberforce Lundy Henderson (Bill).

Phyllis is lovingly remembered by her daughters Judy Henderson and Dr. Pamela Chart, and by her grandchildren Robert Eberhard, Kelly Rahiri (Eberhard), Edward Chart, and Meredith Guest (Chart). Phyllis is also survived by seven great grandchildren.

Phyllis led a full and productive life dedicated to her family. She was a fine golfer and was ladies captain at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club and a lifetime member of the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. She loved Salt Spring Island from the time she and Bill retired there in 1972. She was well respected for her bridge playing and her crafts.

A private family interment is planned. Those wishing to make a charitable donation in her memory should do so to the Greenwoods Eldercare Foundation.



Andrea Dee Tufts

Apr. 1, 1959 - Apr. 22, 2015

Ultimate mother to Phoebe, and loving daughter of Marnie Keith-Murray (Doug) and Douglas Tufts (Judi), best sister in the world to Paul (Patricia) and Colin (Cassandra), beloved

granddaughter of David and Nancy Keith-Murray, Salt Spring Island, B.C., and Elsie and Harry Tufts, Madoc, ON, (all deceased), and amazing aunt and cousin to Ashton, Natalie, Devin and Judy.

Born in France, she faced life with an infectious smile and giggle and had no regrets. She had a lifetime of fun, arts, adventures and education. She loved SSI returning many times to enjoy life with her grandmother KM. She was surrounded by a huge circle of friends attracted by her insatiable interest in the world and people. She celebrated the mundane and traditional and was known for her high teas, garden parties and sparklers. She adopted Phoebe in 2004 and never saw the world in the same way again. They formed a loving unbreakable team that had no limits.

Andrea was a graduate of U. of Guelph and Dalhousie, and held positions as archivist and teacher-librarian at the Royal Ontario Museum, Bishop Strachan School, Carleton Village and Rose Park schools in Toronto.

Her celebration will be held at Mount Pleasant Visitation Centre, 375 Mt. Pleasant Rd. (East Gate Entrance) Toronto on Wednesday, April 29 at 12 noon. A funeral service will be held on Monday May 6 in Madoc Ontario, McConnell Funeral Home. Visitation is 11am - 12pm with service to follow. Andrea's ashes will be scattered on Salt Spring at a later date.

Donations may be made to Team Andrea, One Walk To Conquer Cancer at 15.onewalk.ca



Salt Spring Hospice
On May 5 at 7 PM join us at the library as we view and discuss "Consider the Conversation," a thought-provoking documentary about end of life challenges and decisions.
Co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Library
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saltspringhospice.org

IN MEMORIAM

Andrew Gibson
Celebration of Life
Sunday, May 3rd, 2015
1 - 4 pm
490 Rainbow Road
Everyone Welcome

DEATHS

CHRISTOPHER METCALFE
July 31, 1955 - March 17, 2015
A Celebration of Life will be held:
Saturday, May 2nd at 2 pm.
All Saints' by-the-Sea Anglican Church
All are welcome

DEATHS

JAMES JOHN (JIM) SCOTT
July 20, 1944 - April 19, 2015
Jim passed away at Lady Minto Hospital on April 19, 2015.
For more information and service details see www.haywardsfuneral.com

DEATHS

Salt Spring Abattoir Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, May 4, 7pm
Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute, 351 Rainbow Road
Farmers and interested public invited

Spring Book Launches
Roy Henry Vickers & Lucky Buddi
Spr. Wed, May 6th.
William Dawson
7pm, Friday, May 8th.

INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW? BBB is a not-for-profit organization committed to building relationships of trust in the marketplace. Look for the 2014 BBB Accredited Business Directory Edition on your Black Press Community Newspaper website at www.blackpress.ca. You can also go to <http://vi.bbb.org/directory/> and click on the 2014 BBB Accredited Business Directory

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Edith Phyllis Dodds

June 13, 1929 - April 26, 2015

Phyllis Dodds entered into the presence of her Lord peacefully on April 26, 2015 following a stroke. Phyllis leaves behind her loving husband of 58 years, Ted, son Dave (Joyce), daughter Cathy (Brent), Grandchildren James (Natalie), Adam (Stephanie), Luke (Katie), Malinda (Dean), Brian (Deborah), and Janelle (Jeremy), as well as Great-Grandchildren Evan, Adelaide, Madelyn, Olivia and Everett. Phyllis will be remembered for her kind and thoughtful spirit and her love for and dedication to her family. Her ready smile and joyfulness will be greatly missed by all who knew her. A memorial service will be held at Salt Spring Island Baptist Church on Monday May 4th at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Gideons. Words of condolences may be left at www.haywardsfuneral.com

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110 CRANBERRY RD. Moving Sale. Saturday, May 2nd, 9am - 4pm. Variety of household and furniture. No Early Birds please!
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

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14 Salt Spring authors will be helping customers and recommending books.
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
CHILDREN'S MISCELLANEOUS

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SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 17

Capital Regional District **CRD**
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INFORMATION

INFORMATION

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is exploring the feasibility of using Salt Spring Island contractors to work on the water and sewer systems owned by the CRD. The intention is to ascertain qualifications, equipment, and experience available on island and obtain preliminary "budgetary rates" from contractors who are interested in providing their services.
If enough interest is shown, then a formal request, which would include submission of competitive bid prices, would be issued.
Forms are available by email or for pick up at the address below. Submissions should be made to the undersigned no later than 12:00 noon, local time, on May 15, 2015.
Karla Campbell
Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Administration
145 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1K3
Tel: 250.537.4448 Fax: 250.537.4456
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

ARTSPRING Island Arts Centre Society
In accordance with Island Arts Centre Society's Bylaws the position of auditor for ArtSpring is being tendered. The successful candidate will start with the 2015-2016 fiscal year (September - August).
Interested applicants should contact ArtSpring for an introductory package between April 30 and May 15, 2015. Deadline for receipt of Expression of Interest is 5:00 PM, Friday May 29, 2015.
Applicants should have experience with not-for-profit organizations and fund accounting.
Expressions of interest are to be directed to:
Carole Eyles, Treasurer, ArtSpring
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D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

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SOFTBALL

Softball girls hit the diamonds

Games and BBQ at Fulford

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's U-14 girls softball players host their first home games of the season this Saturday and the community is invited to cheer them on at the Fulford ball field.

Game times for the double-header against Duncan are at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with a barbecue taking place from 12 noon to 3 p.m. The field is located across from the Fulford fire hall.

Coach Shari Hambrook said most of the girls on her team are currently in Grade 8 and many have played together since they were in Grade 5.

With great team spirit, she said, even when they don't come out on the winning side of a game the girls always look forward to their next outing.

Brittany Allan, the athletics director at Gulf Islands

Secondary School who played softball at the university level, also helps with team coaching, as do Liz and Rob Wilson.

In addition to practising and playing games in the U14-C division of the southern Vancouver Island fastpitch league, the girls and their families are busy with fundraising activities. Proceeds from game barbecues help fund the team, and on Sunday the girls will volunteer at Ruckle Heritage Farm Day in return for a sponsorship from the Ruckle Heritage Farm Association.

The team needs to raise \$1,500 to cover travel costs for the season, and any help that community members or businesses can provide is much appreciated. Contact Hambrook for more information at shari-hambrook@gmail.com.

The girls are grateful to the Salt Spring Island Minor Baseball Association for providing new uniforms this year.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring's U-14 softball team is ready to face Duncan opponents this Saturday.



Rainbow Road 250.537.1402
indoor pool

the **FUN** place to be this summer!

Rainbow Road Summer 2015 Schedule
Schedule in effect May 3 to Sept. 6, 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Early Bird 6:30 - 8:00		Early Bird 6:30 - 8:00		Early Bird 6:30 - 8:00		
Energizer 8:00 - 9:00		Energizer 8:00 - 9:00		Energizer 8:00 - 9:00		
Open Aquatics 9:30 - 10:30	Lap Swim 9:00 - 10:30	Open Aquatics 9:30 - 10:30	Lap Swim 9:00 - 10:30	Open Aquatics 9:30 - 10:30		
Lessons & Lap 10:30 - 12:30	Lessons & Lap 10:30 - 12:30	Lessons & Lap 10:30 - 12:30	Lessons & Lap 10:30 - 12:30	Lessons & Lap 10:30 - 12:30		
Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		
Boomer 2:00 - 2:30	Adult Youth 2:00 - 2:30	Boomer 2:00 - 2:30	Adult Youth 2:00 - 2:30	Boomer 2:00 - 2:30		
Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 6:00	Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 6:00	Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 6:00	Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 6:00	Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 6:00		Toonie Swim 1:30 - 5:30
Shared 4:00 - 6:00	Shared 4:00 - 6:00	Shared 4:00 - 6:00	Shared 4:00 - 6:00	Shared 4:00 - 6:00		
Swim Team 6:00 - 8:00	Swim Team 6:00 - 8:00	Swim Team 6:00 - 8:00	Swim Team 6:00 - 8:00	Friday Night Madness 6:30 - 9:00		
Evening Lengths 8:00 - 9:00	Evening Lengths 8:00 - 9:00	Evening Lengths 8:00 - 9:00	Evening Lengths 8:00 - 9:00			

WATER FITNESS CLASSES

Energizer
This class will challenge you to work hard in shallow or deep water. A qualified instructor will guide you through a number of exercises which will help with your strength, flexibility and fitness.

Nooners
For those looking for more strength and stretching. These exercises are designed to get your blood flowing and your muscles moving.

Aqualite
If you have had hip or knee trouble or have had heart problems, then this is the class for you. This low intensity, cardio exercise class is perfect for those needing to focus on balance and core strength.

Friday Night Madness
This is a fun time for the younger folks in our community to come out and enjoy the pool. Periodically special events will be planned for this time slot.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

CHAMPS: Salt Spring's Neil Martin was the top male player in a south central Vancouver Island pickleball tournament held in Lake Cowichan on the weekend. Cindy Garard of Lake Cowichan was the women's champion.

RUNNING Island runners among TC throng

Didrikson first in age category

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sixteen Salt Springers joined nearly 8,000 participants on the streets of Victoria Sunday morning for the annual running of the TC 10K.

Sandra Didrikson's 1:13:11 finishing time wasn't the fastest among islanders registered for the event, but it was good enough to earn her a first-place finish among more than 50 runners in the F70-74 age category.

Jason Chikowski was the fastest Salt Springer at the event. He completed

the course in 44:35 to finish in 404th spot overall and in 32nd spot among his peers in the M40-44 group. Melanie Van Soeren wasn't far behind, finishing 25th in her F25-29 division with a time of 46:18.

Other Salt Spring runners included: Keith Barclay, 49:41; Paul Hannah, 50:16; Joel Fieber, 51:57; Clare Nuyens, 54:09; Dale Lundy, 54:13; Dean Crouse, 55:01; Laurel Temmel, 1:00:03; Cyrus Address, 1:00:55; Peter Andrew, 1:00:58; Kaelin Ertel, 1:01:32; Larissa Andrews, 1:07:56; Susan Stoffelsma, 1:13:28; Jackie Agostinis, 1:29:55; and Shannon Joyce, 2:01:24.

GENERAL ADMISSION

Single Admission rates apply to each entry per day. Fees include applicable taxes.

Taxes included

	Single Visit	Passes			
		10 Time	20 Time	1 Month	Annual
Adult (19 yrs and older)	5.50	49.50	93.50	59.65	562.10
Youth/Student (13-18 yrs or valid Student Card)	4.20	37.50	70.90	45.90	479.70
Child (4-12 yrs)	3.15	28.50	53.20	34.45	359.76
Tot. (3 yrs and under)	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Family (max 5 members)	12.70	112.60	212.70	137.60	804.85

LESSONS
Lessons 1/2 hour class \$57.00/ 10 lessons
Lessons 3/4 hour class \$70.00/ 10 lessons
1/2 hour private lessons \$22.00
1/2 hour semi private lessons (2 people) \$33.00

WATERFIT
Pass \$7.45 drop in
1 month pass \$67.80 / 10x \$65.70

Please contact us at 250-537-1402 for MORE information and to register.
262 Rainbow Road www.recreationexcellence.com