



Life's work
Fun's the focus for artist
Martin Herbert
PAGE 11

Humanitarian
Nigel Fisher earns
prestigious peace medal
PAGE 14

\$125
(incl. GST)



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 1



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

HANDSOME DEVIL: This Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim participant went all out with his costume at the Jan. 1 event. See page 20 for more photos.

HEALTH

Flu bug bites Salt Spring

Islanders urged to take precautions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lady Minto Hospital staff face a surge in visits due to an especially nasty strain of influenza that's spread across North America in recent weeks.

The number of cases isn't known, but at least one person has been admitted to hospital on Salt Spring due to the virus, said an Island Health spokesperson. The patient has recently been released.

Symptoms of infection include sore throat, aching muscles, headache, cough, fever and chills.

Island Health advises people who suspect they're infected to stay home, rest and drink plenty of water. Antiviral medication is available to alleviate symptoms, though consultation with a healthcare professional is advised for appropriate treatments.

Most people who catch the flu bug need not visit the hospital, said Dr. Dee Hoyano, a medical health officer with Island Health.

"The vast majority will be able to recover on their own," she said.

People should wash hands regularly and thoroughly, cough or sneeze into their arm, and scrub surfaces like kitchen counters and shared work spaces.

Cases of influenza have risen across Canada since early December, Hoyano said.

Healthcare workers on Salt Spring report a rapid leap in the number of local cases since Christmas.

"We've seen a surge in the cases of influenza in the past two weeks," Hoyano said.

FLU continued on 4

REAL ESTATE

New assessment figures baffle

Values vary widely across the island

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Assessment figures for residential properties across the Gulf Islands are all over the map, according to data released by BC Assessment on Jan. 2.

Changes for non-waterfront properties on Salt Spring range from a drop of almost one per cent for properties in the Ganges village area to an increase of 4.5

per cent for south-end non-waterfront properties.

Waterfront properties experienced an even greater gulf, ranging from an 8.6 per cent drop on the island's south end to a 6.5 per cent rise in the north.

"I don't know how [BC Assessment] can justify a raise in the Gulf Islands, it just doesn't shape up," said Myles Wilson, a Salt Spring realtor.

Although sales volume rose in 2014 — exceeding the 200-sale mark for the first time since 2007 — realtors like Wilson suggest the market's recovery isn't enough to account for waterfront properties on Salt Spring's north end that saw assessment increases of up to \$400,000 between 2013 and 2014.

ASSESSMENTS continued on 2

40% off
selected children's items

Salt Spring Books



INSERTS

- Country Grocer
- Ganges Pharmasave
- Thrifty Foods
- The Source
- Buckerfield's

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WILDLIFE

Orca calf sighting near Pender thrills whale researchers

Baby J50 joins southern resident clan

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The happiness surrounding the birth of every baby was particularly strong last week when a newborn calf was discovered feeding with the J-pod orca group off Pender Island.

Ken Balcomb and Dave Ellifrit from The Center for Whale Research spotted the new arrival during a regular session aboard the observation vessel Chimo on Dec. 30. The San Juan Island-based scientists found orcas in Spieden Channel around 10 a.m. and followed them north through Swanson Channel over several hours. It was around 1 p.m. that they made their exciting find.

"We thought we saw J37 and



KEN BALCOMB & DAVE ELLIFRIT/CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH

Southern resident orca J16 (AKA 'Slick') with new baby (J50).

J49 to the east nearer to the North Pender shoreline but they disappeared before we could get a photograph of them," the encounter log states.

"Through binoculars we found

another whale or two to the north again. This was J16 and she was accompanied by a new calf!"

The researchers estimated J50 was older than 24 hours but probably under a week old when

sighted.

"The calf was very scratched up and had obviously experienced some mouthing from a larger whale but it seemed to be doing okay otherwise," they wrote.

Balcomb and Ellifrit watched the newborn stretching its fins on several short swims away from presumed mother J16, only to be herded back again each time by sister J42, an eight-year-old orca named Echo.

Scientists won't be able to determine the new baby's gender until they can catch a glimpse of the markings on its underside. They also won't give it a name until it survives its first year.

Although 37 to 50 per cent of all calves die before they reach that marker, the birth is potentially good news for the resident clan, which suffered the loss of a mature pregnant female just last

month and has seen a troubling decline over the past decade.

Researchers are hopeful for J50's survival since J16, or Slick, has raised several offspring successfully. According to the Vancouver Aquarium, Slick is thought to have been born in 1972. In addition to Echo, her living family members are Mike (J26), an adult male born in 1991, and Alki (J36) a teenage female born in 1999. Another son Keet (J33) died in 2010.

The southern residents were listed as endangered in Canada in 2001 and in the United States in 2005. Threatening factors are the reduced quantity and quality of food (mainly chinook salmon), environmental contaminants such as PCBs, and the noise and disturbance caused by vessel traffic and shipping. Potential oil spills are another risk.

Property owners encouraged to probe assessed values

ASSESSMENTS

continued from 1

It turns out appraisers at BC Assessment chose 2014 to undertake a thorough reassessment of 145,000 properties in the Capital Region, including properties on Salt Spring and the rest of the Gulf Islands.

Gerry Marolla, an assessor for the Capital assessment region, said the "verification project" is unprecedented in recent memory. As a result, he said, assessment figures vary widely and may come as a surprise to many.

"We're constantly doing work, but when you sit down and look at an entire jurisdiction, you look at it on a global perspective," Marolla said. "One of the things about Salt Spring is that it isn't homogeneous, it's heterogeneous. It's not like a subdivision in Gordon Head, where you've got subdivisions of similar properties."

The average assessed value of a non-waterfront home on Salt Spring is \$440,000. The average waterfront property figure is \$745,000.

Property owners whose assessments rose or dropped significantly more than average should have already received a letter from BC Assessment in December. The mail-out was part of the Crown corporation's effort to get the word out and remind owners to pay special attention to their assessment values.

Anyone who wants more information

or is considering an appeal can reach BC Assessment at 1-866-825-8322 or www.bcasessment.ca. The deadline to appeal this year's assessment is Monday, Feb. 2.

"People should be looking at the numbers seriously," Marolla said. "I really encourage people to look at eValue BC [on the website] to get a sense of what's happening."

The website provides detailed information about assessed values, improvements and building inventories for island properties.

The average assessed value for a residential property in the entire Gulf Islands area dropped from \$479,000 in 2013 to \$475,000 on July 1, 2014. The drop follows a six per cent decline between 2012 and 2013.

Non-waterfront properties on Salt Spring's north end rose 4.1 per cent from \$410,000 to \$430,000. South-end non-waterfronts rose by 4.52 per cent from \$451,000 to \$470,000. Lakefront properties experienced a 1.4 per cent rise from \$407,000 to \$415,000.

Waterfront properties on the island's north end increased 6.48 per cent from \$762,000 to \$810,000. Central waterfront properties dropped by 7.39 per cent from \$730,000 to \$675,000. South-end waterfronts shed 8.59 per cent from \$797,000 to \$730,000.

Assessed at just below \$7 million, 466 Scott Point Dr. continues to be Salt Spring's most valuable residential property.

WATERFRONT			
NEIGHBOURHOOD	2014 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	2015 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	AVERAGE % CHANGE DUE TO MARKET 2015 FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
Saltspring North WF	\$762,000	\$810,000	6.48
Saltspring Central WF	\$730,000	\$675,000	-7.39
Saltspring South WF	\$797,000	\$730,000	-8.59
Galiano WF	\$509,000	\$535,000	4.97
Mayne WF	\$460,000	\$490,000	6.99
Saturna WF	\$473,000	\$435,000	-8.23
Pender WF			
Except Magic Lakes	\$688,000	\$655,000	-4.67
South Pender WF	\$516,000	\$490,000	-4.67
Pender WF Magic Lakes	\$468,000	\$450,000	-4.67
NON WATERFRONT			
NEIGHBOURHOOD	2014 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	2015 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	AVERAGE % CHANGE DUE TO MARKET 2015 FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
Saltspring Ganges Village	\$707,000	\$700,000	-0.78
Central Saltspring Upland	\$403,000	\$405,000	0.7
Saltspring North End Non WF	\$410,000	\$430,000	4.1
Saltspring South End Non WF	\$451,000	\$470,000	4.52
Saltspring Lakefront	\$407,000	\$415,000	1.4
Galiano Non WF	\$294,000	\$290,000	-2.49
Mayne Non WF	\$240,000	\$230,000	-5.15
Saturna Non WF	\$288,000	\$295,000	2.56
Pender Exc WF & Magic Lake	\$345,000	\$335,000	-3.45
Pender Magic Lake Non WF	\$225,000	\$190,000	-15.59
Pender Lakefront	\$329,000	\$340,000	2.86
BUSINESS OTHER & INDUSTRIAL			
	2014 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	2015 AVERAGE ASSESSED VALUE	AVERAGE % CHANGE DUE TO MARKET 2015 FOR NON RESIDENTIAL
Average Value Rounded	\$627,000	\$630,000	0.41

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!
Salt Spring Local Trust Committee:
 Thursday, JANUARY 8
 Lions Hall, 9:30 a.m.; town hall at noon

WASTE

CRD prepares kitchen scraps education campaign

More information forthcoming

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Staff at Salt Spring Garbage Services spent the first week of the new year rolling out some new green bins at their Blackburn Road facility.

The changes are needed to accommodate an influx of organic waste following new regulations imposed by the Capital Regional District.

As of Jan. 1, residents of the CRD can no longer legally toss out leftover kitchen scraps like potato peels, eggshells and meat with the rest of their trash.

The new rules have been implemented to extend the Hartland landfill's lifespan by diverting approximately 30 per cent of the material that flows into the dump.

An early problem with implementing the kitchen scraps ban has been finding a place to process people's carefully separated compostables. Much of the organic waste headed to Hartland from Salt Spring and other parts of the CRD gets diverted to a processing centre near Vancouver. Larger volumes of material anticipated by the new

kitchen scrap ban will soon make such an option impractical and uneconomical.

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's CRD director, said the Jan. 1 ban should be seen as a "soft intro" to the new regime rather than a firm deadline. It's only natural that such a significant policy shift will take time for everyone to digest, he added.

Besides information presented on the CRD's website, district staff will roll out an extensive public information campaign. The plan is designed to update islanders about the kitchen waste regulations during the next few weeks.

"We certainly hope it happens sooner rather than later," he said

A CRD plan to offer subsidized digesters to islanders for roughly \$130 are also in the works. Digesters will give residents an option to deal with kitchen scraps in their own yards and gardens.

According to information from the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre, digesters offer the easiest way to compost any kind of kitchen scraps. Whereas discarding materials like fish, bread, meat and dairy in a traditional compost



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

New bin for kitchen scrap collection at the Salt Spring Garbage Services' Blackburn Road transfer station.

heap can attract pests and rodents, digesters discourage hungry critters by fully enclosing their content in heavy-duty plastic or metal. Unlike other composting techniques, digesters do not produce any finished compost. Instead, materials break down and leach into the nearby soil.

"If you choose, you can encircle your digester with flowers or edible plants to take advantage of the nutrient-rich leachate they generate," reads information from www.compost.bc.ca.

Lisa Kirkpatrick, manager of Salt Spring Garbage Ser-

vice, is skeptical about the CRD's promise of an education program designed to teach islanders what trash goes into which bags. She fears private operators will be left to carry the burden.

"There's only so much you can do to educate people," she said. "There are a lot of people who don't recycle on this island. We still see that, so to get them to recycle their organic waste too is a battle."

For now, Salt Spring Garbage has established a separate drop-off area for organic waste.

Laurie's Recycling &

Waste Services has established a similar system at its Park Drive drop-off centre at Upper Ganges. Laurie Hedger, the company's owner, said he'd like to see operators and the CRD begin talks about a potential composting facility on Salt Spring.

"All Salt Spring Islanders, including licensed commercial haulers, should have equal access to subsidized Salt Spring recycling depots as subsidies come from the tippage fees for waste hauled to the Hartland landfill," Hedger said.

Tom Watkins, the CRD's manager of environmental services, said there's still plenty of time for education and discussion. He said the CRD is in no rush to levy fines to garbage collection companies, operators, residents or business owners.

"We're not looking to implement draconian enforcement right from the offset," he said in an interview at the end of December. "We won't be writing tickets for one banana peel in a truckload of waste."

For more information about the CRD's kitchen scrap ban, visit the CRD's website or keep watch for a mail-out and posters expected to hit the island within the week.

WHAT IS DEFINED AS A KITCHEN SCRAP?

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Food leftovers, plate scrapings
- Meat, fish, giblets & bones
- Dairy products, butter, mayonnaise
- Eggshells
- Bread, cereal, grains
- Pasta, pizza
- Baked goods, candies
- Soiled paper towels & tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Used paper cups & plates
- Flour & sugar bags
- Coffee filters & grounds
- Tea bags
- Solidified fats & grease
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Houseplants, cut & dried flowers
- Nuts, pits, seeds & shells

HELPFUL TIPS FOR DEALING WITH YOUR KITCHEN SCRAPS

- Use only certified compostable bags.
- Use old newspaper to wrap wet food waste.
- Use paper towels to wipe fat and grease off cookware. Do not pour fat and grease down the drain.
- Store meat and fish waste in a paper bag in your freezer until collection day – especially in the summer.
- Empty your kitchen container frequently. Periodically rinse with a mild detergent.
- Close green tote lid tightly after use. Store tote in a shady ventilated area.
- Continue to use your backyard compost bin.

NEWS BRIEFS

Renewable energy focus of Friday talk

This Friday the director of Bullfrog Builds, Sean Magee, will shed some inspirational light on "the role of solar and other renewable energies in

response to the reality of climate change."

The Jan. 9 talk will be presented at the Harbour House and is part of a celebration of Salt Spring's first community renewable energy project: the Gulf Islands Secondary School solar scholarship array.

Bullfrog Builds is a branch of Canada's innovative renew-

able energy provider, Bullfrog Power. Thanks to Bullfrog Builds, many renewable energy projects across the country have received financial support with a goal to accelerate the adoption of renewable energies into Canadian communities. Salt Spring's recently completed solar array received a matching grant of \$20,000 as

part of this support.

The talk begins at 7 p.m.

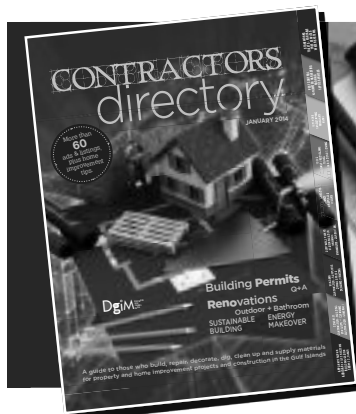
The official launch of the GISS solar scholarship array takes place this Saturday, Jan. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the high school multipurpose room. Both events are sponsored by the Salt Spring Community Energy Group and everyone is invited.

Blurring hill work begins

Salt Spring drivers can expect delays while driving through Ganges this week due to work being undertaken to fix longstanding drainage problems in the Ganges hill area.

Mainroad Contracting South advises that work will be undertaken in the Drake Road and Fulford-Ganges Road area on Wednesday and Thursday, January 7-8 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The area's drainage problems result in streams of water running down the hill on a regular basis.



The Gulf Islands Contractors Directory will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.

If you are building, renovating or repairing, this guide is essential in helping you find professional contractors and suppliers to help you get the job done right.

Call 250.537.9933 for more details.



PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Electoral reform on MLA Holman's agenda for 2015

As Saanich North and the Islands NDP MLA Gary Holman approaches the second anniversary of his term this spring, Driftwood reporter Sean McIntyre took advantage of the holiday lull in provincial politics to discuss some of the highs and lows of his time in office and what looms ahead for 2015.

Sean McIntyre: It's been almost 20 months since your election as MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. Have there been any surprises?

Gary Holman: The notion of public service on a non-partisan basis is still alive, if somewhat bruised. I have come to appreciate the level of cooperation between ministries and MLA constituency offices at the staff level, as well as on the two legislative committees on which I've served (finance and local election expenses).

At the other end of the continuum, I changed my view about the importance of Question Period to the democratic process, despite its reputation for incivility.

SM: What have you learned about the job that you wish you'd known in 2013?

GH: I've learned a lot, but nothing I wish I'd known, not in the sense of regret

at least. I always expected the first year or so would be more difficult.

SM: What are some personal highlights of your second year in office?

GH: The commitment by [NDP leader] John Horgan and our caucus to democratic reform is probably the most significant political highlight for me.

Grace Islet has been the most personally compelling issue, and it has been an honour to stand with First Nations on an issue of such importance to them.

I am continually heartened by the work of my wonderful constituency office staff, particularly their successes with individual case work and community issues like the "Kids Matter" speeding signs.

SM: Can you explain what democratic reform means and why you've chosen to champion the cause for the provincial NDP?

GH: Democratic reform typically means changing the voting system to some kind of proportional representation. More broadly, it's also about making the election process fairer and more accessible, and reforming governance so legislators are more accountable and the legislature less partisan.

SM: What kind of specific changes to the voting system would you like to see and how would those be implemented?

GH: We need to introduce proportionality into the voting system so that party support among voters is reflected in the legislature. This would likely mean that majority governments will more often have to be formed from coalitions, requiring more cooperation.

If elected in 2017, we are proposing a referendum on a form of proportional representation, which could be used in the 2021 election.

The NDP would also introduce a number of legislative changes to ban union and corporate political donations, empower legislative committees, require spring and fall legislative sessions, and strengthen independent watchdogs such as the BC Utilities Commission and the Environmental Assessment Authority.

SM: What will it take for the ruling BC Liberals to revisit electoral reform?

GH: To their credit, the Liberals held two referenda on a particular form of proportional representation. They might be persuaded on some issues if they saw strong voter support, but I



Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman.

think the NDP would have to form government to make these changes. The Liberals have never supported banning union and corporate political donations, and have actually moved backward by reducing sittings of the legislature, weakening independent watchdogs like the Utilities Commission and largely ignoring legislative committees.

SM: How can people learn more about or spread awareness of proportional representation?

GH: The federal NDP is committed to implementing a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system if

they form government as a majority or as part of a coalition. Voters can learn about electoral reform during the 2015 federal campaign and make it an election issue. Advocacy organizations such as Fair Voting BC and Fair Vote Canada have lots of information on their websites. I have been making electoral reform the main focus of my community meetings, and will be organizing events and distributing information materials over the next year.

SM: The provincial government ended 2014 by agreeing to discuss the prospect of buying Grace Islet. This decision represents a stark contrast to the province's initial position. What have the lessons of Grace Islet taught you as a politician and islander?

GH: The government position may have shifted since I first raised the issue in the legislature in July 2013, but in spite of the minister's encouraging rhetoric, a house is still being built on a First Nations burial site.

I have repeatedly stated that in this unique situation, given an uncooperative landowner, government should initiate an expropriation process to ensure the property is acquired at fair

market value.

The Grace Islet campaign reminds us that we have to meaningfully reconcile our tragic and brutal history with First Nations, and is another indication they are emerging as a first line of legal defence on environmental issues.

Grace Islet also affirmed for me, as did the Texada campaign on Salt Spring over a decade ago, that citizen-led protest movements, with elected officials playing their role, and media involvement, can be effective.

SM: Do you make New Year's resolutions? What are three goals for the coming year?

GH: I don't do resolutions and there are so many issues for each part of the Saanich North and the Islands constituency. If I had to choose three issues, at least for Salt Spring Island, they would be recognition of BC Ferries as part of our public transportation system, equitable funding for our recycling depot from Multi-Materials BC and the CRD, and an objective and comprehensive study of incorporation, including the merits of a Local Community Commission as an alternative under the status quo.

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656-1334

Flu epidemic not yet reached peak

FLU

continued from 1

There have been 159 people admitted to hospital with influenza across Island Health's jurisdiction since Sept. 1. There are now 65 influenza patients in Island Health Hospitals, mostly in the Victoria area.

"We continue to see a rising number of cases," said Sarah Plank, a spokesper-

son for Island Health, on Monday. "Public health officials don't expect us to get to the peak for another week or two."

Information on FluWatch, a Public Health Agency of Canada website created to monitor infection rates across the country, states influenza-related illnesses have killed 27 people this season. People aged 65 and above account for 25 of the deaths.

Unfortunately, vaccines distributed in 2014 combat the virus less effectively than

hoped.

"What's happened is there's been a shift in the genetic material of the virus so [the vaccine] is not as great a match, but it's not unrelated so we do think there's some protection, just a lot less than we thought," Hoyano said.

Because the H3N2 strain currently making the rounds shares characteristics with its more common predecessor, Hoyano said, getting vaccinated is still a good idea.

Town Hall Meetings

Pender Island
Friday 9 January
6:30 - 8:00pm
Pender Island Community
Hall
4418 Bedwell Harbour Rd

Salt Spring Island
Saturday 10 January
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Gulf Island Secondary School Gym
112 Rainbow Road

Mayne Island
Thursday 15 January
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Mayne Island Community
Centre
493 Felix Jack Road

Galiano Island
Wednesday 14 January
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Galiano Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Road

Saturna Island
Friday 23 January
6:30 - 8:00pm
Saturna Island Community
Hall
109 East Point Road

Elizabeth May, O.C., MP
Saanich-Gulf Islands

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9711 Fourth St., Sidney BC V8L 2Y8

SPEAKERS

Humanitarian Fisher on stage

Forum's 2015 season begins

Whenever a humanitarian disaster or mass injustice has occurred, anywhere in the world, Nigel Fisher has likely been there — organizing a relief operation as part of the United Nations.

On Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring, the Salt Spring Forum presents Nigel Fisher for an engaging and inspirational discussion about international crisis response.

Stephen Lewis describes Fisher as a "sublime humanitarian and multilateralist: tough, principled, creative, compassionate and indomitable. He's served in the hottest of hot spots, and never wavered... He does Canada proud."

Fisher is the former president and CEO of UNICEF Canada and worked with UNICEF and the United Nations for three decades. Most

recently, he served as the UN regional humanitarian coordinator for the crisis in Syria.

After the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Fisher headed the UN stabilization mission there. He worked in Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami, in Pakistan and Afghanistan after the 2001 attacks on the United States, and in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide.

Fisher was also the UN Children's Fund's top official in Canada from 2005 to 2010.

Fisher, who lives on Salt Spring, was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 2013 for his leadership in humanitarian assistance and for improving the lives of children and families around the world. Just last month, he was awarded the Pearson Peace Medal by Governor General David Johnston. (See story on page 14.)

Article submitted by Salt Spring Forum.

ENERGY SAVINGS

ECAP program supports low-income hydro customers

March 28 deadline for spring visit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Winter is the natural time for thoughts about home energy efficiency and how to save on heating costs: If the thin whistle of cold air tickling your neck all evening doesn't do it, January's peak hydro bill will surely push you to plug up the gaps.

A number of programs offered by BC Hydro, municipalities and other groups can help provide additional incentive, but accessibility to these initiatives is often an issue due to deadlines, cost and lack of promotion. That's why Salt

Spring resident Dion Hackett is hoping to alert fellow islanders to a current offering that's aimed at low-income households.

The Energy Conservation Assistance Program is a partnership of BC Hydro Power Smart and FortisBC Gas, and is being delivered by Carillion Services. Accessible to both homeowners and renters, the program helps improve energy efficiency for low-income households by providing items like passive lightbulbs, weather stripping and water-saving shower heads. In some cases, insulation, furnaces and new refrigerators will be provided.

"It's a great program and we want it to reach everyone on

Salt Spring," said Hackett, a contractor who has become an unofficial ECAP ambassador.

Aside from the energy bill savings, he said, every little bit helps in the battle against growing carbon emissions and climate change.

"Salt Spring is still spread out in terms of density, but the planet's heating up and there's comprehensive strategies to reduce greenhouses gases," he observed.

Cathy McDonald, Carillion's community outreach coordinator for Vancouver Island, has been working with BC Housing to find communities that might qualify for the low-income threshold, with a focus on non-profit housing

providers and First Nations.

"This is a terrific opportunity with Dion because he's connected with environmental groups, and that's great because they're aware of the benefits," she said.

"The program really wants to impact people living on a limited income, because the BC Hydro rates are going up."

Increases of nine per cent went into effect in 2014, with another six per cent scheduled for 2015. Helpfully, the BC government also increased the maximum allowable income to qualify for ECAP.

The ECAP program sends a consultant out for free as long as enough households have signed up to warrant the trip. Energy saving devices —

including new refrigerators for those currently using one 17 years old or older — are also free.

"We're not doing a full-scale energy audit," McDonald said. "It's really, 'here's what we can do right now, and let's do it.'"

Education about how to manage electricity usage more efficiently is also a big part of the program, she added.

"We're just not used to having high rates the way they do in Europe. Taking a different approach can have just as much effect as using different products."

Homeowners, renters, housing providers and aboriginal communities are

all eligible for ECAP. The maximum household income to qualify is \$30,800 for one person, \$38,300 for two, \$47,100 for three and \$57,200 for four (with more rates available for up to seven household members).

McDonald is hoping to have at least 20 households on Salt Spring apply for the program by March 28 so that a consultant can visit the island during the spring. Another visit could take place in the fall.

Anyone who is interested can apply online at www.bchydro.com, or contact McDonald directly at cmcdonald@carillion.ca or 1-877-806-3242 and she will send out an application package.

ROADS

New law protects roadside workers

Drivers required to slow down for flashing lights

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

New legislation that went into effect Jan. 1 is putting the brakes on drivers when vehicles with red, blue or yellow flashing lights are on the road.

The expanded Slow Down Move Over regulation requires drivers to drop their speed as soon as flashing lights are visible. On roads with highway speeds, drivers must ease to 70 kilometres an hour or slower. If the speed limit is 70 kilometres per hour or less, the rule is to go 40 kilometres an hour or slower.

"People who work to keep us safe often do so in dangerous places," said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone in an announcement about the new regulation. "Think about working on the side of a highway with barely more than a meter between traffic and a guard rail. This is the workplace of thousands of women and men who remove debris from travel lanes, clear culverts, repair traffic signals and hundreds of other important tasks every day — and night — on our roads and highways. They need space to do their work safely."

Drivers are additionally required to signal and move to the lane away from roadside work if they encounter stopped vehicles with flashing

lights on a four-lane road or highway.

The regulation improves on existing rules that required drivers to slow down and move over for official vehicles with flashing blue or red lights, such as stopped police cars and ambulances. Lobbying from the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association and highway maintenance contractors helped convince the ministry of the need for more worker protection.

The announcement recommends consulting the Drive BC website to view scheduled maintenance work and its projected impact on traffic, but warns not all roadwork is planned.

Get started on your New Year's resolutions!

\$200 teeth whitening package

If you've been thinking about getting your teeth whitened, why not add it to your New Year's list this year?

We have extended this special offer until the end of January 2015! We offer a no charge cosmetic evaluation for anyone interested in improving their smile. #



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* offer extended until Jan. 31st, 2015!
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THINKING OF SELLING? February is the best month!

according to Redfin. Their nationwide listing analysis showed that 74% of homes listed in February sell within 90 days & 13% sold for more than list price*. These are US statistics. Ours will differ. I observe that....

The least number of houses are available for buyers to view in winter. Homes are frequently temporarily off the market while owners are away. Many listings come "back on the market" in spring.

"Quiet Season Buyers" tend to be "SERIOUS BUYERS".

It is my belief that the ratio of number of showings to offers is highest during the winter & early spring months, than in summer.

Your residence will stand out from the crowd when there are the fewest number of listings.



* Reported in the Huffington Post January 3, 2015

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* Source: CREA & REMAX Data.



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OPINION



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

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



EDITORIAL

Causing a stink

Even the greatest idea is only as good as the plan to make it happen.

At no time is this better illustrated than the dawn of a new year, when resolutions begin to fall like needles on the Christmas tree.

On Jan. 1, new Capital Regional District regulations that prohibit people from throwing kitchen scraps out with the rest of the trash came into effect. No longer can our apple cores, chicken bones and potato peels be thrown into the garbage and hauled to the dump.

The definition of kitchen scraps is vast and sometimes perplexing. Suffice it to say the CRD's decision has left many islanders wondering what to do with their leftovers. For a rundown on what should now be excluded from the waste pail and diverted into a kitchen scrap stream, turn to page 3 of this week's paper.

CRD staff say the Jan. 1 introduction is a soft launch, a chance to work out the details of how residents, private garbage collectors and the CRD will handle the new regime. Education, we are told, will take precedence over enforcement.

THE ISSUE:

Kitchen scrap ban

WE SAY:

Great idea, poor execution

People can expect some leeway before the compost cops begin weighing the proportion of organic waste in our trash.

Confusion and growing pains surrounding the

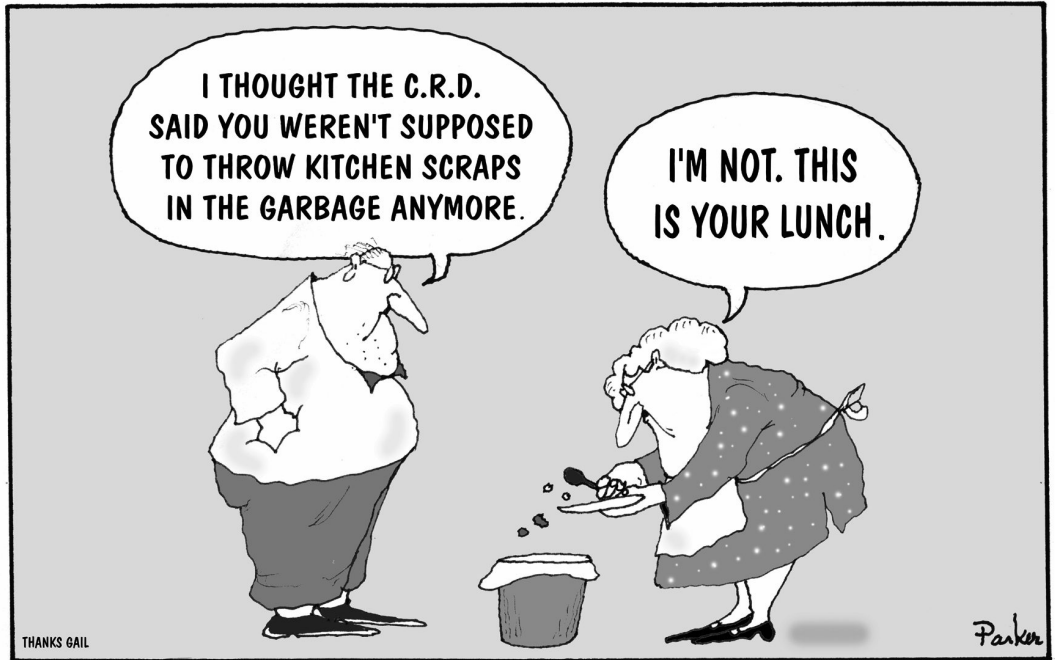
new rules wouldn't be so hard to stomach if we knew the CRD had been steadily working on a plan since 2012, when its board decided to implement the ban for 2015.

Despite those years of lead time, private garbage collection companies on Salt Spring say it wasn't until Dec. 1, 2014 that they received confirmation that organic materials would be banned from Vancouver Island's Hartland landfill.

Many Gulf Islands residents have likewise been caught off guard by the change. The island's private operators report a steady flow of calls from people wanting to know what to do with their leftover spaghetti and used paper towels.

Other than the CRD website's eye-glazing surfeit of information, there were no advertisements, no information sessions and few press releases about the transition.

On Monday, the CRD finally confirmed a full-scale public information campaign with posters and mailings is forthcoming. While this may help many Salt Springers catch on to an idea that may be long overdue, a better implementation plan could have made transitioning to the kitchen scraps ban a lot less messy for everyone involved.



VIEWPOINT by Tony Maude

Ferries' use of Fulford needs balance

The following was sent to the BC Ferries Commission and copied to the Driftwood.

Currently BC Ferries is proceeding with planning on a phase-one construction project to address congestion concerns at the Fulford Harbour ferry terminal.

The current proposal will see the entrance public road widened from its current width by approximately four feet on each side and lengthened an additional quarter mile further than existing. This will formalize the existing policy to provide overflow traffic on the existing road structure and provide a bike/walkway up the hill out of the village.

This proposal will turn our community into a parking lot that serves the ferry terminal and will destroy any semblance of a community for its residents. This also does not address pick-up/drop-off bus service or provision of parking for ferry passengers. That, I assume, may be covered in the phase-two portion of a future project.

There is also a move to have the residents pay for the replacement of the existing waterline that will be disturbed by the roadwork. The cost of that is estimated at \$160,000 with the residents being forced to cover an amount somewhere between \$50,000 to the full amount. There are 100 residents serviced by this and you can see that the minimum bill per person would be \$5,000 per property.

I believe that eventually this ferry route will be serviced from Isabella Point, which will half the travel time, effectively doubling capacity with the same equipment and staff.

For the duration, the ferry terminal has already been

enlarged by the infill of the harbour basin and a much more effective, cost-effective and acceptable solution would be to add to the infill area.

The ferry corporation has already purchased one of the two lots affected by this solution and the area is already a "dead sea" due to the previous infill. This area with the two land lots would provide parking for the traffic, a bus area, a pick-up/drop-off area and potentially a small transient parking area. The area would also provide a future level area for commercial use once the ferry makes the eventual move from the community.

We would ask that BC Ferries change course on this project and implement a solution that addresses the current issues, does not destroy our community, does not put a financial burden on the residents, provides a future asset and frankly should cost less than the current project. As BC Ferries is independent from the government there is no way that they should be considering using a public highway as a parking lot. It is akin to Walmart setting up an operation and expecting the community to provide parking on its residential streets.

We are an unorganized community that is becoming overwhelmed by BC Ferries as we currently deal with the congestion and provide the ferry corporation's parking on our streets, and we sincerely hope that you will help restore the balance between the community and BC Ferries service in a positive manner.

The writer is a Fulford village resident.

We would ask that BC Ferries change course on this project.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

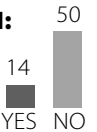
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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you making New Year's resolutions?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I always say to people who visit my farm, 'My chickens had a really great life and one bad day.'"

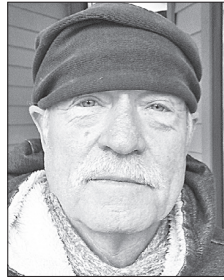
LORI GILLIS, THE CLUCK STOPS HERE ABATTOIR

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's the best way to recover from the holiday spending season?



MATT DUKE
Trying to work longer hours.



NOEL FLEMING
You need to stay away from family during the holidays.



MARY GORMAN
I made an effort not to spend too much.



NICOLE PAGE
By trying not to buy too much stuff you don't really need.



JILLIAN REID
The number one thing is to pay credit card debt on time.

Letters to the editor

The ultimate irony

I was struck by the irony in two articles in the Dec. 31 Driftwood. The first reported on Island Pathways revealing their latest plans to build a kiosk as part of a new pathway at the end of Ganges Harbour.

The last part of this article states "Partners Creating Pathways also sought and gained approval of the Archeology Branch of BC Mines and Forests . . . since some of the works will be built in an archeologically sensitive area."

This seems to be eerily similar to the Grace Islet situation described in your Year in Review summary where activists have been hounding the landowner for many months to stop building as he is encroaching on an "archeologically sensitive area." The owner

had also sought and gained approval from the Archeology Branch of BC Mines and Forests for his project.

Isn't there a major disconnect here? And doesn't this disconnect clearly illustrate that there are likely many existing and planned (like the Islands Pathway project) structures on Salt Spring Island that are built on sites that are "archeologically sensitive."

I do realize that there are greater and lesser degrees of sensitivity. Perhaps there are no human remains at the Pathways project site. (Can we be certain of this? The land masses are quite close together.)

This disconnect demonstrates quite clearly that the current position against Grace Islet must be questioned and that all projects be treated consistently — either cancel the Pathways project, or proceed with the Pathways project and

allow the owner of Grace Islet to continue his legally approved project, undisputed.

BEN GOODMAN,
SALT SPRING

Loved the cover

I was greatly impressed by your Dec. 24 Christmas cover art by Allison MacDonald.

The idea was excellent and it was carried out with a likeliness of expression and a quality of execution not often found in a Grade 11 student. The wealth of detail — wood grain in the floorboards, structure of the fireplace, etc. — is never allowed to upstage the main subject. I particularly like the pose of the teddy bear.

Congratulations, Allison! Keep up the good work and the best of luck to you.

P.N. SPIERS,
SKY VALLEY ROAD

Seeing the bigger picture

Saturday, Jan. 10 will be a big day.

First, people will be celebrating the solar electric generating array at GISS with the Flick the Switch event at 2 p.m. Later, at 7 p.m., Elizabeth May will be holding a town hall, also at the high school.

Elizabeth sees these town halls as her opportunity to report back to and hear from her boss — her constituents. Although she is the leader of a political party, May's primary allegiance is to citizens, her conscience, the common good. So, the town hall is not to be missed, an opportunity for all of us to make the best use we can of our democratic rights and responsibilities.

With an election set for later this year it's especially important to be involved.

Although I have done my best to work towards cross-party cooperation in the past, and have joined several political parties over the years, in this area of B.C. it seems clear to me that the most progressive and hopeful energy is aligned with the Green party. No one party can contain all the best aspects of humanity, and I want to salute those who have stood faithfully by other parties, doing their best to make their party an agent for good governance. But we know that compromises get made as the years go by. Parties that were formerly guided by grassroots involvement and concerns shift to come under the sway of "backroom boys" (and girls), often people who are overly absorbed in the drama of winning and losing, who don't really care about the bigger picture.

Seeing the "bigger picture" is key to charting our

way forward. If we continue to make decisions as if economic success, measured in GDP and stock market figures, were the foremost concern, we are clearly headed for disaster. But charting a course for ecological health while neglecting the human institutions that people are still highly invested in won't get us where we need to go.

Elizabeth May gets it. Check out her TEDx talk of September 2014 on Canadian innovation. In less than 15 minutes, Elizabeth explains why we need to change course, not only for environmental reasons, but for the sake of our economy. Find it online and see for yourself that we have a chance to support someone, indeed a party, which gets the "bigger picture."

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Illusions draw humans closer to their demise

BY FRANTS ATTORP

The mind works in strange yet predictable ways. A few weeks ago, I was walking home during a wind storm when I heard a tremendous crash directly behind me. I whirled around and saw that a large snag had fallen across the road just feet from where I was standing. Had I been a few seconds slower, I would have been killed on the spot.

The first thought that came to mind, aside from "hurray I'm alive," was that someone must be watching over me. As I started to analyze the situation, however, I recalled that two girls, aged five and eight, were killed several years ago by a falling tree in one of Canada's national parks. Why did those young children die while I suffered not a scratch?

The philosophical implications of such incidents did not go unnoticed by great existentialist thinkers, such as Jean-Paul Sartre, who were not afraid to stare unflinchingly into the dark abyss of the human condition. Sartre maintained that "man can will nothing unless he has first understood that he must count on no one

but himself; that he is alone, abandoned on earth in the midst of his infinite responsibilities, without help, with no other aim than the one he sets himself, with no other destiny than the one he forges for himself on this earth."

Sartre's atheistic philosophy confronts death and man's aloneness without offering any hope of divine intervention or an afterlife. He was not afraid to move out of the comfort zone, and that is probably why he came under attack by the clergy. In response, Sartre argued that existentialism is not a philosophy of pessimism and despair, but rather one of optimism born of positive action.

Today, more than ever, we need — if not Sartre's atheism — at least his courage, intellectual rigour and his focus on personal responsibility. Just weeks ago, the World Wildlife Fund released a report stating that the world has lost 52 per cent of its vertebrates in the past 40 years. This was followed by yet another report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning that all hell is about to break loose

INDEPTH

unless humans find a way to reduce greenhouse gases.

The two reports have gone relatively unnoticed by media outlets. There has been extended coverage of the sexual proclivities of a well-known radio host, but nary a whisper about the precipitous decline of the living planet and the dire consequences for human civilization. What does this say about modern society and our prospects for the future?

Much of the underlying apathy stems from illusions that are rooted in fear — fear of dying, fear of abandonment and, worst of all, fear of personal extinction. There are also illusions that arise from a disconnection with the natural world and an ignorance of science, and illusions that are the result of egocentrism, or the idea that humans have a special status in the grand scheme of things.

Regardless of their origin, romantic illusions play a significant role in the decline of world ecosystems. They produce a fog of inertia, and impede the full realization that this earth, which may well be unique in the universe, is our past, our present and our future. Here are a few popular fantasies:

- There can be unlimited growth on a finite planet.
- Food comes from the grocery store.
- Technology will save us.
- Humans are not really animals.
- Humans are special and do not share the same destiny as other living things.
- There is an omnipotent and compassionate deity who takes an interest in human affairs.

Like an open flame that attracts the moth, illusions draw us ever nearer to our demise. They are deceptive and extremely dangerous because they give us a false sense of security; they lull us into a state of complacency where we don't have to care or worry, where personal action is not required, and where everything always turns out alright in the end.

The big question is whether we will recognize the tricks played by our minds, and awaken from our slumber in time to deal with the enormous challenges that lie before us. The responsibility is all ours, or as they say at my alma mater, "tuum est."

Frants Attorp is a Salt Spring writer who has an affinity for scientific pantheism.

here's my card

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RANTS and Roses

I wanted to say a big thank you to the wonderful man who gave up his seat on the overcrowded 3:45 p.m. Boxing Day bus from Fulford. All the passengers in the bus, especially the lucky woman to whom he gave his seat, clapped their appreciation, but I doubt that he heard, so I hope he is reading this now. Thoughtful, selfless and spontaneous. You warmed all our hearts. Thank you again! Bronwyn

A large box of chocolate roses for Shane and Clinton from Benjamin Moore Paints & More for the superb service you gave us with the installation of our new carpets and vinyl flooring. Your thoughtful consideration of my health problems was very much appreciated. It all looks beautiful. Thanks to your team also. Marlene Smith

We're sending an island-size bouquet of roses to all the wonderful people who made our Fulford Hall Christmas Free-Be-Do a memorable success. Thank you all for your kind donations of hall time, food, money, music, knife sharpening and a special red rose to each of our kitchen elves who made a miracle look easy. Thanks as well to Country Grocer, Harry Burton and Appleluscious, Salt Spring Food Bank, Fulford Hall Committee, Tim and Barbara of Salt Spring Sound, Brian E, Dianette and Will, Lions Club, Sharon W, Cecilia, JJ, all the bird carvers, musicians, technicians and wizards, and the Driftwood newspaper. Until next Christmas, with love and gratitude, Michael and Helga Bagnell.

Santa's Workshop sends buckets of poin-

settias to the many elves who helped stock the shelves and transport gifts to Salt Spring Island's needy children: Christa, Audrey, Camille, Dawn, Ellen Mae, Janet, Robin, Glynis. Also to the Salt Spring Toy Run, dragonboaters, elves who donated to our toy boxes and trees around town, and the many generous donations from merchants and individuals on Salt Spring. You made Christmas morning joyous for many children on Salt Spring.

Copper-dusted roses to Rick MacKinnon and friends for wrapping with Country Grocer and donating the money to Copper Kettle.

A huge bouquet of Girl Guide roses to everyone who bought a Christmas tree from us. Special thanks to everyone at Windsor for all their help, Donna and Ted Akerman for providing the trees, our Guiding families for weekend sales and our Guides for all their support. The Head Tree Elf

Coming up next: Bulletproof coffee

The nightmare always begins the same way. I'm standing in a line of mute, expressionless zombies shuffling slowly toward a shiny shrine, hazy in the distance. After a century or so I reach the shrine, but not before the zombie in front of me opens its mouth and chants: "I'll have a Vente half-soy, one-pump, no-whip vanilla frappuccino with a caramel drizzle and . . ."

And I realize that I'm in something far worse than a nightmare. I'm in a Starbucks.

Or a Second Cup, a Blenz, a Salt Spring Roasters or a Fill in the Blank. I'm in a coffee house, a 21st-century mutation of the fine old institution that was once a gathering place for gossip, romance or intrigue over a cup of . . . what was that black stuff called again? Oh, right — coffee.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

Ordering coffee used to be simple. You could have it black or with cream and sugar to taste. Then the "whiteners" crept in, followed by the "sweeteners." Wasn't too long before people were ordering latte macchiatos and café ristrettos, not to mention red eyes, flat whites, mochas, espressinos and, no kidding, the Yuanyang (don't ask).

Well, since you asked, the Yuanyang is a drink based on copulating Mandarin

ducks. But that's another column.

The modern coffee shop could easily be confused with the United Nations. You can order cafés Cubano, Romano, Turkish, Greco, Vietnamese Iced or Viennois, not to mention the old standby, Irish. My local caffeine outlet even offers a Café Canadiano (not to be confused with the Americano) "cuz we do things differently up here, eh?"

Clearly, ordering a cup of Joe isn't nearly complicated enough. That's why we now have the Bulletproof — a cup of coffee that's blended with . . . butter.

Well, it's not that simple of course — nothing about coffee is anymore. The Bulletproof is made with clarified butter and low-mould, hand-ground Fair Trade

beans. One Bulletproof enthusiast who travels a lot never leaves home without a satchel containing ground beans, a silicone squeeze bottle of medium-chain triglyceride oil, a hand blender, an AeroPress filter and several tubes of clarified butter. The Bulletproof payoff? Well, it's supposed to give you all kinds of energy. It'll also give you around 450 calories per cup (that's about three Molsoms, minus the buzz).

Can't wait to line up behind a zombie ordering a Bulletproof.

The humourist Dave Barry once said: "It is inhumane in my opinion to force people who have a genuine medical need for coffee to wait in line behind people who apparently view it as some kind of recreational activity".

Well said, Dave. Now will that be one pat or two?

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Not the garbage lady

I am the fortunate householder, or so I thought, who lives with the Canada Post multi-family box right on their property line.

Lucky for me, I thought, that I do not have far to walk to collect my mail. Or unlucky for me, as it turns out, as every piece of discarded flyer, envelope, junk mail that is not wanted by my discerning neighbours is thrown on the ground.

Not wanting to let this spoil my day I decided to be proactive and put a bucket under the mega box for this unwanted mail. I then recycle it.

However, it was not long before garbage and take-out coffee mugs and Styrofoam meal containers started to appear in the bucket. Now I am disposing of our neighbourhood's garbage, and just today a bag of dog poop appeared in the bucket, neatly tied up in a plastic bag.

What were you thinking? That this is a new service offered by Canada Post?

I have reached my limit of what I will take care of. Come on, neighbourhood people, this is beginning to feel less like a neighbourhood and more like a could-not-care-less attitude. Be responsible for your own crap and that of your dogs.

Here is a suggestion: We could either take turns to empty the bucket or we can clean up after ourselves by taking care of our own unwanted flyers, junk mail, garbage and/or dog poop! Enough already!

CATHERINE BENNETT,
 CHARLESWORTH ROAD

Dinner gratitude

On behalf of Salt Spring Island United Church, we send Christmas spirit roses to each individual and organization who contributed to the success of the 15th Community Christmas Day Dinner.

Over two days and the two and a half hours of the meal, volunteers set up, prepped and served a wonderful feast to over 230 islanders while others entertained and cleaned up.

We are blessed that once again this year 18 of our local businesses contributed and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 donated the use of Meaden Hall.

Guests and volunteers alike owe a great debt of gratitude to Richard Dick, the kitchen for many years, and to wish them both every good thing as they retire from this commitment.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many, so thanks to each of you who make this gift from the community to the community a reality.

JOHN AND DIANE LUGSDIN, FOR
 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER COMMITTEE

Christmas card delays puzzling

Postal systems on both sides of the border complain about people not writing letters anymore as a reason for their difficulties. But is it any wonder?

This year, as last, my Christmas cards arrived late and/or in a "bundle" with cards from different parts of the U.S. arriving the same day even though sent at the same time from different cities. A card from Seattle took 20 days but a card sent from New York came much more quickly. Mail at other times of the year arrives in seven days or much less.

I asked the local postmaster last year if she understood why this was happening and she said no, but added that I am not the only one on the island who complains about this.

The holiday closure days cannot be blamed as my cards arrived on Tuesday, Dec. 30, but I got no cards on the Monday of the first day back.

I have stopped sending cards because of the delay, even though I don't know which side of the border is responsible.

All I can say is maybe they both should apply for NEXUS cards to speed passage across the border.

DAN DICKMEYER,
 ROLAND ROAD

Resolution suggestions for politicians

BY DERMOD TRAVIS

It's that time of year when B.C. politicians should start thinking about some New Year's resolutions for a bit of political self-improvement. So, in the spirit of giving, here are five ideas for politicians to consider as they set their resolutions for 2015.

1. Do the shuffle

In keeping with the season's "out with the old, in with the new" theme, a cabinet shuffle is overdue. But a real one, trading deck chairs between Andrew Wilkinson and Amrik Virk a week before Christmas doesn't count.

And what was Premier Christy Clark thinking when she put Virk in charge of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services as a political demotion, when technology clearly wasn't his strong suit at Kwantlen University? Virk needs some shifts in the minors, not a far seat at the cabinet table.

Todd Stone would likely appreciate a new portfolio after the S.S. Minnow - er, MV Nimpkish - affair. Bet Mary Polak might prefer a change too. And talking about trading deck chairs, how about Andrew Wilkinson for Justice and Suzanne Anton for Advanced Education?

2. Remember: the secret to survivin' is knowin' what to throw away and knowin' what to keep

Back in 2011, the B.C. government predicted that the first liquified natural gas plant would be operational by 2015. Doesn't look promising.

Despite cutting its proposed income tax

on the LNG industry in half and inking agreements with China to facilitate the use of foreign workers in B.C. to help build the facilities — that is, if they're built here at all and not just floated in — it's doubtful anyone from government will be cutting the ribbon at an LNG plant any time soon.

However, there's one take-away lesson from this: if you're going to play cards with the high rollers, it doesn't hurt to know the rules.

So a little advice from Kenny Rogers: "You've got to know when to hold 'em. Know when to fold 'em. Know when to walk away. And know when to run. You never count your money when you're sittin' at the table. There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done."

3. Stop counting your chickens before they're hatched

A quick review of Petronas headlines sums this one up well: "Petronas LNG pull-out threat just a negotiating tactic: Premier" (Sept. 25), "Petronas warns of possible delay of \$11-billion B.C. LNG project" (Oct. 6), "B.C. in 'good shape' to close \$10-billion LNG deal: Premier" (Dec. 2), "Petronas defers decision on \$36 billion BC LNG project" (Dec. 3), and "Christy Clark says Petronas LNG project is a 'done deal' despite delay" (Dec. 8).

Yes, folks do want to know what's going on, but not if it makes them dizzy.

4. Stop stating the obvious

Back in August, Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett had this to say about the tailings pond breach at the Mount Polley

Mine: "This is a serious incident that should not have happened." Very true that.

In November, Health Minister Terry Lake called the decision of the B.C. Cancer Foundation (a registered charity) to top up the salary of the former head of the B.C. Cancer Agency (a government body) "questionable." At the very least.

And here's what B.C. Lottery Corporation chairman Bud Smith said in reacting to a government audit of the BCLC that found a move to cut staffing costs ended up costing \$25 million instead: "The execution wasn't good." You don't say.

Stating the obvious can leave you open to ridicule, unless it's accompanied by a sincere mea culpa and genuine promise for improvement.

5. Cancel "That '90s Show"

"I'll meet your fast ferries and raise you one B.C. Place Stadium roof."

It's now 2015. Can anyone think of a better time for the B.C. Liberal Party and the NDP to finally put the 1990s behind them?

A little something for supporters of the B.C. Liberal Party to consider as well: lobbing those fast ferries at the NDP may be the equivalent of a political grenade back-firing.

It doesn't speak well of the government's acumen, if supporters have to call up the fast ferries debacle to counter criticism. Think of it as the theory of political equivalence.

And Happy New Year.

Dermod Travis is the executive director of IntegrityBC.

Uneconomic economy?

BY H. BARRY COTTON

Do you like forests, mountain peaks Uninterrupted, flowing creeks? Do fish and wildlife interest you - And proper park protection, too? There really is no need to speak - BC'ers know their land's unique. Well then, your views just represent A different view from government.

And here comes the anomaly - Victoria sees things differently; They don't like obstacles, you see, That block the way for LNG, And since the gas is way down there They've plans to frack it everywhere. If parks and such get in the way, "Just get them out of there," they say.

All B.C. citizens should see CPAW's report, made recently; They called it, rightly, Gas Gone Wild, With planning that's not reconciled With due environmental need - And paying not the slightest heed To scientists who months ago, Advised on fracking - "Go it slow."

Before due planning is begun Strategic studies must be done. These pie-in-skiers we've elected Would leave our coastline unprotected, With tourism and our fishery Giving their place to LNG Now readers, you might find this comic — How long since economists were "economic?"

The writer is a former Salt Spring resident now living in Vancouver.

The North Salt Spring Water District is presently seeking one additional staff member to join our team as a Water Quality Technician/Water System Operator in Training.

Water Quality Technician/Operator-in-Training duties are varied and include:

- Assisting with the coordination, collection and transport of water samples from lakes, streams and throughout the drinking water supply system.
- Monitoring, testing and analyzing equipment.
- Record keeping, including process control/operational records and reports, and maintaining the water quality database.
- Inspecting, servicing and repairing water treatment equipment.
- Dispensing and transporting dangerous goods.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package and are looking for someone with a positive, team-oriented attitude who is willing to learn and grow with us. Applicants must have completed a diploma in Water Quality, Water Treatment or Environmental Sciences from a technical school or community college or a degree in a relevant science such as biology and must be able to write either Water Distribution Certificate Class 1 or Water Treatment Class 1 issued under the BCEOCP within one year. Trades related experience such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing or pipefitting and/or a valid Transportation of Dangerous Goods certification will be considered an asset. Preference will be given to already EOCP certified Level 1 operators.

Please visit our website at www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca to view the complete job description and the qualifications required.

Please send a cover letter and resume by 4:00 pm January 25, 2013 to:

Ron Stepaniuk,
District Manager
North Salt Spring Waterworks District
761 Upper Ganges Rd.
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1
info@northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

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BOOKS

Wollstonecraft book launched for international market

Salt Spring writer sees
Random House success

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What would have happened if two women who were individually responsible for some of the modern world's most influential cultural tropes had met in their youth?

That's the question Salt Spring author Jordan Stratford has pondered regarding Ava Lovelace, who would create the world's first computer algorithm, and Mary Godwin, who would become Mary Shelley and write the proto-science fiction novel *Frankenstein*. If you're thinking about it in terms of a beloved tradition in youth fiction, the obvious answer is that they would form their own detective agency and solve the crimes that adults can't seem to figure out.

The Case of the Missing Moonstone, the first book to illustrate the formula, had its world-wide launch at the Salt Spring Public Library last night (Tuesday, Jan. 6) in an event co-hosted by Salt Spring Books. The Canadian and U.S. releases are to be followed up quickly in the U.K.,



Jordan Stratford and the cover of his first book in The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency series, which is now available.



New Zealand and Australia under Random House imprints. Stratford has already completed the next two books in the series for readers aged eight to 12, and is currently working on the fourth.

"The books are dedicated to my daughter and a list of island girls. They're part of the tribe that informed

the characters and the process," Stratford said.

Stratford's daughter was nine when he first envisioned the book idea and launched a Kickstarter campaign with a goal of \$4,000 to help fund its development back in 2012. The go-smacking success of that campaign, which pulled in over \$90,000, proved

the world's appetite for a fictional story about historical smart girls to a sufficient degree for Random House to offer a publishing deal.

Shelley was 19 years old when she produced the first draft of *Frankenstein* in 1816. To make his story work, Stratford has slightly fudged the timeline so that young Mary is 14 in 1826. Ada, a daughter of Lord Byron, is an 11-year-old genius who's short on social skills. When the girls meet and make friends they're inspired to create a detective agency named after Mary's mother, the famous feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft. Importantly, they use math, science and creative analytical thinking to solve the crimes.

The mystery that inspires their sleuthing is an obvious nod to Wilkie Collins' novel *The Moonstone*, which is considered the first modern detective book. There are plenty of other references to 19th-century literature to be found, including the 14-year-old Charles Dickens appearing as a character.

"There's lots of those sort of things, so literary nerds who are reading to their kids will be happy, and it introduces those names so they're familiar to kids when they encounter them

again later on," Stratford said.

"The real banner is the role models of women in science, math, technology and engineering for tweens," he added. "There's a very dangerous gender deficit of women in these spheres. The books show that we inhabit a world envisioned by these two girls, when they were still girls."

While winsome illustrations by Salt Spring artist Claire Robertson were probably a major factor in the Kickstarter campaign's success, publishing protocols don't often give authors a say in whose art accompanies their work. Stratford is pleased, though, with the Random House choice of Kelly Murphy, who he says gets the "grittiness" of the Regency England time period as opposed to the more conservative Victorian era.

Parents shouldn't worry about things getting too gritty, however. Stratford said he has eschewed the "Harry Potter arc" of graduating maturity and darkness to keep the stories consistent for middle-years readers.

More information, including an author Q&A and activities for kids, can be found at www.random-housekids.com/brand/wollstonecraft-detective-agency.

Salt Spring FOLK CLUB
www.saltspringfolkclub.com

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



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COMMUNITY ART

Selfies in demand for exhibit project

Feb. 1 is submission
deadline for innovative
exhibits

Well before last week's Auld Lang Synes were sung, estimates were already being made for the number of selfies taken during 2014 with smart phones, tablets and the like. The total was approximately one trillion.

What does this mean?

Well, apparently lots of people are using these devices to take pictures of themselves at arm's length doing almost everything imaginable — laughing with their friends, cuddling their cats, standing on mountaintops, posing with the Pope, etc. Imagine whatever context you will and a million people are sure to have used it to take a selfie. And then likely they posted it to their friends.

A more interesting question than "What do these numbers mean?" is whether all this amazing activity means anything at all. Culturally, that is.

In the realm of the arts, the general feeling seems to be that selfies have no particular value. They are throw-away byproducts of mass technology, rather like empty pop cans at the sides of roads.

Over the next couple of months, ArtSpring is betting this apparent consensus is wrong.

The call has just gone out (see artspring.ca/who-are-you-anyway/) for islanders to submit selfies that they believe say something significant about themselves for an exhibition to be presented in March.

The exhibition resulting from the submissions, to be called *Who Are You, Anyway?*, will be curated by a jury of four students in the Gulf Islands Secondary School media arts program.



GEORGE SIPOS

"... who we are is one of the most fundamental and most quintessentially human questions."

GEORGE SIPOS
Art project coordinator

The criteria for selection will be up to the students, as will the nature and construction of the resulting exhibition, though it is likely to be electronic rather than print based.

"Anyone of any age can submit selfies for the project, though the reality is that it is the young, prin-

cipally, who have embraced this technology," says George Sipos, coordinator of the project on behalf of ArtSpring. "That's why it is appropriate that it should be curated and produced by young people."

Who Are You, Anyway? runs concurrently with another ArtSpring project, a juried show called *Here's Looking at You*, a more traditional exhibition of portraits and self-portraits.

"The tradition in mainstream painting and photography of artists seeking to explore the nature of personality and personal identity has a long history, and deservedly so," says Sipos. "But art is not just about tradition. It is also about real people embracing whatever technological means come to hand to explore human concerns. And who we are is one of the most fundamental and most quintessentially human questions."

The deadline for submissions for both exhibitions is Feb. 1. The ArtSpring website provides all the relevant details submitters need to know (including prizes available).

There is a small submission fee for paintings and photographs entered for *Here's Looking at You*, but selfies submitted to *Who Are You, Anyway?* do not require a submission fee, in order to encourage as wide a range of people as possible to participate.

Article submitted by ArtSpring.

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FREE ADMISSION - Thursdays - January 8, 22, 29
 Location: S.S. Library, program room
 Doors open at 6:30 pm. Episodes start promptly at 7 pm.
 and run to 9 pm. www.yearsoflivingdangerously.com
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JON HEALEY: 250-537-1222

SALT SPRING CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

ISLAND ARTISTS

Martin Herbert unveils 45 years of artistry in limited-edition book

Craftsmanship and humour combine in unique works

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Martin Herbert is a bit of a dark horse when it comes to the local art scene.

His name is perhaps better known in sailboat racing circles, as skipper of the Kay D and a builder and racer in the one-meter class.

But every once in a while the other results of his creative output are on view at exhibitions such as ArtSpring's 20/20 Vision show last spring, or Art Night group shows like Attachment. At these events Herbert's craftsmanship, intellect and humour can be sensed as they intersect in amazing multimedia inventions.

Some of those pieces were on display at Herbert's studio last week, which he had opened to guests to launch a limited-edition book chronicling the past 45 years of his work. With only 50 copies produced, the book itself is a work of art. It is a collaboration between Herbert and Amy Melious, who put the design

together and photographed Herbert's art over three years of close consultation.

Herbert's gift to her in return was to build Melious her own wooden boat, which she launched under a full moon in July 2013. Their only parameters in forging the deal was that the work had to be fun and there could be no deadlines.

"It gave him a reason to find all these things, and he kept looking and looking," Melious said.

"It wouldn't have been good to do this hastily — not a life's work — because I really wanted to do him justice."

As both the book and his studio pay testament, Herbert's art reflects a vast range of interests and the skills to match. A Six Minute Sonata to Ganges and Long Harbours (2011), which he showed at Attachment, is an interactive piece constructed from a standing keyboard. Pressing the keys and pulling tabs allows one to reproduce the visual sonata of a full sailing race or to just admire the individual notes that make up the harbours.

Unzipping the fish-design fabric case of Bow River Trout (1976) reveals the delightful surprise of a beautifully crafted



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Martin Herbert's artworks Tristan and Isolde (2002-2012), left, and a page from his Atlas of Boats, a work in progress.



lute-type instrument formed in the shape of a fish.

Herbert is currently working on an atlas of boats based on the lower third section of a book rescued from the recycling depot. He's in the process of adding his own illustrations to the atlas pages; every boat and every location has personal meaning.

Other works like Tristan and Isolde (2002-2012) reflect Herbert's work as a set decorator. Incorporating aspects of sculpture, drawing and painting, the swivelling panels turn from colourful scenes of an actor in a modern theatrical production

to medieval vignettes in delicate pencil. Herbert's sure hand at interpreting the human figure can be found both in quick sketches and full-scale drawings throughout his studio.

"I think the main thing about my work is it's fun. It's got a sense of humour about it," Herbert said, adding that what he does has almost nothing to do with "artspeak."

"Working on the book with Amy has been a delight."

"The more you look, the more you discover," Melious said about Herbert's work. "I'm hoping that comes out, that people discover the layers."

POETRY

Lorraine Gane to read work

Island poets invited to open mic

Salt Spring poet Lorraine Gane will read poems from her two new collections at an Open Poetry Mic at the library on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Published in the fall of 2014, poems from The Way the Light Enters (Black Moss Press) "move us through life transitions, moments of profound loss, moments of unexpected joy, love and laughter, sorrow and human frailty," said Bowen Island poet Lisa Shatzky. "It is as if the

poems in this fine collection are whispering to us urgently to slow down and bear witness to the many opportunities to experience the light that exists around the corner of every road."

Salt Spring poet Diana Hayes feels Gane's poems in The Blue Halo (Leaf Press) "speak the language of the natural world and offer solace and the potential for renewal; as with the seasons, the flowering and decay of flora and fauna.

"All distilled in beautifully crafted lines, sometimes minimalist, sometimes verdant, these poems will be

there for us when all else fails and we too rub shoulders with the void."

Gane was shortlisted for the Canadian Literary Awards in 1997 and the League of Canadian Poets chapbook contest for her first collection of poems, Even the Slightest Touch Thunders on My Skin. She is now working on a memoir, another poetry collection and a book about writing.

Island poets are invited to read one poem per person at the open mic part of the evening at 7 p.m. (with sign-up at 6:45).

Gane will read at 7:30 p.m.

OPERA

Barber encore broadcasted

Rossini favourite on screen at ArtSpring on Jan. 10

The comic opera of all comic operas will appear on ArtSpring's big screen this Saturday, Jan. 10, with a Met Opera encore presentation of The Barber of Seville.

Gioachino Rossini's Il Barbiere di Siviglia premiered in 1818 at the King's Theatre in London, England. Full of mistaken identities, laughs, gorgeous costumes and lots of familiar music, it's a great place to start for anyone interested in exploring the world of opera.

As ArtSpring press material explains, the opera opens with a group of students serenad-

ing Rosina under her window.

"Among the students is Lindoro, who is actually the young Count Almaviva in disguise. He wants Rosina to fall in love with him and not his money. Rosina is the ward of the elderly doctor Bartolo, who plans to marry Rosina and her considerable dowry once she comes of age. The Count asks the wise barber Figaro's assistance in winning the heart of Rosina, and Figaro advises him to disguise himself as a drunken soldier ordered to billet at doctor Bartolo's as a way of gaining entry to the house... and so the fun begins."

The show begins at 10 a.m. and runs to 1:30 p.m. with one intermission. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

ArtSpring presents

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The Metropolitan Opera HD

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what's on this week



Wed. Jan 7 **Thur. Jan 8** **Fri. Jan 9** **Sat. Jan 10** **Sun. Jan 11** **Tue. Jan 13** **Wed. Jan 14**

ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Night Poker.
Hosted by Albert at The Local. Sign up 6:30pm.
SongJam.
A 21st-century pub sing-along to vocal and instrumental backing tracks. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

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

Thur. Jan 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Dance Show.
Features new works of choreography from the GISS dance program. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Open Mic with Ross and Dave.
Every Thursday. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.
Regular business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. with the town hall session starting at 12 noon. Lions Hall.
Unitarian Coffee Meeting.
Regular guest chaplain Amanda Tarling poses further question to contemplate 'Awakening' theme addressed at Jan. 4 sermon. Rock Salt Cafe. 11:45 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Years of Living Dangerously Film Series.
Series screening continues tonight, plus Jan. 22 and 29. Salt Spring Library Program Room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and film starts at 7 p.m. sharp.
Salt Spring Women's Basketball.
All levels of play welcome. Wear indoor shoes. Every Thursday (excluding school holidays) at the SIMS gym, 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

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

Fri. Jan 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Dance Show.
See Thursday listing.
Barley Bros.
Live music at The Local. 5 to 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime.
For children 3 to 6 years old and their families. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.
Games Night.
Board games and other interactive games, facilitated by Bryan Dubien. Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Climate Change & Renewable Energy.
Sean Magee, director of Bullfrog Builds, presents an inspired talk about renewable energy projects all across Canada. Harbour House Hotel. 7 p.m.

Sat. Jan 10

ACTIVITIES

Met Opera Live Broadcast: Il Barbiere Di Siviglia (Encore).
Bartlett Sher's effervescent production of Rossini's most popular opera. Michele Mariotti conducts. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
GISS Solar Scholarship Project Launch.
Celebrate the launch of Salt Spring's first-ever community-funded renewable energy project with Elizabeth May, Bill Henderson and others. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 2 p.m. PLUS solar system electrical system tours at 12:30, 12:45, 1 and 1:15 p.m.
Potluck with Lynne Quarmby & Elizabeth May.
SFU professor and Kinder Morgan protester Lynne Quarmby joins local MP for Green party event. Lions Hall. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Town Hall With MP Elizabeth May.
Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
SS Forum: An Evening With Nigel Fisher.
Discussion with renowned humanitarian Nigel Fisher, the former president and CEO of UNICEF Canada, and a Salt Spring Island resident. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Sun. Jan 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Meaghan McKillop.
Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Unitarian Fellowship.
Jean-Claude Catry and Dennis Lucarelli will lead the first of a two-part service called Renewal of the Creative Process. Visitors welcome. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.
Pickleball.
Every Sunday at Fulford Hall. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Play Temple.
Sessions led by Mitchell Soulfeather and others artists. Salt Spring Wellness Centre/Ganges Yoga Studio. 1 to 3 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Why Photography.
First in a series of free seminars on the art of photography presented by Greg Klassen. Salt Spring Public Library program room. 2 p.m.
Rollerblading.
For all ages. Many sets of blades available for use. Fulford Hall. 2:30 to 4 p.m.

GET NOTICED ON PAGE 16

Mon. Jan 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas.
Salt Spring Folk Club concert. Fulford Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. for season's pass holders; 6:15 for general admission. Music starts at 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Growing Healthy Meat Chickens Workshop.
With guest speaker Lori Gillis of the Cluck Stops Here abattoir in Coombs. Followed by a half-hour session with Anne Macey on growing and processing poultry organically. Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tech Tutoring With John.
Salt Spring Island Public Library. Tuesdays at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Info/register: 250-537-4666.
ToddlerTime.
Stories, rhymes and simple activities best suited for children aged 3 and under. Salt Spring Library. 2 p.m. (Note the new day and time.)
Classic Rock Bingo.
Every Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Historical Society.
Guest speaker is Marlyn Horsdal on The Real Judge Begbie and the Uses of Historical Fiction. Central Hall. 2 p.m.
Extended Public Library Hours.
Salt Spring Public Library is open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.
SongJam.
See last Wednesday.
Wednesday Night Poker.
See last Wednesday.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

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Jan. 29 Thurs. 3pm matinee and 7pm

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GISS Dance Show
at ArtSpring
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7:30pm
Tickets: Adults \$12, Students \$10

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CINEMA

• **Whiplash** — Winner of the grand jury prize and audience award at the Sundance Film Festival. Inspired and well acted. An ambitious young drummer enters a prestigious music academy to fulfill his dream of becoming one of the greatest known drummers. His ruthless instructor, determined to make him realize his full potential, pushes him to the limit.

• **National Theatre Live: The Hit Broadway Production of Of Mice and Men.** On Thursday, Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. only. This landmark revival of Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's play is a powerful portrait of the American spirit and a heartbreaking testament to the bonds of friendship. Advance tickets at Island Star Video and Salt Spring Books.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Gerry Munneke-Camping and Simon Camping** are showing photos at **KizMit Galeria and Cafe** on Beaver Point Road on Thursdays through Sundays (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.-ish).

• **Up Close & Personal:** The photographic art of **Bob Rogers** is on exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe**.

• **An exhibit of knitting** is in the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** and display case through January.

• **Heidi Van Impe** oil paintings are on display at **Island Savings**.

• **Julianna Paul's photography** is hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.

• **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** features **artwork by staff members**.

• **Nicola Wheston's 'Stuff'** paintings and **Michael Dennis' 7 Figures** in yellow cedar are featured at **Duthie Gallery** on Churchill Road. The gallery is open by appointment (250-537-9606) till February. Sculpture park open daily. cedar are featured at **Duthie Gallery** on Churchill Road. The gallery is open by appointment (250-537-9606) till February. Sculpture park open daily.

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BOOKS

Mayne Island embarks on community reading event

Thomas King book to spawn community discussion

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When CBC Radio launches the next edition of Canada Reads on Jan. 20 with its announcement of the much-anticipated list of titles for 2015, the community of Mayne Island will have already started on a little reading project of its own.

As the new voice of the popular radio program headed most recently by Jian Ghomeshi, First Nations host Wab Kinew has dedicated this year's Canada Reads event to books that "can change perspectives, challenge stereotypes and illuminate issues." Mayne Island Reads plans to achieve a similar end, but its single selection is already locked in.

Organizers hope that 100 islanders will have read and commented on Thomas King's book *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* by National Aboriginal Day on June 21.

"It's really a life-changing book. It's really well-written and it's got a lot of humour, but it's an eye-opener," said Judi Walker, who co-chairs the Mayne Island Library



PHOTO BY TOBY SNEELGROVE

Mayne Islanders gather to read Thomas King's *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*. John Aitken, far left, initiated the project. Other Gulf Islands residents are invited to join the reading challenge.

Association board.

Mayne Island Library has teamed up with Miners Bay Books for the project, with each outfit providing five copies of *The Inconvenient Indian* to the community. Five women and five men signed on as the first wave of readers, kicking off the project on

Jan. 1. Once finished, each of the initial 10 readers is responsible for handing the book on to someone else in the community. Each book comes with a journal so that the reader can record what they're feeling.

"It's an exciting project, and we were amazed by the reactions

from the community," Walker said. "People immediately wanted to know how they could get involved and take part."

The idea for the group reading originated with John Aitken, who is a member of a Coast Salish family with longtime island roots. Aitken met with Walker earlier this year to discuss how Mayne could recognize the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which wraps up its investigation into residential schools in May 2015. Besides obvious tactics like building up the First Nations collection at the library and putting together a list of recommended videos, Aitken had a dream of challenging an entire community to read King's book.

"It just seemed like this was the perfect community to do so, so that's what we're doing," Walker said.

The Inconvenient Indian received both the RBC Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction and the B.C. National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction in 2014, and was a finalist for the 2013 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize. It's currently on the long list of 15 possible selections for Canada Reads.

King received further honour for his writing talent this year by winning the Governor General's

fiction award for his novel *On the Back of the Turtle*. But as Walker notes of the last two points: "That all happened after John and I decided we were doing this."

Opening up the conversation about the violent history of colonialism in North America and its modern legacy is a key point of the exercise. In addition to writing in the journals, community members are encouraged to send in comments by email and post them to a Facebook page being set up for the event.

Aitken is also willing to set up talking circles for those who need to work through the issues raised more thoroughly.

Ideally, funding will be found that will allow the organizers to correlate all the comments and send them to King. (Walker has sent a letter informing him about the project.) An even bigger goal is to obtain a Canada Council grant to bring the author to the Gulf Islands.

The Mayne Island Library has extended the reading challenge to other branches on the southern Gulf Islands. Salt Spring residents who want to join in are also welcome to send their comments to the dedicated email address at MITandH@shaw.ca.



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people&community

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

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



AWARDS

Salt Spring humanitarian Nigel Fisher honoured

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Salt Spring resident Nigel Fisher, left, receives the Pearson Peace Medal from Governor General David Johnston at a ceremony last month. At right, Fisher oversees cross-border humanitarian shipments from Turkey into Syria with a Syrian NGO representative in July 2014.



Pearson Peace Medal bestowed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Nigel Fisher may have received the highest national commendation with the Order of Canada in 2013, but adding the Pearson Peace Medal in December was no small honour.

A veteran of humanitarian response to the world's worst crisis areas over the past 40 years, Fisher has been Canada's top humanitarian on the ground around the world, from Mozambique, Rwanda, Iraq and Afghanistan to Haiti, most recently leading the humanitarian response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Having just returned to Canada from the Middle East, the nomination for the Pearson Peace Medal was a very pleasant surprise.

"It's a thrill to receive the medal. It's an honour I would like to share with all Canadians working in crises far from home. Our country has always played a significant and leading role in international development, peacekeeping and humanitarian action. The Pearson Peace Medal recognizes that international record."

Fisher received the medal from Governor General David Johnston in a ceremony held at Rideau Hall on Dec. 11. The United Nations Association in Canada distributes the award annually to a Canadian with "outstanding achievements in the field of international service and understanding."

A former assistant secretary-general of the United Nations and the president

and CEO of UNICEF Canada for almost five years, Fisher has a long history of leadership amid disaster. Most recently, he was the regional UN humanitarian coordinator for the Syria crisis until August last year.

The English-born scholar of political science has made his mark by developing a broad perspective on crises and conflicts. He believes that humanitarian actors do have to provide immediate life-saving support to affected civilians, but they have to be aware of the political, security, economic and social dynamics that underlie each crisis.

"Ignorance of context can be a dangerous thing. At the centre of any international humanitarian's approach should be collaboration with local partners and organizations, supporting them to help themselves and to rebuild their own communities and countries," he said. "Even in the worst of situations, people want to do things for themselves. They appreciate a helping hand, a hand-up, much more than they want a hand-out."

Landing in Rwanda at the tail end of a horrific genocide in June 1994 was one of Fisher's most personally challenging assignments. The evidence of mass killing was overwhelming and everywhere when he arrived. But his work finding creative ways to support children helped overcome the horror. This included initiatives for traumatized children, demobilization of child soldiers, establishing a juvenile justice system for children accused of genocide, re-uniting children with surviving family mem-

bers and starting up schools again. The last was important to kick-start children's education but also for helping them return to some sense of normalcy, he said.

"You have to be an optimist in this kind of work. When you see this amount of misery and conflict, you have to believe that there can be a better alternative," Fisher said. "You look for the positive."

What has continued to motivate him is the strong sense that everyone has the fundamental right to live peacefully, to earn their living, to raise their children and see them through school. That's been driven home when comparing Canada to conflict-driven places, but Fisher doesn't neglect our national shortcomings.

He headed UNICEF Canada when it released a report highlighting Canada's poor record with regard to First Nations children, particularly their poor health conditions, which are much worse than in many "developing" countries.

There's also a tendency to think the current moment is all there is, when crises and subsequent aid efforts must be seen in the longer term — things change, for better or for worse, but change is the constant.

"People sometimes ask me, 'What's the point? Can you make any difference?' There always seems to be conflict in the world," Fisher said.

"That's true, but you have to take the long perspective: 20 years from now, things are going to be different. Despite the many conflicts in the world today, there are also many situations where

there has been improvement. But this is where the need for improvement goes well beyond the humanitarian dimension — better political leadership, representative government, the establishment of the rule of law, tackling corruption, investment in jobs and economic development, safety and security of ordinary people."

For example, he observed, seven of the world's 10 most rapidly growing economies are currently located in Africa, something few would have predicted 20 years back.

"You have to be an optimist in this kind of work. When you see this amount of misery and conflict, you have to believe that there can be a better alternative."

NIGEL FISHER
Pearson Peace Medal recipient

"It's always possible to see change. But I'm a realist as well as an optimist — change can be negative as well as positive. So often, humanitarians have to swing into action because of failures at the political level. Syria is a case in point."

Fisher's role with the Syrian crisis will likely be his last one with the UN, but he has plenty of other things on his plate. He's an adjunct pro-

fessor at the University of Victoria and hopes to reconnect with the institution after his overseas missions. Interacting with young people and hearing what they want to see in the future is one of the things he most enjoys.

Fisher is also involved with a start-up company that's developing an environmentally friendly surface-protection coating that kills pathogens on contact. He is convinced that the product is much-needed in Canada, which has one of the highest rates of hospital-acquired infections in the industrialized world. He also sees uses for it in developing countries.

Internationally, he will also work in an advisory capacity on reforms required to improve the effectiveness of international humanitarian action in crisis situations. Perhaps most surprisingly, he will appear in the upcoming Sean Penn film *The Last Face* in a cameo role opposite Charlize Theron, although he thinks his movie career began and ended with those 15 minutes of film time.

"I don't think I really buy into 'retirement,'" Fisher conceded. "It's really great to be back at home with my wife Patsy, who was with me in so many of these crisis situations. It's wonderful to be here with Salt Spring as my base — to continue doing things that I enjoy. But bedroom slippers? Not just yet."

Islanders will have the opportunity to hear Fisher talk about some of his experiences during a Salt Spring Forum discussion this Saturday, Jan. 10 at ArtSpring (see story on page 4).

LIBRARY HOURS

EXTENDED
We will re-open Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Jan. 14th to Apr. 29, 2015.



Salt Spring Island Public Library
1000 Highway 100, Salt Spring Island, BC V8L 2R6



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WASTE MANAGEMENT

Teamwork nets food bank bucks

More group efforts envisioned for future

Islanders who recycled their Christmas trees on Sunday helped to chip in for a good cause.

Cal Mills of Mills Tree Service, community volunteers and firefighters from Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue worked together to raise \$320 and a large bag of groceries for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

"Kudos to Cal Mills for coming out to chip the Christmas trees," said SSIFR Lt. Mitchell Sherrin. "Obviously, we couldn't have done it without him. And it was quick tidy work with his guidance."

Along with meeting several generous islanders, a highlight of the event

was observing the creative ways people found to transport trees on and even in their vehicles, Sherrin said.

"I was surprised by how many people put their trees inside their cars."

He saw trees cut into tote-sized chunks, trees wrapped in tarps and trees stuffed whole, with tinsel, into sub-com-pacts.

SSIFR also thanked Elizabeth White from the Bring Your Branches program, who assisted with planning the fundraiser. The fire department hopes to help the yard-waste recycling volunteers to maintain their program in the future.

"We are natural allies. Recycling yard waste helps reduce fire risk and harmful air pollution, so that's a good fit for us."



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SSIFR Lt. Mitchell Sherrin puts another Christmas tree on the pile for chipping by Mills Tree Service.

HISTORY

Horsdal talk features 'Hanging Judge' Begbie

Salt Spring Historical Society event Jan. 14

Marlyn Horsdal will give a presentation called The Real Judge Begbie and the Uses of Historical Fiction at the Jan. 14 meeting of the Salt Spring Historical Society, featuring research on Begbie and the novel Horsdal wrote featuring him as a character.

Judge Matthew Baillie Begbie was the first chief justice in British Columbia and infamously became known as "the Hanging Judge" after his death.

"In life, Begbie was tall, handsome, brilliant, well-educated and compassionate," states a SSHS press release. "He was never referred to as a 'hanging judge' during his career of almost 40 years. In fact, he argued against the death penalty in several of his cases."

Horsdal's talk will explore how Begbie acquired the contrary repu-

tation. Her book The Judge and the Lady is a historical novel set mostly in Victoria between 1858 and 1894. Although the plot is fiction, everything about the judge, the colony and the other people who appear in it is true. Many of the things Begbie says in the novel come from his bench books and other writings. With short readings from the book, Horsdal will show how historical fiction can be used to illustrate the lives and times of people in the past.

Horsdal has an Honours BA in Geography from Queen's University and an MA from the London School of Economics. She has been a book editor and publisher for many years and is the author of a previous novel, Sweetness from Ashes.

Next Wednesday's meeting takes place at Central Hall at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. Tea and coffee will follow the presentation, which is free or by donation.

MEAT PRODUCTION

Producer shares healthy meat bird secrets

Poultry-raising workshop offered Jan. 12

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN DRIFTWOOD STAFF

All the steps necessary for raising happy, healthy meat chickens will be detailed on Salt Spring this week during a one-day workshop at the Farmers' Institute on Monday, Jan. 12.

A co-presentation of the Salt Spring Abattoir and the Salt Spring Poultry Club, the workshop features guest speaker Lori Gillis, who owns and operates an abattoir in Coombs called The Cluck Steps Here. Having processed chickens for nearly 20 years and raised her

own meat birds for the same period, Gillis has seen a number of recurring problems when chickens destined for the broiler aren't raised in the right environment.

"My whole intention is the well-being of the animal, [their] having a happy, healthy life and a humane butchering process," Gillis said.

"Success" at meat chicken production means a high survival rate for chicks, the right feed for their age and type, adequate space and exercise, and correct handling before slaughter so that bruising, skin tears and breast blisters are minimized.

Because meat chickens have been overly hybridized, they have weakened immune systems and are liable to conditions such

as ascites syndrome (a type of congestive heart failure), sudden death syndrome and skeletal problems. The answer to avoiding these issues, which will negatively affect the meat, is to provide an exceptionally clean environment, allow plenty of exercise and time outside, and to manage feed properly.

Gillis also shares tips for when it comes time to transport animals to the abattoir, which can also greatly impact the meat.

"We're looking for fair treatment of animals. I always say to people who visit my farm, 'My chickens had a really great life and one bad day,'" she said.

The workshop is equally suitable for those who are looking to get into raising meat birds and

those who are already doing so. Gillis said it would also be valuable for consumers who are really interested in where their food comes from.

"You should probably know these things when you are out buying meat," she observed.

The workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is followed by an extra half hour with Anne Macey on growing and processing poultry organically.

Registration is available in advance at Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply for a reduced price or can be done at the door. A light lunch is included in the cost.

For more information, contact Margaret Thomson at windrush4669@shaw.ca or phone her at 250-537-4669.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ToddlerTime takes off

Library program's new day accommodates active families

Beginning Jan. 13, ToddlerTime at the Salt Spring Library is moving to Tuesday afternoons at 2 p.m.

ToddlerTime is a well-established tradition at the library, occurring ever since library operations moved into the new building in Ganges at the end of 2012. Once a week, parents and tots join an enthusiastic library volunteer for 30 minutes of stories, rhymes and simple activities best suited for children aged three and under.

"ToddlerTime, like its companion program StoryTime, is a great

way to nurture literacy in young children," states a library news release. "Even before children learn to speak, exposure to narrative patterns like rhyme, rhythm and repetition help them form the cognitive pathways that lead to literacy."

ToddlerTime provides a free, welcoming environment, open to drop-ins and no pre-registration is required.

The move to Tuesday afternoons has been made to complement other early childhood programs on the island. By switching to Tuesday afternoons from the past Monday-morning time slot, families participating in the Gulf Islands School District's ELF Program will still be able to attend ToddlerTime.



Spirit of Salt Spring

Viva Chorale! director Deb Toole, left, gives \$1,270 — proceeds of the choir's Christmas carolling fundraiser — to Annika Lund of Community Services to benefit the Salt Spring Food Bank. Boxes of food were also donated.

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

Driftwood 250-537-9933

Salt Spring Hospice

HOSPICE 101

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for more info contact Salt Spring Hospice
250-537-2770 or office@saltspringhospice.org

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WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mormon church.

STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Baptist Church, around the back. Starting September 3rd.

every WEDNESDAY

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m.

HOT HATHA YOGA at the Nest hot yoga. 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and Moksha-inspired Level 1 hot yoga from 12 to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7:15 p.m. Info: theneshotyoga@gmail.com

KUNDALINI FOR BEGINNERS and others with Nomi at Gaiama Yoga. 4 to 5 p.m.

MEDITATION GROUP suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333

MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Teachings offered by donation with Insight Meditation teacher Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

MEN'S BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.

PAT'S BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors at 10 a.m.

PILATES CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Info/register: anna@bonesforever.com

SENIORS CHAIR YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Still Point Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SONGJAM runs at Moby's Pub at 7:30 p.m.

SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: club president Carol Dodd at 250-538-0079.

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (With beginners' classes from 6:30 to 8 p.m.) Info: David, 250-537-1871.

YOGA LEVEL 1 with Celeste Mallett Jason at Ganges Yoga Studio. 9 to 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH CATE at the Southend Grooveyard, 128 Holmes Rd., 5 to 6:15 p.m.

YOGA with Dorothy Price. At The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. AND 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7 p.m. Call 250-653-2411 for details. Newcomers always welcome.

AL-ANON meets at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racket and non-marking gym shoes. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

BELLYFIT class with Trina Aspinall at Ganges Yoga Studio. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

CHAKRA TONING with Deborah Stevenson at Still Point Yoga Studio. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

DANCE CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd. Expressive dance class suitable for dancers of all levels. Practice the art of mindful dancing at the same time as letting it all go. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Info/Register: anna@bonesforever.com

EVERYBODY MOVE — a morning aerobics fitness class with Catherine Bennett at Ganges Yoga Studio. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

MEN'S YOGA with Ken Katz at Still Point. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

MOKSHA-INSPIRED LEVEL 1 HOT YOGA at the Nest hot yoga. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. PLUS Yoga Core from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Yang Yin at 7 p.m. Info: theneshotyoga@gmail.com

NIA at Fulford Hall Annex. 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Arleen, 250-653-9235. Call Donna at 250-653-9985 for fee info. Classes resume Jan. 15.

SALTY WHEELS SQUARE DANCE CLUB meets at 734 Upper Ganges Road. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info: Marilyne, 250-537-5356.

SENIORS LUNCH runs at Salt Spring Seniors at 12 noon.

TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: David, 250-537-1871.

YAMUNA BODY ROLLING with Bonnie at Ganges Yoga Studio. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

YANG YIN YOGA at The Nest hot yoga. 7 to 8:15 p.m. Info: theneshotyoga@gmail.com

YIN YOGA with Robert Prince at Still Point Yoga Studio. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

every THURSDAY

AL-ANON meets at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racket and non-marking gym shoes. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

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YIN YOGA with Robert Prince at Still Point Yoga Studio. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

every FRIDAY

BRIDGE GAMES at Salt Spring Seniors at 12:30 p.m.

COFFEE TIME for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors at 10 a.m.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Ganges Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Info/register: anna@bonesforever.com.

every THURSDAY

AL-ANON meets at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

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every MONDAY

DANCE TEMPLE with the Dance Temple Collective. Ganges Yoga Studio. 7 to 9 p.m.

RESUMES Jan. 12.

DROP-IN YOGA CLINIC: Back Care and Arthritis Pain with Celeste Mallett Jason. Ganges Yoga Studio, 4 to 5 p.m.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Ganges Yoga Studio. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd., 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltsspring.com.

KUNDALINI YOGA FOR BEGINNERS and others at North End Fitness. 1 to 2 p.m.

LEVEL 1 YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at Ganges Yoga Studio. 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

LIFE DRAWING every Monday at the Core Inn (third floor). 1 to 3 p.m. Info: Jose Campbell, 250-537-1121. Drop-ins welcome.

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SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Portlock Park portable. 4 to 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

BOOK CLUB meets once a month on the second Thursday at Salt Spring Seniors in the lounge at 1:30 p.m.

BRIDGE runs at Salt Spring Seniors on the first and third Thursdays at 12:45 p.m.

THURSDAY

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB open to all meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the library. 1 to 3 p.m.

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION — Group meditations for all who have learned TM. Last Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. Call 778-353-3014 for address and more information. Free introductory lectures by appointment.

every THURSDAY

AL-ANON meets at the portable behind Lady Minto Hospital from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

BADMINTON for ages 12 and up at the GISS gym. Drop-ins welcome. Must have own racket and non-marking gym shoes. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: Gail Temmel, 250-653-4613.

BELLYFIT class with Trina Aspinall at Ganges Yoga Studio. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

CHAKRA TONING with Deborah Stevenson at Still Point Yoga Studio. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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MEN'S YOGA with Ken Katz at Still Point. 9 to 10:30 a.m.

MOKSHA-INSPIRED LEVEL 1 HOT YOGA at the Nest hot yoga. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. PLUS Yoga Core from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Yang Yin at 7 p.m. Info: theneshotyoga@gmail.com

NIA at Fulford Hall Annex. 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Arleen, 250-653-9235. Call Donna at 250-653-9985 for fee info. Classes resume Jan. 15.

SALTY WHEELS SQUARE DANCE CLUB meets at 734 Upper Ganges Road. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Info: Marilyne, 250-537-5356.

SENIORS LUNCH runs at Salt Spring Seniors at 12 noon.

TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Info: David, 250-537-1871.

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every FRIDAY

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FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Info/register: anna@bonesforever.com.

every MONDAY

DANCE TEMPLE with the Dance Temple Collective. Ganges Yoga Studio. 7 to 9 p.m.

RESUMES Jan. 12.

DROP-IN YOGA CLINIC: Back Care and Arthritis Pain with Celeste Mallett Jason. Ganges Yoga Studio, 4 to 5 p.m.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 6:45 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

EVERYBODY STRETCH — Everyday stretches for the everyday body to classical music with Catherine Bennett. Ganges Yoga Studio. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 190 Reynolds Rd., 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltsspring.com.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Island marks anniversaries, passages and new initiatives

The following are some especially notable milestones and passages that took place in our back yard in 2014.

- Sharon Glover, the coordinator of Salt Spring's Wellness Programs for seniors since 1996, passed on the mantle as she decided to devote more time to her private practice with a new focus on helping seniors with life's transitions.

- Acclaimed watercolour artist Jack Avison passed away after living nearly 99 active years.

- The Salt Spring Conservancy's Stewards in Training program turned 10 years old. Founders and long-time volunteers Jean Gelwicks, Deborah Miller and David Denning were honoured for their achievements.

- Salt Spring's Ground Search and Rescue group marked 25 years of volunteer service to the community.

- Well-known Canadian educator, feminist and social justice advocate Margaret Fulton passed away at age 91. During her lifetime she held posts as Dean of Women at UBC and president of Mount Saint Vincent University. She held 15 honorary degrees, was an Officer of the Order of Canada, and received the Governor General's Commemoration of Persons Award, among other achievements.

- Island Pathways celebrated 25 years of working to build paths for pedestrians, cyclists and motorized scooter-users on Salt Spring.

- Wendy Milton launched the popular weekly sing-along SongJam at Moby's Pub with the blessing of business owners Dale and Susan Schweighardt.

- Ethel Diubaldo, a member of Salt Spring's Roland clan, died after a car accident outside of Winnipeg, where she had lived for 20 years. Her husband Dominic died on site. Diubaldo was proud of her Kanaka heritage and had enjoyed several trips to Hawaii to explore her family's roots.

- ArtSpring presented 20/20 Vision, the organization's first ever juried art show. Gabrielle Jensen was awarded the Juror's Choice prize of \$1,000 for her mixed-media piece Ghetto Truths.

- Alice Bibeau Tester died on Feb. 18 at the age of 100. Her birthday had been acknowledged with a party the previous August at Lady Minto Hospital's Extended Care Unit, where she lived.

- Tree Frog Daycare celebrated its 20th anniversary, after more than one severe funding crises threatened to close the doors over the years.

- Local poets introduced a new monthly open mic event at the Salt Spring Library in March, which mixed the open performance session with a featured reader.

- The Salt Spring Trail Runners hosted their inaugural race event, an eight-kilometre slog on the Channel Ridge trail system. Karl Otto was first to cross the finish line, with a course record-setting time of 44:33.

- ArtSpring celebrated 15 years of being open, 25 years after the Island Arts Centre Society was formed. A cross-section of Salt Spring artists participated in a concert event.

- The Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friendship Association celebrated 25 years of helping Nicaraguans lift themselves from poverty by growing coffee. Proceeds from the sale of roasted beans in Canada go toward school and development projects.

- George Sipos retired after spending seven and a half years as ArtSpring's executive director, exactly half the 15 years the arts centre had been in operation. Soprano Cicela Månsson from Ontario was hired to take the reins in his place.

- The HMS Ganges Chapter of the IODE marked a century of service by announcing plans to retire the organization. Its final effort before closing its doors in February 2015 would be



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

From left, Pat Desbottes, Nell Bushby and Kathleen Horsdal at the Salt Spring Hospice's 30th-anniversary celebration.

to raise funds to provide books for elementary schools.

- The Salt Spring Toastmasters Club celebrated 10 years of developing competent public speakers.

- Ken Byron, Sr. passed away on July 2 at age 93. The WWII veteran had participated in the D-Day battle in Normandy and continued on with a 40-year military career. He turned to farming after his retirement in 1976.

- The Salt Spring Centre of Yoga hosted its 40th annual community yoga retreat.

- Tom Toynbee and Doug McDonald travelled to Vancouver to celebrate the 60th anniversary of a gold-medal-winning rowing team at the University of British Columbia. The crew beat the odds to win top place at the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

- Michael Weir died doing what he loved when his plane crashed shortly after take-off at the Nanaimo airport. Weir and his friend Gerald Thom of Youbou, who also died in the crash, had built the Avid aircraft themselves and had been flying it for nearly six months without incident.

- The Salt Spring Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary with a community party in Centennial Park.

- Salt Spring's Christina Penhale and Jekka Mack introduced their new creative venture ExitStageLeft Productions with an ambitious and well-received staging of the musical Rent.

- The 10th annual Salt Spring Pride festival included the seventh annual parade and a party at Heiwa Peace Park under a blistering hot sun.

- Salt Spring 4-H Club members joined those across the province in

celebrating the organization's 100th anniversary in B.C.

- Salt Spring Hospice and the Bessie Dane Foundation had their 30th anniversary. The organization was established at the bequest of islander Dane, who donated her estate to provide support for the dying. She passed away in 1984 with friends Nell Bushby and Pat Desbottes at her side.

- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church blessed a new stone shrine dedicated to its patroness. Most of the funds, design and craftsmanship that went into the project were thanks to congregation member Gunter Palberg, who had survived Second World War bombing as a child when evacuated to Germany's Black Forest.

- Salt Spring Community Services celebrated the 100th anniversary of the building it calls home. The building was the site of the island's first hospital, established in 1914 along with 43 other institutions across the nation as a project of Lady Mary Minto, the wife of a former Governor General of Canada.

- Sheila Malcolmson chaired her last Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting after being the chair of both the SSLTC and Islands Trust Council for six years, and a Gabriola Island trustee for 12 years. Malcolmson had been nominated as the NDP candidate for the federal riding of Nanaimo-Ladysmith.

CELEBRATIONS

Solar project gets community launch

Switch flicked on GISS array Saturday

BY DAVID DENNING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Don't bring out your sun hats and sun cream just yet, but get ready to join Elizabeth May, Gary Holman, Bill Henderson and other solar enthusiasts for the official launch of the GISS solar scholarship array.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the GISS multipurpose room, the Salt Spring community will celebrate a milestone by "flicking the switch" on our first community renewable energy project.

Erected on the high school gym roof in November and December, the GISS solar scholarship project array is an 84-panel, 21-kilowatt solar system that will reduce energy costs and generate funds for a special "solar scholarship."

A partnership between the Salt Spring Community Energy Group and School District 64, the array is the largest school-based solar array in B.C., and it is the seventh largest solar array in the entire province.

Thanks to donations from our community, and to an agreement from the school district to put energy savings into a solar scholarship fund, the GISS solar scholarship is a

completely unique model for promoting the transition from fossil fuels to renewables.

The array is the largest school-based solar array in B.C. and the seventh largest solar array in the entire province.

Whether Saturday is sunny or not, we have much to celebrate.

A pre-event talk is scheduled for Friday night (see related story on page 3 of this paper) and pre-event tours of the solar system electrical system at the high school will take place at 12:30, 12:45, 1 and 1:15 p.m. on Saturday.

The main session starting at 2 p.m. will be an opportunity to thank the many people who worked and donated to create the project, and to use music and dance to help us celebrate the power of the sun.

The entire island is invited to celebrate this community accomplishment and to help Elizabeth May flick the switch on the GISS solar array.

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saltspringhospice.org

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Meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Community Hall Society
Tuesday 20th
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Julie Fisher, Lawyer, Long-Term Disability and CPP
Annmarie Kersop, Lawyer, Injury & No-Fault Benefits

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\$250 REWARD! Lost Siamese cat - our 2 little girls have lost their best friend Wolverine (aka Wolvie or Zed). 9 mos old Seal Point Siamese with ear tattoo. Last seen Oct. 18, by Christmas Hill. 250-389-0184 ainaf@shaw.ca

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Salt Spring Island HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REGULAR MEETING
2:00 pm Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at Central Hall.
Marlyn Horsdal

"The Real Judge Begbie and the Uses of Historical Fiction."

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Tea/Coffee to follow the meeting. All are welcome.

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Registration & first rehearsal

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7:00 - 8:00 First Rehearsal
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CONCERT DATES: May 2nd and 3rd at ArtSpring
New members are welcome.
Check our website: www.saltspringsingers.ca

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Capital Regional District **CRD**

UPPER GANGES ROAD HARBOUR'S END PATHWAY CONTRACT SSI 2014-005

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders will be received by the Project Engineer of the Capital Regional District at their office at 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, V8K 1K3 up to 2:00pm, local time on January 20, 2015, at which time they will be opened in public.

There is a MANDATORY pre-tender site meeting on January 9, 2015 at 10:30am at the driveway entrance to Moby's Pub on Upper Ganges Road.

Generally, the project is the provision of all necessary labour, equipment and material for the construction of a 1.8 metre wide by approximately 110 metre long asphalt pathway.

Specifications, Drawings, Contract Documents, and Tender Form may be obtained from the Capital Regional District, Salt Spring Island Office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island or copies may also be downloaded from www.crd.bc.ca/business.

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LIBRARY

Gems abound on New Shelves

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

LIBRARY SHELF

Everyone knows that winter is just about the best time to curl up with a good book, and the library has plenty of books on the New Shelf to entertain, educate and get the juices going.

The American Way of Eating presents some very disturbing (and a few heartwarming insights) into the North American food industry. From production in the Salinas Valley of California, to distribution via Wal-mart and other marketing chains, to consumption at Applebee's restaurants, the author shares her experiences in the field, the warehouse and the kitchen. For example, while McMillan shares the warmth and vitality of a typical migrant family working the fields of Greenfield, she also presents the many obstacles these people face as they try to make a fair living providing the rest of us with the food on our tables. The author presents a balanced picture and analysis of this convoluted, and not altogether evil path, from garden to table.

It's not too late to enjoy **Popular Day Hikes 4 Vancouver Island**. This little volume is replete with photos, maps, directions and suggestions that will make your day trips enjoyable. If you've ever wondered what wonders await on the Big Island, this book is for you. From the Carmanah Walbran to Ripple Rock, with many points between, you can use Popular Day Hikes to plan upcoming trips.

As we're all **Aging in Canada**, a book that describes how to go about it with grace and in good health is a useful read. Legitimate concerns over the cost of the "grey tsunami" as Baby Boomers reach retire-

ment age are the premises of the research and suggestions in this book. These authors look at the statistics, the realities and the results in terms of financial concerns, social concerns, health services and sustainability of services and conclude that society needs to examine the realities and prepare for the future by making cost-effective shifts in the systems that exist.

Our island boasts of an exceptional publishing house. Mother Tongue Publishing is known for its quality production of interesting and unexpected works on local topics. Number 7 in the 'Unheralded Artists of BC' series, **The Life and Art of Harry and Jessie Webb**, fits right into the category of excellence and fascinating storyline that we expect from Mother Tongue.

Augmented by beautiful photographs of both the artists and their ground-breaking art works, this is a tale of love and talent that both stimulated and shaped the Vancouver (thus B.C.) art scene of the 1950s and '60s. Lovingly told by their daughter, this is a real B.C. story.

On the Fiction Shelf, J.D. Robb's **Festive in Death** is here! The latest in the 'In Death' series, this novel takes the reader into the steamy and seamy side of the New York health club scene in 2060.

Written with the verve and nerve Roberts' millions of fans have come to expect, this one is a post-Christmas treat that sets Detective Eve Dallas and her engaging hubby against as nasty a bad guy as possible, and (no surprise here) gets them home in time to serve Christmas dinner to their 260 best friends and relatives.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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MOVING SALE Jan 3&4 and 10&11. 9 am to 3 pm. Hot tub and new Setra bed. 150 Leisure Lane(Ganges c.ground).

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

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This Week's Horoscope

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

1.888.352.2936

TIP OF THE WEEK:

The human condition is in a critical state. Even amidst various victories, much of the old 'business as usual' attitudes and actions prevail. Worse yet, the rise of multi-nationalism over the past few centuries has produced a situation in which all nations or most are in debt to private interests. This is clearly a serious situation. Private interests have no reason to pay any allegiance to anyone but the major stockholders and in effect have very little if any responsibility to any other than itself. This is the epitome of megalomania but rather that simply exist in individual people, it exists in corporate entities which all at the same time has rights and privileges of individuals. Could it be any worse? That is why the middle class is all but dissolved and why most of the social programs that we so diligently and nobly won are so casually cut. Clearly, many in high places are not answering to the people, but to the shareholders. The current planetary alignments and activity as a whole reveal the synchronicity of this crisis point we have reached. There is always the possibility of turning the tides in the favor of a more democratic momentum, but with so much secrecy and guile and outright deception coming from such high places, people are left confused, bewildered and fragmented. Where has the dignity and honor of integrity in high places gone? This year 2015 marks an important turning point. Among other things, what we can do to 'do something about it' is to come into a closer alignment with our own sense of authenticity, to get more fully in-tune with our nature. This is where Astrology can help as it reveals a natural psychology and is the source of the very notion human 'nature'. The solutions we seek in the world are most certainly linked to our deliberate determination to re-align with nature, that which is within and without.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Now that all is said and done with the festive season and turn of the New Year, you are inclined to enter the slow lane. Your ambitions remain high but there is time yet for the momentum to build. A social mood is lingering however and more intimate gatherings perhaps in the glow of candlelight will align with your current cycles.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) You have entered a cycle of deep change. The good news is that while the process will be sure it will also be quite slow, to the tune of a few years. It is destined to lead you step by step closer to manifesting a fuller measure of your sense of individuality. In the short term, social and cultural interests are drawing you out to participate.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) With this New Year comes the call to new commitments. They include inspirations to bring imagination to the expression of latent talents. You likely remain busy and both need and want to attend to a variety of fronts. This will likely be true well into late summer anyway. So, this is a time to sample and experiment with new possibilities.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) Contending with some pretty powerful energies and players is commanding your full attention. They are prompting new considerations. Education, training or some kind of apprenticeship is featured. You are determined to find a way out, or upward and onward and it is activating you to decipher the best strategy. Be receptive to external resources and opportunities.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) Designs and new strategies are a feature of tending to the details these days. A creative learning curve is implied and it will endure for quite a while. All being well you have laid claim to gifts and talents over the past few years that were waiting to be claimed for a long time. Now your task is to persevere with them. Meanwhile, the time is right to venture into new territory.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) There are times in life that call for more faith than others and this may be one of them. You are feeling the power yet it may seem like it is here one moment and gone the next. To deepen your sense of security, destiny requires that you face whatever fears are blocking you from laying claim to gifts, talents and powers that must be identified and claimed.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) You have entered a time in your life that requires new knowledge. Improving your social skills is featured. Fortunately, you are in the mood to do just that, at least at this time. Your health is an important consideration within it all. Whether it is simply to feel inspired and purposeful again or to move away from stressful roles, your focus is linked to feeling better in all respects.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) You are bound and determined to expand your position in the world and you need leverage. Knowledge is power and you want your share of both. Fortunately you are in an inventive and innovative cycle. Inspired to exercise your imagination there is probably no shortage of good ideas available. The biggest challenge is establishing a solid foundation. But you can and will.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) Generating new ideas and key contacts is featured as the year begins to build momentum. You are determined to take clear, deliberate steps. Yet, it may feel like you have to reach or dig down deep to even touch the ground. Consider that you are meant to stand firm on the deck of ship destined to set sail; solid underfoot yet within a realm of fluid motion.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) You have entered an interesting cycle. On one hand you feel the spirit of pioneering adventure beckoning. Yet on the other you feel called with to nurture new dreams. Much of what excited you and to which you felt committed no longer holds the same appeal. The time has come to look to others for inspiration anyway and perhaps guidance as well.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) The 4 to 6 weeks prior to your birthday is often an ideal time to coast and dream, perhaps travel and escape in preparation for a new cycle. At worst it can be a time of confusion. It is generally wise to at least rest and yet also to prepare for the new cycle set to begin. You have entered a time of returns and in as much as you have listed within rewards are coming...soon.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) A steady expansion of new horizons, networks and friendships are yours to enjoy. Yet, it is as much about business as it is about social opportunity. Many homes and dreams are brewing and while you are able to act on some of them, others remain on hold. Trust this flow and act on what is available. Allow for a varied approach to nurture confidence.

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

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



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left, Melynda Okulich helps wrap her husband Andrew Okulich in preparation for the Jan. 1 Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim; Bob McGinn has the right hat for the occasion; Dion Hackett and Cindy Clark return to shore after making the plunge in their fluorescent garb. "Bright" was the optional costume theme for the 2015 edition of the traditional event. For more photos, see the Driftwood's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood

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SOCCER

Old Boys open year with 'Frosty Balls'

Play resumes next weekend for all teams

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys toasted the inaugural Frosty Balls seven-a-side soccer tournament in Victoria with one win and a pair of losses over the weekend.

"It has to be noted that the opposition was younger, faster, fitter and possibly more skillful than the Magnificent Ten and, on reflection, Old Boys should have been playing in an older age group," said Fraser Hope, the team's official spokesperson and statistician.

Hope said the tournament's

rules threw Salt Spring's "well-oiled machine" into disarray and chaos. The team dropped its opening match 5-1 to Vic Scottish and followed up with a 9-1 thrashing by Juan de Fuca.

Despite the humiliating start to 2015, Hope said, players found reason for optimism.

"Several bright spots: it was not raining, we opened the beer garden and 'El Nino' returned from Spain to score in each fixture, ably supported and assisted by Dave 'DT' Toynbee and a 'Stella' performance in goal from Dennis Shaw, who kept the scoreline respectable," Hope said.

Fortified by beer garden refreshments and pizza, the Old Boys regained the field intent on upholding their honour

against the Nearly Dead from Gordon Head.

The Old Boys took a promising three-goal lead within the opening 15 minutes, only to watch the Nearly Dead claw back to within a goal.

"As readers of past reports will note, nothing is ever certain with the Old Boys," Hope said.

Stefan Cermak gave the Old Boys a two-goal advantage before the half, and Graham Tweddle secured the win with an unexpected long-range shot on goal in the second.

"Everyone in the Vancouver Island Soccer League, including his own team, thought he would pass," Hope said. "A well earned 5-3 win, with everyone running their 'frosty socks' off for the victory.

"The tournament provided a great opportunity for the Old Boys to sharpen their responses, fine tune tactics and, of course, lose a few of the pounds (kilograms for some of us) gained over the festive season."

The Old Boys return to regular season play in a rematch against Gordon Head at Lochside Park on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

Salt Spring FC (1-4-5) resumes Vancouver Island Soccer League play with an away game against Gorge United FC (4-6-3) on Saturday, Jan. 17. In Lower Island Women's Soccer Association action, top-ranked Salt Spring United travels to play Bays United FC on Sunday, Jan. 18.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Greatness thrust upon Twelfth Night pairs

Others assumed to swear and smile at grief

BY JILL EVANS
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Bearing gifts, the bridge players traversed afar to the Christmas party on Dec. 22, and there were four kings involved, not just three — plus queens, knaves, commoners, and elves wearing Santa hats.

No gold, frankincense or myrrh, but there were bottles of wine, cordial, chocolates, books, baked goods, fruits — all sorts of goodies — and everybody won, with a draw taking place throughout the evening between hands. As far as the game's winners were concerned, it was Pat Sutherland and John Wellingham who came out on top, ahead of George and Flo Laundry.

BRIDGETRICKS

Third place went to Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette, with brother and sister Don and Jean Elder coming fourth among the four and a half tables.

The Christmas festivities being over, there were five full tables on Dec. 29, looking forward to the coming New Year celebrations. It was George Laundry and the returned-from-Kauai Paul Retallack who triumphed, with Doug and Jillian Reid in second place, enjoying a rest from Monday evening Scottish country dancing for a change. Liz and Oleh Mycyk came third, with Flo Laundry and Lynn Thorburn in the fourth spot. So here's a cup o' kindness yet...

The festivities being over on Twelfth

Night (Jan. 5), as Viola said, we will draw the curtain and show you the picture. There were four and a half tables despite the foggy weather. The two pairs who achieved greatness shared first place and a high score, with a husband and wife in opposition but matching each other, namely Flo Laundry with Lynn Thorburn in a tie with the George Laundry-Paul Retallack team.

Greatness was also thrust upon Jeff Bell and Ron Hall who were a close second. The Hewett-Morrisette pair made it to third place, with Blanche Poborsa and Pat Brown coming fourth. Fortunately none of the winners said, "Go, hang yourself, all! You are idle shallow things: I am not of your element" to the rest of the players as Malvolio did, but more likely some left Seniors muttering, "Nay, let me alone for swearing" and others were smiling at grief.