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GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 2

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Salt Spring flicks the solar switch

High school solar array offers glimpse into the future

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Nearly 150 people gathered at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Saturday afternoon to celebrate the transformation of a bright idea into the province's seventh-largest solar array.

"This initiative truly has been a partnership and the school district looks forward not only to the incredible educational opportunities for scholarships but to the use of the array as a renewable energy teaching tool," said schools superintendent Lisa Halstead. "Our students are our future and this project will make an ongoing difference, inspiring us to be the change we want to see and creating a low-carbon future."

In less than a year, what has become the largest school-based photovoltaic system in B.C. went from an idea presented at a monthly school district meeting to a community-wide effort that stands to change the way islanders look at energy.

"Our community here gets an A double plus for just creating one of the most unique educational and community-based renewable energy projects in the country," said David Denning, a spokesperson for the Salt Spring Community Energy Group. "This project represents our values," he added.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

David Denning, wearing the signature GISS solar scholarship project hat, addresses the crowd at Saturday's "Flick the Switch" celebration.

SOLAR continued on 2

ST. MARY LAKE

Ratepayers roll out plant info session

Event organizers want to explore options for new treatment plant

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of island ratepayers worried over costs of a water treatment plant proposed for St. Mary Lake is hosting an informal town hall meeting at the end of January.

Event organizers want people from all sides

of the debate to attend, discuss and learn more about the infrastructure project the North Salt Spring Waterworks District has sought \$10.4 million in borrowing authority to complete.

"There's a lot of people who just can't afford it. This type of tax increase will be hard for many people to take," said Bill Coté, an organizer of the event. "They're trying to buy a Rolls Royce when a Chevy will do."

The January meeting is not affiliated with the NSSWD, the local government body behind

the project. The NSSWD intends to hold a spring referendum to borrow money for the new treatment plant.

The board awaits a "detailed design plan" from consulting engineers at Kerr Wood Leidal. Information about the plant and specific borrowing costs for the public will be made available to the public after the report is finished in February, according to NSSWD board members.

NSSWD continued on 2

INDUSTRY

Metal recycler finds new home

Ganges hill property under development

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island entrepreneur John Quesnel will soon be back in the business of running a metal recycling facility after operating without a permanent home for the past six months.

Purchase of an industrially zoned property at 251 Fulford-Ganges Rd. will give Salt Spring Metal Recycling a new base as soon as improvements are completed.

"It's kind of like a fairy tale, the way it's all worked out," Quesnel said Tuesday morning.

"I'm so excited — it's dreamy. I'm happy to have the opportunity to stay in the community and work with the people of Salt Spring."

Quesnel closed the doors at his original Rainbow Road location at the end of July, after fighting with neighbouring residents and Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee for nearly 10 years to make the operation legal, either through a temporary use permit or rezoning. Though commercial users' bins have remained in use, regular islanders have had to look for other options for disposing of scrap metal and appliances.

METAL continued on 5

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NSSWD says more details will come

NSSWD

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"We will provide our ratepayers with more information," said Marsh Heinekey, chair of the NSSWD.

The board has set March 12 as a tentative date for their own public information meeting about the project.

NSSWD ratepayers defeated the board's borrowing bylaw in an August referendum that requested up to \$10.4 million to build the plant.

Island Health has asked the NSSWD to upgrade the Tripp Road water treatment plant to comply with provincial legislation.

Coté concedes a new treatment facility is required, but he wonders if what's being proposed exceeds islanders' needs. The January meeting will include a presentation from engineers at Stantec about possible alternatives to the current design.

"People can bring any and all questions; it's an open forum," Coté said. "The objective is only to leave informed."

The meeting of independent ratepayers will be held at the Harbour House Hotel between 7 and 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29.

Heinekey said board members do not plan to attend that meeting.

Information about the NSSWD's treatment plant project is available from the NSSWD administrative office at 761 Upper Ganges Rd. or online at northsaltspringwaterworks.ca.

Solar panels provide 3% of GISS energy



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Inside workings of GISS solar energy system.

SOLAR

continued from 1

"What we need is to change the culture and the only way to do that is through education, education that reaches all of us in the community and all of our students."

The Community Energy Group generated momentum

among local organizations, students, business owners and other island residents to raise \$106,000 for the 84-panel solar array in fewer than nine months.

Nearly 60 per cent of the funding came from individual donations. Contributions from Bullfrog Power, the Gulf Islands School District, the Salt Spring Foundation and in-kind ser-

VICES from island-based building professionals contributed much of the remaining 40 per cent.

"I think it's very much in the Canadian grassroots tradition of 'can do, will do, so let's do it,'" Community Energy Group member Simon Wheeler told the crowd. "It was a team effort and we are all proud to achieve that together."

Wheeler named fellow group member Kjell Liem the project's solar scholarship champion on behalf of everyone involved for his devotion to the project.

Liem told participants the GISS project represents only the beginning of what can and must be done on the island. Given that panels on the GISS gymnasium will provide only three per cent of the school's annual energy requirements, Liem said, there's much more work ahead.

The reality of solar, he added, requires going all in to reap big rewards.

Saturday's event featured site tours and two hours of songs, dancing and speeches from MLA Gary Holman, MP Elizabeth May and others. Musical inspiration was on tap from eco-diva and event emcee Nomi Lynnns, Bill Henderson and school district students.

Even on a dreary January

afternoon, the GISS panels were drawing a small but steady current of power into the school. On a sunny day, the 21-kilowatt system produces enough power to light up the gym.

Energy costs saved by the school district will be converted into "solar scholarships." The annual awards provide \$2,000 to GISS grads who pursue post-secondary education in renewable energy or a related field.

Since approximately 95 per cent of the electricity used in British Columbia is obtained from renewable hydro or wind power, climate change crusader Guy Dauncey observed the GISS solar project won't have a direct effect on GHG emissions and climate change.

It does, however, outline how people can mobilize to change their energy future.

"It is a powerful symbolic initiative," said the founder of the B.C. Sustainable Energy Association. "Our vision has to be so much bigger. As people have said, this is a small part of the solution."

An online monitoring system at tinyurl.com/qaouxa2 has been set up to show visitors how much energy the panels produce.

For more information about the project, visit saltspringcommunityenergy.com.

ISLANDS TRUST

St. Mary septic rules protected

Trustees refuse to ease setback restrictions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members stood firmly against easing restrictions on sewage systems around St. Mary Lake at their inaugural meeting on Thursday.

"I'm not prepared to endorse this [application] in any measure at all, no relaxation; and that doesn't just apply to this," said trustee George Grams. "Any septic relaxation until we know the effect of septic on Salt Spring is not something I'm going to support."

The application belonged to a Tripp Road property owner who seeks a permit for an existing septic system built within 54 metres of the lakeshore. Development Area Permit 4, which covers sensitive lake, stream and wetland areas, requires a permit for any such developments within 61 metres of the shoreline.

Construction of the septic system began in 2001, but owners did not obtain the permit from the Islands Trust. The system has never been used, but the current prop-

erty owners want to bring the site into compliance because of plans to build a home there.

The LTC's rejection of the application comes in spite of a staff recommendation to approve the file. According to staff, Island Health approved the system in 2002. A geoscientist hired by the property owner also called the system's seven-metre encroachment into the DPA "negligible."

Grams said he considers the application's approval inappropriate given the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority's ongoing research to identify effects of septic tanks on the lake's water quality. A SSI-WPA subcommittee is currently studying the impacts of lakeside septic fields.

"We know it's a lake in distress, and we expect that septic systems are having a deleterious effect; it would be extremely irresponsible to recommend any relaxations until we have the conclusion of that technical advisory committee study," Grams said.

"We should have some determination this summer so it doesn't need to be delayed that long," he added. "In around six months I suspect we will be in a better position to understand the implications."

Trustee Peter Grove said

he "wholeheartedly" agrees with Grams' perspective.

The LTC unanimously rejected the application.


The property owner did not attend Thursday's LTC meeting.

One letter of opposition from the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society was submitted to the Trust, and two people spoke against the application during the meeting's town hall session.

Opponents said the application highlights the Trust's failure to resolve the matter in the 14 years since construction on the sewage system began.

"The current situation is another in an unfortunate long list of examples where Islands Trust has not enforced its own bylaws," wrote Maxine Leichter, president of the Water Preservation Society. "Although certainly the owner in 2001 was at fault, it seems the Islands Trust has been even more at fault for not protecting the lake and the hundreds of people who drink its water."

Leichter's group wants the Trust to ensure adequate staffing is available to assess, monitor and evaluate development permit requests and ensure landowners who violate local bylaws are treated appropriately.



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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,
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North Salt Spring Waterworks District
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NEWSBEAT

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GISS gymnasium

CONSERVATION

Galiano Conservancy project tied up in TLC debacle

Creditor plan now in process

ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A legacy donated to the Galiano Conservancy has been ensnared in the tangle of financial mismanagement that has rocked one of B.C.'s largest conservation organizations, The Land Conservancy of B.C.

Siblings Jake and Anya Adams have been trying to determine how their mother Chrystal Kleiman's bequest of \$707,000, which they had bookmarked toward the Galiano Conservancy's \$4-million learning centre project, disappeared without a trace. Kleiman's will left the money to TLC but specified that it was to protect a property with certain qualities, including water access and a unique ecosystem. An avid kayaker who paddled everywhere from the Inside Passage to the Arctic Circle, Kleiman also wanted to protect a place where kayakers could look up and see a forest instead of houses.

The Galiano Conservancy Association project, which includes a two-kilometre stretch of untouched waterfront along a 188-acre parcel of Douglas fir and arbutus habitat, seemed like the perfect choice — only TLC never transferred the funds. Amid a rising storm of financial difficulties and unpaid debt, the only part of the bequest a former board accounted for was a \$106,050 administration fee.

"When we first spoke to TLC over a year ago, they said the money was 'misspent' — so that was quite distressing to hear," said Jake Adams, a sports editor with the Vancouver Province. "They still don't know where it went."

Once aware of the problem, TLC's later directors issued a promissory note for the remaining \$600,000 and made several payments amounting to \$134,000. The payments ended in October 2013 when TLC entered creditor protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act. Documents filed with the B.C. Supreme

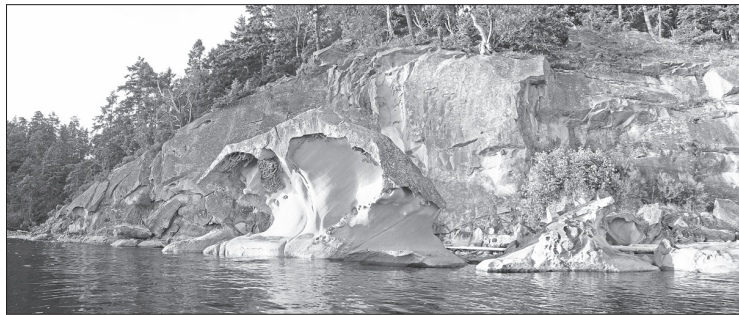


PHOTO COURTESY GALIANO CONSERVANCY

This stretch of waterfront will be part of the Galiano Learning Centre property and is protected through a bequest made by the late Chrystal Kleiman.

Court application state TLC owes some \$7.5 million to more than 200 secured and unsecured creditors.

"It's a big mess over there in TLC. I feel for the people who are currently involved — it wasn't a mess of their making, and they're trying to make the best of it," Adams said.

Salt Spring environmentalist Briony Penn was elected as the board's new chair in 2014. She's now at the forefront of the effort to forge an agreement that will satisfy all TLC's creditors and protect sensitive lands at the same time.

TLC presented a draft restructuring plan to its creditors on Jan. 7 with provisions for debt forgiveness, property transfer, government contributions and property sales to groups willing to uphold covenants among the proposals.

"It's really complicated but I think that we are getting close to a resolution to cleaning up the mess," Penn said. "We're confident we're going to pay off every property 100 per cent and confident we're going to save every property."

As part of the process, the organization has laid off most of its paid staff, shut down its campsite operation at Sooke Potholes and start-

ed selling properties like West Vancouver's Binning House (itself the subject of court action). Part of the difficulty has been applying law written to protect banks and private companies to a non-profit organization.

"The judge has never seen anything like this, and she's tried to walk, I'd say, a very prudent judicious path," Penn said.

Penn said the other difficulty is determining how each and every donation was meant to be applied — whether to a specific cause, like Kleiman's bequest, or for the general work of the organization, which would allow selling properties or using cash bequests towards debts.

"The only good thing coming out of this is there's going to be a lot of clarity in the future for any land trust dealing with insolvency," Penn said.

The importance of maintaining public trust in conservation groups is something the board is very aware of, she added.

TLC still owes the Galiano Conservancy Association around \$465,000, which would cover about half of what the association still owes on the property purchase. Under the

restructuring arrangement, secured creditors like banks get paid off first and then unsecured creditors like the Galiano Conservancy are dealt with. The plan must be ratified by the Supreme Court and then accepted by a binding vote of the creditors before being put into action.

"Our issue is of course we have a debt to cover. Our financial obligation is we have to make monthly payments," said GCA director Ken Millard.

"It becomes difficult, but we're committed to the project and we're committed to honouring the legacy of Chrystal Kleiman."

Millard attended the Jan. 7 meeting and is hopeful the restructuring process will be successful. And though lacking the full funds to complete the project as yet, the land destined for the education centre is not at risk, as conditions registered on title with the Nature Conservancy of Canada mean it can't be sold.

Despite the recent financial troubles, Kleiman had put considerable research into where her bequest was going when she was preparing her will in 2006. Her adult children also believe in the ideals that TLC was founded on and what they're still trying to achieve, which means waiting out a frustrating process.

"To take legal action would be counter-productive to our mother's legacy. And that's not something we have any interest in doing," Adams said, observing that suing TLC and its former board for mismanagement would only take up funds that should be going toward land protection.

"It would be fantastic if the money could go to that project, because it is such an amazing project that they have there, having somewhere for children to go and learn in nature — and the protection of species, especially marine and avian species that are really unique to the Gulf Islands. It really is an amazing project and we're happy our mom could be part of it," Adams said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Skeena outage causes mayhem

Drivers travelling between Vancouver Island and Salt Spring on Friday had no choice but to go through Crofton as a generator

problem aboard the Skeena Queen severed the main link to Victoria.

Service was disrupted for the entire day while BC Ferries worked on the problem. A foot passenger vessel was put on the route but the Skeena's regular replacement vessel, the Bowen Queen, was already in use on the Bowen

Island-Horseshoe Bay route.

While the ferry company initially estimated the Skeena would be back in service by Saturday evening, it resumed its regular schedule earlier than anticipated with a 7 a.m. departure from Swartz Bay.

The schedule was maintained for the rest of the day.

Boardwalk updated

Asking for community input on the Ganges Boardwalk is among next steps planned to help complete the long-dormant project.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee last week

endorsed a "project charter" after making some amendments to the document at the Jan. 8 LTC meeting. Facilitating public workshops and creating communications materials is among activities envisioned from the \$12,000 budget allotment. The charter also notes that the design phase would be a joint LTC

and Capital Regional District effort, and any construction falls under the CRD umbrella.

One of the purposes of the document is to "extract what the Local Trust Committee can do," explained Trust planner Kristin Aasen.

The charter is available through the Islands Trust office or online.

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FEDERAL POLITICS

Greens envision massive gains in October election

Party members on alert for voter fraud

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Canada's political landscape stands to become much greener on the other side of this year's federal election, according to Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May.

The Green Party of Canada leader told a Saturday evening potluck gathering at Lions Hall she believes as many as 15 Green MPs will be elected

across the country come election day.

"We're running hard to win," she told the crowd. "Vancouver Island is not a place where we're going to see Conservatives getting elected.

"It's going to be very good; things are shifting."

May said very early polling numbers suggest Greens could be elected on Vancouver Island, in the Lower Mainland and several ridings outside of the province.

May is especially optimistic about the chances of freshly

nominated Green party candidate Lynne Quarmby, who will run in the new Burnaby North-Seymour riding.

The SFU professor made headlines late last year when RCMP arrested her at Burnaby Mountain during protests over Kinder Morgan Canada's proposed twinning of the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Quarmby chose to run as a Green candidate after watching the precipitous decline in scientific research and legislative protection under the current federal government.

"Harper Conservatives have eviscerated environmental science in this country," she told the audience.

Rising partnerships between researchers and the private sector, she added, mean much of the science undertaken is done at the whim and under the watch of corporate interests.

Unlike May's non-partisan town hall meeting later that evening, potluck rhetoric took aim at the Conservative party's continued failure to address climate change and lamented

the inability for opposition parties like the Liberals and NDP to work more cooperatively.

May challenged the common criticism that Greens split the vote and facilitate victories for Conservative candidates in tightly contested ridings.

"There's no evidence that Greens help the Conservatives," she said. "Splitting the vote is not our problem in Canada. Our problem isn't splitting the vote, our problem is abandoning the vote."

Rather than worry about

vote splitting, she said, Canadians of all political affiliations need to make sure the 2015 election is open, fair and transparent.

May said the number of unresolved questions around controversies like the 2007 and 2011 robocall election scandals offer no reassurance that similar actions may not recur in 2015.

"We need to be vigilant about fraud and need to do as much as possible to help people so that no Canadian is deprived of their right to vote."

GRACE ISLET

Grace Islet spurs declaration from academic watchers

Better burial site protection called for

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A panel of academic experts wants the federal government to do more to protect sacred First Nations sites across the country.

Events like the ongoing dispute over construction of a home on a burial islet in Ganges Harbour

prompted the group to pen a declaration outlining the provincial and federal government's legal and ethical obligations towards First Nations sites of cultural and spiritual significance.

"The bottom line is that we need heritage protection legislation that is more effective and more equitable," wrote George Nicholas, a Simon Fraser University archaeology professor and director of the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage research team.

Nicholas said IPinCH took notice of the Grace Islet debate in early 2014. When it became apparent a solution wasn't forthcoming, members chose to take a stand. The declaration was formally signed in December.

The 28 signatories include archaeologists, lawyers, anthropologists, ethnobiologists, ethicists, indigenous community members, students, educators, writers, human rights specialists and scholars of cultural heritage from universities from around the globe.

The document asks governments of all levels, First Nations leaders, public and private individuals and society at large to "act immediately" in defence of First Nations heritage sites threatened by development projects.

"Human remains, regardless of origin, should receive equal treatment under law," the declaration states.

"The heritage-based rights of First Nations communities in British Columbia have for too long gone

unrecognized, been neglected, violated, or ignored."

Nicholas said the statement has been received by the provincial government, and IPinCH members plan to meet with the Archaeology Branch to discuss concerns.

"Situations such as those at Grace Islet . . . where First Nations groups are concerned about local burial grounds being impacted by impending development will only become more commonplace," he said.

COURT

Long-awaited trial delayed again

Injury hinders lawyer

The trial has been rescheduled for March 5 in Ganges Provincial Court.

close by the time he arrived. "I just made a bad mistake," he said.

The trial of a Salt Spring man accused of assault and uttering threats has been postponed because of a mishap that's left defence lawyer John Davies with a broken wrist.

Davies told the court he was injured during a fall on Saturday, two days before his client was set for trial in Ganges Provincial Court.

The incident has left him unable to use his right hand for at least six weeks. The recovery period could take as long as three months, he added.

"It wouldn't be in the best interest of my client [to continue today]," Davies told the court Monday morning.

The trial has already been postponed several times, most recently in November, when Davies requested a last-minute adjournment due to the death of his spouse and the emergence of new evidence.

Monday was the sixth court appearance for Davies and his client, Paul Thomas, who is alleged to have assaulted and threatened then-fellow resident Paul Beckman of the Murakami Gardens housing complex on Rainbow Road in the summer of 2013.

Squealing tires arouse suspicion

A Salt Spring man stopped by police after he was spotted squealing the tires of his Toyota truck while he swerved into the parking lot of an island liquor store faces a nine-month driving prohibition and \$250 fine.

Gabriel Bonga, 50, is reported to have been cooperative and polite when detained by police after he failed a roadside screening device test. Though Bonga produced two blood-alcohol readings of .150, Judge Cutler said his apparent efforts to avoid alcohol and better himself since the December incident warrant a lesser charge under the provincial Motor Vehicle Act.

Bonga has been actively involved with his church group and will travel to Central America as part of a church-funded international development project in March.

He will not receive any criminal record as a result of the incident.

Bonga said he'd prefer to have walked to the liquor store but feared it would

Work blamed for prohibited driving

A Salt Spring Island man had his driving privileges revoked for three months after pleading guilty to driving without a licence under the provincial Motor Vehicle Act.

Rodney Bischoff was pulled over on his motorcycle along Lower Ganges Road in August of 2014 when officers discovered he was not permitted to drive due to a prior 90-day driving ban.

Court heard that Bischoff chose to get on his motorcycle when his ride to work failed to show up.

"A ride fell through and Mr. Bischoff was concerned about losing his employment," said defence counsel Tybring Hemphill.

Judge Roger Cutler agreed to a joint submission presented by defence and Crown counsels requesting a \$200 fine and a three-month driving suspension.

"I appreciate you had little choice, but you made the wrong decision," he said. "You're basically starting from scratch, so hopefully the three months will go fast."

BC Assessment

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- Don't forget...if you disagree with your assessment, you must file a Notice of Complaint (appeal) by February 2, 2015

WILDLIFE

Orca lineage mystifies

Population at risk

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A baby orca known as J50 appears to be thriving so far despite a mystery about who her mother is, with sightings as recent as Monday reported throughout the Salish Sea.

Ken Balcomb and Dave Ellifrit from the Center for Whale Research, a non-profit organization based on San Juan Island, were the first to spot the new baby during an encounter off Pender Island on Dec. 30. The calf was estimated to be four to 10 days old at the time. They confirmed she was a girl when they observed her underbelly markings during a subsequent sighting on Jan. 7.

"We still do not know which whale, J16 or J36, is the mother of little J50, but we will analyze photographs and behaviours noted today and in the future to determine the exact status in addition to the now confirmed female sex of the new baby," stated Balcomb's Jan. 7 update.

Although initial media reports attributed the baby to J16, a 43-year-old matriarch with an established line, researchers have since warned that this might not be the case, since the orca's age is

beyond that which for scientists have observed breeding.

"Sometimes it takes a few encounters and some time to sort these things out because these whales are very caring for one another, and baby-sitting is not unusual, especially with grandmothers," information from the centre explains.

"The presumed maternities in our catalogue now spanning 40 years of precise photo-identification have all been verified by genetic studies, so we have to be careful and not leap to conclusions about exact relationships from only two sightings of this baby."

Baby orcas nurse for one year and cannot survive without milk, meaning that its mother must be close at hand. A spokesperson from the centre confirmed that both J16 and her 16-year-old daughter J36 have been seen with the new baby, with additional sightings reported on Saturday and Monday.

Balcomb and his associates at the Centre for Whale Research are collaborating with fellow scientists at Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans to gain the necessary facts to solve the mystery.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Christmas boost aids food bank

Cold weather shelter still needs support

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community fundraising drives for Salt Spring's Food Bank that took place over the Christmas holidays have helped fill the pot for the coming year, but lack of shelter funding may leave some islanders out in the cold.

Salt Spring Island Community Services reports that community donations secured 90 per cent of a \$60,000 food bank funding target. Although Christmas is the busiest time of the year for donations, the organization is confident the remaining portion necessary to help support island families in need will come in before the fiscal year ends in March.

"A combination of the scores of generous donations, operational efficiencies and other



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

In From the Cold shelter still needs \$12,000 to remain open every night for the rest of the winter.

food security programs that are having a positive impact have resulted in bringing us within reach of funding 100 per cent of the required budget to run the food bank this year," said SSICS executive director Rob Grant.

"We hope more people will choose to make a regular monthly donation to help bridge the gap."

Another SSICS program serving islanders in need could use more support. In From the Cold

supplies a hot meal and a place to sleep every night during the winter months and is regularly filled to capacity at 20 places. The program is funded by BC Housing during extreme weather conditions, which accounts for around two thirds of the nights it's open.

SSICS is committed to keeping the shelter open every night regardless of BC Housing restrictions. Donations and pledges received so far have cov-

ered approximately half of what's required to fund the remaining nights. Another \$12,000 still needs to be found.

Grant suggests a good option for those wishing to donate is to get registered in the SSICS payment plan.

"With the monthly donation program, people can contribute to the need in the community in a significant way without needing to come up with a large lump sum," he said. "If only 20 people pledged \$50 per month then we can ensure emergency food and shelter is available every night this winter."

A donation of \$65 each month provides one night of shelter and meals for 20 men and women, Grant added.

Those who wish to contribute can find out more information by contacting Community Services at 250-537-9971 or connect@ssics.ca or by visiting the website at <http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca>.

FIRE DISTRICT

Public session added to fire service probe

Jan. 21 last chance for input

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District has extended the deadline for its Fire Service Review report in order to give the public one last chance

to contribute to the process. The Walker Resource Group will offer a final public engagement session at the library program room on Wednesday, Jan. 21 starting at 6:30 p.m. WRG's report, which was scheduled to be presented at the board of trustees' Jan. 19 meeting, will

therefore be pushed to February.

"We have been told that there is interest in having one more session for interested individuals to meet with the consultants," said board chair Dan Lee.

"We feel strongly that the

report cannot be finished until everyone who wanted a chance to speak to our consultants has had that opportunity."

For more information, contact the fire district at 250-537-2531 or visit the website at www.saltspringfire.com.

Uses reviewed with Trust

METAL
continued from 1

Having a permanent home at last is a huge relief to himself and his entire family, Quesnel said.

"It's been long and trying and all my kids know it's been a long, drawn-out thing that daddy's been involved with. The whole thing's had an effect on my kids."

Although he had searched for an alternative property to purchase, Quesnel was restricted by limited industrial zoning on the island. Recently, however, he looked again at his map and noticed a property he'd rejected as a possibility years ago, because at that time it housed the BC Ambulance Service.

"I just wrote it off as unviable, because I didn't think the ambulances would ever leave," he said.

Quesnel conceded the property wasn't his first choice, since he believed Rainbow Road's "out of sight, out of mind" situation was more appropriate. But he was able to come to good terms with the pre-

vious owners, signing a purchase agreement on Christmas Eve and seeing the conditions removed on New Year's Eve.

Traffic may be busier on Fulford-Ganges, but he observed the situation is no different than any other commercial property located on a main road.

Quesnel officially took possession on Friday and is now doing the work necessary to open the business, which includes fencing the property. An outbuilding is also being repurposed with the proper permitting from the Capital Regional District.

"I'm keeping in touch with all the powers that be. I want to make sure all the rules are followed," he said. "I really want to put my best foot forward and do this the best I can."

Quesnel said the depot's recycling activities will take place indoors as per the permitted uses in the property's Industrial-1 zoning, which he reviewed with Islands Trust staff last week.

A precise opening date for the new location has not been set.

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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....

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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

Keep up the energy

Many on Salt Spring will be looking at rooftops with renewed interest this week.

They'll be looking for adequate southern exposure, a clear view of the sun and a roof pitch of between 20 and 40 degrees.

These are some of the prerequisites that made the Gulf Islands Secondary School an ideal candidate for a pioneering solar-power project. The 84 solar panels installed at the school in 2014 eclipsed any other alternative energy project on the island and put Salt Spring on the province's ever-expanding solar map.

Insomuch as Saturday's Flick the Switch event symbolized the culmination of an incredible effort undertaken by dozens of volunteers, individual fundraisers and cooperation from the Gulf Islands School District, the solar project offers hope for the Community Energy Group's further success.

THE ISSUE:

Alternative energy

WE SAY:

Solar project shines

For improvement and, fortunately, much roof space left to play with.

On the way home from the project's official launch, participants may have spotted the vacant real estate on top of the Rainbow Road Pool, ArtSpring, the Salt Spring Library or any number of private houses and workplaces in the Ganges area.

Support of similar efforts between organizations on the island stands to benefit participants in more ways than lower energy bills. As more than one speaker pointed out, producing energy on island can boost the local economy. Long after the installations are complete, energy savings get spent in the community rather than going to off-island power suppliers. More local power production can also teach us about where our energy comes from and promote energy conservation initiatives.

With the high school project already up and running, we can only hope it won't take long for the enthusiasm to spark another creative and fruitful partnership. The solar project brought islanders together under a united cause and achieved impressive results in a surprisingly short time; that's the kind of energy the island needs to promote.



VIEWPOINT by George Grams

More watershed work envisioned

The year 2015 for Salt Spring begins with renewal of more than simply the Gregorian calendar. A new term in office begins for our three locally elected officials, Wayne McIntyre, Peter Grove and myself, who have a renewed mandate from islander voters.

Those mandates empower our politicians to pursue initiatives and projects that formed part of the election campaign on which they were returned to office. Some of those projects, such as the work of SSIWPA, are critical to our ability as a community to safeguard the natural environment which furnishes us with much of the essential resources to sustain life and lifestyle, and to ensure that in planning our community we do not overstretch those resources to the point that they might become irreparably degraded.

With some wisdom the ancient Greeks identified four elements: air, earth, fire and water. Our contemporary definition of science numbers the known elements at 118, but the four classical elements are certainly at the apex of those materials crucial to sustaining life. The health of those materials is also very much interdependent. Pollute the air and the fallout will contaminate the soil. Pollute the soil and the contaminants will pollute our food and our water supplies. The chain that connects these vital resources is complex.

Understanding water quality relationships takes desk studies and field work, both of which are currently underway for St. Mary Lake. The preliminary results will form the foundation of an integrated watershed planning process beginning March 2, 2015. By late summer we hope to have a watershed management plan that incorporates the final fieldwork results, which will allow us to begin to construct policy designed to protect our source water and our

watersheds, and to implement actions in that regard.

In October of last year, SSIWPA added a water quantity review to its agenda. Our community is cognizant that our source water lakes and our aquifers are finite and that if we place demands on them that exceed their capacity to renewably supply, the results will be deleterious. Assessment of the quantity of raw potable water resources is essential to planning our community in a manner that ensures we live within our environmental means.

SSIWPA was successful in raising over \$159,000 in grants and in-kind contributions last year and that money was used to fully fund the technical studies that are currently under way. We are optimistic that our future fundraising efforts will be equally successful, which will allow us to minimize the financial demands we place on the community in order to continue our essential work.

As it did last year, in 2015 SSIWPA proposes to raise the necessary funds to manage our watersheds through a property tax requisition. The total amount of the tax requisition SSIWPA is suggesting is \$119,000, which will mean approximately \$15 per property parcel. SSIWPA will shortly be seeking input from islanders to assess the degree of support both for SSIWPA's work and for its budgetary proposals. It is important to SSIWPA to hear those views, which will be considered by the Islands Trust Council when it rules on whether the tax requisition should be permitted.

As chair of SSIWPA, I wish to voice my thanks and appreciation to those many individuals and community organizations that have taken the time and trouble to publicly and privately express their support for our work.

The writer is a Salt Spring trustee and SSIWPA's chair.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you feeling optimistic about 2015?

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

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you satisfied with your property assessment?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It's kind of like a fairytale, the way it all worked out."

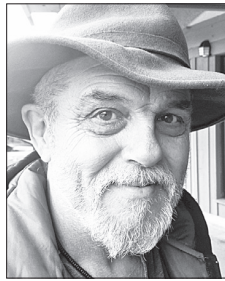
JOHN QUESNEL, SS METAL RECYCLING, ON FINDING NEW BUSINESS HOME

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
How have you avoided the flu?



WENDYL ARNOLD
A good immune system.



JOHN SKINNER
Rest, not overdoing things, keeping it simple and taking things as they come.



JODI FRASER
I've been taking Vitamin C and washing my hands after being in public.



GORD ELLIS
I avoided it by getting it over with in early December.



CURTIS RAMSAY
I work at home and avoid crowds.

Letters to the editor

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

Care, respect demonstrated

Last week's letter to the editor entitled "The ultimate irony" suggests that the construction of a kiosk on the new Island Pathways path is similar to the building of the house on Grace Islet, since both are on archaeologically sensitive areas. However, there are significant differences for readers to understand.

First, local archaeologists and First Nations representatives recently examined the site where the kiosk will be built, and determined that no human remains are present at that location. Grace Islet, on

the other hand, is a known Coast Salish burial islet or cemetery, with at least 17 documented cairns, and has been registered as a provincial heritage site since 1974.

Further, Partners Creating Pathways is committed to following strict protocols and having an archaeologist on site to monitor work done in areas deemed sensitive. At the kiosk site the archaeologist and First Nations researchers found there was no need for further monitoring during construction, but if their recommendation had called for more monitoring it would have been carried out. This is in stark contrast to the situa-

tion at Grace Islet, where the site was bulldozed in 2012 in direct contravention to the permit received from the Archaeology Branch. Other permit violations have since occurred on the islet, including unauthorized modifications to the site plan and location of foundations, with the result that two cairns are now under thick cement walls and the largest cairn is enclosed in the basement area, making the grave-site inaccessible to the First Nations descendants of those buried there.

Finally, the level of communications with First Nations people in these two developments is quite

different. Partners Creating Pathways is openly discussing issues and working with First Nations and others, and the information panels on the kiosk will help to preserve and highlight the pre-colonial history of this area. Conversely, the owner and contractor on Grace Islet have not adequately consulted with First Nations people or demonstrated via their actions that they honour First Nations ancestors and history.

Certainly in a region with thousands of years of settlement, there will be numerous areas with varying degrees of archaeological sensitivity, and any development in these

sites needs to be done with utmost care and respect. I commend Partners Creating Pathways for showing that care and respect; unfortunately that has not been the case on Grace Islet.

JEAN WILKINSON,
SALT SPRING

Virtually real assessments?

I dare say energy expended in one arena to contain island taxes is quickly cancelled out if a simple non-objective assessment is thrown at property owners like a roll of the dice to determine your mill rate of taxation.

I would like BC Assess-

ment to verify it is not cutting costs by simply taking a virtual, Google street view tour of neighbourhoods. Certainly that is what it feels like without any verified indication that someone actually assessed the current state of individual property valuations. Clearly some of the pictures of properties shown on the bcassessment.ca website show only such street views, not the homes, so how accurate can such "drive-by assessments" really be?

Appealing on principle.
PAUL MARCANO,
VESUVIUS

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Don't abandon ship of certainty for green grass

BY ROSS KING

In last week's Driftwood, Jan Slakov exhorts us about "Seeing the bigger picture." Her letter reflects and adds to Greg Spendjian's "Forward not backward" letter in the Dec. 3 Driftwood, which responded to mine of the previous week. A rebuttal to both is necessary.

Greg Spendjian, and he is an honourable man, passionately delivers me a lecture in etherial economics, but not before dismissing me, off the top, as a "name caller," thereby intentionally deflecting the readers' focus from my real, substantive issues, which I adduced in my initial letter (which was about anti-pipeline protestors and "not rocking the economic boat").

Good try! But where, dear reader, does Spendjian address my arguments specifically and in detail? Nowhere! Where does he map in detail his way forward — how we get from "here" to Spendjian's nirvana over yonder. Nowhere! In like vein, Slakov claims airily, "... we are clearly headed for disaster," in best scare-mongering style, without any suggestions on how to avoid it, apart from envisioning a "bigger picture." This is pure rhetoric.

What Spendjian and Slakov present are "kumbaya" pretty pictures of an undefined, over-the-horizon, minimalist utopia. They ignore the "real-politik" and realities of today's world, largely dictated by the exigencies of conflicts and the constraints of trade agreements, economics, money-flows and

diplomacy. None of their vagaries and generalities has any practical, realistic, socio-economic or political application. It's all rhetoric and wishful Hobbit-think, circumscribed parochially and myopically by the boundaries of the Shire (the Salish Sea).

Man-made conduits — pipelines, railways, airplanes and roads, etc. — all deliver good, useful things. Directly so, as in food, water, fuels, utilities, electricity, distributed goods. (Try making do without these, dear reader.) And indirectly so, as in exporting goods and raw materials to overseas markets, thereby supporting and maintaining our economy and its ability to pay not only for imports but for the sophisticated social welfare state we all enjoy: pensions, schooling, health care, EI, law and order, national defence, aboriginal transfer payments. These, and all the other progressive, stability promoting, "commonwealth" things we have striven to attain for ourselves more-or-less successfully in an iterative, checks-and-balances, "work-in-progress" way over the last 300 or so years of societal and economic advance. (Yes — advance! Just look at birth fatalities and life expectancy for starters.) Don't kill the goose that lays the golden egg!

And if B.C. panders to the pipeline protestors, the Spendjians, Slakovs, Elizabeth Mays, etc., and opts out by closing export conduits, the province will become an eco-

INRESPONSE

economic basket-case which the rest of Canada (RoC) will be loath to prop up. Think "social licence," but — this time — applied the other way round. If B.C. denies the RoC a social licence to export through B.C., then, by the same token, the RoC has every right to deny B.C. a social licence for qualifying for federal transfer funding when we have begged ourselves. Federalism can only work on a give-and-take basis.

Go figure, dear reader! Opt in or opt out? That is the question! Do you want to "opt out" and lurch into the uncharted fog of uncertainties towards a fuzzy, undefined minimalism? Or do you want to continue opting in to the system, warts and all, that you know and understand, and has far greater certainty? Are you prepared to abandon the ship of certainty for the unknowns of their undefined grass-is-greener vision?

Do you really believe theirs is the best way "forward"? Is it not backwards to the cave-dwelling dark ages? Shades of a Biblical invocation, perhaps: Abandon, willy-nilly, all worldly goods (including your savings and any capital invested in your house) and "follow me?"

Spendjian, an honourable man, feels he is well-intentioned, but, dear reader, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions." He claims that my recipe for future progress (i.e., don't rock the economic boat in which we all sail) will send us back sooner to cave dwelling than the Spendjian agenda. I com-

pletely disagree — Spendjianomics will get us back to the caves a lot sooner.

Spendjia-nirvana here? Not me! I prefer the Canadian boat in which we all sail collectively and supportively, and changing course and speed incrementally and cautiously as circumstances change, with consensus between the captain at-the-time, his/her crew and passengers. I repeat: "Don't rock it!" lest it sink and we all go down with it. Mutineers should be dumped off on a desert island to create their own nirvana.

I look forward with genuine interest to Mr. Spendjian providing us with further and better specifics of the steps to Spendjia-nirvana, starting with which export conduits he is going to cut off first and in what order. Ditto Ms. Slakov and Ms. May (unelectable until she stumbled on the national repository of Hobbit-thinkers and dwellers here in The Shire). And, for starters, I'd love to hear what their policy is to address the economic turmoil consequent on peremptorily closing the oil sands industry, and the future of Fort McMurray, and the tens of thousands of workers displaced at a stroke.

In closing, I will add my personal conviction on the sustainability issue — that we all live "too high on the hog," but that's for another day.

The writer is a retired professional engineer living on Salt Spring Island.

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Let's learn from Grace Islet situation

BY PHIL VERNON

Thanks to Ben Goodman for his call for development projects to "be treated consistently" (Jan. 7 "The ultimate irony" letter).

Fair treatment is what we all want. And respect for the dead. No one wants to see houses built on top of people's graves at the cemeteries at Central, on Baker Road or elsewhere.

That's what Grace Islet was, and continues to be — a cemetery. Now Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, has come around to the idea of fair treatment too and is negotiating to purchase the islet to restore it to its former state.

In 2006, when human remains were found by kayakers, the BC Archaeol-

ogy Branch investigated and described the entire islet as a burial ground. Bjorn Simonsen, the archaeologist hired by Barry Slawsky, agreed, writing that "due to the highly sensitive nature of known burial remains — as well as shallow midden deposits — it may not be possible for [Mr. Slawsky to build] without serious impact to these cultural resources." (Bastion Group to the Archaeology Branch, Aug. 28, 2006. Accessed through BC Freedom of Information Act.) Despite these findings and a questionable process lasting more than five years, a permit was issued in 2011.

First Nations' leaders have been clear that Grace Islet is a special case. They are not asking for the return of other private lands. They feel their cultural and spiritual values

were not respected or treated fairly in the permitting process, and have stated all along that a permit to build a house on the islet should never be granted.

Now, at long last, the province seems to agree. It could have acted sooner. The province could have shown more respect for Mr. Slawsky too if in 2006 — before all his effort and expense — it had taken seriously its commitment to heritage protection, denied a permit and assisted with transferring the cemetery to the care of First Nations.

The Island Pathways project at the end of Ganges Harbour? Yes, it's located in an archaeologically sensitive area, but it has not been identified as a burial ground.

And a permit granted by the BC Archaeology Branch does not give an owner

or developer the right to destroy cultural or archaeological values, much less disturb burials. During ground disturbance activities, a permit typically requires the presence on site of a registered professional (and often a First Nations representative); slow and careful excavation in known sensitive areas; the halting of excavation should human remains be found and appropriate measures taken to avoid their desecration.

Let's all learn from what's been taking place at Grace Islet. Let's keep the conversation going, and listen to each other's concerns for fair and consistent treatment for all.

The writer is a member of Salt Spring Islanders for Reconciliation and Justice.

Not switching party support

This is a response to Jan Slakov's "Seeing the bigger picture" letter in the Driftwood of Jan 7, urging us to abandon our support of all political parties except the Greens and suggesting that they will somehow take me to a new utopia not yet found anywhere else in B.C. I can only shake my head and wonder why I fail to fall for this political spell that others so gleefully have.

Perhaps it has to do with the Green party's tax policies. Suggestions of reduced income taxes, reduced CPP and EI contributions, higher consumption and revenue-neutral carbon taxes is something that I have seen before. It looks suspiciously conservative to me, touted by some of the best financial experts around, that the new way to tax is flat.

This raises my red flag and puts the solution to pollution onto the marginalized amongst us. It's just not possible to offer fair reimbursements where regional differences abound in our massive country by taxing one hand this way and feeding refund dividends into the other.

Perhaps it has to do with the big picture that I see, one that is so very different from Jan's. With 338 seats in parliament, what can a couple of seats do? You can wish and dream for everything but you will get nothing. How many decades are you willing to commit to get to a point of change?

I see a different party that has never come this close to bringing changes in policy that no longer favours just corporate interests. Thomas Mulcair and the NDP have not lost their footing in the everyday experience of Canadians. Inequality is real and it is growing. Demonizing the larger parties might get you some votes, but in the end helps the current power structure stay in control by watering down the wine.

Perhaps it has to do with the Greens' lack of conviction. Standing for a gun registry, then opening their arms to someone against it. Claiming to be the party of peace, then voting for the bombing mission in Iraq. Portraying the role of defender of democracy, but participating in floor crossing like we

MORE LETTERS

recently witnessed in Alberta. This might be the result of trying to be a big tent party or the lack of cohesion among members, but they just don't do what they say, and I have a problem with that.

I'm not quite ready to land on the bandwagon just yet, so I'll take my socialist lumps and work toward a more equal society and stay right where I am.

C. HOLDING,
SALT SPRING

Clear thinking needed

Voting in the next federal election will require very clear thinking, not the pie-in-the-sky approach advocated by Jan Slakov, who promotes the Green party with religious fervour.

Let us look rather at what's in front of us: 1) the Conservatives under Stephen Harper must be replaced after having done perhaps irreparable damage to Canada; 2) vote splitting between the opposition parties could lead to one more Harper majority; 3) which party can form government or lead a coalition to rebuild the country?

The Green party is out of the race in that regard. The Liberals' history shows us that when seeking power they mimic the NDP, but when in power they behave like Conservatives.

The New Democrats have a very long and proud history both federally and provincially. Often described as the conscience of parliament, the NDP is now ready to govern with a set of policies clearly enunciated and covering the environment, the economy, health and democratic reform, to name a few.

In contrast, the leader of the Green party prides herself on representing the views of her constituents above all else and she defends her deputy leader Bruce Hyer, who voted in favour of bombing Iraq while she voted against it. She voted to support the gun registry while he voted against.

How are voters to make heads or tails of a party that could just as well call itself the "surprise party?"

Ms. Slakov decries that "parties formerly guided by grassroots involvements and concerns shift to come under the sway of backroom boys (and girls)." What assurance does she have that the Greens would behave any differently?

HÉLÈNE NARAYANA,
BEAVER POINT ROAD

Productive democracy

To paraphrase Churchill, making democracy work is the worst job, but it's much better than the alternative — so I'm grateful that Maxine Leichter shared some excellent ideas for engaging the public in decision-making (Viewpoint of Nov. 26, 2014) and Gail Sjuberg followed up on this thread with an article in the Dec. 17 issue pointing out how useful town hall meetings can be.

I have heard town hall meetings referred to as the "last of the blood sports" and have seen some here on Salt Spring that were so angry that I'm sure many citizens wouldn't want to participate. How can we work to make them productive?

Besides the suggestions already made, we can add:

- Spread the idea that we go to such meetings not to defend "our" viewpoint but to reach the best decision.

- A corollary is that when someone makes a statement at a meeting, that statement no longer belongs to whoever made it but to the meeting as a whole.

- If a plan is adopted that you don't agree with, instead of trying to sabotage it, wait and see or even help to make it work. If it's really unworkable, that will become evident more readily if people are sincerely trying to make it work than if they are doing their best to undermine it.

And if you are concerned about the state of our democracy at the federal level, you'll want to meet veteran filmmaker Peter Smoczynski, who will be at the Salt Spring library from 10:30 till noon on Saturday, Jan. 31. Smoczynski's latest film, Election Day in Canada: When Voter Suppression Comes Calling, could make a big difference to Canada's future if enough people get to see it.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

A \$10.4-million tax increase? No thanks

BY BILL COTÉ

Following on from my previous letter to the Dec. 24, 2014 Driftwood ("Plant open house set in motion"), I continue to discuss St. Mary Lake water treatment plant issues with residents on the island as I meet them.

It is certainly no surprise that these issues are in the forefront of people's minds, as it would be the largest and most costly single infrastructure project that our island has ever undertaken.

Fortunately these impending and serious circumstances are bringing others forward to help me research why the potential tax increase is on the way. As a growing group we are most concerned about protecting the North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayers from any unnecessary tax increases, if in fact some smaller cost increase could fund an acceptable treatment plant that would still give us the required water quality and quantity.

Our group has already

requested answers to many questions that have been addressed to the NSSWD trustees in numerous ways. These questions still remain unanswered.

They have been simple questions, such as the following:

1. Why did the trustees appoint the firm of Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) without asking other engineering firms to bid for the required design work? That appointment is recorded in NSSWD board minutes of Dec. 19, 2012 and April 23, 2014.

2. The Ministry of Environment water licence to withdraw water from St. Mary Lake is for one million gallons per day. Why did the NSSWD trustees instruct KWL to design the plant to withdraw two million gallons per day from the lake? This instruction is recorded in NSSWD board minutes dated Jan. 22, 2014 and mentioned again at the NSSWD AGM of

INDEPTH

April 15, 2014.

3. Although KWL provided two upgrade options, the less costly one was refused. On what basis was that decision made? (From NSSWD board meeting minutes of Dec. 19, 2012.)

4. NSSWD board members say they are pursuing cost savings but won't tell us what changes are being contemplated. What are these changes? (Letter from the NSSWD board to island resident Jon Scott dated Jan 7, 2015.)

5. How many people or ratepayers will the proposed KWL project provide water service to both today and in the future?

With the assistance now being received from other ratepayers, our work continues to determine if the current plans being developed by NSSWD and KWL are the most cost-effective and least expensive project option that will deliver the required quantity and quality of water to our homes and businesses. There is a \$6-mil-

lion alternate proposal, and we will be looking into the details of this proposal.

Next week we will have more information to present concerning these very important matters. Our goal is simply to provide the NSSWD ratepayers with clear, sensible and reality-based information to ensure that our hard-earned dollars are not being wasted.

There are many people in our service area, both young and old, for whom the proposed \$10.4-million tax increase will be hard to swallow, if in fact they can afford the increase.

We are asking our ratepayers to attend the open house on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Orchard Room at the Harbour House Hotel and encouraging them to bring with them any questions and concerns.

The writer is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer.

3. I had a spontaneous tea with an old friend in town and we talked about our past lives.

4. The tea server overheard and mentioned a few of hers.

5. I talked with a friend about the roots of racism, things we both obviously have given a lot of thought too (in response to unbelievable racist comments I heard on my travels).

6. I hiked up a mountain with three friends and one child dressed in a pink bunny suit.

7. I offered cookies to friends and three people said in unison, "Are they gluten free?"

8. I watched while a friend admired another friend's chakra necklace

(did not hear chakras mentioned once on my travels).

9. After a crazy travel day, with many unexpected delays, I needed a ride home from Long Harbour on the last ferry. I asked on Facebook and received so many offers and a great ride. Still receiving welcome home messages all day.

10. I see a car who I think is my good friend and wave wildly and smile only to realize . . . um . . . it wasn't. The response from the unknown driver? Big smiles and waves back!

I am so grateful for this group of caring, loving, inspired and inspiring souls that choose to call this place home. We may

live in a cold, damp climate but the actual thermal units of love warmth, if harnessed, could heat up the whole universe and beyond.

We are rich beyond measure and I for one am soul grateful to feel safe, loved, appreciated and included in the hearts of this most awesome community.

Spiralling into the centre of love together.

Thanking you all again and again!

RAINBOW MAY,
SALT SPRING

Editor's note: The writer first posted the above on her Facebook page and was encouraged to send it to the Driftwood for publication.

MORE LETTERS

Fossil fuel fumble

We believe an idea communicated at Saturday's community solar array launch needs correction. At least two speakers suggested that our new community grid-tied 21-kilowatt solar-scholarship system would not displace any fossil fuel use because BC Hydro delivers mainly electricity from renewable hydro power.

This is simply not true. In a sense, there are only two kinds of electrons going into the grid (set aside the issue of nuclear): those generated by fossil fuels (dirty electrons) and those generated by renewable energy sources (clean or green electrons). Wherever it is done, B.C. to Saudia Arabia, every green electron into the grid is a substitute for a dirty electron made by burning fossil fuels.

Our solar array electricity does exactly the same thing as electricity from a BC Hydro dam — it displaces the need to burn fossil fuels.

The more clean electrons into the grid, and the better the grid is managed to distribute clean energy over time and space, the better we will be at reducing fossil fuel burning for electricity.

**DAVID DENNING AND
DEBORAH MILLER,**
SALT SPRING

Love this place

Back on Salt Spring after 10 days in the big world, I knew I loved this place, but wow, the contrast on being back is amazing.

Things that stand out:

1. I received at least 15 hugs in town (one person actually picked me up in the air!)

2. 10-plus people told me they loved me (while grocery shopping and doing errands).

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arts&entertainment



THEATRE PERFORMANCE

GISS students present Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Original music featured in twist on modern classic

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior theatre students are lending their unique talents to a modern classic for their end-of-semester production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Presented at ArtSpring for three nights from Wednesday, Jan. 21 to Friday, Jan. 23, the show features student-composed music and a unique interpretation of the material for a "wildly original version that will excite and amaze all ages."

Roald Dahl's 1964 novel is a tale of love, greed and childhood dreams set in a candy world where every child's fantasy comes true — often with unpredictable consequences. The fascinating range of characters and the vividly imagined candy factory have made it an ideal story for adaptation. Gene Wilder



Grade 12 acting student Gwen Patrick, in her role as Veruca Salt in the GISS production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which runs Jan. 21-23 at ArtSpring.

took a famous turn as the eccentric factory owner in the 1971 film Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory, while Johnny Depp gave his rendition in Tim Burton's film of 2005.

GISS theatre students have considered all of these sources and more in creating their adapted script.

"We've switched some of the scenes around and put our own spin on them. We've made it our own in a way that doesn't take away from the story too much," said Grade 12 student Ocea Goddard.

For those who aren't familiar with the story, five children and their chosen chaperones win the chance of receiving a lifetime supply of chocolate and have their lives changed forever after discovering the golden

ticket wrapped inside their chocolate bars. For Charlie Bucket, whose loving family survives on a bowl of watery cabbage soup each day, it's the opportunity of a lifetime. The other four winners are not quite so deserving. Each child discovers the positive and negative consequences of their actions in a hilarious and sometimes shocking comeuppance.

The GISS production uses costuming and colour themes to illustrate the difference between Charlie's grey, poverty-stricken world and the fantastical realm he encounters inside the factory. Daniel Hunter, the show's music director and composer, enhances the visual action with original songs featuring Dahl's material as lyrics for the Oompa

Loompas. He's selected fitting pop culture additions to complete the mood.

Hunter also takes a turn on stage as Mrs. Gloop, but says his favourite character is Mike TV's dad.

"Patrick Owen is playing him and doing a really good job," he reported.

Connor Jurgensen, who plays Charlie, said his favourite characters to hate are the Violet and Samantha Beauregard duo.

"They're so superficial and they just drive me crazy," he said.

"We definitely worked on making the characters interesting," Goddard added. "They all have an entertaining life to them."

As for Grandpa Joe, who for mysterious reasons has become a hated figure in some circles (he's the focus of at least one hate website and one Facebook page), the GISS students have taken a more charitable view of the man who stayed in bed for 20 years.

"I think he became a little boy with Charlie and was given to him," Jurgensen said. "Inspiration brought his legs to life."

Featuring underdogs, spoiled brats and video-game addicts, the show promises to be a spectacular theatrical experience. A special arrangement with Harlan's Chocolates has provided an ideal fundraiser for the program — they've produced chocolate bars with a Willy Wonka label that are available for purchase from students. True to the story, five lucky people will find a golden ticket inside giving them a free seat to the show.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are available through the ArtSpring box office.

ART PRIZE

SS Arts Council kicks off national prize

SSNAP to offer \$25,000 in awards

Salt Spring's arts community will make its first overture to the rest of the nation this Thursday when it rolls out the official launch of the Salt Spring National Art Prize in Victoria.

SSNAP is a new national juried show that aims to feature the best in Canadian art. Founding director Ronald T. Crawford will introduce the initiative at a media conference at Victoria's Oswego Hotel, held on the opening date for artist submissions.

"We are delighted to present a show for artists across the country to come

to Salt Spring and create an exchange," Crawford said. "My hope, and the hope of the Salt Spring Arts Council, is to grow the prize into the visual arts equivalent of the Giller Prize for books."

"In the media age, art has become decentralized. With such a tight-knit and strong arts community, Salt Spring has the resources, talent, volunteers and interest to make this prize possible," he added.

Artists across the country are being invited to submit two-dimensional and three-dimensional works to be judged by a prestigious three-member jury panel.

SSNAP will offer \$25,000 worth of awards thanks to a generous bequest by

the late Salt Spring artist Rosemarie Behncke, sponsorship by collector Joan McConnell, and support from the Salt Spring Arts Council, which is another major sponsor.

Jurors for the inaugural prize event are Vicky Chainey Gagnon, a contemporary art curator currently based in St. John's, N.L., where she holds the position of director/chief curator of The Rooms, Provincial Art Gallery Division; Holger Kalberg, a Winnipeg-based artist currently teaching at the University of Manitoba; and Ian Thomas, a longtime member of the Salt Spring arts community and a former teacher at the Univer-

sity of British Columbia and Camosun College.

The closing date for artist submissions is May 31, 2015. Submissions will be anonymous to the jury. In total, 50 final works will be selected and exhibited at Mahon Hall from Sept. 25 through Oct. 26.

The list of finalists will be announced on Friday, Sept. 25 and results announced at an awards gala on Oct. 24.

For more information about SSNAP, including the artist submission and selection process, jury bios and event dates, visit <http://saltspringartprize.ca/> or see the Salt Spring National Art Prize page on Facebook.

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ARTS EDUCATION

Salt Spring Arts Academy opens new studio space

Programming expands to include visual arts

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Arts Academy has recently realized a dream its founders have cherished since they first opened the facility in 2008.

Having taken over adjacent space at its Upper Ganges Road location, the academy has started to offer a wide range of visual arts classes in addition to its thriving dance program.

"It's always been a goal — that's why it was named the Salt Spring Arts Academy, not the Salt Spring Dance School — but space was

always a problem," said program director Shelley Mahoney.

Contour Grafix's move from its former office space has allowed the school to take over and repurpose the entire floor above the Home Design Centre.

"We now boast a dance studio, an arts studio, a student/parent lounge, an office and tons of storage space to store all those projects students will be working on throughout the year," Mahoney said.

The school hopes to combine its end-of-term dance productions at ArtSpring with art exhibits created by academy students twice a year. So far, it has piloted two successful six-week workshops, with

courses by Heather Martin-McNab in basket weaving and ceramics with Kathleen Raven offered before the Christmas break.

A new set of courses is available for the new term: Drawing with Stefanie Denz, and Monster Factory and Lego Animation with Prav Pillay have already started and registration is full. There is still time to enroll children in several other offerings, however. The program brings back basket weaving with Martin-McNab and introduces Art Attack with Rosita Larrain, Felting and Fabric Arts with Ulriek Benner, Multi-media Collage Art with Christine Roome and Exploring the Masters with Wendi Gilson.

There is also room in most dance



COURTESY SS ARTS ACADEMY

Lillah Wilde with items made at ceramics and basket-weaving classes.

classes for students aged three and up in streams such as tap, ballet,

musical theatre, jazz, modern, hip hop and popping. Dare To Dance, the academy's new dance company headed by Sue Newman, is proving to be a welcome addition, while the ballet program with Lisa Hall and Jill Smith is generally full.

"It's really great. The students are committed to being in the studio five hours a week so they can get up on their shoes," Mahoney said.

Larrain's hip hop program is also a strong starter.

"She's even inspired some adults to get up there," Mahoney said.

For more information on programs in dance and visual arts, visit the website at www.saltspringartsacademy.ca or call Shelley Mahoney at 250-537-4294.

Salt Spring FOCUS ON SENIORS

Friendly Readers available for seniors

The Seniors' Wellness Program of Salt Spring Community Services and Salt Spring Literacy have joined forces to launch a new program for seniors called Friendly Readers.

Volunteers read to seniors who find reading difficult due to a variety of health issues. Seniors in the program are read to wherever they live, in private homes or seniors' residences.

Reading helps seniors (as it does all of us) relax, gives them pleasure and allows them to keep up with current events or areas of interest. But as we age it can be challenging to keep reading. Some seniors find their eyesight diminishing or suffer cognitive decline that makes reading difficult.

Research has shown that being read to can benefit all, even those with dementia, providing cognitive stimulation, social interaction and meaningful engagement.

Volunteer readers find the practice enriches their lives as well. Program volunteer Jan Jang says of her experience with the elderly woman she reads to:

"It warms my heart that as I leave I find my hand clasped between her warm palms and she thanks me so sincerely for coming. I really feel my visit has been worthwhile."

If you would like to volunteer as a friendly reader,

or if you are a senior that would like a reader (or you know someone who would be interested), or would like more information, please contact Salt Spring Literacy at 250-537-9717 or email sweinert@saltspringliteracy.org.

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what's on this week



Wed. Jan 14

ACTIVITIES

Extended Library Hours. Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through April 29.

Salt Spring Historical Society. Guest speaker is Marlyn Horsdahl on The Real Judge Begbie and the Uses of Historical Fiction. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.

SS Photography Club meeting. Regular monthly meeting features a presentation on mirrorless cameras. Open to the public. Harbour House. 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday Night Poker. Hosted Albert at The Local. Sign up 6:30 p.m.

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

Stay Connected
be part of the Driftwood's online community.
Visit www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for breaking news, extra content and to vote in our weekly poll like us on Facebook for breaking news, photos and fun stuff and get all the news first by following us on Twitter.

Thur. Jan 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Music Show. Term-end show by Gulf Islands Secondary School music students. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic with Ross and Dave. Every Thursday. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Thur. Jan 15

ACTIVITIES

Nairn Howe Basketball Tournament. Day-1 action sees first GISS Scorpions game at 2:15 with senior girls vs. Edward Milne Secondary; then senior boys team plays Oak Bay at 4 p.m. GISS gymnasium.

Nia at Fulford Hall Annex. Discover the movement, music and magic of Nia at the Fulford Hall annex from 10 to 11 a.m. Info/register: Arleen, 250-653-9235.

Hospice 101. Salt Spring Hospice provides primer on its services. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Poetry Open Mic. Join guest poet, Lorraine Gane, for January's open mic poetry night. Salt Spring Public Library. Sign-up at 6:45 p.m. (One poem per reader.) Readings at 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Women's Basketball. Every Thursday (excluding school holidays) at the SIMS Gym. Wear indoor shoes. 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

Fri. Jan 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Africa Soul Train Circus. Presentation on fundraising project for circus school in Ghana at 7:30 p.m. followed by live circus performance at 8 p.m., plus live music, DJs and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Mahon Hall.

Ange Hehr. Live music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri. Jan 16

ACTIVITIES

Nairn Howe Basketball Tournament. Day 2 games begin at 10:45 a.m. at GISS gym.

Children's Weaving Course. The Weavers' Guild offers six classes for children ages eight and up, beginning today. ArtSpring Gallery. 10 a.m. to noon.

StoryTime. For children 3 to 6 years old and their families. Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Circus Camp. Workshops for all ages in capoeira (2 p.m.), juggling (3 p.m.), aerial silks (4 p.m.) and acrobatics (5 p.m.) Part of African Soul Train Circus School fundraiser events at Mahon Hall.

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

Sat. Jan 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Soul Shakedown. Live music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Nairn Howe Basketball Tournament. Day 3 games begin at 8:20 a.m. at GISS gym.

Met Opera Live Broadcast: The Merry Widow. The great Renée Fleming stars as the beguiling femme fatale who captivates all Paris in Lehár's enchanting operetta. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sun. Jan 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Simon Miller Quartet. Jazz concert with Simon Miller, trumpet, Conrad Good on bass, Dan Reynolds on piano and Adam Cormier on drums. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 2:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Unitarian Fellowship. Monthly singing service with Barb Slater. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.

Dance Temple - Sacred Sundays. A bi-weekly dance ritual that invites participants into free-form authentic movement and expression. Ganges Yoga Studio. 10:30 a.m.

Pickleball. Every Sunday at Fulford Hall. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Play Temple. Sessions led by Mitchell Soulfather and other artists. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 1 to 3 p.m.

Rollerblading. All ages. Many sets of blades available for use. Fulford Hall. 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Brick Books: Poetry Reading. Poets Karen Enns and Ann Scowcroft give free joint reading during Brick Books' 40th anniversary year. ArtSpring. 4 p.m.

Songjam Musicals. Sing along with popular songs from musicals every third Sunday of the month. Moby's Pub. 7 p.m.

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

Tue. Jan 20

ACTIVITIES

Nia at the Core Inn. Discover the movement, music and magic of Nia in a new spot on the Core Inn's third floor. 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info/register: Arleen, 250-653-9235.

Pickleball at Fulford Hall. Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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.)

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. Public welcome to attend. Central Community Hall. 7 p.m.

Classic Rock Bingo. Every Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed. Jan 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. GISS Second Story Theatre presentation. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Dying With Dignity Meeting. Topic of monthly meeting is Preparing Your Legacy with a Death Becomes Us audio presentation. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

SSI Fire Service Review Meeting. Public meeting to give feedback about the island's fire service as part of a consultant's review process. SS Library Program Room. 6:30 p.m.

Songjam. See last Wednesday.

Wednesday Night Poker. See last Wednesday.

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Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
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• **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 heart-breaking testament to the bonds of friendship. Advance tickets at Island Star Video and Salt Spring Books.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/
view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** features an exhibition of artwork by Jason Newport.

• A showing of photos by members of the **Salt Spring Photography Club** is in the **ArtSpring lobby** until Jan. 30. The work can be seen from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and during special events.

• **Peter Oosterweghel** shows photos in the **Harbour House Hotel** through January.

• **Salt Spring Photography Club** presents the bird photos of **Cliff Kelly** at **Country Roasters Cafe** in the month of January.

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

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

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

• **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.

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POETRY

Visiting poets illuminate inventory of being human

Ann Scowcroft and Karen Enns at ArtSpring

BY GEORGE SIPOS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Over the weekend a million people marched in Paris to express their outrage over the killings of the Charlie Hebdo journalists and to express their belief in freedom of expression, the rule of law and, when it comes down to it, civilization.

I was at home reading through *The Truth of Houses*, a collection of poems by Ann Scowcroft, from which

she, together with poet Karen Enns, will read at ArtSpring on Sunday, Jan. 18. I came across the following lines:

*A good crisis brings us together.
A good crisis is one that doesn't happen to us.*

Far from striking me as cynical, given the events in France, the lines actually speak in a roundabout way to the question of what poetry is for. Is there a way that human experience that doesn't specifically happen to us can in fact become our own experience? Or is there a way, other than narratively, that we can enter into the real experience of others?

The work of both these poets, different though their backgrounds and voices are, is exactly about the things that happen to us — love, marriage, having children, ancestry; also separation, abuse, betrayal, death. The usual inventory, you might say, of being human.

But what makes their work lucid and compelling, apart from impeccable linguistic craft, is the deftness with which they move us from being indifferent onlookers to these experiences to entering into that strange feeling, indeed the “fact” of their content “happening to us.”

It is one thing to say this, quite another to experience it in the work.

The strength and candour and integrity in the quality of their writing is what prompted me to suggest to ArtSpring that these two poets be invited to read here.

That, and the fact that they are both published by Brick Books, Canada's most important poetry publisher, which happens to be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2015.

Enns lives in Victoria, where she was a piano teacher and concert performer for many years. Ann Scowcroft now calls Québec home, though

for many years she has worked in humanitarian assistance around the world.

The joint reading will be at 4 p.m. this Sunday in the ArtSpring gallery. I recommend it for everyone, even those who may not be in the habit of taking in poetry readings.

These are fine writers, whose work has substance and a keen understanding of how language can both be accessible and yet transport us into the heart of being human.

The reading is free, and both poets will have copies of their books available for sale and to be signed.

OPERA

Met Opera presents The Merry Widow

ArtSpring screening Jan. 17

The Metropolitan Opera presents the next edition of its popular broadcast series with *The Merry Widow*, streaming live from New York to the ArtSpring Theatre this Saturday, Jan. 17.

“If last week's opera, *The Barber of Seville*, was a good place to start for opera debutants, then *The Merry Widow* by Franz Lehár is

even more so,” an ArtSpring press release proclaims. “Starring opera superstar Renée Fleming and Kelli O'Hara, a Broadway star in her MET debut, this operetta is presented in English and comes complete with can-can dancing (ever so slightly risqué), elaborate costumes, gorgeous singing and romantic characters.”

The story centres around the poverty-stricken Grand Duchy of Pontevedro. Hanna Glawari (Fleming)

has been left 20 million francs by her late husband. The officials of Pontevedro are desperate to marry her off to another Pontevedrian, thereby keeping her fortune in the country and saving the state from bankruptcy.

Into the picture comes Hanna's former lover Count Danilo Danilovitsch, First Secretary of the Pontevedrian embassy. They are obviously still in love but Danilo refuses to court Hanna because of her fortune and

Hanna vows she will not marry him until he says “I love you.”

“Moving from one extravagant gala party scene to another with gorgeous gardens in between, this story of love lost and re-found is lighthearted and entertaining,” ArtSpring promises.

Pastries from Brigitte and refreshments from Salt Spring Coffee will be served at intermission. The show starts at 10 a.m. and runs to around 1 p.m.

LIVE JAZZ

Simon Millerd Quartet on tap

GISS alumnus musician's group on CD release tour

BY AL ROBERTSON
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Lovers of jazz, cast your minds back a decade or more when a young lad named Simon Millerd was making news on our island and beyond with the dexterity of his trumpet playing.

In his high school years at the time and under the tutelage of teacher Bruce Smith, young Millerd was part of a group of aspiring musicians called YJP (the Young Jazz Players) and he stood out as an extraordinary young trumpeter.

That young man is now in his late 20s, living in Montreal and playing with several compelling groups touring Canada, the U.S. and South America. He has also played extensively in Europe with the Pablo Held Septet and the European Jazz Orchestra.

Millerd has joined forces with three other fine jazz musicians, Conrad Good on bass, Dan Reynolds on piano and Adam Cormier on drums, to form the Simon Millerd Quartet. They will appear in performance at All Saints' By-the-Sea on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 2:30 p.m.



Simon Millerd

This coming together reflects a long-time wish of the four men to form this particular group, collectively inspired by their teacher Chris McCann to “treat music as a way of searching for the truth about ourselves and how we really feel.” The music is best described as jazz, but the influences of the likes of Bach and Chopin can be recognized alongside the sounds of folk artists like Patrick Watson or Joni Mitchell.

Good was born and raised in Vancouver. He began his music studies on cello at age five. At 10 he “took a dive into the deep end” by studying the double bass, and jazz soon followed, although he continued his classical studies. He is a winner of the Fraser MacPherson Scholarship Trust and a scholarship from the Schulich School of Music

at McGill University with a jazz performance degree. He is currently living in London, Ont.

Reynolds too was born and raised in Vancouver and also attended the Schulich School of Music in Montreal. Here he had a chance to study piano, arranging, theory and composition with some of Canada's finest musicians. While studying under Jan Jarczyk he began to play and study classical music, especially J.S. Bach, Bartok, Chopin and Debussy. He has performed across Canada and since graduating from McGill has been based in Vancouver, where he is teaching, writing, performing and collaborating with many different artists.

Cormier is a drummer and composer, raised in Nanaimo, who began his jazz studies at Wellington Jazz Academy at age 13. After two years of university he was offered a full scholarship at McGill's Schulich School of Music. He has done tours across Canada four times plus two North American tours. Cormier has played on several recordings and has appeared in music videos broadcast internationally. He lives and works in Vancouver.



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people&community

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

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CELEBRATIONS

Scottish Country Dancers host sold-out Burns Night

Popular event at Fulford Hall

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fulford Hall will transform into a little piece of Scotland on Saturday, Jan. 24 when the Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club hosts its annual Burns Night celebration.

Expatriate Scots and admirers of Robbie Burns' poetry

all over the world have turned Burns suppers into a global event, but birthday celebrations of Scotland's national poet ensure home country traditions are honoured.

That's certainly the case on Salt Spring, where dance club members have been serving up haggis, neeps and tatties for over 20 years. Unlike most similar events, however, their supper features dance sets with live musicians after the meal and toasts.

"I think that's why it's been so successful, because we add the dancing component," Catherine Bennett said about the long-running event, which sold out of its advance tickets earlier this week.

"We have lots of people who come every year who aren't club members."

Salt Spring's biggest hall is used to accommodate the crowds.

Roast beef is offered as well as haggis for the main course, but guests shouldn't expect to find any other vegetable besides the turnips and potatoes for the side: the group likes to stick to the fare that appeared at the first Burns supper in 1802, held six years after the poet's death.

"It seems more and more fun every year," Bennett said. "I think the fact that we sell out and people keep coming back means we're doing something right."

Life-size models of Kate Middleton and Sean Connery in full Scottish garb help create the visual atmosphere, as do table displays fitting for a Scottish hall and heather corsages prepared for every lady in attendance.

More formal elements of the evening are the Address to the Haggis, which will



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Pauline King and Derek Emmerson smile as part of a Scottish Country Dance group event at the Extended Care Unit in Lady Minto Hospital in December.

be offered by Harvey Moore this year, and the traditional series of toasts. The 2015 program includes Russ Spencer giving the "Immortal Memory," a toast commemorating Burns' work. Piper Jamie Orr will offer the Toast to the Lassies and Andrea Rankin will give the Reply for the Lassies. Jillian Reid will give the Toast to the Queen.

While Burns suppers were at first limited to men's clubs and therefore wouldn't have

included dancing, the forms the Scottish Country Dance Club practise would very much have been known in Burns' lifetime and even as far back as the 13th and 14th centuries, Bennett said.

Live music for the evening is provided by a pair of popular returning artists in fiddler Janette Polson and accordionist Mary Ross. No partner is needed to participate in the social dances, with steps called.

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Salt Spring Island United Church would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers and contributors for making our 15th Annual Community Christmas Dinner such a success.

Special thanks to RICHARD DICK for his long service as kitchen manager.

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Thank you!

FUNDRAISER

Circus show, workshops benefit Africa

Events support Ghanaian circus school plan

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of talented Salt Spring performers will be taking their show on the road to raise money for a new project that aims to provide circus training for impoverished children in Ghana.

Africa Soul Train Circus is a non-profit company created by Jeffrey Woods — commonly known on Salt Spring by his stage name, Mr. Fantastik — and Marley Skye of the Phoenix Farm Circus School and Elvolutionaries Aerial Circus. They will introduce their fundraising project to the community along with afternoon workshops and an evening of performance on Friday, Jan. 16 at Mahon Hall.

Though both have been on Salt Spring for several years, Skye and Fantastik only recently met and discovered they share many interests, including their mutual passion for teaching circus skills to youth. It wasn't long before they had envisioned building the Africa Soul Train Circus School.

"I started realizing he's a world-class talent," Skye said of his new friend. "The stuff he's doing is just incredible."

Even more moving for Skye was hearing about Fantastik's journey from a small

child living on the streets to a performer who travelled to 30 countries around the world after being scouted by a European artist. He's since recorded as a reggae dancehall artist, performed with an African tumbling troupe in Cavalia, which is a high-level circus production on calibre with Cirque Du Soleil, and was a finalist in Canada's Got Talent.

"That's inspirational for me. Some boy on the street, dirt poor — because of his talent and love for doing it, that took him all across the world," Skye said.

Though not necessarily expecting to reproduce the same experience, the two men theorized that building a school for today's street children in Ghana could grow many valuable skills.

"It inspires them, gives them confidence, builds strength and resilience. I guess in a sense it's like being an athlete, but it's a lot more artistic," Skye said of circus training.

"The kids love it, too. It lights them up. I like to see the children smiling — that's what's rewarding to me."

The first school will be built and run in Cape Coast, Ghana, on five acres of land offered for the purpose. Skye said around \$20,000 will be needed for construction. ASTCS is teaming up for the project with Hoops Care International, a Cape Coast-based NGO that has worked to empower children through sports since 2008.

"It's a good organization. We're excited to

have that connection," Skye said.

The school's mission statement is "to support the growth, development and empowerment of African ghetto youth in performing arts by building and running international partnership circus centres for international culture, learning and talent development."

Friday's fundraiser event begins with circus classes for all ages from 2 to 6 p.m., with sessions on capoeira, juggling, aerial silks and acrobatics. At 7:30 p.m. the group returns for a slideshow presentation on the school project, followed by a circus show with African tumbling, bowl spinning, aerial acrobatics and more at 8 p.m. Live music and dancing with Mr. Fantastik, L-Vine, Dan Snakehead and Blair Francis runs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets for the evening slideshow and performance will be available at the door at Mahon Hall, with doors opening at 7 p.m.

Those interested in the workshops should register in advance by emailing astcs-canada@gmail.com. Individual classes or a full afternoon camp are available.

Africa Soul Train Circus heads off to community halls in Victoria, the other Gulf Islands, the Sunshine Coast and Whistler during the next two weeks.

For more information and to see other tour dates, or to make a donation, visit www.astcsghana.org.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

A huge hug and bunch of sweet multi-coloured roses to the caring 911 responders, tow trucker, islanders who lent a phone, witnessed the accident and/or offered a caring, compassionate moment. More roses to our wonderful neighbours, the Carlsons, who took my husband to emergency after his van was completely totalled (through no fault of his own) and a write off, now useless, in a very untimely and unfortunate accident on Robinson Road. And, a bit of a rant to the driver who did not even apologize after simply backing onto Robinson Road and causing this kerfuffle! Extremely grateful his

injuries do not appear to be life threatening. Julie Northey

A copper-dusted dozen roses, plus, to all those who support the Copper Kettle Community Partnership and the work we do helping people in our community! Thank you.

Bouquets of roses to many local businesses who helped us with our fundraiser just before Christmas. We put together five super baskets to raise money through an auction for the local SPCA as well as for a family in need. With your help we were able to write a fat cheque for both! Thank you for your generosity: Harlan's, Treasures of the Heart, Frankly Scarlet, West

of the Moon, Auntie Pesto's, Tree House Cafe, Persnickety, Mouat's Home Hardware, Twang and Pearl, TJ Beans, Fever Tree, Salt Spring Fire Rescue and Love My Kitchen. Sincerely, Annie Bateman, Leah Ostland, Quinn Masselink, Reagan Marcotte and Tiff Wightman

Many thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of Bach on the Rock's performance of the Christmas Oratorio. It was a memorable occasion and a wonderful way to celebrate our 10th anniversary. Special thanks to John and Kim for taking care of the concession; Dan of Harlan's Chocolates; Salt Spring Folk Club; Artspring; Driftwood; Carol, Ted

and Beryl for the fabulous party and late-night feast; Jim, our musical director; the soloists, choir and orchestra; and last but not least, all who attended the concert and shared in this special event. Here's to the next 10 years!

Grocery bags full of gratitude to all the businesses and individuals who contributed so generously to stockings for In From the Cold shelter. Country Grocer, Windsor Plywood, Mouat's, Viva Chorale!, Ruth Lovejoy and all the wonderful wrappers — Steve, Ruth, Paul, Alison, Trish, Lisa and Jordan.

The parents of Fernwood Elementary School would like

to send roses to the following businesses and people as a huge thank you for supporting our annual Christmas raffle: MLW Accounting, Thrifty Foods, Flow Day Spa, Seaside Restaurant, Mouat's Home Hardware, Harlan's Chocolates, Ashford family, Catherine Shaw-Pomajzl, Steven Nordine, Maid on Salt Spring, Quentin Harris, Country Grocer, North End Fitness, Fernwood Road Cafe, Penny's Pantry, West of the Moon, Christie Roome of Sweet Memory Art, Derek Burgess Woodworking, Ganges Yoga Studio, Persnickety Clothing for Kids, and Twang and Pearl. You helped make it our most successful raffle yet! Thank you!

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Fitness Expert

Happy New Year everyone!

Every year people say I will start a fitness program. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Set a goal for yourself and write it down
- Read it when you do not feel like working out it will get you going
- Schedule a regular workout time, write it on your calendar and plan the rest of your day around it
- Doing something for 3 weeks will become a habit and your body will want it
- Joining a class you will have an instructor motivating you and encouraging you to come back
- The hardest part about a working out is getting to it, once you are there it is easy
- Reach out to others for support, plan on meeting someone to work out with. It is harder to leave someone waiting for you
- Everyday is a fresh start, so make every effort to live in the present and make it count.

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Hot electrical or fuel smells are potentially dangerous at any time and should be dealt with immediately.

Antifreeze or oil leaking onto hot components give off very unique odours.

Hot brake smell may or may not indicate problems. Braking continuously down a long hill will heat your brakes enough to give off a noticeable odour.

The cost of repairs can only be determined after a diagnosis has been completed.

If you notice a change in your vehicle's feel, noise or smell, a test drive and in-shop inspection should be performed before a small, easily repaired problem turns into a major repair. *Drive Safe, Gyle*

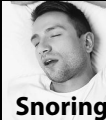


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Real Estate

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in January and February that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"



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Since CHIROPRACTIC adjustments remove nerve interference and enable body defenses, these two pioneers started to adjust anyone who had the Spanish Flu.

Almost all their patients with the flu quickly recovered. News spread rapidly, thru Chicago, the Mid West and the US.

By late 1918, most US states passed legislation recognizing Chiropractic as a distinct healing art, like dentistry or medicine. It's FLU season again. Call the Chiropractor today for an appointment...you'll be glad you did.



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Cremation

A Long Story, Short.

Cremation dates to at least 20,000 years ago in archaeological records with the Mungo Lady, the remains of a partly cremated body found at Lake Mungo, Australia. Both full burial and cremation appeared throughout history but burials were often considered the more archaic rite, while the most honoured citizens were cremated - especially upper classes, military honours, members of imperial families...and I suppose the occasional pyromaniac.

Christianity frowned upon cremation, influenced primarily by the tenets of Judaism. Cremation reappeared in a big way in the fifth and sixth centuries and sacrificed animals were often included with the costumed and ornamented human bodies on the pyre. The ashes were then typically deposited in a vessel of clay or bronze in an "urn cemetery", possibly the first hints of the current trend. These days cremations account for as high as eighty percent of funeral services in many regions in North America. Now that's civilized. Earthen Vessel sells cremation urns. Single edition works of art, exquisitely crafted by Canadian artisans. To view our selection, please visit our on-line gallery at www.earthenvessels.ca or call 778.533.3635 to visit our on-island gallery. They are also available through Hayward's Funeral Service.



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HOSPICE

Hospice 101 event gives primer on group activities

Thursday at the library

Salt Spring Hospice is inviting anyone curious about its services to find out more at an event called Hospice 101.

It runs on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Salt Spring Public Library. Created in 1984, Salt Spring Hospice

is a volunteer-empowered non-profit, non-denominational society, providing compassionate care and support to individuals in the last stages of living, and to their loved ones who live on with their lives forever changed.

"Over the course of a year many calls are received at the Salt Spring Hospice

office about a variety of services, including volunteer training, grief support, advance care planning assistance, or the lending library," explains a release from the group.

"In the home, the hospital and residential facility, hospice volunteers are embarking on their 31st year of compas-

sionate care in the community. Volunteers are found at the bedside in the palliative care suite, supporting the bereaved, sitting vigil or assisting with an advance care plan."

For more information, contact 250-537-2770 or office@saltspringhospice.org or go to www.saltspringhospice.org.

LIBRARY HOURS

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



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- Vigils

Thursday Jan. 15th 2 - 3:30 pm
Salt Spring Library's Program Room

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

SALISH SEA

Salmon stock increase critical for orcas

Rhapsody's death puts spotlight on the problem



Tamar Griggs

TALES FROM BOLD BLUFF

In the frosty morning of Sunday, Dec. 14, my little dog Zuri and I walked down to Santa's Ship festooned in bright lights, tied to the seaplane wharf in Ganges Harbour.

A fellow was on deck, so I hailed him with a cheerful, "Hi!" and discovered the ship was on its way to the San Juan Islands after visiting all of the Southern Gulf Islands.

Taking in the ship's monstrous size, I discovered it is a 100-foot whale-watching vessel built in 1980 in Bellingham, Wash., and creatively used as Santa's Ship in December. She is as long as a blue whale — the largest animal to have lived on earth, even topping the dinosaurs.

Now that I had learned the true purpose of this vessel, I couldn't help thinking of the death, just a few days earlier, of the orca named Rhapsody (J32). It took courage to break the holiday cheer of this good fellow standing high above me, yet my heart spoke.

"Have you heard about Rhapsody?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied. "It's very sad," he added.

Our hearts understood each other. Rhapsody (J32) was found dead on Dec. 4, 2014, near Courtenay, B.C. She was 15 years old and had a near-term fetus in her uterus. Her death is especially disturbing as her



PHOTO BY TAMAR GRIGGS

Transient whale photographed in Sansum Narrows in 2011 when Tamar Griggs lived at Bold Bluff.

extended family desperately needs more reproductive females.

A preliminary necropsy reveals that her blubber was thin and dry of oil, which demonstrates an inadequate diet for an extended time. PCBs are stored in whale blubber, and when food is scarce, the pollutants are released and circulate for the body needs. She may have had four previous pregnancies. Further studies will reveal the number. The evidence is that Rhapsody was not eating sufficiently to support her fetus, which was being fed on poisons released in mom's thin blubber, and the fetus died when near term. Rhapsody could not get rid of it, maybe because she was starving. The rotting fetus caused an infection that killed her.

Thanks to the Centre for Whale Research on San Juan Island, which has been documenting and identifying killer whales in the southern resident population since 1976, we have an accurate story of Rhapsody's matriarchal family line.

Rhapsody (J32) was born in 1996. Her mom, (J20) was 15 years old, and Rhapsody was her only offspring. Her Uncle, Oreo (J18) was 19 years old, and her Auntie, Oreo (J22), was 11 years old. This matriline swam with their mom/grandma (J10), who was the matriarch of this branch of J-Pod.

The decade around the millen-

nium was a hard time for the J10 matriline: J32's mom died when she was just two years old. Her grandma cared for Rhapsody until she (grandma) died, when Rhapsody was three years old. Her uncle J18 died at age 23 in 2002. The only whale left to care for Rhapsody was her auntie Oreo (J22), who fortunately gave birth to a baby (J24) in 1998 at the age of 13. This auntie provided the orphaned whale with the nurturing required of a mom, and Rhapsody survived infancy and grew to be a vivacious young whale.

Her untimely death is alarming, as the southern resident killer whale population (J, K and L pods) is in serious trouble. There are only 77 whales left, and only a dozen reproductive females.

These whales were listed in Canada as "endangered" under the Species at Risk Act in 2001, and in 2005 they were designated endangered in the U.S. under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

It is hard to believe, but these southern resident whales eat 80 per cent Chinook salmon and 20 per cent "trash fish," and they won't change their diet, even when facing starvation. It is the Chinook salmon they need to maintain their health. It is like us eating a diet of only lettuce and mud. We would not survive.

Ken Balcomb, from the Centre for

Whale Research on San Juan Island, says it is almost inevitable that we will lose our beloved southern resident killer whales. They are in bad shape.

What can we do to help them?

This is the question that needs urgent action if the magnificent orcas in our Salish Sea are to survive. We must protect salmon spawning areas from Alaska to California. Dams no longer in use must be dismantled and the rivers restored to their natural state. There are four dams on the Snake River in Washington and these must be dismantled to encourage Chinook salmon spawning again in this river. By returning the Snake River to its natural state, we would provide the fastest recovery of Chinook salmon spawning. We must ban PCBs and deadly toxins from being dumped into our precious rivers and oceans before it is too late.

If these tasks seem daunting to you, start by becoming informed. Join the Centre for Whale Research on San Juan Island (executive director is Ken Balcomb) and Orca Network (Howard Garrett and Susan Berta) on Whidbey Island. Be concerned. Spread the news. See www.whaleresearch.com and www.orcanetwork.org.

Sign the petition to remove the dams on the Snake River by going to www.orcanetwork.org and click on the link to the Southern Resident Killer Whale Chinook Salmon Initiative.

Sign the petition! This really works! Take action. Sign today. The bell is tolling. We must act now.

Note: Information for this story comes from Ken Balcomb, Howard Garrett and Susan Berta. Thank you for all you are doing to educate us about the amazing orcas in our Salish Sea.

Editor's note: This column was written before the discovered birth of J50 in the southern resident population in late December.

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COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer help available at drop-in

Salt Spring Literacy is offering free drop-in help for people wanting assistance in using their computers, smart phones, iPads or tablets.

On Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., two experienced volunteer tutors, John Sutton and John Kyle, are available to provide assistance. They have helped learners set up email accounts, use the internet, and develop word-processing skills such as file management and text

formatting.

The centre already offers scheduled one-to-one computer tutoring and has now expanded its services to include the regular Wednesday drop-in time.

Those wishing help can drop into the Salt Spring Literacy Centre at 126 Hereford Ave. (behind Café Talia). If the volunteers are unavailable, the centre can be contacted at 250-537-9717 to schedule another time.

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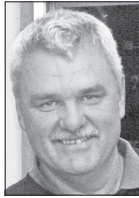
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	TRAVEL
DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM GIFTS	CARDS OF THANKS	COMING EVENTS	INFORMATION	TRAVEL



GORDON KENNETH HOLLINGSWORTH
Sept 25, 1962 - Jan 8, 2015

With sadness we announce Gord passed away suddenly in Kelowna on Jan 8, 2015. He is predeceased by his parents, Bill and Beth Hollingsworth and is survived by his children Natasha and Matthew, sisters Andrea and Tara and their families.

Gord grew up in Nanaimo BC, but spent most of his life as a resident of Salt Spring Island. There will be an open house on Saturday Jan 17, 2015 at the Salt Spring Island Golf & Country Club from 2-5pm.



Victor Sampson
JULY 26, 1925 - JANUARY 4, 2015


It breaks my heart to announce the passing of my father, Victor Sampson, who passed away peacefully at the age of 89 at Greenwoods. He was a life long resident of Salt Spring Island. He leaves behind his daughter Liz (Rob) Wilson, granddaughter Jasmin, six stepsons and their families, brothers Charlie, Ken, sister Ivy and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents Chester and Elizabeth, brothers Albert, Harold, George, Stanley, Bruce, William, Ernest, Clifford, sister Lily and the love of his life, wife Marguerita.

My father was the strongest, bravest and most beautiful man, who always had a big smile on his face. Vic served his country with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders on the front lines during WW2. After the war he began a career in fishing, logging and then got a full time job on the highways for many years before he retired. Vic loved being outdoors, being with his family, friends and his trips down for his daily coffee at Dagwoods and Embe Bakery.

We would like to thank the wonderful staff at Greenwoods for their care and compassion over the last five years. A big thank you to my family and friends for all their love and support over the past few weeks. I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you Dad for being the best father and papa - you are my hero.


A celebration of life will be held on February 1, 2015 at the Salt Spring Island Legion at 1:00 to 4:00pm. In lieu of flowers please donate to Greenwoods or BC Children's Hospital.

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LEGALS

Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that **Jack and Gwen Althouse** has applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), West Coast Region for a **Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Ganges Harbour, Salt Spring Island**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **File # 1414187**. Written comments concerning this application should be directed to the Section Head, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC. V9T 6J9, or emailed to: AuthorizingAgency.Nanaimo@gov.bc.ca. Comments will be received by MFLNRO until **March 6, 2015**. MFLNRO may not be able to consider comments received after this date. Please visit our website: <http://arfd.gov.bc.ca/applicationposting/index.jsp> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operation's office in Nanaimo.



Application Area fronting Lot 6, S. 2&3, Range 4 E, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan 2807



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WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O Connor
www.sunstarastrology.com
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TIP OF THE WEEK:

The fourth and last of the series of 0-degree New Moons in a row occurs on January 20th at 5:14 am PST at 0 Aquarius 09. The first of the four occurred on October 23rd coinciding with the Solar Eclipse in Scorpio. All other factors aside, this sequence of energy where 0 degrees is symbolic of new beginnings, the alpha to the omega, represents a powerful foreshadow for our times. It will not take a lot of convincing that 2015 is lined up to be a big year. By way of synchronicity, it is during this span of time that we have and continue to observe with awe and wonder, and a mix of glee and dread as the price of oil plummets. Whether you define the cause as economic and political warfare or otherwise, it is a clear indication of newly emerging realities as the balance of power all over the world is shifted and shaken. The upcoming Astrological events will satisfy the omega end where the circle meets and shifts to the next rung in the eternal spiral of cycles. On the heels of this slow and deep 4-beat bass drum rhythm of 0-degree Moons, we will experience two higher beats and quicker succession, with the second of the two harder, sharper and deeper yet. The New Moon on February 18th in the very last "seconds" of Aquarius 29 degrees, 59 minutes and 54 seconds; in other words 6 seconds prior to entering Pisces! Then on March 20th, about 12 hours prior to Spring Equinox, otherwise the last hours of winter, there will be a Solar Eclipse New Moon in Pisces at 29 degrees 27 minutes. Altogether, these constitute very powerful sign posts, opportunities for positive change. On a personal level, these events will strike chords for us all activating our personal lives. By way of a personal Reading I can assist you to decipher how destiny is moving through your life. Stay tuned!

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You want to forge ahead, but you need new knowledge. Although your ambitions remain high, you are equally eager to play or express yourself creatively. The prospect of new friendships and other inspiring associations is featured. This will become increasingly evident over the coming weeks.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) Are you ready to undergo a metamorphosis? It has begun. The good news is that it implies that you will emerge changed for the better. To ensure this outcome, however, you are wise to align your will and intentions to outcomes you desire. The key is to clarify your long-term goals and begin to build your momentum now.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Replacing old commitments with new ones continues. This includes emphasis on developing talents as opposed to worrying about security. By striking the balance, worry gets dropped. So, summon your imagination and your will to activate creative and artistic projects. These will inspire you, increase confidence and reduce stress.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) Investigations to decipher who has what you want will shift into higher gear this week. The list can include talents, resources or opportunities. A search for something new and different is on your mind. You are willing to push and persevere as necessary. That you are looking is clear, so define more precisely what for. Ask the universe for help, it is known to deliver.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) A mix of new social outreach and a more sobering focus upon details has been keeping you busy. You are poised to expand your horizons due to pioneering initiatives last year. In the interim some significant shifts have occurred both within and without and these continue. Focus to increase your social scope and decipher your best new territory.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) A creative cycle is underway. Art, innovation and invention are likely expressions of it. This wave will not only continue it will increase over the coming weeks. This presents a big opportunity to at least make drafts and outlines if not outright completions of projects. This is a call to forge ahead. Make a clean break with how it used to be.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22)

Securing your home base over the past few weeks has felt right. Tending to the final details now is ideal. Make way for a creative and social cycle that will be sparked by the New Moon. Circumstances will push you to take the lead to make things happen. This is the ideal recipe for a party or social gathering and for inspired self-expression too.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) Your innate creative genius is already receiving a sweet stir and it will soon be shaken awake. Your best results will come from letting go of the details and simply allowing the creative spirit to inspire you. Make room for intuitions and epiphanies to pour in unedited. You can clean it up later.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) Already a rush of new thoughts is stimulating your mind. This trend will increase and accelerate over the coming days and weeks. You are being called to make a larger contribution to the world at this time. Doing so will ignite your sense of purpose and passion. If you are not clear what to do, just ask with sincerity and expect answers quickly.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) Taking new leads and initiatives continues. Your focus has turned to the future and you want to know what constitutes good investments. Sometimes, the first thing to do is clear away the old or step back from commitments that do not serve or meet you. If they do you know it already so whatever is unclear should be reconsidered.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) Are you ready for a change? Well, ready or not it is knocking at your door. It will inspire you to new ambitions. These will be of the spiritual, social and material sort. The spiritual corner could manifest as creative and artistic expressions. In any case, something new is coming in. The secret to be able to receive these gifts is to step out beyond familiar rhythms.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Sweet dreams are the source of fine things. Everything ever created was first conceived in the mind, in the realm of consciousness. When the weave includes right and left brain and awareness both above and below the surface of common daily perceptions, originality is born. An invitation to enter the realms of reflection, imagination, inspiration and creation has been sent to you.

sports&recreation

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

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



GISS BASKETBALL

Scorpions eye fourth straight Nairn Howe tourney title



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

GISS senior girls and boys teams are set to face off-island visitors in the 10th-annual Nairn Howe Memorial Basketball Tournament this Thursday through Saturday. Spectators are welcomed.

Games begin Thursday afternoon

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Excitement continues to build for this week's 10th-annual Nairn Howe Memorial Basketball Tournament at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

"The senior boys basketball team look forward to playing on their home court this weekend," said Diane Weatherby, coach of the boys team.

Senior boys and girls squads will compete in three days of round-robin play to determine this year's champions.

"We will play four games in three days against teams which we haven't met up against yet this season," Weatherby said. "It will be a good opportunity to further develop our game."

"With approximately half the season past us, the tournament will help move us to where we need to be for the playoffs."

Salt Spring's senior girls, coached by teacher Tony Mason, open the tournament on Thursday afternoon at 2:15

against Edward Milne Secondary. The boys take on Oak Bay Secondary at 4 p.m. Games start at 10:45 a.m. on Friday and 8:20 a.m. on Saturday.

The GISS girls' other games are scheduled for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 11:50 a.m. and 3:20 p.m.

The rest of the GISS boys' team games are set for Friday at 12:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m., and on Saturday at 5:05 p.m.

The 2015 Nairn Howe tournament brings together four senior girls and five senior boys teams from Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. The GISS

senior boys' team has won the past three tournaments.

Howe was an active parent volunteer and sports team coach throughout the school years of her children Sarah and Chris on Salt Spring before she died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 48 on Christmas Day in 2005. Leading the fundraising efforts for the outdoor multi-court at GISS that now bears her name was one of her many projects.

In January of 2006, the GISS annual round-robin basketball tourney was given Howe's name by the players.

SOCCER

Old Boys men's squad slays Nearly Dead

Witherspoon named match MVP

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Old Boys fought through the mist at Lochside Park Sunday to pull off a 2-0 win against the Gordon Head Nearly Dead in Cordova Bay.

Salt Spring players dominated the first half, giving Gordon Head few opportunities to cross into their territory.

"Goals were still hard to come by with several chances going a-beg-

ging until Old Boys took advantage of a goalkeeper error," said Fraser Hope, spokesperson for the over-40 masters division team of the South Vancouver Island Classics Soccer Association.

David Toynbee connected with a pass from Mark Aston to volley a ball over a retreating keeper for a one-goal lead.

The few attacks mustered by the Nearly Dead were handled coolly by Jim Witherspoon, whose weekend performance — including use of German expletives — has been compared to that of Ballon D'Or

candidate Manuel Neuer.

Never a team to let a fight go uncontested, Nearly Dead rose "Lazarus-like" to mount an onslaught in the Old Boys' end.

"Old Boys bent but did not break," Hope said. "With superb goalkeeping from Witherspoon and a defence led by veteran stalwarts Donny Brown and Graham Tweddle, Old Boys fought off Nearly Dead, who were intent on revenging their Frosty Balls tournament defeat of the previous weekend."

The Old Boys' Stefan Cermak finally took advantage of an oppor-

tune lapse in the Nearly Dead's defensive positioning, connecting with a well-rehearsed 1-2 with Matt Johnston for a two-goal advantage.

"The final whistle could not come any quicker," Hope added.

The Old Boys will be back in action on Vancouver Island against Cordova Bay at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 18.

In other Salt Spring soccer action, Salt Spring United over-30 women's team travels to play Bays United on Sunday, Jan. 18, while Salt Spring FC kicks off against Gorge United in Saanich on Saturday afternoon.

RUNNING

Sneakers launch 2015 Island Race Series in style

Twenty racers run in Pioneer 8K

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Sneakers lined up for one of the toughest road races in Canada Sunday, kicking off another season of competitive running.

"The race is not only the first of the Island Race Series, it is also the first race of the Timex BC Series and was designated Athletics BC's 8K championships for 2015," said Lynn Thompson, spokesper-

son for the Salt Spring Sneakers running club. "As a result, a large entry of excellent runners from the island as well as the Lower Mainland participated."

Salt Spring earned medal performances from Susan Gordon and Andrew Haigh, and top-10 finishes from Catherine Bennett, Janice Dickie, Eric Ellis, Aidan Haigh, Marcia Jansen, Lynn Thompson and Eric Van Soeren.

Gordon finished first in her age category with a time of 33:36. Haigh won a bronze medal in his category by running the Saanich Peninsula

course in 31:45.

"As a team we have already banked 179 points. This compares to 11 entries and 124 points one year ago," Thompson said.

"We can certainly look forward to the Cobble Hill 10K in two weeks with positive expectations."

The Island Race Series consists of eight events of various distances held between January and April in communities across Vancouver Island. The event is organized by the Vancouver Island Runners' Association.



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Salt Spring's first baby of 2015



Congratulations

to parents Carli Bantel and Kyler Bantel and big sisters: Miranda (9), Gracelyn (7), Makynlee (2). Their baby girl was born at 9:37 a.m. on January 11th at Lady Minto Hospital. Welcome baby Evanna Bantel!

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