

Seven Ravens' 25 years

Permaculture projects flourish

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Arts galore

Exhibits, music, workshops

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GULF ISLANDS

# Driftwood

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 30 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



## CONTEST

# Salt Spring makes top-4 list

### Huge community push needed to win \$250,000

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Erica Ross thought watching judges announce the four finalists in this year's inaugural Kraft Project Play contest was a good excuse to share a Sunday evening beverage with friends. Little did she know the island would be selected to compete for the contest's \$250,000 grand prize.

"It's madly exciting," said Ross, past-president of the Salt Spring Tennis Association. "I'm a bit gobsmeaked but thrilled."

Ross nominated the Portlock Park tennis court for the countrywide contest with a hope of securing much-needed funding for restoration work.

The four finalists were selected from more than 700 participants. Salt Spring is the only one of the group west of Ontario. The Project Play judges announced the finalists Sunday evening on TSN.

Kelly Flemming, brand manager at Kraft Foods, said judges based their decision on how the prize money will be used, communities' passion and spirit, and the overall creativity of nominations.

Making the top four — alongside contenders from London, Ont., North Sydney, N.S. and St. John's, N.L. — guarantees Salt Spring will get at least \$25,000. The money will be administered by Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission.

Jon Suk, PARC chair, called the announcement tremendously exciting news. He applauded Ross and the Salt Spring Tennis Association for championing the initiative.

PROJECT PLAY continued on 2



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**BEHIND THE MAGIC DOOR:** Kobi Nash opens the door to a wee faerie home during the Elf Picnic and Treasure Hunt at Fitzroy Farm on Sunday.

## BC FERRIES

# Ferry vessel names released

Selection honours Coast Salish people

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salish Orca, Salish Eagle and Salish Raven will set sail at ports throughout the Salish Sea when construction of the new BC Ferries vessels wraps up in Poland next year.

BC Ferries announced the names of the new intermediate-class vessels Tuesday, following a months-long process that saw more than 7,000 public submissions. A 12-person panel made up of representatives from local media outlets, Ferry Advisory Committee members and BC Ferries' employees selected who made the final cut through a facilitated process.

"It is cool to think that these vessels, and the names that we helped to choose, will be a part of B.C.'s history," said Kim Barton-Bridges, a contest judge and chair of the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee.

Gail Sjuberg, editor of the Gulf Islands Driftwood, was among the judging panel's three media representatives.

"While the committee had to fend off a quite-spirited push by a BC Ferries employee to name one of the vessels 'the Grizzly,' I think everyone was

FERRY NAMES continued on 4

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## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the  
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Monday, Aug. 3 - BC Day** and will  
re-open for usual business hours  
on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood  
Wednesday Aug. 5  
edition will be as follows:**

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**Friday, July 31, 4pm**

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**Tuesday, Aug. 4, 9am**

  
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# Online voting part of play contest

**PROJECT PLAY**  
continued from 1

"While we await the \$250,000 grand prize announcement following voting, there is already cause to celebrate with the assured \$25,000 award," he said Monday.

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director, pledged PARC's full support in the quest for the grand prize.

"The enthusiasm and hard work of the Salt Spring Island Tennis Association has again resulted in success," he said.

Dan Ovington, PARC general manager, said any money won as a result of the prize will be combined with PARC's existing funds to restore the courts.

"The tennis courts are in desperate need of repair and are free for the community to enjoy," he said. "The \$25,000 will get us that much closer to our goal of replacing the failed tennis foundation and provides us with more matching funds when looking for grants and or sponsorships."

Making the finals is significant, but Ross has her eyes focused on the grand prize, which will be announced on Aug. 21. Winning the \$250,000 will mean better courts and greater exposure for Salt Spring across Canada.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TSN feature producer Matt Cade directs Salt Spring players at the Portlock Park tennis court for a segment on the Kraft Project Play contest last week.

"We're still hoping for the big one," she said. "I think we have a really good chance."

Kraft will host a community barbecue for 500 people at Portlock Park on Aug. 14. The party marks the lead up for public voting to choose the grand prize winner.

"It's now up to the community of Salt Spring Island to help us crown the grand prize winner. Help us spread the word and encourage your community to visit KraftProjectPlay.com

to vote starting at 12:00 p.m. ET on Aug. 17 until 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 18," said Alison Palmieri, a spokesperson for the Project Play competition. "Voting is unlimited, so Canadians can vote for their favourite finalist as often as possible."

Ross said she hopes to get people voting by turning the event into a massive community celebration that unites all islanders.

"I must emphasize that this

is a community effort, not a tennis-specific one," she added. "The funds go to PARC for the use of the whole community of our island. We want to involve everyone in the project in order to succeed."

A TSN television crew visited the island late last week to gather footage of Portlock Park and the island. Ross said the footage will be used in promotional material and contest updates before the August vote.

## BUSINESS

# Choices gets second chance

Anonymous donor steps forward

A Ganges clothing store will not close its doors by the end of the week as originally planned after an anonymous donor offered to pick up the cost of rent for the next two years.

Yolande Leger, new owner of Choices Too Services Ltd., a private company that offers day programs for 14 adults with special needs, said last week the business could not con-

tinue without a \$2,000 per month rent contribution from funder Community Living BC.

Leger says the Choices retail space provides employment and training for 12 of the program's participants.

"This clothing store was opened 22 years ago to provide job training opportunities to people with special needs," she said. "It was created as a way to integrate the people we support into the community in the hope of the individuals becom-

ing more visible."

Last week a spokesperson at Community Living British Columbia said the Crown corporation would no longer cover rent associated with the building's retail space but would pay the rent for the area on the same premises that the program participants use. He since said the previous contract for \$18,000 per month was being reviewed.

Leger said the last-minute donation will cover the rent shortfall for at least the next two years.

## TRANSPORTATION

# Uber explored as transit add-on

Government innovation urged

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission is considering an unorthodox way of extending its public transit system's reach through a link-up with the Uber car service app.

Commissioner Scott Simmons proposed looking into the idea at SSITC's regular board meeting on Monday, and asked permission to discuss the matter with Salt Spring Transit's contracted service provider Ineke de Jong.

Simmons is himself a registered Uber driver, meaning people who have the app could hire him for a ride.

A letter sent by Transportation Minister Todd Stone to all provincial transit authorities

in May reported a freeze on transit spending for the next three years. Noting this could pose a challenge to maintaining current service levels, Stone called on BC Transit to work with local governments to develop strategies for service innovations and cost savings.

Commissioners agreed that Simmons should discuss the idea with de Jong before talking to Uber about making a community presentation, stating the proposal could be an innovative way to meet local transit needs. They also considered the possibility of objections from local cab drivers, stating they might not be as strong as in cities like Toronto, where a taxi licence can cost as much as \$100,000 to purchase.



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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

### BC Day Long Weekend

Monday, Aug. 3 is a holiday

Busy times at ferry terminals and elsewhere!

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION

# Island families question SWOVA' R+R programming

Review to make program more inclusive of boys

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA)'s long-running violence prevention program Respectful Relationships may not be offered at Salt Spring schools for the first time in 15 years due to concerns expressed by parents, students and teachers in the Gulf Islands School District.

Leading the charge to change the program is Jonah Baker, a student who recently completed his fourth and final year of R+R workshops in Grade 10. Baker believes that for the program to be effective, considerable gaps and voids need to be addressed and an equitable approach to the genders pursued instead of the current focus on men's violence against women.

"I understand there is great pressure on girls and women, but there is also on boys and young men," Baker wrote in a letter to the school board this spring. "I didn't choose to be a heterosexual white male. I just am."

Baker's strong feeling of inequity in the way boys and girls are treated in the group sessions led him to write an essay on the topic as a follow-up to his letter to the school board in March.

"Together we can make a difference, a change; apart only creates mistrust, fear, anger and violence," Baker wrote. "What I am asking for is balance in the information presented."

Almost a decade of research and development went into creating the award-winning R+R curriculum. But while many parents agree with its goals and intentions, some feel the program has swayed from its path in recent years. A particular concern is that boys can feel alienated by content

or vilified for violent behaviour they haven't themselves committed.

"None of us is saying this type of programming shouldn't be in schools or what they're learning. However, right now, it's missing the mark," said Jonah's father Brent Baker. "They started off with a really good idea and it's kind of been skewed."

"A number of the boys come out of there feeling ashamed and self-conscious. The approach taken to their identity as boys seems a bit heavy-handed," said Cindy Akers, a parent who met with GISS vice principal Richard Bennett to speak about her concerns last fall. Her son Adler Rabson just graduated high school and younger son Hayden Rabson is about to enter Grade 12.

Hayden said he didn't get as much out of the program as he could have because he was confused about how to feel about being male after the statistics were presented. He said open dialogue was not encouraged.

"I felt really awkward just being there, but I also thought the information was really one-sided," he said. "We shouldn't be dealing with extremes. We should be able to discuss these things."

**"Together we can make a difference, a change; apart only creates mistrust, fear, anger and violence."**

JONAH BAKER  
Salt Spring student

Jonah Baker's mother, Jacquie Byron, has had a number of questions about the program, moving from high school administration to district superintendent Lisa Halstead to the school board for answers. She has asked who



The 2014 SWOVA R+R youth team and facilitators.

SWOVA PHOTO

parents go to if the program isn't working for their kids, who oversees the programming and is responsible for monitoring it, what part of the BC curriculum it fulfills, whether it is mandatory and if so, what alternative exists. The family also has questions about the way course evaluations are administered and used.

"I want my kids to speak up if they have questions," Byron said. "I really encourage people to speak up if they have a concern — respectfully ask the questions and listen to the kids."

Former GISS student Cole Smith has spoken for the program's merits, and credited his experience as a SWOVA youth facilitator with helping him pass the interview to become a Loran Scholar. He is now studying at Queen's University.

"At my old school, there was a lot of violence that went unnoticed or unreported. There was no way to vocalize the issues," Smith said at a June 2013 school board meeting.

"When I first joined the SWOVA youth team, it was amazing how quickly I was able to open up to everyone. And as soon as I started working with the SIMS students, I saw how important it was to have in the curriculum."

Josh Funfer, another past youth facilitator, said he was

"blown away" when he first encountered R+R in Grade 9.

"Not only was the course material so incredibly vital to living a healthy life, the atmosphere that the program created was unlike anything I could have ever imagined witnessing in a high school setting," he stated for a SWOVA newsletter story. "The conversations were so real and all of the superficial topics that infest the halls were left behind at the door."

Byron has suggested a non-gendered approach to these conversations would be more appropriate, such as the respectful relationships training she has received through her work as a nurse at Lady Minto Hospital.

At the Baker/Byron family's request, Gulf Islands District Superintendent Lisa Halstead conducted a review of R+R this spring. The school board has since met with the SWOVA executive with negotiations ongoing as to how and if R+R will be offered this fall.

R+R is also independently evaluated at the end of each school year based on student surveys. This year's report by Judi Stevenson of Minerva Research & Communications shows the majority of students responded positively, although of the four grades Grade 10 students were less likely to find the programming useful for them-

selves or for others. And while the survey response rate was 85 per cent for Grade 9, only 69 of 140 Grade 10 students attended workshops regularly and completed surveys for a response rate of 49 per cent.

Lorna Cammaert, chair of SWOVA's board, said the organization is aware that parent and student dissatisfaction has been simmering and is working to address concerns.

"This year's evaluation is still positive, [but] it's not as positive as it has been. And so we made the commitment we would take into account this feedback and other feedback from the school and incorporate it into our curriculum review this summer," Cammaert said.

Akers noted that even on an island that's known for its tolerance and diversity, it can be surprising what types of stereotypical comments are expressed, so the need for dialogue is clearly there. She feels R+R should continue if changes can be made to make it more inclusive.

"I think we just need to have more discussions if we can about how to do that and have better integration with our existing curriculum," Cammaert said. "We talk about respect and we talk about inclusiveness. It would be a terrible model for us not to demonstrate that in our program."

## ABOUT SWOVA

SWOVA is a charitable organization that was formed in 1996 to prevent domestic violence after a local woman was savagely beaten in front of her young daughter. The organization has since evolved to focus on changing societal norms through youth education and empowerment.

## ABOUT R+R

Respectful Relationships curriculum has won national and provincial awards, has been endorsed by UNICEF and was recognized by the United Nations as having a positive impact on relationship-based violence.

Running for 15 years on Salt Spring, the curriculum is delivered through a series of 12 workshops each year in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. The workshops address bullying, sexism, racism and homophobia, with a focus on the development of healthy, non-violent relationships among adolescent boys and girls.

At the high school level, the workshops have been incorporated into the required courses Real 9 and Planning 10.

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# Coast Salish artists to create designs on new vessels

## FERRY NAMES

continued from 1

happy to present the Salish class and Orca, Eagle, Raven vessel names as our first choice," she said. "Professional facilitator Patti Schom-Moffatt of Edelman Canada deserves big kudos for helping us slash the options list to a manageable size."

As directed, the panelists presented two other sets of three names to BC Ferries' executive team to make the final

selection.

"These names honour the Coast Salish people and truly reflect both the West Coast travel experience and the culture of British Columbia," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' president and CEO.

Corrigan commended judges faced with the difficult task of selecting the finalists and participants who took part in the Name a Ferry contest.

Critics of BC Ferries and frustrated ferry

users took advantage of the contest to share their discontent with the company by suggesting a raft of satirical names through social media that reflect fare increases, ferry cuts and the decision to build the boats in a European shipyard.

The Salish Eagle will replace the 51-year-old Queen of Nanaimo in early 2017, sailing on the Tsawwassen to Southern Gulf Islands route. The Salish Raven will begin service in

the Gulf Islands by the summer of 2017. The Salish Orca will run between Comox and Powell River, replacing the Queen of Burnaby in late 2016.

The coastal-inspired monikers were selected to recognize the Coast Salish people and the Salish Sea.

Chief Clint Williams of the Sliammon Nation said he's pleased with the selection, as the names honour the elders, chiefs, people and traditional territories

of the Coast Salish people.

BC Ferries staff will work with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to choose Coast Salish artisans who will design artwork for the exterior and interior of the vessels.

"We are looking forward to working with Coast Salish artists and the BC Ferries team on this inspiring project to adorn the new ferries with Coast Salish Art," says Tracey Herbert, executive director of the



IMAGE COURTESY BC FERRIES

Artist's rendition of newly named Salish class vessel.

First Peoples' Cultural Council. "This collaboration is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the vibrant and thriving cultural heritage found on the coast of the Salish Sea."

## SALT SPRING ISLAND

### RECYCLING DEPOT

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## ST. MARY LAKE

# NSSWD requests more water from lake

Licence amendment being pursued

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Faced with dropping water levels in St. Mary Lake, staff at the North Salt Spring Waterworks District want permission to draw the lake level below its currently allowed limit.

"This is not mismanagement on the part of the district, this is an emergency," said general manager Ron Stepaniuk during the district's July 22 board meeting.

Stepaniuk said the federal and provincial governments are reviewing the district's request for a temporary water licence amendment.

The new licence would allow the district to draw the lake down below the height of the weir near the lake's outflow. The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans is also considering whether to allow the NSSWD to reduce the amount of water it releases into Duck Creek by roughly 20 per cent. The current licence doesn't allow the district to draw the lake below 40 metres above sea level and requires at least five litres per second be released into Duck Creek to support fish habitat.

"A lot of people say, 'There's a lot of water in the lake, so why can't we just use that?' and the reality is that North Salt Spring is actually licensed to use the top 70 centimetres in St. Mary Lake," said Meghan McKee, NSSWD's water quality expert, at a July 19 community water conservation forum. "From the time when it is full and overflowing into Duck Creek, 70 centimetres down is what we are allowed to use."

McKee said the right to release less water would enable the district to access more water for its estimated 5,000 users.

"The less flow we let out, the easier it is to keep the lake higher," she said.

Stepaniuk said the lake level will certainly drop below the height of the weir if dry conditions persist through September. This would essentially cut off the water supply into Duck Creek.

NSSWD submitted its request to the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and DFO in late June. A response is anticipated by early August, following the conclusion of a 30-day consultation period.

"[The province] realizes that we are not going to stop serving customers for the sake of a few fish," Stepaniuk said.

He said NSSWD staff plan to travel the creek's full length to salvage and relocate fish if the water-allocation permit is expanded and creek levels suffer.

Even if approval is granted, NSSWD staff and board members emphasize the need to conserve water. The more water levels in St. Mary and Maxwell lakes are drawn down before the end of this year's dry season, McKee said, the harder it will be to recharge them over the rainy winter season.

"We need to make sure that we don't overdraft those lakes or they will not refill, and we will be starting from a worse position next summer," she said. "We have to be very careful about how we manage this resource into the future."

As of July 23, the water level at St. Mary Lake was 40.325 above sea level. McKee said that's considerably lower than the 40.440 measured at the same time in 2014.

## ACTIVITIES

# Extra ferries for music festival

Plans solidifying for Aug. 8-9 event on Salt Spring

An inaugural Salt Spring outdoor music festival and garlic celebration is just around the corner, and BC Ferries is making it easier for Victoria-area residents to take it in.

On Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 8-9, extra sailings of the Skeena Queen from Fulford Harbour to Swartz Bay have been added at 9:40 p.m.

"BC Ferries is pleased to add these extra sailings as our way to help support this community event," said Deborah Marshall, BC Ferries' executive director of public affairs. "These extra sailings will allow festival goers from Victoria to stay a little longer and enjoy the entertainment on Salt Spring Island."

Festival founder Neale Smith said the announcement is welcomed.

"We're thrilled with the decision of BC Ferries to provide the later sailings. This positive response to our festival allows folks an opportunity to enjoy an incredible weekend of entertainment, food, workshops and events and not worry about missing the ferry home."

Salt Spring's First Annual Garlic and Music Festival features the sounds of Chilliwack, The Boom Booms, Ganga Giri and many more performers. Festival goers can savour garlic tastings, visit farm and food vendors, take in music workshops and enjoy the beer garden on site.

Parking for a fee is available at the venue, Paradise Farm at 255 Musgrave Rd., and anyone with accessibility issues will be accommodated and should arrive early.

Drivers are advised not to park on the side of Musgrave Road, as violators will be towed.

Shuttle buses will also be operating. "As a charitable foundation, proceeds from this event will go towards strengthening the vibrancy of the local music scene, highlighting and encouraging grassroots support of area farmers via farm disbursements and providing plenty of give-back to the Salt Spring community," explains a press release.

Festival tickets are limited and for sale online at [www.saltspringgarlicfestival.com](http://www.saltspringgarlicfestival.com) and at various Salt Spring Island vendors. A complete vendor list, as well as the performer schedule, is on the festival website.

## Help improve sailing schedules in the Southern Gulf Islands



This summer, customers are welcome to participate in our open houses to provide their input.

Saturna Island	August 17, 7-9 pm,	Saturna Island Community Hall
Mayne Island	August 18, 7-9 pm,	Mayne Island Community Centre
Pender Island	August 19, 7-9 pm,	Pender Island Community Hall
Salt Spring Island	August 24, 7-9 pm,	Salt Spring Island Harbour House
Sidney	August 26, 7-9 pm,	Mary Winspear Centre
Galiano Island	August 27, 7-9 pm,	Galiano Island Community Hall
Richmond	September 9, 7-9 pm,	River Rock Casino Resort

If you are unable to attend, please participate in our online Community Feedback survey from August 31 to September 20 by visiting [bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com).

For more information, visit us online, call 1-888-BC-FERRY (223-3779) or email [sgischeduling@bcferries.com](mailto:sgischeduling@bcferries.com).



## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Referendum voters rally behind Ganges sewer fix

Commissioners to move ahead on urgent fixes

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ganges sewer commission members can begin work on much-needed repairs to the village's sewer system following Saturday's referendum vote to borrow up to \$3.9 million.

"As far as the commission goes, the hard work is just starting," said commission chair Gary Utter. "The hard work is to now ensure that we use the taxpayers' money as efficiently as possible."

Residents and property owners voted 102 to 11 to proceed with borrowing to pay for upgrades and renewal of the 30-year-old sewage treatment plant. Utter celebrated the yes vote's decisive victory, though he would have preferred to see more voters participate in the referendum.

"If the vote was 12-11, I'd be a little more concerned," he said. "I'm pleased about the result. I think what it reflects is that this has been a [sewer] system that's worked extremely well in the over 30 years that it's been in place, and the result

confirms that we need to do the maintenance."

Sheila Norton, the CRD's deputy corporate officer, said determining voter turnout is difficult.

"The eligible number of voters is hard to break down and sort," she said. "I can't give the specific number."

**"As far as the commission goes, the hard work is just starting."**

GARY UTTER  
Chair, Ganges Local Sewer Service Commission

The Ganges sewer serves 417 residential, commercial and institutional properties in Ganges and the surrounding area.

Sixty-two people participated in advanced polls, 47 cast a ballot on general voting day and four voters participated by mail-in ballot.

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director, said he's pleased with the decision. The vote follows more than a year of planning and public consultation

about upgrades and the referendum question.

"While it's hard to know the specifics on the positive voting outcome, the number of sewer commission public meetings, published information as well as a public forum outlining all the details, I believe, were all instrumental in the voting result," McIntyre said Tuesday morning.

According to the Ganges Local Sewer Service Commission and Capital Regional District staff, sewer-area residential property owners will pay an additional \$179 per year for 20 years to repay the loan. Commissioners await results of federal and provincial government grant applications that could lower the burden on taxpayers by as much as \$100.

McIntyre said creation of a staff report with project details like a recommended building timeline is the next step. He said the vote means commissioners can finally move beyond the endless string of costly quick-fixes that have burdened ratepayers for years.

"Dealing with emergency breakdowns is normally more expensive than planning ahead," he said.

The project's completion on time

and on budget rests on strong local support and local project management by CRD staff based on Salt Spring, McIntyre added. Though the CRD has accrued a spotty track record on public infrastructure projects across its jurisdiction, McIntyre is confident work on the Ganges sewer can set a positive example.

"While there have certainly been

serious issues around some CRD infrastructure projects, there have also been some successes, such as the library," he said. "We want to learn from the mistakes and avoid them and build on what has worked well."

McIntyre said more support and control through local project management is essential for the project's success.

See my column on page 17



D.W. Salty

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## TRANSPORTATION

# SSITC considers access issues

HASSI and Gasoline Alley send delegations

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission was asked to consider the way people move through two portions of Ganges village on Monday, with delegations from Ganges Harbour Properties and the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island topping the agenda.

HASSI chair Kathy Scarfo addressed the commission on the matter of Manson Road, a contested area between the Mouat's Harbour Building and the Tree House Café. Last month the Capital Regional District moved to work with the provincial ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure and Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations to acquire the right-of-way and a portion of infilled harbour.

Speaking to the June 17 CRD staff report in which the step was recommended, Scarfo said she was pleased to see the need for maintaining public access was recognized. However, she

objected to the description of an "unconstructed road right-of-way," stating Manson Road has always been a road, and that access is needed for vehicles, not pedestrians, to reach Kanaka Dock.

"I guess the challenge is there seems to be a lack of recognition of our needs," Scarfo said. "It seems like that issue was missed in that report."

Scarfo also spoke of HASSI's long tenure of the contested area and its 25-year charter around providing public access to the waterfront. The CRD involvement has come at the request of local business owners Mark and Terena Le Corre, whose seating at the Tree House Café has been negatively impacted by HASSI's assertion over the leased area.

"We're a little bit bogged at the concept of acquiring a public right-of-way and privatizing it," Scarfo said, adding a proposal funded by the Islands Trust for a "Tree House plaza" on property owned by Mouat's Trading Co. seemed like the better option.

"We thought we were still engaged in that process," she said.

SSITC chair Robin Williams pointed to a community petition to

maintain the Tree House seating that received over 2,000 signatures, representing a significant portion of Salt Spring's population.

"It's not our role to find space on private land. It's not your role to accommodate business. So there's not much either of us can do," Scarfo said.

**"I guess the challenge is there seems to be a lack of recognition of our needs."**

KATHY SCARFO  
HASSI chair

Commissioner Scott Simmons asked Scarfo to provide information about when vehicle access to the dock might be needed, such as specific times of day or the notice time needed in advance, noting nothing had been decided or finalized as of yet.

"I think the best thing today is to get everything out in the open," Williams said.

In a separate delegation, David Grayson, the property manager and part-owner of the build-

ing known as Gasoline Alley, presented a request for help from Ganges Harbour Properties. The company hopes to build a sidewalk on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way on Fulford-Ganges Road, which will help keep pedestrians safe and provide a clear demarcation for landscaping plans fronting Ganges Gas.

"We're always concerned that people are just wandering everywhere on a Saturday," Grayson said.

Grayson had sought advice on how to proceed in the past and was sent to numerous local government branches without success. Williams confirmed the transportation commission was the right group to approach with the plan.

Grayson said his company would be willing to contribute to the construction cost, possibly as much as 50 per cent. Cost of the initial stretch directly outside the gas station has been estimated at \$12,000 to \$13,000. A second stretch from the parking lot entrance to an existing crosswalk is also proposed.

SSITC commissioners will discuss the possibilities at a future meeting.

**Keep Smiling...**

THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

## What's the cheapest thing, Doc?

So, what is the cheapest sort of dentistry? After doing this for over 17 years I have discovered that dentistry that lasts a long time and that doesn't have to be redone too soon is ultimately cheapest.

The most expensive dentistry is often what seemed to be the cheap option but fails and needs to be redone, usually in a more costly and complicated way.

Take for example a tooth with a crack in it. One option is to place a new top on the tooth so it won't fracture. This might cost \$1000 to \$1500, depending on your dentist. Another option is to "wait and see" which costs nothing. Recently I saw a lady whose tooth had split right to the nerve. OUCH! Now a root canal is required as well as the crown, doubling the cost and making the entire procedure less predictable.



Please discuss your budget with your dentist, and always ask yourself if you can truly afford the 'cheapest' option.

**We have a smile for you!**

199 Saltspring Way, Saltspring Island, V8K 2G2  
250 537 1400

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.haydentistry.com](http://www.haydentistry.com)

**Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre**

# OPINION



2015 CCNA Awards  
Gold - General Excellence | Gold - Front Page | Gold - Editorial Page | Gold - Feature Series (Sean McIntyre & Elizabeth Nolan)  
Gold - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker) | Gold - Agricultural Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua)  
Silver - Editorial (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)



2015 BCYCNA Awards  
Gold - Environmental Writing (Elizabeth Nolan & Sean McIntyre) | Bronze - General Excellence

## EDITORIAL

# Spend wisely

**I**t was good news to hear that the Ganges sewer referendum passed by a solid 102-11 margin on the weekend.

The sewer system serving 417 parcels in the Ganges area is now 30 years old and showing its age after decades of operation. Failure to get the \$3.9 million required to replace crucial infrastructure would have left the Capital Regional District in a basically untenable position of patching things together and waiting for a complete system breakdown.

But with the CRD in charge of spending all that money, we can't help but be a little wary.

The \$2.1 million an island-wide referendum authorized for Burgoyne Bay liquid waste system upgrades way back in 2008 did not result in the promised work being done by the CRD. Instead, funds have been used to keep the site open with sludge being trucked

### THE ISSUE:

Ganges sewer referendum

### WE SAY:

All eyes on next CRD project

off island at a cost of about \$285,000 per year as various plans have been considered but not adopted. Members of the island's liquid waste commission who resigned in frustration just two months ago have nightmarish stories to tell about dealing with Victoria bureaucracy in trying to get things done in a cost-effective manner, as do some volunteers who have served on the Fulford, Beddis and Highland water commissions in the past 10 years. Their residents also authorized substantial borrowing for essential system upgrades that did not go smoothly, to say the least.

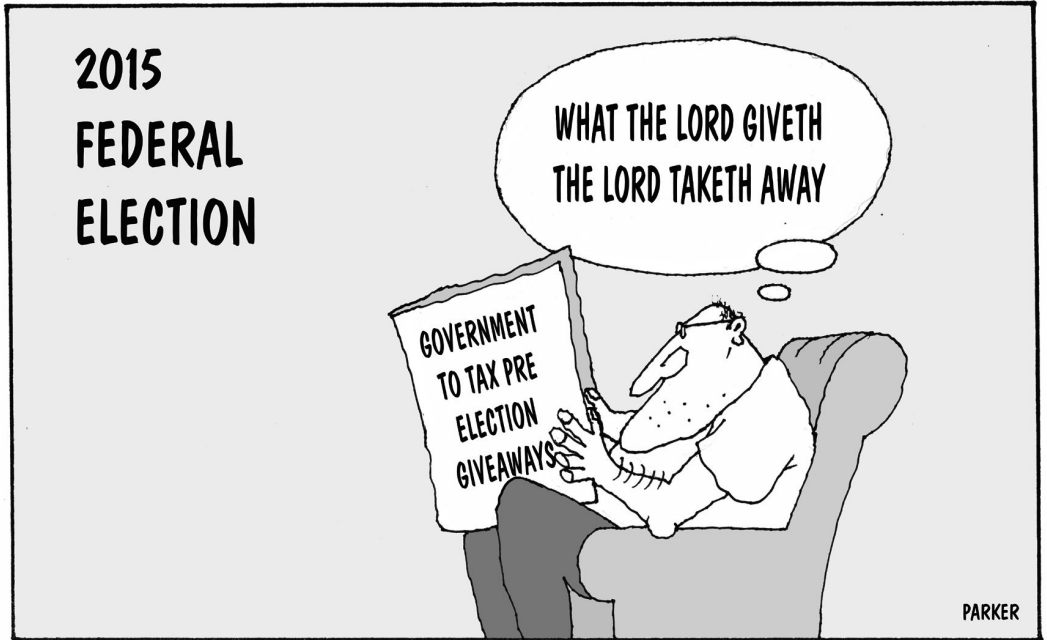
It's not only with the CRD that cost overruns and mismanagement can occur, of course. It just so happens that on Salt Spring the CRD has handled most of our infrastructure projects.

On the positive side, present CRD personnel may be different at all levels from those in the past and more on-island staff are now in place, but such changes are no guarantee that systemic problems won't persist.

And if the Burgoyne liquid waste, Fulford, Beddis and Highlands water experiences weren't such a prominent part of Salt Spring's governance history, a cautionary note would not be necessary.

We hope the unfortunate outcomes of those past referendum-approved projects won't be far from the minds of everyone involved at the CRD, and the Ganges sewer area taxpayers' money will be spent as specified before the vote was taken.

## 2015 FEDERAL ELECTION



VIEWPOINT by George Grams

# SSIWPA chair acknowledges work

After three years of endeavour, the draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan for St. Mary Lake was issued for public comment.

Following receipt, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority will seek through its constituent agencies to implement the plan designed to effect improved raw water quality and the long-term remediation, protection, sustainability and stewardship of the lake. As chair of SSIWPA, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the parties that were key to the establishment and successful operation of the authority.

Firstly, recognition and gratitude are extended to the agencies that agreed to participate: the Local Trust Committee, Capital Regional District, Ministry of Environment, Island Health, North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and Highlands and Fernwood water commissions. The authority could not function without their collective commitment and resources that they provide.

Secondly, the architect of the concept that made SSIWPA a reality was former Islands Trust planning manager Leah Hartley. She recognized that effective management of water resources requires each agency that has a responsibility for some aspect of water quality to act in concert. Islands Trust CAO Linda Adams guided the necessary approvals from Trust Council needed for SSIWPA to germinate, allowing the Salt Spring LTC to function as coordinating manager of the several agencies that comprise SSIWPA. Council's consent for that purpose marked the first time in the Trust's 40-year history that such delegated powers were awarded to a LTC. That consent is a landmark in helping achieve joined-up governance on Salt Spring.

Thirdly, we have the Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of community volunteers who provided an incredible array of scientific talent, invested hundreds of hours in desk studies and field tests and who, in some cases, supplied the necessary equipment and resources to undertake tests at their own expense.

Fourthly, I acknowledge the value of the Public Advisory Committee in acting as the conduit to instill into the plan the necessary social, cultural, economic, recreational and environmental values that St. Mary Lake represents to the community.

Last but by no means least, our coordinator, Shannon Cowan, provided invaluable services as facilitator, connecting the various committees that comprise SSIWPA and functioning as a motivational communicator between SSIWPA and the community at large.

All of these agencies and individuals make my task as SSIWPA chair very much easier than it might otherwise be and I extend my thanks to them all.

The next steps for SSIWPA are to give the St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan legs. To do so we need all agencies that comprise SSIWPA to play their part in implementing that part of the plan within each agency's mandate. And we need to monitor the lake over the coming months and years to allow us to measure whether the plan is successful, and to make any adjustments to the plan that further data suggest are necessary.

SSIWPA has also resolved to turn its attention to the next important watershed on island — Cusheon Lake — and to examine a subject crucial to this island's wellbeing, the issue of water quantity. Recognizing the limitations of that most precious resource and devising how we promote efficiency in its use are prerequisites to developing an integrated community sustainability plan for Salt Spring. That plan can help us consensually define a preferred vision for the future of this island, and chart a path to help us achieve that vision, respectful of the wellbeing of the many species of flora and fauna that share the island.

*The writer is chair of SSIWPA and a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member.*

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

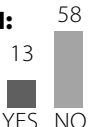
## Do you like the new ferry vessel names?

Yes  No

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

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Have you been a computer scam victim?



# Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We're always concerned that people are just wandering everywhere on a Saturday."**

DAVID GRAYSON, GASOLINE ALLEY CO-OWNER

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What makes B.C. such a great place to live?



**BEAU LABINE**  
*It's the warmest place in Canada.*



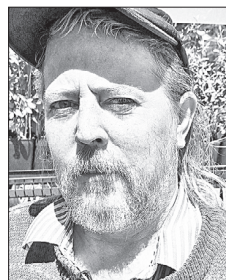
**DAVE MCKERRELL**  
*It's awesome here. I think it's a weird magnet; once you arrive, it's impossible to leave.*



**HUNTER TAIT**  
*I like that there's not many dangerous things.*



**TOM UPEX**  
*We elected the first Green MP*



**JIM WHEATLEY**  
*Being by the ocean.*

## 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**

### Chamber fest excellence appreciated

Once again, the Salt Spring Chamber Music Festival was a great success and a joy for those who had the good fortune of applauding a group of remarkable artists.

This annual event, now in its eighth year, brings together students and faculty under the laudable guidance of David Visentin from Toronto and a summer resident of Salt Spring. This year, a record number of participants, seven faculty and 17 stu-

dents presented three concerts whose finely crafted programs allowed each and every one of them to shine. This can only be achieved with the broadest knowledge and love of the repertoire.

For all that, I am ever so grateful to ArtSpring, whose presence among us I celebrate wholeheartedly.

**HÉLÈNE NARAYANA,**  
BEAVER POINT ROAD

### Elves happy with picnic

Erskine the Elf would like to thank everyone who attended our First Annual Elf Picnic and

Treasure Hunt, especially those who travelled from afar.

It was sure fun. When the dust settled we found we had a set of fairy wings and a black bag full of baby supplies.

The elves will bring these to the Saturday Market and you can pick them up there.

**ERSKINE ELF, AND  
ROGER BRUNT,**  
SALT SPRING

### Driver's exam system flawed

The following letter was sent to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health, and the Honour-

able Susan Anton, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I would like to bring your attention to the issue of mandatory drivers' medical exams at 80 years of age and every two years following. My office has received numerous complaints about the justification for this mandatory examination, the high fees being charged and the arbitrary nature of these fees.

As you know, Doctors of BC, as a result of negotiations with your government, individually determines the fee to fill

out driver examination reports. Therefore, the cost for the exam appears to vary widely depending on the physician, and there does not seem to be any consistency in the fee structure, or rationale for the range of fees being charged.

I have heard of one instance in which a doctor initially demanded \$400 for an examination fee. The patient was able to negotiate this fee down, but this demonstrates the arbitrary nature of the process. For some seniors, the fees for medical exams, plus possible additional fees for DriveAble BC testing, may preclude them

from ever driving again. It is my understanding that doctors are required to reduce or waive the fee for any patients who are experiencing economic hardship, but it is not at all clear how this requirement is applied, or even if there has ever been a fee waived.

I would appreciate an explanation of the scientific rationale for mandatory testing and the unfair and apparently arbitrary fee structure for such tests as soon as possible.

**GARY HOLMAN,**  
SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS MLA

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Extended drought akin to Twilight Zone scene

When I was still a kid, I remember watching a weekly science fiction television series called The Twilight Zone. One episode I particularly remember was the one where the planet Earth had fallen out of orbit and was now hurtling uncontrollably towards the sun. The plot centred on a few characters who were attempting to survive in the sweltering heat as the temperature continued to climb.

These last few months, in what has become known as the "drought of 2015," have made the premise of that TV program seem like it was not that far-fetched. Day after day and week after week, we have been inundated with the brutal assault of oppressive heat and a complete lack of rain. The extreme irony of the situation is that we are getting the exact summer weather we have always dreamed about, but it is turning our green island oasis into a browned-out, dehydrated desert wadi.

At first, we welcomed the fine weather. After a drier than normal winter, we were all smiles when April and May blew by with multiple days of sunshine and mild temperatures. We started to get a little nervous when June did its best impersonation of mid-August, but laughed the matter away with the belief that things would all even out in the long run and that July would bring the rain we usually received in the spring months.

Well, that hasn't happened. Call it global warming. Call it climate change. You can claim that this has all come around before and is merely a geo-climate cycle that repeats every 350,000 years (although you would be hard-pressed to produce a dinosaur who is willing to

corroborate this theory). The fact is that no matter what the cause, it's drier than the proverbial camel's fart out there and there is absolutely no relief in sight.

Everywhere you look you can see the concern on people's faces. At the top of the "drought stress pyramid" are the home gardeners. As each rainless day passes, you can see the creases on their worried brows grow deeper than the furrows in which they planted their beans back in the springtime. Dreams of bountiful harvests have atrophied as the supply of water has dwindled. Irrigation of crops has gone all the way from sprinklers and hoses to drip lines and hand watering cans to the point now where dedicated yet desperate growers hover over each plant and pinch out a few precious molecules of H2O from a medicine dropper.

Even the animals in the forest are confused by the erratic and unconventional weather patterns this year. Marshes and creek beds, usually teeming with wildlife, have withered into unwelcome habitats for browsers and foragers.

Closer to home, backyard concrete birdbaths have been left high and dry by their owners as our winged swallows and sparrows perch atop power lines wailing woeful songs to no one in particular of days gone by frolicking in the spray.

Further down the food chain, you can also find weird behaviour presenting itself as a result of the shortage of rain. Pacific banana slugs, usually coated in oozing layers of slime, are



**Shilo Zylbergold**

### NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

having to learn how to get by with little or no lubrication to ease them through their daily motions. Those pesky wasps, a problem at any time of the summer season, must be slapping themselves silly and double checking their calendars to make certain that it is not now actually fall fair time with the accompanying usual last gasp of dry weather punctuated by the smells of hot buttered corn, Slugburgers and cotton candy.

The big fear in everybody's mind, of course, is fire. There's always someone out there who believes that rules and regulations are just for other people. If this "genius" thinks a sunset beach fire weenie roast is in order, then why shouldn't he be allowed to do what he wants? After all, he's a responsible adult and, besides, he will be extra careful.

You'd be surprised how many people think along these lines. A conversation with anybody working or volunteering with the fire department will confirm that most brush fires are caused by people who thought they were being more than careful enough but somehow the situation got out of control.

Couple that with all the tourists and visitors who come to the island with zero appreciation for how dry the forest is and how limited the resources are for fighting bush fires (especially one that gets away). Personally, I've tried to explain to a visiting city-dweller how devastating the result would be if Salt Spring were to catch on fire, but all I got back was that "How

long is this lecture going to last?" look. Maybe relief is on its way. Perhaps it won't get so bad where a walk along the shoreline of St. Mary Lake would produce the horrific vision of rainbow trout and smallmouth bass flopping about helplessly in the half-caked mud that used to be lake bottom. Possibly, the drought will not harm the island economy to the point where the best plan for turning a business profit is opening an underground illegal lemonade stand speakeasy.

Nobody asked me, but you have to wonder how much longer this drought can go on. Just yesterday, a neighbour mentioned that she had read on a website that we could not expect any appreciable rain until November. November? That's about the same time, as I estimate things, that planet Earth will go tumbling into the sun.

By the way, in case you're wondering how that Twilight Zone ended, it turns out that the whole Earth crashing into the sun disaster scenario was just a bad dream. When the protagonist awoke suddenly, she discovered that the exact opposite was actually the case. Everybody was struggling to keep from freezing to death because the Earth had escaped its orbit and was drifting off into deep space.

At this point, that doesn't seem like such a bad idea.

\*\*\*\*\*

To all the readers who emailed, phoned, mailed letters, or just stopped me in aisle 7B to ask about my health, offer wishes and prayers, or turn me on to some miracle cure involving mayonnaise and slug slime: a big thank-you. This is truly a magnificent community we live in.

# RANTS *and* Roses

A motorcycle full of well-secured glorious roses to the Mainroad highways guy (sorry, my husband didn't get your name) who saw my purse fall off the back of my motorcycle, tried to catch me, then took my purse all the way to my north-end home, where I found it waiting after searching fruitlessly back from the bottom of Stewart Road to Country Grocer. Your action was a true blessing. In a time of great stress, you made my life so much better, and gave me a happy glow about living where such honest and helpful people live. Therin

Salt Spring Island Fire Fighters Association sends a large bouquet of fire-engine red roses to the following local businesses for their support during our annual association-sponsored Friday night event during this year's Training in Paradise. Thank you very much: Mouat's, Embe Bakery, The Rental Stop, Country Grocer, Dale and Ian at Moby's Pub, Barry at the Farmers' Institute and Ted Akerman.

The Salt Spring Rowing Club would like to give thanks to all who graciously donated to and supported Salt Spring's first rowing regatta, held June 27 at Long Harbour. Many thanks to Country Grocer, Thrifty's, Mouat's Home Hardware, North End Fitness, Gallery 8, Pegasus Gallery, Kerry Mason Art Consultant, Evolve Studios, Arbutus Grove Nursery, SeaChange Seafoods, Outspokin' Bike Shop, Salt Spring Adventure Co., Rainbow Road Trading Co., Laughing Daughters Bakery, Pharmasave. And to the countless boat drivers, concession stand and silent auction volunteers, along with all those who prepared lunch and the high school for offering their kitchen for preparations. Thanks also to Tom Toynbee, our guest of honour, for his speech detailing his rowing career and success at the 1954 Empire Games.

A bicycle basket full of roses for everyone who helped us raise funds, gave hugs, kisses, honks and waves. You all made the Cycle of Life Tour 2015 an amazing experience. Till next year, Brian and Karen

A fender full of roses to Kurt at Irwin Collision for your kind, generous, quick and professional perfection in helping our poor car to come up roses for what looks like a long time to come. So appreciated.

## Rainwater car wash a fine start to day

So, here I am the coordinator of the Electric Vehicle show who, on the event's opening day, has a dusty and dirty LEAF — the proud symbolic display of our so necessary water conservation habits.

It's not exactly the image I would like to portray for the EV show, but in these challenging times of extreme drought, that was the only choice to make.

I awake to a few drops, which fade away, then return and then gain momentum. By 7 a.m. I am running around ensuring every rainwater harvesting strategy that I have is operating to the max.

I then do what I have not had to do in the past. I detach every corner roof drain pipe, so the water accumulates in buckets under the collection points. When they approach filling, I manually use the water to soak the drip lines of all my trees. And then I refill the buckets. After I have done all I can do, I then fill every other container I can think of (for future use since a very dry August is likely coming).

When I have exhausted my options, I park my car in the rain where the washing water will drain towards my garden, wait half an hour to really soak the dust and dirt, take some of the excess overflow in a bucket and sponge, and then hand wash the EV. It looks great!

Then I enjoyed my first coffee of the day and looked forward to a hopefully fuller St. Mary Lake and a fun-filled EV show.

**JIM STANDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

## Israel poses greater danger

*The following is an open letter to the Prime Minister of Israel, sent to the Driftwood for publication.*

Dear Mr. Netanyahu,  
You warn U.S. President Barack Obama that the agreement now made with Iran is one of history's greatest "mistakes." You may be right, though my fear is less about Iran than about your Israel.

Yes, I suppose Iran may be attempting to keep the potential for a nuclear weapon alive in some secretive manner, which the agreement equally attempts to keep impossible; but is it not understandable, when the world knows (though does not

mention) that your Israel already has such nuclear capability, and that Iranians might hope to protect themselves from you, even as you hope to protect your Israel from them?

Is the greater danger, perhaps, that you, in your self-righteous anxiety, might decide on a "pre-emptive" attack against Iran's presumed subterfuge? What then?

The rest of the world might be more sympathetic to your anxiety if you were not seen to be the land-grabbing, bomb-dropping, U.S.-backed power that ignores the grief and the pain of the Palestinian people who are still being pushed from their land as your settlements spread.

It is a dangerous situation from all points of view, but the alternative to this attempt at peaceful diplomacy, which has at least a glimmering possibility of success, can only be a conflagration beyond imagining.

**MARY TOYNBEE,**  
SALT SPRING

## Mercantile lot not for ferries

*The following was part of the Salt Spring Mercantile summer newsletter and submitted to the Driftwood for publication.*

I'm going to throw you a curve ball here. I know those of you who read the newsletter realize it takes on a cheery, positive note. But, you know, sometimes . . . just sometimes, something gets up your nose, and you kind of have to get it off your chest. And for those of you who live here, bear with me, because I am going to beat a dead horse.

Parking. Yup. That one again.

Funny as it may be to dodge in and dodge out to come pick up Aunt Edna or cousin Eddie, or your best friend who's never been to Salt Spring before, you know what you're in for. As anyone can see, especially at ferry times, there is no parking in Fulford.

OK, I exaggerate! But you know that getting down that hill and finding a spot to call your own while you wait for the ferry to arrive is going to be a challenge.

Everyone does it too. From the northern-most north-ender, to the southern-most south-ender, to businesses who shall remain nameless coming to pick up their guests in a van, and 99 per cent decide that the parking lot of the Merc is the place to do it.

And we understand. But . . . come on people. The parking lot belongs to a store that pays to provide

## MORE LETTERS

parking for their customers so they can come into the store.

And that now leads in to the mad woman. Yes, we have one. And she's been prone to standing in the parking lot on Friday nights directing traffic, while the ferry unloads and loads, and politely asking walk-offs to stop standing in the middle of the Merc driveway while trying to hitch a ride (they said it gives them more exposure to motorists), and them telling her to chill 'cause we're on an island here.

So! Rant over. But seriously . . . a thought for the business that is trying to run a business? We like being here to serve you, and we hope you prefer it to the time when there was no store.

Maybe if enough folks call BC Ferries' 1-888-223-3779 customer service department to request drop-off and pick-up access at Fulford, some of the lanes could be repurposed!

Happy summer to you all.

**SUE COATES,**  
55 MERCANTILE

## Moratorium a good first step

We live in a capitalist economy. Reduced to its bare, brutal essence, this means an economy that by its very nature has to grow or die.

"... ecologically suicidal growth is built into the nature of any conceivable capitalism," says Richard Smith in *Beyond Growth or Beyond Capitalism*.

"A zero-growth capitalist economy is a logical and exclusionary contradiction. It simply cannot exist. That is why zero growth defines a condition of crisis for capitalism." David Harvey, *Seventeen Contradictions and the End of Capitalism*.

We also live on an island with, in this time of extreme drought, fairly self-evident limits to growth.

Extreme, but no longer exceptional. According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the first six months of 2015 have been the hottest on record. NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden says, in addition to the dwindling snow pack, "glaciers are melting, sea ice is melting, sea levels reached record highs last year, the ocean heat was record high last year, sea surface temperatures were record highs last year, so you put it all together and there's a definite trend."

It's a trend she expects to

continue through the rest of this year and beyond — as long, she says, as greenhouse gas levels continue to rise year after year. And there is no sign yet of those levels abating.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District's moratorium on requests for new water connections is a welcome, necessary and commendable first step in acknowledging, and trying to live within, our island's limits.

We also live on an island on which there are approximately 5,800 residential lots; current zoning allows for the construction of a single family dwelling on each of them. All told, according to our official community plan, about 8,150 dwelling units could be built under current residential zoning. It's estimated that Salt Spring's build-out potential allows for an eventual island population of a little over 17,000 people.

NSSWD's moratorium, necessary as it is, is clearly just the first step we will have to take to limit growth to a level our island can support.

**MURRAY REISS,**  
FULFORD

## Faulty concept

Economic development plans for Salt Spring that are dependent on "business as usual" are built on a very shaky foundation.

Rather than bemoan the fact that the North Salt Spring Waterworks District had the courage and foresight to put a moratorium on new connections by saying "this committee should consider what the moratorium is doing to our island," the economic development commission should be considering how to plan for the new reality when it comes to water quantity.

What we have seen this year is not a one-off event. We can expect more of the same in future years. Any economic development planning that does not recognize this fact is not worth the paper it is printed on.

There is a limit to growth, particularly on a small island. The mandate of the Islands Trust is to serve and protect. I submit that burying the problem in the sand does not serve the best interests of the community, nor does it protect what is probably the most precious resource on the island — water.

We are very fortunate that we have a professional group — NSSWD — that is working for the benefit of the community.

**BEN GOODMAN,**  
SALT SPRING

Capital Regional District

CRD

### Notice of Applications/Nominations for Membership Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission

The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites applications/nominations from residents interested in sitting on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission to provide direction with respect to the planning, acquisition, development, restructure maintenance and operation of small craft harbour facilities to serve the residents of the Southern Gulf Islands. There are upcoming vacancies for Commissioners representing Galiano Island, South Pender Island and Piers Island.

Meetings are held at 9 am on the third Thursday of every second month on the Saanich Peninsula. Appointments will be for a two (2) year term commencing October 2015.

Please send us a one-page summary telling about yourself, your area of expertise, which location you wish to represent and why you would like to serve on the Commission.

Deadline for receipt of applications is **August 14, 2015**. For more information, please visit our website: [www.crd.bc.ca/about/what-we-do/docks-moorage](http://www.crd.bc.ca/about/what-we-do/docks-moorage).

Mail, fax or email your application to:  
CRD Integrated Water Services Phone: 250.474.9606  
479 Island Highway Fax: 250.474.4012  
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# Electric Vehicle Show



PHOTOS BY  
Jen MacLellan



At Saturday's EV show put on by the EV Group of Transition Salt Spring, clockwise from top left is Don Brown in his electric ELF vehicle; engineer Brian Badesso ready to demonstrate an Industry Drones drone; Kia and Tesla cars on display in the Country Grocer parking lot; Scott Howe test driving a Cruetz model ebike from Sunahme Bikes. Other events included a Saturday afternoon display at Island Savings, tours of the GISS solar array and an EV bike show at the hydro field. A Q&A was held at Central Hall on Saturday morning, and a meet and greet at Moby's Pub on Friday night.

**REAL ESTATE**

# Record June sales and trends point to a great 2015

Salt Spring real estate six-month report

BY SUSAN DE STEIN  
REALTOR, PEMBERTON HOLMES

June was a record-breaking month for Salt Spring real estate, with a total of 31 pending sales recorded (pending = unconditional contracts) for a total value of just under \$20 million.

The momentum for a very busy year has been building since January, with sales in every month of 2015 ahead of sales in the same month a year ago.

We characterized 2014 as a turnaround year after several successive years of declining sales and prices, so 2015 could be the break-out year — albeit a modest break-out year when compared to the crazy Vancouver market! Whether it's simply a question of pent-up demand bursting the dam, Canadians deciding prices were finally in the "value" range, or the terrible winters of 2014 and 2015 that have been driving easterners west, the Salt Spring market has been active across the board.

Year to date (in this case, to July 18, when the stats were collected), we've had 121 transactions in all categories of homes for a total of just over \$66 million in sales, up 48 per cent from the same period in 2014. At the

same date last year, we'd sold 96 properties for a total value of \$45 million.

Those numbers compare to 2007 (perhaps the peak in the past 15 years), when 150 homes sold in that same time frame, totalling \$82.8 million. We're off the peak of that run-up, but one could argue this is a more stable, steady market, calmed by a less buoyant economic forecast.

Sales of homes under \$500,000, priced right, have been moving most quickly and a healthy 33 sales occurred in the \$500,000 to \$750,000 range.

**Interestingly, the average selling price of a non-waterfront home in 2007 was just a little over what it was in the same period in 2015, +/- \$520,000.**

Cautious buyers are trying hard to be rational about their purchases, however, and most carefully examine "comparables" before placing offers; as such,

sellers are still not commanding the prices they may have realized in the mid 2000s. But, for the first time in several years, we've experienced a number of multiple offer situations for properties that have been perceived as well priced by highly motivated sellers.

The average price of a non-waterfront home sold year to date was just under \$520,000, while the average price of a waterfront home increased from previous years to a little under \$1.2 million. (Stripping out the highest sale in the time frame, a 10-acre waterfront parcel on Parminter Point, which sold for \$3.6 million, the average waterfront home sold for a bit over \$1 million.)

Interestingly, the average selling price of a non-waterfront home in 2007 was just a little over what it was in the same period in 2015, +/- \$520,000.

And although our market is too small to use statistics to draw firm conclusions, the higher-end market for properties selling over \$1 million appears to be picking up, with nine sales over \$1 million year to date, vs. three in the same time frame last year. Property prices in the high end remain significantly lower than 2007 prices.

A total of 12 sales of bare land have taken place year to date, for a total value of \$3 million, with

prices ranging from \$90,000 for a 0.27 acre property near Ganges, to \$599,000 for a 2.46 acre slice of waterfront on Lyonesse Drive in the south end. That compares to three sales last year at this time, for a total value of \$1.5 million. (In 2007, 20 properties sold for a total of \$6.8 million.)

To the most common question realtors are asked these days, "Are U.S. buyers back?" the answer is no, at least not yet. Of the 121 sales to date, only two were to American buyers (according to Victoria Real Estate Board statistics). Two were to "international" or "offshore" buyers.

As is usually the case, Salt Spring residents accounted for the largest number of sales (53), as they right-size or simply change residences, with Vancouver residents accounting for the next largest group (at 28 sales), fol-

lowed by Victoria, with 11. Alberta and Ontario each accounted for 10 sales. Another six buyers hail from other parts of B.C., and four others are from further east.

Contractors and trades are reporting an extremely busy year, with a healthy number of both new builds and renovations happening. Whether or not the current North Salt Spring Waterworks District moratorium on new or expanded water connections puts a dent in buying or building activity on the island remains a question mark. At the moment, there is some uncertainty around the question of which properties or projects will be allowed a building permit. Properties with proven wells, and those independent of the NSSWD, may prove to be a more valuable commodity than those with nearby community or municipal connections.

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# arts&entertainment



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"MAKE IT, BAKE IT, GROW IT"  
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## WORKSHOPS

# ArtSpring hosts Hancock painting workshop

Artist shares techniques  
and passions

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

ArtSpring's recent focus on promoting the visual side of community arts will gain momentum next month when it hosts its first-ever painting workshop with award-winning wildlife artist W. Allan Hancock.

A self-taught artist whose work has been featured as the official image of numerous conservation stamps and portfolios, Hancock has been named artist of the year by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and several branches of Ducks Unlimited.

Over five days of teaching from Aug. 10 to 14, he will share his experiences and insights, including the methods he's found most useful for acrylic painting on board.

Despite the accolades and the precision of his brushstroke — some have compared his work to Robert Bateman's calibre — Hancock intends the experience to be relaxed and comfortable, with beginners very welcome.

"I don't know everything about painting. I'm still learning and I hope I will always be learning, but I will share what I do. Over the years I've found some things work better for me, and some things I've struggled with," he said.

Teaming up with ArtSpring to offer the workshop is a fitting outcome for Hancock, for whom the arts centre has played a central role in his island life. It was an exhibition of his paintings for the Margriet Ruurs book *Amazing Animals* that brought him and his family to the ArtSpring gallery



Varied Thrush by W. Allan Hancock. The artist will lead a five-day painting workshop at ArtSpring next month.

four years ago. They were already looking to move from the Comox Valley to a smaller island community and fell in love with Salt Spring — and its amenities — on the spot.

The West Coast has been inspiring for Hancock, who made the move to Vancouver Island to pursue a full-time career as an artist in 1995. He has been drawing nature for much of his life, though, starting as a child in Ontario and then as a teen in Saskatoon.

Hancock graduated with a degree in English from the University of Saskatchewan, but took a job directly afterwards as an in-house artist for a greeting card company based on three of

his watercolour paintings. For two years he had a nine-to-five job painting wildlife images.

"And I loved it," Hancock said. "I was disappointed when the company shut down, but it did give me the experience of painting full time, and I knew it was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

It took another two years working on the floor of the Robin Hood flour mill for Hancock to realize he really should take his art seriously. During this time he was showing at a local gallery and also doing some work for Ducks Unlimited.

"I decided I was young, and I wanted to give this a go," he recalled.

He sold his house and his car and moved to Vancouver Island. He's been painting full time ever since.

Hancock's source material comes from diverse experiences, whether expeditions specifically taken to view wildlife or a simple trip to the post office when something catches his eye.

Currently he is working on the second of two paintings based on humpback whales he saw during a trip to the Great Bear Rainforest — the first has already been snapped up by a savvy buyer at White Rock Gallery — but he estimates around 85 per cent of his work is of birds.

The ArtSpring course will begin with a walk on a local trail, where the participants will hopefully find their own inspiration for the week's work.

"I'm not a fan of workshops where everyone's painting the same thing," Hancock explained. "It can help with technique, but I want to encourage people to be creative in themselves, and I know for myself when I'm inspired by something, it shows in the final piece."

Workshop attendees will practise composition, sketching, drawing and roughing in painting, learn board preparation and gessoing techniques, and then paint alongside Hancock as he offers instruction. The week will finish with a completed piece and a small celebration.

Participants should bring their own brushes and acrylic paints in colours of their choice and pack a daily lunch. Painting boards and newsprint for drawing will be provided, as will snacks and refreshments.

The workshop runs Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration should be done as soon as possible through the ArtSpring ticket centre or tickets.artspring.ca.

## FINE ART

# Gallery 8 hosts artist at work

Daniel Tibbits welcomes public viewing of his process

Salt Spring residents and visitors will get a rare opportunity to see a nationally renowned painter at work when Daniel Tibbits creates one of his large and distinctive paintings in the square outside Gallery 8.

Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 1-3, the public is invited to visit and watch as Tibbits takes his blank canvas and transforms it into one of his architecturally inspired paintings ripe with the symbols

unique to the worlds he creates.

"Over the past six years, Tibbits has developed a distinct architectural and symbolic visual language that he renders in oil on canvas," explains a Gallery 8 press release. "His entirely original 18 characters inform each of his paintings and demonstrate a world of harmony and balance."

Tibbits lives in the Lower Mainland area and is represented on Salt Spring Island by Gallery 8.

People are invited to visit often throughout the three-day event to monitor Tibbits' creative process and to step into the gallery to view a body of his extraordinary work.

ArtCraft's Showcase Gallery presents

# Found

July 31st - August 19th

Rolando Lampitoc  
Nathalie Carles

Opening Friday July 31st 6pm-8pm

Mahon Hall 114 Rainbow Road, SSI

Sponsored by Li Read

SEA TO SKY  
PREMIER  
PROPERTIES

PHOTOGRAPHY

# Friedman image makes finalist cut



PHOTO BY STEVEN FRIEDMAN  
Radiant Dancing Forest, an unmanipulated image of aspen trees at sunrise, is a finalist in the landscape/nature category of the Hasselblad Masters Contest, with public online voting now

## Public votes needed for Salt Spring artist

An image by Salt Spring photographer Steven Friedman is a finalist in a prestigious worldwide competition, with online votes now being gathered. Friedman's photo titled Radiant Dancing Forest made the short list in the landscape/nature category of the 2016 Hasselblad

Masters Contest, the second time he has been a finalist. "It's hard to believe (and somewhat insulting) that a Canadian has never won the landscape/nature Category in the Hasselblad Masters Contest," states a post on Pro Photo Blog-praising Friedman's photograph. "It's time we changed that." Award winners are determined in part through pub-

lic voting, which is done by creating an account and following directions at [www.hasselblad.com/inspiration/masters/masters-2016](http://www.hasselblad.com/inspiration/masters/masters-2016). People are encouraged to give Friedman's photo of aspen trees at sunrise a three-star rating in the voting process. (Voters are allotted six stars to bestow on three photos, so one, two and three stars denoting their top-three images.)

Some 10,700 images were entered from more than 4,000 photographers. All of Friedman's images are taken with a large-format camera and not manipulated in any way. He has earned numerous international awards since 2007 and his work can be found at eight galleries in B.C., Alberta, Colorado and Ireland, including Steffich Fine Art on Salt Spring Island.

## Maxwell Lake Watershed Protection

Maxwell Lake is a vital part of our island watershed, supplying water to many island homes, farms and businesses. Both islanders and tourists can play a vital role in watershed protection by honouring the fact that it is private community watershed and not open for camping, swimming, walking, hiking, picnicking, mountain biking or off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and ATVs.



These activities slowly degrade the watershed because the expansion of trails and pathways creates a direct route for nutrients and sediment to enter the lake during the rainy season. This nutrient loading will negatively impact water quality in both the short and long term. The risk of wildfire during the summer months is significant and could cause devastating and permanent damage to the watershed.

A healthy and intact watershed helps to filter and purify runoff before it reaches the lake; damage to the watershed will directly result in decreased water quality and increased treatment costs in order to meet the appropriate standards and regulations for drinking water.

The efforts being made today to protect the lake and surrounding watershed may allow the District to defer or minimize the capital costs required to treat Maxwell Lake water in the future.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District appreciates your cooperation in our ongoing efforts to preserve this valuable natural resource.

North Salt Spring Water District  
[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca)

EXHIBITION

# Finds create art treasures

Father's portraits and gathered pieces inspire work by Nathalie Carles and Rolando Lampitoc

BY HELEN MEARS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Found, the third of ArtCraft's Showcase Gallery, features the work of artists Rolando Lampitoc and Nathalie Carles. Lampitoc, a former graphic artist who lives on Galiano Island, works full time as a visual artist and painter. His current work is influenced by reels of old negatives kept by his father. "My father was a portrait artist and had amassed a vast negative collection for a reference to his work. I knew a long time ago that these negatives existed but, while my father was alive, I was never allowed to view or touch them, even during his twilight years. I purposely looked for the negatives days after his passing." Lampitoc uses his father's photographs of women as content for his paintings. Some of the faces he recognized as relatives, others are of complete strangers. Loose brush strokes in his paintings create movement, bringing a liveliness to his subjects. Because of this technique, they appear more active rather than still,

inanimate portraits. "It was actually hard for me to arrive at this style. It was more of a mental obstacle rather than a technical issue. My research of 'letting go' is more of an inner search than just the practise of painting." Carles' necklaces are a mass of found objects: rhinestones, Venetian glass beads, stars, hearts, stones and charms: Bits and pieces gleaned from other's discarded trinkets and then newly strung together to form a new narrative, giving them a new life. Carles, originally from Paris, would observe her mother, who, like herself, had a penchant for using her hands, whether for sewing, knitting or quilting. "One day, I wanted to make myself a necklace. I was still living in Paris at that time. I wore the necklace, someone asked me where I got it and that person bought it from me. I made another one for myself, wore it and sold it. I decided to make more and loved it. I get old or broken jewellery from garage sales, friends, thrift stores, wherever I can put my hands on broken things that were once beautiful." Found opens Friday, July 31, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs daily until Aug. 19 at Mahon Hall. The exhibit is sponsored by Li Read of Sea to Sky Premier Properties.

See my column on page 17  
  
D.W. Salty

SALT SPRING  
**Painters**  
GUILD

**SUMMER SHOW & SALE OF NEW WORK**  
Open daily  
July 25th to August 6th  
10 am to 4 pm  
Opening Reception: Saturday, July 25th, 2-4  
ArtSpring

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# Seven Ravens celebrates 25 years of work in East Africa

Permaculture teaching goal extends to 2025

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

*Michael Nickels, his wife Heidi Cowan and their children live a model lifestyle of sustainability on Salt Spring Island, with their 38 acres of environmentally managed forest and permaculture gardens at Seven Ravens Farm capable of feeding many families beyond themselves.*

Putting into practice concepts such as composting toilets, rainwater catchment and organic farming, Nickels has shown students of his Permaculture Design Certificate courses and eco-forestry workshops how to produce more using fewer resources, with his own life as a prime example.

It doesn't require the Gulf Islands' Mediterranean climate and rainforest ecosystem to make the practice viable, though. Nickels has been building similar Edens from former drylands and diseased monocrop ranches in Kenya for 25 years, delivering incredible food production to areas hit by drought and hardship.

With a plan to build working permaculture academies in every country in Africa by 2025, Nickels aims to transform destructive agriculture methods into sustainable development across the continent. He's off to a good start.

Nickels has already overseen the transformation of seven primary schools in Kenya, which went from relying on monetary donations and food programs to sustaining overabundant crops capable of feeding the entire student body. He's now in the process of establishing five teacher training academies across East Africa within five years and has already completed the first two in Kenya and Uganda.

Nickels bought Seven Ravens Farm just a couple of years before making his first trip to Kenya in 1990. He graduated with a degree in agriculture from the University of Guelph but had come to specialize in sustainable forestry practices.

During that first trip to Kenya, Nickels explained, "I really noticed the deforestation. So I set up tree nurseries with community groups, school groups and some conservation areas like Mount Kenya National Park and Arabuko-Soko Forest on the coast." Nickels continued with this work during annual return visits over the course of the next decade, but at the same time, he was learning how to supplement his knowledge of eco-forestry with permaculture farming techniques, travelling to Australia to get his Permaculture Design Certificate.

In 1997, Nickels met Willie and Nix Potgieter, who were leasing land in Kenya for their business growing flowers for the European seed market. He convinced them to let him create a small tree nursery as well as windbreaks to protect their greenhouses from the gusting sub-Saharan winds, planting 30 indigenous species. Coming back to check on their progress a few months later, Nickels spotted an enormous opportunity when the

Potgieters complained about all the silt that had deposited beside their river bank.

"We should establish a much bigger nursery right here," Nickels proposed.

Within two years the nursery was producing two million trees per year, which the farmers now sell at a highly subsidized rate to the local community.

As time went on the Potgieters would accept Nickels' subsequent suggestions to try collecting rainwater from the greenhouse roofs, dig ponds for water storage, use manure from the livestock farm next door and quit using chemical sprays in the greenhouses, creating the Seven Ravens Red Shank project.

"Over 18 years we've basically turned it into an incredible permaculture demonstration farm," Nickels said.

While permaculture's main keyword used to be "sustainable," Nickels said there is a movement to adopt "regenerative" instead, because each year under the system more and more is produced. Planting trees allows vines and shade crops to shelter underneath later on; animals become needed to keep the extra vegetation in check and their manure creates more fertile soil; extra vegetation has to be composted and does the same.

There are now so many trees and so much excess vegetation at Red Shank that the trimmings contribute to a cash crop in charcoal. Farm employees get to bring the fuel home for free, rather than going out to chop down the few remaining wild trees for cooking fires. In addition to many varieties of fruit trees the farm produces coffee, tea, and medicinal plants like *Prunus africana*. The latter is highly desired for treating prostate cancer but has been almost completely wiped out in the wild.

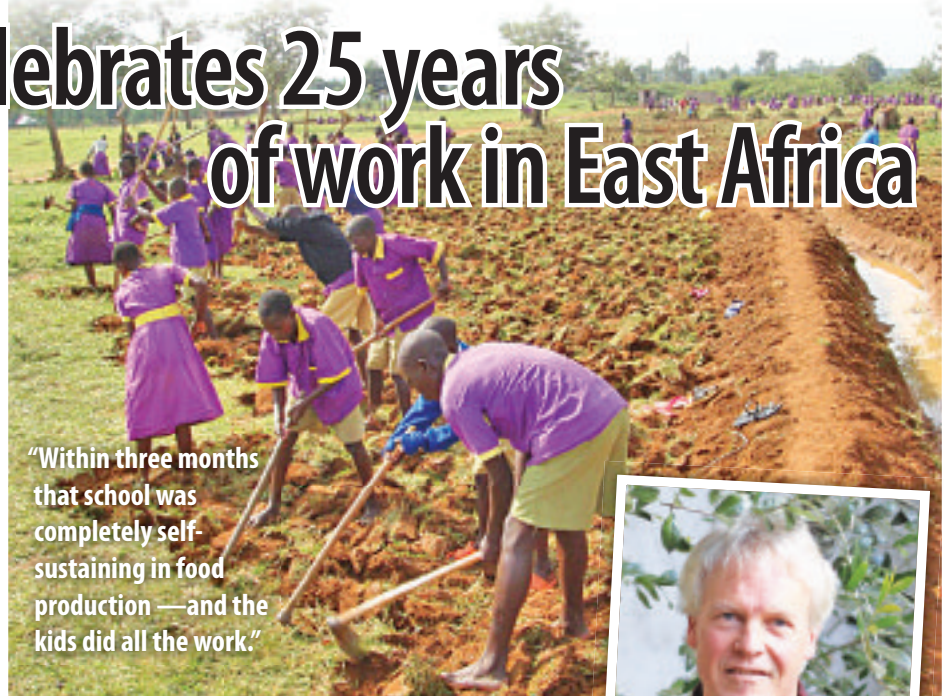
**"They haven't seen UN food delivery trucks in the area for years, the area has greened and everyone is fish farming when nobody used to."**

MICHAEL NICKELS  
Seven Ravens Farm

"We're growing a lot of it and we're sustainably harvesting it," Nickels reported, describing how the bark is carefully peeled from alternating sides of the trunk every two years.

The Potgieters' 20-acre farm also produces chickens and geese, and tilapia is farmed in the lined ponds. There is more than enough to feed everyone every day, with the excess sent to market.

As the project's success grew, people from all over Kenya started coming to Nickels and asking him to do the same thing on their properties. He started by restoring a 20-acre area of grassland and forest that was so badly eroded that almost nothing was left. A Masai goat herders were accustomed to bringing their herds



**"Within three months that school was completely self-sustaining in food production —and the kids did all the work."**

PHOTO COURTESY SEVEN RAVENS

Kenyan students work on permaculture project.

through, but even those wily animals had to climb trees to reach the very last leaves.

After meeting with the Masai and asking them to respect the new fence (five or six previous attempts had been torn down), Nickels dug five kilometres of swales, or ditches built on natural contours. These allow the owner to collect five million litres of water every time it rains one centimetre.

"Within three months the area was a huge grassland and trees were coming up. It's really become a large, beautiful food forest in an area that receives 12 to 15 centimetres of rain per year," Nickels said.

Nickels' practice of turning local schools into permaculture academies started around a decade ago, when a woman from Guelph working with a church organization hired him to create a farm after the money she was using to fund a meal program ran out. She added eight acres to the school's existing four-acre property, which Nickels set about turning into one big farm with two ponds, swales and a tree nursery, all in just four weeks. He meanwhile taught the basics of permaculture in the classroom.

"Within three months that school was completely self-sustaining in food production —and the kids did all the work," Nickels said.

While many Kenyan farms have centered on the monocrop of maize, which is a low-value staple, Nickels encourages planting crops that have higher market value and are less damaging to the ecosystem, such as avocado, papaya and passion-fruit trees. High-protein plants like beans and lentils are important to local nutrition, as are vegetables like chard and kale. Previously unknown vegetables like beets have also been introduced to great success.

Students and teachers have in turn brought the skills learned at school to their homes. The rural areas tend to see families of six to 15 people living off a half-acre of land; with permaculture techniques, these have become high-yielding gardens.

"That's the most exciting part of this work. It's the ripple effect; once

these kids are taught, they spread it through their communities," Nickels said. "They haven't seen UN food delivery trucks in the area for years, the area has greened, and everyone is fish farming, when nobody used to."

Consultation with Kenyan teacher Josephat Barassa has led to the current project stream. J.B., as he's known for short, taught at the very first school where Nickels implemented a permaculture project. Though deeply skeptical at first, J.B. became a strong friend and supporter after he saw the system's astonishing success.

"After the seventh school was built I had a long chat with J.B. about what was needed next, and we decided it was to create a program to create five teacher training academies in East Africa in five years," Nickels said.

Each academy will train 200 primary school teachers in the two-week PDC certificate course. Those people then go home to their communities and get the local support needed to convert their schools into permaculture gardens. Most elementary schools have around 700 students. If the goal is met, 2.1 million children will have learned permaculture methods by 2018.

The next project coming up this fall is destined for the Masai and Meru communities on the slopes of Mount Meru, overlooking Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and is about grassland restoration and addressing desertification. Next year's academy is for Ethiopia. It will be about seed diversity and making sure that stays alive.

The final academy is planned for Malawi and will focus on preventing eutrophication of lakes, specifically working with communities on the shores of Lake Malawi, one of the largest in the world.

"Each of these is just a nucleus from which it will spread its knowledge," Nickels said of the training centres.

All of this leads to his 2025 goal to have a school in every country in Africa — a goal that doesn't sound impossible when considering what has been achieved so far.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Michael Nickels on Salt Spring Island.

## UP NEXT

- Seven Ravens' next PDC course runs from Sept. 21 to Oct. 16 on Salt Spring and then moves to Tanzania from Oct. 21 to Nov. 14.
- Several island musicians are singing for a project fundraiser at the Tree House Cafe on Friday, Aug. 14 from 6 to 10 p.m.

More info: [www.seven-ravens.com](http://www.seven-ravens.com); 250-653-9565.

Videos of work in progress can also be viewed on the Seven Ravens website or on YouTube.

- An Indiegogo campaign titled PERMACULTURE: Training Schoolteachers in Tanzania aims to raise \$165,000 by mid-September.

## WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

*Think "permanent" + "agriculture"*

**"Permaculture is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive systems which have the diversity, stability and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of the landscape with people providing their food, energy, shelter and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way."**

- GRAHAM BELL, *The Permaculture Way.*

## EXHIBITIONS

# Lloyd Nicholson offers "retroreflection" on art practice



Plexiglas painting and art photography at Salt Spring Gallery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local artist Lloyd Nicholson charts his evolution as an artist at a new show opening at Salt Spring Gallery this Friday, July 31, with examples of his early commercial and experimental photography viewed alongside the practice he's been perfecting for over a decade.

Timelapse: A Retroreflection is not so much a catalogue of Nicholson's work as a window into some key moments in that history. It begins with some of the works he produced as a freelance news and arts photographer in the 1980s and '90s, when he produced publicity material for groups like Vancouver Opera and various dance companies. At the same time, he was doing experimental photography that involved extremely long exposures and "in-camera" double exposures (as opposed to putting images together in his darkroom).

"This forced me to be meticulous in my notations of what I had photographed, my exposures, and also in precisely rolling back the film. This process always produced surprises for me," Nicholson said.

One example of this period is *Men on Fire*, a photograph of a dancer in motion with the long exposure creating the idea of the body's energy and friction through time. It's not only a striking composition, it stands in direct contrast to the typical dance shot, which would seek to capture a single, sharp moment rather than allowing any blurring or actual motion to show through.

Another series of campers in the woods appears to have several images superimposed, but actually records the subjects jumping out of the frame during an extra long exposure period.

The exhibition's central feature is Nicholson's more recent work with Plexiglas, which he paints with acrylic and mounts in wooden frames to become art furniture such as standing screens and table tops or window art. One of the main attractions will be a meticulously crafted alder dining table for four, with live-edge, ebonized trestle-style legs, and a striking piece of Plexiglas art running right through the centre of



the tabletop.

"The Plexiglas work I've been doing for 11 years now, so I have a pretty solid base of how that works with the paint technology," Nicholson said, noting different colours have different weights and so must be applied differently to achieve his dreamy amorphous patterns.

In discussing how the two periods of work relate together, Nicholson pointed to his experiments with in-camera double exposure.

"When you're doing that, you're not really sure what you're going to get — and the Plexiglas is very similar," he said. "There's an element of chance and mystery, although I know some of what will happen because I have the technical expertise, but I don't know how the colours and design will look until it's done."

"The liberation, spontaneity and sheer joy in the surprise these multi-layering techniques produce in Plexiglas continue to captivate me."

An opening reception takes place at the Salt Spring Gallery on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. The show runs daily to Aug. 13.

PHOTOS COPYRIGHT LLOYD NICHOLSON

*Men on Fire*, left, and *Airplane-Bull-rushes* are two of Lloyd Nicholson's early photographs, which will be exhibited alongside his Plexiglas art furniture at Salt Spring Gallery beginning Friday.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:  
August 12, 2015  
It's going to be a family event party!

## Catch a Falling Star

Perseids Meteor Shower Event  
AUGUST 12, 2015

LOCATION: 250 Booth Canal Road (entrance directly beside the canal bridge)

START TIME: 8 PM Weather Permitting: if the skies are overcast, reschedule to August 13th\*

SPECIAL GUEST: Greg Klassen with his star gazing equipment & other astronomers

ENTERTAINMENT: Music & readings: Wesley Hardisty, Patrick Taylor, Ahava Shira, Ronald Wright & Brian Brett

TICKETS: available online at LMHF website & Salt Spring Books: \$20, \$10 under 18

Bring snacks & friends - no special equipment needed - just a blanket or folding chair

\*LMHFoundation WEBSITE: more information & meteor shower viewing tips

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Proceeds help purchase a new ECG machine.  
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## MUSIC &amp; MUNCH

## Versatile flute at All Saints' recital

Tone Prosk on stage

Salt Spring flutist Anthony (Tone) Prosk is the next Music and Munch performer at All Saints' By-the-Sea Church on Wednesday, Aug. 5.

A real hit with Music and Munchers last year with his performance of his "Flutation" repertoire, Prosk will present a diverse program of songs and styles spanning 300 years of music history, demonstrating the versatility of both flute and performance.

They include a version of Rondo alla Turca from Mozart's Piano Sonata #11 in A Major Prosk has adapted for flute; Prosk's stylized version of the well-loved classic Pachelbel's Canon; and a medley of various rumba styles, including a Mexican folk song La Cucumchera set to a belly dance/rumba beat and the Miami Beach Rumba set to a fusion of ballroom style rumba and conga beat, as well as Cole Porter's Night and Day. Set in traditional Latin Rumba style. A number of jazz

pieces are also on the program.

Prosk has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Lethbridge, received many awards and scholarships and released three albums over his 40-year musical career.

More information is at [www.flutation.com](http://www.flutation.com).

Prosk's free performance begins at the usual time of 12:10 p.m., and is followed by an optional light lunch, which must be ordered prior to the concert.

## OPEN STAGE

## Woodstock-era music celebrated

Multi-performer Tree House night

It's time to take a step back in musical time with the annual Woodstock on the Rock — AKA Woodrock — evening at the Tree House Café on Saturday, Aug. 1.

As in previous years, local performers will pay tribute to their favourite music of the Woodstock generation, whether from Jefferson Airplane, Joni Mitchell, the Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix or others.

Performers include David Jacquest, Nomi Lyonns, Red Rocket (Woodstock's pre-teen Scottish duo), Susan Cogan, Robert Johnson, Bobo, Paul Marcano, Purple City and their friends Dine and Dashing.

Also featured is 2012's standout act from the original Woodstock on the Rock, who is coming all the way from Golden, B.C., Pablo Euphoria!

Attendees are encouraged to dust off their tie-dye T-shirts for the occasion, which runs from 6 to 10 p.m.

## SAFETY CONCERNS: WATER QUALITY

So you have gathered your emergency water for your yourself and family. (You need at least one gallon of water per person and pet a day and two weeks worth!). But did you know that if your water reached the temperature of over 35 degrees that it can start to grow bacteria? With our hot weather be sure to check on your water supplies storage facility. If you suspect your water has been contaminated you may need to refresh your supplies.



For more information on preparing and storing water safely go to Centre for Disease Control and Prevention:

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe\\_water/personal.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/safe_water/personal.html)

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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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## SENIORS

# Salt Spring Seniors Centre enters new phase of life

Volunteers and members warmly welcomed

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Change is afoot at the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society.

For one thing, the group is transforming the "rock pile" in front of the seniors centre at 379 Lower Ganges Rd. into a beautiful garden area.

"We've had lots of people say 'Yes, we will help'" with the garden project, said current society president Neva Hohn, but more contributors will be needed.

The building will also be officially named the Salt Spring Seniors Centre, after being invariably called Salt Spring Seniors, Salt Spring Seniors Services, or just plain "Seniors" in the past.

And for the first time in the organization's 23-year history, it will soon have a website.

A raffle is currently being held for the prize of a deluxe new six-burner barbecue from Mouat's Home Hardware, with tickets available through the centre, the Saturday Market and booths at special events. Only 1,000 tickets (at \$2 each) are being sold. If any are left by Salt Spring Fall Fair weekend they will be available at a booth the seniors will share with the Volunteer and Community Resources group. The draw will also take place at the fair.

Raffle proceeds will pay for new audio visual equipment for the centre, which will enhance the space as a place for other community groups to rent.

In addition to garden project volunteers, driver dispatchers, who arrange drivers for seniors who need rides to medical appointments on and off the island, are also in demand, as is someone to help with the monthly blood pressure clinic.

A coordinator for the Tuesday afternoon art group is another vacancy to fill. A retired art teacher would be an ideal mentor for the members who benefit from weekly guidance.

Anyone aged 55 and older is encouraged to check out the seniors centre and its many programs, whether weekly gatherings for coffee, readers' theatre, or games like chess and mah-jong, or monthly guest speakers or special excursions. On Sept. 23, for example, a day trip to the Chemainus Theatre production of Jeeves Intervenes has been arranged, with a deadline of Aug. 23 set for people to sign up.

Tuesday morning choir practices resume in the fall, as do Thursday luncheons.

A resource library, peer learning and caregivers support group are also important components of the centre.

For more information, drop in to the centre, call 250-537-4604 or email saltspringseiors@shaw.ca.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring Seniors Services Society president Neva Hohn with the barbecue being raffled to raise funds for audio visual equipment at the Salt Spring Seniors Centre.

## SALT SPRING'S VERY OWN

# Community Cookbook



Back by Popular Demand!

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Deadline for submissions is Monday, Aug. 17.

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# Whither the weather?

"Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

Did Samuel Langhorne Clemens say that? There's some confusion about it, but if he didn't, he should have. In any case, something happened on the 25th of October, 1859 (when the man who would become better known as Mark Twain was just 24 years old), which would compel authorities to finally "do something" about the weather.

It unfolded off the coast of Wales. A steam clipper by the name of Royal Charter was in the final leg – final day, actually — of a two-month voyage from Melbourne, Australia to Liverpool. Five hundred passengers and crew were aboard, desperate to feel some solid earth under their feet. With the green and pleasant promise of England beckoning just over the horizon, spirits were soaring.

But the weather was looking . . . odd. The barometer was falling and there was an unearthly haze in the distance. The captain might have taken shelter in a nearby harbour, but he elected to sail on.

Bad call. The winds ramped up from trifling to hurricane force and suddenly the Royal Charter was struggling to survive, the waves and wind driving it inexorably towards the rocks of Anglesey Island.



Arthur Black

## WIT & WHIMSY

Both anchors were dropped in an attempt to keep the ship offshore. The anchor chains snapped. The crew chopped down the masts to reduce drag and tried to use the auxiliary engines to get away from the pounding surf. The ship's engines roared and the propellers whirled but inch by agonizing inch the Royal Charter was pummelled onto the rocks and utterly destroyed. Four hundred and fifty souls perished.

Setting sail in the mid-nineteenth century was always a crap shoot, no matter the size or seaworthiness of the vessel. There was no "predicting" of weather. Indeed, when a British MP suggested in the House of Commons that amassing observations of wind and temperature and other variables might one day allow citizens to "know the conditions of the weather 24 hours beforehand" — he was so thoroughly ridiculed the House had to adjourn.

Weather prognostication

had not progressed all that much from the days when ancient Roman sailors prayed to Jupiter and Inca priests offered human sacrifices to their rain god, Taloc. "Reading the weather" was a matter of hunches, aching joints and superstitions.

The sinking of the Royal Charter changed all that. Admiral Robert FitzRoy, as chief of the new Meteorological Office in London, began a system for collecting weather data at sea. He also instituted a national gale warning system.

Admiral FitzRoy even had a new word for all this intelligence-gathering and data distribution. He called it "forecasting."

How things have changed in 150-odd years. As I type there is a shiny new fourth weather satellite called Himawari 8 looping around our planet. The Japanese satellite is light years ahead of current weather satellites, providing detailed information on hurricanes, forest fires, lightning and volcanic activity. It even tracks global pollution. Thanks to technology, we know more about weather to come than we ever have.

And weather will come — whether we like it or not. At least we've bought some time to batten down the hatches.

# what's on this week



## Wed. July 29

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Music & Munch.** Trio Light Fantastic performs at All Saints' By-the-Sea. Free recital at 12:10 p.m. followed by optional light lunch.  
**Jessica Benini.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Computer Help Drop-in.** Get free help with your phone, tablet or computer challenges every Wednesday at Salt Spring Literacy. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Tech Cafe.** Topic is Mac Basics with Donn Tarris in two sessions at the Salt Spring Library Program Room, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.  
**Poker Night at the Local.** Hosted by Albert every Wednesday at The Local. Sign up by 6:30 p.m., start 7 p.m.  
**SongJam.** A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Hit songs with lyrics handed out. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

## Thur. July 30

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Centre Community Yoga Retreat.** 41st annual all ages event runs July 30 to Aug. 3 at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. See website for full schedule.  
**Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce Mixer.** Learn how the chamber can assist you and your small business. Moby's Pub. 5 to 7 p.m.

## Fri. July 31

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Sky Valley Live Jazz.** Salt Spring Vineyards Friday Wine Down. 4 to 6 p.m.  
**The Costners.** Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Jazz Cafe at Fernwood Road Cafe.** Every Friday. With Lloyd English and Myles English. Fernwood Road Cafe. 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Thru Fare.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Into the Woods.** ExitStageLeft Productions, in cooperation with Graffiti Theatre, presents fairytale magic in Tony-award winning musical by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**The Coalition.** Live band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

## Thur. July 30

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Ducks.** Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Laura and Pat from Carmanah.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Open Mic with Ross & Dave.** Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

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**minions**  
1 hr. 31 mins Rating: G

Wed. July 29th to Thurs. Aug. 6th  
Wed. to Thurs. 7pm.  
Sun. 4 matinee and 7pm.

### CINEMA

• **Minions** — July 29-Aug. 6: The Minions' brightly coloured brand of gibberish-fuelled madness stretches to feature length in their self-titled Despicable Me spinoff, with hilarious results.

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Lloyd Nicholson** presents Timelapse, a show about his art practice evolution, at **Salt Spring Gallery** beginning on Friday, July 31 with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Show runs daily through Aug. 13.  
• Watch nationally renowned painter **Daniel Tibbits** create a painting outside of **Gallery 8** on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 1, 2 and 3, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. See an exhibit of his work inside the gallery.  
• **Salt Spring Painters Guild Summer Show & Sale** runs at **ArtSpring** daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Aug. 6.  
• Found, with paintings by **Rolando Lampitoc** and jewellery by **Nathalie Carles**, is the new **ArtCraft Showcase** exhibit opening Friday, July 31 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs daily until Aug. 19 at **Mahon Hall**. Hoax, an exhibit by painter **Mary Lottridge**, finishes its run on Wednesday, July 29.

## Fri. July 31

### ACTIVITIES

**Cranfest V.** Weekend family-friendly music festival with camping and live music starting at 5 p.m. with headliners Fabulous Flakes. Tickets through EventBrite. Location TBA.  
**Lloyd Nicholson Artist's Reception.** Opening for Timelapse, a show of photography, Plexiglas painting and art furniture. Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Salt Spring Centre Community Yoga Retreat.** See Thursday's listing.

## Sat. Aug. 1

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Barley Bros.** Live music at The Local pub every Saturday afternoon. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
**Woodstock on the Rock.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Dope Soda with Lovecoast and Dirt Selector.** Summer party and touring fundraiser. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.  
**Into the Woods.** See Friday's listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Saturday Market.** Famous market event with all items made, baked or grown by Salt Spring residents. Centennial Park. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Artist at Work.** Watch Daniel Tibbits create painting outside of Gallery 8. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Sat. Aug. 1

### ACTIVITIES

**Cranfest V.** Family-friendly music festival continues with headliners Barefoot Thieves and OKA with DJ Enaunda. Live music starts at 4 p.m.  
**Salt Spring Centre Community Yoga Retreat.** See Thursday's listing.

## Sun. Aug. 2

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Sunday Afternoon Music in the Vines.** With Jose Sanchez Cuban Party Band. Salt Spring Vineyards. 2 to 4 p.m.  
**Jon Middleton.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Into the Woods.** See Friday's listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Saturday Market on Sunday.** Extra long weekend market in Centennial Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Artist at Work.** See Saturday's listing.  
**Cranfest V.** Family-friendly music festival continues with live Oka Live Yoga in the morning and live music with Dance Temple & Carmanah starting 4 p.m.  
**Integrative Energy Medicine Workshop.** An interactive exploratory workshop, whether you're a professional or an absolute beginner. Led by Samantha Parker at the Salt Spring Wellness Centre. Contact her at 250-537-7302 for more info.  
**Salt Spring Centre Community Yoga Retreat.** See Thursday's listing.  
**Janet Dwyer Photo Exhibit and Sale.** See Saturday's listing.

## Mon. Aug. 3

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tom and Scout Upex.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Into the Woods.** See Friday's listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Artist at Work.** See Saturday listing.  
**Salt Spring Centre Community Yoga Retreat.** See Thursday's listing.

## Wed. Aug. 5

### ACTIVITIES

**Stefanie Denz Art Talk.** Salt Spring artist discusses her paintings as intellectual and emotional examinations of relationships, focusing on women in their daily interactions. In relation to month-long exhibit at the library. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 6 p.m.  
**SSIFPD Special Meeting.** Board and public discuss Fire Underwriters Survey 2015 report. Salt Spring Island United Church, lower hall. 7 p.m.  
**Computer Help Drop-in.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Poker Night at the Local.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**SongJam.** See last Wednesday's listing.

## Tues. Aug. 4

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Stage with David Jaquet.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Every Tuesday through October at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Paddle & Play.** Bring a snack and come play at Vesuvius Beach every Tuesday through August. For families with kids aged 0 to 6.

## Wed. Aug. 5

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Music and Munch.** Concert by Salt Spring flutist Anthony (Tone) Prosk, followed by an optional light lunch. All Saints' By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.  
**Shelder the Electric Clamfish.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Into the Woods - Special Family Show.** First act of award-winning musical, suitable for younger children. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

driftwoodgulfislands media.com/calendar/events/

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• **When Art Rocked**, an exhibit of psychedelic poster art, runs at **Steffich Fine Art** in Grace Point Square.  
• **Duthie Gallery** presents **Brent Comber: Elementals** — wall pieces, solid forms and a major new installation. Open Thursday through Monday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also at Duthie Gallery, the Summer Lights illuminated sculpture garden is open nightly from dusk to midnight through mid-September.  
• It's You and Me, drawings and words by **Stefanie and Frieda Denz**, and **My Melodrama**, photography by **Manon Fraser**, runs daily from 1 to 6 p.m. at **The Point Gallery** through July.  
• Activate — an exhibit of new work by jeweller **Jan Smith** and painter **Michela Sorrentino** — shows at **Pod Contemporary Gallery** daily until July 31.  
• **Textile and Surface Design Group** members hold "If you have once slept on an island" in the **ArtSpring** lobby from Aug. 3 to 29.  
• Award-winning photographer **Janet Dwyer** opens her studio at **234 Fairway Crescent** on Saturday through Monday, Aug. 1-3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
• Paintings by **Ian Thomas** are on display at **KizMit Cafe and Galeria** through August. Open Thursdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.ish.

• **The Mardi Mob** holds its annual portrait show in the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** this month.  
• **Beulah Gordon** shows mixed-media and glass work at **Island Savings** until the end of August.  
• She Said . . . new work by **Anna Gustafson** is on display at **MacDonald Realty** in Ganges.  
• **Landart@ArtCraft** — three outdoor installations around Mahon Hall — can be seen around **Mahon Hall** in Ganges with an online component at www.ssiwayfindingproject.com.  
• **ArtCraft** — the 48th-annual SS Arts Council show and sale — runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
• **Sue Bayley** shows *Creatures with Character*, an exhibit of acrylic paintings, in the lobby and restaurant at the **Harbour House Hotel**.  
• **Judy H. McPhee** has a photo exhibition at **Cafe Talia** until Aug. 5.  
• **Pegasus Gallery** presents historic **Sampson-Matthews** prints and gallery owner **Ian Sigvaldason's** related book called *Art for War and Peace*.  
• **Elehna de Sousa's** photography exhibit called *West Coast Birds* is on at **Country Grocer Café** through the month of July.

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## NATURE

# Creativity in sea life and gallery art

Amazing symmetry and beauty in nature and art

BY BOB WEEDEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

An island gallery featured two artists last month. One evoked aspen trunks with charcoal on paper. The other formed scaled-up diatoms in clay. The diatoms — but hold on! Let me back up a bit.

Between 55 and 50 million years ago (mya), the continental plate carrying India on its back slowly ground against Asia, creating the earth's biggest and highest mountain range, the Himalayas. Incredible quantities of fresh rock began to weather. Atmospheric carbon chemically bonded with the rock, eroded and washed into the sea to become ocean-bottom sediment. That reduced the amount in the air. Under these low-carbon conditions, grasses evolved a new way of binding carbon during photosynthesis, giving them an advantage over trees and herbs.

About 15 mya, atmospheric carbon again fell to low levels. Grasses spread, eventually covering about 40 per cent of the earth's land surface. In contrast to other plants, grasses take up large amounts of silica and deposit it as glassy spines on leaf edges. This gives them some protection against grazers, which by 8 mya made up 80 per cent of all North American land animals.

The form of silica deposited as spines on grass blades is twice as soluble in water as mineral silica. This means that beginning 15 mya much more dissolved silica (silicic acid) washed into the sea. Diatoms increased rapidly because these unique algae construct protective shells out of silica, which often is in short supply in the ocean. Diatoms account for about half of total oceanic net productivity and produce about one fourth of the oxygen we breathe. They dominate cold oceans.

I promise to get us back to the art show before the gallery closes, but first there is



another evolutionary event to note. We've been thinking in millions of years; let's take three zeroes away and think in thousands of years (tya). Biologically complete humans had evolved between 300 and 250 ty. Slowly they accumulated the tools and habits we call culture, but to us their foraging lifestyles seem to have stagnated. Some time around 75 ty, humans faced an enormous environmental challenge. We almost became extinct, the world human population dropping to something like the number on Salt Spring Island today. Human genetic variation got squeezed hard; even now it is far less than in the genomes of great apes.

Around 60 ty we rebounded. Humans showed up far beyond ancient homelands of Africa and the Middle East, in Australia, Asia, Europe and, belatedly, in the Americas.

Simultaneously, humans became artists. Before about 40 ty we could do little beyond scratching designs in soft rock, but by 30 ty to 20 ty people in western European communities were painting on cave walls so exquisitely that we catch our breath even today.

How could this transformation have occurred? One idea is that the artists, likely shamans, were borderline schizophrenics. Genes for schizophrenia occur in about one per cent of all modern humans regardless of ethnicity or geography, but are much more common when you sample extremely creative people. Schizophrenia, at one end of a spectrum

of conditions we call "mood disorders," is defined by an extraordinarily vivid imagination, and creativity is imagining things that don't exist and then making them real. Maybe, the thought goes, the genes for mood disorders were part of the small genome that made it through the low point of human population.

Another idea comes out of research suggesting that the modern human brain is unique mainly in the large number of interconnections among centres of special activity: motor skills, reasoning, emotion, etc. Other big-brained animals have the centres but not such ample traffic between them. "Mind" is the coordinated result of those myriad interconnections. Perhaps imagination emerges there.

Two kinds of creativity are on display in our local gallery. Nature, the ongoing creation of new forms driven by need and opportunity, has protected diatoms with shells of intricate geometry and perfect utility. Lee Ann Norgaard saw beauty in these algae. Her fingers molded clay into domes and spheres and plates and slippers, the shapes of simple sea creatures. They pierced and carved patterns in imitation of nature's work, always with that ineffable addition announcing the human imagination.

One day the baked forms will break, the shards will disintegrate, and the particles of silica in the clay will tumble into the sea. They will be shaped by naked algae into forms of amazing symmetry and beauty, imitating a work of art once displayed on a gallery pedestal.

Teaching his son how to make a new axe handle with a hatchet, Gary Snyder passed on an ancient aphorism: "When shaping a new axe handle, the model is never far away."

*Editor's note: The writer is referring to the exhibit called Charcoal and Silica, featuring work by LeeAnn Norgaard and Kristin Boettger, which was at Salt Spring Gallery.*

This Week's

**Noroscope**

by Michael O'Connor

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**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)** You are in a playful and passionate mood. Yet you also want to get to the bottom of things in certain areas of your life. Renovations or a deep cleaning of corners, closets, garages and basements are likely. Unless you can strategize to satisfy both, you may end up feeling conflicted and moody. At deeper levels the attention is needed in your most important relationships.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)** A strong focus on home and family is occupying your thoughts and actions now. Your energy levels and confidences stand to be running high. This represents a window of opportunity to forge ahead. Be careful not to 'lord it over others' as this otherwise ideal moment may backfire as a result. Rather, focus on shining your light by acknowledging the beauty you see in the people you love.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)** An extra busy cycle has begun. Fortunately, it is illumined by a spirit of fun, adventure, play and creativity. This is an ideal time to socialize or to get away with family and friends. Your ambitions are running pretty high and you continue to drive to achieve a deepened sense of security, yet your focus on these is on and off. Leave it alone for now and work on letting yourself play.

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)** Taking stock of your overall worth is a central theme now. In addition to assets and investments, the focus is upon skills and talents and your future potential. In some respects you want to shake it up and challenge yourself to think and act in new ways. The goal is to feel confident about new possibilities and prospects. Decipher how what you have can be expressed in new arenas.

**Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)** Sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter all in your sign now will synchronize with the urge to take a few risks and to explore your options for creative self-expression. Beyond purely engaging in creative activity, your ambitions are on the rise. You want returns and you are determined to go big. Yet, in order to succeed you may have some inner work to do. Acknowledge your fear then confront it!

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)** The urge to take some time out is likely now. Entering your studio or lab or workshop to focus on creative projects would fit the bill. Getting away for a while might also work, as long as you can have enough time and space to dream and reflect. Yet, you are also feeling a bit punchy and would like to break through any persistent, limiting beliefs. Begin by deciphering what they are.

**Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)**

All those planets in Leo are stimulating both your core sense of individuality and your friendship network too. In good Libra fashion, the emphasis may tilt to one side then the other intermittently. Other factors emphasize a driving force to advance in your professional and/or public life. This could prove a little complicated. Amidst all the socializing, you are in an ambitious mood.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)** You are in an exciting cycle. That this excitement may lean on drama and even stress is the flip side of the story. Your drive is evident but you are determined to be smooth and graceful, at least when in public view. Whether in public or even behind the scenes your power is your steady persistence to take action. Be willing to increase your scope of exposure to get the attention you desire.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)** All that Leo fire should be igniting your engines now. With your ambitions on a steady rise this is your cue to take a creative lead. The main challenge may be deciphering exactly where and how to direct your focus. You have likely been contending with a lot of scattered energies over the past few years! But a new day is dawning and it will lead you to establish a whole new foundation.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)** The time is right to scout for new people and prospects. Who has the resources, talents, charisma and creative genius you need to advance to the next level? By asking this question your focus will turn to identify the people who provide the answer. Be willing to nurture associations with practical potential. Yet take your time to feel confident that their ambitions actually align with yours.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)** A big wave of passion is washing in on the shores of your relationship life. This is a call to be less intellectual and to direct your focus more fully into your body. Feel your heart beating and engage with physical activity, dance, and movement and so in; tune in to your sensual side. Some measure of moderation is ever wise, especially if the pleasure comes from food and spirits. Otherwise, go big!

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)** It is time to get to work on all those creative inspirations that have been brewing. This is a call to action. At least get started on those projects that you know are important. Focus to establish the foundation of a promising momentum. This may include simply getting organized and creating a suitable setting. Whatever initiatives you feel you need to take, do it now!

FUNDRAISER

# Art and meteor night helps fund ECG

Watch the Perseid showers on Aug. 12

The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation is looking to the skies for its next fundraising event.

Everyone is invited to attend a special night out

on Wednesday, Aug. 12 to watch the Perseid meteor showers, with a host of talented people to entertain and explain the night sky.

Called Catch a Falling Star, festivities will start at 8 p.m. with music by Wesley Hardisty, poetry by Ahava Shira and book readings by noted authors Patrick Tay-

lor, Brian Brett and Ronald Wright. Greg Klassen will explain the night sky and point out the meteors and stars.

The event takes place in a magical field off Booth Canal.

If skies are cloudy on Aug. 12, the event will be moved to the following evening. It

both nights are rained out, refunds will be provided.

Tickets are available through the www.ladymin-tofoundation.com website. A limited number of tickets are also available at Salt Spring Books.

Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a new ECG machine for the hospital.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

# Success, tears sprinkle on bridge players

Winners' boards dotted with variety of names

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Please, Mr. Rain Man, will you stop avoiding Salt Spring Island and the rest of the drought area? You're spending all your energy elsewhere with thunderstorms and lightning bolts, so our bridge players are trying to make up for it by showering success onto their bidding and play.

On July 13 there were six full tables and it was George Laundry and Paul

Retalack who did the best job. Liz and Oleh Mycyk were very close behind, with Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette coming third and Blanche Poborsa with Gerry Nicholson in fourth place. All the rain the rest could summon up would come in the form of tears, maybe.

Perhaps by July 20 more people were sick of looking at yellow lawns so went to bridge instead. There were eight full tables, resulting in a Mitchell

movement and separate results for North-South and East-West players. First N-S were the Mycyks, and Jeff Bell with Ron Hall were second.

Third place went to Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor. In the E-W group it was Ted Baldwinson and Catherine Gardiner who rained on the parade of everyone else, with Glenda Kaiser and Terry Wilkinson second and Patricia Sutherland with Nick Beringer coming third.

Everyone please join in a rain dance, and if you need info about these games, just contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

## BRIDGETRICKS

LOCAL HISTORY

# Betsy Lane contributes to street-pun lore

Mysterious locations referenced in archives

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

DW Salty has had to put his investigative skills to work for the latest round of Salt Spring street name history, uncovering some interesting leads from the go-to starting place at the Salt Spring Archives.

According to the list of street names on the archives' index, Betsy Lane should be the next alphabetical topic. The notation states it was named for Betty Greer. (Her husband's name was Tom.)

Searching the Driftwood's historical record for Tom Greer one can find his obituary, printed in February 1978. In addition to his wife, Greer's survivors included "daughter Betsy (Mrs. W.T. Lane)." An undated email posted on the Salt Spring Archives website in relation to the Castillou family cements the connection, as Bob Rush answered a query by noting the Castillous were related to the Greers.

"Mrs. Greer lived at 2401 North End Rd. Died perhaps 10 years ago now. Her daughter, Betsy Lane was over visiting their house this weekend," he wrote.

At first this reporter



D.W. Salty

## STREETS OF SALT SPRING

thought someone had been unable to resist perpetrating the best civic pun ever, creating the street Betsy Lane to commemorate the woman.

Disappointingly, readers who are scratching their heads trying to remember just where Betsy Lane is located on the island are not suffering from poor memory — the street does not exist on maps or in postal code records! The archivist who included the reference on the list of street names appears to have simply been mixed up; it was Betsy the person who was named for her mother.

Strangely, investigations further down the list revealed another mysterious road that does seem to exist on the island. DW skipped over Belvedere Drive in a past column while waiting to speak with Chris Gosset's daughter Victoria Davidson. Gosset was the acclaimed creator of the Gosset Wildlife Collection, a set of limited edition decorative duck decoys cast from his wooden carv-

ings. He also did some land development in his later years, notably at Mt. Tuam Estates. His name has come up in an earlier column in relation to Anna's Drive, named after his wife.

Belvedere Drive and Chilton Road are also part of the Mount Tuam strata, and refer to Gosset's family estates in Jamaica. Belvedere, now in ruins, was the name of the home on a 1,200- to 1,500-acre cattle farming ranch. The family had moved to the smaller 500-acre Chilton due to political upheaval.

**Gosset moved his young family to Salt Spring in the '80s because it was the warmest part of Canada he could find.**

Davidson explained Gosset moved to Ontario in the early 1970s when Jamaica became unstable.

"It was either Canada or Australia, and all his friends couldn't believe it was Canada because he used to stand on the veranda [in Jamaica] and say 'It's bloody cold,'" Davidson said.

Gosset moved his young

family to Salt Spring in the '80s because it was the warmest part of Canada he could find. He also brought his family back to Jamaica every year.

"I have fond memories of Chilton," Davidson said.

Coming to the mysterious portion of events, after Betsy Lane the Salt Spring Archives lists a Biggely Road, with naming source "The name of developer Chris Gosset's Jack Russell spaniel."

Davidson did remember a Jack Russell terrier of this name but was quite surprised to hear about the road, and asked where it's located. Once again, it does not appear on any map and it does not seem to be part of the private Mount Tuam development. A query to the Salt Spring Archives has not yielded the information on how the terrier's name got recorded as a street name, but probably it was the result of clerical error when recording general Gosset family history.

Next up on the list are Blackburn and Blain roads, two names for which plenty of historical data has been recorded.

Anyone who has any personal connections to the original families or other interesting tidbits is welcome to contact me at dwsalty@driftwoodgimmedia.com.

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*Alex Mitchell*

April 17, 1925 to  
March 5, 2015



A wee memorial for Alex will be held Sunday, August 2nd at Meaden Hall, Royal Canadian Legion between noon and 3 pm.

*Please join Alex's family to share a memory or two.*

**Margrethe Kirstine Hansine Kristiansen 1920-2015**

A free spirit, Grethe slipped away quietly in her 96th year on the 19th of July, 2015. She would have been disappointed at the lack of fanfare, as she always strove to be as outrageous as possible.

Born in Fyn, Denmark, in 1920, she was the eldest of 6 children, born in a time and place where no advantages in life were offered. She compensated by over-doing everything she could. She was driven to be an excellent cook, needlewoman, and gardener, an accomplished dancer, a frequent flier, an avid reader, an audiophile, and a "cat-lady" who took in all strays. She was predeceased by her husband Niels in 1972, by her youngest daughter Inga in 2001, by her long time companion Tony in 2002, and by her eldest daughter Ketty in 2007. She is survived by her daughter Margit (Bill) on Salt Spring Island, and three granddaughters, Elizabeth and Rebecca in Duncan, and Dianne (Mike) in Houston, as well as extended family in Denmark.

With special thanks to Michele, Alexia, and Barbara, who went above and beyond to make Grethe's last years bearable. Thanks also to Calvin's Bistro, Fernwood Cafe, the dedicated staff at Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital, and to Dr. White and Dr. Barcan for all their care.

**Haywards Funeral Service - 250-537-1022**




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*In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.*

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**SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 16**




**DONALD MORRISON**  
*Celebration of Life*

August 8th, 12-3pm.  
Family and friends are invited to share their favourite memories of Donnie.

The service will be held at 1571 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

Email: [morrisonjordan@gmail.com](mailto:morrisonjordan@gmail.com) for any questions




**Courtenay Jane Steele**  
JULY 30, 1981 - AUTUMN 2007

*You live in our hearts... for nothing loved is ever lost, and you are loved so much. Always with us.*

*Love Mom, Dad Casey and Jennifer*

DEATHS	DEATHS
--------	--------



**Ron McBride**  
January 26th, 1940 - July 13th, 2015

On July 13th 2015, at 300am at Victoria Hospice, I lost my best friend and soul mate of 27 years to cancer. Ron fought long and hard but at the end the cancer won.

Ron McBride was born on Jan 26th 1940 in Belleville, ON to Mary and Clinton McBride, both deceased. He is survived by his two Sons, Jay Edwin McBride(Annemarie) their two children Jylz and Jet, Marty Joseph McBride(Erica) and daughter Stella, his wife Natalie, her two daughters Brigitte and Christina.

Ron graduated from Queens University (BA, BPHE) and from Niagara University, (MSc.) He was an Educator, Hospital Director and Business Owner in Ontario.

His great passion was sailing, tennis and hiking and being outdoors in nature. His greatest joy was visiting his grand children in Ontario.

In 2006 Ron and Natalie retired to the West Coast to a slower paced life, lived on Salt Spring Island for six years and then moved to Chemainus on Vancouver Island. These were happy times for both of them. They made long lasting friends both on Salt Spring Island and in Chemainus. He will be sorely missed.

A private ceremony will be held in Belleville, Ontario for Ron's interment.

*Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the ripple on the ocean  
I am the sunlight on a beautiful day  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
I am the soft star that shines at night  
I am not there...I did not die*

**Robert (Bob) Nicholson**  
July 26, 1932 - July 25, 2015

Bob passed away peacefully 1 day before his 83rd Birthday. He will be forever loved and leaves a great void in the lives of his loving wife of 61+ years, Helen, his children, Son Grant (Tina) of Vero Beach, Florida and Daughter Lisa (Tom Butler-Cole) of Salt Spring, 5 Grandchildren: Andrea (Jordon Lowther), Adam, Ian (Islay), Amanda, and Robert and 5 Great Grandchildren: Jackson, Neil, Austin, Emmerson & Cyrus.


Bob was a kind, generous and thoughtful man who loved and respected family and friends. Born in Edmonton, Alta, then on to Vancouver where he attended John Oliver Secondary School where he met and married his High School Sweetheart Helen.

He started a career in the Neon Sign business and in 1963 moved his family to Sacramento, California to start his own sign shop. 13 years later back to B.C. and to Salt Spring Island to build their dream home and semi-retire. Bob took a part time job in Mouat's Hardware Store that soon turned into full time. He had a stint as President of the Lion's Club, but his Rheumatoid Arthritis was starting to take it's toll, so again he retired - this time for good.

Even though we knew he was in pain, he never showed or complained about it as he lived every day with great pride.

The family would like to thank Dr. Beaver and the entire staff of Lady Minto Hospital, especially the Palliative Care Nurses and Staff.

Rest in Peace Dad. Your pain is now over.  
No Service by Request. Donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Salt Spring Branch of the SPCA or the Arthritis Foundation



**Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary**  
Bob and Jinny Rush  
July 30th  
*From your children and grandchildren*

COMING EVENTS	COMING EVENTS
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**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District**  
**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**5 August 2015**  
**beginning at 7:00pm**  
**Lower Hall, Ganges United Church**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District has been scheduled to be held on 5 August 2015. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the Fire Underwriters Survey Report. Interested members of the public are invited to attend.

**For more information visit our website**  
[www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)

Board of Trustees  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
27 July 2015,  
PLEASE NOTE PLACE OF THE MEETING

CELEBRATIONS
--------------

**Happy Birthday**

**ROBERT N. HOWELL**  
(a.k.a.: Rob, Daddy & Papa)

Born: July 30, 1935  
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Love from:  
Barbara, Ann Marie & Mark,  
Pauline & Brian,  
Jeff, Katie and Kaleigh

XOXO

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**FOUND - WATCH** @ Stowell Lake on Sun. July 19th around 3pm - Claim at the Driftwood.

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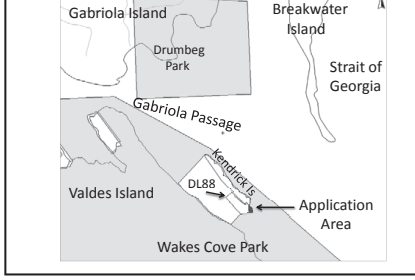
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# sports&recreation

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

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



## GOLFING

# Locals win Zone-5 tournament

Nurse and Barrett take top spots

BY MARCIE HOGAN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A concentrated field of women representing Zone-5 clubs played a net tournament at Salt Spring Golf and Country Club on Thursday, July 16.

Tournament organizer Bonnie Fung led a wonderful team of "red shirts" from the zone executive who advised, registered, marshalled, ruled and presented. It was indeed sweet and special when the winner and runner-up spots from 41 golfers were taken by our local golfers: Judy Nurse won with a net 60 and Joanna Barrett was runner-up with a net 64.

Women's play at the club has been spirited and successful! The coveted Georgeson Cup was returned to Salt Spring following matches played on Pender, Galiano and Salt Spring. Thursday's Nine Hole Ladies celebrated Connie Hardy's capture of the Frattinger Cup, and played for the Libby Noble Cup for ladies 75 and older on Thursday, July 23. The 18-hole Commerce Cup match play is now down to the semi-finals.

In Zone-5 buttons matches, Jane Hickie and Marcie Hogan won their match against Cordova Bay ladies on the Royal Colwood course but lost to Cedar Hills at the Cordova Bay Club. Melanie Iverson and Franki Johnstone were defeated by Cowichan on the Cedar Hills course. To date, Linda Woodley and April Wright are the lone B team to earn buttons and so may not have to face any opposition for the trophy.

Golfers from the north will once again challenge



Judy Nurse, left, receives the cup for winning the Zone-5 Net Tournament from Zone 5 president Marg Rogers.

those from the south in our annual North/South Tournament on Sept. 5. All island golfers are invited to defend their position in a nine-hole battle.

## TRAIL RUNNING

# Cecill wins 80-km race

Amazing trail and win

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It wasn't too long after he crossed the finish line of the White River Endurance Run Saturday that Matt Cecill's social media networks began to erupt.

Messages of congratulations and well wishes began to roll in before Cecill had a chance to catch his breath following his seven-hour, 80-km trail run under the shadow of Mount Rainier at Crystal Mountain, Wash.

"Looks like you're off being awesome again!," "Unreal, man. You're a champ!" and "Nice ass-kickin' today, dude!" were among the flurry of posts to Cecill's Facebook account.

Cecill won \$800 for his first-place performance. The run featured 320 registered runners, of which 86 per cent crossed the finish line. Cecill was one of only two Canadians to place within the top 25.

"This win represents a lot of hard work," he said on Monday.

"White River has always been a race I've wanted to run well.

"If you've run the race, then you know. If you haven't, and like running really far for fun, make sure you find out why this thing is an absolute classic. Some of the nicest trails I've ever run."

Cecill said an ultra marathon is a tough slog at the best of times, but he suffered especially hard during the first three hours of Saturday's event.

"It took everything to hold on for the win," he said. "I could feel the pressure from the other runners behind me for the entire race."

Cecill's 7:03:52 finish time was more than five minutes faster than the race's second-place runner.

He thanked friends and family for support and inspiration during the long hours on the trail, and he credited race organizers with pulling off a one-of-a-kind event.

"After events like these I'm overwhelmed with the support I receive from friends and family. I want to let everyone know how much that means to me and how inspired I am by all the positive energy."

## SAILING

# Islander on deck for record

Distance milestone a 'personal Everest,' says Richard Clarke

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It may be familiar waters for Salt Spring's Richard Clarke, but setting a new world record in the North Atlantic earlier this month still felt as exhilarating as ever.

"I've done these types of things before but, for me, it's the technology and character of this boat and that makes it way more extreme than anything else," he said. "This is my little Everest, my way to push the boundaries of the sport."

Clarke is known among many Salt Springers as an Olympic sailing veteran who has competed among the world's best in Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney, Athens and London. Lesser known are his exploits as a professional racer aboard the world's fastest and most expensive boats.

It was during such a race — the Transatlantic Race between the United States and United Kingdom — that Clarke became, once again, a part of sailing history. Approximately 1,800 nautical miles from shore in the North Atlantic, Clarke and 19 fellow crew members aboard Comanche established the record for the longest distance travelled in 24 hours.

At 618.1 nautical miles the record shattered the previous mark of 596.6. The crew piloted the vessel at an average speed of 25.5 knots (47.2 km/h) during the 24-hour period.

"This is way more extreme than anything else," he said.

Clarke began to work on the 100-foot Comanche soon after the vessel made its inaugural splash in 2014. He's trained and

raced with the vessel on several international races in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. With a number of big races in the months to come, he's confident the boat is on the cusp of setting many more world records to come.

The \$15-million boat was commissioned by Netscape co-founder Jim Clark. The Texas billionaire hired the world's most innovative designers, had the ship built entirely out of state-of-the-art carbon fibre material, and assembled a winning crew. While the price tag comes with the territory in the high-stakes world of international sailing, it's the little things that make all the difference.

"It has been built to be the fastest ocean-going sailing boat in the world," Clarke said. "Everything from the toilet to every little bit of coaming, the mast and the rigging is all carbon fibre. It's built to be as strong and as light as possible."

One might expect that such a cutting-edge design would ply the waters of the world's oceans with ease and grace, but Clarke relates the experience of sailing the 25-foot-wide Comanche to hanging on to a dragon in flight.

"The thing is a beast; it's not sleek and elegant, it's absolute raw power," he said.

"Imagine taking a semi to the top of Mount Maxwell and going down that twisty road; it's not like driving a Ferrari on a race track."

Clarke will spend a few weeks recovering with his family on Salt Spring before his redeployment to the high seas for Comanche's next showcase event, a return trip between the United Kingdom and Ireland dubbed the Rolex Fastnet 2015.

The global sailing community will be watching for what comes next.

"We're just tapping into the potential," Clarke said.

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