

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Summer's end
Time to get planning
PAGES 12-13

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PAGE 17

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GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, August 19, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 33



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring kids get into a selfie with TSN Sportscentre anchor Kara Wagland as part of the Kraft Project Play Community Celebration at Portlock Park on Friday. See more photos inside and on our Facebook page.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Islanders click for Project Play

Online voting results to be announced on Aug. 21

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring tennis enthusiasts were joined by friends across the country and as far afield as Europe in their bid to secure the grand prize with Kraft Project Play on Monday and Tuesday.

Unlimited online voting over 36 hours provided plenty of opportunity to make a difference in the island's quest for \$250,000 in funds for tennis court upgrades at Portlock Park.

"It's been really great. Our members are just phenomenal — they're sending it all over the country," said Salt Spring Tennis Association's communications director Fernando dos Santos on Monday afternoon.

Despite living in the middle of a construction site with a new home almost but not quite complete, dos Santos figured he had managed to log 500 votes per hour since the session had opened at 9 a.m.

His goal was to reach a personal total of 10,000 votes by the time the window closed at 9 p.m. Tuesday night, and for Salt Spring to beat the current Project Play record of 600,000 votes with a cool million responses.

"This is a great profile for the island, and I'm pretty sure we're going to win," he said.

PROJECT PLAY continued on 2

FERRIES

Schedule consultation off to stormy start

Saturnites slam BC Ferries' draft timetable

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saturna Island residents gave new ferry schedules proposed for the southern Gulf Islands a rough reception Monday night as BC Ferries staffers launched the first of seven meetings to discuss changes slated to take effect in 2017.

"There's 250 people here; I've never seen as many people on Saturna Island," said Paul Brent, a Saturna Island Local Trust Committee member. "It represents about 70 per cent of our island's population, and they are upset about what's being presented to them."

BC Ferries' ongoing effort to curb the flow of red ink on its balance sheet has saddled Saturna with a legacy of sailing reductions and fare increases. As with other Gulf Islands, eking out a living calls for resilience, loyalty and a healthy degree of stubbornness. Despite their ingenuity and entrepreneurship, however, Saturna residents assembled at the island's recreation centre Monday shared fears the revised schedule goes too far.

"If you do what it is you are suggesting, you are not just hurting this community, you are killing it," said John Gaines, a business owner on the island.

Dropping property values, meagre incomes, a need to work multiple jobs or work into retirement are common adaptation strategies, according to the more than 30 speakers who used Monday's meeting to have their say on the draft schedule. Of those who stepped up to the microphone, none supported the new schedule.

FERRY SCHEDULES continued on 5

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Voting parties and excitement mark Project Play run

PROJECT PLAY

continued from 1

Salt Spring made the Project Play finals thanks to the nomination spearheaded by former SSTA president Erica Ross. But with the knowledge the cash infusion would ultimately benefit everyone using Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission services, even those with little interest in tennis were happy to join the cause.

Dos Santos was in charge of recruiting volunteers for the community party at Portlock Park sponsored by Kraft on Friday afternoon. In addition to the 60-odd tennis association members and friends who came out to help, around 1,000 people are estimated to have been on site to enjoy the barbecue provided by Country Grocer, collect swag bags of Kraft products and demonstrate community support for visiting TSN broadcasters.

The partying resumed on Monday after voting began. Dos Santos was expecting 16 to 20 people at his home that night. Voting sessions were also promoted by Moby's Pub and The Oystercatcher, with a teen event held at the Core Inn.

Susan Russell, a longtime SSTA member and supporter, held a coffee party at her house Monday morning during which around 14 friends and neighbours plugged in. Despite some challenges with the photo comparison tests, which ensured voters were humans and not robots, everyone had a good time.

"It was very worthwhile. I'm glad I've done it — I feel like I've made a difference," Russell said.

Russell joined SSTA when she first moved to Salt Spring and calls the island's tennis players her first community. She also served as a PARC commissioner for six years beginning in 1998. Every year, she said,



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left, Peter Parker, Colin and Erica Ross and Peter Schelling vote with gusto at a Moby's online voting party for Kraft Project Play on Monday night. Moby's is also the place to be between 3 and 4 p.m. on Friday when the voting campaign winner is announced.

SSTA asked for funds to help fix the tennis courts, but because of the underlying problems, simple paving fixes were never enough.

"I feel very committed to helping out on this because I thought we might finally finish something we started all the way back then," she said.

Salt Spring is the smallest in population of the four communities vying for the grand prize, with London, Ont., New Glasgow, N.S. and St. John's N.L. also in the running. That isn't worrying local optimists, though.

"In a way I think that works in our favour, because we're a much tighter community," dos Santos said. "Every business you walk

into has stickers and posters, and they're eager to promote it. And I don't think that would be the case somewhere other than Salt Spring."

Salt Spring has already received \$25,000 from Kraft for making it to the final four. TSN and RDS will announce who earned the most online votes and therefore gets the grand prize on Friday, Aug. 21.

Those involved feel that Salt Spring has already won regardless of the final outcome.

"This whole island is full of talented amazing people, and a lot of them have come together to work on this," dos Santos said.

"Even if we don't win, it's been a very positive experience for the community."

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Islanders give a cheer for Salt Spring Island as TSN and Kraft Project Play lead a BBQ, party and cheque presentation event at Portlock Park on Friday.



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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!
BC Ferries Meeting on New Schedules:
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 Harbour House Hotel

ENVIRONMENT

Humpback whales make splash in Salish Sea waters

Populations experience local resurgence

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Deirdre Rowland never anticipated seeing a full-sized humpback whale during a whale-watching excursion out of Ganges Harbour earlier this year, but sightings of the massive cetaceans are growing increasingly common throughout the Salish Sea.

"You hear about them, but to see one close up is such a phenomenal experience," she said. "When they come up it's just exhilarating because you're seeing this huge creature."

"It's just really incredible to experience that."

Rowland can recall the gentle arc of the humpback's tail reaching skyward as the animal plunged silently towards the depths.

Whale-watching operators on Salt Spring and across the region report record numbers of humpback sightings between the southern Gulf Islands and the Broughton Archipelago near Campbell River. Fifteen years ago, few humpbacks were reported in the waters of the Juan de Fuca and Haro straits, according to statistics compiled by Mark Malleson, a former whale-watching guide who now monitors whale populations for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Occasionally there'd be a single sighting a year but most years no humpbacks were observed. Since



PHOTO BY SUSAN BATCHELOR

The distinctive fluke of a humpback whale spotted by Deirdre Rowland in waters of the southern Gulf Islands in May.

2003, the number of humpback sightings has steadily risen, surpassing 45 in 2014. Malleson estimates as many as 130 humpbacks might visit the region each year as they migrate between warmer wintering waters off Mexico's Baja Peninsula and the North Pacific each spring and fall. Malleson's observations indicate more humpbacks are stopping in the Salish Sea on their way north earlier in the spring and sticking around longer.

"It's really wonderful. Normally they would just make a beeline on the outside [of Vancouver Island] and head straight to Alaska," said Susan MacKay, co-founder and director of the Wild Ocean Whale Society of B.C.

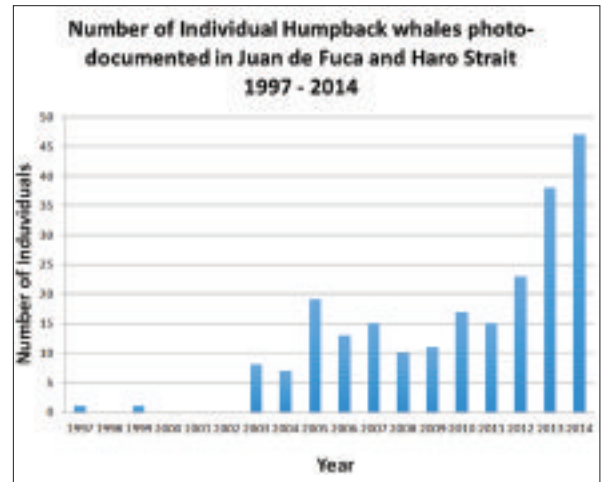
"We've had an unprecedented number of sightings on the inside waters."

MacKay attributes the increase to an abundant food supply, especially krill and schooling fish like herring.

"With cetaceans, it's always about food," she said.

When there's enough food, the humpbacks can afford to visit more frequently and stay longer — like grandkids who visit Salt Spring in the summer.

MacKay said humpbacks can be identified by a distinctive dorsal fin, a solid dark grey or black body and a v-shaped tail. At up to 12-metres in length, full-grown humpbacks can get as long as a city bus and weigh as much as eight full-grown African



elephants. Boaters who spot any humpbacks should slow down and keep their distance. Sightings can be reported by calling 1-877-323-9776 or visiting whalesanddolphinsbc.com.

Anne Murray, a naturalist, blogger and author who wrote about the humpbacks' resurgence earlier this year, said humpbacks were once all but wiped out from the North Pacific. The lumbering leviathans were easy prey for whalers based in Howe Sound, Texada Island, Nanaimo and elsewhere in the region, who targeted them in the late 19th century.

When commercial whaling of what few animals were left ended

in 1965, Murray writes, populations began a quick rebound. Recent estimates from the Cetaceans Research Project place the population of North Pacific humpbacks at more than 22,000, roughly equivalent to the species' population before the hunt began.

Whale watchers like MacKay said the humpbacks' return is a great success story for coastal British Columbia. It's a sign of hope in an environment under constant threat. She said the return of the humpbacks shows that, given time to heal, nature can slowly recover.

"It's really great to see all those whales come back," she said.

ROADWORK

Culvert replacement hoped to solve 'Ganges sinkhole'

Ongoing monitoring planned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Drivers will potentially have one less hazard to face on Salt Spring's dark and winding roadways this winter if a culvert replacement project has the desired effect of solving a seasonal water leakage and pavement deformity

at the base of Ganges Hill.

"That sinkhole has been a major issue and a real danger," Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director Wayne McIntyre commented on Monday.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure contractors Mainroad Contracting have been at work on Fulford-Ganges Road since Monday morning and are expected to be done by the

end of the week. According to the ministry, they will replace the existing 500-metre culvert at the bottom of Ganges Hill between Drake Road and Seaview Road. The existing culvert is failing and the replacement is being done to ensure no additional water enters the road base.

Single-lane alternating traffic with the possibility of minor delays has been experienced during construction periods.

Motorists have been asked to allow additional travel time, exercise caution and watch for traffic control personnel.

Ministry staff will continue to monitor the drainage on Ganges Hill to ensure the ongoing safety of the travelling public once the work is complete.

Several attempts have been made to solve the water issue in the past, all to no avail. MoTI installed a drain pipe at

the bottom of Ganges Hill to carry water to a nearby storm drain in spring 2013, and built a ditch on the southeast side of the road that November. Additional repairs were made in 2014. Water continued to spring from various cracks in the road, though, as it had for the previous two winters.

Despite the need, the current work project came as a surprise to local government bodies, including the CRD and

its Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. McIntyre observed SSITC has had projects planned for Ganges Hill and Rainbow Road that could have been integrated with ministry work for cost-sharing benefits, but it was not informed of their roadwork or paving plans.

"The transportation commission would like to be tighter aligned with what the ministry's doing," McIntyre said.



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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board rescinds standby duty officer instruction

Schubart's resignation leaves empty seat

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fallout from the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's attempt to save money by assigning duty officer shifts to non-union career officers is being felt in two of the resolutions passed by the board of trustees Monday night.

Board members returned from a 40-minute in-camera session at the end of the regular business meeting to pass several recommendations from the human resources committee. At the top of the list was rescinding a June 15 decision directing Fire Chief Tom Bremner to assign himself and Deputy Chief Arjuna George to the overnight standby duty officer roster, with the additional instruction that they be removed from the schedule as soon as possible.

Speaking after the meeting, chair Linda Lee said she couldn't com-

ment on the background behind the reversal because of an ongoing grievance.

The June 15 decision, which was introduced as a motion by trustee Norbert Schlenker, was supposed to save taxpayer dollars because Bremner and George wouldn't receive the same compensation outlined in the collective agreement. Some trustees at that meeting raised the issue of possible legal action by the union employees.

The move was also cited as the reason that longtime trustee Michael Schubart tendered his resignation from the board last month.

"To embark on such a course without prior legal investigation seems imprudent and, I believe, costly," Schubart states in a letter dated July 21. "To alter the working arrangements without any attempt at consultation with the affected parties is arrogant and shows lack of respect for the employees. This will destroy the goodwill that has been built up over the last 10 years. It was

similar arrogance and disrespect on the part of the trustees in 2005 which led the employees to seek union representation in the first place."

Lee said during the meeting that she was "shocked and dismayed" by the news of his resignation because Schubart had not communicated with her or attempted to address his concerns. She strongly disagreed with Schubart's characterization of the board.

"To embark on such a course without prior legal investigation seems imprudent and, I believe, costly."

MICHAEL SCHUBART
Former SSIFPD trustee

Trustees voted not to hold a by-election to fill the vacant seat since

Schubart's three-year term was set to expire in April 2016, leaving only a few months for a new person to get acquainted with the job if elections were held in November.

Schlenker estimated that holding an election would cost the district around \$5,000. The board's legal counsel confirmed there was no requirement to do so.

In other fire district news, Lee asked Bremner how he was addressing the hiring requirements in the collective agreement, which states one more career member must join the roster by January 2016. Bremner said Cody Hunsberger was promoted to lieutenant in June as the first stage of that plan. The management team plans to select the next member from a pool of three top candidates who applied for the last position, which was filled by Warren Nuyen in 2014. They will make the decision in December for a Jan. 1 starting date.

Trustees also discussed the problem of secure email communica-

tions. Dedicated email addresses for all the trustees were created on the saltspringfire.com website after the new board was established in April. Lee said the board has since realized the website vendor has the ability to read emails from any of the mailboxes attached to the site. Although she did not suggest he had done so or would do so, she noted that communications are therefore not secure and said she had been using a personal email address to correspond with the district's legal counsel. Trustees agreed the problem could not be solved at that meeting and said the simplest thing would be to create special personal email accounts in the meantime.

Regular committee meeting times have been established and will be posted under the trustees' section of the fire department website. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 21, with a special meeting on local fire services taking place on Thursday, Sept. 17 at Community Gospel Chapel.

CRD

CRD board approves feasibility study on service hub

Possible involvement in shared space concept

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The potential for uniting Salt Spring's Capital Regional District services and offices along with multiple nonprofit agencies in one centre will be explored in a new feasibility study being funded by the CRD.

The CRD Board unanimously approved a request for \$20,000 in funding at its Aug. 12 meeting through an allocation from the Electoral Area Services Feasibility Reserve Fund. Local CRD director Wayne McIntyre reported

Monday that a request for proposals will be sent out shortly to explore the concept developed by Shared Space Salt Spring.

"The feasibility report will determine if the plan makes sense and, if so, in what form," he said.

McIntyre gave his support in principle to the concept last October, and in November received approval from the Electoral Area Services Committee to help fund the feasibility study on Shared Space Salt Spring's behalf.

According to a CRD staff report, its local government services on Salt Spring include building inspection, emergency services, water and sewer services, parks and recreation, transit and transportation, economic

development and bylaw enforcement.

"These services are housed in three leased office spaces and a CRD-owned building that is too small for a growing service. In addition, this building's use does not align with current zoning," the report states.

"The objectives of co-locating CRD Salt Spring service functions into a single community hub building are to enhance customer service, to provide operational efficiencies through shared resources of administrative staff, and to provide opportunities for functional integration across various CRD and Islands Trust services and programs."

Nonprofit groups that have indicated interest in the shared space plan in the past

include Canadian Mental Health Association, Island Women Against Violence, Options for Sexual Health, Salt Spring Hospice, Salt Spring Arts Council, Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance, Salt Spring Film Festival, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Salt Spring Literacy, Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse, and StageCoach Theatre. The hub could also incorporate local Islands Trust services, which are currently offered at the BC Hydro building through a temporary use permit.

Up to \$1 million in funding is available for the project through a \$500,000 bequest left to the Salt Spring Foundation in 2012 and subsequent donation promises.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Robocall complaints made

Local Liberal candidate alerted to Voter Outreach Centre calls

Saanich-Gulf Islands Liberal candidate Tim Kane, in response to reports that B.C. residents are receiving misleading phone calls from the Conservative party, wants people to be cautious about calls they may receive in the run-up to the Oct. 19 federal election.

The name that appears on phone display screens is "Voter Outreach Centre" and the number displayed may be a local number. However, calls are originating from the call centre firm that has been hired by the Conservative Party of Canada to motivate people to support the party.

"It is disappointing that the Conservatives are once again resorting to these tactics to gain an edge in the election campaign, instead of putting forward strong public policies and looking out for the best interests of Canadians," said Kane in a press release.

The riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands is considered to be "ground zero" in the robocall scandal, he said. In the 2008 federal election, federal Liberal candidate Briony Penn's election hopes were dashed after a wave of 11th-hour robocalls encouraged people to vote for the NDP candidate who had previously stepped down although his name remained on the ballot. The federal Liberal riding association filed a complaint with Elections Canada about the misleading calls but Elections Canada declined

to investigate.

After the 2011 election, an investigation into misleading calls in Ontario resulted in criminal charges being laid against Conservative staffer Michael Sona. In November 2014, Sona was sentenced to nine months in jail.

Kane became the federal Liberal Team Trudeau candidate for Saanich-Gulf Islands in February.

Kane and his wife and business partner, Sheena Pennie, are the founders of Delta Media Inc., an award-winning, Ottawa-based communications firm that continues to serve government, corporate and non-profit clients across Canada. They have been full-time residents of Saanich since 2009 and set up a Victoria branch of their firm in 2010.

Help improve sailing schedules in the Southern Gulf Islands



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

Pender Island August 19, 7-9 pm, St. Peter's Church

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.

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

BC Ferries

Saturna residents fight back against proposed cuts

FERRY SCHEDULES

continued from 1

Priscilla Zimmerman, economic development commissioner for Saturna Island, said the new schedule represents a tipping point beyond which the island will be unable to recover.

"There needs to be a paradigm shift at BC Ferries," she said. "You are slowly killing the communities you propose to serve."

Business owners spoke of devastating consequences for the island's economy and seniors talked of trouble to access health-care services. The few young families that have chosen to live on Saturna said moving off-island is a regular topic of conversation.

"I've never seen the island as recessed as it is now," said John Money, a longtime islander. "Reductions in service and increasing fares are killing us. The island is papered in for-sale signs, and I think you at BC Ferries are greatly responsible."

BC Ferries has spent several months trying to create schedules that coincide with the start of service on the new Salish-class vessels in 2017. The option that's raised concerns among many Gulf Islanders was developed by BC Ferries staff, ferry advisory committee members from Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands, and two appointed

community representatives from each of the islands. BC Ferries is in the midst of gathering opinions from islanders through a series of open-house events throughout the Gulf Islands, Richmond and Sidney.

BC Ferries staff say they'll use information from the public consultation phase to review options in the coming months. Despite assurances from BC Ferries staff that draft schedules are "straw-man" models, Saturnites worry the proposals are a done deal.

Many participants at Monday's meeting shared fears that scheduling improvements on islands like Salt Spring, which stands to gain more peak-season sailings between Long Harbour and Tsawwassen, will overshadow concerns from residents on the more remote islands.

"Reductions in service and increasing fares are killing us."

JOHN MONEY
Saturna Island resident

Speaking outside the hall after the event, Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman said the modest gains incurred by residents of Salt Spring and the larger Gulf Islands don't justify the scale of changes pro-



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Mark Collins, BC Ferries' vice-president of strategic planning and community engagement, addresses a gathering of Saturna Island residents Monday about potential changes to the southern Gulf Islands ferry schedule.

posed for Saturna.

"It's not acceptable," he said.

According to the proposed schedule, Saturna Islanders who want to travel to Vancouver Island for the day face longer sailing times and less time to run errands when they arrive. A plan to pair the island with Galiano Island would mean travellers between Saturna and Swartz Bay would need to go through Active Pass to Studies Bay on Galiano before reaching Vancouver Island. The new schedule, Saturnites said, will also destroy inter-island links to Mayne and

Pender islands.

"What were you thinking?" asked Bob Fitzgerald, owner of the Lighthouse Pub, to BC Ferries staff assembled for the meeting. "It's going to be devastating to our business."

Mark Collins, vice-president of strategic planning and community engagement for BC Ferries, told the crowd the schedule is nowhere near final. He said the crowd's message is resounding but reminded the audience of the corporation's need to balance demands from ferry users throughout the region.

"I think the message is loud and clear," he said. "We have heard the wants and we have heard the needs."

BC Ferries' open-house event comes to the Harbour House Hotel on Salt Spring on Monday, Aug. 24 between 7 and 9 p.m. The complete meeting schedule and a copy of proposed changes is available in an ad on page 4 of this paper and on the BC Ferries website.

The corporation will gather opinions about the draft schedule in an online survey at bcferries.com between Aug. 31 and Sept. 20.

ELECTION 2015

NDP acclaims candidate

Local Conservatives eye Aug. 22 announcement

doesn't have the resources."

Cormier wants to see the Canadian government meaningfully re-engage in international climate talks scheduled for Paris, France later in 2015. She supports strengthening the economy but not necessarily at the expense of the environment.

"I'm not anti-development, but I believe in practising smart growth," she said.

Central Saanich, the Gulf Islands and communities throughout the riding, she said, have the potential to become leaders in agricultural and clean technology breakthroughs like recycling, renewable energy and information technology.

Cormier said participants at Saturday's meeting shared a sense of optimism and hope for the coming election campaign. The vibe was undoubtedly buoyed by recent poll figures that show the NDP in a tight race with the ruling



ALICIA CORMIER

Conservative party.

"We're at a turning point for a better Canada," Cormier said. "We're really at a time when we can elect an NDP government. There's huge optimism."

If results from the 2011 election offer any indication, Cormier has a tall order to fill. NDP candidate Edith Loring-Kuhanga received 11 per cent of the riding's votes, well behind Conservative party incumbent Gary Lunn (36.48 per cent) and Green party leader Elizabeth May (46.42 per cent).

Cormier said she expects to make her first campaign visit to Salt Spring next week.

"I plan to be front and centre at as many events as I can," she said.

Conservatives closer to naming candidate

A Conservative party spokesperson for the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding association said the party may announce its candidate by Saturday, Aug. 22. The nomination period for applications elapsed late last week, and applicants are being vetted by the party. No names had been released as of earlier this week.

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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

United we stand

Two months after the success of the first Tour des Iles, participants continue to recount cherished tales of travelling through the Gulf Islands.

Families were reunited, acquaintances renewed and new shores explored by the hundreds of islanders and visitors able to book a spot on the free, volunteer-run shuttles that connected the southern Gulf Islands for four fabulously fun days in June.

What began as a vision to recall the inter-island ferry sailings that once plied between the islands left community members calling for a repeat performance.

It's too bad folks responsible for the draft southern Gulf Islands ferry schedule missed the boat. Despite enthusiasm generated by the inter-island experiment,

THE ISSUE:

Draft SGI ferry schedule

WE SAY:

More connectivity needed

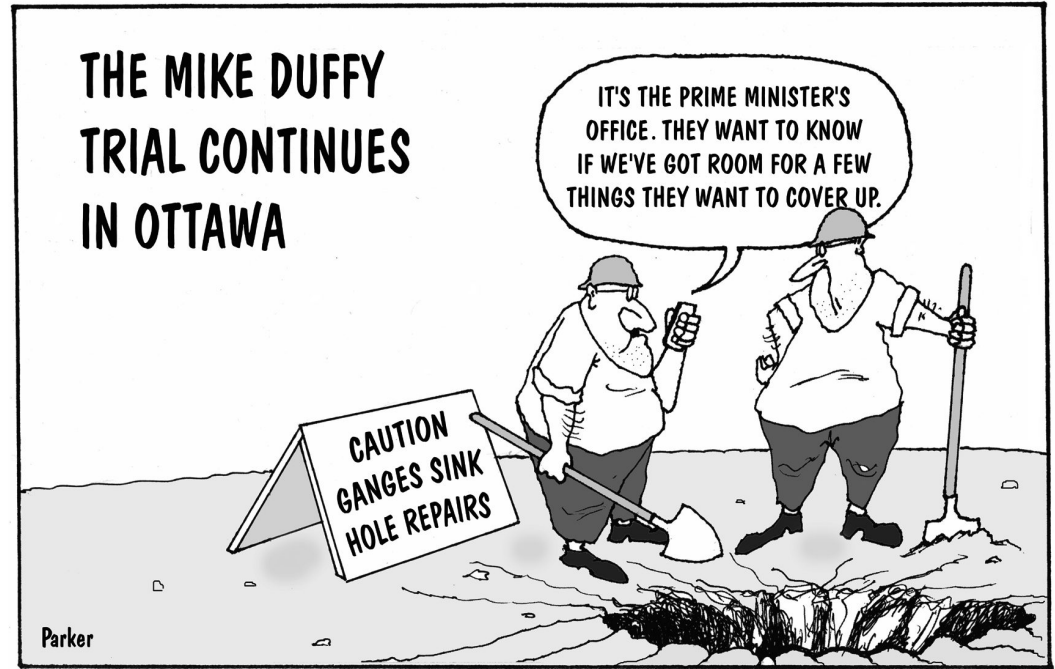
Salt Springers who travel to the Lower Mainland on Route 9 may notice modest improvements during the peak season, but some of the proposed additions, like a non-stop trip to Tsawwassen leaving Long Harbour on Thursday night at 9:31, or a second non-stop Long Harbour departure on Saturday mornings, seem unnecessary.

While we haven't yet heard BC Ferries' rationale for the proposals, 70 per cent of Saturna Island's 350 residents attended a Monday meeting and told BC Ferries the draft schedule rings like a death knell for their community.

The meeting launched BC Ferries' public engagement process to gather thoughts about the schedule. After stops on Mayne and Pender islands this week, it'll be Salt Spring's turn to host the schedule roadshow on Monday, Aug. 24.

The success of Tour des Iles demonstrates the islands offer an unrivaled community of craftspeople, musicians, business owners and volunteers. We are tradespeople, students, parents and retirees with much to offer one another and visitors. Tour des Isles showed us what's possible, now it's up to us to spread that message to BC Ferries.

BC Ferries has proposed to sail against the current when two new vessels are in service in 2017. Rather than develop connections between Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, Saturna and Salt Spring islands, the new schedule further isolates islanders.



VIEWPOINT by Gregory Ast

Vote for best Ottawa rep, not parties

I would like to propose one simple idea for Canada. I'm proposing this idea now at the beginning of another federal election so that Canadians who embrace the idea can get involved during the election campaign.

I suggest that Canada return to a time when there were no political parties in Canada. I suggest that Canadians demand the abolition of political parties. I suggest that like-minded citizens demand that each candidate running in their ridings agree to this concept now and that they make their commitment to refuse to be controlled by the management of any political party.

Why? There is no constitutional requirement for political parties in Canada. The original concept of parliamentary democracy in Canada was that each riding would elect their "best" representative to then go to Ottawa and once there to join with their other elected members of parliament to choose a prime minister. This person could then choose other elected members to form a government that would pass legislation and manage the civil service in a fashion that reflected what the people of Canada wanted in a civil service.

The idea of political parties evolved from people outside the original system. Their idea was to bring together like-minded individuals who were prepared to campaign for election with the understanding that if elected they would govern together as a government whose policies

had been pre-approved by the citizens that voted for them. But today, in 2015, we see that these policies actually don't get implemented. These policies or campaign promises are not binding on the people we elect. Once in parliament they can choose to ignore their promises and do whatever they want. Here is where the concept of "hidden agendas" is destroying our original design for a parliamentary democracy. Here is where the cynical back-room boys of the political parties are advising their candidates to "tell the people what they want to hear" so that they can be elected. Once elected, they can change their minds.

I for one am tired of being manipulated by the back-room boys of the political parties.

I for one am tired of being manipulated by the back-room boys of the political parties. So my solution is to make them illegal. Let's go back to a system that elects the best person from each riding to represent the people of the riding in our parliament. Our representative could be chosen as the prime minister and her government could govern with a conscience knowing that they must answer to the people who elected them back home.

In this system, I suggest that we could have candidates like Elizabeth May as our next prime minister and we would be ruled by a government of conscience.

A simple idea? Yes. Some of the best ideas are simple ones. Please think about it, Canada.

The writer lives on Salt Spring Island.

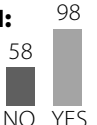
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will Mike Duffy's trial hurt the Conservatives in the election?

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m. Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Elizabeth May be asked to future debates?



Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR
328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3
Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934
Email: inquiries@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
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Editorial: Sean McIntyre, Elizabeth Nolan

Front office: James Burton, Johanna Walkner

Advertising: Elena Dunn, Jennifer Lannan, Kate Gooding



Amber Ogilvie PUBLISHER
agilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Elena Dunn ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
edunn@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg MANAGING EDITOR
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan PRODUCTION MANAGER
production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "You are slowly killing the communities you profess to serve."

PRISCILLA ZIMMERMAN, SATURNA RESIDENT, TO BC FERRIES

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What's summer reading do you highly recommend?



LYNDA ARDERN
I have lots, but one great one is the Outlander series; it's got a bit of everything — history, fiction and a hot love story.



BLAKE PETERS
Baseball magazines.



ELSJE HANNAH
I would recommend anything by Brené Brown, but The Gifts of Imperfection is a good place to start.



SUE SHEANE
Elizabeth May's Who We Are because we have a lot of decisions to make before the fall sets in.



DUSTIN BILLWILER
I would tell people to sit down with a child and read Dr. Seuss.

Letters to the editor

No one to call

Who do you call if you walk outside at 10 p.m. on a Friday night and are hit in the face with the dense smell of wood smoke?

I can't tell you who to call, but I can tell you who not to call. Don't call the fire department and definitely don't bother the RCMP.

If you don't want to abuse the 911 system you will be unable to speak to anyone in the fire department. If you are persistent when you call the RCMP non-emergency number you will eventually get through to someone who will impatiently listen to your concern and the reason you felt uncomfortable dialing 911 and then reply in a very bored and irritated voice, "Why are you telling me? You should call the fire department."

Well excuse me. I was under the impression the fire department and law enforcement communicated. I thought that if you had a serious concern potentially affecting the entire community, were unsure if it was an emergency and could contact no one else, then the local law enforcement office would be the place to start. Clearly I was wrong.

But despite wasting my breath on Friday night I learned some important lessons from the experience:

1) Unless I see sheets of flame out my window it can wait until Monday morning. 2) The RCMP are far too busy apprehending vicious seatbelt scofflaws to deal with mundane and non law-enforcement issues such as a potential forest fire on our island. 3) The fire risk on Salt Spring is obviously not nearly

as extreme as we have been led to believe. I think this evening I will go out and burn that big brush pile I have been waiting until rains come to burn. Should be no problem.

BOB ELSEA,
DUKES ROAD

Who's out of step?

Now that a federal election has been called we can anticipate an array of critters creeping out of the woodwork proclaiming the gospel according to their own uninformed opinions.

It seems we may already have one, based on the "No crisis in Canada" letter by Robin Williams in the Aug. 5 Driftwood. Canada ranks number one in the world, he says, according to a survey of 48,000 people from G8 nations.

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

My first question is, how many of these 48,000 from G8 nations would even know where Canada is, let alone be well informed on our internal affairs? Evidently not many, as the first item mentioned is absence of corruption. The problems with the Senate, the telephone scam during the last election telling people to vote at the wrong polling stations, the widespread serious charges of harassment in our national police force and armed forces are all indications that we are a long way from being free of corruption.

We Canadians live in a wonderful country, but we do not need to be told how good by G8 residents or any other outsiders. However, there is still room for improvement. I recently read a publication consisting of a collection of papers by well-known scholars

commenting on various aspects of Canada's role in the United Nations. The consensus was that we have fallen behind and there is some distance to go for Canada to regain the prestige we had a decade or so ago. We are no longer a member of the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Williams goes on to tell Green party candidate Elizabeth May that she is out of step with not only "this constituency and this country but the entire world." As to this constituency, I would ask Mr. Williams if he has ever attended any of Elizabeth May's standing-room-only town hall meetings where she reports to us what she has been doing in Ottawa on our behalf. Evidently not. Well, I have, and can say that on leaving them I have felt she is certainly not out of step with her constituency.

To say she is out of step with this country, where is your evidence to support such a statement? Have you perhaps polled 48,000 people in Canada? I doubt it. And the entire world — surely that is stretching it a bit, is it not?

Finally, we are told May's "four-year performance is a glowing example of sensational nothingness, irrelevance and distortion." If there were any truth in that statement it hardly supports the fact she was awarded Parliamentarian of the Year.

I love your ending quote, "Fool me twice, shame on me." Well, Mr. Williams, I suggest you are indeed fooled, but not by what you think you are.

HAROLD PAGE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

AGING with GRACE: Lions van service almost gone

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF



HELEN HINCHLIFF

"You don't know what you've got till it's gone!"

Joni Mitchell was talking about paradise being paved over by parking lots and I'm talking about a time-honoured island service that could well disappear in 2017. But the principle is the same: You may not know what we've got till it's gone. Then, should you need it, you'll have to make do on your own.

Ever since the 1970s, the Lions Club has been helping wheelchair-bound islanders to keep medical appointments in their specially equipped van. To clarify, the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society provides a similar service for ambulatory islanders who can ride in a car. Seniors Services could use additional volunteer drivers (250-537-4604; saltspringseuniors@shaw.ca), but the Lions Club is desperate for help with its wheel-chair van program (250-537-2000; sslions@telus.net).

Don Cunningham has been a volunteer with the Lions' program almost from the start, but, for the past 17 years, he has been

its faithful, stalwart and only driver.

I'll never forget the day 16 years ago when he drove my late husband Donald Simmons to Victoria's Queen Alexandra Solarium to be fitted for a special wheelchair. I tagged along to do the talking because Donald's stroke had rendered him almost speechless. What with ferry schedules and delays at Queen Alexandra, Don devoted his entire day to us. I am still grateful, especially after hearing the details of his current schedule over a second cup of tea at a recent Music and Munch event.

Imagine the phone ringing off the hook while Don puzzles over a monthly calendar that is already two-thirds full of commitments. When he first started volunteering as one of three Lions Club van drivers, his client appointments were once or twice a month. More recently, it's three or four times per week and sometimes twice a day. He helps some 25 regular clients get their blood tested in the hospital

lab or delivers them to local doctors' offices for medical consultations. But more frequently he finds himself driving clients off-island to see specialists, undergo elaborate tests or have simple surgeries that are no longer done locally.

Why has Don Cunningham been performing this volunteer gig all by himself for the past 17 years? Could it really be that nobody is willing or able to give him a hand? Or is it because most people are unaware of this vital volunteer opportunity?

There are a few strings attached, of course: you need a Class 4 driver's licence and a basic first aid certificate. Oh yes, you have to pass a criminal background check and join the Lions Club! How difficult is that?

Don Cunningham can't go on forever and, between you and me, he says he's getting tired. I'm not surprised: He's in his mid-70s and is maintaining a hectic schedule. Lions Club executive members believe he deserves a well-earned rest and have determined that if others don't step

up quickly, they will stop sponsoring this program in 2017.

Then what happens?

Thinking back to my late husband's convalescence, I realize that after he had his properly fitted wheelchair and I had undergone training in how to effect transfers, I took it upon myself to get him to the hospital for blood tests or the Lancer building where his doctor had an office.

Most people may not realize it, but transfers (that means getting out of bed and into the wheelchair; out of the wheelchair and into the car; out of the car and back into the wheelchair and so on) can be enormously tiring for someone who has little strength at his or her disposal. They are also a major challenge for the caregiver.

Six transfers in a day were sometimes just too much for Donald, but we could keep his weekly blood testing schedule, because I was strong enough to push him and his wheelchair (a combined 200 pounds) uphill to the hospital from our home on Desmond Crescent (taking

breathers at Valhalla and Dagwood's parking lot along the way).

But let's be clear about this: I'd been working out at North End Fitness and was only 60. Don Cunningham's clients are mostly in their 80s and 90s. I don't know a 90-year-old — male or female — who could help a wheelchair-bound spouse into and out of a car (assuming one of them is still driving).

Everyone wants to live at home as long as possible, but if the Lions Club program disappears in 18 months and if no other organization or agency picks up the slack, we may discover we have more candidates for Heritage Place, Braehaven or Greenwoods, all of which are close to the hospital. And if any of the rest of us ever needs wheelchair van service, we may discover that a little bit more of paradise got paved over when we were out to lunch.

Make water collection mandatory

I have long advocated mandatory rainwater collection from all hard surfaces in new developments. (Why this hasn't long-since been a prerequisite in the building codes beats me.)

Many "dry" countries adopt water-cisterns into their foundations as a matter of survival. On Salt Spring we have around 36 inches of rainfall per annum. Collect that, say, with 3,000 square feet of roofing and hard-standing, and you have 56,000 gallons per residence, or — assuming a household of four — 14,000 gallons per resident.

Cities usually reckon on about 75 gallons per person per day as a ballpark figure, but I know

from personal experience sourcing my own water only as above, that I can make do with about 30 gallons per person per day. Divide 14,000 by 30 and you have 468 days-worth of water in your cistern!

Ladies and gentlemen, we do not have a water shortage on Salt Spring Island! Just collect the darn stuff!

A corollary to this is obvious . . . if all new developments were so mandated, none would be adding to overall island demand! Therefore, new developments are not a net negative on this count.

The next whinge will inevitably be: "Can't do that! It has to be treated!" Loud raspberries to that. I treated my own water (and never ran out) with an on-site purification plant, of which many commercial examples exist. All new development will

from personal experience sourcing my own water only as above, that I can make do with about 30 gallons per person per day. Divide 14,000 by 30 and you have 468 days-worth of water in your cistern!

MORE LETTERS

have individual or collective on-site, rain-water treatment and cisterns.

As to water collected from hard-standing areas (as opposed to roof-collection), I conceive collecting the respective run-offs in separate cisterns, one for filtered-only water (for primary use in toilet-flush, showers, etc.), the other for further treatment up to potable standards.

There remains the whole additional issue of "grey-water" recycling (showers, washing machines, etc.) for use in irrigation.

A huge advantage of promulgating such a law would be the mitigation of fire-risk on account of the immediately available stored water. This would be a game-changer, given the fire department's problems with access to water for fire-fighting purposes.

In the context of security of water-supply, the only shortage around here is lack of vision and initiative, lack of brains and application, indolence on the part of the decision-makers and bureaucrats, and a refusal to contemplate change.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . there is a solution and all we collectively have to do is to ensure it happens. If man can get to the moon, we have it within us to ensure there is no water shortage on Salt Spring Island.

**ROSS KING,
BEDDIS ROAD**

CRD on board

The chair of the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island (HASSI), Kathy Scarfo, recently met with the CRD Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (SSITC) and she also submitted an article in last week's Driftwood titled "Constructive solution sought." The reference was primarily in relation to accessing HASSI's Kanaka Dock facilities.

The SSITC was pleased that Ms. Scarfo attended the public meeting to present the views and concerns of HASSI as this invitation has always been open and open dialogue on this issue is important in the creation of a constructive solution which recognizes, as much as possible, the needs of all affected parties. We are certainly aligned with HASSI that this needs to be done for the benefit of the community.

I have also recently met with Ms. Scarfo and James Heath, the HASSI operations manager, to discuss both some of their concerns as well as what we collectively feel are opportunities

for HASSI and the CRD to work more closely together and I am certainly committed to doing so. This must include a long-term solution for the access space that HASSI has referenced.

On a related matter, the CRD Board has recently endorsed a new vision for a regional transportation plan, which will include water and rail transport. Clearly to realize the benefits of such an expanded plan it must include working with entities with water-based facilities, such as docks, whoever is responsible across the region.

**WAYNE MCINTYRE,
CRD DIRECTOR,
SALT SPRING**

Say no to incorporation

Salt Springers, please wake up and smell the coffee.

Incorporation will not make life any easier or cheaper for most of the citizens of Salt Spring.

My reasons for saying that:

- Incorporation is a form of downloading of services. Roads maintenance on Salt Spring is now paid for by our provincial taxes. When incorporation happens, then municipal taxes will be paying for road maintenance. Will your provincial taxes go down to reflect less services provided by the province? No. You will now be paying extra for road maintenance on your municipal taxes.

- Check with the citizens of Bowen Island. Not the politicians, not the developers, but the ordinary citizens. When I mentioned Salt Spring's flirtation with incorporation, a group I was visiting all said in unison, "Are you crazy? Our taxes went up and our road quality went down."

Politicians, who stand to profit from rapid development, will outlast the politicians who are simply trying to make Salt Spring a better place. Most well-intentioned politicians finally get fed up, and since they are not gaining anything by being a politician, quit because they have had enough. It is not easy being a politician on Salt Spring Island.

On the other hand, development-oriented politicians will have staying power because they stand to gain financially from decisions being made. Developer-oriented politicians tend to take over political arenas.

I am not saying the Islands Trust is perfect, but it is far better than incorporation. Please think about your choices for the future of Salt Spring Island.

**HARRY BURTON,
SALT SPRING**

SGI deserves better representation

The news that Canada has once again been awarded the world's most-respected nation in a Reputation Institute poll seems to have caused consternation in the Green party camp.

This honour does call into question the entire premise that Canada is in a state of crisis, which has been the cornerstone of Elizabeth May's platform.

Marcelle Roy ("Fooled three times?" letter of Aug. 12) has suggested that the poll of 48,000 global residents should not be trusted since it was conducted by an organization from the United States. To this I disagree. In my experience the Americans are often the most critical of Canada, so American endorsement only substantiates the result.

Andrew Okulitch takes the issue much further, attempting to intimidate the Driftwood into some kind of censorship ("May deserves better," Aug. 12). The attack-ad text he refers to is actually a Green party specialty. Elizabeth May has used this tactic regularly for the last four years. Take her recent assertion that Stephen Harper hates tourism or her 2013 list of 10 ways Harper has strayed from traditional Canadian values and style of governance, or that the maple leaf on the new \$20 bills is an invasive species from Norway.

As for campaigning, it would seem to me the only one campaigning is Elizabeth May and the Greens. Within the first day of the election announcement the Greens had the entire island plastered with visual signage pollution. They have even had the audacity to place signage immediately adjacent to our newly installed bus shelter. I find this particularly offensive as we have an on-island policy of no private advertising on our transit service. Would somebody please remove this and take the pizzeria sign with it?

Finally might I ask, when did Jian Ghomeshi, Omar Khadr, that Ottawa bunch of 9/11 truthers or Greek ecologist Greens become constituents of Saanich-Gulf Islands? Elizabeth May has done a lot more for this bunch than any of us.

I am sorry Mr. Okulitch, it is not Elizabeth May who deserves better but the constituents of this riding and Salt Spring Island in particular. We deserve an MP who puts our interests first and foremost.

**ROBIN A. WILLIAMS,
SALT SPRING**

Foster a friendlier way

I have read several letters in the Driftwood recently which contained sections that are personally critical of our Member of Parliament, Elizabeth May.

Even though this great democratic country of ours provides for free speech, I was disappointed in the tone of segments within the letters and that the Driftwood published them without editing out the nasty portions. In fact, I am very proud of our local paper and do anything I can to support it, but the most common (although rare) complaint I hear in discussions is the publishing of letters that contain personal attacks.

Speaking for myself, I get tired of the "silly and unproductive malicious comments." I am not considering dropping my subscription anytime soon, but my disappointment still remains. Controversy can be stimulating, but personal attacks waste paper, and in my opinion only serve to diminish the credibility of the writer and the paper which publishes them.

I strongly believe that we on Salt Spring live in an exceptionally kind, generous and compassionate community and that we should do everything we can to promote and increase our foundation of those core values. The messages we produce, written and verbal, are some of the tools we have to disperse our thoughts to a wider audience. I believe that the best words to convey a message are positive, measured, are well thought out and seek to improve our overall well being.

And so, my intention with the remainder of this note will be kind and thoughtful, fact-filled and hopeful. It will serve not to harm or to damage, but to serve to foster a friendlier way forward.

In regards to our elected MP Elizabeth May, let me state that she has met me in person to deal with any issue I have raised, answered every email I have sent, has come to meet her constituency on a regular basis and is in Parliament to carry our voice there.

In 2012 she was voted Parliamentarian of the Year, in 2013 it was the Hardest Working MP, and in 2014, the Best Orator by her colleagues in the House of Commons. Pause to consider that: the MPs voted someone outside their party for award-winning performance.

I think that speaks volumes of the respect that she universally deserves.

**JIM STANDEN,
SALT SPRING**

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

NEIGHBOURS HELPING NEIGHBOURS

The ground just shook. You and your family are okay but the elderly couple across the road are standing outside their home, confused, but fine. You go over to let them know that you received a notification from the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program that the earthquake was a long distance away. This is one way the POD program supports "neighbours helping neighbours".



Contact Laurel Hanley at 250 537-1220 or email to ssidepc@crd.bc.ca to find out more about connecting to your neighbours through the POD program.

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

CRD

Making a difference...together

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED???

Volunteers wanted to fill a vacancy on the Beddis Water Service Commission

The Commission includes 4 members, appointed by the CRD Board, plus the Regional Director. The Beddis Water Service Commission advises and makes recommendations regarding the supply, treatment, storage and distribution of water within the Service Area.

The current vacant position is open to a resident or property owner within the Service Area, or any person who is prepared to represent the Service Area. The term, for this position, runs to December 31, 2016, with the potential of a further two-year term.

Phone 537-4448 for more information

Please submit your letter of interest and background information no later than August 26, 2015 to:

CRD Salt Spring Electoral Area
145 Vesuvius Bay Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 1K3
or email saltspring@crd.bc.ca

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Forests full of Ervearoses to Jerry Lewandowski, Al Lehmann, Susannah Devitt and Therin Gower for creating all our magical fairytale set pieces and props for Into the Woods. Your attention to detail enriches everything. Marv Coulthard, Lawrence Wu, Sue and Al Lehmann, Wendy Soares, Jean Southgate, Ken, Daniel, Maureen McKay, Pamela, Judi, Maggie and Wendy — you are the best lighting, sound and backstage dream team. The show flowed like a sweet babbling brook through the woods because of you all! Also, special thanks to Kathleen Donovan for building such a stunning mask for Sue Newman's witch, and to Ceci and Kate and Emilee for wild and wonderful hair and make-up, and especially to Tami dos Santos, our early rehearsal pianist par excellence, and Joi Freed-Garrod for leading this outstanding cast onto the right path through such an intricate and complex musical forest. To the whole crew, cast and band, thank you for a truly joyous and moving theatrical experience. You were "especially lush . . . delicious!" Rachel Jacobson

A million roses to the many well-wishers and a special bouquet to Myna Lee for the delicious organic produce. Yum! Wow! You are all wonderful. Love, Robert the bus driver

Thanks to the little boy who gave me the bouquet of gladiolas. I had just celebrated my 90th birthday at the end of July and was thrilled to receive this gift.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Put brakes on growth now

So you're late for the ferry, tearing downhill at 80 kilometres an hour toward Burgoyne Bay, and then — your brakes fail. Your driving has just become not just dangerous, but extremely dangerous because you've lost control.

In response to Murray Reiss' otherwise excellent letter in the Aug. 12 Driftwood, "Painful dilemma," it's a fallacious assumption to point to 2°C as "the threshold between dangerous and extremely dangerous climate change." If you look at the Wikipedia article titled "Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change," you'll see we're already at that threshold: ". . . recent science has shown that the weather, environmental and social impacts of 2°C rise are much greater than the earlier science indicated, and that impacts for a 1°C rise are now expected to be as great as those previously assumed for a 2°C rise."

In other words, climate change has already become extremely dangerous and out of control. We've lost our ability to prevent many

of the dire and inevitable effects of climate change now and in the future. These effects include the rapid melting of Arctic and West Antarctic ice, as well as most of the world's glaciers, causing increasingly turbulent weather systems and hazardous sea-level rise; the disastrous acidification of the oceans at a rate "faster than at any time in the last 300 million years;" the extremes set this year for global air temperature, this July being the hottest on record; and the record number of hectares consumed by wildfires, nearly 4 million to date in Canada alone.

To see just how extremely dangerous wildfires have become, by the way, you should Google the video posted by Yale Environment 360 on Aug. 10, "With Climate Change, a Terrifying New Normal for Western Firefighters." It will take your breath away.

And yet we read at the UN Climate Change Conference website, "The overarching goal of the Convention is (still) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase to 2°C above pre-industrial levels."

This way of thinking is irresponsible, unethical and delusional. We all must tell all our MPs and candidates

for election that at a ceiling of 2°C, global temperature will be much too high. To opt for cutting emissions merely 30 per cent by 2030 is just foolhardy. In order to save the life of our planet we must slash GHG emissions to zero and start right now. Checking the brakes on economic growth will be a good place to begin.

DOROTHY CUTTING,
PRICE ROAD

Tabloid-style sensationalism

I am disappointed in the choice of cover picture of last week's Driftwood.

What a decision, who's ever it was, to put pain and stress on the cover when the island had just celebrated the most successful music festival in its cultural history!

As a community newspaper, the decision to not feature this success on the cover reveals a total lack of community spirit and underlies a tabloid-style habit of sensationalism.

Join in the island spirit, why don't you, and celebrate us, rather than turn the cover into fear and loathing. It was such a dumber-headed thing to do.

Maybe the person responsible would consid-

er a different career path, and leave our community newspaper to those who choose to reflect our values and triumphs.

Please get with it, or get out of town. We like having a local paper, and don't want bad decisions to rob us of it.

VALDY HORSDAL,
REYNOLDS ROAD

Fiasco

I have just watched a video of the year-long fiasco of Grace Islet.

This is collective bullying. I am so disgusted with all the sanctimonious people patting themselves on their backs.

What have you accomplished? You caused one man to lose his retirement home. You have cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. Maybe a plaque on the site would have been enough.

I wish there was a way to count all the man-hours that went into this campaign. It would be nice if some good could come from all of this: this is why I have a challenge for you. Why not start a mentoring program for First Nations? Think what that many man-hours could accomplish.

SHARON VOLKOMMER,
SALT SPRING

Let's respect election signage

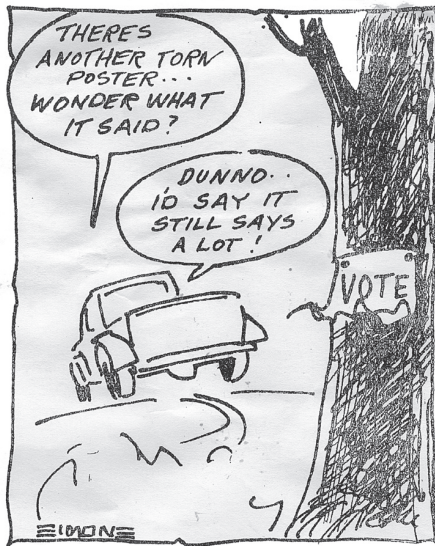
We are immersed in a federal election again and it is wonderful to be a part of the democratic process that makes our country one of the best in the world.

This is a particularly contentious election and feelings are running high on all sides of the political spectrum. Sadly, there is a nefarious custom that has come to be a part of the whole election game, and that is sign vandalism.

One night last week, five small Green party highway signs were destroyed along with three lawn signs and even two non-political signs urging people to slow down when driving (which were retrieved and delivered to the Driftwood office for the owners to claim). The sign on one person's property was vandalized the first night out. So what is to be done?

We would like to endorse the spirit of respect and, on occasion, even mutual support that existed among the various campaign teams here on Salt Spring in the 2011 federal election.

We assume that the recent incidents are attributable to some who are simply too bored or apathetic to understand how such collegiality can exist in the charged and partisan atmosphere of an election. Nevertheless, it is our hope that most islanders will see that it is all the more important in times



A cartoon by Art Simons published in the Gulf Islands Driftwood from more than 40 years ago shows how not much has changed when it comes to election sign vandalism.

such as these.

There is a cost to all of us from this destruction. This episode has been reported to the police as a \$200 to \$500 incident. Signs are costly.

We read online that a candidate solved his vandalism problem by coating the edges of his lawn signs in vaseline! Humorous and effective for the lawn signs, but it does not do much for the road signs that have been axed.

It also fails to address the

larger issue of respect for persons and property, and for the process of information sharing that is essential to the democratic process, flawed as it is.

We appeal to the community at large to be vigilant about protecting their own and their neighbours' property, and to be ready to help find a solution that works for all.

SUE SHEANE, TOM MITCHELL, BOB MACKIE, STEVE ABBOTT,
SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS GREEN PARTY VOLUNTEERS

Silence can be isolating

"Dementia linked to untreated Hearing Loss."

Seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time, states a study by Dr Frank Lin, MD, PHD conducted at Johns Hopkins University. Dr Lin states; "...a hearing device can possibly help mitigate the social isolation for those with a hearing loss..." - hopkinsmedicine.org

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MUSIC & MUNCH

Mémoires Françaises set to delight M&M audience

Summer favourite Graeme Wilkinson performs with Marie Lyne Phare

This Wednesday, Aug. 26, Graeme Wilkinson returns to perform on the piano for Music and Munch at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church in downtown Ganges.

This year, Wilkinson has invited guest artist mezzo-soprano Marie Lyne Phare to join him for a program titled *Mémoires Françaises*, which the two performed at Place des Arts in Montreal this spring.

Wilkinson holds an ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto. He obtained a Bachelor of Music from L'Université du Québec à Montréal, and went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in Music at Concordia University in Montreal under the direction of Christopher Jackson.

During his 30-year career with Air Canada, Wilkinson actively pursued his musical avocation. He participates regularly in international piano amateur competitions, festivals and academies, and is active in choral work around Montreal. He continues to study piano with his Concordia professor Lauretta Altman.

Wilkinson is a part-time resident of Salt Spring Island.

In June, he participated in the Piano Texas International Academy and Festival in Fort Worth. In April 2016, he will perform at the Concours International de Grands Amateurs de Piano in Paris.

Mezzo-soprano Marie Lyne Phare holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice from l'Université du Québec à Montréal and a Graduate Diploma from Concordia University in Classical Voice Studies. She further went on to complete a program in musical pedagogy.

Phare has performed works of various Canadian composers as well as the estab-

lished classical repertoire. She was producer and performer of a concert trilogy which united music, poetry and a natural visual environment. Her voice teachers have included Colette Boky, France Dion and, most recently, Elizabeth Koch-Hansen.

Phare currently works as a music teacher at Montessori International School in Blainville, Que.

The free concert begins at 12:10 p.m.

An optional light lunch is provided by the Anglican Caterers immediately following the concert.

People must purchase lunch tickets before the concert begins.

THE PARADISE WITHIN would like to give a heart filled THANKS to the whole Island of Salt Spring for so generously embracing the opportunity to host such a wonderful Community event as the GARLIC 'n MUSIC FESTIVAL here on our farm.

Special acknowledgment needs to go out to the volunteers and organizers that created this possibility and of course to our fellow residents of Musgrave Road who supported, embraced and/or at least tolerated this great community building effort.

We all proved IT IS POSSIBLE on an Island, congratulations!

ART EXHIBIT

Still lifes and ceramics foster contemplation



Paperbark maple leaves by Sharon Simonds Chia.

Showcase gallery presents Interlude

ArtCraft's final Showcase of the summer will run from Friday, Aug. 21 to the closing of ArtCraft on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Interlude is based around the delicate still-life groupings of Sharon Simonds Chia. She sees her paintings as "intimate, contemplative compositions of natural and man-made objects in a formal arrangement." There is a great balance to

her paintings as well as a sense of thoughtfulness that combine to give the viewer a feeling of peace and the belief that everything is "just so" and well with the world.

This can be partly explained by Chia's long-time immersion in the culture of the Far East, through spending years living in Hong Kong and her marriage to her late husband Fu-Shiang Chia. Her sense of composition has clear roots in the asymmetry and interpretation of nature found in Oriental scroll paintings, creating a balance enhanced

by a slow and thoughtful process of choosing and placing natural and man-made objects in her arrangements.

Chia chooses to use an overhead perspective in her paintings, which allows the exploration of shallow space, shadow and reflection. It is an unusual perspective but somehow works to accentuate the balance and sense of rightness in her compositions.

Her paintings are complemented by the fine ceramic work of Kasumi Lampitoc. Exquisitely crafted with

great sensibility, one gets similar feelings of order and peace as when looking at Chia's paintings and that each piece is perfectly balanced and has been created with great attention and thought. Lampitoc's pieces are collected in small groupings, echoing Chia's still-life compositions on the walls.

Together they create a balanced and peaceful exhibition that should be enjoyed slowly and contemplatively.

Friday's opening-night reception for Interlude runs from 6 to 8 p.m.

MUSIC

Tippy Agogo and island friends in house concert

Samba Du Soleil also featured at Aug. 20 event

Christina Chua is hosting a home concert-party this Thursday, Aug. 20 featuring Tippy Agogo, an eclectic one-man orchestra and "mouth musician."

Local DJ case235 and island percussion group Samba Du Soleil will also join the program, which starts at 6 p.m. at 2823 Fulford-Ganges Rd., across from the old Fulford Marina.

Press material describes Agogo as a multi-faceted musician with "a wide range of talents embracing many areas of performance, from electro-acoustic and soundscape concerts to industrial-ethno-rock, global music and near jazz as well as music for dance, theatre and multi-media projects. He performs in concert, at festivals and on the street.

"Agogo has dedicated years to the performance and study of percussion, theatre, folk dance and ethnic music under well respected teachers," the press release explains. "He continues to compile soundscape textures and

music for film, animation, voice-overs, theatre and multi-media."

Agogo specializes in live multi-vocals via modern technology, with his voice as dirge, percussion and orchestra.

"Incorporating loops, exotic rhythms, homemade percussive instruments and an ability to mimic pretty well any sound with just his vocal cords, Tippy's always unique performances have become legendary," says Chris Barry in *The Mirror* (Montreal).

Tickets for the event will be available at the door.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photosynthesis exhibit marks 15th year

Opening night on Aug. 26

One of the highlights of the arts year on Salt Spring Island arrives next week with the opening of the 15th annual Photosynthesis exhibit at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The reception is from 5 to 7:30 p.m. that night, with the gallery open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for viewing until Sept. 8. At least one photographer will be in attendance at all times to meet visitors and discuss the group's creations.

Photosynthesis is a group of accomplished Salt Spring Island photographers founded in 1995. Its membership has fluctuated over the years but is comprised

of approximately 20 photographers, chosen for the quality of their work and invited to join as permanent members as space allows.

The upcoming show includes works by 14 of the permanent members as well as five guest photographers and one student from the high school's photography program.

The show is non-thematic, allowing each photographer to express his or her photographic vision, inspiration and mood. All works are new in that they have not been previously displayed, which ensures that the show will be fresh, vibrant and exciting.

For information, go to: <http://www.photosyn.ca>.



Michael Wall's Uffizi, Firenze 2 is an image in the 15th Photosynthesis exhibit that opens in the ArtSpring gallery next Wednesday, Aug. 26 with an opening event from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

CERAMIC ARTS

Potters' Guild celebrates huge milestone



Oval slab teapot by Judy Weeden.

Pop-up sale begins prize fundraising

The Salt Spring Island Potters' Guild is 65 years old this year, and to celebrate, the group is hosting a lawn party to honour their first president, Sue Mouat.

The event on Sunday, Aug. 23 will take place at the home of award-winning potter Judy Weeden. Members of the public are invited to spend a lovely afternoon visiting and to enjoy a cup of tea while celebrating the milestone with cake and shopping for

special pottery items. Potters' Guild ceramics will be for sale, and there will be a silent auction of works of art, pottery and other surprise items.

Funds raised through the pop-up sale will help fund the first ever Salt Spring Island Ceramic Awards, which will take place in October 2016 and continue in the fall of alternative years. The new prize has come about through an anonymous donation of about \$4,000 in prize money for a juried show.

The donor intends the exhibition and prizes to encourage artistic and tech-

nical excellence in ceramics within the Gulf Islands and to strengthen the Potters' Guild by raising its profile in the ceramic community and with the general public. In order to mount this endeavour it will be necessary for the guild to raise additional funds for operating costs through donations and events.

The guild began when a few potters got together in 1950, and in 1951 the Sidney and Gulf Islands Review carried a news item declaring "the second annual Salt Spring Pottery Guild meeting had been held, with Mrs. Ivan (Sue) Mouat as president." In 1950 classes were held in the elementary school in Ganges.

In December of 1969, the first pre-Christmas Salt Spring Potters' Guild sale was held in a tiny building in Ganges where the Chamber of Commerce building now stands. During the sale, a storm caused a power outage so the store was lit by candles for part of the day. The 15 guild potters, however, felt they had made a successful start.

The Potters' Guild has thrived since those days with work shown annually in the former Mark's Work Warehouse store windows, a semi-

annual sale at Mahon Hall, displays each year in the Salt Spring Public Library and participation in ArtCraft.

Guild members meet monthly to share pottery information and ideas. For present guild information and membership, contact president Edith Stevenson at 250-653-4092.

The anniversary event and sale runs from 2 to 5 p.m. at 130 Primrose Lane. Everyone is invited to bring their friends, family and visitors.

COMEDY

Maggie gets gussied up

Night of laughs with Arvid's feminine side

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Fans of The Geezers summer shows might be disappointed to not see Les and Bert and their plaid shirts and suspenders on the ArtSpring bill this year, but islanders haven't been completely cut off from their wacky vein of humour.

Maggie MacCaffrey is usually a guest at Geezers shows put on by Arvid Chalmers and Sid Filkow, but when Filkow didn't commit to a summer event in 2015, Chalmers decided to slip into his Legion ladies outfit, let his inner Scottish lass loose and give Maggie full rein on the ArtSpring stage.

Maggie's Two Night Stand runs on Friday-Saturday, Aug. 21-22 beginning at 8 p.m.

"You can find out everything you need to know about someone if you spend 48 hours with them," she told the Driftwood last week.

She didn't want anyone to think that meant the shows are actually 48 hours in length, while suggesting length was an irrelevant consideration regardless.

"Life is short, yet it's also really wide, and like a good pair of pantyhose you can cram a lot in there if you point your toes just so."

Maggie laments that her old friends are dying like flies, while complaints about the province's health-care service are also top of mind. She's been trying to get a hip replaced for the past two years.

"I can have a sex change done in 60 days," she said.

Maggie is prepared to defend any of her positions, controversial or otherwise, and to take questions from audience members with no topic out of bounds.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Back to school tips for middle school students

- Talk enthusiastically to your children about the new school year, reminding them of the fun they will have with friends and the exciting new things they will learn.
- It is important that children feel comfortable attending a new school. Help your children locate classrooms and key areas such as the gym, library and cafeteria before the start of school.
- Make sure your child knows how to get from one class to another on time.
- Get involved in the school community. It's a great way to get to know your children's teachers and other parents.
- Go over schedules with your children to make sure they are registered in the correct classes.



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

GISS student goes back to class with new guide dog

Sabrina and Dia learn local routes in preparation for school year on Salt Spring Island

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School staff are preparing to welcome a special member to the school community this fall, when Mayne Island's Sabrina Somerville heads to her final year of high school with her new partner in mobility, a guide dog named Dia.

Somerville and Dia graduated from a three-week training course with Jaime Arnup of BC & Alberta Guide Dogs earlier this summer, after learning how to work with each other and practicing the routes they will regularly travel come this fall. Somerville, who is visually impaired, has attended GISS since Grade 9, but she used to rely on a cane find her way around.

"It's a pretty unique environment. We train out of Vancouver, so most of our dogs end up in the city."

JAIME ARNUP
BC & Alberta Guide Dog trainer

"It was definitely less smooth without a dog," she said.

BC & Alberta Guide Dogs is a registered charity based in Delta, B.C. The organization breeds, raises and profes-

sionally trains guide dogs for blind and visually impaired youth and adults, as well as support dogs for children living with moderate to severe autism.

It takes two years and upwards of \$35,000 to produce one certified dog, which is provided free of charge to the recipient. With only a few new dogs added to the roster each year, the waiting list can be long.

Arnup, who started her three-year apprenticeship in 2003 and became a certified guide dog trainer in 2006, said there are many factors that come into play when making the right match between a dog and its owner. These include personality, lifestyle, the environment the impaired person lives in, his or her future plans and what will be needed from the dog.

"Sometimes it comes down to how efficient you were with your cane before you got a dog," Arnup said, noting those who had difficulty walking might be matched with a stronger animal.

Sabrina's match Dia looks to be on the sleeker end of the black Labrador model. The 19-month-old female was one of a litter of three, all of whom have successfully passed the training process. While her siblings have gone to the Lower Mainland and Nanaimo, Dia will be walking Mayne Island's country roads and riding on the water taxi.

"It's a pretty unique environment. We train out of Vancouver, so most of our dogs end up in the city," Arnup said.

"It's really good that we get to train for three weeks at home," she added.

It's a 10- to 15-minute walk from Somerville's house to the water taxi dock depending on how heavy her backpack is. The islands' non-grid system takes more training to get used to and more

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Back to school tips for primary students

- Create a launch pad for items your child needs for school each day—a space for backpacks, lunch kits, shoes, jackets and school assignments. This will help keep your child organized and ease the morning rush.
 - Confirm start times for the first day of school and the entire first week. If your child is attending a new school, check with the school board to ensure your child has the information and identification needed for registration.
 - Adjust your children's bedtime and wake-up times a week before the start of school to prepare them for the back-to-school routine.
 - Get your children in the habit of choosing their clothing the night before to help the morning begin calmly.
 - Find out how your child's teacher likes to communicate with parents and take advantage of contact opportunities.
- You can make an important contribution by volunteering at your child's school. Contact your local board of education or the Parent Advisory Council to find out about volunteer opportunities.
- SOURCE for all 3 sets of tips:**
BC Ministry of Education
-

BACK-TO-SCHOOL



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, Mayne Island's Sabrina Somerville, Dia and BC & Alberta Guide Dog trainer Jaime Arnup are all smiles after spending three weeks getting Somerville and Dia up to speed on working as a team. Dia will accompany Somerville to Gulf Islands Secondary School this fall, where she is about to start her final year of high school.

work to actually navigate, but Somerville observed Dia remembered her Mayne Island route after just one try.

There is no upwards age limit to apply for a visual mobility dog as people can lose their sight at any point in their lives, but recipients must be at least 13 years old. Somerville has received Dia at an ideal time since they'll have a year to work together and really gel as a team before heading off to university studies in science or perhaps criminology, most likely at the University of Victoria.

"I might even be able to graduate twice with her," Somerville said.

People who see the pair at GISS or out in the community should be aware

that guide dogs are not to be distracted while working, which is any time they are in harness. As cute as Dia might be, that means no petting her or calling her name when she's on the job.

"I think the other important thing people should know is the harness isn't always on. When she gets home it comes off and she just gets to play," Arnup said, adding that includes romping around with the Somervilles' other two family dogs on their 1.5-acre property.

"And though we ask people not to distract Dia when she's working, it's completely alright to go up to Sabrina and say hi and ask her questions," she said.

Back to school tips for secondary school students

- Discuss courses and programs with your child, their teacher and the principal.
- Ensure your child will meet graduation requirements.
- If your teenagers are starting at a new school, encourage them to arrange a visit to locate classrooms, the gym, cafeteria and library so they will feel more comfortable on their first day.
- Ask your teenagers to review their schedules and make an appointment with a school counsellor if they are concerned about possible conflicts or mistakes.
- Post your child's schedule of assignments in a central place and include dates of exams and other activities.



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ISLAND WHEELS

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NEW CARS

Honda Coupe shows the ways Canadians love the Civic



PHOTO BY JIM ROBINSON

Built in Alliston, Ont., Honda's 2016 Civic Coupe (EX manual model shown) has new, more dramatic styling.

Made in Canada car keeps on thriving

BY JIM ROBINSON
METROLAND MEDIA
WHEELS.CA

Meet Canada's automotive sweetheart — the Honda Civic.

For 17 years straight, going on 18, the Civic has been the number one selling car in this country.

Just for the record, the number one selling vehicle in Canada for decades has been Ford's ever-green F-150 pickup truck.

While there are literally millions of ways to configure a F-150, Honda keeps it pretty simple when it comes to the Civic — a sedan or a coupe as tested here.

There is a hybrid Civic sedan (base \$27,200) but production of that ends this model year. If you want a Civic-size Honda hybrid, there is always the CR-Z (base \$22,990).

There is no wagon, but the sub-compact Fit (base \$14,575) or HR-V compact CUV (base \$20,690) more than fill the bill.

As for a convertible, I'm sure Honda has considered it, but the Civic's patented, super strong hoop-like ACE safety structure precludes that.

The Civic Coupe comes in four models starting with the entry LX, EX and EX-L with navigation. All are powered by a 1.8-litre SOHC inline four-cylinder with 143 hp and 129 lb/ft of torque. The fourth is the hotrod Si with 2.4-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder with 205 hp and 174 lb/ft of torque.

All Coupes are front-wheel-drive with no all-wheel-drive available.

On the LX and EX, a five-speed manual transmission is standard with a CVT optional. The CVT is standard on the EX-L Navi with a six-speed manual exclusive to the Si.

All but the Si run on regular fuel with the five-speed model clocking 8.6/6.6/7.7L/100 km city/highway/combined. The CVT comes in at 7.9/6.1/7.1L/100 km for the LX due to its slightly lesser weight and 8.1/6.2/7.2L/100 km for the two EX models. The premium burning Si is rated at 10.8/7.6/9.4L/100 km.

Just recapping history, the first generation Civic arrived in 1972 and quickly gained a reputation for being stout and thrifty but small on the inside.

HONDA continued on 15



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ISLAND WHEELS

Civic's popularity no surprise

HONDA CIVIC

continued from 14

That all changed with the third generation (1983-1982) with its wide rear hatch which started Civic on its way to best-selling car in Canada status.

It was the eighth-generation Civic bowing in 2006 that set the trend for the shape of the Coupe and Sedan as we know them today.

With a pronounced sweep of the roofline starting with the steeply inclined windshield, the Civic, Coupe especially, looks like an ellipse from nose flowing back to the tail.

When the Civic was refreshed in 2012 it was not received well by owners who complained about low-ball interior trim and limp handling.

Honda took that very seriously with the 2013 model, looking the same but a different vehicle under the skin, which leads us to the 2015 Coupe tested here that marks the ninth-generation Civic.

For the record, the tenth-generation Civic was shown in concept form earlier this year at the New York Auto Show based on a new global platform.

The 2015 Civic EX Coupe as tested here is built at Honda's Alliston assembly plant and close inspection shows how well it is put together.

Shut lines and body panel gaps are very tight but it is the interior where the quality control shows through in the sweep of the main instrument panel as it flows to the door panel without a break in the character line.

The instrument panel itself sports the Civic's unique two-tier gauge location with a large tach on the lower level and the speedo and driver information display on the upper level — the theory being

it's easier to see than glancing side to side with a normal main gauge layout.

After listening to customer feedback, the styling of the nose is much more aggressive now with large lower scoops a-la-Porsche.

The flowing bodylines of the Coupe are made more so by the 16-inch alloy wheels with a "bent" 10-spoke design that really adds to the overall look.

The manual gearbox is typically Honda, being very light to the hand but with positive spring loading to hasten precise shifts up and down through the gear range.

The clutch is also light, too light for me as I could never feel where the point of engagement with the pressure plate was.

Seating position for the driver is superlative with seat travel that should accommodate everyone big, tall or small.

While it doesn't look it, the cargo area at 311 litres is quite capacious, that grows dramatically when the 60/40 rear seat is folded flat.

The 2015 Honda Civic EX Coupe with manual transmission as tested comes in at \$21,350, \$22,650 if you go for the CVT.

That compares with the base five-speed Coupe at \$18,950, \$20,250 for the CVT.

Personally I'd go with the EX because it includes rearview camera, speed variable wipers and (my favourite) Honda LaneWatch.

LaneWatch turns on a camera on the underside of the passenger side on the outside mirror giving a real-time picture of all vehicles coming into the blind spot area.

Made in Canada and designed for Canadians, it's little wonder why the Civic keeps on being this country's perennial favourite.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBINSON

This view from the rear shows how much effort went into making the Civic Coupe as aerodynamic as possible.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBINSON

Adding to the overall more attractive styling of the 2015 Honda Civic Coupe is the 16-inch alloy wheels.

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ISLAND WHEELS

YOUNG DRIVERS

Safe driving tips for teens

Common sense advice for road trips

With teenagers and young adult drivers accounting for almost a quarter of all road related fatalities on Canadian roads, RSA Canada is urging younger drivers to exercise extra caution as they head off on one last road trip before summer is over.

According to Transport Canada's Road Safety in Canada report (2011), 24 per cent of fatalities and 26 per cent of those seriously injured were 16 to 24 years of age.

"These kinds of statistics are alarming. Too many younger drivers are being killed or injured on our roads," says Alex Walker, national claims director at RSA. "We know teens aren't always receptive to safety messages, but it's vitally important that parents have a refresher chat with their teens."

RSA Canada suggests parents remind teenage drivers about the top five things they can do to stay safe on the road throughout the year.

1. Be a driving black belt & wear a seatbelt. Using a seatbelt might be simple, but it's also the most effective way of being safer behind the wheel.

"Too many younger drivers are being killed or injured on our roads."

ALEX WALKER
National claims director,
RSA Canada

2. Ditch the phone. Inexperienced drivers combined with distractions like text messages, music players and Facebook is a recipe for disaster. Parents need to lead by example and not use

cell phones while behind the wheel. Remember, it is against the law in B.C. to use cellphones while driving, whether for talking or texting.

3. Slow down. Speeding can not only increase the risk of a fatal car crash, but it also leads to costly fines and higher insurance rates. Remind your kids about sticking to the speed limit even if their friends are pressuring them to hurry up.

4. Don't drink and drive. Alcohol and driving don't mix regardless of whether a driver is experienced or inexperienced. Teen should feel comfortable calling home for a ride if they feel they're not in a position to drive.

5. It ain't no party bus. Reducing the number of passengers in the car while your teenager is behind the wheel helps reduce the distraction. Some studies show that restricting passengers can help reduce fatal crashes involving teens.

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FUNDRAISER

Popular toy run zooms back into town this weekend

Founder acknowledged during motorcycle ride and fun events on Aug. 21-22

The 19th annual Salt Spring Island Toy Run will see motorcycle riders from around the region converge in the Ganges area this weekend for a special commemorative run in memory of event founder Lil Irwin.

"It Is Hard To Forget Someone Who Gave You So Much To Remember" is the official slogan of this year's event, with Irwin (nee Sampson) keeping a firm place in island hearts.

"The Salt Spring Island Toy Run's mission is the same as it was 19 years ago, to raise money and donate toys to local families that are in need," organizers observe in a press release. "This is a 100 per cent volunteer-run event and in working with the local group Santa's Workshop, last year we raised money and toys to help 47 families with over 100 children."

The toy run has evolved from a handful of motorcycles taking a ride around the island culminating with a family barbecue at the Irwin home to hosting over 100 local and visiting motorcycle riders who tour the island and enjoy an entire weekend packed full of fun.

"This is a family-friendly event, so whether you are a rider, passenger or spectator there is something for everyone," the organizers promise. "Whether cheering on the bikes along the parade route, participating in the motorcycle games, placing your vote in the show and shine, dancing, socializing, visiting local on-site food vendors or kicking back



PHOTO ABOVE COURTESY SSI TOY RUN; PHOTO AT LEFT BY JEN MACLELLAN

Above, from left, Kristi Spencer and Salt Spring Toy Run founder Lil Irwin at a past event at the Farmers' Institute grounds. Irwin died on Oct. 1, 2014. At left, riders head down Rainbow Road on their run last August.

garden opens and bike games begin at 12:30 p.m., and the Show and Shine sign-up is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Judging is at 2:30 p.m., awards are at 4 p.m., and dinner is served at 6.

This year's event will include a silent auction with donations

from local artists and craftspeople.

Entertainment will feature two of Salt Spring's finest bands. Friday night will have Soul Shakedown playing in the Farmers' Institute orchard from 7 to 10 p.m. and on Saturday

night beginning at 7:30 p.m. the Brent Shindell Band will take the main stage after a beef and salmon dinner offered on site.

All are welcome to come out and join the participants for a weekend of fun and celebration. A shuttle service between Gan-

ges and the grounds also begins on Saturday afternoon.

Visitors should feel free to bring a new, unwrapped toy or just enjoy the event.

Find more information at www.saltstpringtoyrun.com or on Facebook.

Dorothy Price CERTIFIED YOGA TEACHER

Who is "Slow Flow Yoga" for? Men and women at the end of a tiring day; or anyone with sore backs or soreness in joints; or anyone who just needs to relax! Age doesn't matter. Wouldn't it be nice to feel comfortable in your body again? Even if you have a sore back, sore shoulders, wrists, knees, etc, Dorothy will teach you ways to do the poses in ways that are safe for you.

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SSI TOY RUN ORGANIZERS

in the ice-cold beverage garden, the weekend will keep you smiling and having fun."

Registration for the ride begins at the Farmers' Institute at 9 a.m. on Saturday, with the group leaving at 11 a.m. sharp. The beer

what's on this week



Wed. Aug 19 **Thur. Aug 20** **Fri. Aug 21** **Sat. Aug 22** **Sun. Aug 23** **Tues. Aug 25** **Wed. Aug 26**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Fling.
Annual multi-performer event at Music and Munch at All Saints By-the-Sea church. Free music followed by optional lunch. 12:10 p.m.
Mike Alviano.
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.
Unist'ot'en Territory - Report from the Frontline.
Potluck, silent auction and talk with regional clan elders. Lions Hall. 6 to 8:45 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.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: news@gulfislands-driftwood.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug & Thugs.
Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Tippy Agogo House Concert.
One-man orchestra is joined by local DJ case235 and percussion group Samba Du Soleil. 2823 Fulford Ganges Rd. 6 p.m.
Billie Woods.
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.

ACTIVITIES

Patricia Murphy Macdonald Art Opening.
Opening for show of new paintings at Pod Contemporary Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.

Fri. Aug 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday WineDown TGIF.
Live music with Dryland Trainers. Salt Spring Vineyards. 4 to 6 p.m.
Brent Shindell.
Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Cafe at Fernwood Road Cafe. With Lloyd English and Myles English, every Friday. Fernwood Road Cafe. 6 to 8 p.m.
Silva. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Soul Shakedown. Toy run concert at the Farmers' Institute. 7 to 10 p.m.
Maggie's Two-Night Stand. Comedy show starring Arvid Chalmers as Maggie MacCaffrey. ArtSpring. 8 p.m.
Super Mistico Fantasma & Janet Panic. High-energy Latin reggae funk band will make you dance the night away. With guests Janet Panic from B.C. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Summer Reading Club Program. Final celebration event includes snacks and awards ceremony. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 10:30 a.m.
Interlude - Art Opening. Opening reception for ArtCraft's final Showcase of the summer featuring paintings by Sharon Simonds Chia and fine ceramics by Kasumi Lampitoc. Mahon Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Barley Bros.
Live music at The Local pub every Saturday afternoon. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Synergy.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Dave McGraw and Mandy Fer Concert.
At the Southend Grooveyard. Doors at 7 p.m. Show at 7:30 p.m.
Brent Shindell Band.
Toy run concert at the Farmers' Institute. 7:30 p.m.
Maggie's Two-Night Stand. See Friday's listing.
Grand Ole Country Band. Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market. Centennial Park. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Toy Run. Annual weekend-long fundraiser for children's Christmas hampers with ride around island at 11 a.m. and games and festivities at the Farmers' Institute starting at 12:30 p.m. See full schedule at saltspring-toyrun.com.

Sun. Aug 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Afternoon Music in the Vines.
Live music in the vineyard with Synergy. Salt Spring Vineyards. 2 to 4 p.m.
Sky Valley Live Jazz.
Live music at Moby's Pub. 7 p.m.
Tom Hooper and Suzanne Little.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Potters' Guild Anniversary Celebration & Sale.
65th anniversary event and sale at 130 Primrose Lane. 2 to 5 p.m.
Keep the Beat With Lulu.
Drumming event at Blue Horse Gallery, 175 North View Rd. 1 p.m.

Mon. Aug 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Valdy.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Tech Tutoring With Conrad. iPad, tablet and e-reader tutoring with Conrad Koke at the Salt Spring Public Library. Sessions are available every Monday at 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.



SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 21

ACTIVITIES

MascalDance: Experiential Anatomy Dance Class.
ArtSpring's summer dance company-in-residence, presents an experiential anatomy class taught by Jennifer Mascal. ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m.
Paddle & Play.
Bring a snack and come play at Vesuvius Beach. For families with kids aged 0 to 6. Sponsored by Family Place. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday Farmers' Market.
Every Tuesday through October at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch. Pianist Graeme Wilkinson and mezzo-soprano Marie Lyne Phare perform Melodies Francaise. Free music followed by an optional lunch. All Saints Church. 12:10 p.m.
Never Never Duo. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Photosynthesis. Opening reception for 15th annual photo show. ArtSpring. 5 to 7:30 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.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

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132 mins Rating: PG

ANT-MAN
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Fri. Aug. 21st to Thurs. Aug. 27th 7pm.
1 hr 55 mins Rating: PG

CINEMA

- **Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation** — With the IMF now disbanded a new threat — called the Syndicate — emerges. The Syndicate is dedicated to establishing a new world order via terrorist attacks. Ethan gathers his team and joins forces with a disavowed British agent who may be a member of this deadly rogue nation.
- **Ant-Man** — Able to shrink in scale but increase in strength, master thief Scott Lang must help Dr. Hank Pym, and protect the secret of his Ant-Man suit. They must plan and pull off a heist that will save the world.

EXHIBITIONS

- A show of new work by **Pat Murphy Macdonald** opens at **Pod Contemporary** with a reception on Thursday, Aug. 20 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **ArtCraft's** final Showcase of the summer features paintings by **Sharon Simonds Chia** and fine ceramics by **Kasumi Lampitoc**. It opens with a reception on Friday, Aug. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs daily until Sept. 20.
- **The Salt Spring Island Potters' Guild** holds a 65th anniversary celebration and sale at **130 Primrose Lane** on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2 to 5 p.m.
- 15th annual **Photosynthesis** show opens at **ArtSpring** with a reception on Wednesday, Aug. 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for viewing until Sept. 8.
- **Duthie Gallery** presents an exhibit of work by **Nicola Wheston, Helen Ormiston Smith** and **Susan Benson**. The gallery is open Thursdays through Mondays, 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.

- **Kids** — a photography show by **Avril Kirby** — runs at **Fernwood Road Cafe** daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 19.
- **When Art Rocked**, an exhibit of psychedelic poster art, runs at **Steffich Fine Art** in Grace Point Square.
- **Textile and Surface Design Group** members hold a show called "If you have once slept on an island" in the **ArtSpring** lobby until Aug. 29.
- 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.
- **Susan Haigh** exhibits larger than life paintings of flowers in the lobby and restaurant at the **Harbour House Hotel** for the month of August.
- **Stefanie Denz** exhibits work in the **Library Program Room** through August.
- **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 — can be seen around **Mahon Hall** in Ganges, along 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.
- **Pegasus Gallery** presents historic **Sampson-Matthews prints** and gallery owner Ian Sigvaldason's related book called **Art for War and Peace**.
- Abstract watercolor and black ink paintings created by **Petra Otten** of Bird's Eye Productions are on display at **Country Grocer's cafe** for the month of August.

Firefly Lantern Festival
Saturday, August 29th

Performing arts procession through Ganges starts from Centennial Park at 7 p.m.

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HUMOUR

Look like a tourist in one's own town

The barista looks me up and down, smiles and asks "So, where ya from?"

This is more than annoying, it's crazy-making. This barista lives on an island. I live on the same island. I've been living here for 20 years. A couple of times a month as I'm walking through town or lined up to pay for something, somebody will look me up and down, smile, and ask some variation of "Where ya from?"

It's not their fault — it's mine. I look like a tourist.

Not that I try to. I don't wear a Tilley fedora, I avoid shirts with palm trees and surf boards on them. I can't remember the last time I slung a camera around my neck. Still, strangers look at me and something in their brains says "tourist."

This goes way back to my days as an international movie star.

True story. I was a 25-year-old vagabond sitting in a Madrid cafe, on a break from hitchhiking my way through Europe. As I nursed my cafe con leche I suddenly felt the hairs on the back of my neck doing a little impromptu tango.

Somebody was staring at me.

Unfortunately it wasn't a smoldering senorita, it was an oily little guy in a beret sitting at a corner table. He sidled over and when he realized I didn't speak Spanish, switched to broken English.

"You lahk to make mon-ee?" he asked.



Arthur Black

WIT & WHIMSY

"Losing" my passport? I didn't need money that badly.

But his answer stunned me. "I want to put you in a film."

I can't remember the last time I slung a camera around my neck. Still, strangers look at me and something in their brains says "tourist."

Well, FINALLY! I thought.

I knew that Lana Turner had been scouted for the movies when an agent saw her sitting at the counter of the Top Hat Malt Shop in Hollywood. Pamela Anderson was discovered in the stands at a BC Lions football game filling out a Labatt Blue T-shirt. Harrison Ford was working as a carpenter when somebody thought he might

I allowed as how my wallet could use a top-up. What was he proposing — selling blood? Becoming a drug mule?

look good playing Han Solo in Star Wars. And now my turn had come.

This, I smirked to myself, is how stars are born.

We negotiated a bit. The money he was offering was pathetic, frankly, but this was Spain, not Hollywood. Not yet, anyway.

Besides, he was promising a week's work minimum and all the food I could eat on set. I signed the contract — which was even more bewildering than most contracts as it was in Spanish.

As I gave him back his pen I asked him what it was about me that made him think I belonged up there on the silver screen. Was it my fine and manly baritone? My regal bearing? My noble profile?

He shook his head. "No, man. You will play 'extra'. You look like American tourist."

Which is how I got to appear in a movie called *Oscuros Suenos* en Agosto — *Dark Dreams* in August. It was "oscuro" all right. I don't think the movie even made it to the Spanish rural circuit, never mind the international film world.

Still, if by some miracle, you come across a copy, pay special attention at the 35-minute mark. It's a crowd scene and you can spot me in the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

If you don't blink. It's been a lot of years, but it's unmistakably me. I look exactly like an American tourist.



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ENVIRONMENT

First Nations group shares pipeline tales

Regional elders speak tonight

First Nations elders will give a report from the front lines of oil pipeline opposition during a potluck event tonight (Wednesday, Aug. 19) at Lions Hall.

Everyone is invited to share a potluck meal and participate in a silent auction

starting at 6 p.m. and hear a talk by local and regional clan elders at 7 p.m. The talk will centre on First Nations activism in unceded territory at the Unist'ot'en Camp.

The protest camp is located on the shores of the Wedzin Kwah and mouth of the Gossnell Creek, a tributary to the Skeena, Bulkley and Babine rivers. The proposed pipelines from Enbridge, and Pacific Trails Pipeline

(Chevron), seek to cross the river at the exact points of a Unist'ot'en pithouse and permaculture garden.

"The five Wet'swet'en clans including the Unist'ot'en, through our hereditary chief structure, have taken a united stand against the construction of fossil fuel pipelines through our territory," the organizers explain. "The Unist'ot'en camp is a non-violent occu-

pation of Unist'ot'en territory. It is an expression of the continuing and unbroken chain of occupation and use of our territory by our clan."

The Camp's coastal tour also includes a thank you dinner for supporters at Babes in the Woods Restaurant on Galiano Island on Thursday, Aug. 20.

For more information visit <http://unistotencamp.com/>.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Reading club fun celebrated

More family resources introduced

The Salt Spring Public Library is offering its congratulations to all the children and families who participated in this year's summer reading club.

A record-breaking 90 children registered for the program this year. Children received a sticker for every seven days of reading recorded and attended lively weekly programs at the library led by summer students Shay Boleak and Gwen Patrick.

With summer wrapping up, the library now invites all reading club participants to celebrate with cookies, juice and a special award ceremony at a year-end medal event, which will be held in the program room at 10:30 a.m. this Friday, Aug. 21.

The library is also pleased to announce a

new resource collection for families. Thanks to funding from the Times Colonist Raise-a-Reader program, the library has introduced a parent resource corner with a special collection of books and DVDs dedicated to tackling relevant parenting issues. Topics include pregnancy, behavioural challenges in children and teens, discipline, same-sex marriage and family issues such as divorce.

The parent resource corner is located in the children's area beside the train set, where parents and caregivers can browse or sit and read from the collection while easily keeping an eye on their children.

The Times Colonist Raise-a-Reader program is a year-round initiative that provides funds for family literacy programs on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. It has supported the Salt Spring Public Library for several years, including funding for Lit Kits, a set of portable story time kits made available to the public in 2013.

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TRADITIONS

Family's 30 years of visits celebrated



PHOTO BY GREGOR ALAN

Thirty years of visiting Salt Spring Island and Cedar Beach Resort is marked with a cake for the Victoria-based Dittmer family and their descendants.

Annual trip to island resort strengthens family connections

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Some things in life are best left unchanged, and spending as much of the summer as possible within a skipping stone's throw of a lake can be counted on to top that list.

It's no secret to the Dittmer family, members of which have been visiting Salt Spring's Cedar Beach Resort on North End Road for 30 consecutive years.

"Why drive eight hours, take a ferry to the Lower Mainland to drive through that, when you can take a half hour ferry and you're here," said Ross Ferguson, one of nearly 25 participants at this year's event. "It's amazing."

Five Dittmers discovered the resort by chance during a road trip from Victoria. Grieving a death in the family, the Dittmers piled into a car and headed north, unsure where the road would lead. They hopped on a ferry, rolled onto Salt Spring and kept driving until they spotted a woody resort beside St. Mary Lake. They stayed the night and never really left.

"We've had so many memories here," said Bev Dittmer, one of the members of that 1985 exploratory crew. "It feels like it's a second home."

The Cedar Beach Resort of 30 years ago lacked much of the polish visitors can expect today. Cabins had "character" in the most rustic sense of the word, and many older Dittmers vividly recall lifting their shirts over their noses to escape the foul smell from the septic tank in front of cabin number one.

"Everything was really dilapidated," Willem added.

The resort has undergone major changes: the septic system no longer smells, the cabins have been refurbished and there's even a heated pool. One of the few constants is that the Dittmer family continues to visit for at least a week every July or August.

"It just grew," Bev added. "People had babies and babies and more babies."

Nobody was quite sure how many were on site last Wednesday, but most agreed that 23 was a pretty good guess. A teenaged Dittmer buying ice at the resort's reception desk pointed towards the beach when asked where to find the rest of his family.

"Just head that way, you can't miss them," he said.

Cedar Beach managers Gregor Alan and Shona Fetter hosted a celebratory barbecue last week, complete with a local bluegrass band, to mark the Dittmers' 30 years at the resort. In an era where holidayers have unprecedented options, Alan said, it's comforting to know people like the Dittmers have chosen to value tradition.

"We wanted to recognize them and their support not only to Cedar Beach Resort but to the entire community," Alan said while he flipped beef patties and wieners over a hot grill in preparation for the party. "There's some amazing stories, and I've only heard a few of them."

Miranda Mundel was in Grade 6 when she visited the lake for the first time in 1985. She recalls endless days spent waterskiing back and forth across the lake.

When gas-powered engines were prohibited, some of the Dittmers considered convening elsewhere, but they stuck it out. It wasn't long before a makeshift pirate ship emerged to ferry swashbuckling young Dittmers to points all around the lake.

These days, Miranda said, the raft

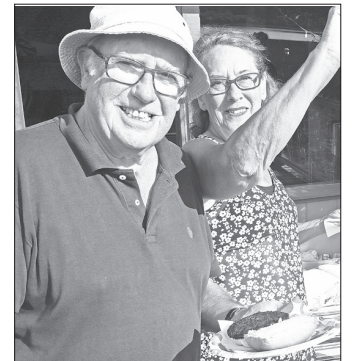


PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Willem and Bev Dittmer.

and pirate hats too are long gone, but there's still plenty of fun to be had in paddle boats, canoes or simply lounging around the beach.

"We've got 20-year-old guys and a 19-year-old, and they couldn't wait for this. And who wants to hang out with their family?" Miranda said. "We kept waiting for them to be too cool for it, but it never happened."

Even though everyone lives in Victoria, it's easy to lose track of who's doing what when people are busy with their daily schedules.

Committing to at least a week on Salt Spring with the family offers a shared hiatus, an opportunity to press pause and reconnect with relatives. Because the reunion is held at the same time and place every year, there's less trouble making sure everyone can make it. People book time off well in advance, and the city isn't too far away for anyone who needs to make a quick dash to check in with regular life.

"We're all from Victoria, but this way we get to really visit and lay it on the line if we want to discuss something. It's all family, right? You accept it," Bev said. "It's like Christmas in the summer."

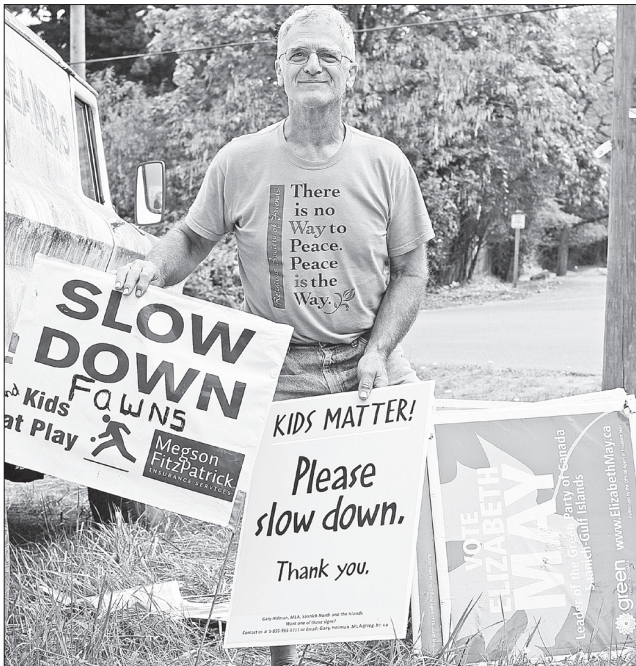


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

Green Party of Canada election volunteer Steve Abbott picks up signs dumped at the corner of Rainbow and Atkins roads one night last week. Local Green campaigners are urging respect for all parties' signs during the current federal election campaign. (See letter on page 9 of this paper.) "Slow down" signs were also included with the Elizabeth May signs. Owners of the "slow down" signs can pick them up at the Driftwood office.

FEDERAL POLITICS

Henderson pens new anthem

Chilliwack frontman urges Canadians to 'Take Back This Land'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

This year's federal election rates among the longest campaigns in Canadian history, and Salt Spring rocker Bill Henderson has released a new song he feels is desperately needed for the long and winding campaign trail to come.

"Take Back This Land is a way to help Canadians feel good about how they feel," Henderson said. "I really feel that we need to take back this country. I really feel it from friends across Canada and the people I see on tours across the country."

Inspiration to write the song struck him earlier in 2015, following a visit to the Salt Spring Documentary Film Festival. It was during a screening of Journey to Deleted Islands, a film that recounts a public-relations campaign to redraw the map of B.C.'s north coast by omitting hundreds of islands and islets along proposed tanker routes, that Henderson finally had enough.

"It's funny, but you've got to ask yourself how people get away with something like that," he said.

Pitching the plan to ship diluted bitumen from ports in northern British Columbia by messing with the facts, Henderson

added, is the culmination of more than a decade of questionable Conservative party tactics.

"[Prime Minister Stephen Harper] is not a conservative, he's a radical," he said, adding that the party has grown out of touch with its historical roots. "I know this stuff because I'm in show business, and politics is show business."

Henderson said the Conservative party has transformed Canada into a nation distant from the once-lauded principles of fair play, respect for democracy and diplomacy. Henderson feels it's important to avoid dwelling on the past, but he's convinced a course correction is sorely required.

"It's not as though we were ever perfect, but we need to go forward," he said. "We have issues that we have to deal with, and we can deal with them."

Politics and rock music can be a volatile and uncertain mix. Fans across the country span a broad political spectrum, and many can resent the sense that they're being preached to when all they want is a good old-fashioned rock show. In spite of the risk, Henderson said, reactions have been overwhelming whether he's playing at Casino Regina or the Salt Spring Garlic and Music Festival.

"I can watch the crowd and see them melt part way through," he said. "When they feel safe, and realize the song is not going to betray them, they start to participate, to clap

and sing along.

"A song like this is saying what I think Canadians want to say," he said.

Take Back This Land was recorded at Bryan Adams' legendary The Warehouse Studio in Vancouver and produced by music industry icon Bob Rock. Versions of the song are available on YouTube and Vimeo, and the number of views are building by the day.

Other than playing it during concerts across the country this summer and fall, Henderson and his band are content to let the song spread far and wide online. He's even declined federal NDP, Liberal and Green

party requests to use the song for their campaigns.

Though Henderson says he'll be voting with the Green party's Elizabeth May in October, Take Back This Land is about taking action to shake up the system rather than offering support to any particular political party.

"I feel the idea behind this song is not to denounce, the idea of this song is to encourage," he said. "What I tell people is: 'Whether it's green, orange or red, the important thing is to change.'"

Take Back This Land can be viewed online at YouTube.

This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
1.250.352.2936

TIP OF THE WEEK:

This is when the time of the lion meets the virgin and passes on the torch. The exact moment when the Sun will enter the seasonal sign of Virgo is at 3:38 am PDT on August 23rd. By August 26 at 3:02 pm the Sun will conjunct Jupiter in Virgo. This annual event is special in astrology as the solar energy activates the already ignited and magnificent Jupiter thus triggering the core themes that Jupiter holds for the year, based on the moment it entered Virgo. It is of further interest and significance that this Jupiter conjunction occurs on Women's Equality Day. (I addressed this theme in my August 14th New Moon in Leo Newsletter – send me an email if you would like to receive it – sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com) Briefly, what is significant about this is that humanity remains in a time of revolution regarding male/female equality. The 5000 year reign of patriarchal dominion is finally coming to its completion. Even the rarer bouts of women in positions of political power over the centuries were usually conducted in a masculine manner. That many very old institutions, customs and norms were established during this long cycle means that humanity is challenged to progressively replace the core attitudes and rational that support and even continue to perpetuate this imbalance. Currently, Venus retrograde in Leo is fast approaching Mars which is also in Leo and moving direct. The proverbial and timeless dance between these two celestial lovers, archetypal forces when plotted on an Astrological Mandala (chart), are contributing to this deeper theme of love, passion, mutual love and now the social and political ideal and goal of equality, just as nature intended it.

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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

A passionate, dramatic and hopefully playful cycle continues. Although some of your attention has shifted to more sober matters such as making improvements in your lifestyle and work routine for the sake of health, you remain committed to having some fun. With so many complexities underway meanwhile, perhaps especially in your relationships, yours is a real juggling act now.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21) You are in an extra creative mood. Yet in order to successfully follow through you will have to put in more time than usual. Recalibrating your overall vision and focus regarding long-term commitments is featured. These will bring about some deep and even transformational changes in you over the coming years. For now, you need to clear the way and make a reliable plan.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) An animated cycle continues. You feel playful and your energy levels remain high. Dreams of creative expressions are dancing in your mind. Although you remain focused upon raising your overall health levels, you have reason to feel optimistic with your progress. Summer is hardly over yet and there is reason to say adventure and perhaps romance is at least on your mind.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) You have initiated steps to build a new momentum. Many thoughts and ideas about what to do and how are running through your mind. Two main obstacles now include over analysis, on one hand, and scattering your focus, on the other. These challenges will not go away anytime soon so focus to overcome them now. Making key investments are woven into the plot.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23) The recent New Moon in your sign sowed seeds of inspiration. They speak of taking risks in order to expand your influence and overall potential. It is important that you follow through now with deliberate action. At least get organized and set your plans and projects into motion. This in the first step and by taking it your chances of success will skyrocket.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) A busy time including getting organized behind the scenes is a central theme now. This may well include doing some inner work to overcome inner doubts. You have reason to feel increasingly optimistic yet it also remains important that any risks you take are measured and calculated. Allow critical analysis to guide you through a prioritization process.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)

Quality time shared with friends will likely be spiced with some added drama and complexity now. You may even feel the need to dig deeper than usual to draw upon inner reserves of faith and understanding. Yet you also feel punchy and rebellious these days and are willing to take whatever actions you deem necessary, even if not everyone agrees or likes it.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21) You continue to get some extra attention in your public and/or professional life. Some of it may be desired and appreciated, but not necessarily all of it. This complex plot may require that you step back for a while as opposed to assert yourself to advance. It may be that you need to acquire new tools and undergo changes in your attitude and/or approach.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21) You may feel as though you are at a crossroads. You stand between a long and perhaps exhausting cycle over the past few years which served to erase past patterns. Now you are ready to embark upon a new adventure yet you may feel uncertain about which direction to take. A meditative and contemplative approach will prove wise because they are also core features of your next major phase.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19) The past several weeks have likely been strewn with strife and complexity. This may have especially been the case in your most intimate relationships. Yet there is reason to say that the clouds are beginning to clear and all being well you have broken through to the next level. A new wave of optimism and excitement is on the rise and it may include travel and adventure.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19) If you have been waiting patiently for some fun and perhaps some romance too, this is a good time for it. You may have to make some extra efforts to realize your dream. Yet the flow is heading your way and realizing success may be easier than usual. Be open to receive and count your blessings to attract even more abundance.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) A busy cycle continues requiring you to give more than usual. Yet the rewards of an expanded social front are already coming in. These will continue for the next several weeks. Whether for personal or professional success, you are entering a cycle which includes the prospects of new opportunity and a wider scope of exposure to share your gifts, talents and skills.



Fall Fair Focus

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RON WATSON
Nov. 11, 1928 - Jan. 22, 2015

Please join the family of Ron Watson at a celebration of his life on Sunday, Sept. 6th at the Harbour House Hotel in the Crofton Room.

Drop in between 1pm and 3pm to share laughter and memories of our Dad, Granddad, and Great Granddad. Barry Cooke will share a tribute to his legacy. Refreshments will be provided.

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HOLLEY RUBINSKY
May 8, 1943 - August 1, 2015

Holley Rubinsky, born in Los Angeles May 8, 1943, passed away on August 1, 2015 in Kaslo, B.C., her home of more than 30 years, with close friends by her side.

Holley, an award winning writer, contributed to the Canadian literary world by writing, editing, teaching children, interviewing authors, and holding writing retreats in her home. She had connections to Salt Spring Island authors and held her most recent book launch in our library.

She was pre-deceased by her loving husband, Yuri, in 1996, father-in-law, Andre (2001) and most recently, mother-in-law, Anna on June 25, 2015. She is survived by her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Kathryn and John Akehurst and nephews, Jamie and Christopher as well as her daughter, Robin Ballard (Martin) and grandsons, Jasper and Sebastian in Switzerland.

For a more detailed account of her life please go to <http://bcbooklook.com/2015/08/06/holley-rubinsky-1943-2015/>

We will miss her independent thinking, lively conversations and interesting take on the world.



SWINDLEHURST, Ann Elizabeth (Betty) nee Mason
1935-2015

Betty was an inspiration to us all. She lived life to the fullest, always with joy and laughter. An avid traveller, her family and friends never knew where her next adventure would take her. We stopped counting after 60 countries. When back at home, she loved spending time outdoors: hiking in the mountains, enjoying Saltspring and Hornby Islands, and of course spending time in her spectacular garden. A talented knitter, she was never far away from a pair of needles, or a wool shop, wherever her travels took her. She was a voracious reader, a keen debater, a good listener, and a key advisor, no matter what the topic. She encouraged us to follow our passions, and for her that was achieving her PhD in Educational Psychology and a long successful career in helping others.

A celebration will be held at the Fulford Hall, 2591 Fulford-Ganges Rd, Saltspring Island, B.C. on Saturday August 22nd between 1-4pm.

IN MEMORIAM GIFTS



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDINGS



ROSS MCLIVENNA
August 9, 2015

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, friend, Ross McIlvenna. Ross passed away peacefully on August 9 at age 77. Better known as "Ross the Boss". Born in North Bay, lived on Salt Spring Island for 37 years and in Sidney this past year.

Always youthful, excited for a new day and ready for a new adventure, Ross is remembered for his enterprising spirit. He was a commercial diver, offshore sailor, former owner of Ross & Ganges Marine & Equip, Harbours End Marine & Equipment, Salt Spring Marina & Ross the Boss Marine & Equipment. A self made man with many very accomplished skills. Whether tackling a tricky engine, carving a totem pole or pirate or painting a lighthouse, he was never restricted by the impossibility of anything. In Ross' world, everything was possible! He always gave it his best shot. Knowing Ross was like having a ring side seat at a one man circus. Forever wheeling and dealing, dispensing advice "You know what you should do" always fixing and helping people make things better. Even set backs were greeted with only a momentary pause and then it would be "well, let's try this" all with a trade-mark phrase "it's a hell of a deal". At the end of the day, a drink of rye at the kitchen table with a good friend...it doesn't get better than that. Ross will be remembered for his positive spirit, his zest for life and his sense of wonder.

Ross is survived by his children, Rhea (Oman), Kathy (Kingston), Teus (Coquitlam), Tabias (Langley), Alexandra (Vancouver) and his beloved wife, partner, soulmate of 27 years Jo. Also survived by his brothers Jim & Robert.

Forever grateful to Dr David Woodley "the best doctor ever" for guiding us through this journey. There will be no service. Ross's request "Raise a glass to me".

William Cecil Scott (Scotty) McNutt
May, 1927 - July 28, 2015

Born in Bassano, Alberta, May 7th, 1927.

He leaves behind his daughter, Lyn Strand, and son, Gary McNutt (Andrea).

Also grandchildren, Dale (Callie), Jason, Emma, Rex and Marly plus great grandchildren, Gavriel, Oisín, and Kessler.

Scotty was a Saltspring icon, he spent his final 25 years here, and touched many islanders in more ways than one. From the Saltspring Inn to Saltspring Folk Club he did whatever was needed.

Born in Canada, the son of a preacher man, he returned to Northern Ireland while still a baby. He inherited the family farm and farmed it until the Troubles started, and the family moved to Glasgow, Scotland.

Ten years later he finally realized his dream of returning to Canada, where he traveled Alberta as a milk inspector. He moved to Saltspring where he was able to be himself, in a place which reminded him of home. After retiring from being an island jack of all trades at the age of 80, he travelled twice to South Africa and Lesotho where he discovered that "To walk a long way, you have to go slow."

In his last year he slowed down a great deal but continued to make us all laugh on a daily basis.

Many thanks to the staff and caregivers at Lady Minto for your exceptional care.

If you look carefully, you can still see him sitting in the sun on the bench above Thrifty's looking at all the ladies.

A celebration of his life is being planned by his family for later in the Fall.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

CALL FOR ENTRIES 13TH ANNUAL
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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDINGS



Serena Hayes & Julian Bruce were married on August 1, 2015 on Salt Spring Island. Attending the celebration were the happy parents, Bruce & Lekha Hayes and Allan & Amrita Bruce along with family members and friends of the marriage couple.

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ANNIVERSARIES



Paris and Christina Haase
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at Sweetwater Farm on Salt Spring Island

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INFORMATION INFORMATION

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island
Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2015
Time: 10:00 am to 12 pm
Place: Public Library Program Room
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Cedar Lane
Water Service Commission

Date: Friday, September 11, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Place: Public Library Program Room
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island
Beddis Water Commission

Date: Monday, September 14, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm to 3 pm
Place: Public Library Program Room
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island
Fulford Water Commission

Date: Monday, September 14, 2015
Time: 10:00 am to 12 pm
Place: Public Library Program Room
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Salt Spring Island Water & Sewer Local Service Commissions Highland Fernwood, Highland, Fernwood, Maliview

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015
Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Place: Public Library Program Room
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC

For information please contact the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area office at 250.537.4448.

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 21

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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LET'S GET STARTED

Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

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FULL SERVICE Plumbing from Parker Dean. Fast, reliable, 24/7 service. Take \$50 off your next job if you present this ad. Vancouver area. 1-800-573-2928.

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Cut, Split & delivered Cedar Fence Rails
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Serving Salt Spring for 34 years
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Paul Konig
Will BUY firewood logs

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DECOYS 147 ea, plastic, field and floating, duck and goose hunting decoys. 7 species c/w anchors or stands \$1100 for all (firm). Mike Fenton 250 537-0765

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Sofa cushions too soft? Mattress too hard or needs replacement?

RV, boat cushions need work? We can help! Replacement foam, latex foam. We can sew RV or boat cushion covers.

4485 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan 1-250-746-0702

NEW LEXMARK Toner Cartridges:

- C5220KS - Black x2
- C5220MS - Magenta
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- C5220SX - Cyan

Half price O.B.O. Call 250-537-9933

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DON'T OVERPAY! Website: www.rtmihomes.com "Your Smart Housing Solution" Canada's largest provider of manufactured housing. Text or call (844-334-2960). In stock 16/20/22' Homes on sale now!

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

1,068 SF for lease, Merchant Mews nr. Ganges. Skylights, baydoor, upstps office, bhrm. Richard, 250-380-1669 (Vic.)

1,127 SF at Merchant Mews near Ganges. Elegant office unit, mezz., conf. rm. (250) 380-1669 Richard (Victoria)

UPPER GANGES CENTRE 2nd Floor - 1 prof. office, Chair Lift, Ample parking. Call Mary Lou: 250-537-5528

HOMES FOR RENT

ISLAND EXPLORER

Property Management Ltd.

www.islandexploreproperties.com

250-537-4722
1-800-800-9492

Island Explorer is a fully licensed, management company under the laws of the B.C. Govt.

WHAT'S ON
page 18

THE GREAT GARAGE SALE MAP

DRIFTWOOD GARAGE SALE KITS

Everything you need for your Yard Sale!

Includes posters, price stickers & your classified ad published in the Driftwood on Wednesday

ONLY \$20.00! CALL TODAY 250-537-9933

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GARAGE SALES

135 MARGARET AVE., Saturday, Aug. 22, 8am - 12pm. 30 years worth of treasures! No Early Birds please. 1

180 KINGS LANE, Sat. & Sun. Aug. 22 & 23, 10am-2pm. Kitchen, clothes, misc. Held over! New Stuff! 2

405 SUNRISE PLACE., Sat. Aug. 22, 8am - 4pm. Household, hardware, etc. Items priced to sell. 3

RENTALS

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TOWNHOUSES

2BRM TOWNHOUSE Newly renovated. 2 decks, sunny southern exposure, close to town. W/D, \$1100 per month. Available September 1st. Call 250 537-6860

WANTED TO RENT

RETIRED GENTLEMAN - 21 yr. island resident looking for small, long term home. If you can help, please call Mike Fenton at: 250 537-0765

MARINE

BOATS

14 foot K&C Thermoglass boat with 50 hp Evinrude motor. Hummingbird PiranhaMax fish finder, Lowrance LVR-850 Radio, & 2 manual downriggers with fishing rods. Trailer included. \$1300 Call Paul: 250-526-2626.

Attention New Salt Springers!

Don't miss your opportunity for a great welcome visit. Call Jennifer today for your greeting, gifts & useful info. 250-653-9222

Welcome Wagon
A Canadian Tradition Since 1930

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

I WOULD LIKE TO HIRE an independent electronics technician to find out why the audio and video on my T.V. set is out of synchronization. Call Mike Fenton 250 537-0765

DEADLINE FOR TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY IS 2:00PM TUESDAY

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



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

TENNIS LOVE: From left, Rebia Bartrim shows one of the Portlock Park tennis cracks that need to be repaired, while Andy Thomas' face becomes part of a female tennis body in a Kraft Project Play prop at the Aug. 14 community celebration. The event marked Salt Spring being one of four national finalists in a national competition for recreation funding.

GOLF

Charlton tops at Salt Spring Open

Horse race part of weekend fun

BY MARCIE HOGAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

In a blistering game of one under par, Jim Charlton took top honours at the Salt Spring Open.

Playing on Aug. 8 and 9, Charlton shot a low gross of 143 and a low net of 137. Runner-up on the low gross board was Bradley Morris with 150 followed by Stephen Elwes with 152. Second low net was a four-way tie between Bill Hawarth, Don Sharp, Tom Connoly and Brian Dunbabin, all at 140.

In the ladies section, Diane Olshefski, from off-island, was the low gross champ with 184. Leading the local pack and in second place was Cheri Cornachione with 188. Melanie Iverson and Alice Richards tied for third place with 194. Low net went to Linda Woodley and Karen Davies with scores of 147. Third place was sewed up by Joanna Barrett, who came in at 150.

The Salt Spring Open began with a horse race on Friday night. This is a partner event which eliminates the players with the highest scores hole by hole. On the last hole the remaining groups hit over the pond, from a tee located between five and six, to the number-seven green. Partners Patrick Larouche and Trevor Kaye triumphed in this event.

The next tournament is the North South contest on Sept. 5. Southerners such as this writer can register the next time they make it to town. Northerners may wait until notified.

PARAPAN AM GAMES

Murby wins pair of medals

Islander sets new PB for discus in Toronto

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring athlete Ness Murby grabbed some additional hardware on her road to the Rio de Janeiro summer Olympics last week by medalizing in two of three events at the Parapan Am Games in Toronto.

"We rocked it," Murby wrote Saturday night on her Road to Rio 2016 Facebook site.

On Wednesday, Murby clinched a bronze medal in discus with a personal best throw of 27.03 metres.

Following a disappointing eighth-place finish in Thursday afternoon's shotput event, Murby brushed herself off, shook hands with competitors, thanked officials and moved on to Friday's javelin throw.

"So, I had a really bad day," she wrote. "Live, learn, train to compete another day."

Murby, 29, set a new women's F11/12 Americas record with a 23.29-



PHOTO COURTESY NESS MURBY

Ness Murby celebrates her silver medal in javelin for Canada at the Parapan Am Games in Toronto.

metre javelin throw, although that record was then broken by another competitor in the event. Still, she earned a silver medal for Canada.

Her medals were among 168 top-three performances by Canadians at the Parapan Am Games, which were held from Aug. 7 to 15. At 257 medals, only the Brazilians took home more honours from the competition.

The Parapan Am Games stands out as an important qualifier for next year's Summer Olympics,

according to Catherine Gosselin-Depres, the Canadian Paralympic Committee's executive director of sport.

"There's a lot at stake," she said. "For the first time the Parapan Ams are direct qualifiers in every sport for the upcoming Paralympic Games in Rio. In many cases, you will have to win here just to get to Brazil."

More information about Murby's trip to the Parapan Am Games is available through Facebook at Ness Murby: Road to Rio 2016.

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