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Two separate dogs reunited with owners
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GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, August 26, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 34



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Disappointment is visible in the crowd at Moby's Pub on Friday as the Kraft Project Play competition winner is announced on TSN. North Sydney in Nova Scotia won the \$250,000 prize to upgrade community soccer facilities. Portlock Park on Salt Spring was a top-four finalist.

REC FACILITIES

Salt Spring fails to nab project prize

Nova Scotia town wins top voting honours

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Kraft Project Play came to Salt Spring with the lure of \$250,000 for tennis court upgrades and left islanders with a hefty dose of KD, packets of water flavouring, tubs of peanut butter and a \$25,000 cheque for making the final four.

"We did everything we could," said Erica Ross on Friday afternoon, moments after TSN broadcasters announced on national television that North Sydney in Nova Scotia had won the inaugural Kraft Project Play contest.

Ross, a former president of the Salt Spring Tennis Association, got islanders in the running by nominating the tennis courts at Portlock Park for the countrywide contest earlier this summer. Judges cited the high quality of Ross' nomination in their decision to name the island among four finalists from a pool of more than 700 applicants.

Ross joined a crowd of at least 50 campaign organizers and supporters at Moby's Pub Friday in anticipation of the announcement, which followed a few weeks of feverish online and face-to-face promotion to encourage people to vote early and often for Salt Spring last Monday and Tuesday.

Hundreds attended an Aug. 14 Kraft-sponsored community party at Portlock Park that offered participants live music, a complimentary barbecue and free Kraft products by the bucket load. Volunteers festooned the island with stickers and posters to spread word of the vote, and many islanders hosted voting parties during the event.

PROJECT PLAY continued on 4

BC FERRIES

Schedule response mostly positive

But inter-island travel and thru-fare concerns raised

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's public consultation meeting with BC Ferries staff Monday night failed to attract the same crowds as those held on Saturday and Pender islands last week, but a number of islanders and elected officials did come out to review the proposed scheduling changes for 2017.

Scheduling efficiencies for the Gulf Islands

routes are being sought along with the introduction of two new ferries. More efficient travel between Salt Spring and the Lower Mainland and inter-island connectivity emerged as two of the main concerns at the Monday's meeting, while residents of other islands have expressed dismay at some of the changes proposed.

"There's no doubt Salt Spring has a mass that has to be served. The trick is how do we provide a service that's fair and equitable to all

the islands in the southern Gulf Islands; how do we bring a level of service and efficiency to everyone," said Mark Collins, BC Ferries' vice president of strategic planning and community engagement, during a question and answer session at the end of the meeting at the Harbour House. "And clearly the other islands have told us that we don't have it right."

SCHEDULES continued on 2

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Contractors raise inter-island travel considerations

SCHEDULES

continued from 1

Draft schedules presented this month would give more service to Salt Spring and Pender, the two islands with the biggest populations and the most traffic. Salt Spring's improvements include added direct sailings between Long Harbour and Tsawwassen during the peak seasons and a longer shoulder season when two ferries will be in service.

The process was complicated by the need to incorporate five islands and multiple ports.

"Really it's not one schedule. It's a set of, I think, 25 schedules," said Steve Anderson, BC Ferries' manager of fleet operations.

Matt Steffich, a business owner and vice president of Salt Spring's Chamber of Commerce, said that overall he really liked the draft presented.

"I'm happy because it's favourable to Salt Spring and we'll get two boats on for six months of the year instead of just having the Bowen Queen for two months," Steffich said before the Q&A. "Plus, everybody's excited about the new boats."

Bob Jones, a former chair of Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Commit-



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

At the Harbour House Hotel on Monday, islanders and BC Ferries staff discuss proposed Route 9 ferry schedule changes to be in place in 2017.

tee who sat on the local scheduling committee, said he's had many complaints about BC Ferries in the past, but he was extremely impressed with the current process and its results. He pointed out that although many of the public comments had been about improving through-fares to Vancouver when travelling via Swartz Bay, the new schedules will alleviate that problem by making direct travel

through Long Harbour easier.

"If you read these story boards, our service to Salt Spring has improved exponentially. It really has. In the summer season our Friday night to Salt Spring, our Sunday night back, has improved immensely," Jones said.

Local contractors who attended the meeting noted the draft peak schedule either drops service

between Salt Spring and the outer Gulf Islands or offers immensely long periods between arrival and departure, which will hurt commercial traffic such as trades contracted to work on other islands. Travelling through Swartz Bay is not a good option because trips requiring two ferries add time to the work day, increase staff wages paid and mean double fares at the ticket booth. All of these costs would have to be passed on to the customer, at a negative impact to business overall.

People needing to attend medical appointments on Vancouver Island have voiced similar concerns about proposed changes to the outer island schedules.

"What we have heard from the other islands loud and clear is that traffic may be low, but the criticality of those trips is high," Collins said. "We are going to give that a real deep think."

Collins promised to look into inter-island travel in the peak period, suggesting the early morning sailing from Long Harbour that reaches all the islands before heading to Tsawwassen on weekday mornings during the rest of the year might have to be reinstated.

"We've really heard a lot about inter-island connectivity in the last week and a half, and we're going to look into it," he added.

The scheduling committee included Salt Spring FAC chair Harold Swierenga and local accommodations provider Ellie Thorburn as well as members of the Southern Gulf Islands FAC and BC Ferries executives. Data used to configure the changes included 2,200 customer surveys. Salt Spring residents were responsible for approximately 67 per cent of the responses.

Upcoming consultation sessions are being held in Sidney on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the Mary Winspear Centre, on Galiano Island on Thursday, Aug. 27 at the Galiano Island School gym and at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond on Wednesday, Sept. 9. All sessions run from 7 to 9 p.m.

Public input will be incorporated into the next consultation phase, with a preferred option to be presented for discussion this winter. More information and the draft schedules can be found on bcferries.com under Schedule Consultation, as well as a survey that will be available from Aug. 31 to Sept. 20.

Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on **Monday, Sept. 7 - Labour Day** and will reopen for usual business hours on Tuesday, Sept. 8.



Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday Sept. 9 edition will be as follows:

Display Advertising deadline: **Thursday, Sept. 3, 12 noon**

Classified Display Deadline: **Friday, Sept. 4, 3pm**

Classified Word Deadline: **Tuesday, Sept. 8, 9am**

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MARINE RESCUE

Blind dog saved by island resident and PFD

Owner grateful to all who assisted

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

John Arnold and a friend had sailed from Maple Bay to Clam Bay on Thetis Island last Wednesday evening when they noticed something missing from the boat.

It was Koda, one of Arnold's two Shar Pei dogs. She's 12 years old, has been blind for the past year due to cataracts, and was nowhere to be found on the 54-foot ketch.

Meanwhile, at Southey Point on Salt Spring, Nala Keane, who moved to the island just seven weeks ago, was enjoying a summer evening at the beach.

A few seals were bobbing around nearby when Keane noticed another one "way out in the middle of the channel," he said. "Half an hour went by and that seal was still coming in. It

looked like it had a transponder or something on it."

Eventually Keane realized it was a dog in a lifejacket slowly making its way to shore.

"It couldn't get onto the shore, so I lifted it onto the shore and it collapsed. She couldn't stand up and was hypothermic. So I ran back to the car and got a blanket, and warmed her up and hugged her, and realized this dog must have fallen off a boat. The poor thing was really upset."

Calls to the RCMP and Coast Guard were made from a nearby house.

Per Svendsen, station leader for Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue unit, said his group was tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre to Southey Point at 7:40 p.m., where Ganges Coast Guard officers took command.

"The dog could have been from an overturned boat or a sunken boat," said Svendsen,

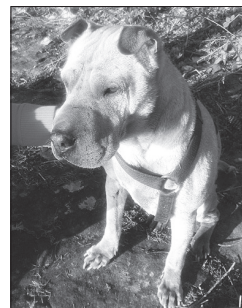


PHOTO BY NALA KEANE

Koda, a blind Shar Pei, after her Southey Point rescue.

which was the most pressing concern, although finding the dog's owner was also important.

Salt Spring's RCMSAR crew was sent to search the west side of Salt Spring, while Ladysmith RCMSAR volunteers searched near Penelakut Island and the Ganges Coast Guard vessels headed towards Clam Bay.

Arnold was bringing up the anchor to begin their search for Koda when they waved over the Ganges 1 rigid hull inflatable vessel. The conversation quickly revealed that Keane had found Koda and calls were made to arrange for a reunion.

Silver Shadow Taxi joined the rescue team with a driver picking up Koda from Keane's house and meeting Arnold in Ganges at 11:45 p.m.

Arnold is from Kelowna, but has been working on his boat at Maple Bay in preparation for offshore sailing.

Both he and Keane couldn't say enough about the effort everyone expended in reuniting Arnold with Koda.

"I was extraordinarily impressed with the response of the community," said Keane.

And Svendsen points out how the incident demonstrates the value of wearing a lifejacket, whether it's one for canines or humans.

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NEWSBEAT

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Cellphone coverage void frustrates in emergencies

Transit accident highlights local problem

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A decade-old community debate about cellphone towers on Salt Spring may be poised to reopen due to new concerns about emergency communication capabilities.

Plans to lease the Ganges fire hall clock tower to Telus were reversed in January 2005 after strong opposition was mounted over the course of the previous year, including a petition that earned over 1,000 signatures and a letter signed by 50 surrounding business owners.

Local Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove said he's not aware of any current applications to install new towers, but he agrees the issue is prominent.

"Emergency communications are a problem and we really must do something to improve them in some way," he said.

Today's spotty cell phone coverage is annoyingly familiar to Salt Spring's visitors who can't find a hot spot or don't subscribe to a local service provider like Telus or Shaw. A search of internet vacation ratings for the island often mentions this as a downside to local travel.

That inconvenience risks

becoming a danger in emergency situations, such as the huge snowfall that wiped out hydro and phone lines across Salt Spring in February 2014. Emergency responders with Salt Spring Fire Rescue and the CRD's Emergency Program realized the increased importance of cellphone connections in that situation — and the limitations of having to rely on it during current conditions.

"With no coverage on the island, it's a huge problem for responders," said Elizabeth Zook, the island's emergency program coordinator.

Fire Chief Tom Bremner drafted a community letter with support from RCMP and BC Ambulance after the snow storm asking for enhanced cellular service and the installation of additional cell towers. Although the letter was not endorsed by any group and was never sent, the idea that better coverage is needed remains.

One of the Canada-wide issues around cellphone use in emergencies is the need to achieve better accuracy in locating someone who makes an emergency call on a wireless phone, which happens easily and almost immediately with those using land lines. A CRTC order of Aug. 6, 2014 required all wireless carriers to provide accurate subscriber location information to public safety answering points for 95 per cent of emergency calls within 12 months.

Bremner explained in his draft



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring's volunteer search and rescue units rely on pagers to reach team leaders during call-outs as cellphone signals don't hit the entire island.

letter that the triangulation process used to do that is difficult.

"The accuracy of the caller's location on Salt Spring Island is very poor, due to having only limited towers (less than satisfactory) on island," he wrote.

Finding someone who has dialed 9-1-1 but can't speak or provide a location themselves has therefore emerged as a major public safety priority. But the issue of location disappears if calls can't be made in the first place.

"You can have people who drive into a ditch and can reach their phone but can't make a call," Zook

observed.

A recent accident on Fulford-Ganges Road between a van and a Salt Spring transit bus highlighted this issue. Although the accident scene was just a few kilometres south of Ganges, transit operator Ineke de Jong was unable to connect with the bus driver or BC Transit officials from the scene, and had to drive away to find cellphone coverage.

In this case fire rescue staff were able to get limited use of their phones, thanks to a service booster in one of their response vehicles.

"We have a hot-shot cellular

booster to give us a strengthened signal for that very reason," Bremner said.

But in order to keep emergency channels open, only firefighters in the network can use it.

Organizations that rely on volunteer members who might be located anywhere on the island have resorted to creative measures to bridge the communication gap. Salt Spring Fire-Rescue issues callouts to members through a combination of pagers and cell phones, as one device might work and the other not, depending on the situation. Salt Spring's Ground Search and Rescue and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue units have also stuck with pagers for their team leaders and search managers, in addition to employing texts and cellphone calls.

Speaking from the perspective of large-scale emergency events, Zook said texting can be a good way to get mass safety bulletins out, as messages can often be sent with just one service bar, unlike a call. She also points to Hawaii as a community that's embraced an alternative with amateur radio.

"Almost everyone there has an amateur radio license, so that's one way we could go," she said.

Post your comment to this story online at
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



BC FERRIES

Off-peak ferry discounts offered on some routes this fall

First-quarter results show traffic growth

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries passengers will enjoy an unusual experience at the ticket booth this fall, with off-peak fare discounts being offered on major and minor routes for six weeks beginning in September.

An announcement made

Friday in conjunction with posting of the company's first-quarter financial results states regular passenger fares will be discounted by 50 per cent on off-peak days of the week and certain off-peak times from Sept. 8 to Oct. 15. Regular passenger fares will be discounted by 50 per cent on all northern route sailings in October.

The pricing promotion comes with news of

increased traffic across the system from April to June this year. Passenger traffic increased five per cent and vehicle traffic increased 4.7 per cent compared to the first quarter of 2014.

"While we are uncertain how long this current growth in traffic will last, this promotion allows us an opportunity this fall to test variable pricing concepts in order to understand their impact

on traffic trends, customer responses and operations," said Mike Corrigan, BC Ferries' president and CEO. "This will help us gather information as we prepare pricing strategies for our Fare Flexibility and Digital Experience Initiative in 2017, which will make variable pricing a permanent part of our service delivery model."

Net earnings for the

quarter were \$18.8 million, compared to net earnings of \$13.9 million in the first quarter of the previous year. The change reflects the increased traffic as well as increased retail sales, among other factors.

"The fact that the positive trend in B.C. tourism and in our passenger traffic is going against the general trend in the Canadian economy makes it difficult

to say exactly how long it will last, however, we intend to leverage the resulting strong financial results to keep fare increases at approximately the rate of inflation, fund our \$3-billion capital program to replace aging vessels, terminal and information technology infrastructure, as well as test variable pricing promotions for the remainder of this fiscal year," Corrigan said.



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PETS

Victoria family reunited with lost dog after five days

Multiple islanders assist search

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In the same week that a dog lost at sea off Salt Spring was reunited with its owner, islanders helped another lost dog return to its Victoria-based family on Thursday.

Taylor, a young female black lab cross, had been tied up outside Thrifty Foods on Sunday, Aug. 16 when she slipped her collar despite its secure design.

Brad Muir was visiting the island with his wife Tania, their five- and 10-year-old sons, and extended family members. They had adopted Taylor in May from Broken Promises Animal Rescue, and despite the short time period and her previous bad experience with humans, a strong bond had developed between the dog and the Muir family.

"Something spooked her in the parking lot and she slipped out of her collar," said Muir. "A gentleman with the best intentions tried to corral her in the parking lot. With her past she's very timid, especially

with men, and that caused her to charge up Fulford-Ganges Road all the way to Alders."

Muir and his wife were concentrating their search on the waterside of Fulford-Ganges Road when a driver headed out of town apparently hit Taylor around 4 p.m. The driver parked and tried to find the dog, but there was no sign of her. He contacted the Muirs the next day after seeing their lost dog postings.

The Muirs continued their search for the next three days, receiving immediate support from Sean Hogan, manager of the local BC SPCA branch, and volunteers such as Carolyn Walkner. They also received friendly treatment from the property owners living around the harbour area, who all reacted to Muir's trespassing with hospitality and offers of help.

Particular aid came from Melissa Searcy, who lives near the end of Bittancourt Road, and Andrea Hollingsworth, who walked with the Muirs on Wednesday and continued to go door to door on her own. David and Nadine Buckinger were also a great help, with Nadine driving Tania around.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Beckett, left and Cohen Muir with pet dog Taylor at one of her favourite places in Victoria, the beach on Dallas Road.

"A lovely man in a van with a trailer helped get me out of the shop area and up Fulford-Ganges Road by telling me to get in his van because he could get me to her faster than I could run," Muir added.

By Wednesday night, though, the Muirs had to go home to Victoria so that Tania could leave for a business meeting early the next day.

"We left with the presumption that Taylor might have taken off under the adrenalin and then collapsed somewhere after being hit," Muir

said. "So we left heavy-hearted and told our boys she had probably not survived the accident."

Despite that pronouncement, though, both adults felt unsettled and that Taylor might still be out there. Their feelings seemed confirmed when Muir received a 4 a.m. email from Christian Tatonetti, a Salt Spring resident who had been sleeping on the beach when his dog woke him up.

"When he looked up he saw a white mark and shadow that took off," Muir recounted.

Hogan and Walkner continued to search through Thursday, but matters got complicated when a black lab was spotted on the loose in Vesuvius, prompting multiple sighting reports. That dog turned out to be male, though.

"We kind of felt like it was a bad joke played by the universe on us," Muir said.

Hogan estimates there were between 10 and 15 volunteers and residents of the area who were actively looking for Taylor each day.

"Dogs are usually found within 24 to 48 hours. This was very distressing because Taylor was not found quickly at all," Hogan said.

The break finally came that night when Muir received a call from a visitor from the U.S. who was having a drink with his wife at The Local pub and spotted what he was sure must be a frantic Taylor running on the beach near Island Escapades. He went back to the Coast Guard dock to get Muir's number from the poster there. After speaking to Muir he managed to snap a photo, which Hogan then passed along via email. This time the tell-tale white mark-

ing was visible.

"I knew it was her," Muir said. "My boys and I packed up and got on the last ferry to Salt Spring."

Arriving at 10 p.m., Muir accessed the beach from a set of rental cabins, after being welcomed by two couples in their 20s having beverages. He brought along Taylor's crate, food and treats, but although he thought he saw her eyes in the forest, she didn't answer his calls. Finally, after spending 20 minutes chatting with an Australian visitor, Muir looked down and saw Taylor not 10 metres away.

"I think it was just hearing my voice and the fact that I was relaxed and normal and not calling her that made her finally come," he said.

Muir and his sons returned to Victoria with Taylor early Friday morning for a checkup with their home vet. Although they thought she'd been hit, there were no signs of injury and Taylor was normal, if extremely tired.

"It was such an amazing situation. There's so many people who helped us out," Muir said. "My boys are almost mischievous with joy."

FEDERAL POLITICS

Candidate draws blogger's attention

Robert Boyd chosen by Conservatives

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich-Gulf Islands Conservative party members selected mortgage broker Robert Boyd as their federal election candidate on Saturday over competitor John Sibbald.

While no further information was provided by the party about the Saanich resident, except that Boyd was also a Conservative constituency president for the

Vancouver Centre riding, past comments Boyd allegedly made about homosexuality and sexual minorities have already been publicized.

In a Tuesday morning post on rjago.wordpress.com, Montreal-based blogger Robert Jago states that "Mr. Boyd has done a relatively thorough job of scrubbing his social media presence, but there are a few bits left sticking around that paint an unflattering portrait — especially with regards to his views towards the LGBT community."

Jago's post includes a May 12, 2011 comment on the Liberty on the Rocks Vancouver Facebook page in which Boyd

questions if homosexuals and other sexual minorities deserve special protection under the law.

An Aug. 10 story in Vancouver's Xtra West newspaper also links Boyd to the Conservative party's decision to not participate in the 2015 Vancouver Pride Parade due to the parade committee's request that all participants sign the Trans Equality Now Pledge.

Neither Boyd nor a spokesperson for the Conservative party's Saanich-Gulf Islands riding association were able to comment in time for the Driftwood's Tuesday afternoon deadline.

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DAVE RUTH NORMA BOB EDIE

Tennis courts still get some TLC

PROJECT PLAY continued from 1

"It couldn't have happened without an incredible organization team," Ross told the crowd. "They created a campaign that was like a federal election campaign."

"Better," yelled someone from the crowd. Supporters sounded a collective 'Ohhhhhh,' followed by polite applause, upon hearing news of the North Sydney victory.

More than 1.1 million people across Canada participated in online voting held Aug. 17 and 18. Contest organizers have not released a breakdown of overall results and did not respond when asked how many votes Salt Spring garnered.

Fernando dos Santos, who cast thousands of votes for Salt Spring, played an instrumental role throughout the campaign. He's disappointed the island didn't win but said the event brought islanders together like never before.

"It really united so many of us," he said. "The

experience was worth it for that alone."

Salt Spring's Portlock Park competed against bids from North Sydney, N.S., London, Ont., and St. John's, N.L.

While the \$250,000 prize would have facilitated work on the cracked and sagging Portlock tennis courts, PARC general manager Dan Ovington said, the runner-up prize money will not be wasted.

"The tennis courts are in desperate need of repair," Ovington wrote in an email. "PARC has been contributing to a capital reserve fund for several years, but we are still a long way from having enough money to replace these amenities."

"The \$25,000 will get us that much closer to our goal of replacing the failed tennis foundation and provides us with more matching funds when looking for grants and or sponsorships."

A video of Friday's announcement at Moby's Pub is available at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

NATURAL RESOURCES

First Nations' LNG project touted for Saanich Inlet

Announcement surprises local politicians

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

British Columbia's race to become a major player in the global liquefied natural gas market flowed closer to the southern Gulf Islands last week following news of a joint-venture plan to install a floating terminal in Saanich Inlet.

The Malahat First Nation and Steelhead LNG held a Thursday morning news conference to announce a partnership to construct the facility at the former Bamber-ton site near Mill Bay on Vancouver Island. The proposed

development is approximately 20 kilometres from Salt Spring's southernmost point at Cape Keppel. Any LNG tankers that use the facility would need to travel through Sansum Narrows or Satellite Channel to access the site.

Steelhead LNG CEO Nigel Kuzemko said the project is in the early stages but promises to generate significant revenue for all levels of government in the area during the project's 30-year lifespan. Kuzemko anticipates the terminal will create 200 long-term jobs. Steelhead LNG has also proposed construction of an LNG terminal near Port Alberni.

Financial details and logistical questions about getting natural gas from Northern British Columbia to Vancou-

ver Island have not been discussed.

The floating facility is still in the preliminary design phase. The project faces regulatory, environmental and technical assessments, according to a Friday press release.

"Steelhead LNG is currently assessing pipeline route options to deliver natural gas to Vancouver Island for both Malahat LNG and the proposed LNG project . . . at Sarita Bay in Alberni Inlet," states the release. "The sharing or pipeline infrastructure is a significant enabler for both projects."

The news brings the debate over the province's drive to promote LNG exports to the south coast. Before Friday's announcement the closest known LNG projects to the

Gulf Islands were proposals for Texada Island, Howe Sound and Port Alberni.

Wayne McIntyre, Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director, said the proposal deserves further investigation by all parties in the area.

"I guess my initial reaction was surprise," he said. "It just seemed to come out of the blue."

McIntyre suspects media and politicians in the region will keep a close watch on the proposal, and that the matter will be discussed at the CRD's next monthly board meeting in September.

Adam Olsen, interim leader of B.C.'s Green party, attended last week's press conference and has since heard an overwhelming response from people who

are concerned about the project as proposed. He plans to meet with Steelhead LNG to obtain more details.

"The LNG community is getting all of their projects on the board, and the most feasible ones will proceed

should international markets change," he said. "We can't be lulled into thinking that this one is more unlikely than any other."

"I think [chances of this going through] are pretty low, but I'm not going to gamble."

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PATHWAYS

Ground broken on Rainbow trail

New path timed for fall fair readiness

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's largest social event of the year is just around the corner, and this year islanders and guests going to the fall fair will find their experience is a little safer thanks to Partners Creating Pathways' latest project.

The second leg of the Rainbow Road Pathway will start at the corner of Atkins Road and run in front of and past the Farmers' Institute. Timed to be ready for the Sept. 19-20 fair, it will get pedestrians and people who park further up the hill off an extremely busy section of roadway.

"The new community pathway has been designed to provide users — hopefully many students — with an alternative to walking, cycling or running on the road, making for a safer and more pleasant trip," said PCP chair Jean Gelwicks.

"This pathway, one day, will hook up with a pathway in a section of Moutat Park not yet developed, making for an excellent loop for walking or running."

PCP volunteer Richard Shead will act as project manager and local contractor Chris Magnus of Earth Heart Productions was awarded the construction contract, reuniting the team that oversaw another section of pathway stretching from the public pool to Atkins Road on the opposite side of the street.

Gelwicks said PCP moved to the south side for the current stretch mainly because the group is restricted to working on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way areas, and more of that space



Volunteer project manager Richard Shead, left, and contractor Chris Magnus begin Rainbow Road path extension work.

is available on that side. Existing pedestrian traffic was also a consideration.

"The pathways are where people want to go," she noted.

Driveway crossings will be carefully marked, especially the busy entrance to the Salt Spring Recycling Depot by "Tin Can Alley."

Partners Creating Pathways includes membership from the Capital Regional District, the Salt Spring Transportation Commission, Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission, the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and Island Pathways.

"The community over the years has been extremely supportive. PCP regularly receives donations of gravel, rock and other building materials for its projects," Gelwicks said. "PCP

volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to making these pathways a reality."

Donated time goes into planning meetings, walkabouts with stakeholders, constructing kiosks, benches and bridges, designing plans, fundraising, giving talks to groups, participating in work parties and project management.

Island Pathways and the PCP Committee would like everyone to drop by their booth at the fall fair on Sept. 19 and 20 to help them celebrate the new path with cake and lemonade.

Community support for the current project has come from SSITC, the Salt Spring Foundation, Mid-Island Co-op, Island Savings Credit Union, BC Hydro, the Salt Spring Legion, Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer.

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

"Is it too late for me?"

"I hate my crooked teeth! My parents couldn't afford to straighten them and then I had to deal with my own kids. Is it still possible for me to have straight teeth?"

As a dentist, I hear this type of comment quite often. And yes, of course it is possible!

Straight teeth function better. Straight teeth are easier to clean and reduce gum disease. Straight teeth look better.

As adults tooth straightening can often be done in six months and can vary in style from brackets to Invisalign.

Talk to your dentist and tell them, "It's time for ME!"



Our Services:

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- Surgical implants for rock solid teeth
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Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre

OPINION



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



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

EDITORIAL

Smile and say 'cheese'

Excitement was palpable in a series of dry runs to hone participants' vocal cords in anticipation of Friday afternoon's Kraft Project Play announcement.

Right until the words "North Sydney" flashed across the television screen and echoed through the momentary silence of the stunned patrons assembled at Moby's Pub, there was a shared sense that Salt Springers had won this thing.

Many in the crowd recounted voting dozens of times and hundreds of times. Dan Ovington, general manager of Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission, said his grandmother voted more than 1,000 times. Residents of an assisted living complex are reported to have pioneered a robot dance as an ode to the voting program's voter verification system. People voted at

THE ISSUE:

Project Play

WE SAY:

Valuable lessons learned

work, at home, on ferries and at summer camps overlooking St. Mary Lake. Contest organizers have yet to release the number of votes cast for Salt Spring's Portlock Park, but it's clear many of us will no longer have a problem identifying pancakes and pie.

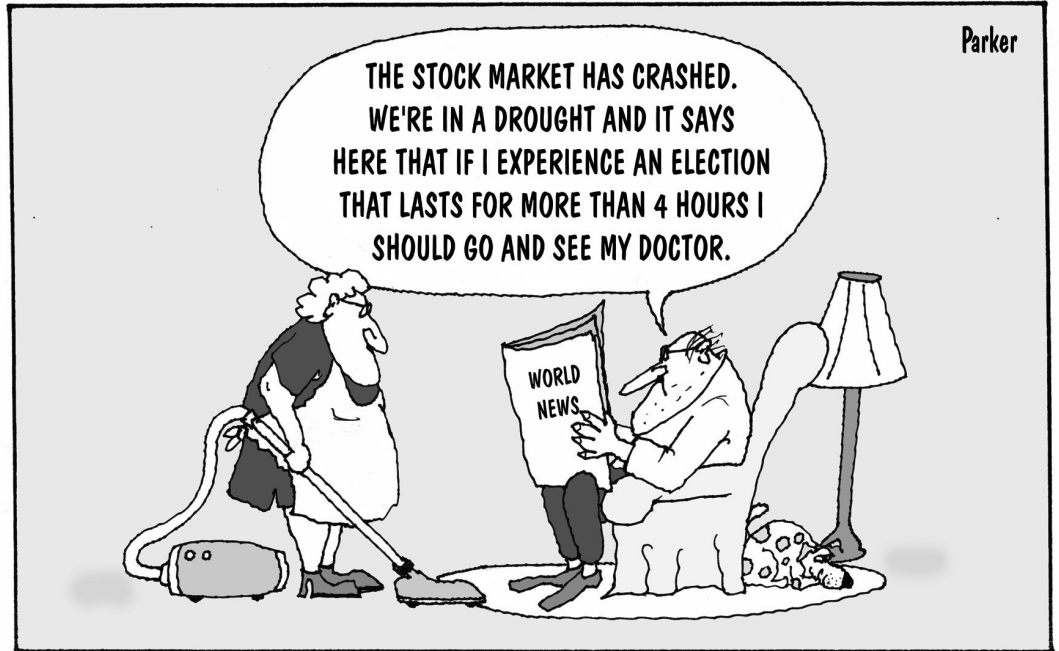
If you don't get the joke, you didn't vote enough. Besides grabbing loads of free Kraft loot and a cool \$25,000 for making it to the top four, Salt Springers showed that we are able to cast aside political differences and mobilize at a moment's notice for a common cause. It was heartening to see lovers of all sports rally behind the tennis club's bid to win \$250,000 for the Capital Regional District to upgrade the courts at Portlock Park.

That we were beaten by the nearly 7,000 residents from North Sydney — not big city rivals in London, Ont. or St. John's, N.L. — is hardly surprising given that few people in Canada are more loyal and united than residents of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island.

But in a matter of weeks here at home, a core group of volunteers ran with a remarkable bid put forward by Salt Spring's Erica Ross. The nomination got Salt Spring to the final four from a pool of more than 700 entrants, providing some hot drama for a lazy August, \$25,000 for being a finalist, a fantastic party, and raising our island's profile on the national stage.

We may not have won the grand prize, but we certainly learned some valuable lessons.

And stockpiled plenty of peanut butter to restock our survival kits.



VIEWPOINT by Diane Mortensen

Sunset speeders worry park user

A very dangerous situation exists on Sunset Drive and I fear that a serious accident is inevitable if some way isn't found to slow down these reckless drivers.

Some months back the highways department very wisely put up playground/slow signs on Sunset Drive at Duck Creek Park. However, the signs are apparently invisible to a large proportion of the drivers using this road and they continue to gather speed on the hills leading down to the park on both sides, sometimes hitting speeds of over 80 km/h.

The situation at this location is dangerous for a number of reasons. First of all, we have a narrow road in a very shaded gully for much of the day. Then we have walkers with their children and/or dogs walking from the neighbourhood and Vesuvius along Sunset to the park.

Add to this, at times there may be more than a dozen cars parked along the edges of the roadway, on both sides of the road. These cars disgorge children, their strollers, bikes, dogs and parents directly into the travelled portion on both sides of the road.

I have often seen children and pups run into the road, anxious to get into the park and not looking for traffic. Parents busy setting up a stroller take their eyes off their children for a moment or go to the rear to unload a dog while their child stands on the road or runs across to the park. This is an accident waiting to happen, despite the best attempts of the adults to keep everyone safe.

The question is: "Why do the RCMP not patrol and watch for speeders as they do further down the road at Portlock Park?" At Portlock visitors can at least drive into the parking lot to safely unload their passengers and gear. The road there is also level and open, easy to see walkers heading to the park.

These cars disgorge children, their strollers, bikes, dogs and parents directly into the travelled portion on both sides of the road.

This is completely the opposite of Duck Creek Park. The speeding drivers from Duck Creek Park area are quick to slow down at Central, never knowing if this is the day the radar gun is out, but they know that the RCMP are completely blind to their speeding at Duck Creek so continue to do it, at the risk of all the park users.

If the RCMP continue to be blind to the plight of Duck Creek Park users, then why doesn't the Parks and Recreation Commission take action? One of the possible solutions would be to create a small parking lot for 10 to 20 cars at the Sunset end of the open field. Then people could exit Sunset and safely park to unload children and dogs without risking life and limb on the side of the road.

If neither of these solutions is feasible then I ask those of you who are guilty of speeding illegally through the Duck Creek area of Sunset Drive to please, please slow down before we have a serious injury or a fatality on that stretch of the road!

The writer lives on Monteith Road.

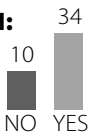
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you happy with draft ferry schedules for SSI? Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will Mike Duffy's trial hurt the Conservatives?



Driftwood

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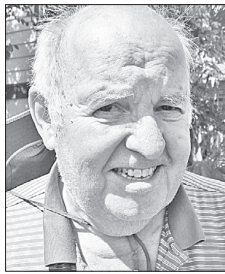
ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We kind of felt like it was a bad joke played by the universe on us."

BRAD MUIR, VICTORIA RESIDENT WHO LOST DOG ON SALT SPRING

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
Have stock market fluctuations got you concerned?



JERRY PURCELL
Not yet, I just think the stock market is subject to frequent adjustments.



LOUISE SHELLY
No, because it's happened before.



JENNIFER CHOI
On a global scale I am, but people in the know seem to say things will be okay. I'm a student so, personally, I'm not too worried about my savings.



ERIN NORDBY
I've been on a boat for weeks and really have no idea.



DORIE TENNANT
Not really. I figure I'm in for the long haul.

Letters to the editor

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

Every vote counts

The exercise of democracy requires every person's vote. It is how we tell the government what we want from them.

Even if your individual candidate does not win a seat in Parliament, the vote percentage tells the government how we feel as a country and this requires as many votes as can be cast.

Consider each party platform to find one that can express your needs as Canadians. Listen to each candidate in your riding to find one that

you trust to do their job in Parliament and represent your interests.

This is a great country with a true democracy, but it will not work without your vote. That is our obligation to Canada.

RANDY CARR,
FULFORD-GANGES ROAD

Almost humorous

The latest invective against Elizabeth May by her local detractor-in-chief (Robin Williams' "SGI deserves better representation" letter in the Aug. 19 paper) would be humorous if

it weren't so hateful.

It's become so predictable and tedious that my eyes glaze over, so glazed over that if I kept the dead-eyed look, fattened my cheeks (Botox?) and crowned my head with a stiff hair-piece I could take my outgoing personality to the Saturday market and impersonate the outgoing prime minister.

But I don't wish to frighten away the tourists. And comedy is best left to the great ones, like the famously-silent Harpo. How I miss everyone's favourite stand-up guy, the Hollywood actor named for the joyful bird, who unfortunately left

this world last summer. Now he is six feet under, as silent as Harpo, as dead as a pair of glazed eyes.

Maybe the "detractor-in-chief" can humour us with praise for his personal party-leader. It won't surprise me if his pick is Harpo: the competence behind the scenes, the loyalty commanded, the party popularity earned, the personal warmth that has made the world love Canadians, the statesmanlike politics that historians tell us made the world respect Canada.

So let's hear it for Harpo! Nothing like a good belly-laugh to brighten my eyes,

crinkle my cheeks and shake the wig right off my head.

DENNIS LUCARELLI,
SALT SPRING

Exercise privilege

I liked the caustic cartoon accompanying the "Let's respect election signage" letter in last week's Driftwood, with the word "Vote" left on a torn poster. That says it all.

Election after election I have been shocked at the poor turnout for voting. We oldsters must persuade our kids, grandchildren and friends to take advantage of

this privilege.

It doesn't take a lot of your precious time, people. Please do not just put a mark by the only name you have heard of. With a little reading, listening and intelligent thought you will make up your minds.

Remember, if you don't have your say at the polls, you really have no right to criticize the "wrong" person who got in.

Maybe we would bring up the percentage of voters this time to 70 per cent?

MEG HODGES,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Music fests: lasting and ephemeral memories

If you live on Salt Spring, you're probably a famous musician, right? More than likely, you never use your last name (if you have one) and everyone recognizes you, especially if you are wearing your usual dark shades.

This is a common perception outsiders have of those of us who inhabit this particular rock. Sure, we may have other jobs like building stone walls or bagging groceries, but we only do these to obtain a little anonymity so we can get away from the constant pressure of being famous rock stars.

So, with public perception being what it is, it's only natural for Salt Spring to have its very own summer music festival. Why not? It seems like every other community in British Columbia, both on Vancouver Island and the mainland, hosts one of these showcases of musical talent on just about every weekend between the last day of school and Labour Day. Some weekends have two or three going on at the same time in various locales across the province.

The concept is really nothing new. Over the years there have been a couple of attempts to establish an outdoor summer music fest right here on the island, but there was never enough energy or resolve to sustain the event long enough to give it the chance to become an annual affair.

Well, 2015 is a new beginning, and with a twist: combining a folk festival with another already established interest lobby. Okay, so besides music, what is Salt Spring famous for? Here's a hint: it's something we grow.

Well, yes there's that. But think of a crop slightly more legit. The answer is garlic. Our ability to produce garlic is one of the things that has put Salt Spring on the map of the world.

And if you put the music and the garlic together, what do you get (besides musicians with strong breath)? You get the Salt Spring Island Garlic and Music Festival.

So there we were, a couple of weekends ago, armed with blankets and folding lawn chairs, traipsing through the newly mown hayfields of Musgrave Road's Paradise Farm, overlooking the sparkling splendor of Fulford Harbour. As we moved towards the entrance gate, our senses were drawn seductively by the musical harmonies wafting through the air.

I couldn't help but retreat back to a time almost 45 years earlier. It was the summer of 1970 and I was at the tail end of my adventures bumming around Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Even though I was hitchhiking mostly and sleeping in cheap hostels, what little money I had left was running out and I knew the inevitable return to my home in Canada was looming up ahead.

Still, there was one more escapade left. A five day and night extravaganza music festival was scheduled in late August on the Isle of Wight, a small pastoral island situated in the English Channel.

One train ride from London to the southern port of Lymington, followed later by a ferry ride overloaded with an assortment of fellow ragtag backpackers and world travellers, I arrived at the port of Yarmouth on the island that would be my home for most of the next week. By the time I hitched a ride to the festival site, the security gates had already been torn down by



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

French anarchists who believed that rock music should break free from capitalist concepts like having to pay for tickets, and the event organizers had declared the enormous gathering of humanity a "free festival." It didn't matter whether you had bought advance tickets or not because the promoters had lost complete control and we were about to experience one of the great "field experiments" in history. To those of us who thought about it at the time, it was a sensation akin to finding out how we would go about our daily lives if gravity were to suddenly break down.

It is estimated that 600,000 outsiders had invaded this little English island, making the festival the largest one ever, even eclipsing Woodstock. At the site itself, the entire countryside, hills and valleys and everything in between, was blanketed with a tapestry of humanity. Above the throng there hovered a canopy of smoke (and I'm not talking about campfire smoke).

Probably as a result of that, most of what happened over the next five days remains vague in my mind. I do remember awkwardly tip-toeing my way towards the huge stage through the blankets, sleeping bags and seated bodies that blocked my progress. With every step I gained a toehold which subsequently propelled me forward to the next. All the while, I kept waving to an imaginary friend up close to the front of the stage, leading those whose hands and feet were being trampled by me to believe that I actually had a destination in mind. Finally, when I could move no farther forward, I plopped my body and backpack down on the ground and

claimed a couple of square metres of real estate that I would call home for the next 120 hours or so.

I honestly don't recall the logistics of how I made trips to the outhouses, or where I washed up, or how I got my food and water. All I remember is the music.

Ah, the music. The best way to describe who played is to say that other than the Beatles, the Stones and Bob Dylan, just about every other seminal musician or band took the stage. It was the last hurrah for Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison of the Doors, who would both be dead within three months of the event. To my surprise, Leonard Cohen, barely popular in Canada, was a monster presence in Europe who drew massive applause throughout his performance.

My most lasting memory is the sensation of opening my eyes after falling into one of my few slumbers and catching the full aura of the sun rising behind Melanie Safka, the poster-child for flower power, as she played a haunting rendition of her "Tuning my Guitar."

And that brings me back to the garlic and music festival on Salt Spring. Certainly nobody is expecting over a half million people to come ambling off the Skeena Queen ferry ramp on any given weekend (although it seems like that's exactly what's going on just about every fall fair). However, a small annual music festival which, if given a chance to grow slowly from year to year, could become a lasting asset to the community.

Nobody asked me, but it seems only reasonable for an island jam-packed with rock stars to have its very own music fest. Who knows; maybe somebody will ask me to play. Now where did I leave my shades?

RANTS *and* Roses

Rants

A shovel and a box of green garbage bags to be used by all those who consider Hydro easements to be public property suitable for loud alcoholic parties and dumping and burning of their household garbage. Easements are on private land and you are trespassing. Kindly refrain and keep your noise, cigarettes and garbage to yourselves. P. Taylor

People need to get a grip and not dispose of cigarette butts on the ground. Please encourage people to use their ashtrays. Save Salt Spring from a fire being started by carelessness! Hopefully there will be big fines for this one day soon. N. Kosteljik

Roses

"Black and white and read all over" roses to the Driftwood for your compelling photo and coverage in the Aug. 12 paper of the car and local transit bus crash. The transit system and the Driftwood are of vital importance to the island and the tragic crash affected us all. NR

A beautiful bouquet of roses to all of the first responders to the van-bus crash: RCMP, ambulance (thank you, Pam) and fire chief Tom Bremner's great crew. You were all exemplary. Special thanks to fireman Jim Pohl for your calming care. Blessings, Robert the bus driver

The athletes of Special Olympics BC held their 6th Annual Invitational Bocce Tournament in Centennial Park on Aug. 9, and are sending a huge court full of fun-tastic sunflowers to: Thrifty Foods for preparing a fab-ulscious lunch; Salt Spring Water Co. for providing large jugs of water to quench our thirst; tents and tables from the United Church; more tents from Thrifty Foods, Salt Spring Lions Club, Island Savings, dragon boat team and Tom McKeachie. Individual sunflowers go to our manager/scheduler Merv Anderson; coach Bob Elsea; referees Ross Harvey, Ted Lane, Dorothy Christopher and Jean Elder; volunteers Val and Chip Chipman and Jim Halicci; scorekeepers Linda Lee, Denise Devlin, Jean Tetarenko and Spencer Paiment; first aider Charlene Wolff; lunch co-ordinators Christa Wohlfahrt and Gloria McEachern; registration/tabulators Carol Newmeyer and Walter Swing. Three visiting teams left our community sporting ribbons and promising to return next year for more fun, camaraderie and competition. Thanks so much everyone for supporting us... you're g-r-r-reat!

Salt Spring Island Public Library sends a year's subscription of newsworthy roses to our local Thrifty Foods for once again generously providing many library patrons the pleasure of reading the Gulf Islands Driftwood paper week after week. Thank you, from all of us!

Big bunches of roses to Country Grocer for amazing, cheerful help and support to make our Green Party fundraising BBQ such a resounding success! What a great community resource they are. More armfuls of roses to Susan Wetmore and her army of volunteers that kept food plentiful and flowing. Finally, masses of roses to all those who stopped and supported Elizabeth May and the Saanich-Gulf Islands Greens by buying hamburgers, donating dollars and asking lots of questions. What a great day and what a great community! Thanks!

Great comfort

A huge bunch of red roses to the RCMP dispatcher who took my call reporting apparent gunfire near my home recently and dealt with it speedily, and to the constable from our detachment who called me almost instantly to confirm the details.

He responded in minutes and dealt firmly and tactfully with the situation on a nearby easement where a group of young people were partying and firing a homemade spud gun, possibly equipped with an ignitable propellant. In our drought conditions when a spark can cause devastation, hardly a sensible activity. He then called me again and explained what had occurred.

Thank you both and please share your roses with the RCMP detachment. It is great comfort to know you are all there when we need you.

PATRICK TAYLOR,
SALT SPRING

Short-sighted

It is a shameful embarrassment to admit that the best summary of what the Harper years have done to Canada comes from a U.S. newspaper. I would urge all voters to search for New York Times "The Closing of the Canadian Mind" by Stephen Marche. The article is dated Aug. 14.

One rather glaring omission from the author's list is Harper's recent (additional) cuts to health-care funding.

Please vote accordingly, and do what you can to make sure that other Canadian voters are at least as well informed about the short-sighted policies of the Harper government as our U.S. friends are.

RON STURM,
BEAVER POINT ROAD

Out of control

After reading his Aug. 19 "Tabloid-style sensationalism" letter about how important the music festival was, I think Valdy, who received the Order of Canada in 2011, has given a new meaning to O.C.: "Out of Control."

Maybe he should get his ego under control or he should leave the island. Very disappointing. Maybe he's off his medication. After all he turns 70 next month.

(P.S. I used to manage him and I am his friend.)

CLIFF JONES,
SALT SPRING

Ecuadorian example

I suggest that Murray Reiss' letter in the Aug. 12 paper deserves special attention. He shows why the current election debates carefully avoid recognizing the urgent need to move to a no-growth economy.

However, not everyone is dodging that bullet. Here is a relevant quote from a book called A World To Build: New Paths Toward Twenty-First Century Socialism by Marta Harnacker.

"There exists a consensus among Latin American progressive governments that the growth rates experienced by advanced

MORE LETTERS

countries in the second half of the 20th century cannot be maintained or imitated by other countries. This would have irreversible and catastrophic consequences for the natural environment of this planet, including the human species. No one doubts that putting an end to this situation has become more and more urgent if we want humanity to have a future. . . . the Ecuadorian constitution is the first constitution in the world to recognize the rights of nature."

BOB WILD,
HEDGER ROAD

Clarifications

Thanks to Sean McIntyre for the interview and article in last week's Driftwood on our new song Take Back This Land.

After reading it, though, I felt a bit uncomfortable with the attitude conveyed. There were some misunderstandings, I think, so I'm writing this in hopes of clarifying a few things.

1) First of all, I am proud of our new song, but I don't feel it's "desperately needed." A big improvement in Canadian voter turnout certainly is desperately needed, and I'm hoping the song might help with that.

2) I do think politics and show business have a lot in common, and my point there was how easy it can be with showbiz experience to spot "acting" and production clichés that are commonly used by politicians to persuade voters. But I don't think you need a career in show business to recognize that gutting environmental regulations, muzzling scientists and thwarting democracy are the actions of a radical government.

3) Requests from Green, Liberal and NDP representatives to use Take Back This Land in their campaigns were not all from federal leadership. Some were from individual candidates.

4) I don't believe that the many islands intentionally deleted on Enbridge's promotional map of the Douglas Channel were deleted by the Harper government.

Finally I'd just like to mention that the video of the song created through the volunteer efforts of Bill Warriner can be viewed on "Salt Spring Live," Bill's YouTube channel, while audio files for streaming and downloading can be found at www.chilliwack.bandcamp.com — free until Oct. 19!

BILL HENDERSON,
CHILLIWACK BAND MEMBER,
SALT SPRING

Tiresome rants

Robin Williams, give it a rest and us a break ("SGI deserves better representation," Aug. 19 letter). Your irrational anti-Green rants are increasingly tiresome.

What on earth does a design error of the Royal Canadian Mint have to do with this movement to get rid of the worst prime minister Canada has ever had?

Your tirade has inspired me to send an additional \$200 to the Greens.

This is \$1,000 less than the bequest to Omar Khadr in my will.

In my most recent letter to Omar I wrote that I hoped the \$1,200 would enable him to buy several medical texts and that he would find a satisfying career in the medical field. I also warned him that there will always be some irrational haters out there.

JACK C. HALLAM,
BRINKWORTHY

A challenge to education

At the Aug. 17 fire trustees meeting I was surprised to hear fire board chair Linda Lee publicly challenge — and what felt like berate — our fire chief concerning his motivation to attend professional development conferences.

The irony in this challenge is that it came from a professional educator questioning the value of continuing education for our fire department leaders. Lee argued that Tom Bremner is already very experienced, suggesting that he may not need to further hone his professional skills.

Nothing can be further from the truth. A fire chief is the focal point for innumerable challenges, complaints and problems, which can become overwhelming. It is most important that our management staff be allowed, nay, encouraged to step away from the day-to-day affronts to their decisions and be surrounded by peers and industry professionals who share similar concerns and are dedicated to finding solutions to the problems facing modern-day fire chiefs and their officers. Without this sort of professional stimulus a manager will not only become frustrated and demoralized but also static and out of touch with contemporary solutions.

A part of the chair's challenge also focussed on the wisdom of the chief and deputy chief attending the conference together. When not interrupted, Bremner explained that the Salt Spring Fire Department is set up to allow for both managers to depart the island together for short periods, giving the assistant chief and officer staff the opportunity to practise their operational and management skills.

Also, the value of our management staff attending the same strategic conference is that it gives them an opportunity to share thoughts and concerns in a structured environment, and develops communication, mentoring and problem solving away from the often frantic fast-paced surroundings of the fire department.

I understand that the entire board of fire trustees are in their first term and have a huge learning curve ahead of them. I support their initiative for volunteering their time and expertise, and I encourage them to also be supportive of our firefighters and fire managers and the professionalism they bring to the table.

If the board or individual trustees choose to ignore the feelings and sensibilities of our fire department staff they risk demoralizing and destroying the very team dedicated to our public safety and well being. I choose to share this letter publicly and with the board of trustees as the ramifications of their actions affect us all.

RON CHAMNEY,
FORMER SSIFPD FIRE TRUSTEE

EMERGENCY CARE: PORTRAIT OF AN ESS VOLUNTEER

- ✓ Good listener
- ✓ Cares about people
- ✓ Problem solver
- ✓ Team player
- ✓ Loves to learn
- ✓ Can take direction



If this is you, please join us to claim your training. We need you to be a Reception Centre Volunteer. Call Neva Hohn 250-931-5550 or email ssiessd@crd.bc.ca.

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Happy visitor

I had the great pleasure of visiting Salt Spring Island last week.

The Cottage Resort (on St. Mary's Lake) was comfortable and the hospitality of Randy and Cathy made it feel like home away from home.

We enjoyed the Saturday market, the wineries, galleries, kayaking, hiking and eating! Wine, beer, cider, chocolate, cheese, coffee, silver jewellery and glass ornaments all made their way home with me.

We'll definitely be back!

KATHY MIKI,
CHILLIWACK

More of the same

Poor Robin Williams. Given all the letters criticizing his aggressive political commentary and rabid pit-bull condemnation of the Green party, one might suppose he could have acted like a mature adult and admitted to being a bit lacking in the civility and straight facts department — perhaps even a teeny apology might have been appropriate.

But no, behaving more like some puerile adolescent, he tries to divert attention from his mis-deeds by trying to blame others of doing the same ("SGI deserves better representation," Aug. 19 letter). Continuing to run true to form, he twists responsible, civil criticisms of the Conservative government into "attack ads" and my request for civil debate and editorial prerogatives with regard to letters into "intimidation" and "censorship." I suppose since he seems incapable of civil debate, I do want him censored.

Then he goes into another rant about Green party campaign signage near transit

stops. Not on transit service buildings or vehicles but, horrors, "immediately adjacent" to them. I doubt he would have objected if they were Conservative signs.

Finally, continuing to foam at the mouth, he dumps in an irrelevant mix of a disgraced CBC staffer, a forgiven child soldier, 9/11 truthers, a Greek ecologist and Elizabeth May. Pathetic is the only word that comes to mind.

About the only thing he inadvertently gets right is his closing sentence: "We deserve an MP who puts our interests first and foremost." We already have one and let's stick with her.

ANDREW OKULITCH,
SALT SPRING

Cycling assessment

Ross King recently sent a letter to the Driftwood regarding a near miss accident between his vehicle and a cyclist at the corner of Beddis Road and Fulford-Ganges Road.

For the best response I consulted our on-island cycling expert John Rowlandson and this is his comment.

"Mr. King makes his "near-miss" experience part of the public record. His letter is an exceptional example of good citizenry. He raises awareness without blaming others. And he stopped to talk things through with the cyclist. The way he takes his behaviour, the known limitations of his vehicle, and the traffic situation into account is an awesome example of vision zero here on our island (See www.visionzeroinitiative.com.)

"That being said, the Motor Vehicle Act states that cyclists' first responsibility is their own safety — they are sharing the road with other users and need to be courteous and make themselves visible, e.g., wear bright clothing, turn on flashing lights during the daytime, and yes, take the lane when appropriate.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SHARING: A fawn and doe are caught sneaking a snack at a south-end property while the photographer was on a walk last weekend.

"The most frequent response by motorists after crashes with cyclists is that they "did not see them." King's example of checking again is a hugely important reminder that you "don't know what you don't know," i.e., check once, then again.

"The Motor Vehicle Act states that cyclists have the same rights and duties as a motorist and should "ride as far right as practicable." In the situation Ross describes — where cyclists are riding fast down hill and travelling at more or less the same speed as traffic — they should take the lane. This makes the cyclist visible, predictable and provides maneuverability should a hazard (pot hole, pedestrian step-

ping out, door opening) require them to take evasive action.

"Otherwise, Ganges Hill needs bike lanes or — better yet — cycle tracks. Motorists often drive much faster than the posted 50 km/h, the road bed is dangerously compromised (seams from waterworks repairs, gravel and debris, oncoming pedestrian traffic, and on busy summer Saturdays, parking and pedestrian congestion well before arriving at the bottom)."

Thanks to John for this insight and to Ross King for bringing this issue forward.
ROBIN WILLIAMS,
CHAIR,
SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Two-way trust is important

The following was sent to the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board of trustees and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY MARY GILLIES

I am concerned that the actions taken by the current trustees since the April AGM regarding the management, union and paid-on-call staff are confrontational in tone.

The current board needs to recover the two-way trust that has categorized the smooth running of operations since the union-POC system was established in 2005.

I attended the first part of the Aug. 17 public meeting and was shocked that the chair, Linda Lee, addressed questions to the fire chief about his and the deputy chief's attendance at the annual B.C. fire chiefs' conference in Victoria. This was clearly a human resources committee concern and easily resolvable in that domain.

The chair has significant teaching experience, still attends professional training and yet does not understand that career training is constant and ongoing whatever the chosen profession.

Perhaps the word "conference" does not sound as good as "professional day off?" Do school trustees talk to the principals in such a demeaning manner? I think not! If these are deemed acceptable comments in public, what are the private conversations with staff like?

Personally, during my time as fire trustee for this district, I found the de-briefing sessions with the chief and deputy chief after these conferences invaluable. They gave some insights into how fire services throughout B.C. and Canada are dealing with pervasive issues such as recruitment and motivation of POC volunteers, union issues, standards for training, wildfire pre-

vention, management styles and many other topics.

Unfortunately, I doubt whether either the chief or deputy chief will share their thoughts on these issues with the current trustees. In a few short months since the elections of new trustees, we have a possible expensive arbitration with the union. We have management verbally criticized in public. As well, the POC members have been told they don't need to report to the public each month and can't be involved in committee work. The current trustees need to listen to everybody, including those who work for them.

If I am stuck in a ditch as people were this month needing expert help, I will not be phoning the trustees or committee members for help. I would hope that qualified personnel arrive within the critical first 15 minutes. It is up to the board to make sure this delivery to the public is seamless.

According to the Walker report on Salt Spring, comparing all B.C. fire services we have a "better than average service delivered at lower than average cost." The current FUS accreditation shows improvements since the last report. These improvements, which have also decreased the home insurance costs of many property owners, were achieved through hard work and at times difficult two-way discussions between the trustees and all employed members of the district, management, staff, union and POC members.

The current board has made steps to establish an effective two-way conversation with the public. Now the trustees need to go through a similar process with their own employees before it is too late.

The writer is a former Salt Spring fire trustee.

kraftprojectplay – what a journey for Salt Spring!

We are honoured and overwhelmed by the outpouring of support which far exceeded our expectations. Great excitement took hold of the whole island as everyone embraced the challenge. People of all ages and interests threw themselves into the voting spirit, supported by virtually every island group, organization, and business. Friends and relatives recruited from afar also voted day and night, caught up in the happy, addictive frenzy. 'Robot' dances proliferated!

If HEART could have won the contest, Salt Spring would have been the clear winner. Although the big money went to North Sydney, we have \$25,000 and have won the additional gift of being a part of this fun and uniting experience.

What a GREAT community we live in. Be very proud!

Sincere thanks, on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee (Lynda Arden, Fernando dos Santos, Deborah Orange, Dan Ovington, Michael Powell, Colin Ross, Erica Ross, Letitia Vogel, Diane Weatherby, Markus Wenzel), PARC, and the entire tennis community on Salt Spring Island.



arts&entertainment

SALT SPRING INN
 Sunday Night Music
 with
Shane Hooper



LEFT AND RIGHT PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN, CENTRE PHOTO BY MARGO ZAK

POTTERS' PARTY: Salt Spring's Potters' Guild celebrated 65 years of creative activity with a garden party and sale at Judy Weeden's Whims Farm on Sunday. From left is current guild president Edith Stevenson, founding member Sue Mouat with the celebratory cake, and Wendy Squirrel doing a transaction at her booth with Kathleen Horsdal. Funds from the event will support a first-ever Salt Spring Island Ceramic Awards event to begin in October 2016.

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ART REVIEW

Murphy Macdonald explores new paths

Paintings on exhibit at Pod Contemporary Gallery

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

New paintings by Patricia Murphy Macdonald on view at Pod Contemporary Gallery through September offer a fascinating glimpse of an artist in transition.

Murphy Macdonald's usual style could be described as realism with a touch of softness that intentionally exposes the painter's hand. This method achieves more than reproduction. It starts the conversation about why certain objects are singled out and emphasizes the art inherent in their design, or their importance in a life (such as in Murphy Macdonald's *Curios and Notions* series).

Some of the new works on display



Part of Patricia Murphy Macdonald's portrait of Frida Kahlo, among new work at Pod Contemporary Gallery until Sept. 30.

to extremely expressive, all demonstrating Murphy Macdonald's underlying skill at depicting form and structure.

For example, a study of a side table filled with objects related to the passage of time in the artist's life contains more expressive strokes around the edges, which feels suitable for the subject matter. In another still life of an antique metal water pitcher, Murphy Macdonald treats the main object in the realist style but obscures the book it rests on and the background with obvious drips and dribbles to emphasize the fact of painting.

Murphy Macdonald's strength at creating the apparent depth necessary for depicting three-dimensional forms in two-dimensional space gives her the platform for getting really loose in two works featuring historical portraits. In a massive painting of Frida Kahlo, Murphy Macdonald layers over the image of Kahlo's face and shoulders with crosshatched streaks of blue, pink and yellow, with spots of brighter pigment suggesting sunspots on an old photo. The complex treatment provides an emotional relationship with the famous icon, whose influence is textured and tangible rather than left at a remove.

Murphy Macdonald's new paintings can be seen at Pod to Sept. 30.

play at Pod are painted in this style, such as charming still lifes of a jade plant against a floral graphic background or a pop-art tissue box with brilliant circles of hot pink and red over violet. These works are lovely both for their execution and composition.

Another study of a delicate china teacup captures the exact quality of light as it plays over glossy glazed ceramic and gold leaf ornamentation. In contrast

to the foreground's sharp focus, the background is left hazy but offers strong balance to the teacup, with a rounded vase anchoring the space between dark and bright wall panels.

There is also evidence that Murphy Macdonald is loosening up and putting more focus on the act of moving paint around. The Pod show in fact offers a spectrum of work that ranges from the more precise and controlled

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ART REVIEW

Contemplation recommended for Interlude show

Beautiful miniatures grace ArtCraft stage

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The final ArtCraft showcase of 2015 reflects the island's slowing pace as the season shifts toward fall, with the Interlude exhibition's formal still lifes and ceramics providing the space for contemplation.

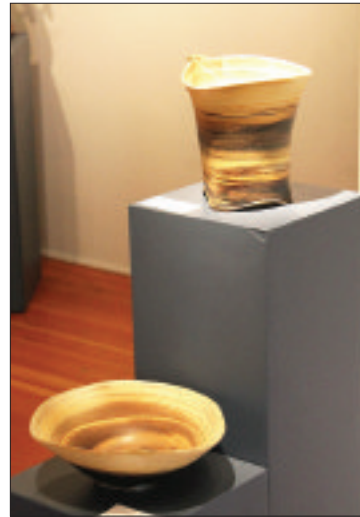
A series of paintings by Sharon Simonds Chia offers a window into a carefully developed form of expression, with the works on exhibit created over a period of six years. Each painting has an identical form and similar but varying content. Four- by 12-inch horizontal strips matted in black depict different arrangements of natural and man-made objects as seen from above, laid out on a bamboo mat or rice paper.

The arrangements and the objects themselves carry a strong Asian sensibility, with peonies and willow boughs placed alongside chopstick rests and tiny vases.

"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," ArtCraft press material explains. "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



Two paintings by Sharon Simonds Chia, left, show the artist's dedication to her aesthetic over time and how her works relate to each other. The piece above with abalone shell was completed this year, while the one below with dried narcissus was painted in 2010. At right are two ash-fired vessels by Kasumi Lampitoc.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

and thoughtful process of choosing and placing natural and man-made objects in her arrangements."

One of the pleasures of the show is seeing the world reproduced in miniature, with the same intricate craftsman-

ship that makes high-quality dollhouse furniture so delightful. Chia is skilled at depicting the items she paints, with especially lovely turns at bright red primroses and yellow ginkgo leaves. However, the act of painting itself feels like the sec-

ondary part of her art form. The primary importance is the act of arrangement itself, with perfect collections of items placed to produce the utmost harmony.

Though her personal connection may be to Chinese culture, the work suggests the same measured approach to Japanese disciplines such as ikebana (flower arrangement) and karesansui (raked sand and stone gardens). Viewers will find the most benefit if they take the time to afford the same attention to detail.

Sharing the stage with Chia's paintings are ceramic works by Galiano potter Kasumi Lampitoc. Tea's prominence in Japanese culture is reflected in her quiet arrangements of teapots and cups, and makes a more humorous entrance in a sculptural teapot of gigantic proportions that seems about to spring to life as a cartoon character.

Like Chia, Lampitoc demonstrates a measured control of her medium, but she uses her mastery to produce more organic results. Her forms are simple and nature-inspired, and her ash-fired glazing technique complements them well in tones of oatmeal, butterscotch and charcoal.

ArtCraft is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Mahon Hall until Sunday, Sept. 20.

Islanders and visitors alike should be sure to check out the wide range of fine crafts and art available this year, with many new participants offering unique and interesting wares on the showroom floor.

CONCERTS

Victoria pianist plays All Saints



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Multi-talented musician Robert Dukarm will play a varied program for organ and piano this Saturday afternoon.

Classical program includes organ

Victoria's Robert Dukarm will be on Salt Spring on Saturday, Aug. 29 to perform an afternoon recital for piano and organ.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church, the program will feature piano selections by Debussy, Liszt, Field and Scarlatti, followed by organ pieces by Oldroyd, Parry, Vaughan Williams and Buxtehude.

Dukarm has been the

organist at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Victoria since 2009 and is also the accompanist for the Newcombe Singers of Victoria. He has performed on Salt Spring Island three times as the organist in Bach on the Rock productions of Bach's Christmas Oratorio and the Fauré Requiem. He has also visited the island as the piano accompanist for soprano Schuyler Matthews' voice recitals.

His most recent performances in Victoria were as organist for a Remembrance Day 2014 performance of Fauré Requiem by the Capric-

cio Choir at Christ Church Cathedral, an organ recital last February at the Cathedral, and accompanist for several Newcombe Singers concerts.

While at the Conservatory Dukarm won first prize in the Senior Division of the 2009 Lieder Competition as piano accompanist with soprano Monica Orso.

As a violinist Dukarm has varied experience, including playing in the first violin section of the Victoria Civic Orchestra plus the first violin section of the UVic Symphony. He is currently the violinist in a gypsy jazz group, Swingstation.

Tickets for the recital will be available at the church office at 110 Park Dr. prior to the event and at the door.

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what's on this week

Wed. Aug 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch.
Pianist Graeme Wilkinson and mezzo-soprano Marie Lyne Phare perform Melodies Francaise. All Saints. 12:10 p.m.
Wine Wednesday.
DJ Primitive & Fix Food Truck at Mistaken Identity Vineyards. 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Never Never Duo.
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.
Photosynthesis.
Opening reception for 15th annual photo show. ArtSpring. 5 to 7 p.m.
Mada Eliza Dalian Presentation.
Mystic & healer gives presentation ahead of Sunday's workshop. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 5:30 p.m.

Thur. Aug 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gene Grooms.
Live music at The Local pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Chamigos.
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

Library Book Club.
This month's pick is Still Life by Louise Penny. Everyone welcome. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.
Mada Eliza Dalian Presentation.
Mystic & healer gives presentation ahead of Sunday's workshop. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Aug 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

MascalDance.
Free public performance of work-in-progress from ArtSpring summer residency. ArtSpring. 2 p.m.
Sky Valley Jazz.
Live jazz at the Salt Spring Vineyards winery for TGIF Friday Winedown. 4 to 6 p.m.

Fri. Aug 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Ducks.
Live music at The Local Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Jazz Cafe at Fernwood Road Cafe.
With Lloyd English and Myles English, every Friday. Fernwood Road Cafe. 6 to 8 p.m.
Sunyata.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Ange Hehr.
Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Aug 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Dukarm Recital.
Victoria-based musician performs an afternoon recital for piano and organ at All Saints. 2:30 p.m.
The Barley Bros.
Live music at The Local pub every Saturday afternoon. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Sunyata.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
The Coalition.
Salt Spring rock band live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Aug 29

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. Aug 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Afternoon Music in the Vines at SS Vineyards.
Sue Newman and Friends play live music. Salt Spring Vineyards. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (Note change from the usual time.)
Never Never Duo.
Live music at Mistaken Identity Vineyards. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Shane Hooper.
Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.
Kris Hansen.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Mada Eliza Dalian Workshop.
Discover an advanced light-speed system to heal the body and awaken consciousness with the Dalian Method. Beaver Point Hall. 1 to 5 p.m.

Tues. Sept 1

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market.
Every Tuesday through October at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.
Community Potluck for Valdy's 70th Birthday.
A toast, roast & musical love-in to honour Valdemar Horsdal. Fulford Hall from 5 p.m. and toasts, stories, etc. at 6:30 p.m. Music program with Valdy and invited friends from 7:45 p.m.

Wed. Sept 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music & Munch.
Harry Warner and friends present a musical tour of Ireland. All Saints By-the-Sea. 12:10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bill Brownridge Author Reading.
A reading and art talk by Bill Brownridge, author of four Canadian classic children's books including The Moccasin Goalie and Tracking the Iron Horse. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 5 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.

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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.
- Mr. Holmes** — Stars Ian McKellen as an aged, retired Sherlock Holmes looking back on his life and grappling with an unsolved case involving a beautiful woman.

EXHIBITIONS

- The 15th annual Photosynthesis** show of work by 20 photographers opens at ArtSpring with a reception on Wednesday, Aug. 26 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The show then runs daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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.
- ArtCraft's final Showcase** of the summer features paintings by **Sharon Simonds Chia** and fine ceramics by **Kasumi Lampitoc**. It runs daily — along with the Salt Spring Arts Council's ArtCraft show and sale — at **Mahon Hall** until Sept. 20.

Mon. Aug 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vaughn Fulford.
Live music at Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

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

- A show of new work by painter **Patricia Murphy MacDonald** runs daily at **Pod Contemporary Gallery** through 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.
- 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.

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WRITING

Zsuzsi Gartner leads writing workshop

Register now for fall event

Beginning and emerging writers will have the opportunity to sharpen their fiction skills with The Writer's Toolbox, an intensive two-day workshop with Zsuzsi Gartner coming to Salt Spring on Sept. 26 and 27.

Gartner is the author of the acclaimed story collection *All the Anxious Girls on Earth*, editor of the bestselling *Darwin's Bastards: Astounding Tales From Tomorrow*, and the former editor of *Vancouver Review*. Her most recent collection, *Better Living Through Plastic Explosives*, was a *Globe & Mail* Best Book and a 2011 finalist for the *Scotia Bank Giller Prize*.

Gartner will lead workshop participants in exploring some of contemporary fiction's seemingly endless possibilities.

"The emphasis will be on the vital mechanics (including point of view, time-frame/tense choices, successful



Zsuzsi Gartner visits Salt Spring in late September.

beginnings and endings, and narrative momentum, as well as the more elusive, but all-important, issue of voice), right down to the genetic level — the paragraph, the sentence and the word," she explains in press material. "We will look hard at how to put language at the service of your stories, and how to make your stories worthy of all that language allows us."

The workshop will include writing exercises, with the opportunity to have others comment on the work, and a chance to do a substantial revision of a short piece. In addition to fiction writing, elements of the workshop are applicable to creative non-fiction and memoir.

Gartner taught MFA students for eight years at UBC, and has mentored numerous fiction and nonfiction writers through the Banff Centre's various writing programs, including Giller Prize finalist Sarah Selecky, Governor General's Award nominee Charlotte Gill and Journey Prize winner Miranda Hill.

The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel's Crofton Room on Saturday, Sept. 26 and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Registration closes on Sept. 14. To register and for payment details contact Sid Filkow at sidfilkow@yahoo.ca or 250-537-1289.

POETRY

Visitor sparkles up poetry season

Kevin Spenst at library on Sept. 3



Poet Kevin Spenst

The first Poetry Open Mic of a new season at the Salt Spring Public Library features visiting poet Kevin Spenst.

On Thursday, Sept. 3, Lower Mainland writer Spenst will read from *Jabbering with Bing Bong*, his debut collection of poetry.

"Jabbering with Bing Bong interrogates memory and makes its way into the urban energies of Vancouver,"

explains a press release. "Language is at play with sit-com sonnets and soundscapes of noise; videogame goombas and an Old-Testament God; teenage longing within the power chords of heavy metal; and the com-

plicated loss of a father to schizophrenia. Jabbering with Bing Bong chronicles the heartbreaking and slapstick pursuit of truth in the realms of religion, mental health and poetic form itself."

Sign-up for the open mic begins at 6:45 p.m. on a first-come, first-on-the-list basis, and runs from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Readers are allowed to present one poem only.

Spenst will then read beginning at 7:30 p.m.

His visit is part of 50-stop tour of B.C. that began in

April.

Spenst's poetry has appeared in over a dozen Canadian literary publications and also been published in the U.K., U.S., Austria and India.

In April and May of 2014 Spenst did a 100-venue reading tour of Canada in support of small poetry presses with his chapbooks *Pray Goodbye* (the Alfred Gustav Press, 2013), *Retractable* (the serif of nottingham, 2013) and *Happy Hollow and the Surrey Suite* (self-published).

FINE ART

Venter figures float at San Juan gallery

Immersion Series opens Friday night

Salt Spring artist Kathy Venter has taken six of her life-size terracotta sculptures to San Juan Island for a new Immersion Series exhibit.

Venter's show opens this Friday, Aug. 28 with a special event from 5 to 8 p.m. at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art on San Juan Island in

Washington state. "Her internationally known, full-sized sculptures evoke ancient times and challenge our notion of figurative traditions," states press material. "Venter's figures are suspended in space as if floating underwater."

Venter's series will be in the Atrium Gallery on Spring Street in Friday Harbour until Dec. 14. Gallery hours through September are Thursday through Monday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

They're reduced in the months of October, November and December to 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday.

Venter will also give a talk about the process and technical challenges of making life-sized sculptures at the San Juan Community Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

The exhibition and presentations are sponsored by The Lester M. and Bernice Smith Foundation.

MUSIC & MUNCH

Warner promises Irish tour at M&M recital

Songs, sing-along, poetry and more

Irish-born and long-time Salt Spring resident Harry Warner will sing and play at Music and Munch on Wednesday, Sept. 2 at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church.

Accompanied by one or more friends, Warner will present a program titled *A Tour of Ireland* — a song, poetry and speaking trip around the Emerald Isle.

Warner plays a variety of stringed instruments to accompany his tenor voice and will, no doubt, tell a

few yarns about his musical career, which started on Salt Spring 25 years ago with the band *Spanner* in the Works and later, the *Black Velvet Band*.

A few popular, sing-along songs will be included in the short concert, which 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.

While the music is free, donations are always accepted for the Music Makers group.

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people&community

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

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



DOLLS

New Maplelea Girls doll has Salt Spring Island roots

Charlea Woodhouse makes her debut on Aug. 28, thanks to island woman

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An eco-conscious, kayak enthusiast with a pet goat and Salt Spring roots is the latest in a series of new dolls created by a major national manufacturer to inspire young and old alike.

Following weeks of online anticipation, the Ontario-based Avonlea Traditions doll company launched a B.C.-themed doll Friday, and there may be no one more excited by the unveiling than Salt Spring's Usha Rautenbach.

Rautenbach's imagination took flight when, several years ago, she learned of the company's campaign to release one doll for each of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Unlike more generic doll manufacturers, Rautenbach said,



Usha Rautenbach with Saila (holding the Salt Spring flag), Maplelea's Nunavut doll, and Rena, a Maplelea Friends doll, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Charlea, a doll that will hail from Salt Spring Island.

the company's Maplelea Girls series is all about highlighting the country's distinct regions, empowering youngsters and promoting pride in being Canadian.

"Canadian girls. Real adventures. True friends," reads an excerpt from the company's website.

After she'd sent an email to the company's founder and CEO, Rautenbach was thrilled to hear that Katryn Morton agreed to visit the island during

a trip to draw inspiration for the company's new West Coast doll.

"It was just one of those things that someone does when one is supposed to be doing something else," Rautenbach said of her decision to send the email.

Morton visited Rautenbach's Blackburn Road home, listened to some suggestions, visited island kids at local schools and took in some of the island's sights.

Three years later, Rautenbach is thrilled to discover the company's seventh Maplelea Girls doll hails from Salt Spring. Clues to the doll's origins posted on Facebook earlier in August include images of Mount Maxwell, a BC Ferries vessel, a farm stand and some pet goats. The hints elicited dozens of responses from doll enthusiasts across Canada who guessed locations between Victoria and Haida Gwaii.

A sneak peek of Charlea

Woodhouse's "quirky, crafty and colourful" outfits was posted to the Maplelea Facebook site on Aug. 21. The brightly coloured collection includes such island essentials as rugged waterproof footwear and a hooded rain jacket.

Rautenbach is thrilled to see the Salt Spring doll hit the market, but said many of the suggestions she dreamed up years ago don't appear to have made the final cut, although more details about Charlea are emerging every day.

In keeping with the creative spirit of the doll's hometown, Rautenbach has challenged island craftspeople to begin work on island-inspired accessories for the doll. She envisions teeny-tiny Cowichan sweaters and fist-sized farm stands. Since each doll in the Maplelea Girls series is accompanied by a storybook that provides background about the doll, Rautenbach said the contributions need not be limited to physical accessories.

Rautenbach wants to someday host a gathering of all the island-inspired dolls and accessories to celebrate Salt Spring's incredible coup.

"This is absolutely astonishing to me that one ordinary citizen, in fact an old lady, can have such an effect on a really big corporation," she said.

More information about the doll will be available on Friday, Aug. 28 at maplelea.com. For further information about Rautenbach's call for accessories, call 250-537-2883 or email usha@saltspring.com.

"This is absolutely astonishing to me that one ordinary citizen, in fact an old lady, can have such an effect on a really big corporation."

USHA RAUTENBACH
Doll collector



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

North Salt Spring Waterworks District is seeking proposals from qualified consultants to provide services as outlined in the RFP:

Lakeshore Property Owner's Liaison, Consultation and Remediation Design

The purpose of this RFP is to determine the best overall proposal to landowners in order for the District to reach agreement on compensation, whether financial or by lakeshore remediation, with all lakeshore owners, while meeting all legislative and regulatory requirements, and ultimately allowing the District to complete the required work of raising the Duck Creek weir to 41.0m asl.

The RFP is available for download on the Job Postings & RFPs page on the District's website.

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

PRIDE 2015

Pride parade planning gets rolling

Registration open for Sept. 12 event

Groups and individuals who wish to help celebrate Salt Spring's 2015 Pride Parade are invited to put their thinking caps on and come up with some new ideas for the Saturday, Sept. 12 celebration.

Taking up the 2015 theme of "Pride and Joy," organizers from Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island are looking forward to a fun GLBTQ community event that highlights diversity and inclusion.

The parade will begin at 1:15 p.m., with a party to follow in the Heiwa Peace Park, featuring danceable grooves with Ange Hehr. This year the always popular event could have an even bigger population, with special Gulf Islands Water Taxi service bringing people from the outer Gulf Islands to Ganges on parade morning.

Since Salt Springers are environmentally conscious, GLOSSI has a policy of no motorized floats in the parade. This year there will be a trophy for the best people-powered float.

"Your float can be

pushed, pulled, carried, or rolled on wheels — just no motors to move it," said parade coordinator Lisa Dahling. "Please consider the theme of Pride and Joy. Maybe you can include some Salt Spring elements, but be sure to have lots of colour, and music if you can."

There will also be a silly trophy for best group themed costume.

Thanks to the financial support of local businesses, there is no fee to be in the parade. Participating businesses can be identified by the rainbow Pride supporter certificates that will be on display.

Parade participants will muster on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Mahon Hall staging area starting at 12:15 p.m.

To register a group, call 250-537-2510 or write Lisa at coastaldahling@gmail.com with the group's name, email and phone contact information, expected numbers and details of the float or banner, including whether there will be music. Individuals who want to join the walk do not need to pre-register.

For more information on Pride events, visit Salt Spring Pride on Facebook.

SENIORS SERVICES

Seniors Centre activities heating up



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN
Lost Chords senior choir rehearses at Salt Spring Seniors Centre earlier this year. Practice resumes on Sept. 15. It's just one of several activities taking place at the centre on Lower Ganges Road.

The following is the first of a monthly column on Salt Spring Seniors Centre activities and issues.

With the assistance of Thrifty Foods, the Salt Spring Seniors Centre has initiated a new project for our members: a 2-Toonie Soup 'n Sandwich on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. It all starts on Monday, Sept. 14, then the 28th, and each month after that. Membership is always by donation. Book in advance by calling the centre at 250-537-4604. Regular Thursday lunches start again on Oct. 8.

Seniors Active Learning resumes on Monday, Sept. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Share your love of learning at this exploratory meeting to determine the subjects for discussion every Monday in the new season. One suggestion is that we explore the world of mythology this fall. Myths give us insight into the worlds we create for ourselves, and they can help us to understand the worlds of meaning created in societies very different from our own. Come and let's explore this fascinating

topic together.

- **Speakers Series:** This autumn we are starting a new series of occasional guest speakers who are thought-provoking, entertaining and informative. Do you have a suggestion about what talented Salt Spring locals we could invite to share the podium? If so, please contact David at countsd@shaw.ca. Look for more announcements and posters as this series begins.

- **Get some music in your life!** The Lost Chords, Salt Spring's award-winning seniors choir, will start practice again on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 10:30 a.m. All voices welcome!

- **The Blood Pressure clinic** resumes on Monday, Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. Our caring and qualified nurses will help you stay on track with this essential service.

- **Raffle tickets** for the beautiful six-burner barbecue are going fast! Get them until Sept. 20 when the draw will be made at the Fall Fair at the Volunteer and Community Resources booth at 2 p.m. Just \$2 per ticket. Help us raise money for audiovisual equipment for our new Speakers

Series, starting soon.

- **Just a reminder:** the B.C. Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie, will be at Lions Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. It's your chance to add your voice to those questioning the controversial seniors driver's test requirements or other concerns. We hope to see you all there!

- **National Seniors Day** is on Thursday, Oct. 1. Lois says: "You know you're getting older when your baby is a grandmother." When did you know you were getting older? Come to Coffee and Conversation on Thursday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and celebrate National Seniors Day with your senior stories.

- **Volunteers needed:** A retired art teacher or part-time guide for seniors wanting to know more about painting; two retired nurses to join our blood pressure clinic team; two or more driver dispatchers to take requests and find drives for seniors in need of transportation to doctors' offices off and on-island.

We're having so much fun here at 379 Lower Ganges Rd.; come share the caring at Seniors.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Hedgehogs part of Isabelle tribute night

Rain dances contemplated for future games

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

"Into each life some rain must fall," sang Ella Fitzgerald among others, but the local weather gods aren't listening, it seems. Perhaps we need to don feathers and wear turquoise (or other blue items) as the Zuni do in their rain dance to encourage wind and downpours, but in the meantime we just dance along to Monday night bridge maybe singing "How dry I am" on the way.

There were seven full tables on Aug. 10, resulting in a

BRIDGETRICKS

Mitchell movement and separate results for North-South and East-West players. Topping the N-S group were Liz and Oleh Mycyk, with George Laundry and Paul Retallack as runners-up. Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas were third. As for the E-W crowd, it was Al Wilke and Nadene McCoy who earned first place, with Glenda Kaiser and Terry Wilkinson coming second and Vic Parks with Peter Robinson in the third spot.

Aug. 17 was a special evening in honour of the late Isabelle Richardson who regrettably left this life in July 2013 but left a legacy of admiration in many

areas. She was the club's certified bridge director for 30 years with wit and wisdom as well as someone who played a spirited game with a sense of fun, but she was also active with the CNIB and Salt Spring can thank her for many civic improvements, including the sidewalk along Lower Ganges Road.

Her favourite indulgence was those delectable chocolate hedgehogs, so on that evening there were boxes of them for draw prizes as well as a couple of bottles of wine for lucky winners. George Laundry presided and gave a few remembrances of her personality, and her long-time bridge partner Jean Elder drew the first winning ticket, won by Gladys Campbell.

There were six and a half tables that evening and again a Mitchell movement. N-S winners were again the Mycyks, with the Laundry-Retallack pair repeating their second placement, but this time the third spot went to Nick Beringer and Patricia Sutherland.

E-W suffered from a lack of good cards, but it was Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette who made the best of them. Second were Gisela Welsh and Gillian Mouat, with the Taylor-Thomas twosome coming third.

For info about these games please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastoral@shaw.ca. And please do a rain dance!

here's my card

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NEW LOCATION: 346 Lower Ganges Rd. (next to Dagwoods)

Bring your berries, plums or fruit and make your own wine, port or cider! Beer and wine kits available too.

Drop in or call June 250-537-1429

LOCAL FOOD

B.C.-wide contest seeks favourite local food producers

Nominations sought for We Heart Local Awards

The third annual We Heart Local Awards event is now underway, and Gulf Islands residents are encouraged to get on board by nominating their favourite local food and drink producers and retailers.

This B.C.-wide people's choice awards competition last year received close to 350 nominees, attracting almost 40,000 votes, across 15 categories.

Anyone in B.C. can participate by nominating or voting for a "favourite."

We Heart Local is a not-for-profit community forum that aims to promote and bring together B.C.'s local food products, growers and producers. The We Heart Local Awards is an initiative of the B.C. Agriculture Council and the B.C. Dairy Association, along with numerous passionate food groups and enthusiasts who want to encourage people across B.C. to buy and eat locally.

The awards program gives people in



B.C. a valuable platform to spread the word about the local products and food businesses they love.

"From farm to table, it takes an entire community to grow local agriculture," said Lorne Hunter, board director of the B.C. Agriculture Council. "The We Heart Local Awards is a celebration to recognize the people and businesses who are championing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of B.C. agriculture."

How the Contest Works

Nominations are open from Aug. 17 to Sept. 6. Anyone living in B.C. can nominate one or more of their B.C. favourites in 15 categories. Visit www.weheartlocalawards.ca to get started.

Voting is open from Monday, Sept. 7 through Monday, Sept. 14.

Incentives to nominate and vote

Nominating and voting for your local B.C. favourites automatically enters you for a chance to win one of the weekly draws: one of five \$100 gift cards to your local B.C. VQA store.

You will also be entered in the grand prize draw for a luxurious three-night stay for two at Taku Resort and Marina, along with your choice of a cooking course, valued at \$1,800.

This prize also includes a \$300 gift card for BC Ferries to cover the cost of ferry transportation to Quadra Island.

The grand prize winner will be drawn on Sept. 15.

Fifteen Categories

- Favourite Farmers' Market
- Favourite Store to Buy Local
- Favourite Local Meat or Poultry Supplier
- Favourite Local Seafood Supplier
- Favourite Local Cheese Maker
- Favourite Local Sweet Treat
- Favourite Local Advocate
- Favourite Local Winery
- Favourite Local Brewery
- Favourite Local Food Truck
- Favourite Local U-Pick Farm
- Favourite Local Orchard/Fruit Supplier
- Favourite Local Chef or Restaurant/Cafe
- Favourite Local Florist or Nursery
- Favourite Local Greenhouse/Veggie Grower

Find We Heart Local

The awards program is reachable in various ways online:

- www.weheartlocalawards.ca
- Twitter + Instagram: @weheartlocalbc
- www.facebook.com/weheartlocalbc
- www.pinterest.com/weheartlocalbc

TRAIL & NATURE

Trail and Nature Club sets annual pace in September

Blackferry festival kicks off new year

Blackberry Festival

The 2015-2016 hiking season begins with the Blackberry Festival at Ruckle Park. Bring your favourite blackberry dish to share and a dish and spoon! Short outings will be scheduled prior to the festival. The location within Ruckle Park is not confirmed, and will be posted on the club website.

Hikers

Sept. 15: A short hike in Ruckle Park before the Blackberry Festival. Leave ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at the

campground parking lot in Ruckle Park at 10 a.m.

Sept. 22: Hike some Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve trails with Jean Attop. Moderate uphill hiking before lunch; downhill after lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. Carry on from Drummond Park to the end of Maxham Road to meet leader Jean.

Sept. 29: Dave and Gale Buffett will lead a moderately strenuous hike up Mount Maxwell from Seymour Heights. Lunch at the look-out and return by Armand Way about 2:30 to 3 p.m. Leave ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or meet at the corner of Drake Road and Fulford-Ganges Road at 10 a.m.

Walkers

Sept. 15: A short walk around Ruckle Park before the Blackberry Festival. Meet to carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the lower parking lot at 10:20 a.m.

Sept. 22: Doreen Fenton will lead a short walk with some strenuous bits up Mount Erskine. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool, or at the cul de sac at the top of Juniper Place (Trustees Trail on the map) at 10:15 a.m.

Sept. 29: Bryan Adderley will lead a walk on the Cable Bay Trail, south of Nanaimo, lunching at the Crow and Gate. Leave Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. to carpool on the 9:15 a.m. Vesuvius

ferry. We will probably return on the 3:35 p.m. ferry from Crofton.

Ramblers

Sept. 15: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. to carpool to Ruckle Park. We will ramble in the park before the Blackberry Festival.

Sept. 22: Maureen and Sterling will lead a ramble to Churchill Beach. Bring a lunch. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. for carpooling.

Sept. 29: Marilyn Harding will lead a ramble to Chemainus Lake, then to Chemainus for lunch and a walk around town. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:45 a.m. to carpool

on the 9:15 a.m. ferry. We will probably return on the 2:30 p.m. ferry.

Membership

It's time to renew your Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club membership.

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or Nieké Visser (president) at 250-537-5443, or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

Visit our website at www.saltspringtnc.ca for forms and information about the club.

expert ADVICE 250-537-9933 OR SALES@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

Mechanic

Here's hoping our good weather continues.

We are still enjoying excellent summer weather so lets not talk about the coming change.

The hot dry weather takes its toll on tires, brakes and drive train components.

If you are noticing unusual hot smells or spots of fluid under your vehicle have it checked as soon as possible.

Strange noises when braking or turning could indicate a problem or may be just an accumulation of dust.

The hours of daylight are changing and now is a good time to check all your lights to be sure you are visible in low light hours.

A check by the practiced eye and ear of a professional technician can catch developing problems before they become costly breakdowns.

Stay on top of your maintenance to prevent costly repairs. Drive Safe, Gyle



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Real Estate

House Inspections

Once a contract to purchase is accepted and "subject conditions" are in place, the buyer will require inspections that typically include a house inspection, checking boundary lines, electrical or pest inspection (if necessary) and having the septic field examined with a camera. Confirmation that the woodstoves and fireplaces comply with today's requirements for insurance as well as satisfactory water test results are often requirements for obtaining financing. Many buyers also review the status of building permits and title documentation with their lawyer and may need to confirm that their intended use of the property complies with zoning bylaws. If significant issues arise during the inspection process it may be possible negotiate a selling price adjustment or require that the problem be corrected in order to facilitate successful completion of the sale.

As a Buyer or Seller ask your realtor to guide you through the inspection process.



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CELEBRATIONS

COMMUNITY POTLUCK
Valdy's 70th
Tuesday, Sept. 1st, Fulford Hall 5pm
Dress: Southend Groovey!

IN MEMORIAM

RYAN BURCH
June 29, 1972 - August 26, 2013
Someone I love has gone away
And life is not the same
The greatest gift that you can give
Is just to speak his name
I need to hear the stories
And the tales of days gone past
I need for you to understand
These memories must last
We cannot make more memories
Since he's no longer here
So when you speak of him to me
It's music to my ear
Forever in our hearts
Love Chelsea, Isaac, Garrett,
Mackenzie and Heidi

INFORMATION

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IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF Alice McMahon
Apr. 5, 1922 - Aug. 27, 2013
If roses grow in heaven lord, please pick a bunch for me, and place them in my mother's arms and tell her they're from me. Tell her I love and miss her, and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile. Because remembering her is easy, I do it every day, but there's an ache within my heart that will never go away. Love you always mom.
Your loving daughter
Maggie and family

RYAN GEOFFREY BURCH

June 29, 1972 - August 26, 2013
If we could have one lifetime wish, one dream that could come true, we'd ask with all our hearts, for yesterday with you.
Always loved, forever missed.
Mom, Suzanne, Andrew, Austin and Colton

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND - FOB for Chrysler/Dodge inside a black leather bag left at Thrift Store. Claim at the Driftwood.

FOUND - SET OF KEYS left in a bag of Thrift Store donations (none of them are car keys). Claim at the Driftwood.

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

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
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TIP OF THE WEEK:

A series of key conjunctions are in the spotlight this week. On August 26 Jupiter and the Sun formed their annual conjunction. On August 28 Mercury conjunct the Lunar North Node and on August 31st Venus retrograde will conjunct Mars. Conjunctions mark the beginning of a new cycle between any two planets. When the Sun and Moon are conjunct it is New Moon and is also when a Solar Eclipse can occur. This rhythmic, cyclic dance this pair shares, the 'luminaries', constitute the archetypal foundation for all cycles in Astrology. Sometimes a cycle is shorter than it might be otherwise and this occurs when one or both planets are retrograde. In other words, Venus having turned direct again on September 6th will finally catch-up to Mars on November 2nd. But the more important story is the fact that over the course of 2015 Venus and Mars conjunct 3 times. This has not occurred since 1985. And the last time they even formed a conjunction prior to 2015 was April 7, 2013. Studies have shown that in a Venus / Mars triple conjunction year many more relationships seem to end, many begin and many existing ones deepen. Yet, this remains a general theme because the real story is revealed in one's own actual Birth Chart and in the charts produced by our relationships. As it is, Venus and Mars together tend to be hot and this tends to be especially true while in Leo, the sign ruled by the Sun, and the sign which governs the playful side of sexuality. With Venus retrograde conjunct Mars, the sensual and sexual arousal factor will be extra high. The mating game is on but long-term commitments may not be at the forefront of everyone's aspirations.

READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20) Balancing work and play and is an ongoing challenge and this may prove especially true this week. Especially in the love department the desire to engage in meaningful exchanges is running high. Love, passion, fairness, equality and the politics of all of the above are center stage. Whether as a consequence of this focus or based on an inspirational push for it improving, your health is featured.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21) You are in a sporting mood. Describing it as simply playful, however, may not suffice. You are eager to dig deep, to reach for levels beyond your usual scope. Although determined to play fair, your focus is sharp and may even have an added edge. In simple terms, you are determined to get to the heart of the matter. This is where the line between work and play blurs.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Your confidence levels should be on a steady rise. Along with them, so too are your passions gaining altitude. It has perhaps been a while but dormant desires are re-awakening. You may have to contend with some lingering health concerns but there too you likely have reason to feel optimistic. As well, returns for efforts in the past, even one's you forgot, are filling your sails.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) While feeling good is a no brainer, the desire for it has suddenly spiked. Deciphering between what you feel you truly need and want is up for you. As if suddenly, you may feel a little overwhelmed with what constitutes your best choices. You may reason that you cannot afford to 'not' buy the best. One thing seems clear: you especially want big returns on your efforts and investments at this time.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23) You are in an ambitious mood. It has been steadily rising and is now shifting to the next higher gear. But this is where the real work begins. The inspiration, enthusiasm and excitement were a great start but now the game is on and in full force. Your main task now is to break through your fears. Ironically, we can be as afraid of success as of failure. Think less and act more to build a promising momentum.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) Working both within and without might characterize your current process. Some might simply call it double time. This is an expansive time for you and one during which you just might advance to the next level or two, or three. Well, each one takes time but that is what Jupiter in your sign is all about. But don't expect anyone else to do it for you. Get inventive for best results.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22) A period of fun and frolic, yet perhaps also with some heavier drama too continues. Yet now you are a little less inclined to stir things up. Circumstances are pushing you to seek retreat, rest and perhaps solace behind the scenes. Still, you remain willing to express your thoughts with anyone you deem able to actually engage in sincere conversation.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21) You have begun to show more of your true colors. Some may be surprised at just how intellectual you can be and psychologically perceptive as well. At least some of your communications, however, are reserved for your own inner council. Deciphering which tools and methods you require and which you are wise to set aside, at least for now, is a core theme.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21) You have arrived at an interesting turn. On one hand, you feel enthusiastic to expand your scope and influence. Yet, calculated risks will work better than cavalier leaps, which might otherwise work at different turns. In the very short term the challenge remains to clear the old to make way for the new, still. Very soon now the impulse to take deliberate action will be triggered. Get ready.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19) Your wings are stretched and you are in full flight. Some complex situations continue to rumble on the ground below, however. These will continue for a couple of weeks anyway, so heads up. They are linked to love, romance and affection, on one hand, and to money, power and control, on the other. Expressions of mutual respect, where actions speak louder than words, is the key.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19) You have entered a time of returns. These stand to be especially evident now and over the coming weeks but in some respects for months to come. Contending with a bit of turbulence on relationship fronts however, or coming from a significant other, is part of the plot for now. But this will not last and the storm clouds they may produce will be spliced with and followed by rainbows.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) An expansive cycle has begun. Yet, as for many, the influences of Venus Retrograde continue to weave a complex plot. You are among those who may feel especially challenged by it. There is a way out however. The key is to exercise gratitude as fully as you can and, as well, your ability to enjoy other people's success. Such wisdom is categorized as timeless.

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

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



HORSE RACING

Race world honours Salt Spring jockey Joan Phipps

Local resident offers inspiration

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Joan Phipps knew horse racing was her thing as soon as she'd saddled up a thoroughbred in the early 1970s.

"It was like love at first sight," Phipps told reporters in the lead-up to an Aug. 15 ceremony to mark Phipps' remarkable achievement at Marquis Downs in Saskatoon. "I knew then that it was something I wanted to do."

The former resident of Saskatchewan may have relocated to Salt Spring but the connection to the horse racing community in her home province remains strong. Phipps began riding when she was barely eight years old.

Although her family didn't own any horses, Phipps took on jobs around the Exhibition Grounds in Saskatoon and rode whenever she could. By the time she reached

Grade 10, Phipps joined the rodeo circuit. It wasn't long after a close friend offered her a chance to ride a thoroughbred that Phipps clearly saw the natural next step in her progression. She learned to gallop and was soon eyeing a spot in the gates alongside professional horse jockeys.

But life on the track was nothing like what it's become today. All of those jockeys Phipps wanted to compete against were men, and Phipps recounts strong resentment from male riders from the outset.

Phipps said male jockeys refused to speak to her, relegating her to a lonely rise in the ranks. She was forced to travel to New Zealand to compete in her first official race in 1972.

The aspiring jockey rose quickly but faced numerous injuries in the rough world of horse racing. Following years of overcoming discrimination's emotional toll, it was a series of physical injuries that led to Phipps' retirement from the

horse racing world in 1982.

To this day, Phipps swears that a good jockey is defined by a rider's ability to tune in and gauge a horse's feelings and nothing to do with gender.

The Aug. 15 celebration in Saskatoon marks the accomplishment of an incredible Canadian sporting pioneer and offers thanks to the woman who set the scene for generations of young female horse riders to follow.

Work is underway on a book that recounts Phipps' often rocky journey from being a youngster in the stalls to working as a pro jockey.

"Joan Phipps blazed a trail for women jockeys the world over through her tenacity, spunk, drive and pure talent," reads an entry on the Joan Phipps Story Facebook site. "Her compassion for animals and the underdogs of the world have made her, both in and out of the thoroughbred racing industry, a Canadian hero."



Joan Phipps, third from left, at a ceremony at Marquis Downs in Saskatoon on Aug. 15. The Salt Spring resident was honoured for her contributions to the sport of horse racing for women in Canada and around the world.



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YOUTH TENNIS

Tennis thrives at rookie event

Tourney draws 26 players

Twenty-six talented junior tennis players participated in the 8th annual Rogers Rookie Junior Tennis Event at Portlock Park on Saturday.

Nine volunteers and more than 80 family members watched the action in five events.

Tournament

director and tennis coach Marianne Banman was pleased with the high quality level of play.

"Each year, since the first Salt Spring Island Rookie Event back in 2007, the participation numbers increase and player skill level improves exponentially. This is a direct result of the progressive tennis teaching technique used by Salt Spring Island tennis coaches, the

year-long availability of junior tennis camps, lessons and clinics, and the tremendous community support."

Banman says she believes that parents see the direct benefits that tennis has on their child's overall development.

"Tennis is not just about the fitness, skill and game strategy and play. While that is important, the process also develops self-confidence, encourages strong

vocal skills, instills honesty and integrity, and provides the opportunity for social interaction."

Banman congratulated all tournament participants and U8, U10, U12, U14 event winners: Ronan Wardroper (Salt Spring), Sam Barrett (Salt Spring), Rebia Bartrim (Salt Spring), Eve Parry (Salt Spring/Vancouver) and Valeria Hinigosa-Garcia (Victoria).

SWIMMING

Stingrays strong at provincials

Sisaye Patterson wins bronze medal

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Stingrays netted some impressive results in a pool of the province's best young swimmers last week at Commonwealth Place in Saanich.

Sisaye Patterson brought home a bronze medal for his part in the Division 1 boys

200-metre medley regional relay. Patterson and his Salt Spring teammates Wyatt McMaster, Michael Paterson and Keegan Otsubo-Papp finished eighth in the Division 1 200-m medley relay.

Shane Webster nabbed a fourth-place finish in the girls Division 6 200 medley regional relay and finished 10th in the 100-m backstroke.

Mac Flett placed fourth in the Division 4 200-m regional relay and finished seventh in

the 100-m breaststroke.

Andrew Sinclair, Brandon Bronson, Nigel Bisnar and Aaryn Funk teamed up to claim sixth place in the Division 8 200-m medley relay. Bronson also finished sixth in the 100-m backstroke.

The 2015 BCSSA provincials featured a week of swimming, water polo, diving and synchronized swimming events. Fifteen Stingrays represented Salt Spring at the competition.

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