

GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

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AGRICULTURE

Canine wreaks havoc

CRD officer kills dog after livestock rampage

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A dog on the loose tore through the usually bucolic Burgoyne Valley last week, prompting a Capital Regional District animal control officer to subdue the animal with lethal force.

"The last thing I want to do is dispatch the dog, but there was no way of stopping it. He would have kept on killing," said CRD employee Wolfgang Brunnwieser. "When they're in a frenzy you cannot stop them; the only thing that stops them is a bullet."

When the chaos abated at Jan Steinman's EcoReality Farm late Tuesday afternoon, the death toll had reached three ducks, three goats and seven chickens. Another goat, a prized Lamancha milker, is recovering from severe injuries.

"The vet said it was the first time they'd ever seen a tracheotomy on a goat," Steinman said.

Steinman was on his way home from work as a substitute librarian at the Salt Spring Island Middle School when he spotted a CRD vehicle in his driveway on Fulford-Ganges Road. He soon noticed his goats huddled in a tight circle, facing outwards in a defensive position.

"I got there as everything happened," he said.

Within moments of his arrival, Steinman recalls the animal control officer drawing his rifle.

"I think I counted five shots," he said. "I'm still kind of shellshocked."

Steinman later learned he was the second farmer whose animals had been attacked that afternoon. Moments before the mayhem at EcoReality erupted, manager Sharon Shewchuk said the same dog killed at least 18 chickens at nearby Night Owl Farm.

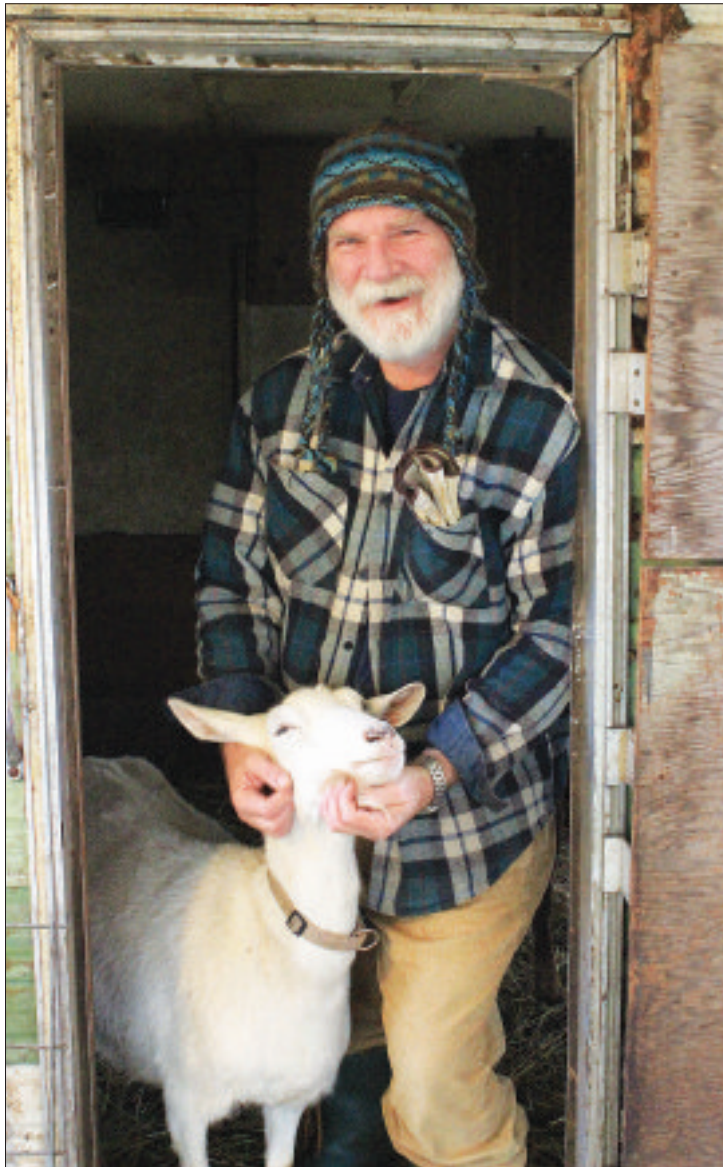


PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Jan Steinman of EcoReality Farm with Comet, one of the goats not harmed by a dog that killed ducks, chickens and goats in the Burgoyne Valley on Dec. 1.

REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Plans to host Syrian refugees unfold

Strong community support shown to date

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A community that prides itself for celebrating diversity will hopefully have another element to strengthen the mix if applications to support six Syrian nationals are successful.

That success depends mainly on the ability to navigate visa application forms and gain eventual government approval. When it comes to finding the necessary funds and other resources, islanders have proved to have very big hearts. The Salt Spring Refugee Sponsorship Action Group, an ad hoc body that bridges several local organizations, is congratulating the community for an incredible response, with over 80 islanders committing time, skills and funds to the project so far.

"It's far beyond our expectations," said Mary Toynbee, a spokesperson for the group.

Anne Marshall agreed. "We want to celebrate this tremendous response and outpouring from Salt Spring."

Marshall and Toynbee have been part of the effort from its beginning, as members of the Salt Spring Unitarian Fellowship. The small congregation had enthusiastically accepted a proposal from its social justice committee to sponsor at least one family.

"In view of the obvious fact they could not do it by themselves, the committee members approached other religious leaders on the island to see what they were doing," Toynbee said.

SYRIANS continued on 3

LIVESTOCK continued on 5

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INDEX

Arts.....	10	People & Community.....	15
Classifieds.....	18	Sports & Recreation.....	20
Editorial.....	6	What's On.....	12
Letters.....	7		

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HARBOUR AUTHORITY

Harbour Authority AGM upsets members

Candidate questions process

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Allegations of secret meetings, locked doors and poor transparency have encouraged a growing number of Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island members to question the organization's leadership and call for changes.

"It would be in their interest to have more organizational accountability," said Bart Terwiel, who ran unsuccessfully to fill a board position at last week's AGM.

Terwiel said dominance of board members aligned with the island's small fishing community severely limit's the organization's ability to represent the interests of the group's approximately 135 members.

HASSI is run by an eight-member board. The organization's bylaw states that five of those members must belong to the Ganges Harbour Fisherman's Authority. The board's three other positions are reserved for representatives of commercial non-fishing vessel owners, the business community and a community service group.

Terwiel would like to see the fishers' grip on the organization loosened by adding two more community-based board positions. He said the broader perspective and deeper engagement with members could help HASSI improve the facilities under its control.

"I really support the Harbour Authority and really want to contribute," he said. "I think the fishermen have done an outstanding job with the harbour, but I've seen hundreds of opportunities, and we've got tremendous opportunities."

Terwiel has extensive sea-going experience, served as Salt Spring harbour master between 2003 and 2007, and has assisted the Victoria Harbour Authority as a transportation safety consultant.

As harbour master, Terwiel sought to work with businesses and local government to draft a Ganges Harbour Management plan. The document was envisioned to assess the harbour's significance from a commercial, recreational and environmental perspective. Since his departure from the harbour authority, efforts to complete the management plan have stalled.

Terwiel was defeated by incumbent board member Per Svendsen. Upon leaving the Tuesday evening meeting at the CRD office in Ganges, Terwiel was surprised to find the front door locked. No one can say for sure if the door was locked purposefully or whether it even affected the election, but Terwiel said it was just another example of HASSI's questionable track record.

He also took exception with the board's hopscotch approach to scheduling a special meeting at the CRD building and the AGM uptown at Meaden Hall on the same night.

HASSI has made headlines in recent years because of disputed land next to the Tree House Cafe in Ganges. HASSI board members have asked that the lane between the cafe and Harbour Building be kept clear to facilitate shoreline access for emergency personnel and harbour users. HASSI board members, Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff, representatives from the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District, and business owners continue to look for a way ahead.

According to information on the organization's website, HASSI is a not-for-profit corporation created in 1990. The group was formed to operate Salt Spring Island harbour facilities on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The organization oversees docks at Burgoyne Bay, Fulford Harbour, Centennial Wharf, Kanaka Wharf, the Ganges Coast Guard Dock, as well as Burgoyne Bay, Fulford Harbour, Musgrave Landing and Vesuvius Bay.

Membership to the group is "limited to persons interested in furthering the objects of the corporation." Prospective members must, according to the HASSI bylaws, be approved by the board. The bylaws limit public participation at HASSI meetings to "those entitled to vote at the meeting, the directors and the public accountant of the corporation . . ."

"Any other person may be admitted only on invitation of the chair of the meeting or by resolution of the members."

The Driftwood was refused access to last week's AGM.

Darryl Martin, a HASSI member who attended last week's AGM, said he was also unimpressed.

"I think the representation [on the HASSI board] is too narrow," he said.

Martin said it's unfair for five representatives of the fishing community to control millions of dollars worth of shoreline property.

"It means that that small group controls some valuable public infrastructure," he said.

New bylaws passed at last week's meeting outline procedures through which members receive meeting notifications and can obtain financial documents and meeting minutes.

HASSI chair Kathy Scarfo, a long-time HASSI board member, was unable to meet a Driftwood request for a comment by press-time on Tuesday.

HOUSING

Housing survey launched

Project will assess employee and employer need

in the updated version of the island's Housing Needs Assessment, due to be released in January 2016.

The Salt Spring Island Housing Council would like to know more about the impact of housing on employers and employees.

Island employers can find the Employer Workforce Housing Survey link at www.surveymonkey.com/r/RWQG27.

To achieve that goal, the organization has created a pair of short surveys.

For workers, the Employee Workforce Housing Survey link is www.surveymonkey.com/r/RWDSV95.

Information from the surveys will be compiled by housing consultant Janis Gauthier, with funding from Island Women Against Violence and the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

Surveys are open until Friday, Dec. 18. Business owners are asked to distribute the link to employees sooner rather than later to allow for as many responses as possible.

Results of the study will be included

Anyone with questions about the process can contact Kisa Petersen at housingcouncil@gmail.com.

Christmas Story Writing Contest

- Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.
- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.
- For more information, call 250-537-9933.

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 11th. Win a cash prize for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

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SCHOOL HISTORY

Film to capture Salt Spring school's diamond jubilee

Project preserves 75 years of history

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Students past and present flocked to the Salt Spring Elementary School's gymnasium in November to celebrate the school's 75th anniversary, but islanders can rest assured the festivities have only just begun.

Things got underway last month with a special Salt Spring Island Historical Society presentation, which featured a talk by former school principal Bob McWhirter, a slide show that featured the building's history and a stirring rendition of the school's anthem provided by its music class.

The assembly was part of ongoing events and projects held throughout the year to mark the school's diamond jubilee. Events will conclude in the spring with a formal opening of a new outdoor classroom, presentation of a mosaic made up of anniversary-themed paintings and the world premiere of a local film that traces the school's evolution.

"It's going to be a celebration with many aspects," said Jenny McClean, who set out to create the film earlier this year with filmmaker Shawn Stevens.

Three generations of McClean's family have graduated from SSE. Ste-

vens is a relative newcomer to the island with a son in Grade 1. The pair has spent the past several weeks filming staff and students from the school's past. What started as an imaginative spark has shifted to a larger documentary project the pair hopes to complete for the April festival.

"We just thought it was a good idea," McClean said. "It really blossomed into something much bigger than we originally planned, and it's become pretty amazing."

"We ended up getting a kind of snowball effect."

To say things have blossomed is an understatement. McClean and Stevens have already collected more than 15 hours of footage from islanders who want to share their stories about life at Salt Spring Elementary.

"We've had a lot of people take part so far, but being able to interview the original principal was an honour," Stevens said. "It's been pretty amazing."

The filmmakers have discovered that school life in the old days was much different from classroom life today. For starters, students were expected to bring in cords of wood and shovel snow when the need arose. Classrooms were crowded with students in multiple grades and missing the bus often meant a long walk home.



PHOTO BY SHAWN STEVENS

Jenny McClean, left, interviews Salt Spring Elementary alumnus Alan Cunningham for a documentary to mark the school's 75th anniversary.

Salt Spring's Bob Rush, who moved to the school in 1940, said the Salt Spring Consolidated School, as it was then called, gave students in grades one through 12 access to running water and electricity, frills that had been missing from Rush's former schoolhouse on Drake Road. He said the new building also cut classroom sizes from four grades per class to two.

"We had the strap, teachers taught handwriting, left-handed students were forced to switch over, and peo-

ple would occasionally fail from one grade to the other," Rush said. "That's the way it was."

Yet life wasn't all struggle and toil; students' shenanigans are believed to have been responsible for the mysterious appearance of the "Ganges Liquor Store" sign above the school's main entrance one morning and travellers to the outer islands often fell victim to off-island students who surreptitiously switched the salt and sugar dispensers.

"There's so many experiences in

there," McClean said. "Everybody used to go there so students got the chance to see everybody. It was a very energetic place."

McClean, who started kindergarten at the school in 1974, was part of the school's inaugural French immersion class, one of the first such programs in the country.

"The school has had lots of innovations connected to it," she said.

McClean and Stevens will provide the film and all their raw footage to the Salt Spring Archives.

Everyone involved said it's great to know the memories of Salt Spring's most storied educational facility will be preserved into the future.

"I do this as a passion. I have the skill set and the equipment," Stevens said. "If the end result can be used that's great. Right now it's about gathering stories, giving back and contributing to the school."

The team continues to interview anyone with a new take on life at Salt Spring Elementary or the Salt Spring Consolidated School.

The filmmakers have also put out a special request for anyone who can offer assistance with background music and scoring for the video.

For more information about the project, contact McClean at orange.jenny@hotmail.com or 250-931-8993.

Fundraising efforts continue to meet sponsorship goals

SYRIANS

continued from 1

"The Anglicans were already in the process, and the others responded positively, offering to help, though not in a position to organize the effort."

The Unitarians agreed to take the lead and then connected with a parallel call to action put out through Peter Levitt and the Salt Spring Zen Circle. Other interested community members have joined in for a massive community effort.

With help from the Canadian Unitarian Council in Ottawa, the action group has identified a family of five to sponsor. A young man in desperate circumstances was also recommended via a Salt Spring connection. All the potential visitors are currently living in Turkey, though not in a camp. In fact, the people living

in cities are thought to be the most at risk.

Groups that elect to pursue private sponsorship receive guidelines from the federal government, including a suggested budget. Sponsors have to commit to supporting the refugees for a full year and must cover food, accommodation, medical bills and other needs. Transportation to Canada has been billed to sponsors in the past, although with a new government it's not clear exactly what will be covered.

Sponsors must have 75 per cent of the funds needed in place before even submitting an application. The Salt Spring action group is looking at a budget of close to \$100,000 but reports it's close to having the funds in place to apply for the family of five, all through unsolicited donations.

Offers of accommodation have also been made, but it will take more than just housing for the new residents to adjust to Canadian life. The

action group has intentionally chosen people who speak English to make the transition easier, and they're cognizant of the need for other supports. Fortunately, the Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society is well-equipped and nearby.

"Most privately sponsored refugees want to go to the big cities. There's more employment there and people with the same language and religion," Marshall said. "Because we don't have a mosque or any Muslim people that we know of, we were happy to find someone who could speak some English."

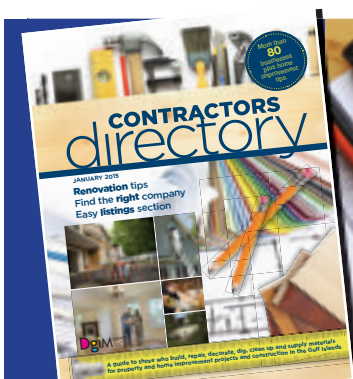
"They were told about Salt Spring and said they wanted to come here. They sounded quite excited," Toynbee said.

Fundraising events taking place in December and January will hopefully top off the action group's financial needs. They include a Winter Talent Showcase put on by Gulf Islands Second-

ary Students on Thursday, Dec. 10 and a variety concert sponsored by the Salt Spring Arts Council and the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 1.

Other contributions have come from all parts of the community. Volunteer coordinator Maggie Ziegler reports they include nurses and doctors, teachers and ESL instructors, refugee settlement workers, refugee advocates, mental health professionals, hospice volunteers, drivers, carpenters and many more. Anyone who would like to help with the settlement in some way can contact Ziegler at 250-653-9482 or email ziegler.maggie@gmail.com.

"It appears the greatest problem in this project may be in having the patience to wait through the months that it's likely to take before all the paperwork and approvals are achieved and Salt Spring's new family arrives," Toynbee observed.



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FIRE SERVICE

Lengthy fire hall process completed on Mayne Island

Tips to be learned from project's success

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District's long quest to win public approval for a new fire hall project has yet to find any success, but a similar journey on Mayne Island may hold some clues as to how it could eventually be completed.

A delegation from Salt Spring Fire-Rescue joined emergency response



PHOTOS COURTESY MAYNE ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

Above, Mayne's new fire hall as seen from the outside. At right, visitors check out the ready room at the grand opening on Nov. 28.



teams from around the southern Gulf Islands at Mayne's new fire hall opening celebration on Nov. 28. Members of the fire district's facilities and physical plant committee also attended.

"It was definitely worth a journey over there," Salt Spring's acting fire chief Arjuna George stated at a Dec. 7 board meeting. "I think it provided some good information for that committee."

Built for a total borrowing cost of \$2.4 million, the engineered steel building covers under 10,000 square feet and includes office and training space as well as room for six trucks. The department has four pieces of apparatus at present, leaving room to grow.

"It's kind of like a dream come true to get this facility," said Mayne Island Fire Chief Steve DeRousie, noting 200 people came to see the new hall on opening day. "That was pretty exciting, to see the community supporting this project."

The hall includes the island's emergency program office, a record-keeping room, a training room that can double as a board meeting room, and a "ready room" with lockers and gear for 30 firefighters. With the new set-up, personnel never have to cross the path

of a moving vehicle.

"That's paramount for me — safety is the primary concern," DeRousie said.

Both Salt Spring and Mayne's improvement district boards have been seriously looking at replacing their existing fire hall since 2005, the former to replace its Ganges hall, built in 1961, and the latter to replace a hall built in 1969. In both cases, consultants advised that buildings did not meet current post-disaster standards and would be unlikely to withstand an earthquake, among other concerns.

Just as on Salt Spring, Mayne's community rejected initial borrowing proposals and/or building plans. A planned borrowing referendum for \$4.2 million was cancelled in 2009. Another referendum for \$3.4 million was defeated in 2011.

Mayne Island Fire Rescue employs a full-time fire chief and two part-time officers who each work at the hall three days a week. There are currently 24 paid-on-call members. With a population of under 1,100, some 1,500-1,600 properties share Mayne's tax burden. The new hall will add approximately \$35 per \$100,000 of assessed property value in taxes

annually, with financing from the province over 20 years.

Bob McKinnon, the current chair of the Mayne Island Improvement District, was one of the most outspoken opponents of the 2011 plan. He was then on the board of the Mayne Island Residents & Ratepayers Association, which led the campaign against the more expensive design.

"The previous board and building committee had done a lot of good work. They identified the basic needs of what the fire department needed," McKinnon said. "We went back to square one. We were concerned about the costs and wanted to make it as economical as possible, and to meet the needs of the community for the next 50 years without having to add on to the building."

The building committee determined the best plan would be to keep the structure to one floor (although the final design included a mezzanine) and to use the existing fire hall property. This posed some problems because it meant tearing down the old hall first and moving a historic schoolhouse.

After determining that an engineered steel building would be

more cost effective, the board, the former fire chief and current fire chief worked to come up with a basic floor plan.

"We had a design that we thought worked. Then we asked three firms to submit a more detailed plan and designs based on our drawings," McKinnon said.

Two of three firms responded and made presentations, with Liberty Contract Management Inc. selected. McKinnon said Liberty's estimate was slightly cheaper, but what clinched the decision was the fact the other firm would have subcontracted out the building's construction instead of overseeing it themselves.

"I think people are excited [by the results]," McKinnon said. "There are always people concerned about how we spend the taxpayers' dollar, but the building is pleasing to look at as well as functional. And I think people are pleased with the efficiencies it will bring to our operations."

"I think the board of trustees listened pretty hard to what the community had to say beforehand and came up with a plan the community wanted and approved. That's something to be proud of," DeRousie agreed.

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LAND USE

Playing fields plan opposed

Agriculture advocates pan PARC proposal

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The plan to build playing fields on 15 acres of agricultural land on the outskirts of Ganges met stiff opposition from members of the Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission on Thursday afternoon.

"I find it difficult to have to give up farmland when it is such an important part of our daily life and becoming even more so," said Tony Threlfall, a member of the AAPC. "We have to bear in mind that farmland, although it may be desirable for park development, is also desirable for farming."

The Salt Spring Parks and

Recreation Commission seeks non-farm use of property within the Agricultural Land Reserve to build three baseball diamonds, two soccer fields, accessory buildings and washroom facilities. The commission has spent 12 years in search of a location for what it says are much-needed community facilities.

PARC's latest strategic plan lists construction of new playing fields as a top priority.

"We're really at a point where we need to expand," said Dan Ovington, PARC's general manager.

Ovington said the property at 181 Brinkworthy Rd. strikes a balance between affordability, size and access. Of 13 properties PARC recently considered for the playing field plan, only two met all requirements. Both

properties are near the Brinkworthy neighbourhood.

AAPC members voted to "strongly urge" Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee to reject the application. They further called upon trustees to strengthen farmland protection on the island.

Many in the audience applauded the commission's decision. A large contingent of residents from the Brinkworthy neighbourhood attended the meeting to share concerns about the proposed playing fields' effects on their properties.

Residents have vowed to fight the plan based on a belief the development will decrease property values, increase traffic and destroy the quiet so many residents of the senior citizens' community have grown accustomed to.

INCORPORATION

Former LTC member questions process

Incorporation study group still collecting opinions

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Critics of the preliminary incorporation study say the process is moving ahead too fast to enable a comprehensive discussion about what's at stake.

"The study committee is trying hard to fulfill their mandate to inform the Salt Spring community about the impact of incorporation. However, the process is being fast-tracked and limited in scope by the ministry," said Peter Lamb following two open house events held in late November.

Lamb is a former member of Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee and author of The Islands Trust Story. He worries the incorporation study preliminary report lacks

information for islanders to make an informed decision, specifically about costs to repair and maintain the island's more than 200 kilometres of public roads.

"The Islands Trust was not created with an expiry date or to solve a short-term problem."

PETER LAMB
Former trustee,
SS Local Trust Committee

"This [information] should have been validated before any preliminary report was issued — a \$15 tax increase for an average residence is simply not credible," he said.

James Klukas, Salt Spring incor-

poration study project leader with consulting firm Urban Systems, said the group is working on a one-year timeline, a similar duration allowed for such reports in other communities.

"I did have a quick look back at some previous studies, and it would generally be consistent with what we've seen in the past," he said.

Responding to the suggestion that the process has moved too quickly, Klukas said the governance study that preceded the current phase offered further opportunity for public engagement. In most communities, he said, the reports are rolled into one.

"In a number of other cases, these reports, including background work, are done in a one-year time period," he added.

Klukas said he and members of the Incorporation Study Committee await information from the

province about road implications and transitional funding. He said both reports will play a major role in the final report, which is set to be released in March 2016.

Lamb said he hopes the final report will mention reasons for the province's decision to establish the Islands Trust and list longer-term consequences of Salt Spring's incorporation on the Islands Trust. "The Islands Trust was not created with an expiry date or to solve a short-term problem," he said. "It was created as a legacy to protect the Trust Area in perpetuity."

Committee members are compiling information from the more than 320 people who attended consultation sessions on Nov. 22 and 23. Further comments about the report and process can be submitted at ssiincorporation-study.org or the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Facebook site.

Announcement

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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board welcomes new members

Purchasing policy request rejected at meeting

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees convened at nearly full strength for its December board meeting Monday night, with newly elected members Howard Baker, Michael Craig and Andy Hildebrand welcomed to the table.

Getting down to business in short order after sitting for its last regular meeting on Oct. 26, the board approved a recommendation from the facilities and physical plant committee to strike a new select committee related to the 10-year master plan. Trustee Derek Hill explained the members of the committee would aid corporate administrator Andrew Peat draft a request for proposals to solicit consultants who might create such a plan.

Policy on staff purchasing was partially amended to allow management to direct

spending in regards to regularly scheduled maintenance and inspections. Acting Chief Arjuna George made a case to the board that the new policy requiring a purchase order for any expenditure over \$500 made it difficult to conduct operations.

"Our equipment that is mandated to be tested yearly should be included in this policy without the need for a purchase order. Many of these yearly tests exceed the current \$500 limit," George stated in his report to the board.

Trustees approved the request but rejected a second recommendation from George regarding repair costs over \$500 related to auxiliary vehicles and the fire hall. Policy states that two quotes must be obtained for any work costing from \$500 to \$2,000.

"The biggest problem lies when we take a vehicle to a mechanic A, [and] have them troubleshoot the issue, then issue a quote, then if over \$500, which most would be, take vehicle to mechanic B to repeat. This takes up valuable time plus the mechanics will not be interested in troubleshooting with no compensation," George stated in

his report.

The board decided against the recommendation as chair Linda Lee noted it would mean giving up too much control. There was no interest in making an amendment for hall repair costs.

"I couldn't agree to ditching a PO for under \$2,000 for anything that happens at the fire hall. That's not good enough," Lee said.

By-election results

Results of a Dec. 1 by-election that saw Andy Hildebrand, Michael Craig and Howard Baker elected were as follows:

For the term ending in April 2017: Hildebrand, 312 votes; Craig, 285; Fiona Foster, 241; MaryLynn Hetherington, 137; and A. Ross Van Winckel, 81.

For the term ending in April 2016: Baker, 255 votes; Howard Holzappel, 162; Jim McClean, 105; Doug Rajala, 44; and Michele Mackie, 18 (although Mackie had withdrawn before the vote).

Dogs need to be secured

LIVESTOCK
continued from 1

and regret for the attack. A settlement is within reach, he added.

Brunnwieser said the dog was a bigger mid-sized, reddish-coloured, mixed-breed animal. He did not identify the dog's owners.

Steinman and Shewchuk said they hope this unfortunate incident can spread word about responsible pet ownership and prevent similar canine-livestock confrontations on the island.

"It's a reminder, above all, to not let dogs run about, and have a collar and identification," Shewchuk said.

Under the B.C. Livestock

Act, farm owners have the right to shoot any predators that threaten their livestock. Brunnwieser encourages livestock owners who spot predators on their land to contact him at 250-537-9414.

He said people can reduce the chance of a similar fate by making sure their dogs are never left alone in an unsecured yard. Fences should be double checked and animals should be kept inside if there's any suspicion they could escape during the day.

"No dog should be allowed to run at large, period," he said.

"We've had incidents with dogs on the farm in the past but never had any kind of incident like this," she said. "It's a shame all around. That amount of killing in a very short amount of time is unusual."

Shewchuk estimates her farm will lose several thousand dollars in egg revenue as a result of the kill. Steinman, who relies on his does for milk and fowl for eggs, is still calculating the damages. He said the dog's owners have expressed sorrow

Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Open for usual business hours on Monday, Dec. 28

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 30TH PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Wednesday, December 23, 4pm
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, December 28, 4pm
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, December 29, 9am

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood will be closed on Friday, Jan 1 - New Year's Day and will reopen for usual business hours on Monday, Jan. 4.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE JAN. 6TH PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Thursday, December 31, 4pm
Classified Display Deadline: Monday, January 4, 4pm
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, January 5, 9am



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OPINION



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



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

EDITORIAL

Absolute authority

When the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans divested itself of responsibility for local docks some 25 years ago, it gave control to community bodies.

But recent actions by the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island have left many islanders wondering if the effort has veered off course.

Some of HASSI's 135 members have expressed feeling powerless in a group that's dominated by a board driven by commercial fishing interests. Those members largely commend the HASSI board for running Salt Spring's docks over the past 25 years. The facilities are in decent shape and receive adequate maintenance. They cater to bustling commercial and recreational sectors.

The major problem among members boils down to transparency, openness and accountability. In other words, it's a trust issue.

THE ISSUE:

HASSI accountability

WE SAY:

Why so private?

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's website, harbour authorities are essential to social and economic life. They are "key in representing user needs at the community level."

Given the organization's important role in managing public assets, it's unfortunate some members have felt frustrated about accessing basic financial documents and meeting information. Membership, which requires approval by a majority of board members, has also been contentious. Likewise, attendance at public meetings for non-members requires approval by the board.

The Driftwood's request to attend last week's AGM was curtly rejected. That previous AGMs have been open to members of the general public and the press to observe didn't carry much water. "Members only," we were told.

For such an important decision-making body to operate without open meetings or participation or even token representation from local government simply does not make sense. The island's harbours are an integral part of our community. Discussion about how our docks and wharfs are used should be broadly based.

To HASSI's credit, some members applaud the organization's recently adopted bylaws. Easier access to financial documents, minutes and meeting notifications at the harbour master's Centennial Dock office shows the tide may be changing, but there's still plenty of paddling needed to get this dinghy on track.



Parker

VIEWPOINT by Harold Swierenga

Schedule feedback deadline looms

BC Ferries recently released a revised draft schedule for the new Route 9 (Long Harbour-Tsawwassen) Salish Class ferries and has asked for feedback from the ferry users.

A request for feedback and a major explanatory article by BC Ferries was posted on page 20 of last week's Driftwood. The current revised schedules are a response to feedback received regarding the first schedules, which were the subject of the public meetings held on all of the Gulf Islands in August. The first draft schedules involved major improvements for Salt Spring residents and SSI-bound tourists with more direct and limited-stop sailings from Tsawwassen to Long Harbour and return.

However, in responding to input from the various islands and without further input from the external scheduling committees, BC Ferries has made changes to the proposed schedules which have significantly reduced the improvements to Salt Spring ferry users. The Salt Spring members of the scheduling committee (Bob Jones, Ellie Thorburn and myself) and the SSI Ferry Advisory Committee are urgently asking that all ferry users access the BC Ferries website at www.bcferries.com and respond to the latest survey by the Dec. 14 deadline.

We recognize that BC Ferries has to ultimately devise a schedule that addresses the needs of the entire Gulf Islands, but we reiterate that, with two thirds of the population and a highly developed tourist sector, Salt Spring provides the greatest potential to increase traffic on this route. Considering the smaller size of the Salish Class ferries, Salt Spring is the most directly affected by the diminished capacity during multi-port sailings.

In brief, the major concerns of the Salt Spring Scheduling Group include the following:

A) The first draft provided two non-stop sailings from Tsawwassen

to Long Harbour at noon and in the later evening in both the shoulder and peak seasons, but the revisions provide for only a non-stop at noon with multi-stop (Galiano, Mayne, Pender) sailings in the evenings. This change raises serious questions regarding the capacity for both vehicles and passengers, given the smaller vessel, and also, consequently, lengthens the trip to Salt Spring Island significantly.

B) The Tuesday and Wednesday sailings from Tsawwassen to Long Harbour in the peak season have been reduced from four to two, both of them multi-stop. Given the smaller size of the new ship, this again represents a major reduction of capacity as these sailings will serve five islands.

C) A number of sailings throughout the year leave Salt Spring Island earlier in the mornings and arrive later in the evenings than in the first draft schedules. The later evening arrivals are significant in some cases and, because more of them are multi-stop than in the first draft, capacity again becomes a concern.

D) Closely tied to the new Salish schedules is the issue of the Fulford-Swartz Bay-Tsawwassen thrufare alternative route to the mainland. With the reduced off-season capacity from Long Harbour, it is critical that the Swartz Bay connection be made more user friendly and certain.

On the plus side, the opportunities for inter-island travel from Salt Spring to and from the outer islands are somewhat enhanced because of the increase in multi-stop sailings. As well, a number of the improvements of the first draft are still in place. The above concerns, however, are critical to Salt Spring residents and tourists and we ask for your support to emphasize these to BC Ferries by completing the survey by Dec. 14.

The writer chairs the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee.

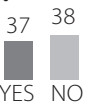
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned by the diving Canadian dollar? 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:

Are you optimistic about climate talks in Paris?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "When they're in a frenzy you cannot stop them; the only thing that stops them is a bullet."

CRD ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER WOLFGANG BRUNNWIESER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: Do you have a message for Canada's newly arriving Syrian refugees?



GRACE BUDEWEIT
It's a wonderful place if you can enjoy the cold.



JOAN HARDING
I wish them well and encourage them to stay curious.



LANCE HILTZ
Find the friendly people; they are everywhere.



KRISTI REYNOLDS
Go kayaking, and explore all that the ocean has to offer.



REG AAFINK
Find a good, affordable place to live, and everything will go well.

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

Excellent volunteers

For 362 days each year there is a welcome from the 45 volunteers of the Salt Spring Visitors Centre.

They greet visitors who arrive on the island, many for their first visit, and answer the many questions requiring help.

New volunteers go through training from Destination BC, then enter into 40 hours in the centre with one of the trained people.

It is an exciting job as visitors arrive from all over the world, the United States

and from across Canada.

Many local people come into the centre with their questions and, of course, to pick up bus or ferry timetables. Volunteers are also a great help to local people travelling to different places.

Now to the volunteers themselves, many of whom have been at the centre for 10 to 15 years. The longest-serving volunteer is Ann Taylor, who started in 1989 and goes beyond helping visitors. She works the afternoon shift on a Saturday and has rescued latecomers who have nowhere to stay. She has taken people home and taken other visitors on a tour

of the island.

Ann received the Customer Service Award as part of the 2015 Business Excellence Awards of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce. She is one of several hundred volunteers in other organizations on the island.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Zeke Blazicka at 250-653-4782 or Laura Moore at 250-537-0721. Contact is also through Janet Clouston at the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, 250-537-4223.

LAURA MOORE,
55 VISITORS CENTRE

Poor losers

The National Post — you remember them. They're the ones that, two days before the federal election, ran a full front-page advertisement supporting Stephen Harper, with a large, unpleasant sketch of his face.

I don't buy that paper, but I do often take a look at the front page of several papers at the grocery store. As I used to say to Stan Lam, "Wouldn't you try out a car before you considered buying it?"

Last week I checked out the front page of the National Post. It was primar-

ily dedicated to the Paris climate conference, featuring a good-sized photograph of the world's leaders in a group, but with Prime Minister Trudeau selectively missing — unlike other Canadian papers, including those I later checked out online, which typically featured Trudeau in a front-page picture in the line-up with all the others. Hmm... I thought; interesting omission by the Post — especially for a publication aspiring to be a "national newspaper."

Below the sans-Trudeau conference picture was a surprisingly petty, whiny and belittling personal attack

on our new Prime Minister, mocking him for, among other things, announcing, "We're back," and seeming to think that Canada can actually make a difference on the world stage. So the Post is still running Harper campaign attack ads!

The gossip-rag style of their pathetic article, in my opinion, represents a new low in Canadian journalism. Surprising, even, for the National Post. Poor losers, eh?

RALPH MILLER,
SALTAIR LANE

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Incorporation has rocky history on the island

BY USHA RAUTENBACH

I am a volunteer researcher who loves to delve around in our local island archives, which these days can be done very satisfactorily by going online to saltspringarchives.com.

I also like to look to the past to shed possible light on the present, to plan for the future (or at least to avoid pitfalls tumbled into before). So I thought I would share with my fellow islanders my following synopsis and directions towards further enlightenment.

One might look to Salt Spring's 1873-1883 decade of operating as a municipality "involving . . . the prejudices and animosities of men and women, few of whom had any coherent plans for the future of their island home but who held widely divergent views as to what constituted the minimum needs of the settlements in the matter of public works." (A.F. Flucke)

For lively on-island memories of the experience, see Bea Hamilton, Salt Spring Island (Vancouver: Mitchell Press, 1968) pp. 73-76. This account culminates in: "It took many years before the incorporation fiasco could be discussed without violent reactions on the part of many islanders."

For a historically documented view, see A.F. Flucke, Early Days on Salt Spring Island, pp. 34-39, culminating in: "Thus ended Salt Spring Island's experiment in managing its own affairs. The time had not been ripe — communal unity on the island had not been sufficiently developed for such an enterprise to be successful. Lethargy, plus resentment of any local authority, on the one hand, and the overly ambitious designs of the Councillors

with their impolitic disregard for the feelings of the settlers, on the other hand, had frustrated what might have been a creditable attempt at municipal independence."

Then there is this excerpt from Salt Spring Island: Political Development and Civic Services (1859-1885) in the "Book Project" on the Salt Spring Archives website, completed by someone whose last name is Brown: "The island was incorporated as a municipality from 1873 to 1883 but the experiment failed so completely that, a century later, islanders would spurn calls to establish local government."

The full account is highly amusing throughout, although no doubt harrowing to live through, whether you read Bea Hamilton, A.F. Flucke or Brown, who elaborates: "In September 1872, a petition signed by the required two-thirds of the male property-holders sent to the government asking that Letters Patent be issued incorporating the island as a municipality. This was done and the Government Gazette of Jan. 4, 1873 carried the notice of incorporation of The Corporation of the Township of Salt Spring Island with a council of seven members.

"Almost immediately, as A.F. Flucke notes, controversy swirled on the island: ' . . . the incorporation of the island brought to light a radical division of the island residents. On the one hand, there were the typical pioneer farmers, independent, self-sufficient, and, for the most part, lacking formal education, who had no wish to be organized, preferring to cultivate their wilderness farms in relative solitude

INDEPTH

and seeking no more government gifts than a road or two to give them access to markets . . . On the other hand, there were the more ambitious settlers, sincere, if too hopeful, in their desire to forward the rapid development of the communities.'

"And, adds Flucke, 'Their plans for the future of the island included the establishment of themselves in positions of authority and local eminence.'

"Led by Edwin Pimbury and his brother, Henry, who owned a large property in the south end of the island, a number of settlers petitioned the legislature within a year to have the municipality abolished. In 1874, charges were made by Edwin Pimbury and a half dozen Fulford farmers that the councillors had violated the law by voting themselves stipends and by failing to divide the island municipality into wards. The complainants were advised by the Attorney-General to take the matter to the Supreme Court. Flucke observed: ' . . . this course of action was evidently beyond the means of the protesting group, and for the next seven years municipal affairs on the island went on in a state of watchful hostility.'

"The municipal elections of 1881 precipitated the end of the municipal experiment. After the elections, charges of malpractice were brought before the court by 19 settlers of Fulford and Burgoyne Bay against the clerk of the municipal council and returning officer Henry W. Robinson and his associates. When they failed to contest the charges, the election was declared null and void and the group of south-enders escalated their campaign

against the 'ambitious settlers' by sending a petition to the Cabinet in which they accused the justice of the peace, Frederick Foord, who was also a councillor, and the council clerk of improper behaviour. The accusations included the charges that Foord and Robinson had run the affairs of the municipality almost by themselves and had concealed the state of the financial accounts from the taxpayers. Countercharges of tax evasion were laid by Foord to the Beaven government — which Foord and the reeve, John Booth, supported — but nothing was done to resolve the differences.

"Within a year, Booth would write to his erstwhile colleague in the Cowichan riding and Pimbury's leader, William Smith — about to be sworn in as Premier — acknowledging that things were in 'a mess' and continuing: "There seems to be an impression among some of the people here that you are going to wind the whole thing up and do away with it altogether. Should you have any such intentions and can see your way clear to do so, I do not think anyone will object, providing the government take charge of and keep in order our wharves and roads . . . Please give the matter your serious consideration as soon as possible because if we have to start things running again there is no time to lose."

"On May 12, 1883, assent was given to an act of the legislative assembly annulling the Letters Patent of 1872 which had granted municipal self-government to Salt Spring Island. That experiment was never repeated."

The writer has a keen interest in Salt Spring Island history.

Happy Holidays
and Bright Wishes
for 2016!

from Sam, Elizabeth,
Tony, Silas, Laughlin
and Jeff



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Getting the job done

Do you know how lucky we are?

A huge thank-you to all the Lady Minto nurses and support staff for my excellent care following a rare drug reaction.

Here on Salt Spring, a nurse is assigned to a patient for their whole shift and takes individual care and responsibility for them, unlike urban hospitals, where you never see the same nurse twice, and none of the staff seem to know who you are or what has been done.

Our health-care system is shattered, but the staff at Lady Minto quietly carry on with getting the job done. The staff here are the heart of our hospital, and collegially strive to give us the best possible care despite "directives" from health-care bureaucracies.

MORE LETTERS

We have an amazing resource in Dr. John Morse, whose encyclopedic knowledge recognized and diagnosed my extremely rare symptoms.

I can't thank you all enough.
**JILL LEE,
SALT SPRING**

Sad end to life

I sit and look at an attractive, informative book edged in purple colour and filled with Salt Spring Island information: the Lions Club Directory, 2015-16 edition.

It arrived in a neat package, carefully wrapped and addressed to me, sent from my friend who I had known since the '50s when we were teenagers. We both grew up in West Vancouver and attended West

Van High School. We also drove to UBC together.

After that we lost touch, so it was quite interesting when I saw her on TV promoting the "best" cheese and yogurt available in Canada sold at her store on Salt Spring Island.

My friend spent the last half of her life on Salt Spring Island. It was her wish that I move there too. I even looked at property at Brinkworthy.

She contacted me after her husband died six years ago and we stayed in constant contact since then.

The last time I spoke to her was the Friday before Thanksgiving. She told me she was "not well." I could not get an answer on Thanksgiving Monday, which was so unusual. I kept calling, to no avail.

I never spoke to her again, but the Lions Club directory arrived a few days later.

My friend Zoë Woodside died alone in her rural home. Apparently she was dead for some time before she was discovered. Why?

My friend did not drive a car in the past few years, but two or three times a week she hitchhiked to Ganges.

Isn't Salt Spring Island a friendly, neighbourly place? I know she was "different," living alone, not wanting to be disturbed and considered a "recluse." But she possessed a vibrant personality and she was my friend.

I have to accept the carefully wrapped book probably arrived after she died. Perhaps, mailing it to me was her last outing.

I loved her and I miss her.
**SHARON A. KING,
BEETON, ONTARIO**

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

RANTS and Roses

Rants

Whoever took my blue down vest while I was running on the track at Portlock Park on Tuesday, Dec. 1 between 11:15 and noon, please return it. It keeps me warm in the winter and I wear it often. I will assume it was taken by accident. Please contact me at jeannelyns@shaw.ca or return it to the lost and found in the office at the park. Thank you. Jeanne Lyons

Roses

We would like to send a big Christmas rose to Kipp and his helper from Salt Spring Gymnastics, Rebecca and the board of Fulford Hall for offering the fall gymnastics session to the participants from Community Initiatives and Choices. Gymnastics is truly enjoyed by all.

I'd love to express my deep thanks to Mike at Windsor Plywood for over-the-top customer service! Thank you so much. It sure makes me want to always shop there!

Seventy-five red roses to Salt Spring Elementary on its 75th anniversary! And a special bouquet to Whitney Walker, the music teacher, who composed the new SSE school song, sung so beautifully by the SSE Anniversary Choir at the recent Salt Spring Historical Society celebration. A memorable occasion, highlighted by the children's sweet voices singing their catchy, lyrical song about their school community. Congratulations! John W.

Barrels and hogsheads filled with liquid roses to all of those generous whisky lovers who came out to support us as we raised in excess of \$3,000 for the Copper Kettle. You are truly amazing. Thanks also to all our on-site volunteers (Amy, Aaron, Julie, Alex, Heidi), and especially Paul FitzZaland, Taylore Darnel and Jeremy Scott, who devoted hours preparing and planning; and Doug Fraser for his incred-

ible piping. Thanks to Upper Ganges Liquor Store and Jason Beaumont for the generous contributions of table coverings, plates, food and water; and of course to the Edrington Group and Dan Volway for the spectacular whisky. Much love from the Wee Rock Whisky Club

An open house full of roses to each of Bob McWhirter and George Sipos for generously volunteering their time to moderate the Q&A at the incorporation study open house events on Nov. 22 and 23. These events were attended by about 320 people and many questions were posed following the consultant's presentation. Bob and George were instrumental in setting a productive, respectful tone for each session and the committee greatly appreciated how the audiences adhered to this request, offering well thought-out and insightful questions.

Erskine Elf would like to thank all of the friends, big and little, who came out to the Elfy and Fairy picnic at ArtSpring on Saturday. This was the best event ever! There is bound to be another! Love, Erskine Elf

Roadside wild roses to the three men who stopped to push my car out of the ditch in the dark of evening last week. A cheque, in appreciation, has been sent to the food bank.

Ten thousand roses for the generous community donations supporting the SSICS Food Bank. Special blooms to the Lions Club and the business sponsors: Country Grocers, Island Savings, Windsor Plywood, Mouat's, Thrifty Foods, the Driftwood and the Harbour House Hotel. On Nov. 23, Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express, a SS Folk Club presentation and "one of the best concerts ever," raised \$10,000 plus a grant of \$5,000 from the Bentall family's Hawthorne Foundation to total \$15,000 to support the food bank's Christmas

hamper program. Personal donations far exceeded expectations and flowers into much-needed help that will make our less fortunate community members' Christmas a little merrier. Thank you, Salt Springers. Our community rocks! Trish Nobile

A big bucket of primary-coloured roses to Rock Salt, Barb's Buns and the Salt Spring Inn for donating delicious soup and bread for FUEL (Families Understanding Early Learning), our family literacy program at Fulford school. Kids and parents loved it! Thanks also to our fabulous presenters: Judith Bradley, Robin Andison, Tiffany Wightman and Jenny Redpath for sharing their wisdom, and to our caring childminders: Janice Shields, Andrea Hollingsworth, Khalina Demandre, Hannah Grant and Maddi. With appreciation from SD64 and SSLiteracy

A bucket full of Christmas lights to the volunteers who helped Harvey Moore change the Salt Spring Visitors Centre into a gingerbread house. Thanks go to Bob Patterson, Bob Charlet, John Hobbs, Josh Moore and Staci Chimes. Everyone is welcome to come inside and see the transformation of the centre. Thanks go to Elaine Shaw, Harvey and Laura Moore. Season's greetings from all the volunteers at the centre.

I would like to give dozens and dozens of red roses to all those who came to my assistance on Thursday after I passed out and fell in the ditch. P.S. I was not drinking. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from "the Lady who Got Ditched."

A huge bouquet of Christmas flowers with many thanks to the Christmas angels from the Evangelical Free church who left a beautifully crafted shawl on our doorstep. It was such a lovely surprise and a very useful gift. I wear it every day and your love enfolds me. Blessings, Margaret

**Merry Monday,
Dec. 14th**

CAROL SINGING
WITH VALDY 6:15 ISH

- Special Pizza Night, pizza freshly baked, available by the slice from 5pm
- 20% off all books from Dec. 5 - 14th
- Bring your mug so we can fill it up with complimentary drinks.

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

AGLOW: Beaver Point Hall was full of art, craft, fine food and shoppers over the weekend as the annual Christmas fair unfolded.

Flat tire help appreciated

We would like to give a truckload of roses to Rob Pringle (driver for Rick Andrews Excavating) and Geoff of the Crofton Shell for helping my wife and I out of an awkward situation on Thursday.

We arrived in the Vesuvius ferry line-up with a flat tire. Rob (parked behind me with his very large truck) provided an air hose to fill up the flat tire from his truck. That allowed us to get on the ferry, but the tire was leaking very fast and would have been flat by the time we reached Crofton.

Fortunately, Rob was close enough on the ferry to refill the tire again, which he did just before docking. This allowed us to drive to the Shell station in Crofton where Geoff removed, repaired and remounted the tire in 45 minutes so we could continue on our way to Victoria and make our appointments.

My wife and I appreciated their help very much.

**THE WESTONS,
SALT SPRING**

Incorporation study open houses prove valuable

Over two days, on Nov. 22 and 23, about 320 people attended two open houses hosted by the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee.

The purpose of these events was to provide an opportunity for Salt Spring Islanders to become better informed on the information in the preliminary report regarding the projected impacts of potential municipal incorporation. The open houses included a series of information stations for key areas of impact attended by ISC members, a presentation by the ISC's lead consultant, Urban Systems, who authored the preliminary report, as well as a public question and answer session. Each event lasted over three hours. Such was the interest that people were streaming in long before the advertised opening time.

These open houses represented a two-way opportunity for sharing information and insights. The ISC and the process were enriched by the public participation. In addition to the informal discussions at the information stations and the public Q&A, over half of the attendees completed surveys that gave important feedback to the ISC. Members of the public were able to assess the overall effectiveness of the event, rate the importance of various incorporation impact issues to them, and provide advice to the ISC with respect to what additional information and clarifications would make the final report better.

Of those who completed the survey, 68 per cent

INCORPORATION STUDY CORNER

advised that they found the information presented helpful. Another 30 per cent declared it somewhat helpful. And two per cent did not find it helpful.

Given that the subject matter was from the preliminary, not final, report, there were numerous comments expressing a desire for information that is simply not available yet. In particular, there was extensive discussion on the condition of roads on Salt Spring Island and the potential liability to a new island municipality should responsibility for existing deficiencies transfer over. In response to questions on this subject, Mark Aston, ISC chair, advised that the ISC is awaiting a road condition assessment report from the provincial government that will help determine the potential exposure and possible mitigation options.

There was also great interest in better understanding the potential property tax impacts. And while the preliminary report goes into this in great detail, the community expressed a desire for more comprehensive reporting in this area, a better explanation of the "apples to apples" form of comparison, the impact on farm homes and more

rationale and variations for the sensitivity analysis that was created.

Community members were asked to rate the importance of various issues that are potentially impacted by incorporation on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is most important. The results follow in descending order. While there was a three-way tie for the top spot, more people rated Land Use Planning with a 5 than any other issue.

- 4.3 - Land Use Planning
- 4.3 - Potential Expenses of new Municipality
- 4.3 - Coordination of all Services
- 4.2 - Roads
- 4.1 - Property Tax Impacts
- 3.9 - Impacts on Improvement Districts (Fire & Water)
- 3.9 - Coordination of Water Services
- 3.8 - Changes to Elected Representation
- 3.6 - Impacts on the Islands Trust
- 2.9 - Impacts on the CRD

The ISC is enormously grateful to those community members who participated in these events. Digital copies of the display boards from the information stations and a transcription of the public Q&A sessions have been posted to www.ssiincorporationstudy.com under "Documents."

Feedback on the preliminary report for inclusion in the final report will be accepted through Dec. 31. Additional feedback will likewise be posted in due course.

expert ADVICE

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Real Estate

A Time For Thanks



JAN MACPHERSON

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change.

In 2016 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

*Peace, Good Will, Prosperity,
And Good Health To All!*

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Fitness Expert

What Can I Do Over The Holidays To Reduce Stress?



BRENDA AKERMAN

With the Christmas Season upon us, we can all feel a little more stress in our day to day life. You start to put things off, or you say I'll miss just one fitness Class, then another!! THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA!

Exercise improves blood flow to your brain, bringing additional sugars and oxygen that may be needed when you are thinking intensely. When your neurons function more intensely, a toxic waste can build up, which fogs our thinking. Exercise speeds the flow of blood through your brain, moving the waste through faster

After swimming a few laps in the pool or participating in a Aqua Fit Class, you will have more energy, feel calmer and be better focused.

Keeping your regular exercise routine, or starting a new one, can give you the fitness and stamina to make it through the demands of the festive season and beyond for a healthier you all year long.

Rainbow Road
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Mechanic

Holiday trips in cold weather may require more than a well prepared vehicle



GYLE KEATING

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>

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TRADITIONS

Soloists will impress at Sing-along Messiah

Salt Spring-raised woman among voices

BY RICHARD MOSES
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Messiah: perhaps the greatest of all choral works.

Its 47 numbers make up an opus of "heavenly length, but actually fewer than half of those numbers are, in fact, choral, i.e., requiring a four-part chorus. The rest are duets, airs, recitatives, the famous Pifa and, of course an amazing assemblage of music for one voice — solos!

Four solo voices can be heard this Sunday as Bach on the Rock presents its Fifth Annual Sing-along Messiah at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m. under the direction of Peter Butterfield.

The youngest is Fulford's own soprano, Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara, who is now pursuing an opera career with Nancy Argenta. Rowlandson-O'Hara spent last summer on Ireland's Limerick Island working with handicapped children while clutching her Messiah score



From left, Peter Butterfield and Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara.



and running through her solos whenever she got a chance. She's been singing since the age of eight and remembers Mitch Howard as the inspiring teacher we all know him to be.

Marking his fifth Messiah Sing-along is local tenor Don Fisher, less known now as a world-travelling folk singer but still famous for his singing and his Salt Spring BC Hydro high-wire acts and always, says he, being a guy who "simply loves to sing."

Jennifer Ashley, mezzo-soprano, was lured away from the jazz scene (guitar and voice) by "the passion and beautiful sounds of opera" and continues to impress audiences with roles in the operas of Mozart and Mascagni and music by Bach, Vivaldi and even Kurt Weill. She studies with the British mezzo-soprano Sarah Fryer.

Australian-born bass Angus Bell's resume includes words like: McGill and Rice, Vancouver and Pacific Operas, Magic Flute, Das Rhein-

gold, La Boheme, Brahms, Verdi, Faure, Haydn, Beethoven's Ninth and, of course, Salt Spring Island where his four Messiahs alone have made him "world famous."

To hear Angus sing "The trumpet shall sound" or "Why do the nations . . ." is to realize anew the power of Handel's music.

Internationally known tenor and conductor Peter Butterfield grew up in Victoria and built a thriving singing career in England, Korea, Spain and in Canada: Vancouver, Toronto, Victoria and Tafelmusik, but in 1995 he began to pursue his interest in conducting. There followed a number of choral and conducting opportunities, culminating last season in a performance of the Verdi Requiem involving nearly 200 performers. Butterfield also teaches senior music at St. Michaels University School in Victoria.

With his crackling sense of humour and amazing knowledge of Handel's music, Butterfield quickly became a favourite with the Bach on the Rock group.

CELEBRATIONS

Community invited to Transitions party

10-year volunteer and others honoured

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

When Transitions Thrift Store holds its 18th birthday party on Thursday, it will be a celebration of volunteerism and community building.

The non-profit venture that raises funds for the Transition House and other Island Women Against Violence projects will have its traditional Barb Slater chocolate ganache cake to share,

as well as coffee and other refreshments. The event begins at 2 p.m.

Muriel Hale, who has volunteered at the store for 10 years, will receive special honours.

"It's pretty amazing to have the strong support of a volunteer for 10 years, and we are always accepting new ones," said Transitions manager Roberta Temmel.

Several others have given their time for a number of years. Temmel is especially proud of how volunteers from various sectors, including the Gulf Islands Families Together Society and

Gulf Islands Secondary School, work together.

Temmel notes that IWAV now has second-stage housing for women and children, which is a valuable amenity for those who need it.

IWAV has also assumed management of the Croftonbrook complex in the past year.

Transitions is open and accepts usable donations every day except for Christmas and New Year's days.

Temmel expressed thanks to all customers, donors and volunteers for their contributions.

7TH ANNUAL LEGION Christmas Craft & Collectables Fair

At Meaden Hall
Royal Canadian Legion

Sunday, Dec. 13
10am-3pm

FOR DETAILS CONTACT FRAN @
mummyearth@gmail.com



Come celebrate our 18th birthday!

Transitions Thrift Store would like to give a heartfelt Thank You to our community for its generous support over the years.

Please come in Thursday, Dec. 10th at 2:00 pm for cake and treats

Transitions Thrift Store 250-537-0661



SEASONAL MUSIC

Christmastide set to charm

Annual All Saints event

One of the highlights of the Christmas season for many islanders is the musical event known as Carols for Christmastide, which was established over 10 years ago by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish.

The hour-long program has become popular both as a recital and as an opportunity to sing along with some of the season's favourite carols.

This year the event falls on Wednesday, Dec. 16 and offers an uplifting afternoon with talented musician and choir director David Storm at the helm.

All Saints' Choir will lead in the singing of the more familiar carols, as well as performing three of their seasonal favourites, including the rhythmic traditional Spanish

carol Riu, Riu, Chiu and the tender Lullay My Liking by Gustav Holst.

Soloist sopranos Betty Rothwell, Jean McClure and Connie Holmes have also prepared some seasonal gems that bring Christmas straight to the heart.

Wednesday's event is perfect for those who may not wish to drive at night, with a starting time of 2 p.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea, where the ambiance and beautiful acoustics lend themselves to the intimacy of the program.

The event is free, although all donations received will be directed to the local food bank.

Festive refreshments will be served after the music and will include Sarah's famously delicious Christmas cake, Ros' yummy mint tarts and Linda's melt-in-your-mouth shortbread, with coffee, tea and mulled apple juice.

CHRISTMAS DRAMA

Dickens' Christmas Carol promises fundraising fun



PHOTO BY HOLLY VAN SCHOOR

From left, Clark Saunders, Lynda Jensen, Arthur Black, Connie Holmes and Mary Lowery take a break from rehearsal for a photo session.

Acclaimed performers eager to participate

BY DIANE LUGSDIN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The holiday season would not be truly complete without a production of *A Christmas Carol*, and this year the Salt Spring United Church, together with Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers (G2G) again present a dramatic reading of this Charles Dickens seasonal classic.

It has been some time since islanders delighted to the Newman family's *Christmas With Scrooge*, but only two years since this United Church/G2G partnership first brought this version to Salt Spring and now brings it back by popular demand. A new "tradition," this year's production comes complete with music for harp, piano, organ and voices.

Our gifted returning performers are Arthur Black, a three-time winner of the

Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour; Jan Rabson, the voice actor heard in thousands of films, commercials and TV shows; and Clark Saunders, who has had diverse roles in community theatre and cabaret. They will entertain with readings adapted from the classic. The talented Chris Humphreys, an actor, novelist and playwright; Rachel Jacobson, the director from *Into the Woods* fame; Lynda Jensen and Mary Lowery, seen and not seen in that same production will all join the cast this year.

Salt Spring is fortunate to be home to such renowned artists, who contribute so liberally to our community. Indeed, while several readers are only available for one of the two shows, they did not want to be counted out.

This abridged rendition of the classic often doubles as a benefit, and courtesy of the performers' generosity, all ticket proceeds go to the Grandmothers campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This campaign, seeking to "turn the

tide" of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, supports 300 community-based organizations that help women, orphaned children, grandmothers and those with HIV and AIDS. Some 240 Grandmothers groups across Canada have raised over \$22 million in solidarity with African grandmothers, these indomitable women who raise millions of children orphaned by AIDS and raise up their communities. Although their collective voice is growing, global funding for the fight against HIV/AIDS has waned due to the worldwide economic situation, and the fact that in "our" world, this disease is no longer the killer that it remains elsewhere.

Saunders, the mastermind behind this now third annual benefit for the Grandmothers campaign, speaks to the "why" of his continued commitment to this cause. He notes that although not the "headline grabber" it once was, our support remains critical, given the ongoing consequences of the pandemic for Africa and therefore the world. On a lighter note, he comments on how easy it is to recruit readers with this work, "literally made for hams" and such "juicy stuff to read."

One might well query what Dickens, writing 160 years ago, and Stephen Lewis share, and that would be a commitment to give voice to the major injustices of their worlds. Dickens did it with public readings of his carol, Lewis with his impassioned oratory and advocacy, and now seven of our best voices reminding us, via Scrooge, of the possibility of transformation.

The dramatic readings will be interspersed with seasonal music, generously offered by local musicians: two harpists, Yvonne Gibbon and Oona McQuout; accompanist Shirley Bunyan; and returning soloist Connie Holmes, herself a G2G member.

The gang that brought the cabaret *A Musical Christmas* will reprise a number for us, plus other ensembles will entertain. And as with any great holiday happening, "goodies" provide sustenance at intermission.

Show times are scheduled to get you in the mood the weekend before Christmas: 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the United Church.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books or the United Church office.

The show is not recommended for children under the age of 8.

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SOLSTICE CONCERT

Cari Burdett and friends perform

Seasonal sounds shared by visiting ensemble

A Cowichan Valley tradition shines its light on Salt Spring Island on Saturday, Dec. 19 when Cari Burdett and the Lila Music Centre present the Fifth Annual Winter Solstice Concert.

The event, which takes place at ArtSpring beginning at 7 p.m., melds music, vocals and dance to present an unforgettable evening of joy and peace.

New on the 2015 concert program is a beautiful version of the Huron Carol sung



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Singers Sara Marreiros, left, and Cari Burdett.

in English, French and Ojibwa languages.

Burdett will also perform her version of

Piaf's *La Vie en Rose* from her recently released album *Magnum*, which was nomi-

nated as Best World Music Album in the 2015 Western Canadian Music Awards.

Joining Burdett are internationally acclaimed musicians Richard Moody (violin); Miles Black (piano, sax, guitar); Anne Schaefer (piano, guitar, vocals); and vocalist Sara Marreiros. Dancer Marisa Jackson adds movement to complete an extraordinary sensory experience.

To celebrate the returning light, the band will invite the audience to join them in song, creating a one-of-a-kind, improvised sound sensation.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

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what's on this week



Wed. Dec 9 **Thur. Dec 10** **Thur. Dec 10** **Fri. Dec 11** **Sun. Dec 13** **Mon. Dec 14** **Wed. Dec 16**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Winter's Words Literary Event.
 Salt Spring author and Vancouver Island University teacher Kathy Page introduces VIU writing colleagues Jay Ruzesky, Joy Gugeler, Frank Moher, Robert J. Wiersema and Sarah Segal. SS Public Library. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Celebration of Trees.
 Enjoy nine beautifully decorated trees and add food donations for the Salt Spring Food Bank and Copper Kettle to your favourite. Salt Spring Golf & Country Club clubhouse. Open daily from 10 a.m. on until Dec. 30.
Poker Night at the Local.
 Hosted by Albert every Wednesday at The Local. Sign up by 6:30 p.m., start at 7 p.m.
SongJam.
 A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Open Mic with Ross & Dave.
 Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.
Winter Talent Showcase.
 Fundraiser for local Syrian refugee support at GISS multi-purpose room. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the show at 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Probus Salt Spring Island.
 Come and catch Canada's Caped Crusader for caught cetaceans, AKA Paul Cottrell, describing marine mammal rescues. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. to noon.
Spiritual Coffee Morning.
 Join Amanda Tarling to talk about the Unitarian theme of the month: "faith." All welcome. Rock Salt Cafe. 11:15 a.m.
Canine Christmas Open House.
 Santa visits and open house. Smiley Dog Grooming Spa. 101 Byron Rd. 1 to 5 p.m.
Coping With Grief Over the Holidays.
 Explore ways of coping with the loss of a loved one. Salt Spring Hospice hosts talk at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Transitions Thrift Store 18th Birthday Party.
 Celebrate with cake and treats at Transitions. 2 p.m.
Chanukah on Salt Spring.
 Community celebration and lighting of the menorah. Centennial Park. 3:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Branagh Theatre Live: Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale.
 At The Fritz. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows.
Glowntini Contest + Shop Late & Social.
 Local mixologists compete for title of the best martini of the holidays with a panel of celebrity judges, great festive setting and proceeds going to support the Copper Kettle. Oystercatcher Restaurant. 8 p.m. Before Glowntini, enjoy some late-night shopping in Ganges village.
Tech Cafe: WordPress II.
 By the end of this two-hour hands-on session with Myles, you will have created the outline for your own WordPress site or blog. Register at 250-537-4666, or info@saltspringlibrary.com. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 to 9 p.m.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.

Fri. Dec 11
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Synergy. Live music at The Local, with free appies from Dagwoods. 5 to 8 p.m.
Uncle Wiggly's Tribute to the Blues Songs of Christmas.
 Nine-piece band performs blues, swing and R&B classics. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Ange Hehr. Live rock/dance band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Meat Draw.
 Every Friday at the Legion. Starts at 5 p.m.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.
www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/

Sat. Dec 12
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
The Barley Bros.
 Live music at The Local Pub. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
The Coalition.
 Live band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Christmas Market in the Park.
 Vendors set up in Centennial Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Year-End Mother Tongue Book Sale.
 New and used fiction, nonfiction, art and poetry books. The Porch Gallery at 290 Fulford-Ganges Road. Noon to 4 p.m.
Stefanie Denz Winter Open Studio.
 See new works at 471 Beaver Pt. Rd. from 12 to 5 p.m.
Meat Draw.
 Every Saturday at the Legion. Starts at 5 p.m.
Sing-Along Messiah All-Community Rehearsal.
 Dress rehearsal for anyone wanting to participate in the fifth annual Sing-Along Messiah concert (at Fulford Hall on Dec. 13). Must have ticket to the concert in order to participate in rehearsals. Fulford Hall. 6 to 9 p.m.
Lions Santa Ship.
 Santa and his entourage visits the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands, arriving in Ganges Harbour at the Coast Guard dock at about 6:30 p.m. Kids can then meet Santa and get a toy inside Mouat's Mall. Santa also visits Greenwood and Lady Minto Hospital.
The Gallery on Garner.
 Come and celebrate first Christmas in the gallery. Saturday night champagne soiree starts at 7:30 p.m. 131 Garner Road.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Simon Miller & Friends Concert.
 Jazz trumpeter and four musical compatriots perform from new CD called From Day to Day. All Saints. 2 p.m.
Sing-Along Messiah Concert.
 Fifth annual Sing-Along Messiah concert with Bach on the Rock. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.
Ashton Bachman Band.
 Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Year-End Mother Tongue Book Sale.
 See Saturday's listing.
Stefanie Denz Winter Open Studio.
 See Saturday's listing.
Sunday Family Shopping Day.
 Santa's Workshop will be open next to Mouat's, and Ganges stores will offer treats to shoppers. All day.
7th Annual Legion Christmas Craft + Collectibles Fair.
 At Meaden Hall. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Unitarian Fellowship.
 Monthly singing service with Barb Slater. Songs, chants and rounds to revive the spirit. SS Seniors Centre. 10:30 a.m.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.
Salt Spring Gallery Winter Open House.
 Drop by for cider and shortbread and browse one-of-a-kind works of art during Ganges Family Shopping Day. Salt Spring Gallery. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Gallery on Garner.
 Come and celebrate first Christmas in the gallery with Sunday show and sale. 131 Garner Road. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Rollerblading.
 Every Sunday at Fulford Hall from 2 to 4 p.m.
The Shift in Consciousness.
 Interactive presentation, discussion and practising inner shifts with Susanne Hunter. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES
Merry Monday. A Fulford Village tradition with hot cider and carolling led by Valdy at the SS Mercantile Parking Lot from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your own mug. Fulford Village merchants will also be open late, serving up side dishes of cheer and offering specials.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.

Tue. Dec 15
ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee Meeting.
 United Church Upper Hall. 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Celebration of Trees.
 See Wednesday's listing.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Carols for Christmastide.
 Christmas concert and opportunity to sing carols at All Saints. 2 p.m. Followed by festive refreshments.

ACTIVITIES
The Seniors Christmas Party.
 Enjoy the Lost Chords, and a performance by the Reader's Theatre along with your tea and goodies. Hosted by Vivian and Bryan Dawson. SS Seniors Centre. 2 to 4 p.m.
Celebration of Trees.
 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

- **Suffragette** — In early 20th-century Britain, Maud Watts joins the growing suffragette movement, women who fight for equality and the right to vote. Faced with increasing police action, the dedicated suffragettes must play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse, risking everything for their cause. Stars Carey Mulligan and Meryl Streep.
- **Branagh Theatre Live: Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale** — Recorded at The Garrick Theatre in London, Shakespeare's timeless tragedy of obsession and redemption is re-imagined in a new production co-directed by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh. With Judi Dench as Paulina, Kenneth Branagh as Leontes. Two shows only on Thurs., Dec. 10, 3 and 7 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Gallery 8** presents its annual exhibition of 8x8 Christmas Small Works daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Jan. 6.
- **WinterCraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council's show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and craftspeople runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22.
- **The Legion Christmas Craft and Collectibles Fair** runs on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Gallery** holds a winter open house with cider and shortbread on Sunday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Stefanie Denz** holds an open studio at **471 Beaver Point Rd.**, on Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13, 12 noon to 5 p.m.
- **The Gallery on Garner** celebrates its first Christmas at **131 Garner Rd.** on Saturday, Dec. 12 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Mel Williamson** shares new paintings related to restaurants and food at **Auntie Pesto's** cafe for the month of December, in a show presented by **Steffich Gallery**.
- **Fred Ascott** shows paintings in the first We've Got Talent exhibition at **Greenwoods**, open daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through December.
- **Howard Fry's** exhibition Vanishing Landmarks: Photos of a BC Pioneering Heritage runs at the **Library Program Room** through December.
- **Margot W. Chisholm** has an exhibit of paintings at **Country Roasters Cafe** at **Country Grocer** in December.
- **Beulah Gordon** shows mixed-media and glass work at **Island Savings**

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Viva Chorale! Carollers Sing Christmas

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ART REVIEW

Howard Fry photographs capture texture of bygone era



From left, Howard Fry photos of the Cariboo, the Vernon district and birch trees in the Kootenays, taken in the 1970s.

Vanishing Landmarks at library through December

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A series of photos by Howard Fry that focus on the remnants of B.C.'s pioneering history offers a unique perspective on two distinct time periods.

Called Vanishing Landmarks, the show is in the library's program room this month.

Fry's black-and-white photos captured a part of B.C.'s heritage that may in fact be lost to modern eyes, since he was shooting barns and log homes that were already on their last legs when he was taking these photographs in the 1970s. Since he was working with the equipment of the day, the work also reflects a unique method that Fry employed to create his aesthetic using a

35-mm lens camera and film. Fry was originally trained as a graphic artist in England but found the field didn't really exist when he moved to Canada. His career took off after he was hired to set up a fashion studio at Eatons, but consequently, he says, he had no idea what kind of photographer he actually was.

Fry developed his artistic side on the weekends, jumping into his aging Land Rover very early on Saturday mornings and driving as far as he could in a day to places in the Chilcotin and the Kootenays, or up Vancouver Island. He was especially compelled by the B.C. interior's landscape, with its rolling hills that recalled his native Yorkshire.

As well, he said, "I missed the history of England. These old places kind of pulled at the heartstrings."

Working to maintain the era of the past, Fry sought out abandoned farmsteads where he could capture a shot with-

out telephone wires or modern fences being in the way. The photos were often taken from a distance, so the wooden houses and barns are set within their particular landscapes of stubby fields and gnarled trees. Depth of field is such that individual stalks of grass and rough boards are all equally in focus.

Mounted on foam core without glass, the prints contain a tangible sense of texture despite also having a sepia-tinted nostalgia. Fry explained that he used a quite different technique to produce the original prints, which have been exhibited and were once slated for a book by Douglas & McIntyre. He printed onto coatless paper that he ordered from the U.K. A careful procedure in the dark room was required to over-expose the images in chemicals heated to a much higher than standard temperature. Fry had to snatch the images out of the developer and get them into

the fixing solution just in time before the blacks came in too strong. The process eliminated half-tones and caused the sepia-like colour.

"It has the benefit of very harsh contrasts and being very crisp," Fry said.

Fry replicated the look for the current exhibition by scanning the negatives and using digital techniques to print the images onto regular photo paper. The images retain the contrasts that make the wooden buildings and landscape features emerge so clearly. The technique also creates a stark drama, with skies either blankly white or containing swirly black cloud formations. Contrasts are emphasized even further in winter scenes, where dark interiors are hinted at in buildings set against snowy fields and misty skies.

Fry's high-contrast technique is also put to wonderful effect in a rare landscape shot that is a closer-up view of a

thicket of birch trees. The vertical scene is filled with slender trunks, whose three-dimensional character is emphasized in the horizontal bands of dark markings. A single black tree rises in their midst, while a historic log fence is barely visible behind the first cohort.

This photo is just one example of the underlying richness behind deceptively simple scenes. Each piece can demand a lot of careful looking, so viewers should reward themselves with ample time to enjoy the experience fully.

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WRITING CONTEST

Novel finalists set

Contest short list includes Gulf Islands author

Mother Tongue Publishing has announced the three finalists in the third Great BC Novel Contest and the list includes Mayne Island resident Grant Buday.

Buday's submission Atomic Road "is a novel laced with irony and wit set on the road from New York to Saskatchewan at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis." After reading 56 submissions, short list judges Bill Gaston and Kathryn Para also selected The Arioso Game by Linda Rogers and Ben Murray, a collaborative love story told through alternating points of view, poems, prose and illustrations,

and Cathy Stonehouse's The Causes, a novel set in the 1982 Falklands/Malvinas War as experienced through the lives of two young soldiers from opposing sides.

Salt Spring author Pearl Luke is the final judge and will choose the winner in the new year. The writer of the winning manuscript will receive a publishing contract with Mother Tongue Publishing, a cash advance, regional book launches and readings, media coverage, and publication of their novel in trade paperback.

Everything Was Goodbye by Gurjinder Basran won the first Great BC Novel contest as well as the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize. Lucky by Kathryn Para won the second contest and was a Ethel Wilson prize finalist in 2014.

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This holiday season, Kira is giving Paul two weeks of dog walking (and sitting) services.

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TRADITIONS

Santa Ship hits the high seas once again

This Saturday, Dec. 12

BY EVELYN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Lions Santa Ship arrives on Salt Spring this Saturday, Dec. 12, as a uniquely southern Gulf Islands tradition continues.

Santa and his entourage of clowns, elves and a few pirates — to protect the treasure, of course — start off in the morning from Bellingham, Wash., travelling through the Salish Sea and heading to Saturna Island, then Pender, Mayne, Galiano, and finally, by nightfall, Salt Spring.

The ship sails into Ganges Harbour all a-twinkle with colourful lights, glittering garlands and a chorus of Christmas carols at about 6:30 p.m. Santa and his entourage serve hot



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Santa arrives in Ganges in 2014.

chocolate at the Coast Guard dock. Then at about 7 p.m., Santa gives out goodies at Moutat's Mall.

After dazzling the children, Santa

swings over to the hospital and Greenwood, to spread some Christmas spirit around there.

The Christmas Ship began in 1947 when some businesspeople in the Pacific Northwest saw the need and wanted to do something to make the holidays happier.

"The kids on the islands didn't have transportation to and from the big cities," explains Don Wight of the Bellingham Lions Club. "One of the islands asked if a boat that had lights on it could possibly come out to the islands with candy and toys for the kids."

That marked the beginning of the Christmas Ship. Every December for the past 65-plus years, Santa has suited up and stepped off the ship to bring gifts and joy to peo-

ple living on the San Juan and Gulf Islands.

Since 1996, the Bellingham Central Lions Club has run the project, with help from the multiple districts and Lions in Canada. The Lions who volunteer pay for the chance to sail with Santa and help him give hot chocolate and treats to children and the elderly, who might otherwise be overlooked.

Today, during the two-day cruise, Lions give away over 800 gifts to children and seniors. Crew members sleep over on Salt Spring Island on the 12th, and then depart for Bellingham the next morning.

Children today do get off the island more frequently. But the Santa Ship helps islanders connect with their past and one another.

READING

New book shelves restocked at the library

A peek at Maggie's latest finds

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

We are well into reading season now and ready to travel, either by armchair or in person, so take a look at our up-to-date travel books on the New Non-Fiction shelf where we feature the latest travel guides to Thailand, India and islands and beaches. And no worries if you are staying around, as the New Shelves continue to fill with recently published titles for all interests.

Just in is a selection of the **Oxford Very Short Introduction** series. History, Religions, Scientific topics, and Languages are only a few of the themes these concise, well-illustrated, well-documented texts cover. Each volume includes an overview of the topic; a historical guide, if appropriate; interesting photos or other visual documentation; specific details and an outlook to the future. Written by experts in the field, these books are a short-cut to knowledge and insights about a wide variety of pertinent themes.

Work with Me presents insights into the eight blind spots between men and women in business. As in the authors' previous book, **Men Are from Mars . . .**, this text examines how and why men and women think differently, this time at work. The authors demonstrate that respect for gender intelligence, not gender equality, is the answer to creation of sustainable economic advantage for individuals as well as organizations. After laying out the

ON THE NEWSHELF

problems using illustrations from real-life settings and communications, the authors identify the issues and suggest realistic approaches to overcoming the obstacles that prevent men and women from sharing work space.

Fresh from Salt Spring's Mother Tongue Publishing, **The Literary Storefront: the Glory Years 1978-1985** is a joyous recollection of Vancouver's literary history. Featuring Mona Fertig, as well as other literary luminaries, in some lovely photos, the author remembers and reveals the stories behind the movement that ignited and sustained many of Canada's finest authors. Full of nostalgia, full of glorious memories, full of life, this book brings back the good old days of bohemian Vancouver and shares them with those who were a part of that exciting era as well as those who missed out.

Recipes of Digestive Health: The Gutsy Cookbook, by former Salt Spring resident Lorelei Rondeau presents a wealth of healthy, delicious recipes that are high in fibre, and low in fat, acid, sugar and salt. Replete with recipes for a wide variety of foods, including cereals, waffles, cakes, cookies, main dishes, both meat and vegetable based, and useful suggestions for liquid diets and topping mixes to keep on hand, the book is easy to follow. The many beautiful photos will make your mouth water, while the sidebars full of nutritional information and dietary suggestions

will help you to make wiser food decisions.

On the New Fiction Shelf, along with a wide selection of the latest novels from all genres, is Debbie Macomber's 2015 Christmas novel called **Dashing through the Snow**. A story of romance, intrigue and adventure, this novel

will warm the cockles of your heart this season as the days draw in and the fire burns bright. As anticipated, our protagonists live through a series of challenges that entertain and intrigue: a "feel good" story that will keep the reader warm well after the last page is turned.

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PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES

Salt Spring Island is prone to severe storms (i.e. power or snow) which may cause power outages due to down power lines. We may be without power for over two days. Below are some tips take from BC Hydro that will help you prepare for an outage:

- ✓ Develop a preparedness plan and have a contingency plan in case power is out for a long period of time.
- ✓ Ensure you have a plan for heat, light and alternate power. These could include: fire places (heat), generators, solar power or even electric cars.
- ✓ Have surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment such as computers, DVD players and TVs.
- ✓ Include a battery operated or solar flashlight in your emergency kit to avoid using candles - they can be a fire hazard.
- ✓ If you rely on life-sustaining medical equipment, be prepared to be self-reliant by having adequate backup in the event of a power outage. A contingency plan, may include moving to the home of a family member or friend in an area with power.

For more information on preparing for a power outage go to: <https://www.bchydro.com/safety-outages/power-outages/prepare-for-outages/prepare-your-home.html>
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NATURE

Bird count needs citizen scientists

Sunday, Dec. 20 is the day

BY NIEKE VISSER
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Have you ever stopped to look at a bird or listen to its song? Then I invite you to get involved in the Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 20.

Each year, tens of thousands of volunteers share their energy, skill, and bird sightings through the Christmas Bird Count, one of the oldest citizen-science monitoring bird life programs. Large-scale public participation in such a program is extremely important.

This program spans the whole North American continent and is sponsored by Bird Studies Canada, the Cornell Institute for Ornithology, the Audubon Society and many more nature oriented organizations. By gathering information as a volunteer citizen scientist, you can help scientists to understand how changes in our landscape and climate are affecting wild bird habitats and populations, and to make informed decisions about conservation policies.

The program found its origin in 1900, initiated by Frank Chapman, an ornithologist with the American Museum of Natural History. Concerned with declining bird populations, he organized the "Christmas Bird Census." The hope was to help shift the tide from a hunting competition called "Side Hunt," where people competed to kill the most birds and other animals, to a conservation-oriented activity instead.

The event in each location being surveyed was called a "count" and the challenge was to note as many birds as they

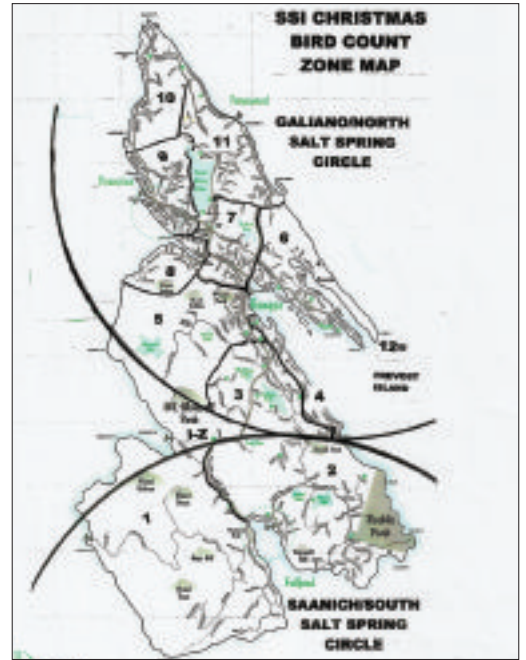
could find on Christmas Day. What started with 25 counts by 27 people from Ontario to California has grown to more than 2,200 counts with over 63,000 counters all the way from the Arctic in North America down to the tip of South America!

The benefits of the CBC are far reaching. Not only do participants enjoy getting out into nature and watching our winter birds with like-minded people, but the information gathered is used in many important ways. The data on their own, as well as merged with other surveys such as the Feederwatch, Great Backyard Bird Count and i-Bird, help researchers monitor the status of bird populations and patterns. This in turn leads to understanding how weather, diseases and other factors are influencing bird migration and survival.

In addition, this information is used in many high-level reports and has helped identify threats to both birds and their habitat. This has led to adding birds to the Species at Risk Act lists. Conservation efforts for many bird species are thanks to these citizen scientist activities.

Presently counts are performed on one day around Christmas time and are typically organized by local groups such as field naturalist clubs where the area in question (a 24 km diameter circle) is divided up, although individual efforts are also welcome. At the end of the day, the many lists are given to organizers to submit for analysis. This year's count will take place on Sunday, Dec. 20.

This is how it works on Salt Spring Island: our island is divided by two circles (see map): the north end is reporting to an area organizer on Galiano while the south end is reporting



Map shows Salt Spring zones and regions.

to the area organizer in Saanich. Salt Spring Island is subdivided into 12 zones, each with a count coordinator. (See map, above.)

Zone 12 is Prevost Island, which also reports to the Galiano circle and the little area between the two circles marked I-Z (Burgoyne Bay area and part of Maxwell) reports to the organizer of the circle west of Salt Spring. Here on the island we keep track of our own counts as well.

To date we have a 25-year history of data and we want to keep adding to existing data.

Our island coordinator is Tim Marchant. If you are willing to

participate this year and you do not know who your zone coordinator is, please contact Tim (tim@timmarchant.com), who will point you in the right direction.

No matter what your age, expertise or abilities are, everyone is welcome! If you are a novice, but would like to give it a try, you can be assigned to a more experienced birder.

The Christmas Bird Count is sponsored by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club.

For more information you can also call me (Nieke Visser) at 250-537-5443, or get in touch with Tim.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Fulford Free-be-do returns

Volunteers and donors welcomed

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Helga and Michael Bagnell invite islanders from across Salt Spring to a Christmas Day tradition with something for everyone to enjoy.

The couple revived the Free-Be-Do event at Fulford Hall in 2013 to celebrate their community and offer a venue for people to catch some holiday spirit. When 150 people attended that inaugural event, the Bagnells sensed they were on to a good idea, and the tradition was reborn. Last year's second-annual event drew 300 people, and the couple expects even more for Christmas Day 2015.

"The community definitely needs a place to go for Christmas," said Helga Bagnell. "The whole island is invited."

The event is especially designed to spread some cheer with islanders who might be far away from friends and family during the holiday season. Festivities get underway with brunch at 11 a.m. on Christmas Day, followed by games, snacks and music throughout the

afternoon. Last year's event saw participants chew through eight turkeys and a banquet table brimming with potluck treats provided by participants.

Bagnell said partygoers aren't required to bring any potluck items to the alcohol-free, family-friendly event.

With time counting down to the third-annual Free-be-do, organizers can still use some help from helpful volunteer elves to decorate the hall, wrap gifts and cook up the feast. Food and toy donations are also welcome.

"We always rely on a lot of volunteers who do wonderful things," she said.

The Bagnells held the first free-be-do Christmas feasts between 1997 and 2001, when they owned Roses Cafe in Fulford (now known as the Rock Salt Restaurant and Cafe). Bagnell said she's thrilled to see the happy, celebratory south-end tradition survive.

"It really gives us a feeling of community," she said.

Anyone who wants to lend a hand or get more details about the event can call the Bagnells at 250-653-9856. As the name suggests, admission to the Free-be-do is absolutely free.

Orders made in-store before & including December 14 will arrive in time for Christmas!

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Christmas Around the Island

Photos by Jen MacLellan



Guider Emily McNish with hand knit mice by Aldyth Levy at the Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair.



The Salt Spring Island Weavers and Spinners Guild tree is one of several in the Festival of Trees at the Salt Spring Golf Club. People can bring donations for the food bank or support Copper Kettle daily through Dec. 30.



A detail from Love My Kitchen's farm Christmas window scene. Driftwood Light-up Decorating Winners were, Best Overall: 1st, Ganges Fire Hall; 2nd, Love My Kitchen. Most Creative: 1st, Love My Kitchen; 2nd, Ganges Fire Hall; honourable mention, Mouat's Clothing. Best Use of Lights: 1st, Ganges Fire Hall; 2nd, Visitors' Centre. The People's Choice award is now up to you: send your choice for favourite decorated premises to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop it off on a piece of paper to the Driftwood office, or reply to our Facebook page post!



Crowds test samples at the Chili Cook-off that was moved into the Ganges Fire Hall from Centennial Park due to heavy rains on Saturday night. Winners were: Judges' Choice: 1st, El Loco Taco; 2nd, Fix; 3rd, Salt Spring Inn. People's Choice (with 128 votes cast in total): 1st, Team Island Savings with 50 votes; 2nd, El Loco Taco; 3rd, Salt Spring Inn.

SPEAKERS

Whale focus at talk

Paul Cottrell at Probus

Marine mammal expert Paul Cottrell is coming back to his home town and giving a talk to the Dec. 10 Salt Spring Probus club meeting.

Fresh off a cross-Canada tour, from the West Coast to Halifax via the St. Lawrence River, Cottrell has been telling folks there how members of the British Columbia Mammal Response Network handle the large issue of large whales entangled in human debris.

"Anyone watching TV or reading local newspapers will realize just how important this work is," states a press release from the

Probus group. "Hardly a month goes by without an image of whales and other marine mammals in life-threatening entanglements. It is thanks to Cottrell and the network teams that some of these events end successfully, with the mammals freed."

Cottrell grew up on Salt Spring and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Simon Fraser University and his masters from UVic. He has worked with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for more than 18 years.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free Thursday Probus meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. at Meaden Hall.

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MCLEAN, KENNETH DALE
June 11, 1939 – December 2, 2015

Dale passed away peacefully on December 2, 2015. He leaves his beloved wife Marilyn of 54 years, loving daughter Ginny (Brian) Church of Nanaimo, daughter Karen Chambers, sister Sharon (Elmer) Schwarz of Ontario, always in his caring mind five grandchildren Lauren (McGinty), Jordan, Raymond, Timothy and Brian. Thank you to CDH and the Staff for their care and concern for Dale. Thank you to Steph (Jim).

There will be no service at Dale's request. *It isn't easy plodding on, along an uphill road, It's hard to keep your shoulders square, Beneath a heavy load, still you can smile, if you've e a few Sweet memories my love to take with you. I miss you so.*

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Janet Andersen
JAN. 21, 1939 - DEC. 2, 2015

We are sad to announce the passing of Janet Andersen (formerly Rolfsen, née Cochrane) on Salt Spring Island.

Janet was the youngest daughter of William Hutchin Cochrane and Lillian Rose Cochrane of Nanaimo. She studied education at UBC, then lived abroad in London and Denmark in the mid-1960s before continuing studies at the University of Michigan.

She taught primary grades in Vancouver from 1975-99 at Charles Dickens Annex and Queen Mary Elementary, with one memorable exchange year in Australia's Northern Territory.

Janet retired to Salt Spring, where she treasured her communities in the Wild & Woolly Rug Hookers, Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and Salt Spring Island United Church.


She continued to see the world, visiting Turkey, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Costa Rica, among others -- many as a solo traveller.

Janet leaves behind sons Torben and Erik (Lora), and granddaughters Sophie and Isla. She was predeceased by sisters Thora and Margaret, and is survived by sister Shirley and several nieces and nephews.

A service will be held Wednesday, December 9 at 10 a.m. at Salt Spring Island United Church. Refreshments to follow on site.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Raise a Reader in Vancouver, www.canadahelps.org/dn/11502.


Online condolences to be made at: www.haywardsfuneral.com 250-537-1022



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Attention New Salt Springers!

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARLO MCGOWAN
Jan 23 1954 - Nov 30 2015


It's with a sad heart That I have to say That Arlo McGowan Has passed away

On a beautiful clear Nov. 30th night With his soul mate Lee-Ann by his side Peaceful and gentle was his ride "When he "Broke on through to the other side"

He loved his music And was a wonderful man But his pride and joy Was his son Stan

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THANK YE ALL!

Expressing appreciation to the community for its support is always difficult because words are never enough. This island has a huge heart when it comes to giving to their community halls. As anyone who is involved in a local hall knows it takes an immense amount of work and support in to keep a hall running for its Island neighbours.

The 2015 Beaver Point Hall fundraising Christmas Fair was the best ever and it is all due to the generous support of all our visitors, patrons, talented artisans, vendors, donors (individual and corporate) and hundreds of community volunteer hours.


Special Thanks goes to these individuals for the restaurant: The Chefs; Chef Michael Williams of Country Grocer (Friday Night) and Lou Ellis of Coco Loco (Saturday and Sunday); Phillip's Soup; Bread Ladies Heather, Barb and Wendy; Many Other Ingredients from: Island growers large and small; Decedent Deserts galore from many of our Island neighbours

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INFORMATION

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Santa will be in attendance so please bring your cameras. See you on the 10th.


Michelle, Jake, Rey & Snoopy



Salt Spring Hospice

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COMING EVENTS

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

KATHY MARA is happy to announce the birth of her 4th grandchild. First child born to David & Suzy Field of Prince George. Deanna Jane arrived on schedule Oct. 1st. She is absolutely adorable!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

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TENDERS

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This Week's
Noroscope
by Michael O'Connor
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TIP OF THE WEEK:

The New Moon in Sagittarius is the last one of 2015. Among the more positive character traits for Sagittarius is the capacity to be visionary, to see a deeper, wider and longer-term vision than average. In the widest sense this includes achieving success that benefits others, our family, our community and/or humanity in general. This is where Astrology can help a lot by helping us to understand who we are as individuals and the deeper motivations of why we are here, what constitutes our life purpose and how we can be successful both materially and spiritually too. Beyond mere prediction, good Astrology serves to see who you are in a deep and precise manner thus supporting choices that contain a deeper meaning a purpose for both the short and long term. The point of power is ever in the moment and now is the time to make meaningful investments into living your fullest life by shining your true light. Gift Certificates are easy to purchase and can be sent to you by mail or email. sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20) You are in a sober and determined mood, eager to get down to business. Attending to practical affairs of all kinds is on your mind. This current momentum will continue through and beyond the turn of the New Year. Fortunately, the child within awakens for you at this time of the year. If you make the festive season your business, you can help make your holiday wishes come true.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21) Digging deep to access hidden treasures is keeping you busy now. While this focus includes your own talents and resources, you may also be scoping out those of others. Having your relationship desires fulfilled is woven into the plot. You may have to make extra efforts however. Some soul searching about what is meaningful to you is featured.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Your adventure is guiding you to new relationship experiences. These may require more patience and effort than you initially anticipated. Extra diplomacy is implied. This includes making efforts to open your mind wider than you perhaps have for a while. Fortunately your passions are running high and you feel playful and sporting.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) Bringing extra attention to the overall quality of your lifestyle continues. This comes at a busy time requiring your attention on a variety of fronts. With your powers of analysis running so high, you also probably have a lot on your mind. In certain respects you feel determined to get to the bottom of things. All the while you feel passionately about the people you love.

Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23) A new vision of possibility for your life is slowly dawning. Yet the need for you to pay closer attention to the details is growing daily. Ideally you are open to entertaining new perspectives and approaches. Fortunately your energy levels should be running higher than usual these days. Transferring some of this energy to uplifting changes in your home will inspire your confidences.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22) A big focus on home and family is taking center stage for you now. You feel inspired to take some key risks, even leaps of faith, yet you must also contend with various delays and restrictions. Some of these may be linked to your confidence levels. Yet curiosity is getting the better of you. You are eager to have new experiences, to invite experimentation into the mix.

Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22) You are in an assertive mood and your energy levels are running high to support your cause. With so many fronts to attend to combined with a growing ambition for prosperous returns, this is good news indeed. Your confidence levels may still be a little below your ideal so it may be necessary to work a little harder to compensate.

Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21) Where and how to invest continues to occupy your focus. Sometimes it is money, at other turns it is extra time that is required and sometimes it is simply extra effort that must be applied. This is also a time when who you know will balance with what you know and could even take the 51%. In any case, circumstances are leading you to keep an open mind yet to also take a sharp focus regarding business.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21) This New Moon will serve to activate the next wave of your creative initiative. It comes at a good time too as a new cycle rapidly approaches. Your basic task now is to know which direction to take. If ever there was a need for a solid plan this is it. Expansion in your public and/or professional life is highlighted and requires practical thinking and realistic action.

Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19) A steady process of releasing old relationship commitments and/or relationship patterns continues. Looking back, you and your life circumstances have likely changed considerably over the past few years. Now it is time for the next series of shifts. As ever, you get to choose and decide to contribute to the outcome. Take note: it is the small things you do every day that make the biggest difference.

Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19) You are learning to see things more clearly, as they are. You are increasingly aware of the relativity of perceptions. What not so long ago was 'the' news is now just other news. At worst you do not know what to believe anymore. At best you feel liberated from sources you once accepted more literally. Yet you remain aware that the world needs wisdom and healing.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20) A new dynamic is emerging in your life. It includes expansion and increase but you have to play your part by having a plan. It will also require additional effort and discipline. This will become evident over the coming weeks. Avoid assumptions especially in your dealings with others. Take the initiative to outline your goals and activate a momentum now to get a jump start on 2016.

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sports&recreation

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Season ends on high note

GISS teams celebrate success, learn from defeat

BY LINA LOSIER AND JESI PEARCE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTORS

The senior girls volleyball team has completed a thrilling season this year, competing with the high-performance teams that went to provincial championships.

The Scorpion girls placed sixth out of all the AA teams on Vancouver Island.

Over on the senior boys' side of the court, the Scorpions finished sixth in the North Island Championships and put up a good fight. They

played their hearts out and showed tremendous growth in their skills.

The junior boys soccer team battled hard but lost their final game of the season 6-0 to a strong Brentwood side. Despite the score, the Scorpions played brilliantly.

Ciaran Ayton, senior boys soccer coach, explained what a great year it had been for the team and how hard the players worked when competing at the North Island Championships. The team finished second, but an unlucky game denied them a trip to the provincials at the Vancouver Island playoff, where they placed fifth out of the teams on Vancouver Island.

"At times sports can be

cruel, but we can learn lessons for next season," Ayton said.

The junior girls volleyball team finished an outstanding season by taking third place at the Mid-Island Championships, which qualified them for the Island Championships.

During the Islands, the girls battled hard and placed eighth among 48 teams on Vancouver Island. Nikita Pardiwala and Brittany Allan thank the girls for making this such a memorable season.

The junior boys volleyball team finished the season on a good note by placing eighth at Mid-Islands.

Good job to all the athletes who played incredibly this season.

ADULT SOCCER

FC men win third in a row

Matches scheduled before Christmas break

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring United FC got a jump on the competition in Vancouver Island Soccer League play with a 2-0 win against Gorge FC on Saturday.

John Emekoba scored twice as the visitors sent hometown fans at Victoria's Hampton Park home in disappointment. Rick Gutierrez earned the shutout.

The win is Salt Spring's third consecutive victory and gives the team a record of 3-5-1 in

Masters-A division play.

Players will strive to keep climbing in the standings when they host the Fernwood Dragons (3-5-1) Saturday afternoon at 2:15 at Portlock Park.

The Old Boys Sunday morning match against the Athletics was cancelled due to weather. The team will try again versus visitors from Vic West on Sunday, Dec. 13 at noon at the GISS field.

In women's soccer play, Salt Spring United travels to play Juan de Fuca on Sunday, Dec. 13 at noon. The team's Dec. 6 match against the Castaways was postponed.

The women go into their last match before the Christmas break with a 3-5-1 record.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Fond farewell to 'Bonnie Paulie'

Rosters shift for winter and off-island moves

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The winter exodus is beginning. Of the five and a half tables on Nov. 23, there were several who would be leaving for warmer climes in the near future and one of the top winners played his last game here before departing for Mexico, not to reappear here until maybe next May.

This was Prem Margoese, who with bridge partner Jeff Bell topped the crowd. Second were Al Wilke and Nadene McCoy, also planning a departure soon. Third were George Laundry and Paul Retallack, the latter about to leave permanently (stay tuned). Fourth were Blanche Poborsa and Terry Clement, who are sticking around,

BRIDGETRICKS

more or less.

Nov. 30 is the Scottish St. Andrew's Day and, ooh aye, the annual Christmas cèilidh when there were wee raffle giffies like wines and chocolates and wrapped mysteries. And because this was an unco special occasion due to the imminent permanent departure of our extremely valuable member Paul Retallack, who not only has been an immense help through the years but has set up the current computer scoring system, there were a few choice words and awards made by coordinator and many-time playing partner George Laundry.

First was the 2980 award — the highest score available (for 7 NT, doubled, redoubled, and vulnerable), and then the

Life Membership award for not only no fees extracted but also free parking at Seniors' any time he chooses to pay a visit from his new home in Victoria (after a wee sojourn in Hawaii). Lang may yer lum reek, Paul — we'll miss ye! "Bonnie Paulie's noo awa/ Safely oer the friendly main;/ Mony a heart will break in twa,/ Should he no come back again."

And now for the bridge results that day. First among the six full tables (as so often) were Paul Retallack and George Laundry, a guid farewell. Second was the Wilke-McCoy pair for their last appearance until spring, followed by Flo Laundry and Jean Elder, and then Michel Jutras (making a reappearance after a summer in the Arctic!) and April Wright in the fourth spot. As for the rest, it's gaein be awricht ance the pain has gane awa.

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