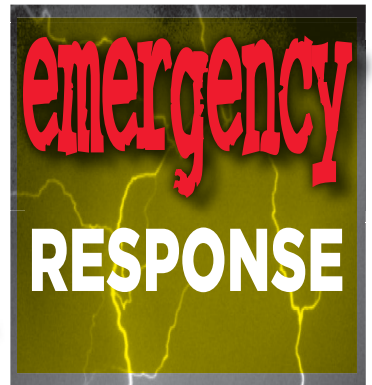


GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

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EMERGENCY

Floatplane takes dive

Rescue effort assembled off Galiano Island

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The pilot and passenger of a Cessna 180 floatplane have escaped unharmed after their aircraft crashed upon takeoff from Galiano Island's Montague Harbour on Monday afternoon.

Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre Victoria received a call for assistance at 1:56 p.m. stating the Cessna had crashed with two people on board and was partially submerged in Trincomali Channel. The organization dispatched a wide-ranging response that included Salt Spring Coast Guard, a nearby BC Ferries vessel, a Cormorant helicopter from the Canadian Forces base at Comox and a Sea King helicopter from the base at Patricia Bay.

"Several vessels of opportunity in the vicinity also responded," a JRCCV spokesperson reported. Salt Spring resident Kurt Irwin was fishing on the other side of Galiano Island when the mayday call came in and was one of the first to respond.

"I had floats and lots of prawn rope so I thought I'd go out in case it did start to sink," Irwin said.

When he arrived 15 minutes later the pilot and passenger had already been picked up by another private boat near Sphinx Island. They had managed to get out of the plane safely and were standing on the aircraft's overturned body when help arrived.

The crash victims were then transferred to the Ganges Coast Guard lifeboat and brought to Salt Spring, where they were met at the dock by BC Ambulance paramedics. No injuries were reported.

"I'm glad everybody got out — that's the important thing," Irwin said. "The water was only 44 degrees [6.67 C]. That's pretty chilly. You're not going to last too long in that."

The plane was towed by a RCMP vessel and tied up at Parker Island. The Transport Safety Board has said it will not investigate the crash.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

ROAD BLOCK: The 1200-1300 blocks of North Beach Road remain closed to traffic after a large chunk of the surface fell off Sunday during the long weekend's heavy rains. An assessment crew was due to survey the damage, but repair plans had yet to be made as of Tuesday, according to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Ban on assisted death lifted

One-year suspension given to create new laws

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Supreme Court of Canada has delivered a historic ruling that strikes down the ban on doctor-assisted suicide.

A judgment on Carter versus Canada handed out Friday finds the prohibition is void as long as the person seeking help is a competent adult who is suffering "a grievous and irremediable medical condition" that is "intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition." The declaration of invalidity has been suspended for 12 months in order to give regulators time to draft a considered response.

The news all but fulfills the aims of groups like Dying with Dignity, whose Salt Spring chapter has been an active force for advocacy on the issue.

"I had faith — I really had faith that it was going to happen," said Joan Farlinger, who cofounded the local chapter with Marcia Hogan. "The only surprise, perhaps, is that the ruling was as generous and compassionate as it was."

The right-to die legal challenge has deep roots in British Columbia. The B.C. Supreme Court previously ruled against assisted suicide in Rodriguez versus British Columbia (AG) in 1993. The fight was revived by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association in 2011 on behalf of Gloria Taylor, a woman dying of ALS. The B.C. Supreme Court found in favour of Taylor's right to an assisted death, but then overturned it on appeal.

SUPREME COURT continued on 2

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust approves request for liquor store relocation

LTC issues three-year permit

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A decision by Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee gives The Local Liquor Store a green light to move into new digs in the heart of Ganges.

Trustees unanimously approved a three-year temporary use permit Thursday afternoon to allow liquor sales at 133 Lower Ganges Rd., the former site of Calvin's Bistro.

Business owners Steve Knight and Colleen Kennaird called the new downtown location a much-needed upgrade from their store's current spot beside Centennial Park at the end

of Gasoline Alley.

"It is imperative for our survival that we improve our competitive position within the marketplace," Knight and Kennaird said in a letter to trustees. "We believe that relocating to the former Calvin's location will give us that improvement that we require to remain successful."

Knight told trustees the move was prompted by news the government-run liquor store at Grace Point Square is eyeing cold beer sales and a wider selection of wines produced by so-called boutique wineries. The couple didn't say when liquor sales will begin at the new location or what's in store for the Gasoline Alley retail space.

Though supported by the owners and operators of Ganges marinas, the application raised concerns among people who questioned the new location's appropriateness and parking availability, and the prospect of unfair competition.

"It does attract a certain clientele, and it does allow people to hang about," said Mateo Gramani, who spoke at the town hall portion of Thursday's LTC meeting. "My take on it is that it is very close to the schools."

Gramani said he worries about children who must walk past the store as they travel between the water taxis and class.

"I think it is different from most other stores

that are in town, it is a liquor store," he said.

Leigh Large, part owner of Country Grocer and the Upper Ganges Liquor Store, spoke against the temporary permit, arguing a formal rezoning process is more appropriate.

"My concern is about a level playing field, because we have invested a very significant amount of money in the Upper Ganges Liquor Store and our shopping centre with certain expectations of what the rules are and what the rules aren't," Large told trustees. "If there's going to be a rezoning for this location, that's fine, but it should go through the rezoning process and all the things that all the rest of us have to do if we want

something to be rezoned, not through a temporary use permit, which inevitably would lead to a rezoning with the foothold of being there on a temporary basis."

Speaking in support of the TUP, trustee Peter Grove said approval of the three-year permit gives the business owner and other community members a chance to determine if permanent rezoning is warranted.

"This is temporary use," he said. "I think we need to see if this is going to work in this location . . . and in three years time we can reassess it."

Trustees may choose to deny the permit's extension when it expires in three years. Such an

option would not be available if the property were rezoned outright. Permanent rezoning will require the business owner to submit a new application and attend a formal public hearing process.

Trustee George Grams emphasized the need to protect Salt Spring from off-island big-box and other corporate retailers but said competition among island businesses is crucial for a healthy economy.

"I don't see our role as suppressing competition internally," he said. "I think healthy competition in any community is to be encouraged; it's the way we raise our game, it's the way we improve, it's the way we better ourselves."

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Doctors not compelled by ruling

SUPREME COURT

continued from 1

Carter versus Canada includes the B.C. family of Kathleen Carter, a woman who went to Switzerland to achieve a doctor-assisted death (which is legal in that country), as well as BCCLA and Taylor's family. Taylor herself died in October of 2012 before she could receive help.

The panel of nine Supreme Court of Canada judges ruled unanimously in support of the change, stating, "The prohibition on physician-assisted dying infringes the right to life, liberty and security of the person in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice."

"The object of the prohibition is not, broadly, to preserve life whatever the circumstances, but more specifically to protect vulnerable persons from being

induced to commit suicide at a time of weakness. Since a total ban on assisted suicide clearly helps achieve this object, individuals' rights are not deprived arbitrarily."

Farlinger said one of the ruling's surprises is that assistance is not limited to people suffering from a terminal disease. Another is that the wording seems to accord the patient the power to decide what amounts to grievous or intolerable suffering.

"I think now it's up to the legislators to draft a law that respects not just the letter, but the spirit of the ruling, which is just and compassionate," she said.

Though not part of the legal challenge, Salt Spring's Dying with Dignity group has been at the forefront of the campaign to change the law to reflect modern societal values. They were

responsible for sending a petition to the House of Commons, with strong support from local MP Elizabeth May and her staff.

They were also successful in getting May's Green Party of Canada to adopt policy around removing doctor-assisted suicide from the criminal code.

"I'm very grateful that it was our MP, and that it started here," Farlinger said. "Each signature on the petition was like a little grain of sand, and it mounted and mounted in a surge of public opinion."

"People said, 'We want a country that's compassionate. That's one of our core values.'"

The Supreme Court judgement states that physicians are not compelled by the ruling to provide assistance to the dying, and that the charter rights of patients and physicians will need to be reconciled with new legislation.

FIRST NATIONS

Consensus guides islet process

Protection framework in development

Local First Nations, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and B.C. government representatives are in the process of deciding each group's role in the future of Grace Islet, with the joint objective of long-term ecological and cultural protection.

A statement from the Cowichan Tribes says that mutual agreements have already been made on protocol, an on-site ceremony

prior to dismantling the building project, removal of the building and ecological restoration.

"While all the chiefs involved acknowledge this result comes only through unity that we were able to force negotiation to take back Grace Islet, the intricate framework of this agreement has yet to be concluded among the parties as we work toward finalization of this phase," the statement reads.

Due to the islet's extreme cultural sensitivity, the elders of the affected bands will take a lead role in the reconciliation process. Cowichan Tribes is hopeful B.C. premier

Christy Clark will attend a long house ceremony where those who fought to keep Grace Islet protected and structurally undeveloped will be acknowledged.

However, the situation has underscored the "importance of broader protocols in terms of aboriginal traditional territory, [which] need to be addressed by government."

"Once this work on Grace Islet has been completed to each party's satisfaction, the chiefs will be looking for more thorough and serious dialogue with the province so that issues such as this never arise to such contention again."

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INDUSTRIAL LAND

South-enders question LTC's industrial land strategy

'General employment zone' feared to ruin neighbourhood

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A growing number of people who live near the head of Fulford Harbour fear a plan to create industrial land in their neighbourhood will have tragic fallout on the community.

"It really worries me, let's put it that way," said Louise Windsor, who lives across the street from Fulford Community Hall. "We want residents to beware, this could happen to your backyard at any time."

Windsor received news of the plan from a friend soon after the Industrial Advisory Planning Commission released its final report in November. When she discovered land near the back of her agricultural property had been highlighted as a potential site for new industrial land, Windsor began calling friends and neighbours.

"I was absolutely beside myself with horror when I learned this," said Cindy Bratt, a Salt Spring lawyer who owns property on the corner of Fulford-Ganges and Isabella Point roads.

"This is beautiful farmland. This is a little, sleepy community. It's a very rural, quaint neighbourhood," Bratt said. "There are some little home-based busi-

nesses, but there is no industry and no industrial development."

Windsor and Bratt have undertaken an intensive education in local politics during the past few months. In a recent interview at Windsor's home, zoning maps, staff reports and page after page of handwritten notes covered the dining room table.

"I was absolutely beside myself with horror when I learned this."

CINDY BRATT
Fulford-area resident

"There are many issues with this area that indicate it is almost the last place on this island where you would want to put industrial land," Bratt said. "It's not the place for this."

The proposed site near Drummond Park, the area's predominant agricultural zoning, traffic and noise concerns, steep slopes, and the potential negative effects on sensitive shoreline habitat favour the status quo, she said.

The area near Musgrave and Isabella Point Road is among several areas the IAPC recommends rezoning to a general employment zone. (The IAPC has also proposed to change



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Cindy Bratt wants the Islands Trust to know plans to create industrial land in her Fulford-area neighbourhood are unwelcome.

industrial and commercial zones to "general employment zones" one through three.)

General employment zones one and two will produce "relatively modest impacts on surrounding properties," while general employment zone three could have "significant impacts."

According to the report, entitled Blueprint Towards a Working Community, "the term 'general employment' projects a positive tone towards development."

The IAPC's proposal to place a general employment zone near their backyards isn't reverberating positively through the

neighbourhood.

What's even more surprising, Bratt added, is the lack of any public discussion about the plan. The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee has been actively discussing the need to address concerns about industrial land on the island for more than six years, but November's report is the first time most of the neighbours heard anything about the idea.

"We've contacted everybody and, without exception, everyone we spoke to was aghast and was surprised, and had no idea what was planned here," Bratt said.

An Islands Trust planner con-

tacted about the plan said the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee held extensive consultations while preparing the IAPC's final report.

Stefan Cermak said its publication late last year allows the LTC to shift from a "research phase" to a "community consultation phase."

Neighbourhood meetings will likely begin in May, and a draft bylaw with some of the proposed changes could be ready by the fall, he wrote in an email.

Any potential bylaw would require further public consultation and a formal public hearing.

Though it may still be early in the process, Burgoyne Valley residents who oppose the plan don't intend to lose a minute when it comes to preserving their community.

"We're going to have a lot of support from the neighbours," Bratt said. "Grace Islet was successful by virtue of people getting together and not giving up, and we are going to do the same."

"These people are very passionate about this."

A full copy of the IAPC's final report is available by following the links at islandstrust.bc.ca.

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



NEWS BRIEFS

Easter artists wanted

Painters, sculptors, photographers and artists of all stripes are encouraged to register for Salt Spring's ninth annual Easter Art Tour.

Artists will have the chance to open their studios for the weekend and

offer visitors a glimpse into the wonderful world of the artistic process.

The tour is sponsored by the Salt Spring Arts Council and is proud of its status as the longest-running fine art studio event on the island.

For details on this year's exhibit and how to sign up for the tour, visit www.saltspringeasterarttour.com.

Library camp registration begins

Registration is now underway for the inaugural Spring Break Library Camp.

The free program for anyone between the ages of four and 12 will give youths access to a wide variety of

writing styles and themes.

In between books, participants will learn Tae Kwon Do, enjoy a movie night and visit sea creatures during a shoreline walk.

"The Library's Spring Break Camp is like a tour of all the different genres in the library," says Danielle Hubbard, librarian responsible for children's and youth services. "One day we're focus-

ing on folk tales, another day drama, another mysteries, and so on."

This year's event takes place during spring break, which runs from March 23 to April 3.

Library Camp is Tuesday to Friday the first week and Tuesday to Thursday the second week. The camp will feature sessions for younger children (ages four to seven)

every morning from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and sessions for older children (ages eight to 12) each afternoon, 1 to 3 p.m.

Registration is at the library's information desk, by calling 250-537-4666 or by sending a message to info@saltspringlibrary.com. More information about the camp is available on the library's website and Facebook page.

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HEALTH CARE

Nursing change affects Mayne and Galiano patients

Health associations want service restored

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Health care associations on Mayne and Galiano islands are condemning a change to nurse staffing patterns and the manner in which the regional health authority achieved it, with petitions active on both islands demanding service restoration.

Local health groups say a shift in nursing hours allocation fulfilled an identified community need for more home care support—but at an unwelcome cost to another much-needed service in off-hours emergency care.

"I think we have to make a statement that we're completely dissatisfied with this process and its outcome," said Lindsay Allan of the Mayne Island

Health Centre Association. "At no time was it said that this would come at the expense of weekend care. So it was a blindside."

"We've certainly seen that a number of residents are concerned, as is the health care society board," added Mike Hoebel, president of the Galiano Health Care Society.

Island Health made a public announcement on Nov. 17 that changes would take effect the following week to better meet the needs of island residents. In each case, hours that were devoted to a first call relief nurse position would be shifted to allow for a half-time home care nurse on both islands, instead of one half-time position shared between the two.

Previous to the change, patients who needed emergency care after clinic hours could be assured of on-site service three week-

ends of each month. Two of those weekends were covered by first call nurses and the remainder by a rotating physician on-call. Now there are three weekends each month when a patient has to contact a practitioner on-call by pager and then get

"I think we have to make a statement that we're completely dissatisfied with this process and its outcome."

LINDSAY ALLAN
Mayne Island Health Centre Association

assessed over the phone.

Hoebel said there are two main problems with this procedure for Mayne residents. Although para-

medics and first responders continue to perform their duties, they no longer have access to the clinic's emergency room or medications after hours. Another problem is the potential increase in unnecessary emergency evacuations, either by helicopter or water taxi.

"We know, historically, these may have been avoided by having a medical professional on site," Allan said.

While BC Ambulance bears the cost of emergency transport, the health care societies feel Island Health should consider overall cost to the health care system.

Allison Cutler, Island Health's executive director of population and community health, said there are no plans to restore the weekend hours. She believes the staffing change should not make a major difference since

the first call position was staffed on a casual basis and was therefore inconsistent.

"We also haven't seen any real change in the number of emergency transfers in the time since the change was introduced," she said.

"We will continue to monitor it," she added. "I don't think we've seen a real shift in the summer months, but we may need to keep an eye on it."

Another part of the reallocation that local health care societies take exception to is the complete lack of community consultation before the staffing change was announced.

Cutler agrees this was a misstep on Island Health's part.

"We could have done a better job than we did," she conceded. "The feedback is helpful so we keep improving our processes."

Petitions asking Island Health to restore the week-

end hours are currently active, with one on Mayne set to wrap up on Feb. 28. Both health care organizations will turn over their results to MLA Gary Holman to present to the Legislative Assembly.

Holman said in a statement that he will be asking Island Health and the BC Minister of Health to reverse the cuts and review health care delivery on the southern Gulf Islands.

That would be welcome news to the local health care societies, who have hopes that Island Health's plan to restructure its administration geographically will yield better results.

"We're looking forward to a return to a more collaborative approach so we don't fall victim to policy, as we feel we have," Allan said. "They should come to our communities and see some of the issues we're dealing with."

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There are many different types of hearing loss. The most common type, Presbycusis, is due to age. Presbycusis is a result of hair cell loss inside the inner ear. It usually results in more hearing loss for treble than for bass sounds. If these are hard to hear, then words that rhyme will be hard to distinguish from each other, and the person is left guessing what might have been said. Think of the words "cat, fat, sat, hat, that." All of them have the vowel "a," but it is the high-pitched consonants at the beginning of the words that tell you what the words were.

Hearing loss can also be due to exposure to loud noise. In fact, noise is the second most common cause of hearing loss. It too results in hearing loss for treble sounds.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Squash court proposal sent to provincial commission

Trustees commission Tree House Plaza plan

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The fate of a proposed indoor squash facility on Salt Spring hinges on the province's Agricultural Land Commission.

Trustees at Thursday's Local Trust Committee meeting referred the application for non-farm use of land within the Agricultural Land Reserve to the ALC for further review. If approved, the 3,000-square-foot structure will be built on land next to the indoor tennis building at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club.

Trustees George Grams and Peter Grove agreed the squash court proposal is a good use for the property, which stands little chance of being used for agriculture.

Staff recommended the application be forwarded to the Salt Spring LTC's Agricultural Advisory Committee, but trustees voted to send the plan directly to the ALC.

"I do not want to step on the toes [of AAC members], but I don't want to waste their time with a meeting that isn't really necessary," Grove said.

Though ALC approval is needed for the project, local squash club president Markus Wenzel said the plan also needs consent from the golf club's membership and the LTC.

"The proposed timeline for the club's opening remains 2016, starting with a single court with washroom and viewing area," Wenzel said following the decision. "Expansion plans have been drafted for a second court, at such time that the demand warrants.

"Financing of the capital cost will come by way of membership

fees, tax-deductible donations, gifts of capital or labour, grants, loyalty programs with local businesses and loans that will be repaid out of revenues."

More info is at saltspringsquash.ca.

Trust sketches plan for Tree House Plaza

The Local Trust Committee will spend \$1,000 to commission a "graphic illustration" of a proposed Tree House "plaza" in Ganges village.

The plaza is part of a proposed redesign of the corridor between the Tree House Cafe and the Oyster-catcher building.

Trustee Peter Grove said the plan will address "requirements of the Tree House Cafe, Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island and Moutat's.

He said the redesign strives to enable emergency access to the Kanaka Wharf.

In July 2014, harbour authority representatives told Tree House Cafe owner Mark LeCorre use of the walkway next to the popular restaurant would be restricted. Parties have been trying to reach a compromise in time for the 2015 tourist season.

Impact study anticipated 'very soon'

Islanders who've been awaiting a provincial government study that examines the potential effects of Salt Spring's incorporation on the Islands Trust may only need to wait a few more weeks.

"The consultant has handed it off to the ministry. There's a draft that's out there that will be presented to the Islands Trust, probably in March," said Peter Luckham, chair of Salt Spring's LTC. "The ministry is wrapping that up."

Trustee Peter Grove said the

impact study is a provincial government document that will be released by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Merchants Mews rezoning headed to public hearing

Trustees gave second reading to a land-use bylaw amendment to change zoning for the Merchant Mews complex on Upper Ganges Road.

Proposed Bylaw 479 calls for a commercial zone variation for the 23-unit strata complex at 315 Upper Ganges Rd. The change will permit a broader range of uses, some of which are already underway on the property. These include food processing, offices, personal services and a dwelling unit.

Trustees asked staff to set a public hearing for the proposed bylaw.

RCMP

Police nab underage liquor thieves

Youths due in Ganges Court

Salt Spring RCMP caught four youths responsible for the theft of liquor and

cash from a Woodhall Place residence over the weekend.

The thieves are reported to have accessed the Ganges-area home through an unlocked sliding door at

the rear while the owner was away between 8:30 and noon Saturday morning.

Police found the youths downtown later in the afternoon carrying duffle bags that contained the stolen

items. Three of the youths were released on a promise to appear in Ganges Court. Police continue to investigate the role of a fourth youth.

WATER

Ratepayers ramp up petition effort

Weekend 'blitz' gathers 400 signatures

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ratepayers opposed to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's plan to build a new water treatment plant at St. Mary Lake at a cost of up to \$8.9 million hit the island in force over the weekend with petitions in hand.

Bill Coté, one of the campaign's organizers, said his group collected nearly 400 signatures in three days on the streets of Ganges.

"This is an indication of what's to come," Coté said Monday morning. "We're getting people who are really concerned about money and others who can afford it but don't want to pay for it."

The petition asks NSSWD board members to stop the current process and seek a cost-effective solution to the treatment plant question. Coté wants NSSWD board members to hire a consultant who can provide a list of treatment plant options that will comply with Island Health's drinking water standards.

The petition will be presented to board members at NSSWD's Feb. 18 meeting.

Coté said the petition and an open house event on Jan. 29 are part of an effort to perform the due diligence required before he and others who oppose the current treatment plant proposal take their objections to the provincial government.

Coté said the number of signatories is especially impressive since there are only slightly more than 2,000 eligible ratepayers in the water district. Attention is being devoted to

ensure all the signatories live in the district, he added.

Another petition "blitz" is in the works for this weekend.

"The number of people is exploding," he said.

NSSWD board members have scheduled an open house event to discuss proposed upgrades to its Tripp Road treatment facility on Thursday, March 12. A referendum to obtain ratepayer approval to borrow money for the project could be held before the end of March.

Marshall Heinekey, chair of the NSSWD board, said the project's final cost may fall well under the \$8.9-million projection. He said the contract to build the facility will be subject to a competitive bidding process.

Opponents of the plan say a scaled-down version of the plant can be built for \$6 million.

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FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

Credit union starts regional group

Community investment in focus

Island Savings has named its inaugural regional council with a hope to strengthen the credit union's role in island communities.

The decision follows the financial institutions' 2014 merger with First West Credit Union. The council comprises former Island Savings board members and other "community focused voices" from within the membership.

"This special committee will work closely with local

leadership and the First West Credit Union board to connect the credit union with both business development and community investment projects," reads a press release.

Mark Aston, a four-year veteran of Island Savings' board of directors and currently a director with First West Credit Union, represents Salt Spring on the seven-member council.

The group will meet four times a year to discuss corporate social responsibility and steward Island Savings' community investment program.



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OPINION



2014 CNA Awards
Gold - Excellence in Rural Reporting (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)
Gold - Special Section (Best of Salt Spring Island) | Silver - Promotional Campaign (SS Conservancy Blackburn purchase)
Silver - Multimedia Feature (Pride Festival) | Bronze - Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua)
Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker) | Bronze - Arts Coverage | Blue Ribbon Award - General Excellence



2014 BCYCA Awards
Silver - Special Publication (Gulf Islander) | Bronze - Special Publication (Aqua) | Bronze - General Excellence

EDITORIAL

Raising a racket

Should you happen to enjoy the island's quaint, rural lifestyle, news of a proposal to "update" your neighbourhood with new industrial zoning might sound an alarm, as it has done among a growing group of Burgoyne Valley neighbours.

Although elected officials, staff and volunteers have spent more than six years strategizing and studying the island's industrial land crunch, it wasn't until the release of the Industrial Advisory Planning Commission's final report in November that folks who live along Isabella Point and Musgrave roads began to sit up and take notice. They won't be the only ones as discussions ramp up in the months to come.

There are few community debates capable of raising as much of a stink as the location and use of industrial land — metal recycling and coffee roasting spring to mind as a pair of notable recent examples.

THE ISSUE:

Industrial Advisory Planning Commission

WE SAY:

Broader conversation required

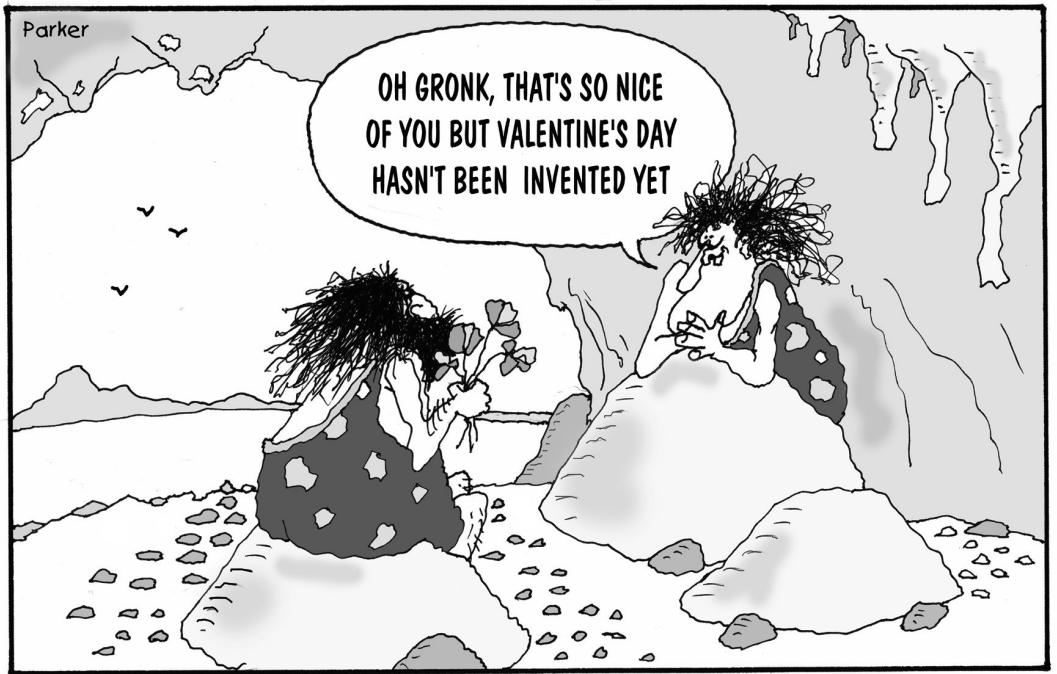
are precisely why there's a need to map our island's commercial and industrial future. As a relatively isolated community with limited economic opportunities, locally elected officials would be remiss if they neglected to plan for the island's economic wellbeing.

Over the next 10 months, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee will host community consultation sessions to talk about the plan and proposed changes to the island's land-use bylaw. There will be tense moments, accusations of NIMBYism and heated debate.

Once that's done, we may get a draft bylaw, which will be followed by more community engagement and public hearings.

The contents of the IAPC's final report may not please everybody, but that should never be the goal of these undertakings. The Blueprint to a Working Community is just that, a blueprint to get this important and long-anticipated discussion rolling.

Down in the Burgoyne Valley, it sounds like that conversation has already begun.



VIEWPOINT by WAYNE TAYLOR

Listen to water plant info with care

Regarding the St. Mary Lake water treatment plant project, we need to build a water treatment plant for St. Mary Lake because the water is not safe to drink and is costing us hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to filter and maintain using the existing system.

The brown algae clogs up and disrupts our systems and also has a bad taste and odour. The blue green algae, or cyanobacteria, is highly prevalent in St. Mary Lake. When it dies off it releases a toxin that is highly dangerous to our health and to other animals when it is consumed. In high levels, it is not safe to swim in as we have experienced in St. Mary Lake.

The algae blooms occur frequently and are made worse by the chemistry of the water in the lake and the runoff of rain and sun conditions.

Both North Salt Spring Waterworks District and individual householders, inside and outside the district, are spending well over \$1,000,000 a year in new filters, maintenance of water lines, chlorination, flushing of large and small tanks, and maintenance and replacement of hot water tanks.

Last year our family spent considerable money for regular filters, sand filter maintenance, UV lights and filters for reverse osmosis.

NSSWD has been working for over five years developing a plan to solve the non-conforming and unsafe water conditions in its system. The annual general meetings and regular meetings are open to the ratepayers and public, the books are audited and the office to me appears to have an open door policy.

Like everyone, I am concerned about the potential increase in cost to the taxpayers. I have been looking at the preliminary plans, which call for an expenditure of \$8.9 million with a contingency of \$1.4 million. I understand that more details are coming

and can be found at www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca or in ads in the Driftwood.

I am looking forward to finding out more about the proposal and alternatives that have been put forward by some ratepayers in the community.

We have to remember that we have already spent \$637,000 on an engineering study. Like it or not, can we afford to spend another \$600,000 on another study?

When I looked at the website of Kerr Wood Leidal, which has offices in Victoria, Burnaby and Okanagan, I found out that this firm has 150 employees and has built over 70 projects all over the province. On Vancouver Island they have built projects of various sizes from Victoria to Port McNeill.

My initial reaction is that I like the revised proposal with some fine tuning. I like the idea of a moderate-priced concrete structure that is environmentally friendly and conforms to the standards of noise bylaws and the official community plan design panel.

The site must also conform to geotechnical standards. Remember that for insurance purposes we are in an earthquake zone.

The rate of borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority is down but this can change. There might be one more reduction but after that the rates will likely increase as the economy improves.

We want the best quality water for our homes, the hospital and eldercare facilities, schools, restaurants and businesses.

We need to work together as a community to find the right solution. Let's take time to listen and read about the St. Mary Lake treatment plant carefully before passing judgment.

The writer is a longtime St. Mary Lake shoreline resident.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring need more industrial zoning?

 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:

Is your Salt Spring housing affordable?

 YES NO

Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Grace Islet was successful by virtue of people getting together and not giving up, and we are going to do the same."

CINDY BARRETT, FULFORD RESIDENT, ON IAPC RECOMMENDATION

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:
Where's the best place on Salt Spring to find romance?



CHARLOTTE PIGEON
Overlooking Ganges Harbour.



KEES RUURS
Beddis Beach.



TARYN HANCOCK
At home.



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INDIA BRACKLEY
Ruckle Park.

Letters to the editor

It's time for our island to grow up

Jenny McClean's Feb. 4 Viewpoint ("Island reaches peak of dysfunction") speaks common sense and sums up my sense of community disconnect.

She asks how Duncan is running a cheaper ship with a bigger population. Duncan is a grown-up place, a municipality with one source of oversight, one elected council, one integrated plan and one single budget balancing community needs. As a municipality, Duncan also gets significant grants.

Salt Spring is the poor cousin, carved into fiefdoms, each

responsible to their own mandate, without regard to the bigger community picture. Rich Ballantyne's letter in the Feb. 4 issue further underscores the need for overall municipal oversight.

Missteps abound. Why would the fire board engage one of their own (a former firefighter, now a board member, with no training in labour negotiations) rather than a professional labour negotiator to contract with what some view as the second most powerful union in the world? And then follow with a \$6.25-million "fire-mahal?"

More recently, North Salt Spring Waterworks District awarded a no-bid \$637,000 design contract and now — having twice failed in 2014 to

increase taxes by \$10.4 million — plans to hit ratepayers for \$8.9 million in a March referendum just before board elections in April. A second new plant on Maxwell Lake is to follow. Why don't I feel the love?

Creating a firestorm of taxes and failing at good governance (while leaving the public little recourse) are just two reasons improvement districts are a failed model.

I was also disappointed that the firefighter association's letter (Feb. 4) spoke only to their own cause while ignoring public sentiments regarding spiralling costs, no oversight, no overall plan, no public consultation, no grant monies, no single town council to create balance. It would

be helpful to hear from those who serve that they feel the public's pulse and have the public's back.

While Nero fiddles and ideas fly, I pray we get to look at the incorporation option soon. There is much to be gained. At least we can then make an informed decision at the ballot box.

CLIFF JONES,
SALT SPRING

Governance review update

In response to a significant number of requests from island residents, we, the CRD director and two Islands Trust trustees, have written to Minister Coralee Oakes, the provincial Minister of Commu-

nity, Sport and Cultural Development, seeking a briefing on progress with the Salt Spring Island Governance Study review.

The governance study report submitted to the minister in December 2013 was succeeded by the Islands Trust Impact Analysis study requested by us as elected officials and it is anticipated this report will be released in the second quarter of 2015. To complete the information the community needs to make an informed decision about local governance options, those two reports, the Salt Spring Island Governance Study report and the Islands Trust Impact Analysis, require the preparation of an incorporation study that

fully informs island residents of the structural and financial implications of incorporation.

We have also requested a meeting with Minister Oakes to ascertain the provincial government's commitment to completing the governance review and what the timing is likely to be. If the minister accedes to the request for a meeting, this subject and related island governance issues will be tabled and a full briefing will be issued.

WAYNE MCINTYRE,
SSI ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR
GEORGE GRAMS AND
PETER GROVE,
SSI LOCAL TRUSTEES

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Home-grown solution possible for St. Mary

BY ROGER BRUNT

When George Grams, chair of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority, said in a Driftwood story last fall, "There's never been a root-and-branch review of water quality on the island," his words were prophetic.

At almost the same time in the Western Producer, Canada's pre-eminent agricultural newspaper, there were articles about a new and powerful technology for improving water quality using 100 per cent natural methods.

Engineer Erik Vandist, director of Vita Water Technology (one of many companies that do this type of work), was quoted at length about the use of floating islands of aquatic vegetation to improve water quality in bodies of water like St. Mary Lake and Cusheon Lake, both sufferers of periodic toxic algal blooms (Cusheon in 1999, St. Mary in 2005) that exceeded Canadian safe drinking water standards by up to 13 times.

Vandist talked about independent laboratory tests that showed remarkable removal rates of suspended solids and pollutants more than 20 times in excess of previously published studies. The floating islands his company creates removed 20 times more nitrates, 10 times more phosphates and 11 times more ammonia. Other studies report the removal of estrogen-mimicking compounds and glycol removal, and even heavy metal removal from oil sands pollution is being studied. The islands were also extremely effective at removing suspended solids and dissolved organic

carbon.

Another company involved in the research and development of this technology, Biohaven, reports that 250 square feet (15' x 17') of island translates to one acre's worth of wetland surface area. Aside from the benefits of improved water quality, the islands increase habitat for mammals like muskrats, beaver, raccoon, mink and otter; amphibians like frogs, newts, salamanders; birds like ducks, herons, geese, loons, grebes, red-wing blackbirds; fish, insects, snails, crayfish and beneficial microbes. The islands can be used to protect shorelines and nesting areas from erosion (natural and from power boat wakes) and to beautify lakeshore properties.

Sid Tams, a developer in Taber, Alta., says water quality is a billion-dollar issue in southern Alberta alone. He and his partner John Ohler own a housing development where water quality became an issue. They treated an algal bloom with copper sulphate but were not happy about adding chemicals to the environment. They sought alternatives. On Sept. 5, 2014, Taber school children launched several floating islands that came from Vandist's Vita Water Technologies of Lethbridge as a natural alternative.

Floating islands of native aquatic vegetation put nature to work. Commercially available islands use a base of BPA-free recycled plastic water bottles. Plants are inserted into holes in the base. The roots extend through the matrix for hydroponic growth. Half of the floating island stays above water; the

GUEST COLUMN

rest is underwater. The area in the water creates a bio-film and bio-mass consisting of roots and natural "bugs and processes already in the water," which remove contaminants.

"It's not re-inventing the wheel," says Vandist. "It's called bio-mimicking because we are doing what nature already does."

With Vandist's product (and there are many variations available), one cubic foot of floating island is estimated to have 100 to 300 times the surface area on which a beneficial biofilm grows that "eats up" nitrates, suspended solids and other pollutants.

"You have plants that are most suitable to absorb heavy metals; others will take up more phosphates or ammonia," he said.

Hence the study at Olds University of plants that can absorb pollutants from even oil sands production.

Virtually all aquatic systems experience algal blooms related to nutrient loading. Floating wetlands offer a proven, natural and relatively inexpensive solution by competing with the algae for nutrients and sunlight.

St. Mary Lake has the additional problem of a reservoir of phosphorus in its bottom sediment. Studies show that this is the major source of phosphorus in the lake, so cutting back on man-made sources, such as laundry detergent, or installing a sewer line instead of septic fields, may have only limited effect.

Can this work on Salt Spring Island? A

quick look on the internet shows applications of this technology all over the world.

A few of them are: Improved aquaculture, Yingri Lake, China; sewage lagoon treatment, Lodi, Calif.; landfill leachate treatment, Greymouth, New Zealand; water retention pond treatment, Durham, N.C.; wastewater treatment, Rehberg Ranch, Wis.; phosphorus removal, Fish Fry Lake, Mont.

St. Mary Lake may be the ideal candidate for the installation of floating islands to test their effectiveness. A quick look at its bathymetric chart shows extensive shallows along the south, east and north shores, areas that coincide with the shorelines most developed with houses, roads, resorts, etc.

This reveals an aspect to this approach that is most attractive: it should be possible to construct "test" islands using on-island labour and materials, reducing the cost and creating employment. Floating logs, a suspended net as a foundation for the plants, will provide at least a 10-year test period at relatively little cost.

Do I think we should recruit all the school kids to start banging away at creating floating island? No, not yet. That would be premature. What I think we should do is hire Mr. Vandist, or someone like him, as a consultant to render an opinion about how best to apply this type of technology here.

The writer is an author and runs the North American School of Outdoor Writing.

MONEY MATTERS

SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

TAX TIME

Canada Revenue website an essential stop this spring

Filing info, direct deposit and more

The Canada Revenue Agency has posted some key information at three locations online to help Canadians file their income tax returns and receive their income

tax refunds faster.

1. For information on filing your 2014 income tax return, go to www.cra-arc.gc.ca/getready.

2. To apply for direct deposit to receive your refund faster, go to www.cra.gc.ca/directdeposit.

3. To track your refund, go to www.cra-arc.gc.ca/myaccount.

The CRA website is worth visiting to get the most out of your tax filing experience. The website is secure and full of information on key dates, address changes, your T4 slips, making payments and applying for direct deposit.

With direct deposit, you receive your tax refunds and ben-

efit payments faster and directly into your account at a Canadian financial institution. With direct deposit, you can receive your refund in as little as eight business days, compared with four to six weeks for a paper return.

The federal government is switching to paperless payments,

which means that tax refunds and other benefit payments are now being made almost entirely by direct deposit. The federal government is reminding all Canadians to enroll as soon as possible.

www.newscanada.com

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VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Tax return help available for low-income islanders

Programs through seniors' centre and Community Services

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Low-income earners who aren't sure how to tackle their personal tax returns can find the help they need through volunteer programs endorsed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

There are two possible sources of help on Salt Spring: programs are available each year both at the Salt Spring Senior Services Society and at Salt Spring Community Services. While the former is restricted to residents in the appropriate age category, both community organizations offer free service by experts who have been trained through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

Norbert Schlenker, who has years of experience in the financial services industry, is a longtime volunteer with the CRA program on Salt Spring and elsewhere, and is coordinating both local operations this year. He estimates around 50 to 60 seniors received help with their returns last year and around 120 people went through Community Services.

"We encourage residents who fit into the eligible categories to avail themselves of the service," Schlenker said. "We're happy to provide it — it's no trouble to us. We're happy to do 200 returns, and we'd be even happier to do 300."

To be eligible, residents need to have a fairly simple tax situation (no business owners, for example)

and fit into the income limit. This is up to \$30,000 for a single person, up to \$40,000 for a couple and up to \$30,000 for one adult with a child. Then all they need to do is present their T4s or other income statements and supply the necessary information such as legal names and social insurance numbers.

"I think it's a way of helping out people who are buffaloeed by the complexity of tax returns, and I can't blame them for that, because the government makes them more complicated every year," Schlenker said.

All information collected by volunteers is kept confidential and secure. Data is kept only until returns are filed, and is kept in an encrypted form.

"We're very conscious of our obligations to keep people's information private," Schlenker said.

"I think it's a way of helping out people who are buffaloeed by the complexity of tax returns, and I can't blame them for that, because the government makes them more complicated every year."

NORBERT SCHLENKER
Salt Spring coordinator,
Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Tax programs at both organizations spring into action during the last week of February and accept returns through to the end of April. Schlenker will sometimes agree to help people who have missed the filing deadline, but he strongly encourages people to bring in their information during official tax season.

"This is important, especially for low-income people, because if you don't



Norbert Schlenker coordinates the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program on Salt Spring Island.

file you become ineligible for all sorts of benefits," he pointed out.

These include things like the Child Tax Benefit and GST rebates. Notices of imminent cut-off are sent in June, but it's better just to file in time.

Since the number of people accessing the program at the seniors centre has declined in recent years, getting the word out to people who might not realize the service exists is welcomed.

"Newcomers to Salt Spring and people who have retired to Salt Spring may not know these facilities are available," Schlenker said. "We're always happy to see new people and help them with their taxes."

MONEY MATTERS

SECOND IN A FOUR PART SERIES

TAX CREDITS

Complex Family Tax Cut credit may require advice

Notional income splitting introduced

The Family Tax Cut credit, effective starting in 2014, is a new non-refundable tax credit that can result in tax savings of up to \$2,000 for couples with children

under 18.

To be eligible for the Family Tax Cut credit, an individual must:

- Be a Canadian resident at the end of the year.
- Have an eligible spouse or common-law partner who is a resident at the end of the year.
- The spouses cannot have

been living separate and apart from each other as a result of a breakdown of the marriage or common-law relationship at the end of the year and for a period of 90 days or more in the year.

- Have an eligible child under 18 at the end of the year who ordinarily lives throughout the year with

the individual or his/her spouse.

• Both spouses must file an income tax return and must not elect to split any pension income they may have.

Note that because this is a "notional" income split, the higher spouse's income is not actually reduced, and thus there

are no provincial tax savings.

The Family Tax Cut credit calculation can be quite complex. Consult a professional accountant for more information.

Content courtesy of Chartered Professional Accountants of B.C.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Achieving 'freetirement' requires careful planning

Solid financial advice helps make it happen

For many people, retirement no longer marks the official end to their working lives, but rather the starting point for fulfilling the dreams they want to accomplish.

Whether it's volunteering for a favourite charity, starting a small business or working part-time at something they're passionate about, Canadians have big plans for their "freetirement."

"The idea of retirement has changed dramatically as people are living longer and want the freedom to do meaningful things in their later years," said Linda MacKay, senior vice president, TD Retail Savings and Investing. "This is why more and more people are coming to think of it as 'freetirement' rather than retirement. Retirement may have been viewed as an end goal in the past, but many retirees and pre-retirees now see it as another one of life's milestones. People still want to travel and spend time with family, but a significant number also want to stay productive and engaged during their retirement and are looking for the financial means to do it."

A recent TD survey found that more than a third of people aged 18 to 64 want to work part-time or casually at something they love after they retire, one in five wants to volunteer and one in 10 wants to start a small business. The survey also found that the most popular ways to finance these "freetirement" dreams are with RSPs, general savings, pensions and investments.

"For many Canadians, saving for retirement — and goals beyond retirement — may seem daunting and talking to an expert can help to make it feel more approachable," adds Lee Bennett, senior vice president, TD Wealth Financial Planning. "Regardless of where you're at in your savings journey, it's important to figure out, while still working, how much money is needed for the future so that you can develop and follow a financial plan to make it a reality. A financial planner can help find the best options for individual circumstances and dreams, and also help make the most out of savings and investments once in retirement."

Bennett and MacKay have some other tips to help people save for their future:



CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY TO AN RSP

Setting up a series of regular payments into an RSP is one of the easiest ways of saving money for the future and possibly reducing tax obligations, yet nearly half of Canadians aged 18 to 64 don't contribute to one and more than a third of those who do wait until close to the annual deadline. While every contribution is a step in the right direction, making it a regular habit every week or month can help people reach their "freetirement" dreams even faster.



BUILD SAVINGS FASTER WITH A TFSA

Tax-Free Savings Accounts help build savings faster as the investment income or growth earned in them is not taxed. The current maximum annual contribution limit is \$5,500, but any unused contribution room can be carried forward.



TURN TAX RETURNS INTO ONGOING RETURNS

Seventy per cent of Canadians expect to get a tax return this year and many of them plan to save at least part of it in an RSP, TFSA or other savings account. An easy way to boost retirement funds is to consider increasing the amount of the refund saved, as well as saving any bonuses or monetary gifts received during the year.

About the TD Working During the Golden Years Poll: TD commissioned Leger to conduct an online survey of 1,912 Canadians between Nov. 3 and Nov. 9, 2014 using Leger's online panel, LegerWeb. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of +/-2.2%, 19 times out of 20.

SOURCE: CANADA NEWSWIRE

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Citizenfour opens 2015 film festival

BY PATRICIA LOCKIE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine an industrial fishing trawler whose heavy nets drag across ocean floors, indiscriminately scooping up not only the targeted fish but also endangered marine species, and precious coral, whatever comes into the net's path.

Now, imagine government-sanctioned electronic surveillance and data-gathering programs doing much the same thing as they trawl for information on the guilty, the suspect and, well yes, the innocent, too.

The subject of director Laura Poitras' highly acclaimed documentary film called Citizenfour — watch for it at the Oscars — is pervasive global surveillance and the rise of the surveillance state.

Citizenfour has been chosen to launch this year's Salt Spring Film Festival, which runs March 6-8 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. A once-only screening takes place on Gala Night, March 6.

Citizenfour is the pseudonym used by Edward Snowden, former National Security Agency contractor and now the world's most famous whistle blower, in his early communications with Poitras. During eight days of filming in Hong Kong, Snowden provided Poitras and two other journalists with voluminous evidence in the form of stolen classified NSA documents of industrial-scale surveillance covering much of the world's communications systems.

Canada's own cyber-sleuthing capabilities and its use of its spy partners' immense databases to track the online traffic of millions of people around the world, including Canadians, was brought to light in

INDEPTH

one of the documents obtained by Snowden and recently released to the CBC.

While nothing yet has come to light proving that the NSA has used data to harm innocent citizens, the threats created by unfettered data collection are what animate Citizenfour. Even some of those who condemn Snowden's actions largely agree that the threat to our privacy and freedoms should be taken seriously.

In real time footage we watch a small group of individuals embarking on an enterprise they know has huge import, one that is fraught with danger and uncertainty.

One of the most chilling questions posed by Citizenfour is what happens when, as Snowden puts it, "The people's ability to meaningfully oppose" their government's willingness to take advantage of our newly connected world is secretly taken away?

The film unfolds like a taut political thriller. Snowden's disclosures and his plan for their public release are troubling for the journalists involved and led to exhaust-

ing months of work mining the NSA treasure trove so as to verify the information they'd been handed. Snowden asks that they decide what is made public and when.

The real drama lies in observing the then 29-year-old Snowden, nearly always composed, in good spirits and with a slightly formal way of speaking. In real time footage we watch a small group of individuals embarking on an enterprise they know has huge import, one that is fraught with danger and uncertainty. The film admirably conveys the constant sense of tension and fear of discovery.

Citizenfour is very much a film whose genesis lies in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It clearly and boldly asks its audience to take stock of the crucial changes that have occurred around the world since those attacks.

It also implies actions that need to be taken to forestall a technologically driven tyranny that is absolute and which has the capacity to render true political freedoms lifeless. The story behind Citizenfour is that of an individual act of conscience and its cost.

Gala night will be sold only at the door. Weekend passes include admission to the gala and can be obtained from the ArtSpring Ticket Centre in advance. Festival day passes will be on sale at the door.

Thanks to the financial support of Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 92, a limited number of subsidized passes will be distributed through Salt Spring Island Community Services.

For further information, see the festival's website at www.saltspring-filmfestival.com.

With great sadness after 19 years in Business Island Star Video will be closing its doors for good at the end of February

Starting in June 1996 we opened Island Star with 1000 VHS titles and a dream. At one point we had over 24000 DVD titles and a collection of movies that we were proud to rent. We hope over the years we have made you laugh, cry, scream, fall in love and get inspired. We have watched 2 generations come thru our doors. Watched some of you go from stroller to behind the wheel of a car. The love and support you have shown us has been overwhelming and to that we say "Thank you".

Our staff have been great. A heartfelt thank you to all who have worked here over the years. We could not have done it without you.

Many thousands of pounds of popcorn have been popped and enjoyed over the years. Canada Day on our deck, Movies in the Park, Oscar Parties that had us guessing how to top the year before, and all the fun holiday inflatables are just a few of the memories that will remain with us. There have been many teams we have sponsored and attending their games brought us much joy.

We will be liquidating all of our titles and stock starting February 12th please come by, popcorn is on us!(while it lasts)

THANK YOU TO ALL

Tim & John

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Market fables

I have a story about a boy named Charles Riccardo Dewer (also known as CRD).

Charles Riccardo Dewer was born into a wealthy family. They had lots of money and lots of things. CRD had lots of brothers and sisters. Like all children, they tried to play well with one another and most of the time they were successful, but sometimes they did not play so well with others.

The Dewers had a family business that their dad had started. They called their dad "the Gov." The Gov was a pioneer in multi-level marketing. The Gov's dad had been a farmer so the Gov followed his dad's advice and put all the kids to work. Their job was to acquire more.

Now Charles Riccardo, he loved the city: the lights, the action. And CRD was a bit of a Tom Sawyer, so he got his friend Parks to do some of his work. It was a great arrangement. CRD got to stay in the city and Parks got to live in the country, have a job and free rent. They were great friends.

One Christmas, CRD and Parks were given a new game. The premise of the game is as follows. Each player is given a source of revenue, and he who can expense the most wins. The game was called The Market.

Parks won the first time they played. He was able to bring in \$70,000 in one month (30 days) and expense \$67,000. His assets were three clipboards and pens, three money belts, a handful of receipt books, a folding table, a tent, xeroxed forms and two sandwich boards.

The Gov paid for the office staff but Parks still got to expense their efforts. Parks did the same with hydro and water and labour. The best part

was he was able to get the manufacturers of his product to pay for the hydro and water and labour too. So he was making money! He got quite a few points for that.

What really won the game, though, was that Parks was able to get the manufacturers to pay even more because he told them they ought to! They like the game and play it often.

WENDY BEATTY,
CAPPUCCINO VENDOR,
SALT SPRING

Ports and railways

With sovereignty in the Arctic a hot-button issue, and almost certain to become an election plank following the Harper government successfully locating the ship from the Franklin Expedition, it would be nice if Canada actually owned everything in its northern domain — like the Port of Churchill, for instance.

Few Canadians know that the port was sold to an American company, OmniTRAX, which also owns Hudson Bay Railway.

OmniTRAX created Hudson Bay Railway in 1997, the same year it took over operation of the Port of Churchill. OmniTRAX operates more than 600 miles of track in northern Manitoba between Churchill and The Pas. OmniTRAX Canada bought the line from CN for \$11 million in 1997.

Here's the grabber. OmniTRAX took over the related Port of Churchill, which opened in 1929, when it acquired it from Canada Ports Corporation for a token \$10 (that's correct — ten dollars) after buying the rail line.

I guess one is not much good unless you own the other. What the heck — may as well throw in the port, too.

ROGER BRUNT,
BRINKWORTHY



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN



MOVABLE ART FEAST: Clockwise from above, Marv Coulthard's Morgan is among the works of art being admired by Gord Singbeil and Arleen Sadler, while other Friday-night visitors take in work by Gillian McConnell and a Sonja Barnard piece awaits admiring eyes. The event was the opening of the "pop-up art show," which provided extra excitement for Beethovenfest held at ArtSpring over the weekend. While the performance of Beethoven's 10 violin sonatas by Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau is complete after Feb. 6-8 concerts, the art show runs daily until Friday, Feb. 20.

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Thirty Double Delight roses for our Country Grocer supermarket. We are very grateful for their continued support of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society through their Save-A-Tape fundraising program, especially at the time of their 30th anniversary celebration last year.

Bunches of bright red roses to Meredith for inviting our lost "Thunder" into her home until we could pick him up! With gratitude, Tom and Lorinne

A stretcher-full of roses to our amazing Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue volunteers and fellow hikers who spent over an hour packing me out of the woods after a fall during a hike on Jan. 27. Also included in the stretcher full of roses are the two kind paramedics who attended the scene and got me safely to Lady Minto Hospital. And a back-pack full of roses to my fellow hikers for their caring support during the incident and since I've been home. I have only lived on Salt Spring for a year, but am amazed and grateful to be a part of such a warm and wonderful community. Angie Trarup

A bucket of copper-coloured roses to the couple in the truck who exchanged

my useless "new loonies" for "old loonies" at the car wash last Tuesday. And another bucket of those roses to the man who gave me two "old loonies" for my toonie for the vacuum machine, and showed me the definitive difference between the copper-coloured, heavier metal of the old coins and the brassy-coloured, lighter metal of the new ones. You are all truly Salt Spring kind. CJH

Your community is fortunate to have some very thoughtful, generous Samaritans who chose to come to the aid of our family member, Gail Hay, when she was recovering from shoulder surgery. Their goodwill has made it possible for her to return to her hairdressing shop and take care of the many clients she has come to know so well over many years. We look forward to many more visits to Salt Spring Island knowing we will be in the company of such caring people. Marilyn Turner, Delta

To both Tim and John for their great service and dedication over the years to the Salt Spring community. All the wonderful activities over the years at the video store will be fondly missed, as well as the conversations about films and, of course, the popcorn! Thank you to you both! Chins up with cheers, Jamie

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VISUAL ARTS

Painters exhibit in ArtSpring lobby

February show demonstrates guild's range

Salt Spring Painters Guild members are displaying new works in the ArtSpring lobby this month.

"This art has been created or at least initiated during workshops and guild presentations in its education program," explains a press release from the guild. "The exhibition presents fresh ideas and techniques, created by an enthusiastic group of island artists who continue to explore their artistic directions."

Work by the life drawing group will also be presented.

The show is open during ArtSpring open hours and evening events.

The painters' guild offers weekly educational sessions from September to May, featuring a mix of workshops by members and off-island artists, and instructional DVDs. Different media are explored (watercolour, acrylics, oil, printing, drawing, and collage) using a variety of techniques. An extensive library of books and DVDs is also available for members' use.

Guild membership is open to anyone interested in exploring their artistic interests. The program schedule is at www.sspaintersguild.com.

For information, contact Nora Layard at 250-537-9922 or nlayard@telus.net.



Salt Spring Painters' Guild members Nora Layard, left, and Marg Threlfall hang Dulcy Wilson's Still Life November painting in the ArtSpring lobby. The guild show continues through February.

LITERATURE

Galiano writer shares new book at festival

Michael Christie's much-anticipated first novel

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

While most of the writers at the sixth-annual Galiano Literary Festival are not from the Gulf Islands, one of Galiano's own is ready to let a bit of the limelight shine his way.

Michael Christie has participated in the festival more than once, but this time the island resident will stroll into the Galiano Inn with something special tucked under his arm: his brand new first novel called *If I Fall, If I Die*.

"I'm always happy to be at the Galiano Literary Festival," he said in a recent interview. "But it will be really good this time because I'm going to have the book."

The festival runs Friday through Sunday, Feb. 20-22, with workshops on Friday afternoon, the welcome reception in the evening, panel discussions and readings on Saturday and Sunday, and an author dinner and presentation by C.C. Humphreys on the Saturday evening.

Christie will read from his book on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m. in a session with Bill Gaston, Jane Woods and Gillian Wigmore.

Choosing what passages to read is always an interesting challenge.

"It takes some thinking," Christie said. "Certain things that work on the page don't work out loud. It's good to read something that's funny or has a lot of action or can be understood out loud."

After reading *If I Fall, If I Die*, I'm confident he has a mountain of appropriate material to choose from.

The book follows what happens to an

11-year-old boy named Will when he ventures outside, literally, after spending most of his life with his agoraphobic mother Diane in their home in Thunder Bay.

Christie brings his readers fully into the heads and hearts of both Will and Diane, illuminating their heart-pounding fears, desires, sorrows and joys. On the way we meet other unusual characters, such as Jonah, a First Nations boy who teaches Will how to skateboard and wants to be a doctor; Titus, a literate vagrant the boys stumble across as they try to solve a mystery; and The Butler, a kingpin of Thunder Bay's seamier side.



The novel is filled with humorous and poignant scenes that will no doubt delight Christie's listening audience.

His first book was the short story collection called *The Beggar's Garden*. It was a Writers' Trust Prize for Fiction finalist, won the Vancouver Book Award and was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. That level of success put his first novel, which is published by McLelland & Stewart, on a list of *The Globe & Mail's* 50 most anticipated books of 2015.

If I Fall, If I Die is available in Gulf Islands bookstores.

See www.galiano-literaryfestival.com for complete festival details.

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– Rory, from Gabriola Island

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 Friday, February 27



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PERFORMING ARTS

Fiddle theatre founder plants Salt Spring roots

Participants sought for youth performance group

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island is known both for its excellent music education and for its thriving youth performing arts scene, but it's not often that the two streams come together for the younger set.

That could change thanks to the arrival of Trish Barclay, a teacher, musician and actor who has launched fiddle theatre troupes in two other communities. Fiddle music and its place in Canadian culture is put in the spotlight in original shows that youth create collaboratively alongside their mentor.

Barclay started the first Fiddleheads program in Whitehorse. A co-founder of the Suzuki Strings Association of the Yukon, she realized that not all students respond to formal music training with grades and exams.

"I could see this group of kids were engaged with their music, but they didn't like the idea of standing up alone and being marked, or being judged," Barclay said. "So I thought as I have a musical theatre background, I could use some of my other skills to draw them out."

Barclay met with students every week to do theatre games, sing and dance, as well as play music. Eventually they put a show together.

The Yukon Fiddleheads have now been touring the original musical play Fiddle Rush, as well as other original productions, for 16 years, performing for tourists at the Place Grand Theatre in Dawson City and other venues.

"The youths are involved in the entire process, from collaborating on the story to helping build costumes, sets and props. Their energy and commitment to the project from the early improv workshoping through rehearsals to performance is inspiring," Barclay said.

Barclay established another Fiddleheads program in her most recent home in the Chelsea/Wakefield area of Quebec. Gatineau River Reel and Fiddler's Hist-



ry of Canada, plays that she created with those students, have been presented for the past four summers.

Although she is still involved with both the Yukon and Chelsea/Wakefield groups, personal tragedy recently prompted Barclay to move back to the West Coast. Two years ago, her husband and musical partner passed away suddenly at age 50, and she felt she needed a new home to restart her life.

Barclay arrived on Salt Spring with just two suitcases, her dog and her violin, but has already started putting down roots. She's joined several local groups and will play violin with Bach on the Rock. She's also made contact with Carolyn Hatch of the Fiddler's Hatchery and received her support — and a promise of collaboration — in any island-based show that arises.

"It's my favourite thing to do — to dress up and play make believe with kids, because they're so imaginative and creative," Barclay said. "Kids have 'beginner's mind' ... I love working with kids because they're open to so many possibilities."

Barclay's collaborative model means that when she's forming a show, the students drive the direction by creating the characters they'd like to play. She takes the

biographies they produce and assembles a storyline out of the relationships.

"The kids are not just given parts — they have an active participation in creating those roles themselves, so there's more ownership," she said. "And we're working in a very safe environment, too. We're all listening to each other, and everything the kids have to say is valued."

Fiddleheads productions usually feature a back-up band of professional musicians. Parent involvement is also key, bringing adults and youth together to build strong community.

Barclay is now busy getting the word out to fiddling students and other youth musicians on the island in time for a spring break workshop. That event will be where the seeds for a summer program are planted, with a fully realized show to bloom sometime around the Fiddleworks camp at the end of July.

"Usually the idea of Fiddleheads becomes clear for people when they see a show, and then they say 'Oh — I want to be part of it,' because it's so much fun," Barclay said.

Young musicians, especially string players, of any experience level are welcome. For more information, contact Barclay at 250-931-6446 or epzbarclay@gmail.com.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Fiddleheads founder Trish Barclay, right, with members of the Yukon troupe in Dawson City.

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CREATIVE WRITING

Contests invite entries

Short fiction and novel prizes available

Two writing contests are encouraging participation from Gulf Islands writers.

Co-sponsored by the Nanaimo Arts Council, the Vancouver Island Regional Library and the Vancouver Island University Department of Creative Writing and Journalism, the 2015 Islands Short Fiction Contest seeks entries of up to 2,000 words in three categories: adult (19 and over), youth (13 to 18) and junior (12 and under). Over \$2,000 in prizes and cash will be awarded to the winners and finalists.

Last year the contest drew over 75 entries.

"We've been able to raise the prize amounts this year," said Nanaimo Arts Council executive director Sarah Schmidt, "which we hope will attract even more interest from writers throughout the islands area."

Judge of the adult category this year is VIU creative writing instructor and Governor-General's Award-winning author Robert Hilles, while VIRC librarians Jennifer Seper and Justin Unrau will judge submissions in the youth and junior categories.

The entry deadline is March 16. Entry forms and details are on the Nanaimo Arts Council website at www.nanaimoartscouncil.ca. Winners will be announced at a reception on Thursday, April 23 in Nanaimo.

Salt Spring Island-based Mother Tongue Publishing seeks unpublished manuscripts for its third Great B.C. Novel Contest.

This year's judges are award-winning B.C. novelists Pearl Luke, Bill Gaston and Kathryn Para. The contest is open to all writers living in British Columbia, and the deadline is Sept. 1.

Guidelines are available at www.mothersongpublishing.com.

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What's on this week

Wed. Feb 11 **Thur. Feb 12** **Fri. Feb 13** **Sat. Feb 14** **Sun. Feb 15** **Tues. Feb 17** **Wed. Feb 18**

ACTIVITIES

Parent Child Mother Goose. Songs, rhymes, snack and playtime for parents/caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Fernwood Elementary. 10 a.m. to noon.

Computer Drop-in Help. Free assistance every Wednesday with computer, tablet and phone issues from volunteers John S. and John K. at SS Literacy Centre. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gulf Islands Board of Education Public Meeting. Trustees meeting at Fulford Community Elementary School. Public welcome. 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Historical Society. Don Cunningham presents The Central Settlement and the Early History of North Salt Spring Island. Central Community Hall. 2 p.m.

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

Film Screening: The Sower. A beautiful and heartwarming portrait of an eccentric seed saver and artist from Quebec. Fundraiser for Island Natural Growers and Seeds of Assam. The Fritz Movie Theatre. 7 p.m.

SS Forum Presents Joe Arvay: Defending Rights & Freedoms in Canada. One of Canada's most tireless civil rights and human rights lawyers leads an inspiring discussion about civil liberties — including the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on the "right to die." ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic with Ross and Dave. Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

Parent Child Mother Goose. Songs, rhymes, snack and playtime for parents/caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Fulford School. 10 a.m. to noon.

Stay and Play Drop-in. For parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Japanese Garden Society AGM. Annual general meeting of the Salt Spring Island Japanese Garden Society. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 3:30 p.m.

Community Dance Workshop. Dance workshop for teens and adults, presented by members of Wen Wei Dance. Register at the ArtSpring Box Office at 250-537-2102. ArtSpring. 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Fulford Community Hall AGM. Annual general meeting of the Fulford Community Hall Society. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Feb 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brent Shindell. Live music with free appetizers at 5 p.m. The Local. 5 to 9 p.m.

Dougal Bain & Sam Weber with Billie Woods. Live music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wen Wei Dance Performance: Made in China. Wen Wei's brand new work. Co-created with Gao Yanjinzi, artistic director of Beijing Modern Dance Company, and Qiu Xia He, award-winning classical Chinese musician of Vancouver's Silk Road Music. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Stay and Play Drop-in. Every Friday for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Seeds of Love Dance Temple. Dance and celebration to cultivate the garden of our hearts and sow the seeds of love together. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Gallery Reception. Celebrate the cooperative gallery's new name, and see new works in the Art from the Heart exhibition. Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.

Sat. Feb 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sweetwater Live Jazz. Sweetwater plays all your favorite songs, with guest Patrick Byrne on saxophone. Clubhouse Bar and Grill. Music from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., dinner served until 8 p.m.

Swing Shift Big Band's Valentine's Dance. Live music by Swing Shift Big Band; cash bar and snacks available. Fulford Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m., band starts at 7:30.

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

ACTIVITIES

Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast. Free pancake breakfast and drop-in program for dads and other male caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Successful Communication Workshop. Second class in four-week session. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pickleball. Saturdays at Salt Spring Elementary School gym. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Seedy Saturday. Seed exchange, local seed, plant and food vendors, info tables and workshops at the Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary AGM. Meeting in the upstairs room at the Farmers' Institute after Seedy Saturday. 4:30 p.m.

Sun. Feb 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Hooper & Suzanne Little. Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Growing Together Workshops. Part of Seedy Saturday activities. Farmers' Institute. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Potters Guild 2015 Workshop. Two-day workshop with guest artist Brendan Tang starts today. ArtSpring. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Unitarian Fellowship. Monthly singing service with Barb Slater. Visitors, children, all are welcome. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 10:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Pickleball. Every Sunday at Fulford Hall. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Bill Brownridge Reading & Reception. Renowned painter and author will read from The Moccasin Goalie at an opening reception for an exhibit of his work. Fernwood Road Cafe. 2 to 4 p.m.

Red Court Tennis. Indoors at Centre Court every Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Island Pathways AGM. With guest speaker Ken Melamed, former mayor of Whistler. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 2 p.m.

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

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

Mon. Feb 16

ACTIVITIES

Double Your Energy - Chi Gong. With internationally acclaimed master Teresa Yeung. Salt Spring Library. 2 to 3:45 p.m.

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Board Meeting. Public welcome to attend regular business meeting of board of trustees. Ganges Fire Hall. 7 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Piaf with Atlantic Ballet Canada. The story of the brilliant and tragic life of singer Edith Piaf, performed by the stunning young Parisian dancer Olga Petiteau. Choreographed by Igor Dobrovolsky. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Salt Spring Vineyards wine tasting at 6:30.

ACTIVITIES

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

Stay and Play Drop-in. For parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6. Family Place. 12:30 to 3 p.m.

ToddlerTime. Stories, rhymes and simple activities best suited for children aged 3 and under. Salt Spring Library. 2 p.m.

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

Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute AGM. Guest speaker is Mark Kilner on Food Education for all Ages. Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Work BC Employment Services Centre Open House. Beacon Community Services. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Trouble With Dying. Video presentation and discussion presented by Dying with Dignity, Salt Spring chapter. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Meditation & Relaxation Talk. Deb Stevenson will talk about meditation and how its calming influence can relieve stress. Salt Spring Seniors Services Society. 2 p.m.

Best of the Fest - Still Life. Winner of Best Film and Best Director at the 2013 Venice Film Festival, Still Life is an affecting drama that paints a portrait of one man's meticulous efforts to honour the lives of those among us who die alone and unnoticed. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

SongJam One-Year Anniversary. Join Wendy and Derrick Milton, plus celebrity song schleppers Tim & John, to mark the first anniversary of SongJam at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Computer Drop-in Help. See last Wednesday's listing.

Parent Child Mother Goose. See last Wednesday's listing.

Wednesday Night Poker. See last Wednesday's listing.

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- The Sower** — A beautiful and heartwarming portrait of an eccentric seed saver and artist from Quebec plays on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. It's a fundraiser for Island Natural Growers and Seeds of Assam (in association with Fertile Ground East West Sustainability Network).
- National Theatre Live: Skylight** — Thursday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows only. On a cold London evening, schoolteacher Kyra Hollis receives an unexpected visit from her former lover, Tom Sergeant, whose wife has recently died. They attempt to rekindle their relationship only to find themselves locked in a battle of opposing ideologies and mutual desires. Starring Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan. Advance tickets at Island Star Video and Salt Spring Books.

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

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Gallery** (formerly Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art) reopens for the season, celebrates its new name and logo, and opens its **Art from the Heart** exhibition all at the same time with a reception on Friday, Feb. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- A special exhibition of **Bill Brownridge's** artwork is on the walls of the **Fernwood Road Café** from Feb. 15 to March 14, with an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15. Bill will also read from his book *The Moccasin Goalie* at 2 p.m. on Sunday.
- A **pop-up art show** by various Salt Spring artists runs in the **ArtSpring** gallery daily until Friday, Feb. 20.
- Members of the **Salt Spring Painters Guild** display new work in the **ArtSpring** lobby through February. The life drawing group will also present some of their works.
- Interpretive photographs by **David Borrowman, Eric Klemm, Sam Lightman** and **Theresa Mackey** of the *Standing Babas*, a sculptural installation by Salt Spring's **Ron Crawford**, are on display in the **library program room** through February.
- Bev Lillyman** shows paintings in the **Harbour House Hotel** through February.
- Heidi Van Impe's** oil paintings are on display at **Island Savings**.
- Juliana Paul's** photography is hanging at **Penny's Pantry**.
- Nicola Wheston's "Stuff"** paintings and **Michael Dennis' 7 Figures** in yellow cedar are featured at **Duthie Gallery** on Churchill Road. The gallery is open by appointment (250-537-9606) till February. Sculpture park open daily.

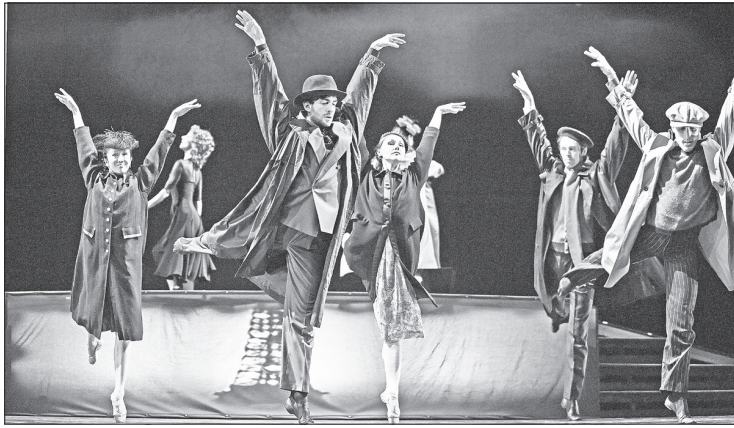
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DANCE

Piaf idolized in ballet show



ATLANTIC BALLET THEATRE

Scene from Piaf, which the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada will perform at ArtSpring on Feb. 17.

Unique corps forms New Brunswick-based company

BY ANNA HALTRECHT
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In striking contrast with contemporary dancer Wen Wei, who performs at ArtSpring this Friday evening, the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada is performing Piaf on the same stage on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Piaf will feature Paris-born dancer Olga Petiteau, who says she is honoured to play the role of one of her heroes. Choreographed by artistic director Igor Dobrovolskiy, this beautifully told dance work explores and interprets Edith Piaf's dramatic life shrouded in mystery, love and tragedy reflected in her authentic and life-inspired songs.

As Atlantic Canada's only professional ballet company, Atlantic Ballet has a growing focus on touring, which has extended a bridge between Atlantic Canada and the rest of the country. They are a very busy dance company and Salt Spring is fortunate to be the first stop on their west coast tour.

Based in Moncton, N.B., Atlantic Ballet is

a neo-classical ballet company dedicated to performing original works by Dobrovolskiy, who trained with the Kiev State Ballet Academy.

Founded in 2001, the company pursues a continuous creative process through collaboration with like-minded artists. The company dancers are a unique corps of artists who bring brilliant technique and transforming characterization to the stage.

Dobrovolskiy's works, with his gifted dancers from around the world, weave dramatic narrative with inventive choreography to create powerful, emotional and lyrical structures limited only by his boundless imagination.

Creative set, authentic costumes, complex lighting, gorgeous music, innovative choreography and masterful dancing are all intrinsic to the performance of Piaf, which crosses boundaries and transforms the development of dance as metaphor.

"Piaf's songs leave a sad and warm feeling of love and pride with anyone who hears them," said Dobrovolskiy, who was deeply touched on hearing Piaf's songs for the first time as a 10-year-old boy.

A wine tasting with Salt Spring Vineyards begins at 6:30 p.m.

FILM

Art's in the details of Still Life

Best of the Fest selection

BY ROBERT MCTAVISH
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Winner of Best Film and Best Director at the 2013 Venice Film Festival, *Still Life* is an affecting drama that paints a portrait of one man's meticulous efforts to honour the lives of those among us who die alone and unnoticed.

A carefully framed study of the slippery nature of human connection in modern society, this clever and endearing film is on display as a Salt Spring Film Festival "Best of the Fest" show next Wednesday at ArtSpring.

The film contemplates John May, a quiet South London caseworker who for 22 years has handled his community's unclaimed dead with a respectful yet somewhat extravagant thoroughness. This means that when unable to find relatives or

friends of the deceased, he can be counted on to arrange a casket, funeral and a touching eulogy cobbled together and finessed from clues left behind in their solitary rooms — even when he's the lone mourner. The city's bottom line differs though, and the inefficient May is to be laid off after finishing one final case.

That case proves to be an eye-opener as May, through a wry and winding process, must track down the estranged daughter of a solitary alcoholic who lived directly opposite him in his apartment complex. As he ventures out in the greater community he has neglected, he finds himself drawn into the entrancing details of the living.

Fans of the television series *Downton Abbey* will be excited to see Joanne Froggatt as the endearing focus of his search, but this film belongs to character actor Eddie Marsan (*Happy Go Lucky*) and

the way he gives the tender bureaucrat John May a dignity and inner life that could slip past unnoticed with a lesser actor. The film itself, with an artful palette of carefully crafted images, often has the hint of allegory, but Marsan's performance ensures his character transcends the broad strokes of an everyman.

Yet for a poignant study of mortality, dignity and community, *Still Life* keeps a sly sense of humour front and centre, perhaps to be expected from writer/director Uberto Pasolini, who previously produced the worldwide smash *The Full Monty*. As with his previous work, Pasolini's story has a surprise up its sleeve, but its decent and selfless caseworker can't help but resonate long after the cinematic fade to black.

Still Life will be screened as a Best of the Fest piece at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m.



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SAR volunteers offer essential hiking safety advice

Losing track possible
even in known territory

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Having served with Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue for more than 25 years, search manager Chuck Hamilton is still amazed by the number of people who don't think twice before heading out into the woods.

"Locally, many people ask, 'How can you get lost on Salt Spring?'" Hamilton said.

While much of the island may feel small and densely populated, there are several areas where even prepared hikers have become disoriented. The island's vast and unpopulated south end is notorious for turning people around. The area's patchwork of animal trails and overgrown logging roads offer seemingly endless hiking potential but easily lead people astray.

Even well-trodden areas like Ruckle Provincial Park or Peter Arnell Park have been the subject of more than a few call-outs by search and rescue volunteers over the years.

A lost trail or a sudden change in the weather can turn the most

benign hike into a potentially life-threatening crisis. Thick forest cover and deep thickets of salal can wreak havoc on anyone struggling to bushwhack their way to safety.

The onset of darkness can highlight the hazardous unknowns on even the most familiar of trails. Hamilton recalled a search near the summit of Mount Erskine — on a popular and clearly defined hiking route — where an individual walked off a cliff after he lost track of the trail in the dark. The injured hiker was located and stretchered to paramedics waiting at the road.

Hamilton said many people assume they can simply hike towards the ocean in the event they get lost. But where's the water? What are the hazards along the way? And what do you do once you get there?

Injuries can leave people stranded on the side of the trail kilometres from the nearest trailhead. A simple slip or a quick twist can make it impossible to keep walking and may require waiting several hours before a search and rescue stretcher team can reach the scene.

As a way to reduce the risks associated with getting lost or

being stuck outside for longer than anticipated, Hamilton suggests people familiarize themselves with the 10 essentials (see sidebar) before hitting the trail. Supplies and skills should be consistently refreshed to make sure everything is in order when the need for assistance arises. To avoid any disastrous surprises, items should also be replaced soon after they are used.

Hamilton also suggests everyone in the community try to get some degree of first aid training.

"First aid is a basic life-survival skill," he said.

Also important is letting somebody know where you're going and when you expect to return — especially for anyone who intends to hike on their own or in unfamiliar territory.

In the event that a hiker gets lost, research shows that rescuers stand a greater chance of finding people alive if they stay put. While it may seem counter intuitive to wait things out, Hamilton said, staying in one place can make the search easier and reduces the chances of getting injured.

More information about Salt Spring Search and Rescue is available at www.saltspringsar.org or on Facebook.



THE 10 HIKING ESSENTIALS:



Light: Always carry a flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries in case you get stuck outside after the sun goes down. Lights can also be a great way to signal for help.

Signaling device: A whistle, bear banger or small pencil flare can draw attention to yourself when rescuers draw near.

Fire starter: Matches and/or a lighter in a waterproof container can be a lifesaver. Commercial fire starters or a simple candle can also be useful.

Extra clothes: Never leave home without some extra clothing. Hats, gloves and long underwear can make a huge difference if you go off-track in the bush. Wrap them in a plastic bag or other waterproof container to make sure they stay dry.

Pocketknife: Multitools and pocket knives are cheap, lightweight and versatile. Never leave home without one.

Shelter: It may not be the Ritz, but a large orange plastic bag or tarp will keep you out of the weather if it turns nasty. Brighter colours will also be easier for rescuers to spot.

Water and food: Always bring more water and food than you expect to use. Energy bars and GORP (good old-fashioned raisins and peanuts) are calorie-rich and easy to carry.

First aid: A good first-aid kit should include a pocket mask, dressings and absorbent pads, protective gloves, bandages, scissors and blister dressings.

Maps and navigation: GPS units have become commonplace, but there will always be a place for the traditional map and compass. Learn how to use them properly and your chance of survival increases substantially.

Communications: Head out with a cellphone and a fully charged battery. An extra battery is always useful. To save power, keep your phone off until you really need it.

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The NSSWD Capital Project Process

By Ron Stepaniuk

In order to undertake the building of a new DAF treatment facility on St. Mary Lake, the NSSWD has gone through a multi-year process, closely guided by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (the Ministry) according to the required elements of law as laid out in the *Local Government Act* and the *Improvement District Handbook* and in close consultation with other government Ministries and agencies. We have provided our ratepayers and islanders at large with many updates on the project and listened to suggestions for alternative designs and locations for the treatment plant from ratepayers. We have done our best to answer all questions directed to us in person and by email.

NSSWD trustees, management and staff have devoted thousands of hours of work towards the development of a facility that the Board of Trustees feel is the best option for their fellow ratepayers. It is a basic, no frills design with one amenity – a two piece washroom.

Following is an overview of the process we have followed to date, the reasons why, and where we're going from here.

2008

Island Health (then VIHA) mandated that NSSWD build a DAF treatment plant by 2011 on St. Mary Lake to meet its 4-3-2-1 Policy for surface water treatment.

2011

As NSSWD was not in a position financially to build a treatment plant between 2008 and 2011, Island Health extended its deadline to build and mandated NSSWD to have the new treatment facility up and running by January 1, 2016.

2012

The Board and management agreed the District should undertake the preliminary design for a DAF facility on St. Mary Lake in order to comply with Island Health's mandate to build a DAF treatment facility. Discussion was held on whether or not to use a multiple bid process or to select an engineering firm the Board agreed was well experienced with water treatment facility projects. The majority of the Board felt a single source route was the most cost effective and efficient way for the District to proceed. Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) was asked to prepare a proposal for the preliminary design work for the St. Mary DAF facility.

On behalf of the Board, (then) Board Chair, Denis Russell (P.Eng), also sought advice from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists BC (APEGBC) on the process the District planned to use for selection of an engineering company. APEGBC was supportive of the District's decision to engage a consultant with a proven track record in water treatment plant design rather than go the request for proposal route.

Through a series of discussions with the Board, management and operations personnel, a review of site constraints, regulatory requirements, operating considerations, an environmental assessment, a geotechnical report and assessment of other relevant information and data collected over the years, including lessons NSSWD learned from commissioning and operating two DAF plants for the CRD, KWL developed the initial design criteria for the facility, and provided two options for a scope of work and costs for approval by the Board. The Board approved the initial design criteria, by a 4-1 majority decision, and elected to go with Option 1 of KWL's proposal at their December 19, 2012 meeting.

Designing A Water Treatment Plan Takes Expertise.

"As a trustee, you must make prudent, educated decisions on behalf of ratepayers."

Marshall Heinekey
Chair, NSSWD Board of Trustees
July 2014 Ratepayer Newsletter

2013

During 2013, KWL working in close consultation with district management prepared the preliminary design for the proposed facility.

The draft preliminary design was received by the Board on December 16th, 2013.

In the fall, several financial institutions and the Ministry were approached to discuss financing options including interest rates and other associated

fees. A financial institution, the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), was agreed upon by the Board and management. A preliminary multi-year repayment plan utilizing various interest rate scenarios was developed to assess the estimated ratepayer surcharge and ratepayer impact.

Newsletters kept ratepayers informed of progress.

2014

All districts must have Ministry pre-approval to begin a capital project that requires borrowing. To borrow funds the district must pass a borrowing bylaw that receives approval from its ratepayers as well as its board. (However, in some circumstances, such as an Order to Comply from another Ministry, the Inspector of Municipalities may waive the requirement for ratepayer approval.)

To receive ratepayer approval, a district must use either the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) or hold a voting Referendum. The Ministry also requires that the maximum amount a district expects to borrow is the amount stated in the borrowing bylaw. Once pre-approval is received the District may begin the AAP or Referendum process in order to pass a borrowing bylaw to finance a project. At the discretion of its board, a district may use its reserve funds for preliminary work, such as design, as it sees fit.

On January 14, 2014 the NSSWD Board officially requested permission from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to undertake a capital project which, at the time, was expected to cost up to \$11 million. The district was required to provide:

- An overview of what was to be built and why.
- The initial cost estimate for the project as determined by the professional engineers hired to prepare the preliminary design. (The Ministry requires an actual cost estimate prepared and signed by a professional based on either a preliminary or detailed design.)
- A projected revenue forecast showing how funds would be raised to finance the project and details of how ratepayers would be impacted by the costs.
- Information on how the district planned to seek ratepayer approval – AAP or Referendum.
- A Ratepayer Communication Plan, including copies of newsletters to date and a proposed awareness campaign.

At the April 23, 2014 Board meeting, Trustees revisited their prior decision not to proceed with the detailed design until ratepayer approval for borrowing was received. It was agreed that, due to the tight timeline, rather than hold up the project while moving through the AAP process it would be better to move forward with the detailed design and use some of the district's reserve funds to pay for it. KWL was engaged to continue with the project and undertake the Detailed Design. Ministry approval was not required as no borrowing of funds was needed. However, the Ministry was consulted by staff to ensure regulatory compliance. Ratepayer and Ministry approval of the borrowing bylaw must be received before the Qualified Bidding process can begin. (Note: The design remains a work in progress as design changes have been incorporated throughout the design process to date. Including the downsizing of the plant capacity from 2,000,000 gallons per day to 943,000 gallons, a decision based on the preliminary results of the St. Mary Lake Hydrology report. The Board and management

Key Reasons for NSSWD's Design Choice and Location

- Design suits operational needs and maximizes cost-efficiency of daily operations
- Provides operational flexibility with the ability to pre-treat water
- Situation on site maximizes site access and egress
- Underground storage maximizes security of treated water
- NSSWD owns the property and is currently withdrawing water from this location
- No major distribution system are upgrades required to bring the new plant online
- Remote area with only a few homes in the vicinity
- 3 phase hydroelectric power already exists at the lot line
- Area available for standby power generation and fuel storage
- Building design has a long life cycle
- Meets post-disaster construction requirements

We look forward to an open dialogue with our ratepayers about Borrowing Bylaw 264 once the revised figures from the Detailed Design are available. - NSSWD Board of Trustees

continue to work closely with KWL to achieve the maximum cost savings possible.)

At the May 28, 2014 Board meeting ratepayers Jon Scott and Ron McKenzie petitioned the Board to consider their design idea from an un-named company for single storey treatment facility. The Board advised them their configuration had been considered and eliminated earlier in the process, but that they would take their suggestion under advisement.

Preliminary approval to commence the project and pass a borrowing bylaw via the AAP was granted by the Ministry on January 23, 2014 and, in-house, the AAP process began. The Ministry was consulted throughout the process. During the process the District was required to have a public awareness campaign that included advertisements in the newspapers and an open house at which ratepayers could view the plans and discuss the project with the Trustees. Awareness activities included:

- A series of four advertisements/articles in both the Driftwood and the Island Tides.
- An Open House with the plans on view and at which an overview of the proposed facility was given by the design engineer and questions about the project and project financing were asked of the engineer and Board members.
- An on-going Open House at the District Office at which ratepayers could come in during office hours and view the drawings and ask questions of management, and, on request, arrange a one-on-one meeting with a Board member or manager.
- Advertisements regarding the AAP process in the Driftwood and Island Tides and via a direct mail piece to ratepayers.
- Newsletters to all ratepayers explaining the project.
- The creation of a website section dedicated to the project, including FAQs.

In the July 2014 special newsletter, ratepayers were advised that the preliminary findings of the St. Mary Hydrology Report would translate to cost savings due to the downsizing of plant capacity to our current license amount.

From February to May, a series of newspaper articles and ratepayer newsletters explained the reasons for the treatment plant, the type of equipment to be used, the maximum amount the district expected borrow, how the cost of the facility would impact ratepayers and the AAP procedure. Emphasis was placed on the fact that significant savings were expected to be found through the detailed design process. This website section was created to keep ratepayers informed.

The AAP process closed on May 30th and the request to pass Borrowing Bylaw #264 was defeated when 14% of ratepayers opposed its passing.

The Ministry then ordered the District to referendum within 80 days, ultimately on August 19th. More advertising and newsletters were done, the Open House at the office continued. A Returning Officer and his team were hired to conduct the referendum including advertising and conducting the advance polls and referendum day voting.

On July 25th at the request of ratepayers Jon Scott and Ron McKenzie representatives from Stantec Engineering, business associates of Jon Scott, pitched their suggestion for a single storey design with above-ground storage to Board and

management and suggested NSSWD terminate their relationship with KWL. They estimated their cost to be at least \$7.5 million using a design-build contract. Their suggestions did not meet the criteria established during the preliminary design process. Their offer was declined by the Board, although they were advised they were welcome to submit an application as a qualified bidder when that process begins.

August 19, 2014 - Borrowing Bylaw 264 was defeated by two votes – 283 to 281 - representing a voter turnout of approximately 22%. The Ministry was advised of the results, as was Island Health. Island Health advised they would get back to the District within a couple of weeks with their decision on whether or not to Order the District to build. If ordered, the District could apply to the Inspector at the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for a ruling on whether or not the District needed ratepayer approval to borrow the funds to meet Island Health's Order.

At the August 27th Board meeting the Board reviewed a request from Jon Scott to have Stantec re-present their design suggestions. The Board and staff again agreed that their suggestions had not taken into consideration many of the factors that have been studied as part of the pre-design process and did not meet the District's needs either structurally or operationally. The Board declined Mr. Scott's request and reconfirmed their confidence in KWL whose work on the detailed design was well underway.

November 2014 – As Island Health had not yet reached a decision on what to do, the Board informally agreed to again seek ratepayer approval for a borrowing bylaw in spring 2015. At that time, the cost savings realized through the detailed design process would be available and the borrowing amount could be reduced.

December 2014 – Ratepayers are advised on the District's website that a spring referendum is coming. After consultation with the Ministry, a tentative referendum date of March 28th, 2015 was selected and approved by the Board.

Upcoming

The Detailed Design is expected in mid-February for review by the Board. Borrowing estimates based on the maximum amount needed, including a healthy contingency, will be calculated and communicated to ratepayers including the revised estimated surcharge. It is expected that the competitive bidding process for the actual construction of the project may provide additional savings. However, the competitive bidding process cannot begin until the Borrowing Bylaw is passed. The tentative referendum date will be confirmed or changed by the end of February.

March 12th - An Open House with Kerr Wood Leidal, the Board and management is planned to discuss the detailed design and process (time and place to be confirmed). We look forward to the opportunity to discuss with our ratepayers the Borrowing Bylaw, the impact that the cost of the facility will have on them and the steps the District is undertaking to keep that cost down. It is also hoped that our upcoming donor campaign will raise a significant amount of funds to help offset borrowing costs.

March 28th has tentatively been scheduled as the date for another referendum. If the referendum is successful the District will be able to move forward with the competitive bidding and construction phases of the project.

North Salt Spring Waterworks supplies water to approximately 55% of island residents as well as businesses, parks, schools, the hospital and two fire halls. Clean, safe drinking water is vital to our island's residents and our primarily tourist-based economy.

More information about the project will be made available in the coming weeks once the Detailed Design has been reviewed. The Board feels strongly that the current design will meet ratepayers needs well into the future while providing the operational flexibility necessary when dealing with variable water quality such as that of St. Mary Lake.

Visit our website for copies of our newsletters, articles, meeting minutes and other information.

Q. Why did you elect to go with this process?

MH. This is the conventional and conservative route which we believe the majority of ratepayers would appreciate. In addition, the Detailed Design and a Fixed Price Contract are required to satisfy our lender. In any project, there is always a degree of uncertainty such as commodity prices, world or provincial economy and interest rates. A detailed design leaves as little as possible to uncertainty, defends against "scope creep" and provides bidders a level playing field.

Interview with Marshall Heinekey
Chair, NSSWD Board of Trustees
July 2014 Ratepayer Newsletter

2015

The January newsletter provided ratepayers with a project update and announced that a referendum is coming.

The ongoing Open House at the office continues.

On January 26, 2015 the Board requested formal pre-approval from the Ministry to begin the referendum process again. The Ministry was again provided with information about the project, an updated cost estimate (currently \$6.17 million for the plant, plus an estimated 10% for construction management [to be negotiated] and a 20% contingency) and brief communications plan. Pre-approval from the Ministry was received on January 28th.

January 28th - the first of a series of planned articles providing a progress report on district activities, including the status of the treatment facility was placed in the Driftwood.

people&community

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

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



PATHWAYS

Public invited to envision walking and cycling future

Island Parthways AGM this Sunday

BY BOB MACKIE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Anyone on Salt Spring interested in a long term vision of how we can embrace cycling and other initiatives to create a unique place for tourists and islanders alike should attend the Island Pathways Annual General Meeting this Sunday, Feb. 15, starting at 2 p.m. at the library.

Island Pathways has been raising awareness of the health, environmental and economic benefits of non-motorized transportation for the last 25 years. Ken Melamed is coming to the AGM as our keynote speaker. After a very brief business meeting he will talk about how to make Salt Spring a premier green destination. He probably can give us a few insights.

Melamed was the mayor of Whistler from 2005 to 2011, after serving three terms as a councillor. He was a founding director of the Association of Whistler Area

Residents for the Environment. He oversaw the planning and delivery of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

He is also an avid mountain biker and will tell us a bit about the Crankworx Mountain Bike Festival. As a preview, a study by Tourism British Columbia Research and Planning reveals that 23,000 visitors travelled to Whistler solely to attend the 2006 festival. There were 55,000 unique visitors and they spent \$11.5 million dollars.

Not bad, but of course you may be thinking that Whistler is a bit bigger than Salt Spring so we couldn't manage a bike festival, right?

Remember VeloVillage? In June 2012, John Rowlandson, Velo Village Team Leader for Island Pathways, and a huge crew of volunteers put on a festival that created "Bicycle Heaven on Earth." Among other things, they facilitated the first bicycle-only BC Ferries trip from Swartz Bay to Fulford.

This is not to say that we should try to repeat that accomplishment,



IMAGE COURTESY RON WATTS PHOTOGRAPHY

A cyclist checks out the music on board the Skeena Queen during the bike-only ferry trip for Velo Village in 2012.

but volunteers and a vision can do great things. Ucluelet has a population of 1627 and they have an aquarium. We have ArtSpring. Island Pathways has built over \$500,000 worth of pathway infrastructure. What these projects

required was a vision, lots of effort, patience and determination.

The Ucluelet aquarium feasibility trial began in 2004. Twenty years ago, there was some question whether ArtSpring would ever be completed. Island Pathways is a

group of unpaid volunteers. We need your support and your vision.

Start by attending the AGM, hear what Ken has to say and add your bit. Do you have a vision for Salt Spring? What will Salt Spring look like in twenty years? Will we be able to retain our valued island lifestyle and have an island economy that employs people ... and what does this have to do with cycling anyway?

The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce is doing a great job inviting people to "Discover Yourself Here." If you discover that you believe in a sustainable lifestyle, let's talk about cycling, mountain biking paths, pedestrian paths, electric bicycles, bicycle racks with plug-ins, the boardwalk, electric vehicles and charging stations, and becoming part of the Salish Sea Trail network.

We are our island. Let's make it what we want. Come to the AGM. There will be refreshments.

The writer is an Island Pathways board member.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Bridge thin at winter games

Sun chasers noticeable by absence

BRIDGETRICKS

though, and ended up the winners, with Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette in second place. The third spot was occupied by Gisela Welsh and Gillian Mouat.

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her grateful prayer,
Gie her a Haggis.

Well, maybe there were too many still full of the stuff and a wee whisky or two after celebrating Rabbie Burns' birthday the day before, because there were only three and a half tables for duplicate bridge on Jan. 26.

Granted, it was like June in January, blessed by a warm front, but also cloaked in a low-lying fog, so that may have kept some away too. Jeff Bell and George Laundry made it,

Feb. 2 was, of course, Groundhog Day, and even more people were absent, perhaps copying Wiarthon Willie or Punxsutawny Phil and diving into a hole after seeing a shadow.

Many have headed south, too, chasing the sun. So there were just two and a half tables this time, with first place going to Jeff Bell partnering the other half of the Laundry couple, namely Flo. In second place were Vic Parks and Peter Robinson, and that's all, folks, when there are so few competing. Good's hoping for a better turnout next time, good weather and wonderful hands for everyone.

All are welcome who want to play duplicate. For info please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Programming course offered

GISS grad to give Friday classes

development and graphics programming.

Like all library programs, Introduction to Computer Programming is free. No experience or prior skill is required. The class runs on four consecutive Fridays starting Feb. 20 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the teen meeting room.

The course will be taught by Evan Nickerson, a graduate of GISS who is now half-way

through a UVic computer science degree. Nickerson specializes in game development and graphics programming.

Participants are welcome to bring their own laptops or use those provided by the library. Space is limited, so people must register ahead of time. That can be done through the library information desk, by phone at 250-537-4666, or by email at info@saltspringlibrary.com.

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INTERNATIONAL AID

Essential items for Kenya on their way to recipients

SOLID gives annual donation report

BY ANNA CALLEGARI
SOLID DIRECTOR

On Feb 27, SOLID director Lynda Turner will be returning to Kakamega, Kenya, where she plans to deliver the generous donations from Salt Spring Islanders and other supporters. Turner has a busy itinerary planned with purchasing and delivering goats for HIV-positive mothers. SOLID has delivered more than 300 pregnant goats in the last four years. The Salt Spring-donated herd has grown to more than 800 goats.

Turner will also provide solar

lights for Grade 8 students writing their national exams. Last year SOLID delivered 110 lights.

This year SOLID's Christmas campaign included school kits for very poor school children. The kit includes a backpack, uniform, dictionary, geometry set, atlas, pencils, paper and other supplies.

Our alternate gifting program also supports seeds for HIV-positive mothers. The eight-kg bag of beans and five-kg bag of maize, the staples of the Kenyan diet, will assist these women in feeding their families.

Turner will also continue a 10-year tradition of providing new uniforms for school children. Thus far over 800 improv-

SOLID has delivered more than 300 pregnant goats in the last four years. The Salt Spring-donated herd has grown to more than 800 goats.

erished school children have received uniforms and in Kenya "no uniform equals no education."

She will also provide 50 layettes to new mothers who have nothing for their babies at the Provincial Hospital. The layettes include receiving blankets, toques, re-useable diapers, knitted dolls, and re-useable napkins and underpants for the mother.

Another important way to empower young schoolgirls lies in the provision of hygiene kits for Grade 7 and 8 girls. The kit includes a small plastic pail with a lid, soap, six re-useable pads, and underpants so that their menses doesn't interfere with their education.

Turner will also be providing food for Grace Orphanage, which helps 30 orphans survive the hunger season from March

to August every year.

Salt Spring residents' generous donations over the Christmas season will also allow SOLID to send an additional \$1,500 to the Comfort Fund at Ndi Moyo Palliative Care Centre in Malawi, and for us to continue our support of Phelisanong Project in Lesotho. Please visit our website at www.solidstpring.ca for more information on all SOLID's projects.

It is not too late to support any of these grassroots efforts by making a donation or purchasing a unique art card from the SOLID Exchange. Your support goes directly to our African partners and we thank you for your continued support.

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

Chiropractic



CHIROPRACTIC... often the best place to start!

Once you recognize you have a "health problem" you need to decide which type of health practitioner would be the right choice for the best results.

Our society has been carefully programmed to act as if every "health problem" is automatically a "medical problem."

Nothing could be further from the truth, except in cases of First Aid at one end of the spectrum, and Crisis Therapy at the other.

There are usually more effective, safer natural treatment methods for the majority of "health problems" that fall outside of these two categories, which do not include dangerous drugs. CHIROPRACTIC is often the best place to start.

If you do have a medical issue, the chiropractor will quickly refer you. Unfortunately, the reverse is rarely seen to be done.

Next time that you have a "health problem" that obviously doesn't require First Aid or Emergency life threatening attention, consider contacting a local Chiropractor first...you'll be glad you did.

Dr. Bob Richmond
250.538.2262

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Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C) - GOLD AWARD 2014 (VREB)
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Fitness Expert



Happiness is in the water

What keeps you going back to the pool? Is it the exercise? Do you laugh because you are having fun or do you stay deadly serious? If you only manage a smile during the class you most likely will create that "happiness" buzz by the end of the class and leave with a contented heart and your body full of endorphins. Endorphins are the body's natural opiates. Therefore, they relieve pain and inhibit our emotional response to pain.

Laughter is the best medicine for everyone: it's great for relaxing and letting go; it provides the best abdominal exercise. The effects of laughter are positive, but temporary. We need to laugh often!

Never think that exercise should not be taken seriously but you must allow yourself fun. Functional exercise is the key to healthy fitness and Fun is the key to healthy happiness.

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Mechanic



This has been a very mild winter, is there anything different i should be doing to look after my vehicle?

Mild wet weather creates the perfect environment for mildew and the musty smells that go along with it. Your car is continuously getting moisture inside from wet shoes and clothing as well as the moisture in the air we breathe out. If your car is equipped with air conditioning, moisture is taken out of the air by a combination of the a/c running at the same time as the defrost setting on your heater. This is a great system if run long enough, however the short trips we take here may not be enough and your vehicle may not be air conditioned.

If mildew is accumulating in your car it needs to be as dry as possible, then all surfaces cleaned with a good antifungal cleaner available from your local hardware store. To effectively dry your car put a small electric heater with a fan in it overnight. Leave a window open slightly to let out the moisture. Be very careful when installing the heater, do not set on or near upholstery, carpet or any flammable surface.

Check your owner's manual to see if your vehicle is equipped with an air filter for the heater system. It should be checked and replaced if dirty or moldy and the air box cleaned.

Drive Safe, Gyle

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Dental



Snoring

If you or your bed partner are aware that you snore, you should be checked for an extremely serious medical disorder known as Sleep Apnea, (stopping breathing for at least 10 seconds). This usually results from an upper airway obstruction and may be able to be treated with an oral appliance fabricated by a Dentist trained in this procedure. Sleep Apnea can result in cessation of breathing perhaps 100's of times per night and can significantly lower night time blood oxygen levels, affecting virtually every degenerative disease from Alzheimer's to Heart Disease and Diabetes. Sleep Apnea/Snoring also affects relationships, and bed partners can lose sleep as well. To see if you qualify for treatment with an oral appliance, phone for a confidential assessment appointment.

POST-TREATMENT TESTIMONIAL

"My concentration, energy level, afternoon fatigue, wellbeing and sense of rejuvenation have improved dramatically. I'm delighted!" - Island Resident



Dr. Bob McGinn
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Marketing



It's a Conversation with your Customers

According to the American Marketing Association, marketing is the activity, set of institutions, and processes for creating, communicating, delivering, and exchanging offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners, and society at large. In other words, marketing involves both a conversation and a contract with your customers.

The conversation starts with media, whether it's paid or native advertising, social media or word of mouth. Include your signage, labels, the way your staff interacts with customers and the integrity of your offers. Conversations also extend to the point of sale — racking, stacking; even the convenience of your parking lot. It's your website and whether it's user-friendly (does it load quickly? Does it provide useful information?)

The contract part involves meeting the expectations set by your "conversations." In a nutshell, did you deliver what you said you would? Is the product as good as you promised? Was the service? Did the customer experience meet the expectations created by you?

Businesses in this area operate in a very competitive market that includes all the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and to a lesser extent, the Lower Mainland. It's really all one market. To stay on top, it's important to manage every aspect of your conversations with your customers.



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IN MEMORIAM GIFTS

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COMING EVENTS

Dying With Dignity
Salt Spring Island

The Trouble With Dying
Video Presentation and Discussion
Feb. 18th 1:30 - 3:00
Salt Spring Public Library
All Welcome
Co-sponsor SSI Library
www.dyingwithdignity.ca

JAPANESE GARDEN Society AGM - Feb. 12, 3:30pm @ Library. 250-537-4716

INFORMATION

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

ISLAND NATURAL Growers presents: 'Sowing the Seeds of Love' our 20th Annual Seedy Saturday. Feb. 11th, 14th, 15th.
[ssiseedsaturday\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:ssiseedsaturday(at)gmail.com)
FB 'Friend' us.
www.seeds.ca/events.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 6th annual WCOWMA-BC Convention & Trade Show will be held at the Ramada Plaza (36035 North Parallel Road) on February 12, 13, 14 & 15 in Abbotsford. Workshops, open forum discussions, networking opportunities & door prizes. The trade show is held on Feb 13 only (complimentary admission). Don't miss the only onsite wastewater trade show & convention in BC. More info at www.wcowma-bc.com.

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 23

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS



DEATHS

C. Duane MacPhail
August 8, 1941 - February 6, 2015

It is with immeasurable sadness that the family of Duane MacPhail announces his passing from this earth to a place of wonder and joy with the Good Lord, and His many angels on the evening of February 6, 2015.

Duane's greatest joy was his family: he believed he simply had the best. He was so proud of them all: His faithful and devoted wife and best friend of 50 years, Bonnie; son Shane (Dana) from Australia with grandsons Dylan (Monique) Keenan, granddaughters Charlotte and Teyah; daughter Shannon (Clayton Johnston) and their children Rory, Kiara and Shayce all from Salt Spring Island. Daughter Stacey (Sabrina) and grandsons Peyton and Crosby from Kelowna. Another 'special daughter', Rhonda from Australia was dear to him as well. Cousins Carol and Barb were more like special sisters.

Bonnie and family wish to thank first the initial responders here on the Island and the wonderful work of Dr.'s White and Morse, and then the exemplary care from all the staff at the RJH ICU staff. They were so efficient medically, but as important, very compassionate and helpful with Duane and the family.

We welcome friends to attend a brief and informal celebration of his life at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse on Friday, February 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Heart Foundation or the charity of your choice.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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It is with immeasurable sadness that the family of Duane MacPhail announces his passing from this earth to a place of wonder and joy with the Good Lord, and His many angels on the evening of February 6, 2015.

Duane's greatest joy was his family: he believed he simply had the best. He was so proud of them all: His faithful and devoted wife and best friend of 50 years, Bonnie; son Shane (Dana) from Australia with grandsons Dylan (Monique) Keenan, granddaughters Charlotte and Teyah; daughter Shannon (Clayton Johnston) and their children Rory, Kiara and Shayce all from Salt Spring Island. Daughter Stacey (Sabrina) and grandsons Peyton and Crosby from Kelowna. Another 'special daughter', Rhonda from Australia was dear to him as well. Cousins Carol and Barb were more like special sisters.

Bonnie and family wish to thank first the initial responders here on the Island and the wonderful work of Dr.'s White and Morse, and then the exemplary care from all the staff at the RJH ICU staff. They were so efficient medically, but as important, very compassionate and helpful with Duane and the family.

We welcome friends to attend a brief and informal celebration of his life at the Brinkworthy Clubhouse on Friday, February 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Heart Foundation or the charity of your choice.

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COMING EVENTS

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering two scholarships to students presently attending Gulf Islands Secondary School
Completed applications must be submitted to the GISS Counselling Department on later than March 31, 2015

In addition LMHAS is offering a Continuing Education Bursary to a GISS graduate who has completed the first/second year of their course of study in a healthcare related field. Information and application forms available at LMHAS Thrift Shop and on our website.
WWW.LMHAS.CA
Application deadline is March 31, 2015
All applicants must be continuing their studies in a healthcare related field.

COMING EVENTS

SSI Farmers' Institute AGM
Tues. 17 Feb 2015, 7:30 pm
Upstairs Meeting Room

Guest Speaker: Mark Kilner - Food Education for All Ages

Mark is the Culinary Instructor at GISS and passionate about good healthy food. His presentation will be about his food program at the high school, the innovative ways they are producing food, food sustainability on the island and food education.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR INSTITUTE AND DIRECTORS BY ATTENDING THIS MEETING.

COMING EVENTS

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY
is offering one "Back to School" Bursary
Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & application forms available at Thrift Shop (located at back of the Upper Ganges Centre next to Driftwood office) and on our web-site.
WWW.LMHAS.CA
Application deadline is March 31, 2015.

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This Week's Horoscope
by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstaraastrology.com
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TIP OF THE WEEK:

As bright, friendly and wonderful as people with the Sun in Aquarius are, the gushy, sentimental and romantic feelings that are associated with Valentine's Day don't entirely fit. It would have seemed better placed in Leo-August or Libra-September or May days Taurus or perhaps even deep November Scorpio. But there it is smack dab in mid-winter in the Air sign carrying traits of detachment, humanism, invention and genius and revolution too but where's the heat and steam, mush and gush of a lover's touch? Can we see beneath the surface and find at least some of the qualities of the other signs mentioned woven within this day? Yes, we can. First, February 14th occurs when the Sun is in the Libra Decan of Aquarius. Each sign of 30 degrees can be divided into 3 groups of 10 degrees. The first is linked to the sign in question, in this case Aquarius. The next air sign which is Gemini and that 10-degree Decan ends on about February 9th which brings us to Libra, the sign of relationships which is ruled by love/desire Venus. Next, when we divide any 30-degree sign by 12, we get 12 segments of 2.5 degrees and these are called "Duads". Duads can and do actually prove very potent when it comes to Reading your Astrology chart. As it is the duad for Aquarius on February 14th is directly linked to Scorpio (22.5 - 25 degrees Aquarius - look at 12 midnight in Greenwich UK when the day officially begins.) So, there woven within February 14th lives sexy Scorpio, so far so good. Third, the # 14 adds to 5, as in 1 + 4 = 5. Five is the 5th month or May which is largely the domain of Taurus, the other sign ruled by Venus, and considered the most sensual sign of the Zodiac. Don't worry, if you feel you are super sensual but are not a Taurus you too probably have it tightly tucked in the privates of your chart. Also 5 is the number of the 5 senses and is another indication of the sensuality themes hidden within 14. On a final note, Leo is the polar opposite sign of Aquarius and whatever sign the Sun is in, the Earth (planet not element) is in the polar opposite sign which in the case of Aquarius is dramatic, romantic, and sexy Leo, which is also the sign of the heart that beats fast and delightfully so especially when we are in the close embrace of our lover. So, Valentine's Day is woven with love and sex appeal alright but sometimes we have to get really close to see what is hidden beneath an otherwise reserved demure. PS: The second New Moon in Aquarius, this one at 29 Aquarius 54, literally 6 minutes prior to Pisces, occurs on February 18th and celebrates Chinese New Year - the year of the Wood Ram. Stay tuned.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) As good as it is to know who your true friends are; sometimes it is hard to be really sure. A lot is up in the air. While it is wise to affirm that you are your own best friend even that can be a challenge. Such times are a call to communicate within, with your own heart's truth but also without, with someone who can provide wise counsel.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)
Your sights are set on the future. If only the skies were clear blue and not clouds and fog. Part of you wants to bolt and at high speed to get through. Yet your better judgment is urging that you persevere slowly. There are indications that you have reason to feel more confident than you might actually. Decipher what all those reasons are and zero in. Gratitude equals altitude.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Seeing a bigger picture continues. Yet doing so requires surrender of some habitual perspectives. We do not see reality as it is so much as we are conditioned to see. Yet, we can learn to recognize our own conditioning. This is a first step to truly seeing. It is all about breaking free of assumed facts and conclusions. Weave imagination and creativity to see through and anew.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) Looking back, one thing will be clear, life is all about relationships. Some of these are getting more of your attention now. Beyond the usual and immediate, these important connections are leading you to reflect upon deeper realities. Thoughts about birth, life and perhaps death too are floating in your mind. In either case a message is trying to get through and it says: be here now.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) Despite an otherwise steady process of endings, your world is simultaneously expanding. Some things must usually end when new experiences are set to occur. Timing of destiny is a key factor. It sometimes moves us away from people, living circumstances or at least old perceptions, self-concepts and modes of approach. Yet this time of change is woven with creative possibility.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) There comes the time when we must lay claim to gifts and powers that have remained largely dormant or hidden. It takes awareness, courage and determination to lay claim to these. It will require that you set pride aside and use redirect that energy to do the work required. Let your inner authority speak and listen up, it has plans for you.

Libra (Sep 22 - Oct 22) As important as are the themes focused upon your whole health now, which include the quality of your overall lifestyle, this is also a time of learning. Positively, you are poised to learn wonderful things that have been waiting their turn, perhaps a very long time. Initially this learning curve implies associations with others. Eventually they will lead you to your own personal studies.

Scorpio (Oct 22 - Nov 21) A good deal of shifting and shaking close to how is fortunately rewarding you with awakening. Realizations about who you are and are not and what you want and need and do not are becoming clearer. These are a feature of an expanding public and professional life which require more of your time and energy. Get ready for an even bigger boost of your imagination power.

Sagittarius (Nov 21 - Dec 21) Many new thoughts and perceptions are stirring your imagination. Mastering it is a key to your success because our imagination can literally scare us to death. As powerful and wondrous as it is, there are times when it is good to say, 'it is just my imagination working overtime'. Aim to clear the past to make way for the future.

Capricorn (Dec 21 - Jan 19) Thoughts about the future are solidly on your mind. If only your confidence in the future could be as firm. Yet as you begin to assess who has the talents and resources that you need you can begin to feel better. All you have to do is to enlist their support. This is where diplomatic relations are required. Yet the times call for fresh perspectives and personalities.

Aquarius (Jan 19 - Feb 19) Mercury is retrograde in your sign but this is one of the 3 best places for it to be as it serves to sharpen your focus. The Sun in your sign as well points to new beginnings of all kinds. Jupiter meanwhile is opening your world of public relations and creative potentials. With your ambitions running high you are ready to rock. But you may first have to contend with a slow learning curve.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) Slightly behind the scenes and possibly a bit below the weather, that does not mean that dreams will not come true now. While you are undergoing a soul searching journey, you are and have also been breaking ground and entering new territory. This may include a variety of creative projects and pursuits. Amidst all this reverie, make efforts to get organized so your advance feels clear and solid.

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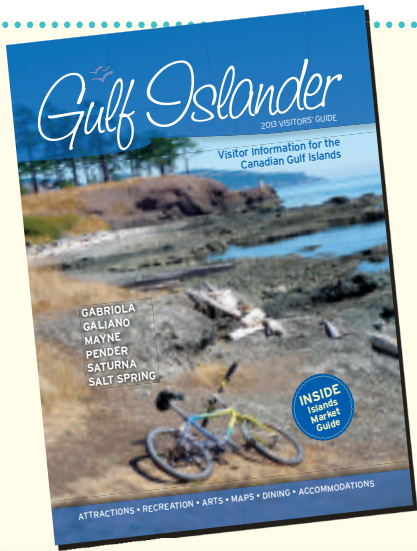
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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

HAVE PADDLES, WILL PLAY: Pickleball players, from left, Brian Finnemore, Heather Robertson, Donna Ateah, Bob Contardi and Hafiz Bhimji enjoy a game at Fulford Hall. The sport can be played indoors at Fulford Hall on Tuesdays and Sundays, and Salt Spring Elementary School on Saturdays.

GOLF

Fifty fun-seekers mix golf and football

Winter golf activities underway

BY APRIL WRIGHT
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The regular New Year's Day's Sock and Toque Tournament was neatly upstaged by the Feb. 1 Super Bowl Tournament at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. Almost before the scores were counted, 100 islanders celebrated Mardi Gras on Feb. 7.

It proved once again that a core group in the community remains devoted to their golf, a winter challenge and a good

party with the club as a social hub.

This year's Super Bowl Tournament appealed on all fronts. Fairways had been mowed. Pin placements were challenging, and although the length of holes was shortened up, the competition was fair and fierce. Power flags on the greens added to the points available. Two club champions loaded the winning team and dropped pitches, chips and putts to win the event.

But overall the 50 fun-seekers were astounded by the excellent quality of winter

golf. Although a little football was featured on the big screen that day, Jim Charlton, Franki Johnstone, Joanna Barrett and Stanley Laing took home the golf prizes.

Salt Spring Golf and Country Club has invested in new drainage systems designed to take winter's wet away from play, and it has clearly worked. Balls were rolling, greens were in excellent winter condition, putts were dropping.

For stalwarts who have not gone to the southern sun, there is a certain lure in good-humoured off-season com-

petition. Organizer, pro and general manager Steve Marleau says it's an opportunity for any level of golfer.

This weekend golf is optional. The special Valentine's Day dinner with music by Sweetwater promises to bring out an even wider group of winter survivors, and romantics who might just want to imagine their golf — for now.

The Salt Spring Golf and Country Club is a nine-hole course open to the public on a year-round basis. An indoor public tennis court is also available at the club.

RUNNING

Hill experts triumph

Cedar race results

The Sneakers brought home three medals and nine top-10 finishes from the 12-kilometre Cedar road race on Sunday.

"Training on Salt Spring obviously helps when running hilly courses," said Lynn Thompson, the team's spokesperson. "The sprint results for the last 100 metres again showed our speed workout pays off."

Susan Gordon was the top Sneaker, finishing in first place among 28 competitors in the F55-59 category. Gordon's time of 52:12 placed her 35th among the race's 382 runners. Eric Ellis

picked up a second-place result in the M65-69 category, finishing his race in 57:59. Thompson earned a medal for his third-place finish in the M75-79 race group.

Other Sneakers who finished among the top-10 in their respective categories were Eric Van Soeren, 56:25; Janice Dickie, 58:29; Lise Fraser, 59:21; Karen Curtin, 60:30; Marion Young, 60:52; and Julie Van Soeren, 71:57.

The Sneakers have accumulated 569 points after three races in this year's Vancouver Island Race Series. The team is ranked fifth out of 56 teams registered for the series.



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