



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 55TH YEAR — ISSUE 7 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

TRAGEDY

Longtime islander dies in crash

Loes Holland remembered as a pioneer

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring woman killed in a Saturday afternoon car crash along Lower Ganges Road is being remembered fondly as a lifelong explorer with a feisty spirit who touched the lives of many islanders.

Loes Holland was the lone occupant in a south-bound vehicle that lost control and crossed the oncoming lane before striking a tree and rolling down an embankment near the turnoff to Park Drive at approximately 1:50 p.m. on Feb. 14. Emergency personnel found the red Subaru partway down the bank on the road's shoreline side.

Holland was declared deceased by a physician after crews removed her from the vehicle. At this point it is not clear if the 92-year-old died as a result of the collision or from some sort of medical incident before the crash. The BC Coroners Service is investigating the cause of death.

The single-vehicle crash closed part of Lower Ganges Road for nearly seven hours as RCMP, Salt Spring Fire Rescue members, BC Ambulance personnel and a collision analyst worked at the crash site.

"It's so unbelievable. It's just so sudden," said Joy Holland, Loes' daughter, during a Monday morning interview from her home in Lindsay, Ont.

Loes Holland and her husband Gerry moved to Salt Spring from the Netherlands by way of Ontario more than 40 years ago. The couple was among the first homeowners to build a house in the north end's Trincomali Heights neighbourhood.

"They were pioneers in a way," her daughter said.

Holland was a frequent customer at Salt Spring Books, where she could be counted on to pick up her Globe and Mail newspaper every Saturday, recalled business owner Adina Hildebrandt.

"She was always full of joy, always chatty, and always positive and wonderful," Hildebrandt said. "She was one of those people who was always delightful.

"She loved everything and loved her life right to the last minute."

CRASH continued on 5



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue personnel work to extricate a vehicle driver off Lower Ganges Road near Park Drive on Saturday afternoon. Salt Spring resident Loes Holland was declared deceased at the scene.

FIRST NATIONS

Grace Islet price tag: \$5.45 mil

Deal covers land and settlement with owner

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The province of British Columbia confirmed Monday that it has paid the former owner of Grace Islet \$5.45 million for the site.

Steve Thomson, the province's Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations said the sum includes \$850,000 for the land and \$4.6 million to reach a settlement with Barry Slawsky.

The province announced plans to acquire the .78-acre islet in January following negotiations with Slawsky, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and local First Nations. The cost had been withheld until Monday.

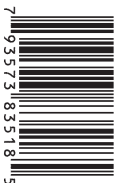
"This amount represents costs incurred over the past two decades by the landowner and his lost opportunity for future enjoyment of the property," said Vivian Thomas, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. "Incurred costs include items such as utility installation, and archaeological, architectural and professional fees, as well as building contract and material costs for construction of a high-end house."

Thomas said particulars about how the settlement was reached are confidential.

Supporters of the campaign to protect the islet said the size of the settlement is unfortunate but represents the province's history of mismanagement and poor handling of the Grace Islet issue.

GRACE ISLET continued on 4

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NOISE

CRD Board approves rod and gun club policy

Government body to reduce responses

The Capital Regional District Board has agreed to adopt a restricted action policy regarding noise complaints against the Salt Spring Road and Gun Club after

devoting countless staff hours and resources to the issue.

Policy recommended in a CRD staff report and approved by the Electoral Areas Services Committee in January states that bylaw enforcement officers will not respond to or investigate noise complaints made dur-

ing the club's regular operating hours, or between 9 a.m. and sunset. The CRD Board endorsed the policy at its Feb. 11 meeting.

The staff report notes that some gun club neighbours have reached a level of harassment-like behaviour targeting CRD staff.

The club's right to operate as per its zoning was established in a BC Supreme Court decision in 2013. The club has also reduced hours and made improvements toward sound mitigation and monitoring member activity as a result of a 2014 civil suit judgment, states the CRD.

RCMP REPORT

Canine 'driver' causes three-car collision

Vandalism also reported

Salt Spring RCMP received several reports of vandalism and property damage among 40 calls for service

during the week of Feb. 9 to 15, including broken windows at Gulf Islands Secondary School as reported separately in this paper.

- On Tuesday, Feb. 10, damage was reported to the Maxwell Lake watershed access

gate. The damage is estimated at approximately \$1,000, and appeared to be caused by a vehicle having been driven into the gate.

- A three-vehicle collision took place in the parking lot at Lady Minto Hospital on Sun-

day, Feb. 15 after a dog left in a car managed to disengage the gear shift from "park," setting the vehicle in motion. It rolled down a grade and struck another parked vehicle, which then struck a third. No one was injured in the incident.

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From trades, culinary and sports programs at GISS to arts and environmental education in our elementary schools, the Salt Spring Island Foundation is proud to support programs that expand educational opportunities for island students.

In 2014, we contributed to the GISS Solar Scholarship Project, which directs energy savings from rooftop solar panels to an annual renewable-energy/climate-change scholarship.



FERRIES

Rosier earnings report for BC Ferries

Service adjustment said to improve utilization

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries has posted another net loss for its third quarter results, but earnings have improved both for that three-month period and for the last three quarters when compared to the previous year.

A press release issued Friday states the ferry provider had a net loss of \$6.1 million for the three months ending Dec. 31, 2014, halving the loss of \$12.3 million in the same quarter in 2013.

Similarly, net earnings for the nine-month period ending Dec. 31, 2014 were up, with \$84.2 million in 2014 compared to \$56.3 million in the previous year.

According to the press release, service level adjustments imposed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure helped improve capacity utilization by 4.5 per cent on the affected routes.

"These service level adjustments have generated year-to-date savings in fuel and labour that more than offset the decline in revenue as a result of lower traffic levels and will help reduce upward pressure on future fares," the report states.

Giving too much credit to service adjustments could be a mistake, according to the chair of Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Committee.

"You can't draw too much from those figures," Harold Swierenga said on Monday. "I wouldn't want to see any more cuts — we had enough trouble figuring Route 6 adjustments configured so it seemed to work fairly well."

"We can't draw too much from those figures."

HAROLD SWIERENGA
Chair, SSI Ferry Advisory Committee

Swierenga added that while Salt Spring passengers managed to "take their lumps" over service cuts on the Crofton-Vesuvius run, the changes haven't been as easy to absorb in communities like Gabriola Island or the Sunshine Coast. And the loss of Route 40's Discovery Coast run has been disastrous to several coastal and interior communities.

"There was huge economic fallout. That obviously wasn't fac-

tored in when they made their considerations," Swierenga said.

Some loss of traffic has been attributed to the service level adjustments, contributing to the loss in fare revenue. Other factors include the shift from free passenger fares for BC seniors during weekdays to a 50 per cent discount, and reduced student travel as a result of the teachers' labour dispute.

Operating costs were also higher, increasing by nearly \$10 million over the last three quarters.

"These operating expenses increased as a result of higher maintenance costs and depreciation and amortization costs from new capital assets that have entered service, partially offset by a decrease in fuel expenses," the press release states.

Swierenga said the biggest issue coming up for the ferry service is determining how to set the price fare caps for Performance Term Four. BC Ferries Commissioner Gord Macatee is due to announce the preliminary figures on April 1. The term runs from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2020.

"The real question for Performance Term Four is what the fuel costs will be," Swierenga said. "It's so hard to predict given all the international considerations that determine the cost."

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NEWS BEAT

Heads up!
BCSPCA Cupcake Day Fundraiser:
 Monday, FEB. 23 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside Ganges Fire Hall; and 12:50-1:30 p.m. at GISS

CRIME

School vandalism transforms into teachable moment

Students respond to destruction with compassion

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

"Lame" is how Peter Legun said he felt upon seeing the shattered glass and broken windows in his classroom at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Thursday morning.

"It sucks but, at the same time, they're just windows," the high school art teacher said in an interview earlier this week. "It's an unfortunate situation that will cost the school district and take time to repair but, at the end of the day, it's not like a serious accident."

Salt Spring RCMP continue to search for whoever is responsible for breaking at least eight windows along the school's Kanaka Drive side overnight on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Police are also looking into damage sustained at a home-based business across the street on the same evening.

Commenters on the Driftwood's Facebook site shared Legun's sense of disappointment immediately after pictures of the damage were posted online. The vandalism was summed up as "horrible" and "very sad." One online poster questioned if the time had come to consider video surveillance.

The bill to repair and replace the damaged windows could reach several thousand dollars, according to a repair person at the scene. Julian Cronin of Gulf Islands Glass said it could take a couple of weeks before the large sealed windows are ordered, delivered and installed.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

GISS students, from left, Sabrina Dunford, Kate Hunt, Blue Thomas, Linda Foerster, Mikaela Fraser and Nina Faicco are a few of the creative minds who spruced up their classroom's boarded up windows late last week.

"It's going to keep us busy," he said.

Given that the damage occurred to the school's art class and adjacent dance studio, it's perhaps unsurprising that students quickly crafted a creative response to the attack.

A few hours after school staff swept away the shattered glass and sealed off the drafty openings with plywood, Legun and five senior block art students got to work.

"Why don't we go out there and try to share some peace, love and happiness?" Legun recalled telling his students. "Let's make lemonade out of lemons."

Equipped with paint and brushes, Legun and his students covered the drab plywood boards with uplifting messages of forgiveness and support.

"Don't worry be happy," "We forgive U," and "Every action is an act of love, or a cry for help" are some of the inspiring messages written alongside colourful images of hearts and flowers. The artists also wrote out the telephone number for a toll-free youth crisis hotline.

"It shows who we are as a school and that we care," said Lyall Ruehlen, the school's principal. "Somebody's mistake has become a learning opportunity."

Anyone with information about who may be responsible for the school and Kanaka Road incidents can reach the Salt Spring RCMP detachment at 250-537-5555.

Before and after pictures of the scene are available on the Driftwood's Facebook page.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

School district maintenance staff person Graham Tweddle cleans up broken glass in the high school's art room on Thursday.

NEWS BRIEFS

Waiting room contest

The Ganges floatplane dock waiting room is going to get a makeover, and public ideas and input are wanted.

A round trip to Vancouver will be given to the person providing the best idea or sketch by the March 4 deadline.

Full details on the contest are available at the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island office by the Centennial Dock.

Business scholarship

Gulf Islands Secondary School graduates entering the University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business are eligible to win a \$5,000 scholarship.

Black Press provides 37 annual scholarships to high school, transferring and continuing students entering the UVic school.

Deadline to apply is Feb.

28. Information is available through GISS or www.uvic.ca/gustavson/blackpress.

Since its inception in 2008, more than 175 scholarships have been awarded.

New housing survey link

Community Services has made access to an important family housing survey easier by posting a link on its home page at www.saltspringcom-

munityservices.ca.

The information will help with planning for a new 24-unit affordable housing project.

Deadline for responding to the survey is March 15.

Watershed workshops

Members of the public are invited to observe workshops leading to creation of the draft management plan for St. Mary

Lake watershed.

Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority committees will gather on March 2, April 20 and May 25 to work on steps of the process as guided by consultants from Compass Resource Management.

People wanting to attend the March 2 session as an observer should contact SSI-WPA coordinator Shannon Cowan before the end of the day on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at

250-537-4847 or ssiwpaco-ord@gmail.com.

FOR THE RECORD

Ballard Petroleum owner Ken Bulcock was incorrectly identified as Ken Ballard in a Feb. 4 story on fuel prices.

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Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee would like to invite you to attend a public hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m., on March 5, 2015 at the Hart Bradley Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island to hear your views regarding Proposed Bylaw No. 479.

At the Public Hearing, all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

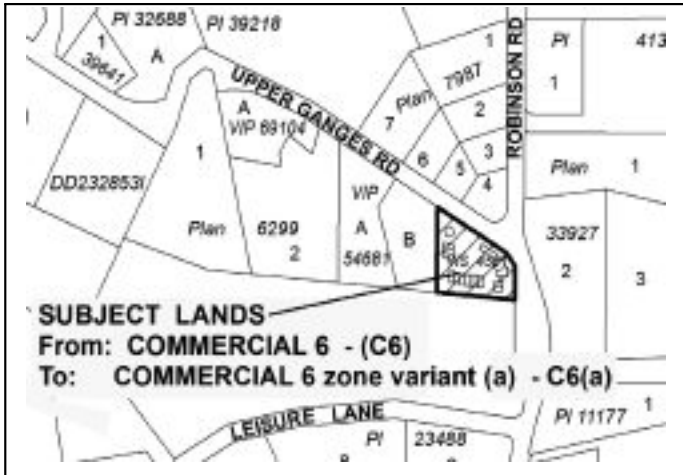
Planner Kristin Aasen will be available at the Hart Bradley Hall from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to provide information about the bylaw and to answer any questions.

What is the Proposed Bylaw about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 479 – cited as “Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 3, 2014” (315 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island - Application SS-RZ-2014.1)

In general terms, the purpose of Proposed Bylaw No. 479 is to amend the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 by adding a new Commercial 6 Zone Variation (a) – C6(a) on the lands illustrated below.

The new Commercial 6 Zone Variation (a) would permit new uses on the property, and remove other uses, as well as add new regulations.



How do I get more Information?

A copy of the proposed bylaw and other relevant background documents may be inspected at the Islands Trust Salt Spring Office at 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, from February 16, 2015 to March 4, 2015.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 892(2) of the *Local Government Act*, Proposed Bylaw No. 479 may also be viewed on the Islands Trust website (www.islandstrust.bc.ca) under “Islands”, “Local Trust Areas”, “Salt Spring”, “Bylaws”, “Bylaw 355” under “Bylaw Amendments”.



Enquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to Planner Kristin Aasen at 250-538-5611. For toll free access, request a transfer via Service BC: in Vancouver 604 660-2421, in Victoria 250 387-6121, and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

How do I Provide a Written Submission?

Mail or in person to: Islands Trust, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. V8K 2N8 (prior to March 5, 2015)
Fax: (250) 537-9116 (prior to March 5, 2015)
Email: ssiphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca (prior to March 5, 2015)
On March 5, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lion's Hall, 103 Bonnet Ave., SSI
At the Public Hearing on March 5, 2015 commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the Lion's Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, SSI

Written submissions received in response to this notice will be available for public review.

NO WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Claire Olivier
Deputy Secretary

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire service study dissected

Implementation to start after April AGM

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the public discussed the findings of Salt Spring Fire Protection District's fire service review with two of its chief authors during a special meeting held before the regular fire board meeting on Monday night.

Questions were asked about governance issues related to the board of trustees as well as department operations overseen by Fire Chief Tom Bremner. Richard Walker of Walker Resource Group and Dave Ferguson of Fire-Wise Consulting restated their findings that the service is for the most part run effectively and efficiently, although improvements could be made.

“We did come up with a substantial amount of recommendations, and that only happens when change is needed,” Walker said.

Many of the public's concerns centred around finances, with the district's budget increasing by nearly seven times its 1995 rate of \$371,000 over the past two decades. Walker pointed out the rate of increase has essentially been steady over that period, except from 2006 to 2011 when a steep increase occurred to bring employee wages up to levels established in a

new union contract.

As well, Salt Spring's fire service costs taxpayers just under the provincial average for communities of its size, while the firefighters tend to have a higher training level.

“Are you paying a premium?” he asked. “Not according to [the numbers]. You're paying average for better-than-average service.”

In regard to the union contract, island resident Darlene Steele asked Walker to elaborate on his recommendation to start the research process now to prepare for the next round of negotiations.

“We feel very strongly that going forward into December 2016 this board should have some pretty talented advice given to it with respect to negotiating with a very, very strong and very robust union that will be very interested in seeing the contract maintained,” he responded.

Ferguson particularly commended the department's efforts on wildfire risk education, its superior shuttle accreditation, and having a well-trained crew that meets or betters the provincial standard.

While many of Walker's recommendations have a short timeframe for action, trustee Ron Chamney said the board will wait until the April AGM to begin an implementation plan, since three trustee seats are up for election at that time.

PARKS & RECREATION

PARC seeks tax increase

Two per cent hike despite surplus from 2014

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salaries, wages, pool costs and the rising price of electricity are the main drivers behind the Parks and Recreation Commission's proposal to increase its annual ratepayer requisition by nearly two per cent.

Commissioners voted to forward the request to the

Capital Regional District Board in Victoria to be considered as part of the overall CRD budget that will be finalized in March.

The increase will represent less than a dollar per household, according to Peggy Dayton, the CRD's senior financial analyst.

Budget figures provided ahead of Monday's meeting show ratepayers can anticipate requisition increases between 1.5 and 4.3 per cent in each of the next five years.

Dayton said this year's requisition would have

been higher but staff allocated an \$81,000 surplus from last year to the 2015 budget.

“These funds are needed to be carried forward into the 2015 operating budgets to offset pool operating costs and to implement the recreation programs needs assessment and pilot programs,” reads part of a staff report presented at Monday's meeting.

PARC's operating budget sustained a 5.5 per cent increase between 2014 and 2015, rising from \$1.78 million to \$1.87 million.

Protectors criticize government

GRACE ISLET

continued from 1

“It is clear the provincial government took action far too late on this issue and, ultimately, it was fear that forced their hand,” said Joe Akerman, a co-ordinator of the Protect Grace Islet campaign. “Unfortunately, individual development rights and unchecked entitlement have prevailed above common sense and basic human decency with this exorbitant payout for Grace Islet.”

Slawsky applied for a building permit for the property in 2011. The Edmonton-based businessman had planned to build a retirement home on the islet according to guidelines set out by the provincial Heritage Conservation Act. Mired by protests and threats of legal action, home construction stopped in December 2014. Planning is underway to remove the partially completed structure.

Donna Martin of Salt Spring said the high settlement price follows years of unwillingness by the province to address concerns about the project raised by islanders and First Nations.

“The B.C. government created this situation; they gave the permits that allowed it all to happen,” said the campaigner. “It's regrettable that they did not listen to First Nations' concerns about this listed site. It's regrettable they did not listen to the Capital Regional District and community when they asked to have the islet expropriated at fair market value; that a stop work order was not put in place until the issue was resolved; that the owner continued to pour money into the construction when it was known that it would be deconstructed.”

“It's unfortunate that it took the government so long to admit they were wrong, but I am grateful that this struggle to protect Grace Islet will ensure that other First Nations sacred burial sites will be better protected.”

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has the property title for Grace Islet. The NCC, local First Nations and the province will cooperate on a remediation plan and long-term conservation management. Discussions with other agencies who wish to assist with long-term management are underway, Thomas added.

BC Assessment pegged Grace Islet's value in July of 2014 at \$735,000.

EDUCATION

SD grapples with parents' wants

Strategy to incorporate program requests being formed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new School District 64 board committee is working on how to incorporate asked-for alternate program models into the public education system.

Committee chair Nancy Macdonald reported at the Feb. 11 board meeting that "unprecedented numbers of parents" have been approaching the district about setting up alternative programs.

"Our program committee is at this point struggling with how we will respond," she said.

Many of the parent groups have a specific education model in mind (Waldorf is one example) and have made good cases about what they want to achieve and how they could work collaboratively with the district.

Macdonald observed

there are benefits to both sides making it happen, but at the same time the district should avoid saying yes to everything, or act out of fear of losing funds or students. There are also things the district can do itself to meet the needs of some groups.

"Phoenix and Saturna Ecological Education Centre are examples of where we've been really innovative or creative and really embraced the community, not pushed them away," she said.

A new hybrid program was also introduced last fall that gives home learners one day of classroom time at Fulford school each week, similar to the existing but full program at Phoenix elementary.

More opportunity for parent involvement, outdoor learning and smaller schools are some of the general wishes that have been raised. Questions the district needs to consider are whether the needs of both the



NANCY MACDONALD

district and the parents can be met in new programs, whether there are compromises that can be made, and whether programs meet Ministry of

Education curriculum standards while still being something that looks and feels different from the regular classroom. Program design and hiring are likely to be key issues.

"We want [parents] to know that we're prepared to have that conversation," Macdonald said. "We agree on a lot of points, but we'll probably have to compromise on a lot of points."

Fulford Community Elementary School principal Marie Mullen agreed the district should be open to incorporating new ideas, but warned against creating programs to the detriment of existing schools.

"If we have too many alternatives, the basic

school can be fractured," she said. "I do want to consider the voices of parents who have kids in our regular schools, and are happy . . . because so many things that people are talking about and wanting are actually happening in our schools."

Fulford school dropped from five classrooms in 2013-14 down to four in 2014-15 because 21 students left to attend a program at Stowel Lake Farm that is administered through the New Westminster School District. Mullen said she couldn't imagine what her school would be like with another such loss.

Macdonald agreed that getting information out to parents about the innovations already happening is important. She also suggested the committee will have to put in a lot of work over the next few weeks to have a strategy and a timely response for parent groups, some of whom are advocating to start new programs in September.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

SEED SAVVY: Dean Fitzzland gets help watering his newly planted seeds at a table set up for kids during Seedy Saturday at the Farmers' Institute. The annual event marks the start of another growing season.

SCHOOL BOARD

Sexual health ed moves forward

Learning services receives audit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands School District plans to restore sexual health education in local schools and perhaps become a provincial leader in the field were outlined during a presentation at the board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Project coordinators Jenny Redpath and Tiffany Wightman gave a delegation that included an assessment of the district's strengths and areas of need. Their plan is to start rolling out a new program for grades 4 through 9 in the coming year and expand to Kindergarten through Grade 12 within three years. Redpath and Wightman both recently received Options for Sexual Health certificate training and will work together and with district teachers to create an up-to-date education program.

The presenters made the point

that it is the district's legal and ethical responsibility to provide adequate education in sexual maturation.

"It is our young people's right to know. It puts them in a safer place, and in an empowered place," Wightman said.

Redpath cited statistics showing that education about sex and sexuality does not mean students will experiment more or at a younger age — in fact, it seems to deter those things. Risks of not having the knowledge include pregnancy, STIs, abuse and mental health problems into adulthood. For students in the LGBTQ spectrum, the risk includes suicide.

Modern education needs to include the normalization of diverse sexualities and family configurations, the presenters said. Programming should also be as up-to-date as possible, and teachers need support on how to deliver content without resorting to fear or shaming tactics.

Doug Livingston, the district's

director of learning services, added that a grant application recently submitted to Healthy Schools BC will hopefully provide resources such as teacher-on-call time so that classroom teachers can receive the training. They hope to begin with three schools this spring.

The school board also received a presentation from Livingston regarding a government audit of the learning services program, which is the new form of the former special needs education department.

The auditors examined three key elements to ensure compliance with provincial special education laws and regulations: asking whether special needs diagnoses are appropriate to the claimed designations, if there is evidence that the condition has a significant impact on learning and what evidence there is of services provided.

The auditors found the overall system is satisfactory. Although funding was lost for five students, the district had already removed its designation from three of these.

Bench note sends 'good hiking' wish

CRASH

continued from 1

Holland worked as an X-ray technician at Lady Minto Hospital before her retirement. She soon became involved in the island's tennis association and was a founding member of the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club.

"She was always interested in exploring," she said.

On Sunday morning, a handwritten note was attached to a memorial bench dedicated to Gerry Holland on a trail near their home. The note reads, "Rejoined with his beautiful wife Loes, Feb. 14, 2015. 'Good hiking!'"

Joy Holland said she is grateful for the support and kindness offered by her mother's many friends and acquaintances.

"Everybody has gone above and beyond," she said. "She touched lives."

Planning for a celebration of life is underway.

Keep Smiling...



THOUGHTS & NEWS

from Dr. Richard Hayden

What's the cheapest thing, Doc?

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

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

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



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

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Dr Richard Hayden Island Dental Centre

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

The cost of inaction

If the provincial government's January announcement to commit an about-face and buy Grace Islet didn't catch everyone off guard, news that the deal was sealed for \$5.45 million proves seeing is believing.

On Monday afternoon, the province said it would pay Barry Slawsky \$850,000 to cover property costs and an additional \$4.6 million for "costs incurred over the past two decades" and "lost enjoyment of the property."

So much for buyer beware. Given the strong push to acquire the .78-acre islet and the provincial government's relatively deep pockets, it isn't too surprising the property sold for nearly 15 per cent above its assessed value.

It's the \$4.6-million "settlement" portion that really raises the eyebrows. When questioned about the figure after Monday's announcement, a government spokesperson was unable to specify how the settlement figure was reached, who oversaw the negotiations and what kind of precedent the decision might establish.

Such details, we are told, are subject to "the confidentiality of the negotiations."

That's too bad because those are precisely the kind of details that are needed to let the public paying the bill to accurately judge the process and outcome.

Supporters of the campaign to save Grace Islet were among the first people to voice concern about the settlement. Some called it "excessive," "sickening" and "exorbitant." There's wide agreement that the pay-out symbolizes the province's failure to take advantage of repeated opportunities to halt the project due to concerns voiced by First Nations, archaeologists and local government representatives.

The settlement's saving grace may only be that it has demonstrated what can happen to a property owner, a community and the provincial government if the Heritage Conservation Act continues to be ignored.

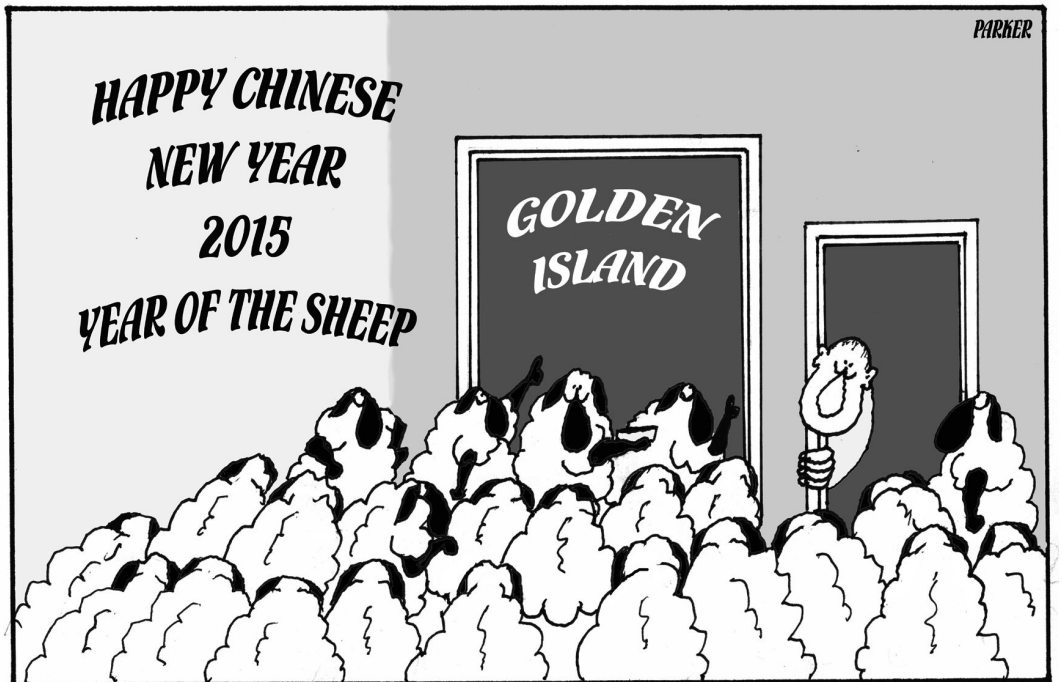
Grace Islet has pushed Minister Steve Thomson to review how the act is applied and enforced. This long-overdue project needs to be undertaken sooner rather than later, because we really can't afford another Grace Islet.

THE ISSUE:

Grace Islet settlement

WE SAY:

Expensive lesson



VIEWPOINT by David Rapport

Why we should be rocking the boat

In the ongoing dispute in which Greg Spendjian and Ross King lock horns lies a microcosm of the tragic confrontation that is playing out every day in the chambers of governments, large and small. It is a dispute where logic is no match for greed; it is a dispute where the best reasoning does not often triumph over misconception.

Ross King is worried that environmentalists are "rocking the boat" of our unparalleled economic success story. And he should be. For with each passing day it is evident that our life-support systems are in failing condition. And the key reason for that failure is our faulty socio-economic system, which as it is constructed today is incapable of bringing into focus the constraints to human activity that must be heeded if we are to sustain life on the planet. And it has fostered unseemly inequity, social injustice and cultural genocide.

Mr. King fears we'll be going back to the caves. Perhaps he is unaware that in China alone, according to a 2012 report in the LA Times, today some 30 million people do live in caves, and many of them not out of poverty but out of preference. And caves are energy-efficient, too. According to one testimony published in the Times, "it's cool in summer and warm in the winter. It's quiet and safe." Caves, so it seems, are often a preferred habitat, and they have been for hundreds or even thousands of years in China and other parts of the world, including France and Spain.

So we need not fear going back to the caves — millions of people are quite happy living in subterranean surroundings. But that is a side-track. What we should fear is the manner in which the economy, despite the wonders of the technologies it brings forth, has run roughshod over the health of the biosphere, which is ultimately tightly linked to our health and wellbeing.

The "goose that lays the golden egg" is not the banking system, the free markets, nor our spectacular technology. It is nature — the availability of potable water, clean air, and fertile soils. And the boat that

is not to be rocked is not the workings of the market, but the delicate, intricate workings of nature — that is, if we want the next generation that we so cherish, now in their infancy and childhood, not only to survive but to flourish.

It is very difficult from an engineering or business perspective to grasp the requirements that must be met if we are to arrest the long downward slide of the earth's life-support systems. After all, those disciplines are rooted in other views of the world — a mechanistic view, and a profit-driven view. And if nature were infinitely forgiving, that soulless approach to life might be sustainable, although empty. But nature is not infinitely forgiving. I have documented in my academic publications the demise of some of the once most robust ecosystems on the planet (the Great Lakes, the Baltic Sea, the desert grasslands of New Mexico, the grasslands of Inner Mongolia) — ecosystems that now lie in tatters, with profound social and economic consequences for their populations. Why? Because the requirements for sustaining those life systems have been thrown to the winds in the frenzy of unfettered "economic development."

Now not only regional ecosystems, including those on Salt Spring Island (see St. Mary Lake), but the entire biosphere is being challenged by the Anthropocene — the era in which humans have become a dominant force of change on the planet. If there ever was a time to "rock the boat" it is now, before our boat — that is the boat of life-sustaining environments, life-sustaining cultures and human equality — sinks into the abyss.

The writer's undergraduate studies were in engineering and business administration. He holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Michigan and held the Tri-Council Eco-Research Chair in Ecosystem Health at the University of Guelph. He has served as senior scientist and science advisor to Statistics Canada.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
Did B.C. pay too much to buy Grace Islet?

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: 130
Does Salt Spring need more industrial zoning? 56
 NO YES

Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It's unfortunate that it took the government so long to admit they were wrong."

DONNA MARTIN, SUPPORTER, PROTECT GRACE ISLET CAMPAIGN

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked:

What do you look forward to as garden season beckons?



JENNY REDPATH

I can't wait for my tree peony.



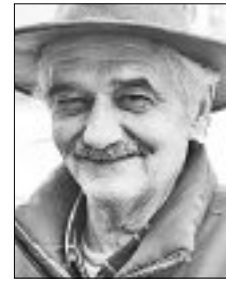
CLAIRE OLIVIER

Hopefully, less work and fewer weeds.



JESSICA GARCEAU

Parsley and basil for green sauce.



RICK UNDERWOOD

Russian red tomatoes



BECCA DEKKER

Raspberries and strawberries.

Letters to the editor

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

Video store will be missed

We may be in the minority (as people who still rent videos), but I'm sure we are not the only ones who are upset and saddened by the closure of Island Star Video.

We have loved having a video store on the island for many years. Tim and John have done a great job of keeping it going longer than many others elsewhere (sadly, as most of the video stores have died out).

We don't understand why people would rather pay for Netflix than support a local

business. Tim and John have always had "toonie" rentals and reasonable prices and have had much more of a selection than Netflix (from what we've heard). Additionally, not everyone uses the internet or owns a computer. This will be a great loss to our island.

We are grateful to Tim and John for their many contributions to the community and for providing this wonderful space all these years. We are very sorry to see it go and, honestly, don't know what we're going to do without it.

CORRIE HOPE FURST & WENDY JUDITH CUTLER,
ROLAND ROAD

Quality road marks urgent

Due to my unfortunate habit of procrastination, this note is long overdue. But I know I am not the first islander to write on this subject.

I guess the best way to put my concern and what I perceive as a certainty is that by not correcting the outrageous condition of the markings on many of our roads we are simply "Waiting for God."

Over the years, I have arrived at the conclusion that truly dire situations

such as the failure to mark roads properly will not be corrected as long as we just maintain the age-old tradition of waiting for someone to be killed, to die before remedial action is taken.

We have all witnessed this phenomenon in other situations. We have all had the truly terrifying experience of driving on Salt Spring in the darkness, in the rain or fog, on our hills and curves and being sure we won't escape this time; we are blind, the road is gone, there are no centre or fog lines to be seen because they aren't there!

As drivers on Salt Spring we are not only certain that someone will die at moments like these, we are certain it's going to be us! And if that oncoming car with its lights on bright doesn't get us, a heart attack will!

It is time to do something about this. There are probably dozens of methods of marking roads so they will stay marked for a reasonable time: reflective paint, reflective markers, etc.

It is idiotic to send out the road painters in the spring with their fresh new paint only to have the

cheap paint wear virtually completely off by the time winter is full upon us and the markings (or absence of them) become a matter of life and death.

I'm sure this has been discussed many times and a solution rejected as "too expensive." I'd like to think that a few more dollars spent on effective road markings might be worth saving even one life. Who knows? It could be yours; or mine.

RICHARD MOSES,
BRINKWORTHY

MORE LETTERS continued on 10

Local support urged for Blue Dot Movement

BY LOUISE BELL

Now in its second year, the Blue Dot Movement is a country-wide lobby group of citizens like you and me who are asking all levels of government to recognize the right of Canadians to a healthy environment. The ultimate goal is to achieve an amendment to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to guarantee the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water and consume safe food.

The Blue Dot Movement is a project of the David Suzuki Foundation. It is supported by a strong network of partners, including media, academia, environmentalists, activist organizations and other groups.

To learn more about this grassroots campaign, visit www.bluedot.ca. In particular, I recommend watching the video on the home page. Against a backdrop of dramatic images, it presents an eloquent and persuasive case for recognizing environmental rights at the same priority level as the fundamental freedoms and democratic rights now protected by the Charter.

How does the Blue Dot Movement work?

The campaign starts at the grassroots level. Citizens are asked to "sign on." As well, they are asked to contact their locally elected representatives and ask that their local government adopt a declaration recognizing the right to a healthy environment. The plan is to grow a national movement of Canadians who recognize the importance of this right and will stand together in pressing legislators to do the same.

Once local governments across the country have signed declarations, the results will be taken to the decision-makers of our provinces and territories. With so many communities calling for action, the provinces and territories will be compelled to follow suit and pass environmental bills of rights.

Federal legislation sets out that when seven of the 10 provinces and two of the three territories, including a representation of 50 per cent or more of the Canadian population, are on side on an issue, the federal government must address it. Accordingly, once the number of provinces formally recognizing the right to a healthy environment reaches this tipping point, the Blue Dot Movement will approach the federal government and seek the ultimate goal: amending the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

What is the Blue Dot Tour?

Over six weeks last fall, David Suzuki travelled across Canada, visiting over 20 communities and meeting with citizens in cafeterias, school gyms, public parks and concert halls. At each stop, David was joined by well-known performers, artists and leaders. The message was clear: stand up and demand protection of the basic elements of our survival — clean air, drinkable water and unpolluted land.

After the tour, David said it was the most important thing he has ever done. He remarked, "I have been both humbled and energized at the outpouring of support Canadians are showing."

Who has signed on already?

Go to www.bluedot.ca/take-action to see the numbers and geographical distribution of individual supporters and local government declarations. As I write this article, 66,814 Canadians have signed on, responding from all parts of Canada. Many are from northern communities that lack the clean water that we take for granted.

City councils signing declarations include Richmond, Vancouver, Victoria, Duncan and Ladysmith and extend east as far as Montreal. Citizen-driven actions this spring should result in many more declarations.

Why is the movement important?

Around the world, countries are faced with the realities of climate change, water scarcity and deteriorating air quality. In face of these challenges, more than 110 countries have recognized environmental rights, but not Canada.

We are among the world's wealthiest nations. Canada boasts 25 per cent of the world's wetlands, 20 per cent of the world's fresh water and 20 per cent of the world's remaining wilderness. However, our wealth is not equitably distributed.

Many northern and aboriginal communities suffer from limited access to health services, affordable food, clean water, proper housing. A sizable number of these communities have lived with a boil-water advisory for decades. In addition, many people live in areas exposed to industrial air pollution at levels known to be hazardous to human life.

The Blue Dot Movement recognizes these

inequities. It also recognizes that enjoying a healthy environment is multi-factorial. Not only does it include breathing clean air, drinking clean water and consuming safe food, but it also necessitates the right to access nature, to know about the pollutants released into the local environment and to participate in government decisions that will affect the environment.

How do I sign on?

It's easy. All you need to do is provide your name, email address and postal code at www.bluedot.ca/sign-in/.

The next step is to contact your local trustees. At its upcoming meeting from March 10 to 12, the Islands Trust Council will hear from a delegation asking the council to sign a declaration endorsing the right of Trust-area residents to a healthy environment. Tell your local trustees that you want the Islands Trust Council to sign a declaration and set out a series of actions designed to fulfill this right.

By the way, what is the "blue dot"?

For those unfamiliar with the expression, the blue dot is a tiny, pale blue spot in a photograph of planet Earth taken on Feb. 14, 1990 by the Voyager 1 space probe. The shot was taken from a record distance of about 6 billion kilometres as part of a series of images of the solar system. You can see the photo on the Wikipedia posting for "pale blue dot."

The writer is a former Islands Trust trustee for Denman Island.



The North Salt Spring Waterworks

flowing fresh and clean

The NSSWD Capital Project Process

By Ron Stepaniuk, District Manager

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.

In the summer of 2011 the Board decided to commission an engineering firm specializing in water treatment plants to do a preliminary assessment of a new facility and what it would need. Anderson Civil Engineering, who have worked with the District on small projects, recommended Dayton and Knight. Dayton and Knight were contacted and they suggested the District also contact Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL). Due to other commitments Dayton and Knight bowed out of the process and KWL was engaged to do a preliminary analysis of a proposed treatment plant to be located on the property where the Duck Creek weir is located. The length of intake needed was found to be overly challenging and the District could not reach an agreement with the property owners to purchase the lot so this ceased to be an option. The District again focused their attention on the existing Tripp Road site and an assessment of the potential rock fall hazard. Thurber Engineering was engaged to review the site suitability and the potential rock-fall hazard.

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.

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

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.

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

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
- Site layout maximizes 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 upgrades are 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 construction has long life cycle and minimizes sound transfer
- 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

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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TROY KAYE

RANTS and Roses

Rants

To the idiot driving at approximately 6:20 p.m. at high speed, overtaking another car, on a curve, into oncoming traffic while presumably trying to catch the 6:30 p.m. ferry from Vesuvius on Monday, you almost caused a major accident. If I hadn't realized what was happening at the last minute to brake hard, and the person behind me had not been driving at a respectable distance, there would have been major consequences to your stupidity. You need your head examined to do such a stupid thing. I wish I had been able to get your licence-plate number, or hope the driver you passed had noted it and reported you to the police. My passenger and I were absolutely devastated and shaken by how close we came to crashing with you. Thanks to the driver behind me for driving at a distance! Elaine Shaw

Roses

Roses to Tim and John: Many of you are too young to remember the time when Island Star Video owned one of the only digital projectors and large movie screens on the island. They generously lent both to many organizations for free. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy borrowed it



Carol Volkart carries Bowser back to his home on Humphreys Hill, after she saw the dog walking in traffic on busy Vesuvius Bay Road last week. PHOTO BY JOHN DENNISTON

many times and when we ran into trouble, one of them would come to our rescue. As one of the past chairs of the education committee of the conservancy, I want to send a room full of flowers to Tim and John for being so generous to many non-profit organizations. Jean

Blue roses and many thanks to the kind person who found my little lapis lazuli ear-

ring in the parking lot at ArtSpring, and turned it in to the box office. It was an irreplaceable gift, and I'm hugely grateful for its reappearance! Marlyn Horsdal

A rose to Carol Volkart, who while on her afternoon walk last Tuesday found Bowser wandering through traffic on Vesuvius Bay Road and carried him back to his home on Humphreys Hill.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Paternalistic

The public discussion between the board of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and their customers is looking more and more like "us versus them."

The board seems only willing to fight to defend its entrenched position for a certain plant design and capacity.

Material from the board has characterized alternative designs and suggestions as poorly thought out, last minute and refused to even listen to a representative of another design company regarding their ideas. The board dismisses alternative design ideas without responding in a substantive manner to the designs being put forward.

The board has said that it "looks forward to an open dialogue with our ratepayers," yet it refused to attend the recent meeting of customers to discuss the cost and design of the new treatment plant.

Details of plant capacity were not revealed, either on the NSSWD website or during presentations at last year's open meeting. The numbers on plant capacity and water use only became known under questioning from the audience.

NSSWD has suffered two referendum defeats on the issue of a new treatment plant and does not seem to be getting the message that there is significant concern among customers regarding plant capacity, design and cost.

By the way, the board has upped parcel taxes, without any permission from the rate-

payers. My latest parcel tax bill includes a \$120 surcharge for the "Capital Construction Fund," not approved by customers.

And why do I feel that the board is continually insulting my intelligence (using my money)? I am repeatedly told that safe drinking water is important, that a new plant is needed and that designing a water treatment plant takes expertise. I know these things, but being told again and again is like going to your doctor and being lectured at every visit on how important good health is.

The attitude of the board seems very paternalistic — their material gives the impression that they think they are the only people who know best.

DREW BODALY,
SALT SPRING

Penelakut appreciation

Re: Preservation of Grace Islet: Penelakut Tribe chief and council, elders and community members wish to express our thanks to Salt Spring Islanders and many other Gulf Islands peoples for your extraordinary efforts to help protect and preserve the ancient Coast Salish cemetery at Grace Islet.

We especially thank the Grace Islet Protectors, Salt Spring Islanders for Justice and Reconciliation, Salt Spring Island Residents for Responsible Land Use, Islands Trust, Capital Regional District, Nature Conservancy of Canada and other organizations for your strong support of Coast Salish peoples at Grace Islet and your ongoing commitment to reconciliation and building relations with First Nations.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank the staff at the Gulf Islands Driftwood for your persistent and respectful reporting of this issue over the years.

When none took heed of First Nations concerns — you all listened. Where none cared to respect the ancestors — you took a stand. We are proud and humbled by your efforts and we look forward to sharing the future restoration, protection and stewardship of Grace Islet with you on Salt Spring Island.

On behalf of Penelakut Tribe, Hy steep ch a (Thank you all). L'tst uw' hwmnts' ulwum (May we all live as one).

CHIEF EARL JACK AND COUNCIL,
PENELAKUT TRIBE

Hug needed

My name is Peter and I teach visual art at the high school.

Firstly, I want to thank the district maintenance staff who wasted no time in dealing with the broken glass in the art room and boarding it up so that lessons could resume the next day. I'd also like to thank those who offered emotional support in the school and the community. The first student who saw my windows immediately offered help and it took some convincing to get him to go to his first class instead.

This event has received a lot of local attention, but the reality of working in schools is that these things happen. This year the high school has had several instances of vandalism.

What is more challenging is the emotional damage inflicted by bullying, online and in person. This causes far more damage than vandalism. Even thick-skinned teachers can "let it get to them." Young people

are impressionable and are easily drawn to antisocial behaviour at school if it gives them social validation elsewhere.

I love working with young people and facilitating their creativity through visual art. There are so many rewards beyond a paycheque when you choose a career in education, including learning to overcome adversity.

Let's make lemonade out these lemons and spread some love and understanding in this community. Whoever broke my windows probably needs a hug and a shoulder to lean on, not a punishment.

PETER LEGUN,
GISS ART TEACHER

Never cry wolf

"The caribou population is dwindling in areas where we allow people to blast around in snowmobiles. What can be done about it?"

"Shoot the wolves! They don't buy gas, beer, spare parts, or vote."

"How?"
 "From helicopters. We don't want to destroy the caribou's environment."

A. CREASEY,
BEDDIS ROAD

Is it time?

Perhaps it is time to make North Beach Road one-way, local-traffic-only.

How about a nice wide pedestrian walkway on the low, water side? And a robust traffic lane on the high side? And some proper drainage ditches on the high side? And a few culverts to take the water out to sea?

What are your thoughts?
CAROL DODD,
NORTH BEACH ROAD

Students choose Island Wildlife centre

BY LIZZIE THOMPSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In December, Ms. Davidson's Grade 2/3 class won the Driftwood's draw from all the classes that had 100 per cent participation in the Driftwood's Christmas story writing contest.

Their prize was \$100 to give to a charity of the class's choice. Which charity? This is how we decided.

First, we made a list of charities on the island, then we had a vote to narrow it down to three charities to choose from for the final vote. The top three were the BCSPCA, Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre and Lady Minto Hospital.

Next, we wrote about the charity we wanted to vote for and read them out loud to try to convince others to vote for certain charities. Some people decided to change the charity they were going to vote for, but others voted for the charity they wrote about. In the end, we had the final vote and the wildlife centre won.

But why the wildlife centre? This is why.

"I think wild animals should have as much attention as people and pets," said eight-year-old Soleil Bennett-Peters.

We think animals are a big part of our community. After all, people cause a lot of problems for wild animals and we think it's our respon-



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre board member Derrick Milton accepts a \$100 cheque from Grey Williamson, Anna Davidson and Maria Lay, representing Ann Marie Davidson's Grades 2-3 Salt Spring Elementary School class. Funds were provided by the Driftwood after the class won the Driftwood's Christmas story contest draw.

sibility to help them. We share the island with the animals and we want to keep it that way.

The writer is a Grade 3 student in Ann Marie Davidson's class at Salt Spring Elementary School.

AGING with GRACE: Hearts and hugs

Second article in a series for 2015

"I'm going to pick out your next husband for you."

That declaration sure raised my hackles — "Who on earth do you think you are?" I think I might have replied.

Donald can be forgiven. He was 19 years older than I, realized he wasn't going to last forever, and he didn't want me to be wearing widow's weeds for the rest of my life. Perhaps I should acknowledge he also had a controlling personality.

As it happened, a few months after his grand pronouncement, he had a stroke that left him living for many months at Lady Minto while I sold a multi-level town house, bought a one-level rancher, and got it renovated so he and his wheelchair could come home. Murray volunteered weekly in the extended care unit of Lady Minto. He played the piano and I love to sing. In a weird and wonderful way, Donald's stroke played a pivotal role in Murray coming into my life a couple of years later. He would have called it part of "life's rich plan."

February is supposed to be all about hearts and flowers, chocolate and happily ever after. But life

isn't always like that, is it? Donald died about 15 months after his stroke and Murray died from dementia 12 years after we started living together.

Though I'm twice-divorced and twice-widowed, don't weep for me because I am thriving. Up to this point, there had always been a man in my life, so living alone was new for me. But now I wonder where in my active life I would find time for another long-term relationship.

A senior who's been living on his own for a long time told me recently he's just about given up on finding Mr. Right. He is reconciled, though, because he realizes "maintaining a good relationship takes a lot of time" and he's not sure that's how he wants to spend what he has left to him.

Trying to cope with someone else's habits, needs and demands can be very challenging. Then there's the issue of a whole new set of in-laws who always come along for the ride. Usually, there's one that has more baggage than you want to help carry.

I ought to know. Each of my spouses had some excellent qualities, but I found that mothers-in-law and step-daughters were often more than a handful. Lucky me: Murray's daughter is great. So why would I

want to replace her?

It's a good thing I'm well-satisfied with my current status because the chances of my encountering my own Mr. Right for the fifth time around are very poor. Statistics Canada reports that in 2011, 31.5 per cent of women over age 65 live alone whereas only 16 per cent of senior men do. Women tend to stay widowed, but men often remarry. Almost invariably, they choose younger women, and I was one of those younger women three times in my life. If you are also a younger woman, you might have my experience of becoming a caregiver and then being widowed sometime in the future.

So what do we widows do? Aside from being able to handle our finances, and figuring out where we want to live in our old age (not at the end of some lonely road or up on some mountain, I'd like to suggest), we should consider learning how to do the odd jobs we once relied on our husbands to do. Otherwise, we need to hire people to do them for us; letting jobs go undone is not a plan.

Most important to our survival, I'd say, is to hone our natural skill to "tend and befriend." According to professor Shelley E. Tay-



HELEN HINCHLIFF

lor, distinguished research professor of social psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles, the female stress response is to "tend and befriend." The theory has its origins in the observation that those tending young children, the sick or the elderly are sufficiently burdened to be unable to fight or flee with success. In evolutionary terms, if women didn't band together and support each other, we didn't survive. Tend and befriend is in our DNA.

And so, we widows (and widows-to-be) need to learn how to give each other a friendly, helping hand. Since it mostly comes naturally, we don't have too much to learn. All we have to do is seek each other out for exercise, walks, coffee, lunch, theatre and the movies. We can also rely on each other for advice about whom to hire for all those jobs we can't or don't want to do.

Let's celebrate our newfound independence by giving each other some really good chocolate, a very big hug and an invitation to be each other's friend.

here's my card

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LIVE THEATRE

Unfringed theatre festival unites the Gulf Islands

Program plays Mahon Hall on Feb. 27 & 28

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Inter-island connections are getting a boost through creative means this month as a program of four short plays tours the southern Gulf Islands.

The Gulf Islands: Unfringed is a group effort that owes some credit to the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Development Commission. Arnie Bell, a Galiano representative to the group, was inspired by talk of the days of old when there was more communion between the islands to make waves on the creative front.

"Years ago people on the Gulf Islands used to travel back and forth to attend each others' island events," Bell said.

"Nowadays we are more isolated. We think travel between islands is hard and time consuming. And yet, a live performance is a moment of magical communication between the performers and the audience."

Bell and fellow CEDC commission-

er Brian Crumblehulme — who also heads Mayne Island Little Theatre — felt an ideal start would be a theatre tour of the islands that also included material from different community theatre troupes. Their call for submissions led to a program with four short plays, which opened on Saturna Island on Thursday, Feb. 12 and will culminate on Salt Spring with two shows at Mahon Hall on Feb. 27 and 28. Mayne shows were on Feb. 13-14 and Galiano Island is the Feb. 20-21 stop.

Bell said the recent example of MILT's Gulf Islands tour of Emotional Creatures provided evidence that such a thing could be done.

"The idea has been around for a long time, but I couldn't have done it without Brian, Therin [Gower] and Pam Janszen [on Saturna]. So we all share the blame," he said.

Bell's piece called A Shaggy Cow Story and Crumblehulme's play The Audition are joined by two works from Salt Spring playwrights: The Worst Thing by Therin Gower and Western Music in the Meringue by Sandi Johnson.

Gower performs in her play alongside Marit Christensen. Their two



PHOTO BY TOBY SNELGROVE

Unfringed cast members from left, at back, Mayne Islanders Mark Smith, Haylee Stobard, Shaye Steele, and Arnie Bell from Galiano. From left in front is Marit Christensen and Therin Gower, both of Salt Spring.

characters discuss being a single woman on Salt Spring in a light, comedic piece that upsets assumptions about what "the worst thing" actually is.

"In the play it's a comedy — in real life it's a tragedy," Gower quipped.

Gower appreciates the opportunity to connect with theatre communities on other islands, particularly since she used to live on Galiano and was active in its local theatre scene before moving to Salt Spring and becoming a stalwart of its community theatre.

"It was fortunate for me, because [the play] was something I had in the back of my mind to write, with no particular purpose," Gower said. "It fit the Unfringed parameters perfectly, so I had the opportunity to put pen to paper and have an audience see it, which is always enjoyable to a playwright."

The two actors co-direct the play as well as star in it, so having Rachel Jacobson of Active P.A.S.S. theatre lend a hand as consulting director was a valuable asset, Gower added.

Johnson's play Western Music in

the Meringue was produced at the King's Shorts festival in Nova Scotia in June 2014, where it was awarded first prize for the best script. Christensen appears again in this one woman-play about a widow who prepares a meal for her friends for the first time since losing her husband.

Christensen said her initial reading of the script was quite dark, but Johnson (who also directs the piece) helped guide her to find the hope embedded in the story. Getting to meet up with the other theatre groups has also been rewarding.

"Most of my theatre work has all been on Salt Spring and I don't often have a chance to get beyond that little comfort zone," Christensen said. "It's all a very novel experience — it's very exciting and fun."

Both Gower and Christensen have enjoyed how the tour has allowed them to work with young people, with actors from Mayne Island who attend Gulf Islands Secondary School starring in Crumblehulme's piece, and another student acting as stage manager.

Ideas are already flowing for how the tour can become an annual tradition as well as grander goals such as cross-island collaboration within a single play.

"This has already rejuvenated the theatre scene on Saturna," Gower said. "They haven't done much for a few years and now they're talking about doing things on their own."

The Mahon Hall shows start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door, which opens at 7 p.m.

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MUSIC EXCHANGE

Choir prepares for Cuban experience

Members attending April festival

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Singers with Salt Spring's Viva Chorale! choir are shaping up for an immersive experience in Cuba this spring, where they will take part in the International Choir Festival in Havana.

The trip from April 4 to 11 will include either performances or workshops with local choirs and artists every day, plus visits to local school groups and a taste of Cuba's unique cultural environment. Internal fundraising efforts will allow the group to distribute gifts and hard-to-find items while they're there.

"We get to see part of a community and a society through music, which I'm really excited about, because I think it's going to blow our minds," said choir director Deb Toole. "Everybody participates in music in some way — when it's part of your daily life, it's just that. It isn't an add-on."

Around 20 members are going on the trip, with everyone fully funding their own tickets. The program is devised by Cuba's Ministry of Culture and the festival's operating committee to allow several different options for the itinerary.

Viva Chorale! board member Brian Lawson, who is the group's main fundraiser, is looking forward to returning to Cuba, which he has visited a couple times before as a tourist.

"It's an interesting island because it has such a rich cultural history. It's a really dynamic place," he said.

Choir librarian Ruth Lovejoy, who has been responsible for fundraising related to the festival, agrees the educational opportunities are a huge draw.

"It's a great learning trip for those of us who are going," she said.

During performances the Viva Chorale! group will promote mainly Canadian repertoire, including This Canada, a piece the choir commissioned from Vancouver composer Brian Tate in 2012. In return, Toole hopes the Canadians will get to explore some of the African roots of Cuban music.

Viva Chorale! members will also be taking time to distribute some items that are hard to find in Cuba. Some of the medical necessities such as headache tablets and personal hygiene supplies have been donated by Pharmasave. The group's internal fundraising efforts are helping to bring other gifts suggested by the festival committee, like music binders and paper, USB memory sticks, recordable CDs and DVDs, and the flashy clothes and jewellery Cubans love. Choir members also intend to leave behind their repertoire and the festival T-shirts they have printed for themselves.

Toole observed the trip comes at a fascinating turning point in Cuba's history. With the country just recently opened up to a relationship with the United States, Viva Chorale! members may find an experience that can't be repeated at future festival events.

"I really feel like it's going to change dramatically. It's one of the last opportunities to see an un-Western-influenced society," Toole said.

EDUCATION

Island kids rock out at school with Artstarts funding

Diona Davies project at four schools

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A successful grant application with the Vancouver-based foundation Artstarts is bringing an innovative and immersive brand of music education to four Gulf Islands schools this spring.

Inter-Island Rock Kamp is a project of local musician Diona Davies, whose unique style of teaching is known to several local school communities thanks in part to Parent Advisory Council funding.

With money received from Artstarts, the group that provides Artist in the Classroom program funding, Davies has transformed an existing one-week summer camp program into a 10-week session for Phoenix and Fulford elementary schools on Salt Spring as well as the Galiano and

Penelakut island elementary schools.

Davies' mentor-based program introduces kids to what it means to be in a rock band, right from taking up instruments to writing and recording a song, plus publicizing their show, packing gear and selling merchandise.

The program will culminate in a battle of the bands concert at ArtSpring, featuring the top two bands from each school. While to adults this might seem like an intimidating goal, Davies has found kids respond well to the format.

"They generally get excited because they get to pick any instrument they want and learn to play it, and play with their friends," she said. "I'm sure they're nervous at first, but I prep them on how it will feel [to perform on stage]. And when they get up there they know their stuff and they sound awesome."

Davies' summer camp programs, which she has offered for three years on Galiano

Island, normally include instruction from a roster of musician friends as well as herself. She piloted doing the classroom program with 20 intermediate students at Phoenix elementary last fall. The Artstarts grant, whose application was written by Galiano parent Deblekha Guin, will see the full expression of the vision.

Davies suggests it's the group achievement that makes this type of music instruction appealing to kids.

"It teaches them to work together and they're making music that pleases them," she said. "And rock and roll music is easy enough that anybody can do it."

Students are encouraged to try as many instruments as they want. Davies herself started playing violin at age five and moved on to piano, then "tuba, trombone, guitar and everything else."

"Music is a language — it's not what you play that's important. Once you learn

one instrument, you can learn them all," she said.

Davies, who is classically trained and a veteran of the folk fest circuit, demonstrates the forms at the roots of rock music throughout the program. At the other end of the spectrum, she also teaches kids how to use digital software for making beats and creating forms like dub step, because it's all part of today's soundscape.

Although she has tried letting kids form bands around their existing friendships, Davies found it works better to make instrument selection and experience level the priorities — which is more true to the actual experience of being in a band.

"Because you can't have a band with nine drummers, even though they want to," she observed.

As audience members who attended Phoenix school's end-of-term concert at Lions Hall in December can attest, the multi-grade groupings

produce great music and encourage new friendships. Davies notes that an important part of the rock camp experience is playing music in community, both within the small-group dynamic of the band and as part of the wider community.

"It teaches them to work together and they're making music that pleases them."

DIONA DAVIES
Rock Kamp leader

Guest artists are still an important part of the program, with up to 12 people of various talents expected to lend their expertise to the spring session. They range from playwright Hanis Pine

and recording engineer Jenny Bruekelman to musicians like Wesley Hardisty. There's even a chance that mega Canadian recording artist Serena Ryder could pay a visit, if her touring schedule allows.

The Artstarts grant covers 60 per cent of the program's \$15,000 cost, with Davies responsible for sourcing the remaining funds through school PACs, School District 64, CD and concert ticket sales, and community sponsors. One of the things in short supply is the number of available instruments — Davies has been able to cart around some of those that she secured for Phoenix school through a previous grant, but keeping instruments on hand at Penelakut and Fulford schools would be appreciated.

Anyone who has spare instruments to lend or rent out should contact Davies at dionadavies@live.com.

Stay tuned for the program's final show, which will be held at ArtSpring on May 20.

VOCAL MUSIC

Artist shares unusual singing technique



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Singer Kiva Simova is now giving workshops on Salt Spring.

Workshops lead to overtone choir

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An artist who is new to Salt Spring but highly respected among those who have come to appreciate Western overtone singing is set to teach islanders a distinct creative practice.

Kiva Simova is a Canadian overtone singer and keyboardist with international recognition as a pioneer in the world beat, jazzy pop and experimental genres. She is perhaps best known for her harmonic overtone singing, a technique in which two pitches are produced simultaneously. It is this

practice she hopes to share with other islanders, with the ultimate aim of creating an original choir on Salt Spring.

"The very simple explanation of overtone singing is you're splitting your voice into two pitches. What overtone singing allows you to do is isolate certain pitches, so you can create melodies," Simova said.

Simova has trained, performed and taught others all around the world. She began her professional career in 1978 after years of classical and jazz piano training. The early years included stints in rock, pop, country and R&B bands. Later on, she performed extensively as a solo act, including a jazz circuit in Japan.

It was in Japan that Simova discovered harmonic overtone singing, which is inspired by ancient Tuvan and Mongolian techniques, but has developed in its Western form only since the 1970s. In 1989, Simova travelled to England to learn overtone harmonics from renowned voice teacher Jill Purce.

"I took to it quite naturally," she said. "I've developed my own methods all these years, and I've been teaching since 1991."

Inuit throat singing, which is perhaps a more familiar concept to Canadian readers, involves two women playing a game together using their voices as instruments. Overtone singing is similar in that the singer pushes breath through the throat to produce sounds based on vowels, rather than producing words, as we would typically understand singing to mean. The sounds are guttural and soulful, and can be used for a variety of ends.

"People come to overtone singing with different goals. Some see it as the healing voice," Simova said, noting the practice creates brainwaves that are identical to those produced during deep meditation.

"It can be therapeutic in a way, because it does involve the whole body," she added.

"I take it way beyond that healing aspect — I take it to very musical applications."

Simova's innovations in overtone singing and the way she has combined the form with other genres have led to

some interesting performance opportunities, including being the only foreign female artist invited to the International Symposium of Throat Singing in the Republic of Tuva in 1995.

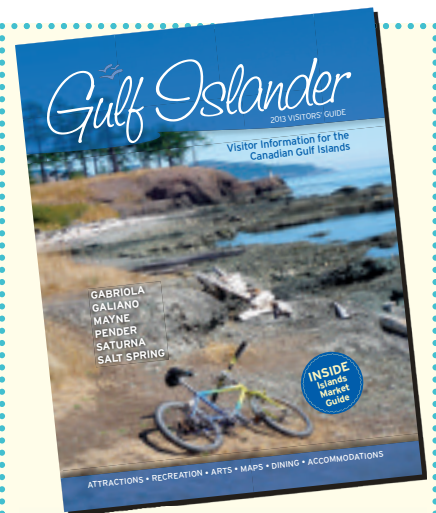
She was also a world tour member with the Crash Test Dummies at the height of their fame, demonstrating overtone singing at each concert. Tour venues included the Royal Albert Hall in London, and appearances on Saturday Night Live and The Late Show with David Letterman.

Simova lived in Prague for six years before recently moving back to Canada and to the West Coast, coming to Salt Spring because she appreciates its openness to creativity and unusual forms. While in Prague, Simova created the Auralia overtone choir, which performed original music that she wrote.

"I want to re-form my choir here," she said. "Once people get the initial training and learn all the songs they can join the choir, or they can use it solo to enhance any kind of singing."

Simova has given two clinics for GISPA music students as well as one for the Gulf Islands Secondary School choir, and currently offers four-hour workshops for the public at the end of each month. Her program is structured so that anyone can learn, although having a musical background of some kind is an asset.

The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28. For more information, email kiva@kivasimova.com.



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what's on this week

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.

Work BC Employment Services Centre Open House. Beacon Community Services Employment Services office at 268 Fulford-Ganges Road. 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.

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

Best of the Fest - Still Life. Winner of Best Film and Best Director at the 2013 Venice Film Festival. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

SongJam One-Year Anniversary + Tim & John Appreciation Night. Join Wendy and Derrick Milton, plus celebrity song schleppers Tim & John, to mark the first anniversary of SongJam at Moby's Pub and to thank Tim O'Connor & John Dolman for Island Star Video service. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Feb 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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.

Talk With Coffee, Then Walk. Unitarian chaplain Amanda Tarling leads session beginning at Rock Salt Restaurant + Cafe. Theme is "honesty." 11:40 a.m.

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

The Little Prince By Monster Theatre. Award-winning director/playwright Ryan Gladstone brings The Little Prince's journey to life onstage. ArtSpring. 1:30 to 2:30 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.

www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/events/

view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

we are YOUR go-to-place for everything happening on Salt Spring

Fri. Feb 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Cross and Ted Cook. Live music with free apps at 5 p.m. The Local. 5 to 9 p.m.

The Ravens. Classic rock songs everyone knows from the '60s up to the present. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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.

NEWS UPDATES

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter <http://twitter.com/GIDriftwood>

Sat. Feb 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Latin Jazz Trio. Cuban pianist & composer Pablo Cardenas, Peter Dowse on bass, Jose Sanchez and special guest Israel Toto Berriel feature popular Cuban jazz standards. Royal Canadian Legion. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the band starts at 8 p.m.

Island Rootz. Playing classic rock songs, reggae style and rootsy original music... bring your dancing feet. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Sat. Feb 21

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.

Men's Soccer. Salt Spring FC Div. 3A hosts Bays United at Portlock Park. 2:15 p.m.

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

Feltmaking Workshop: Infinity, Moebius and Loop Scarves. Two-day workshop with Ulrieke Benner starts today. ArtSpring gallery. Info/register: ulrieke@ulriekebenner.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fred Eaglesmith Travelling Steam Show. Salt Spring Folk Club concert. Doors open at 6 p.m. for season's pass holders; 6:15 for general admission. Music starts at 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

National Cupcake Day Fundraiser. A cupcake sale benefit for the Salt Spring BCSPCA. Ganges Fire Hall parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and GISS from 12:50 to 1:30 p.m.

Sun. Feb 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Billie Woods With Lucas. Live music at Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Men's Soccer. The Old Boys host Gordon Head Nearly Dead at GISS. 10:30 a.m.

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.

Sun. Feb 22

ACTIVITIES

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

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

Oscar Night at the Legion. Big screen, free popcorn. Members and their guests welcome. Legion Lounge. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Mon. Feb 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fred Eaglesmith Travelling Steam Show. Salt Spring Folk Club concert. Doors open at 6 p.m. for season's pass holders; 6:15 for general admission. Music starts at 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

National Cupcake Day Fundraiser. A cupcake sale benefit for the Salt Spring BCSPCA. Ganges Fire Hall parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and GISS from 12:50 to 1:30 p.m.

Tues. Feb 24

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.

Wed. Feb 25

ACTIVITIES

Hearing and Hearing Health. Workshop sponsored by Salt Spring Community Services Seniors' Wellness Program, with hearing screening by NexGen Hearing. Call 250-537-4607 or esmith@ssics.ca to pre-register. Seniors Wellness Centre. 1:30 p.m.

Seniors Fall Prevention Presentation. Retired physiotherapist Lorna Wood presents a free talk at the Meadowbrook Lounge. 2 p.m.

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

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

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Fri. to Tues. 7pm
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National Theatre Live
Skylight with Bill Nighy
Feb. 26th Thurs.
3 mat. - 7pm
Advance tickets
Island Star Video & Salt Spring Books.

SKYLIGHT

get noticed board

Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

Published in the first Driftwood of each month!

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Afternoon Tea at Hastings House

A SS Literacy Fundraiser with guest author Kathy Page
Wednesday, March 4th - 2pm
Hastings House Country House Hotel
Tickets: \$25 through SS Literacy Centre; \$20 for SSL Members

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CINEMA

- The Imitation Game** — Held over! In 1952, authorities entered Alan Turing's home to investigate a burglary, instead arresting him on charges of "gross indecency." Little did they know he led scholars and intelligence officers to crack the "unbreakable" codes of Germany's Enigma machine. An intense and haunting portrayal of the genius who helped shorten the war and save thousands of lives.
- 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.

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view our online comprehensive interactive calendar of events listings

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Gallery** (formerly Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art) has reopened for the season with its **Art from the Heart** exhibition.
- A special exhibition of **Bill Brownridge's** artwork is on the walls of the **Fernwood Road Café** until March 14.
- 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.
- Julianna Slomka's** artwork is on exhibit at **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** in Ganges.
- Bev Lillyman** shows paintings in the **Harbour House Hotel** through February.
- Heidi Van Impe's** oil paintings are on display at **Island Savings**.
- Julianna 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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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



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

'Changemakers' nominated for SWOVA awards night

SECOND ANNUAL EVENT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Editor's note: This year's SWOVA Changemaker Awards will go to 15 Gulf Islands girls and women aged 39 or under who were nominated by other community members. See the next two issues of the Driftwood for other nominee profiles in advance of awards being given out at a March 7 dinner gala.



SARAH KYLE

Sarah Kyle is a young graduate of SWOVA's Pass It On Program, both as a participant and as a mentor to middle school girls. As a Changemaker she brings to life all that Pass It On aims to achieve — nurturing and empowering the woman within young females who are making their way in high school.

She has continued to be committed to working within her community to support young women on their journey to empowerment. Sarah actively photographs community members while presenting Humans of Salt Spring Island on Facebook.

Sarah models leadership with her passion for supporting young females, her confident creativity and her open heartedness.



JUNESSA SLADEN-DEW

Junessa Sladen-Dew is a Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School and was nominated by her teacher.

She has a remarkable ability to organize herself and others to accomplish projects and tasks. Junessa is the "de facto" head of the GISS leadership committee. Her energy and drive enable and empower other students.

Junessa's recent achievement as a Changemaker has been the idea of involving the school's culinary program to meet the needs of the food bank. This is a project she spearheaded which has resulted in a continued supply and delivery of fresh foods to cold shelter and food bank patrons. Junessa saw a need and a possibility that connected the GISS cafeteria students and the community.



ANGELA HUSER

While working on a master's degree in social work, 28-year-old Angela Huser plays an active role in the community where she volunteers at the sexual health clinic, is a support worker at the women's transition house and a social worker at Lady Minto Hospital. She has a passion for social justice and equality.

She has shown empowering leadership skills with Salt Spring Babies where she facilitates a group for parents with young babies. She also advocated and coordinated local involvement in the Quintessence Breastfeeding Challenge, part of a national event to break down barriers and remove the stigma of breastfeeding in public.

"She is the one person to whom you can always go to feel listened to and supported in a compassionate, confidential and non-judgemental way . . . and she has a kind and gentle soul with big shoes but an even bigger heart," says her younger sister, who nominated her.



JENNY REDPATH

Jenny Redpath was born and grew up on Salt Spring Island. She is the supervisor for Options for Sexual Health, a dedicated professional nurse and a professional in the field of sex education.

She cares deeply about young women and works tirelessly to help them deal with the challenges and barriers that face them in today's world.

In addition, Jenny's engaging, non-judgemental and caring leadership is widely felt in the community through her work at the GISS Sexual Health Faire, the Pregnancy Outreach Program, Family Place, Strong Start and Early Learning Centres.

She is a person of integrity and a Changemaker who is having a deep and positive impact on the quality of life of very many young people.

Above all "she warms the hearts of everyone around," says one of her nominators.



ANDREA MILLS

Andrea Mills is a Pender Island Changemaker through her work in recreation, the environment and on improving lives of seniors. As a part-time and volunteer community support programs coordinator, she has made significant contributions to the island, including bringing the Better at Home program to Pender Island and three neighbouring Gulf Islands.

Andrea coordinates activities at the Pender Community Hall, creating many ways to bring all ages together, including establishing a winter market and a community cafe to go with it. She is also the coordinator for the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning, which ran two camps last summer focused on gardening and wilderness skills.

Currently her volunteer focus is to acquire a bus for Pender Island. This is a woman who at 39 is a role model of female leadership and one who "always has time for everyone with a smile, an open heart and a listening ear," says her nominator.



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SENIORS

'Moving' speaker gives talk

Fall prevention tips at Meadowbrook event

Sharon Glover knows the implications of a fall can be life-changing for a senior citizen of any age.

"It's a potential problem for all seniors as muscles weaken and our bones become less strong," she said from her office at Meadowbrook.

To give seniors a leg up on preventing falls and staying mobile, Meadowbrook will host retired physiotherapist Lorna Wood on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

Wood's talk will offer tips about how to maintain balance, strength and flexibility, and provide insights on the proper use of

canes, walkers and walking poles.

"I think she brings a lot of experience and expertise," Glover said.

Participants can expect plenty of movement throughout the event, which is expected to last 45 minutes. The free talk is open to any interested senior in the community, regardless of whether they live at Meadowbrook.

The event is the latest in an ongoing series of speaking events hosted by the Atkins Road facility. Past talks include beating the blues and healthy foot care tips.

For more information about this and other Meadowbrook events, contact Glover at Meadowbrook support by calling 778-353-1995.

Anyone who drives to the event is asked to park in a visitors stall.

Call for Spring Grant Applications

The Foundation invites registered charitable organizations to submit funding applications for on-island projects or programs. Criteria, application forms and full application instructions can be found at: www.saltspringislandfoundation.org -> Grants

Application deadline: March 23, 2015

For further assistance please contact admin@saltspringislandfoundation.org



www.saltspringislandfoundation.org

MONEY MATTERS

THIRD IN A FOUR PART SERIES

BUSINESS OPERATION

Revenue Canada business account service available

Running a business is time-consuming and hard work, so keeping on top of your tax affairs shouldn't be.

Now, with the Canada Revenue Agency's resource called My Business Account, you can choose to make your tax payments online directly from your bank using the pre-authorized debit (PAD) service. Stop worry-

ing about forgotten instalment deadlines and being charged for late payments. You choose the bank account, the amount of the payment, and the specific date or dates. The service puts you in complete control.

The PAD system is secure and the CRA only makes withdrawals that you have authorized. Your online

payments are as official as any paper record, each one is confirmed right away – and the CRA does not charge a fee for the service.

Here's a guideline for getting started:

- Make sure to set up a PAD before your payment deadline.
- If you are already registered with My Business Account and you set up

a PAD, your payment will take up to five business days to reach the CRA.

• If you are not already registered with My Business Account, you will need to register first and allow five to 10 business days for your security code to arrive in the mail. Then you can access it and set up a PAD.

- Once you have set up a payment,

you can change it up until five business days before the payment date.

Start using pre-authorized debit to save time for what really matters—your business. More information is available at www.Canada.ca/payments.

Source: News Canada

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INCOME TAX TIPS

Automobile expenses an area to look at for possible claims

Employer must certify conditions of employment

The Chartered Professional Accountants of B.C. provides tax and RRSP tips to members of the public through its website. The following topic and others can be found at <http://www.bccpa.ca/news,-events-publications/publications/rrsp-tax-tips/>.

If you are required to use your motor vehicle for business or employment purposes, you are allowed to deduct reasonable expenses for operation and ownership of the vehicle such as fuel, oil, licence fees, insurance, repairs and maintenance, depreciation (called capital cost allowance for income tax purposes), finance charges, and lease payments. Your employer must certify the conditions of your employment on form T2200 Declaration of Conditions of Employment to verify your eligibility for a deduction. Administratively, the Canada Revenue

Agency does not require you to file the form with your tax return; however you must retain it in case they wish to see it. It is advisable that you obtain this form in each year that you claim automobile expenses. If the CRA requests the form at a later date and you are no longer with the particular employer for whom you incurred the automobile expenses, it could be difficult to obtain the form at that later time.

The amount you are allowed to deduct is normally based on the proportion of your total kilometres for the year that you drive for business or employment purposes. Note that driving between your home and your normal place of business or employment is generally considered a personal trip unless you make a stop for business or employment purposes.

To support your deduction, you should maintain a careful record of your business and employment kilometres driven for the year, including the date, destination and distance driven for each business trip.

If you receive a reasonable per-kilometre allowance from your employer for the use of a motor vehicle, the allowance is not included in your income, and you are not permitted to deduct your actual motor vehicle expenses. The CRA's reasonable per-kilometre allowance rates for 2014 is \$0.54 per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven and \$0.48 per kilometre driven after that. Where you receive both a reasonable per-kilometre allowance and a flat allowance, the entire amount must be included in your income, but you may deduct your actual expenses.

There are specific limits placed on the amount of depreciation, finance charges and lease payments you are allowed to deduct, and these limits change from year to year. If you believe you might be eligible to claim automobile expenses on your personal income tax return, consult a professional accountant to help you calculate your allowable deduction.

Content courtesy of Chartered Professional Accountants of B.C.



MONEY MATTERS

THIRD IN A FOUR PART SERIES

TAX ADVICE

Warning issued about gifting tax shelter schemes

Don't be one of the Canadians that gets caught up in gifting tax shelter schemes.

Gifting tax shelter schemes provide little or no benefit to the charities involved or to their intended beneficiaries. Instead, a registered charity's receipting privileges is exploited for the private gain of the promoters and participants.

How do you spot a gifting tax shelter scheme? Typically, participants invest a small amount of money and receive a tax receipt for an amount several times higher than what they actually spent. Examples include buy-low, donate-high schemes; gifting trust arrangements; and leveraged cash donations.

The Canada Revenue Agency

warns you not to become involved in gifting tax shelter schemes. Taxpayers should be aware that if they receive an official donation receipt for an amount higher than the value of property donated, the receipt is not valid and cannot be used to claim a tax credit. Registered charities can jeopardize their registered status by participating in such arrangements.

The CRA audits every gifting tax shelter that offers official donation receipts in excess of the value of any property donated and to date has not found a single arrangement that complies with the Income Tax Act.

As of March 31, 2014, the CRA has reassessed more than 190,000 taxpayer returns denying in excess of \$6.3 billion in donation claims.

We have also assessed more than \$162 million in third-party penalties against promoters and tax preparers.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Think twice before participating in a gifting tax shelter scheme. More information is available on the CRA website at www.cra.gc.ca.

Source: News Canada

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Retired life going exactly as planned for most Canadians

Over three quarters of retirees are enjoying the lifestyle they always imagined

With RRSP season now in full swing, it seems Canadians would be wise to listen to their elders when planning for retirement. According to a new survey by Tangerine, 90 per cent of retired Canadians say they were able to retire at the age they planned, and 77 per cent are now living the retirement lifestyle they envisioned.

The same survey asked working Canadians what they expect out of retirement. While more than two-thirds (69 per cent) of current retirees finished their careers between the ages of 55-64, only 39 per cent of Canadians working today believe they will be able to retire in that timeframe. In addition, almost one in five (18 per cent) expect to work well into their 70s, and only 53 per cent of working Canadians surveyed believe they will be able to live the retired life they envision for themselves.

"These survey results show that the majority of working Canadians today do not expect to retire as young as our parents' generation," said Silvio Stroescu, managing director of deposits and investments at Tangerine. "The good news is that today's retirees show us that it is well within our reach to retire comfortably and on time, and that we just need to remain diligent in following through on our savings and investment goals to achieve the retirement lifestyle we desire."

• THE ROAD TO RETIREMENT

Today, while half of all workers under the age of 30 say they have started to save for retirement, the majority (52 per cent) report not knowing how much money they'll need to save for retirement. And, out of those people who have not started saving for retirement, 59 per cent say they don't plan to begin until age 40.

In total, 78 per cent of working Canadians say they have started saving for retirement. Of those who have begun to save, 39

per cent reported that good money habits passed along by their parents is their prime motivator.

• WORDS OF WISDOM

When asked what retirement advice they would give young Canadians today, almost three-quarters (73 per cent) of retirees said their advice would be to "make saving/investing for retirement a part of your budget."

Despite many seniors living the retirement lifestyle they envisioned for themselves, it seems you can never begin too early, as 57 per cent now say they wish they started saving for retirement sooner. Of the retirees who believe they should have put money away earlier, two-thirds (66 per cent) wish they started saving for retirement in their 20s.

The reason? Almost half (45 per cent) of retirees say the cost of living is much higher today than they ever expected, with 34 per cent saying they didn't realize just how much money was needed for retirement.

• PREFERRED METHODS OF SAVING

More than half of all retirees (51 per cent) say that RRSPs were the most beneficial in planning for their retirement, and when looking back at their savings and investments, over 16 per cent of retired Canadians believe that setting up an automatic savings plan would have helped in planning their retirement. Currently, only 10 per cent of the workforce has an automatic savings plan set up.

Note: To most accurately track the savings habits of retired Canadians, only those who indicated that they saved for retirement were included in this poll.

Survey methodology
From Jan. 9 to Jan. 14, 2015, an online survey was conducted among a sample of 1,003 retired Canadians and 1,007 working Canadians aged 18+ that are also Angus Reid Forum panel members. The margin of error — which measures sampling variability — is +/- 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.



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ISLAND WHEELS

a driftwood guide to island transportation, sales, service, accessories and more!

VEHICLE CONCEPTS

Brand new auto show season continues in Montreal

Lots of room to roam at Montreal exhibit

BY NEIL MOORE
METROLAND MEDIA

The LA Auto Show may be gaining in importance, but Detroit is still arguably the most influential.

With 49 global and six North American reveals, it's a must-attend for auto journalists. This year, more than 5,000 of them jammed the COBO Centre, representing 60 countries worldwide.

Montreal, however, doesn't attract such attention.

I have no attendance figures, but suffice to say that the Montreal Auto Show presents few problems obtaining a good seat. Or snapping photos that would otherwise be festooned with heads, arms and legs at busier events, where there's always at least one Einstein who immediately opens the car door while a hundred-plus journalists are shooting its exterior.

Grrr...

Indeed, Montreal is a more civi-



PHOTO BY NEIL MOORE

The Lexus RC F is powered by the company's most powerful production engine — a 5.0-litre V8 that delivers 467 hp and 389 lb/ft of torque.

lized experience, and despite all the vehicles having first appeared somewhere else, there were still three North American debuts and 41 for Canada.

That's no small number, so in the interests of space, here are a few show highlights in no particular order.

2015 LEXUS RC F

I saw the head-turning RC F last year in Detroit, and am now equally pleased to see it in Canada — and on the Lexus website.

The LFA Supercar is spectacular, but this is what Lexus real-ly needs — a halo car we mere

mortals can afford.

Starting at \$80,000, it features the company's most powerful production engine yet: a 5.0-litre V8 that delivers 467 hp and 389 lb/ft of torque.

With a chassis and driving dynamics honed at the Nurburgring and the Fuji Speedway, it should be a blast on the track. I can't wait until it arrives on the press fleet.

2015 LEXUS NX

This compact luxury SUV slots in nicely below the popular RX. And although practical — with its generous 1,545-litre cargo capacity and standard all-wheel-drive — it also joins a movement to reposition these vehicles as something other than family haulers. You've probably seen the NX commercials: the message is all about being hip, urban and sexy.

There are two variants. The NX 200t gets a 2.0-litre four-cylinder with twin-scroll turbo, delivering

235 hp and 258 lb/ft of torque.

The NX 300h is powered by a 2.5-litre four-cylinder hybrid powertrain producing a total of 194 hp. Starting at \$58,850, the hybrid is getting up there, but the NX 200t begins at a more affordable \$40,950.

CADILLAC ELMIRAJ CONCEPT

Large two-door coupes may seem like an impractical throwback to the 1960s and early '70s, but they sure do look sweet.

At the Cadillac stand, company officials presented their Elmiraj concept, a 17-foot-long, streamlined grand coupe that with its ultra-clean body panels appears to be sculpted from a single block of steel.

This luxury rear-driver is powered by a 4.5-litre twin-turbo V8 that delivers an estimated 500 hp. Here's to hoping they don't mess with the look and just bring it to market.

MONTREAL continued on 19

VEHICLE SALES + PURCHASE

Learning car dealership terminology can make buying less intimidating

Industry lingo not hard to grasp

Many industries have their own lexicon, and the automotive industry is no exception. Prospective car buyers may visit a dealership and hear an array of unfamiliar terminology.

Familiarizing yourself with such lingo can make it easier to leave a dealership feeling like you got the best deal possible. Such familiarity also makes it easier to understand your surroundings and what's going on as you work to get the car you want for the price you want.

The following are a handful of terms you might hear at the dealership when you decide to upgrade to a new vehicle.

Babysitter: Co-signer or co-buyer on a contract, or term used when the primary buyer needs help to make a decision or buy.

Be back: Prospective buyer who promises to return after researching other vehicles or deals.

Bumping: Raising the customer's offer for a car.

Buy rate: The interest rate that banks or financing institutions will charge on all contracts being financed. It is a "secret" number between the lender and the dealer that is the real amount of the interest rate that the loan starts out at before the dealer increases it for its own extra profit.

Candy store: A dealership with a lot of

inventory to check out.

Chiseler: A buyer who works the salesman down to the best possible deal on the vehicle.

Closer: Salesperson whose job it is to "close" the deal with customers who are hesitating.

Demo: A test-drive of the car.

F and I: Refers to the sales department that arranges for financing with a lender. It stands for finance and insurance.

First pencil: An opening offer from the sales manager.

Flake: Refers to a customer with bad credit. This customer may be referred to as a "roach" as well.

Four-square: A worksheet divided into four squares to represent the four elements of a car deal: selling price, trade-in value, monthly payment and down payment.

Gold balls: A customer who has excellent credit and usually an impressive down payment.

Green pea: A novice salesperson.

High penny: To increase a customer's monthly payment without exceeding the next dollar amount.

Lay down: A customer who says yes to everything.

Sled: A trade-in that is worth little or nothing.

Tower: The floor manager's office or central location.

Up: A customer who walks onto the car lot or into the dealership.

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BUSINESS

'Slow money' available for local eco-friendly ventures

Salt Spring co-op now in action

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Since its official launch in 2011, the Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Cooperative has built pathways, promoted electric-vehicle use and served up funding for the island's abattoir.

Now that the group has a bit of experience and approximately 40 investors, the TSSEC wants to hear from island-based entrepreneurs

who need cash to fuel their eco-inspired business plans.

"If people have a really great idea or really want to expand, and have a business plan and can explain how to pay the money back, we want to hear from them," said Elizabeth White, the co-operative's president. "We want to support green business and grow green projects on the island."

The TSSEC model is based on the "slow money" principle, a global movement that represents a transition from the traditional investment model to one that places a stronger emphasis on local businesses,

sustainable agriculture and healthy communities.

What began as a 2009 gathering of progressive investors at a farmers market in Santa Fe, N.M. has spawned local chapters of slow money enthusiasts across the United States and Europe.

By investing in local projects — such as Salt Spring's abattoir or a Ganges-area pathway — members won't reap the financial benefits of double-digit annual returns but will come away with something organizers feel is much more valuable: cultural, ecological and economic

diversity in an economy based on healthy people in healthy places.

"We see ourselves as another tool that people can use to make the island greener, more environmentally sustainable and more resilient," White said.

Co-operative members are charged a refundable \$100 fee to join the group. After one year, members can invest up to \$5,000. Members have a say when it comes to who can access how much money and all activity is regulated under the province's Cooperative Association Act.

Members can anticipate returns

comparable to a savings account but are reminded that investments do carry a degree of risk. Lending rates are determined on a case-by-case basis but are generally lower than standard financial industry rates.

"This is very slow money," White said.

TSSEC can also offer loan guarantees for borrowers who are already working with banks or credit unions.

Potential investors and applicants who would like to learn more about the group can click the TSSEC tab at transitionsaltspring.ning.com or call White at 250-537-2616.

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CHINESE ZODIAC

Sheep encourage peace and calm



Ling Weston's Year of the Sheep illustration.

Annual Chinese zodiac article

BY LING WESTON
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Chinese New Year starts on Feb. 19, 2015, the day of the new moon of the first lunar month in the Chinese lunar calendar.

The new lunar year is celebrated for 15 days till the moon is full on the 15th day of the lunar month.

In the Chinese zodiac horoscope there are five types of sheep: metal/water/fire/wood and earth. The year 2015 was assigned "wood" year by the Chinese astrologers in years gone by. Since wood is usually green, so the colour of this year is green. With our problem of climate change, etc., we should all take heed in helping to "green" our planet.

Wood element also strengthens sheep's creative talents, so those wood sheep people should cultivate and use their talents. The natural element (which denotes the inherent talents or traits of babies born in the year of the lamb) is "earth."

The sheep/goat in Chinese zodiac horoscope symbolizes peace/serenity and harmony. Three cheers! In these days of war and strife on our planet, certainly we need more of peace, serenity and harmony instead of warmongers and dictators in any form.

Sheep are born compassionate and generous in nature but are generally shy and reserved. However, they are pretty sure of their abilities. They are usually artistic and musical and have a large circle of friends. Sheep types are also nurturing and caring people. They do well in the flock, following the shepherd to green pastures. They have the motto of live and let live — a good philosophy!

As sheep (wood) zodiac types only come around once in 60 years in the Chinese horoscope cycle, the last cycle in 1955 produced Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Whoopi Goldberg and Yo Yo Ma, to name just a few.

I consider myself blessed with so many sheep/lamb/goat members in my immediate family and amongst close friends. Surprisingly I found they belong to all five types mentioned above! What is more surprising is that more than 50 per cent of them are metal sheep, and they are blessed with amazingly sharp minds.

On our planet, many writers, artists, musicians and even Buddhists are sheep/goat people. Kung Hee Fat Choy to you all and let the Chinese New Year begin.

For Chinese calendars and zodiac letter cards, with all proceeds to UNICEF, contact me at 250-537-5784.

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~ 1947-2015 ~

AKA '3rd down', an avid BC Lion's fan, passed from severe brain trauma. He will be fondly missed by his brother Allan, daughter Carolyn, son Curtis, and grand daughter Katelyn. Ashes to be sprinkled at a Bowen Island family retreat.

Together Forever

Constance Jean (Barney) Webb
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Special Thanks to Staff and Home Care Workers at Meadow Brook, as well as Everyone at Lady Minto Hospital.

A Celebration of their Lives is planned for a later date.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting of the **Salt Spring Arts Council** will be held at Mahon Hall 114 Rainbow Road, Ganges on Sunday March 1, 2015 at 10 am

This Week's **Noroscope** by **Michael O'Connor**
 www.sunstarastrology.com
 sunstarastrology@gmail.com
 1.833.352.8936

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Your intuitions are running high. The time has come to take some key initiatives. With the last month of winter now underway, you may want to get a jump start on the new season. The prospect of hitting the reset button in some of your most important relationships remains a high priority. Whether in love or business it is time to advance or at least to take the first steps.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21) Sometimes good dreams must share some time with others less enchanting, even disturbing. Such upsets are a part of life. How we handle them is the main question. Will you be reactive or proactive? In like manner, often a bit of both occurs. Consequently, you are experiencing a lot of shifting and shuffling behind the scenes or at least in the back of your mind.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Some long-held dreams or visions are being realized. These may be ushering you to a new level of popularity and prominence. Fresh encounters with friends old and new are featured. At worst, you may feel like you are swimming upstream especially in some of your closest relationships. Positively, this is helping you develop strength and character. Either way, extra efforts are required.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22) In certain respects, you have reached a critical stage. This may be especially true at work or in the quality of your lifestyle. The time has come to take it to a new job level or to get into a whole job or routine altogether. More efforts and focus are required. Whether to get more education or training or to change your attitude or strategy is on your mind.

Leo (Jul 22 - Aug 23) Some cycles take us to deeper places. Going within and/or conducting the new research studies is featured. At worst you feel tumbled and overwhelmed. Yet, if you appreciate the inner rhyme and reason, you will accept that circumstances are serving to shift your perspectives. This will result in new thoughts, conversations, exchanges and perhaps new investments and commitments too.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) A summons to face your fears in order to realize some of your life goals has been sounded. Sometimes it is hard to see how certain turns fit into our life purpose. However, there is a flow and it has a way of asserting what will happen next. We can exercise free will and resist. Yet, it is better to cooperate. This is where Astrology helps a lot, it provides the parameters of probability.

SPCA

Cupcake sale sweetens 'million-acts' initiative

Kindness the impetus behind fundraiser and awareness campaign

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If one act of kindness can forever change an animal's life, imagine what one million acts will do.

To mark this year's 120th anniversary, the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals urges animal lovers to perform a million acts of kindness for companion, farm and wild animals before the end of 2015.

"The purpose of the campaign is to celebrate the amazing work that is already being done to create more humane communities across B.C. and to encourage animal lovers to help save even more lives by actively getting involved in the Million Acts of Kindness campaign," says Sean Hogan, branch manager for the Salt Spring Island BCSPCA. Each week in 2015, the millionacts.ca website will feature a new act of kindness that participants can undertake and log toward the one million mark.

"We want to inspire positivity and kindness toward animals in our community," Hogan said.

Carolyn Walkner, co-owner of Pernickety Clothing for Kids, has already pledged to get the campaign off to a sweet start by baking up to 500 cupcakes

for National Cupcake Day, which falls on Monday, Feb. 23.

"Because my allergies are so severe I can't volunteer in the actual shelter, I chose to help out with awareness and fundraising," she said. "I've recently signed up for their Million Acts of Kindness campaign, which is not only fun but a great way to spread love and compassion in a world where our headlines are filled with death and destruction."

Cupcakes of many flavours will be available for \$2 in front of the fire hall in Ganges between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and at Gulf Islands Secondary School during lunch hour.

"There might be more surprises," Walkner said. "It all depends on what other fun things I find in our preserves pantry."

Other acts of kindness to consider include encouraging locally elected officials to support the campaign, switching to cage-free eggs, volunteering for animals, posting social media messages to promote spaying and neutering, proper identification and adding the cruelty reporting hotline number to cell phones (1-855-6BC SPCA).

Participants are also encouraged to take a "felfie" — a selfie with your furry friend — and post them on Facebook pages linking back to the campaign.

Participants can sign up for the campaign at millionacts.ca. For more information, contact Hogan at 250-537-2123 or 250-538-7618.

POLITICS

Liberal candidate named

Tim Kane to run in Saanich-Gulf Islands

Liberal party and its Laurier Club for nearly two decades. According to his party biography, he was an entrepreneur from an equally early age.

founders of Delta Media Inc., an award-winning, Ottawa-based communications firm that serves government, corporate and non-profit clients across Canada. They have been full-time residents of Saanich since 2009 and set up a Victoria branch of their firm in 2010.

The Liberal Party of Canada has named Saanich businessman Tim Kane as its candidate for the upcoming federal election as a result of a selection meeting on Feb. 14.

Kane's career has included public service in the political sphere. During the 1980s he was a senior writer in the communications branch of the federal Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources and was a senior speech writer to the minister. Kane and his wife and business partner Sheena Pennie are the

Kane was a volunteer in the 2013 BC provincial election for Liberal candidate Ida Chong. He also worked on Chong's 2014 bid to be elected as mayor of Victoria.

Born and raised in Windsor, Ont., the 62-year-old candidate has been a member of the

NATURE

Costa Rica featured in talk

Animal life in focus

biologists from the Royal BC Museum and local birder-naturalists Peter and Bernadette McAllister.

Local naturalist and photographer David Denning will give a multimedia presentation on Costa Rica for the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club on Thursday, Feb. 26 at Mahon Hall.

Denning's colourful and unusual photographs reveal why the group spent from dawn to dusk and beyond exploring nature in what is arguably the highest concentration of rainforest habitat and tropical biodiversity in the world. The talk will focus primarily on animal life, while taking the audience on a whirlwind tour of some biodiversity hot spots.

Denning will explore Costa Rica's natural history through photographs and narration in Monkeys, Motmots and Marine Marvels: Exploring Costa Rica's Incredible Biodiversity. Denning and his wife Deborah Miller recently spent six weeks travelling in Costa Rica, where they joined

Everyone is welcome to the event, which kicks off at 7 p.m.

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

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



VOLLEYBALL

GISS alumnus exits UBC on high note

Howe eyes glorious playoff finale in university career

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's own Chris Howe has been recognized as one of the best blockers in Canada West Universities Athletic Association history.

"He leaves a legacy," said Bob Howe, Chris' father, in an email about the award.

Howe attended his son's last home game in Vancouver recently, where he was joined by some of Chris' Gulf Islands Secondary School friends: Jordan Borth, Cayce Fedberg, Shawn Will Lee and Kristi Lee.

Howe attended the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus after graduating from GISS in 2009 and being coached by Kellie Booth for several years. He transferred to the University of Alberta and

has spent the past three years enrolled at UBC in Vancouver. Howe's athletic prowess has been matched off court in his role as president of the UBC Athletes Council.

On Friday, Howe led the UBC Thunderbirds past Manitoba for a spot to compete in university volleyball's final four. This weekend in Edmonton, Howe looks to pin a golden exclamation mark on an accolade-studded post-secondary career.

"Only Alberta, Trinity Western, Brandon and UBC has survived," Bob Howe said.

Once he graduates with a degree in sociology and commerce this spring, Howe will try for a spot on the Senior Canadian National "B" Volleyball Team in the International University Sports Federation. He strives to play volleyball at the professional level, possibly in Europe, as soon as the fall.

Before those lofty next steps, however, Howe has some



From left are GISS grads Cayce Fedberg, Jordan Borth, Chris Howe, Kristi Lee and Shawn Will Lee, with Chris' father Bob Howe in behind at a Feb. 7 game at UBC.

pressing business to conclude at the University of Alberta this weekend. The UBC Thunderbirds' opening match

against the Golden Bears can be watched online at canadawest.tv on Friday, Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks
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Capital Regional District
Day Camp Program Staff
 Salt Spring Island Parks & Recreation is looking for experienced, energetic Day Camp Program Staff for the 2015 spring break period. These positions are responsible for the implementation and delivery of various recreational camps for children and youth on Salt Spring Island. We are looking for individuals committed to creating positive recreational opportunities through planning, coordination and leadership. Successful candidates will have a combination of education, experience, excellent communication and customer service skills.
 To further explore our exciting employment opportunities, please visit our web site at www.crd.bc.ca, "Careers".

 The CRD thanks all applicants for their interest and advises that only those candidates under active consideration will be contacted.

PATHWAYS

Work begins on harbour route

Community contributions aid project

BY ZEKE BLAZECKA
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Partners Creating Pathways' latest project in the Ganges area is about to become a reality, following a detailed review of the submitted tenders and an injection of additional funding from the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.

The off-island firm Saanichton Development Ltd. was the winning bidder for the pathway construction contract. Site work began this week and the pathway will be useable by the public before spring is officially here.

The pathway will be 1.8 metres wide and, when the good weather arrives, it will be given an asphalt surface. As a safety measure, the complete length of the pathway will have a wooden railing on the harbour side.

Complementing the contractor's work on



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Island Pathways volunteers, from left, Donald McLennan, Peter Lamb, Phil Grange and kiosk designer Glenn Trarup get started on the new Harbour's End project with a Valentine's Day work party.

the pathway will be a host of Partners Creating Pathways volunteers constructing the information kiosk where the existing stairs descend to the water. The kiosk will include three display panels highlight-

ing the history of the harbour and the prominent role played by First Nations through the years. Solar lighting will eventually be installed at the kiosk.

The main funding agency for the pathway

and the kiosk is the Capital Regional District, with a generous grant from its Active Transportation Innovative Infrastructure Program. The contract work would not have been possible without the transportation commission topping up the project funding at the last instant.

Important funding contributions have also come from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and four local businesses: Hastings House Country House Hotel, Moby's Pub, Salt Spring Marina and Harbour House Hotel. Thanks go as well to the individual donors to Island Pathways' Step Up for Safe Pathways campaign.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience the construction of this new section of the Ganges Village Pathway Network may cause islanders, but we think you will find it will be worth this valuable section of pathway and the information kiosk.

The writer is a Partners Creating Pathways project manager.



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SOCCER

Old Boys seal victory

FC hosts cup match

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Old Boys were bruised, battered but never beaten by a robust Vantreights side during a 2-0 win under sunny skies in Esquimalt on Sunday afternoon.

"Several Old Boys suffered from the elbows and feet of their opponents, possibly affecting their game performance on and off the field," said match correspondent Fraser Hope. "Notably, Mark 'Nuts' Aston, Graham 'Choker' Tweddle and Martin 'Noggin' Thorn, but it would appear the shot Thorn took off the head actually improved his performance."

The Old Boys took command of the field during the match's opening 20 minutes but played to a scoreless draw at the half.

Players took to the field in the second with speed and determination, only to have repeated efforts at the Vantreights goal turned away by a keeper kept on his toes.

Thorn eventually cracked the defence with a "cross-come-shot" that sailed across the goal line for the one-goal advantage.

Dave Toynbee gave the Old Boys a two-goal lead soon afterwards, a feat which may or may not have had something to do with his footwear.

"Chided for not wearing black team socks in prior appearances, Toynbee discovered they add yards to his speed as he exploited a thread-ed Tweddle pass to beat Vantreights' offside trap," Hope said.

The Old Boys' defensive unit held fast as the opposition mounted a late attempt to salvage some dignity from the match. In what was no doubt a tip to the Esquimalt fans, an Old Boys defender is said to have graciously served the ball to a stunned Vantreights striker, who missed the opportunity offered by an open net.

The Old Boys will be back on Salt Spring's GISS field to host Gordon Head Nearly Dead on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

SS FC starts cup play

Second-round action of the Pearkes Challenge Cup arrives on the island this weekend as Salt Spring hosts Bays United at Portlock Park on Saturday afternoon.

The contest brings together teams from multiple divisions of the Vancouver Island Soccer League every February and March to duke it out in five rounds of matches.

Salt Spring FC's Div. 3A team received a bye into the round of 16 for this year's contest. Kick-off time for Saturday's game is at 2:15 p.m.

SWIMMING

Masters achieve 'day of firsts'

2015 season starts with a splash

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's masters swim team can anticipate great things to come based on results at a meet at Victoria's Commonwealth Pool.

"It truly was a day of firsts," said Don Clifford, one of the club's veteran members. "For two of our athletes, Jane MacKenzie and Charlene Wolff, it was their first time competing in years."

Wolff and MacKenzie teamed up with Joan Allard-Gunn and head coach Cassidy Fraser as part of Salt Spring's inaugural competitive relay team. The foursome finished first in the 5x50-metre freestyle relay and second in the 4x50-metre medley relay.

"It's so great to be part of a team again at my first swim meet since I was 15," MacKenzie said. "Each race I did on Saturday was chasing those minute pieces of time. I loved it."

MacKenzie finished seventh in the 50-metre

freestyle, fourth in 100-metre freestyle and fifth in the 50-metre breaststroke.

Wolff swam to a fourth-place finish in the 50-metre butterfly and placed fifth in the 50-metre freestyle event. Allard-Gunn racked up first-place performances in the 50-metre, 100-metre and 200-metre backstroke, and placed first in the 50-metre butterfly for her age category.

Clifford placed second in his age category's 50-metre backstroke, fifth in the 50-metre freestyle and fifth in the 100-metre freestyle event.

"The team easily showed other teams that though they are small, they are a force to be reckoned with," Fraser said.

For her part, Fraser won gold medals in the 50-metre freestyle and butterfly events for her age category.

Also at the Jan. 31 meet was Susan Huber, a Salt Spring resident who swims for the Vancouver Island Masters. Huber brought home three silver medals.

Anyone who wants to compete, train or learn masters swimming should contact Cassidy Fraser at the Rainbow Road Pool.

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From Monday to Friday, Rory attends Glenlyon Norfolk School and lives with a GNS family in Victoria. But he calls Gabriola Island home on weekends.

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