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Back to school feature  
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**The Best of Salt Spring Island**  
Our fun and fabulous 2016 edition  
INSIDE



# Driftwood

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 56TH YEAR — ISSUE 33 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

INCORPORATION STUDY

## Roads price tag released

Consultants' report outlines annual and long-term costs

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring road network report reveals that about 28 per cent of the island's streets, lanes, avenues and thoroughfares are in very poor to fair condition.

The flip side, according to the recently released Road Condition Assessment, is that approximately 72 per cent of the island's roads are considered in good to very good nick.

Researchers rated 272 kilometres of gravel, dirt, surface-treated and asphalt roads based on "ride comfort rating" and distress factors such as surface defects, deformation and cracking. Nearly 400 road segments received a rating out of a maximum of 100 points.

With a score of a mere seven points, Musgrave Road secured its notorious status as the island's worst road. Victoria Street, located in the Fort Street neighbourhood near Walker Hook, is the island's second-worst road at 34 points, and Mt. Maxwell Road ranks third with 36 points. Tahouney Road in Fulford Village (37 points) and Dodd's Road near St. Mary Lake (38 points) round out Salt Spring's five most infamous avenues.

The report gave 21 island roads perfect scores of 100 points. Most of these, such as Sarah Way, Bishop's Walk Road and Trincomali Place, are found in newly subdivided neighbourhoods.

Thirty-two per cent of the island's roads are reported to suffer from poor ditching, which, the study's authors warn, is a concern because of subsequent implications for increased roadbed degradation and reduced service life.

ROADS STUDY continued on 4



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

**DIGGING DEEPER:** Mainroad Contracting personnel work on remediating the "Ganges sinkhole" at the corner of Fulford-Ganges Road and Seaview Avenue last Wednesday.

TRANSPORTATION

## Beddis bumps fuel confusion

Ministry and property owner get legal advice

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The man behind the installation of speed humps along a stretch of Beddis Road says he's received plenty of support from islanders keen to see traffic slow down in his rural neighbourhood.

"I think a big positive from this is that it has reinvigorated discussion across our island," said Brian Swanson, the owner of Laughing Apple Farm. "The traffic we are experiencing now is similar to what we saw in a small city 30 years ago. In 10 years, it will be similar to that of a big city 30 years ago."

Swanson and his partner Mary Laucks hired a private paving company on Aug. 9 to install four speed humps between the intersection of Beddis and Cusheon Lake roads and the entrance to their farm at 900 Beddis Rd. Swanson decided to pay for the \$8,000 job following years of failed attempts to slow down drivers.

"It will only continue to get worse unless we work together on a plan," he said.

Opinion about the speed humps is split among neighbours who feel Swanson and Laucks have veered astray and residents who think the traffic calming measures are long overdue.

BEDDIS ROAD continued on 5

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HEALTH CARE

# Greenwoods works at fulfilling licence conditions

June inspection report includes 19 unresolved issues

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOODS STAFF

Greenwoods Eldercare Society is working to meet licensing conditions imposed by Island Health's inspection department after a series of non-compliance issues were recorded last year.

Long-term community care facilities in British Columbia are inspected by medical officers and staff under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act, both on a routine basis and by complaint. According to the last inspection report of June 27, 19 violations at Greenwoods' 51-bed facility remained unresolved from previous inspections on Feb. 19, April 8 and May 27. Issues include categories related to records and reporting, staffing, policies and procedures, nutrition, and the facility's physical environment, including the safe storage of medications and cleaning materials.

Island Health licensing staff recently met with Greenwoods' licence holder, represented by society board chair Barb Aust, the facility's new manager/executive director Paul Oliphant and director of care Barbara Williams to discuss ongoing non-compliance.

"Further or ongoing non-compli-

ance could result in a recommendation to the chief medical health officer for action on the community care facility licence. Action could include placement of conditions, suspension, cancellation or appointment of an administrator," an email from Island Health on Aug. 8 explains.

**"We value licensing and its activities because we have the same goal. They want to have an adherence to a standard of provision of care to our residents, as do we."**

PAUL OLIPHANT  
Executive director,  
Greenwoods Eldercare Society

According to Island Health, inspectors investigated six complaints regarding multiple health and safety issues at Greenwoods between Aug. 4 and Dec. 31, 2015. This resulted in a recommendation that conditions be placed on Greenwoods' licence, which were duly imposed on March 11, 2016. They include requirements for elec-

tronic care plans, the training of all nursing staff on an electronic care planning system by June 1, the sign-off of nutrition care plans for every resident by a registered dietitian, and reports on concerns/complaints to be submitted on the 20th of each month.

Speaking to the Driftwood this week, Aust said the previous board was unaware of its full responsibilities as the official licence holder, and was also not aware of some specific requirements that inspectors wanted to see fulfilled.

"It wasn't until last summer when the licensing department came with a new licensing inspector [that we learned of them]," Aust explained. "As much as it's difficult, and it's been a hard time for us to go through, I'm glad she's done it because it's exposed things that needed to be fixed."

"We value licensing and its activities because we have the same goal," Oliphant added. "They want to have an adherence to a standard of provision of care to our residents, as do we. They are much more attentive to the detail of that, but the intent is very positive, and we're very much in support of that because that's what we want too. We want the best for our residents."

A checklist that Aust assembled for the board states that all but five of the 19 outstanding non-compliance issues have now been cleared up. As well, the board believes three of four licensing conditions have

now been met, while the collation of nutrition plans into patient records is underway.

Oliphant is meanwhile working to create systemic structures that will improve the working environment, such as regular staff meetings and regular, standardized staff reviews. Oliphant and Aust keep a weekly meeting date to ensure the board and the administration are working together and are mutually informed.

Aust said Greenwoods is also working on its internal assessment practices by going through a process with Accreditation Canada, which will encourage continuous quality improvement.

One compliance issue likely to remain for a while is the bathing space per resident: for its size Greenwoods is required to have four stations and currently has only two. Oliphant hopes two showers will be installed before March.

In addition to working toward removing the licensing conditions and being in full compliance, a few advancements could help the centre improve care for residents and boost staff morale at the same time. Greenwoods is currently funded for 3.09 care hours. Provincial health care guidelines call for 3.36 hours, and some Island Health facilities receive that. Oliphant recently attended a meeting with Island Health's director of residential care, who suggested all facilities will receive the same 3.36 hour base.

"That's a huge lift and would make all the difference in the world," Aust said. "It would mean we could pay our bills and be in the black instead of always pulling our hair and being on the edge."

As an example, even with full staffing, one of Greenwoods' financial struggles occurs when staff are ill, and they have to pay both that person and the fill-in — often at time-and-a-half or double-time.

"If we had more funding, instead of us going into the hole . . . we would be able to pay that," Oliphant said.

A large grant from Island Health has just allowed Greenwoods to install a lift in every room. This will ease the physical burden on staff and make space more efficient by not having to shuffle residents around if someone leaves.

In other news, the society hired a recreation manager last fall and is working more closely with a geriatric psychiatrist.

Greenwoods will apply to have its licensing conditions removed when the one-year period expires in March 2017.

"We're working together, seeing this as a joint project to see the phoenix rise from the ashes," Aust said. "This is a really important place in the community and there are great people who work here that just put their all into it, and we want to be there to support them. But there are issues that need to be dealt with and that's what we're trying to do."

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

## NDP offers alternative to Site C plan

MLA Holman hosts Thursday event

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The MLA for Saanich North and the Islands will be on Salt Spring Thursday to pitch an alternative to BC Hydro's controversial Site C dam.

Gary Holman says the NDP's PowerBC strategy can prevent many of the pending environmental and legal problems associated with the largest publicly funded infrastructure project in the province's history.

Site preparation for the \$9-billion dam along the Peace River south of Fort St. John got underway earlier this year. The federal government issued a pair of work permits for the dam in late July. It is expected to be complete by 2024, unless Holman and the NDP's opposition environment spokesperson George Heyman have something to say about it.

PowerBC pushes for promotion of energy conservation measures, refurbishing the capacity of existing dams and the support of smaller-scale renewable projects.

"We believe that this approach would be more cost

effective, would create many more jobs distributed throughout B.C., and would result in lower electricity rates," Holman said.

The proposal has also received support from the federal Joint Review Panel that evaluated the Site C project. The panel, chaired by civil servant Harry Swain, questioned whether BC Hydro had successfully demonstrated the need to build Site C and recommended the plan be referred to the B.C. Utilities Commission for further review.

Speaking in early 2015, Swain called the B.C. government's refusal to refer the project a "dereliction of duty."

Heyman, who represents the Vancouver-Fairview riding, will answer participants' questions about the PowerBC plan, which he developed with NDP BC Hydro critic Adrian Dix.

"PowerBC is the approach that the JRP recommended be taken to the B.C. Utilities Commission for review, which the opposition is committed to doing," Holman said. "We challenge the provincial government to do the same with Site C."

The event runs from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Salt Spring Library Program Room on Thursday, Aug. 18.

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# NEWSBEAT

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**ENVIRONMENT**

## Island conifers show impact of drought conditions

Further decline predicted due to climate change

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Drought conditions impacting the Gulf Islands have resulted in a noticeable change to the forest canopy and may point to a more permanent change in times to come if climate change trends continue, scientists suggest.

Western red cedars that are still standing but have dead orange fronds instead of the customary healthy green are becoming an increasingly common sight by island roadways. According to Stefan Zeglen, a forest pathologist with B.C.'s Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the trees are probably only now showing the impact of last summer's drought.

"It's following the same pattern we've seen in the past. Particularly in 1998 we had a very dry summer, and in 1999 during the spring and summer we saw a lot of trees die, not just western red cedar but anything in dry conditions like shallow soil or very well-drained soil," Zeglen said.

The Pacific coast's trademark conifers are suffering across the Gulf Islands and throughout their range. Gabriola's Fire Chief Rick Jackson recently called atten-

tion to increased fire risk on that island due to an unusually high incidence of standing dead timber. The state of Oregon, which experienced record drought in all its counties from 2013 to 2015, issued an advisory on water stress to conifers through its Department of Forestry this month.

"Damage typically is most severe on the fringe of forested areas, and on shallow, rocky, or droughty soil types. Trees growing near roads, ditches, pastures, or in areas of soil disturbance or abundant competing vegetation are most frequently affected," the bulletin states.

It further explains that severe water stress can not only damage or kill trees directly but also makes them more vulnerable to attack by insects and pathogens.

Zeglen said that in a competitive forest structure, the trees that are poorly situated will be the ones that are most affected by poor conditions, whether it's lack of light, water or nutrients.

"If the trees aren't getting what they need, they fall out of the stand. That's just the way things are. In the case of water stress, it's just that more immediate," he said.

Zeglen observed weather patterns shifted over the past two years due to the El Nino current, which is now over, but dry years also occurred in 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2012. Trees that may not have



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

A dying cedar seen directly above the Ganges ambulance station sign shows the result of last summer's drought on some vulnerable trees.

succumbed previously might finally become too stressed to survive.

"[Those years] all had water deficits over long periods, and these kinds of things can accumulate," Zeglen said.

In a list of six native tree species, Oregon's Department of Forestry ranked western red cedar the least able to withstand drought. Douglas fir, which ranked with low-to-mid drought tolerance, has also been singled out as a species in trouble if dry conditions continue. A recent study out of Uni-

versity of California, Davis looked at how the growth rate of Douglas firs changed across their American range over 91 years, and compared that with climate change data. The authors concluded that fewer firs will grow in the future as drier conditions persist.

"Throughout the life of these trees, Douglas firs have experienced a lot of different conditions," lead author Christina Restaino, a postdoctoral researcher in the UC Davis Department of Environmental Science and Policy, stated in a press release.

"The conditions that have been the warmest and the driest have slowed their growth the most. With climate change, we expect the frequency of those conditions to increase."

Canadian scientists have also linked climate change to stress in large conifers. A climate change mapping project at the Royal BC Museum overseen by Richard Hebda, curator of botany and earth history, has projected the widespread decline of western red cedar in the region. Modelling suggests this could begin as early as 2020 under high climate change conditions, or by 2050 under median climate change conditions. At the same time, the cedar's range is projected to move inland, northward and to higher elevations.

Zeglen said many scientists are studying the potential impact of long-term changes to weather, not just on forests but to other native plants, as well as to agriculture and horticulture.

While Zeglen feels the recent spate of dead trees is the result of specific drought events, he said that longer-term shifts in climate could end in species loss or a shift in where those species are distributed.

"Whether it's a change in temperature or a change in moisture is something we still have to figure out for specific species — what will effect them more," he explained.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SAR assists Cowichan search

Six Salt Spring search and rescue volunteers travelled to the Cowichan Valley Thursday morning to join the search for a 62-year-old man.

Searchers found the man hiding under the deck of his assisted-living facility soon after the mutual-aid reinforcements from Salt Spring arrived. He was reported to be hungry and thirsty but in good condition.

"He was in good shape," said search manager Chuck Hamilton. "It's fortunate that he got lost at this time of year."

Relatively warm nights and dry conditions, Hamilton explained, can significantly extend the time a person can remain outdoors without succumbing to the effects of hypothermia.

The man was reported missing on Wednesday.

### RCMP investigate dinghy theft

RCMP are investigating a possible theft after a resident reported a two-metre (six-foot) white fibreglass dinghy missing from Fernwood wharf on Saturday,

Aug. 13.

The dinghy was last seen in the early morning hours. Anyone with any information on the boat's location or the person responsible for taking it is asked to call Crimestoppers or the local detachment.

Also on Saturday, Salt Spring RCMP responded to a found property complaint on Lower Ganges Road. A male reported

to police that he had located his previously reported stolen electric bike. While on scene, a second male approached and identified himself as the owner of the e-bike, stating he had purchased the bike online. However, he commented that he was not surprised the bike he purchased had been stolen. The e-bike was returned to the rightful owner.

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## FEDERAL POLITICS

# Elizabeth May ponders future as Green party leader

Controversial vote triggers meeting

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The future of Elizabeth May's Green Party of Canada leadership is uncertain following a factious vote at the party's annual convention in Ottawa earlier this month.

May voted against the majority decision by party members to support a campaign that promotes

economic sanctions against Israel. According to the group's website, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement is an international effort to end the Israeli government's "regime of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation" against Palestinians.

"My concern is that [the BDS movement] is very divisive and, fairly or unfairly, is seen as anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. How divisive it is is very clear from what it just did to our party," May wrote in a statement



ELIZABETH MAY

posted on the Green Party website last week following the vote.

May has said she is considering her future as party leader while on vacation in Nova Scotia. An emergency meeting of the Green Party council will be held this week-end.

"I need to talk to my family and

ask them what they think I should do," May said in an interview with CBC's The House on Saturday. "You're talking to a broken-hearted person who is trying to figure out the best way forward."

The motion to support the BDS campaign was introduced by Green Party justice critic Dimitri Lascaris.

"Today @CanadianGreens stood up for human rights by supporting #BDS," Lascaris tweeted after the Aug. 6 vote. "I salute the Greens for their moral courage."

Whatever her decision, May said she is committed to representing her Saanich-Gulf Islands constituents and confirmed that she plans to run as a candidate in the 2019 federal election.

The party's decision to support the BDS movement triggered immediate condemnation from several Canadian Jewish organizations, including B'nai Brith and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

The Driftwood was unable to reach May for comment.

# Public roads discussion meeting set for September

## ROADS STUDY

continued from 1

The study also determined that 248 of the island's 272 kilometres of roads are below the standard width for roads in B.C.

Subsequent study, however, might reveal the existing widths are in some cases still sufficient to meet current community needs, according to Mark Aston, ISC chair.

Members of the Salt Spring Incorporation Study Committee commissioned the report earlier this year to fill a crucial gap in the lead up to publication of their final report this fall. The RCA, undertaken by McElhanney Consulting Services, gives residents a sense of the financial implications of roadway maintenance should the island become incorporated.

"The bird has come home to roost," said

Peter Grove, a member of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee and a non-voting ISC member.

Grove said the detailed and thorough report offers a good perspective on the "dreadful condition" of Salt Spring's roads.

"We will watch with interest to see what the province is prepared to give in terms of transitional funding [in the event of incorporation]," he added.

The road assessment was completed with an additional \$135,000 provided by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development in March. The funding followed the government's initial \$120,000 grant to study the financial implications of incorporation.

The RCA determined that islanders can anticipate about \$33 million in road reconstruction and rehabilitation costs over the next 15 to 30 years. The work would cover repairs on

140 kilometres of island roads.

The report estimates the annual price tag for the work at between \$1.1 million and \$2.2 million, depending on the timeline chosen to undertake repairs. The costs are in addition to basic annual road maintenance fees, which the report estimates at \$1.4 million per year based on costs over the past decade.

Tax implications of the RCA's recommendations for ratepayers will be included in the ISC's final report, due for release in October.

Committee members will host a public meeting in September to let people ask questions about and comment on the RCA. A location and date have not yet been set.

ISC members anticipate making their recommendation to the ministry on whether to hold a referendum on Salt Spring incorporation by the end of November.

The full report, including a complete list of

## Salt Spring's worst roads

- 1 - Musgrave Rd. 7/100
- 2 - Victoria St. 34/100
- 3 - Mt. Maxwell Rd. 36/100
- 4 - Tahouney Rd. 37/100
- 5 - Dodd's Rd. 38/100
- 6 - Mt. Belcher Heights 39/100
- 7 - Old Divide Rd. 41/100
- 8 - Jenkins Rd. 42/100
- 9 - Dogwood Lane 43/100
- 10 - Sampson Rd 45/100
- 10 - Grantville St. 45/100
- 10 - McLennan Dr. 45/100

ratings for island roadways, can be found at [www.ssiincororationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincororationstudy.com) and at the Salt Spring Island Public Library.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

# PARC program revenue on the rise

Inadequate facilities remains a challenge

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission is finding success in its new community recreation programs, posting higher than budgeted revenues for the year so far.

Capital Regional District financial advisor Peggy Dayton gave a brief overview of the situation during a PARC meeting Monday evening as part of the preparations for this year's budgeting process. With \$47,000 in revenue from recreation program fees budgeted for 2016 and \$52,000 earned so far, Dayton said PARC could expect a surplus barring any unexpected events.

"Salt Spring Island taxpayers are actually doing some things," commented commissioner Bryan Webster, noting the successful take-up of recreational programs in the short time since they've been offered shows they were clearly needed, and suggests participation will only expand in the future.

PARC's recreation coordinator Kara MacKay gave an overview of program highlights and challenges. There were 131 people registered for classes offered during the

winter session, with courses ranging from Japanese and Spanish language to ukulele. The spring/summer session has yielded 480 participants, including children attending Camp Colossal and preschool day camps.

MacKay said one of the biggest challenges of running the programs is lack of facilities. Outdoor camps are based at Portlock Park, for example, but the aging portable is the only indoor space and is not equipped with a sink or washrooms. It's also small for maximum attendance days, which have topped out at 37 kids.

Another challenge has been getting adults to register for classes ahead of time, which meant some offerings were actually cancelled because it appeared there wouldn't be enough participants to run. Getting people used to the process will be one solution, and new recreation software that allows online registration outside of office hours should also help, MacKay said.

Attendance also increased for the first quarter of the fiscal year compared to last year at the Rainbow Road Pool, which had its best performance for the quarter out of any year in the past five. Reporting on the figures, pool manager Jim Raddysh said there were over

13,400 visits to the pool from April to June compared to just over 11,000 during the same time last year.

Participation in the Salt Spring Stingrays swim club is at an all-time high at 80 members and has helped boost the visit total, with members practising up to four times each week. Participation in water fitness classes also increased, as did regular pool visits.

Dayton confirmed that pool revenues are on track to be higher than budgeted for the year, while operating costs are on budget.

Speaking about the potential surpluses, CRD management team member Keith Wahlstrom said the parks commission would be well advised to transfer any revenue surplus into capital reserves to start saving for future infrastructure maintenance and repair costs. The only other alternative, he observed, is to raise taxes or ask the community to borrow money, as with the current Ganges sewer replacement project.

PARC manager Dan Ovington also pointed out that many projects on the five-year capital plan don't actually have funding attached, and that it would be good to transform some items on the virtual wish-list into reality.



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# Maintenance question could be pivotal on Beddis Road

## BEDDIS ROAD

continued from 1

Bill Curtin, who lives in the 1200 block of Beddis Road, said he'd like to see similar stretches of speed humps installed along other parts of his street and elsewhere on the island. He said he has no problem navigating the Beddis bumps when driving his well-maintained 10-year-old vehicle at 50 km/h.

"I don't think we should call them speed bumps, we should call them traffic calming devices because that's what they do," Curtin said.

Other neighbours aren't as smitten with the devices.

"We want the speed bumps removed, the signs removed and all the grandstanding of how [Brian Swanson] is doing this for the safety of everybody to stop," said Bev Bolton, a resident of Miles Avenue. "We need that road, we're kind of isolated and the whole area is a fire hazard. We do not need emergency vehicles slowed down, and we don't need cars bounced off the road."

Arjuna George, acting fire chief of the Salt Spring Fire-Rescue Department, said he has made his crews aware of the new speed humps and plotted them on the department's response map.

## Roadwork drives jurisdictional confusion

Installation of the Beddis speed humps has raised questions about who has authority over the contentious stretch of road.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

A vehicle drives over one of the four speed humps installed by Laughing Apple Farm property owners Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks last Tuesday.

Swanson undertook the work based on his view that the road has always been part of his 160-acre farm property. He has installed "private road" signs to indicate the section of roadway that crosses his land and claims he and the property's previous owner have consistently maintained the road.

A statement issued Thursday by a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure spokesperson in Victoria appeared to back Swanson's opinion, claiming that the ministry does not currently maintain the questionable stretch of Beddis Road.

MoTI public affairs officer Kate Mukasa provided a map that shows Swanson's stretch of Beddis Road is not included among roadways maintained by the ministry's maintenance contractor.

"The ministry does not currently maintain the segment of Beddis Road shown in pink on the attached map," Mukasa wrote

in an email. "The black and green roads are maintained by the maintenance contractor on behalf of the ministry."

However, some neighbourhood residents state that MoTI roads area manager Travis Tormala told them the area is definitely a ministry controlled and maintained road.

Another MoTI employee provided another form of confirmation.

"The section of Beddis Road in question is absolutely still being maintained by the ministry and our maintenance contractor, Mainroad," wrote Colin Coulter, operations technician and area manager for the MoTI's south island district, in an email distributed to neighbours.

When asked how different parts of the ministry could be providing such contradictory information, Mukasa said, "There's not been a lot of clarity with it . . . it's not clear. We're trying to work that out."

Mukasa also stated staff had met with the property owner the previous week and communicated with the property owner "multiple times" by phone and in writing.

"This has now become a legal matter, with both parties seeking advice," she added. "The ministry is therefore unable to comment further at this time."

Road maintenance contractors added a further layer of complexity to the issue earlier this week by reportedly informing speed hump detractors that they maintain the entirety of Beddis Road.

In an interview Tuesday morning, an operations manager with the maintenance contractor hired by the province confirmed the contentious stretch of Beddis Road is included in its road maintenance inventory for Salt Spring.

"We have done mostly winter maintenance in that area," said Mainroad Contracting's Leon Bohmer. "It's snowplowing, salting and sanding."

The question of road maintenance undertaken by the provincial government could prove pivotal as parties on all sides of the dispute search for concrete answers about Beddis Road's status. According to Section 42 of the province's Transportation Act, "if public money is spent on a travelled road that is not a highway, the travelled road is deemed and declared to be a highway."

A video of the humps is available on the Driftwood Facebook site and www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

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## BC HYDRO

# 'Money grab' challenged

Public comment period extended to Sept. 2

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The British Columbia Utilities Commission has extended the public comment period to collect ratepayer perspectives about BC Hydro's contentious two-tiered fee structure.

The commission launched consultations earlier this summer after it received ratepayer complaints that a stepped fee structure penalizes residents who rely exclusively on BC Hydro electricity to power and heat their homes.

Ian Robertson, a BC Hydro user who splits his time between the Lower Mainland and Pender Island, said home owners who rely on power from BC Hydro inevitably run into the second pricing tier, which is nearly 50 per cent higher than the step-one rate.

"Nobody I've met who heats with electricity can stay within step one," he said.

BC Hydro introduced "inclining block" electricity rates for residential customers in 2007 to encourage energy conservation. Customers who reduced their power consumption, the company stated, would be rewarded with a lower utility bill.

BC Hydro charges residential customers approximately \$0.0829/kWh for up to about 22 kWh of daily power use. Electricity demand above that threshold is billed at \$0.1243/kWh. A supplementary charge of five per cent is added to all charges before taxes and levies to cover "additional and unpredictable energy costs resulting from, for example, low water inflows or higher-

than-forecast market prices."

By 2012 and 2013, however, Robertson said it had become evident not everyone could take advantage of the new tiered system. He said BC Hydro's effort to promote power conservation morphed into a money grab.

Even after extensive retrofits and consultation with an electrician, Robertson said, heating his Pender Island cabin through the winter catapults him into the second pricing tier even though it's only a part-time home.

Robertson wants islanders to examine their winter BC Hydro statements closely to determine how they fit into BC Hydro's rate structure. Home-energy use can be closely monitored and reviewed at www.bchydro.com. He wants people to take advantage of the public comment period to tell BCUC how the rate plan affects their budgets and quality of life.

"Many people are left in the cold all winter," he said. "They're miserable."

The BCUC has extended its consultation deadline to Sept. 2. The commission asks residential electricity customers of BC Hydro or FortisBC without access to natural gas to comment on the rate structure's effects and offer suggestions to mitigate any impacts.

The Gulf Islands are among 200 communities across British Columbia without access to natural gas.

Comment forms can be downloaded at www.bcuc.com/Register-Letter-of-Comment.aspx and submitted to Commission. Secretary@bcuc.com or mailed to Linda Ross, Acting Commission Secretary, BC Utilities Commission, Sixth floor, 900 Howe St., Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3.

All comments must be received in writing by email or mail before Friday, Sept. 2.

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# OPINION



2016 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Gold - Environmental Writing (Elizabeth Nolan)  
Gold - Special Section (Best of Salt Spring Island) | Silver - Community Newspaper Magazine (Gulf Islander)  
Bronze - Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
2016 BCYCNA Awards  
Silver - Environmental Initiative (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - General Excellence



## EDITORIAL

# Straight goods

In the B.C. media's halcyon days, reporters phoned friendly provincial government employees to get the information they needed.

It only made sense to talk to the person in charge of road repairs or health-care resources, for example.

Then at some point around the turn of the century, media's direct access to government personnel who had the real scoop on an issue or controversy was severed. All questions — from those requiring the simplest confirmation to the most technical of explanations — had to be funnelled through a "communications" person for the relevant ministry. The change dealt a mortal blow to government transparency.

One of the main flaws of this method is that since the spokespeople don't know the history or details of the subject they're talking about, they are unable to

### THE ISSUE:

Government information

### WE SAY:

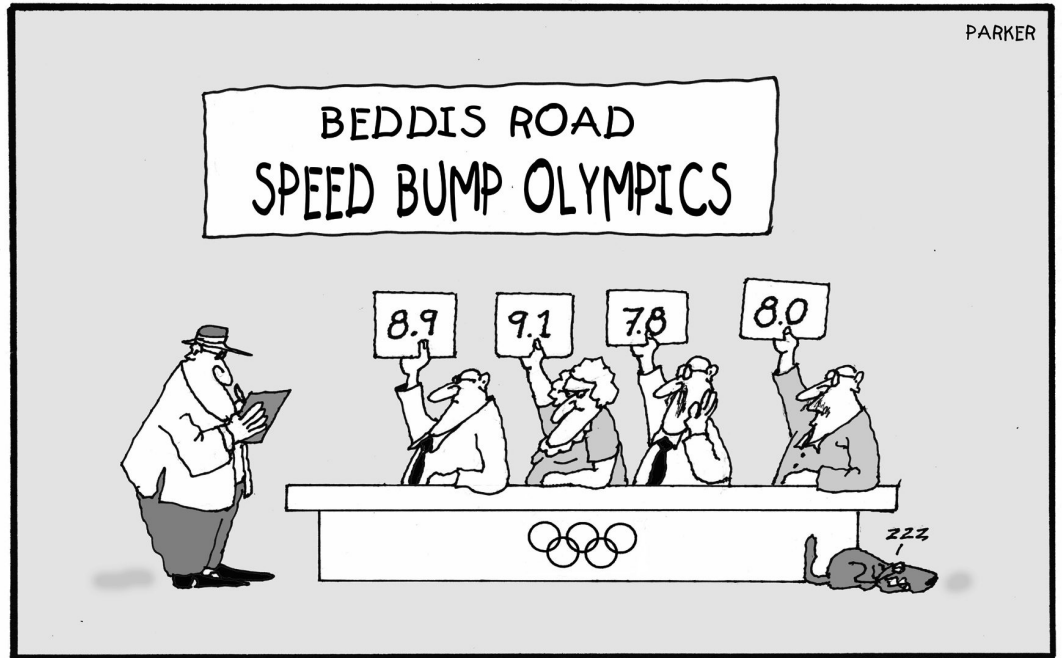
Clarity needed

answer follow-up questions or provide clarifications during the conversation. The information given tends to lack context or nuance, especially since it has often been squeezed through a "newspeak" tunnel before being dispensed. It's a bit like getting personal relationship advice from Siri or Cortana.

The Laughing Apple Farm speed bump situation that arose on Beddis Road last Tuesday is a perfect example of how dispensing of "official" ministry information fails to shed real light on what's going on. On Tuesday the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's spokesperson clearly stated for public consumption through the Driftwood that the 600-metre area in question was not the ministry's road, as ridiculous as that sounds. But that is not what private citizens, who have direct access to MoTI employees dealing with the Beddis bumps, were told.

A Driftwood press for further clarification elicited first a more detailed written statement and a map, and then admission that "there's not been a lot of clarity." Now that it's become a dreaded "legal matter" between the ministry and the property owners, lips have been further zipped.

Communications departments are useful when governments want to clearly express their policies and points of view. When it comes to providing the community with fleshed-out information about day-to-day issues of concern, however, they're no different than speed bumps on a well-travelled road.



VIEWPOINT by Chris Dixon

# Business model diversity not bad

This is how it starts. Years ago on Salt Spring, certain local merchants resented certain Saturday Market vendors who would sell a saw blade or a T-shirt or a carved mask for less than they could in their shops. "Unfair," they cried, "how can we compete with these folks who have no overhead beyond their wares and their time?"

They called it a merchants' association but it was also a tenants' association. In a very human way it acted like a religion in that a group of same-thinking people decided that their way was "the true path" and that anyone who did things a different way was a threat, to be despised and marginalized, especially if they were popular and successful.

They argued that because they paid rent and taxes they were entitled to a profitable business and that they deserved all the business.

Inate merchant tenants met the market vendors in a weeks-long "mediation" process, at the end of which they stood up and said something like, "We win and this is how things will be from now on."

It was a hard and divisive time that brought out the worst in some prominent people. Terrifying stuff to watch.

Fast-forward to last week's letter by Dave Toynbee, who represents the landlord for several Ganges businesses. He makes many of the same arguments that were used against the market vendors, but today's target is food-carts, the latest victims of their own success.

While we've indeed lost some restaurants in the last few years for a variety of reasons, we've lost many more shops and stores where food carts cannot be implicated. We've also seen at least two food carts close up.

Statistics on local business failures and turnarounds in the last decade would make a sobering read. Once the ink is dry on the loan and the lease, what matters at the end of the day is to pay the rent, pay the bank, pay the supplier, pay the staff, pay the insurance and

five levels of government and, if there's something left, pay yourself.

This is one business model. It is a choice, and not always a successful one. It does not confer any level of legitimacy, nor does it imply that another model has less merit. Some newly minted businesses don't make it through their first year here, and others which are well-established fail to evolve and they become unsustainable.

Hopefully we learned from the merchants association exercise that we must avoid the Tonya Harding school of competition. There must be room for all of us to succeed.

So listen up: some of us are hungry on a budget of five bucks. Some of us are prepared to stand in full sun with traffic hurtling past our elbow while we watch our next meal being created. Some folks want a table with music and still others will require a tablecloth. That's a healthy diversity, and business will respond to demand.

Celebrating diversity means more than tarring up the town for the annual Pride parade. We all depend on one another to craft a vibrant and diverse community and today, a food cart on the corner lot is part of the mix.

Maybe turning Ganges into a pricey seasonal shopping mall, constricted with frustrated drivers and bovine, sleepwalking pedestrians was not the formula for genuine success. Maybe it is a form of failure. It is certainly not a pleasant human experience and is one many locals strive to avoid.

Maybe this is like the day Ford met Toyota. Who knew then that the order was changing? We may have reached a threshold in the cost of retail space. Maybe the good old days are gone, and maybe those food cart folks know something we don't or won't acknowledge.

The writer is a Mansell Road resident.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Should Beddis speed humps be removed?

Yes  No

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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:

## Have you reduced your water use this summer?



# Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "We do not need emergency vehicles slowed down, and we don't need cars bounced off the road."**

BEV BOLTON, MILES AVENUE RESIDENT, RE BEDDIS ROAD SPEED HUMPS

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked: What's your highlight from the 2016 Olympic Games?**



**ALIAS HAJEK**  
*It's interesting to know there are medical teams on site to hand out condoms and test athletes for STDs.*



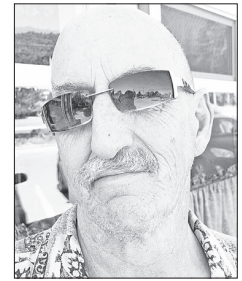
**JAN HILTON**  
*I haven't been watching because I don't own a television.*



**ROD BISCHOFF**  
*Probably the Canadian swimmers.*



**LISA BAYLISS**  
*Michael Phelps is always at the top of my list.*



**BRAD FREMONT**  
*I haven't really had time and haven't seen a thing about it.*

## 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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### Support the humps

Re: "Speed humps hit Beddis Road," Aug. 10 Driftwood.

When I read about Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks placing speed bumps on the private road running through their property I expected a storm of outrage from the very people that evidently could not obey the signs and slow down.

Alas, it is in the nature of many people now to treat a privilege as an entitlement, even when it has been abused.

By the way, emergency vehicles would normally take the quickest way to a call, which would not be along Beddis, even if the speed bumps were not there, so that objection is as

bogus as they get.

I am writing in support of Swanson and Laucks' action. Indeed, I think more speed bumps and other modes of traffic calming are needed on this island and, if I owned the street that goes past my house, Fulford-Ganges Road, I would have speed bumps installed this afternoon. I have seen vehicles travelling at an estimated 100 km/h go by: not just rushing to the ferry but also coming back, as if there were some terribly urgent matter to attend to in Ganges.

The worst offenders seem to be big pickups with diesel and 10-cylinder engines with 500-horsepower under the hood and an excess of testosterone behind the wheel. Most of them have B.C. licence plates. Maybe they are from Vancouver or

Victoria, though I doubt it.

Once I saw a motorcycle go by at over 130 km/h. It was what they call a "crotch rocket" or, at emergency rooms across Canada, an "organ donors' bike." This is along a road that is shared by pedestrians, horses, slow moving farm vehicles and people on bicycles. The driver of this motorcycle obviously has no ability to restrain these dangerous impulses, so we have to do it for him.

Anyway, I applaud Swanson/Laucks' actions and hope that the expected vigorous debate over this matter may lead the highways department to think about calming the roads and the RCMP to take up enforcing the speed limits.

One can hope.  
**GEORGE LERCHS,**  
SALT SPRING

### Beddis Road bumps and signs should be removed

*The following was sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and filed with the Driftwood for publication.*

Please be advised that I cannot support the installation of illegal and unauthorized speed bumps and signage at 900 Beddis Rd.

The B.C. Transportation Act, Section 42, states that if public money is spent on a travelled road that is not a highway, the travelled road is deemed and declared to be a highway (meaning public

road). Under Section 42, there is no way a person can install speed bumps or perform work within a road right of way without approval.

The inhabitants on Cusheon Lake Road, a smaller alternative feeder route to Lower Ganges Road, were turned down when they applied to install speed bumps. Now they are receiving additional unwanted traffic because of this situation. Obstructions to emergency vehicles cannot be tolerated. Saanich stopped installing speed bumps in quiet residential areas because it slowed down the fire trucks.

Many other properties have farm and garden property on both sides of Beddis and other Salt Spring roads and their

owners have not placed private signage and restrictive surfaces on those roads.

The actions of Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks slows down emergency vehicles during our peak tourist and fire hazard season. School buses will also be negatively affected next month. We demand that the Ministry of Transportation order the immediate removal of illegal signs and speed bumps.

More importantly, I don't believe Swanson and Laucks have the legal or moral authority to make those kind of changes to what is clearly a public road.

**BRENT HAMILTON,**  
WILDWOOD DRIVE

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## AGING with GRACE: Our golden years?

**"There's no hope for significant improvement," he said, "so I'm assigning your husband to long-term care." Completely unprepared, I had to ask, "What's long term care?"**

It was Aug. 9, 1999, just three weeks after Donald's stroke and I was meeting with a Victoria General Hospital stroke specialist. Perhaps stressed by a revolving door of stroke survivors, he didn't go beyond the basics. "It's a nursing home," he snapped. "I'm assigning your husband to the first bed that becomes available."

"Why can't he come back to Lady Minto Hospital?" I whimpered.

"Oh. Does Salt Spring have long-term beds?"

Back in my car I sobbed my heart out. Ten minutes later, I was heading for the ferry, vowing to find out about long-term care. It turned out Lady Minto had 31 extended care beds; its lone empty one was designated male. On Aug. 11, Donald was

occupying it.

His stroke had been massive, resulting in hemiplegia. In his case, that meant no feeling or movement on his right side. He was unable to talk, read or write. He needed to learn how to feed himself with his left hand and propel himself in a wheelchair using his left hand and foot. Over the next few months, I spent virtually all day, every day with him, helping with his care and rehabilitation. Over time, I learned more than I wanted to know about long-term care.

It's a subject we tend to avoid. We don't need it, so why bother? But long-term care can be only a heartbeat away, usually unexpected, always life-changing. On July 15, the day of his stroke, Donald's nephew was in Calgary visiting from England. We'd been planning to pick him up at the airport on July 17 and show off Victoria. Instead, he found his own way to the VGH intensive-care unit. There was no chance to visit; Donald would be in a coma for another week. On Sept. 1, we'd

planned to start a cross-country trip to Ontario to visit old friends. When I telephoned to cancel, Joe said, "These were supposed to be our golden years."

As Donald grew stronger, I took him on wheelchair outings. One day, we visited a friend recently assigned to Greenwoods. It was the first visit for both of us. As we went down a corridor toward the dining room, we passed by several open bedroom doors and couldn't help peeking. Each was personally furnished and had its own bathroom. At Lady Minto, he was in a four-bed room. He couldn't say a word, but I could tell he wanted to move to Greenwoods, but back then it couldn't accommodate non-ambulatory residents. So I acquired the necessary equipment and brought him home instead.

Donald died toward the end of 2000 and, since then, I've volunteered my time and talents at both Lady Minto and Greenwoods. I've also cared for my late partner Murray Anderson for seven years as his dementia

deepened, first at home and after he moved to Greenwoods. I've been a member of the caregiver support group at the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society since 1999.

Over that time, I've seen an enormous increase in the level of care required at both Lady Minto and Greenwoods but no change at all in the number of available beds. In 1999, Lady Minto provided 31 beds to residents who required what was then called "extended care." Today, the care provided the same number of residents is designated "complex." That's because most have a greater number and variety of medical and cognitive challenges than was true 17 years ago. In addition, 25 per cent of Lady Minto's acute care beds are now being used by residents who need long-term, complex care, sometimes resulting in beds in corridors for acute care patients.

In 1999, Greenwoods provided "intermediate" care to 51 residents, all ambulatory. Today, it offers complex care to 51 resi-

dents, 29 of whom currently need a wheelchair. Just last month, the Greenwoods Eldercare Society completed the installation of ceiling lifts in each room to ease the physical burdens on its staff in lifting residents out of bed. A ceiling lift in every room means that residents who now use walkers will not have to be moved to a different room as their challenges grow.

Why have our care needs increased so dramatically? That's easy! In 2002, Island Health estimated that we'd need 95 more long-term care beds by 2010. It's 2016 and they haven't added a single one. Instead, islanders needing care are staying home and their spouses are devoting their golden years to caring for them, often resulting in physical and emotional breakdowns of their own.

We need more beds right now. What can you do to help?

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF



HELEN HINCHLIFF

*Editor's note: The following two letter writers state that they were advised by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff that the area in dispute on Beddis Road is under ministry control. They state that is what they were told, even though it is contrary to what a ministry spokesperson told the Driftwood last week.*

## Not laughing

I am outraged at the latest shenanigans of the Laughing Apple outfit trying to commandeer our public road with offensive signs and speed bumps!

I have lived for 30 years at the bottom of Beddis Road alongside the beach at what is locally referred as "Windsor's Castle." Having an active garden and apple orchard on both sides of Lionel Crescent, we often traverse back and forth, over a small bridge, driving mowers, pick-up trucks and a golf cart. Beach traffic is considerable in season and there has never been a safety problem.

This is still a rural island and we are quite used to farm equipment

on the road. Contrary to what the Swanson/Laucks owners say, the Ministry of Transportation and Mainroad staff told me that these people do not own any part of Beddis Road, nor do they maintain it and finally, I have never seen any cross-road activity there at all. Period!

This is some kind of a hoax, folks. Let's put a stop to it now before someone suffers the consequences from impediment of our island emergency vehicles.

**SUSAN BLOOM,  
BEDDIS BEACH**

## Put safety first

As a neighbour of Laughing Apple Farm, whose owners I have never met but am assured they are community minded, I wish to add my two cents.

The idea that Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks own the road is not true, according to the Ministry of Transportation with whom I have been in contact. I am assured that the road is public and defacing it with signs and bumps is, in my mind, at best civil dis-

## MORE LETTERS

obedience and, at worst, something deeply dangerous to the safety of the neighbourhood.

The next time you visit Beddis Beach, please be aware that emergency services have been impacted by this selfish act! Minutes count and now there are more minutes to wait.

As a neighbour who travelled the road for many years to and from work, I can state unequivocally that I have never seen a farm vehicle on the road, by the road or maintaining the road. I know that our great road crew has done a remarkable job during the winter to keep this school bus route clean and safe! Thank you, Mainroad!

We do go by a very active farm at "the barn" on Beddis and it is always with great care we watch for the signage of the working farm or "please remember it's our backyard!"

These are all wonderful ways to remind us that we live here on a beautiful island with caring neighbours.

Let us hope that sanity prevails, safety is really put first and an expeditious removal of the bumps happens — I expect at taxpayers' expense!

**NANCY HAMILTON,  
WILDWOOD DRIVE**

## Unacceptable actions

I find it totally unacceptable that Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks of Laughing Apple Farm/The Laucks Foundation Research Station at 900 Beddis Rd. are trying to claim part of Beddis Road as a private road.

In our 25 years here, it has always been the highways contractor that has improved, plowed and sanded the road there. We have never seen any maintenance done by Swanson/Laucks.

They have, no doubt, been enjoying very low farm taxes while we pay high taxes that pay for keeping public roads like Beddis Road in good condition for the timely and safe deliverance of school buses, residents, tour-

ists to Beddis Beach and, most importantly, emergency services like fire, ambulances and RCMP.

**BEV BOLTON,  
MILES AVENUE**

## Response

I am writing in response to the "Honda totalled in St. Mary crash" article in the Aug. 10 edition of the Driftwood.

It seems, to me, rather excessive to have the fire chief and 11 firefighters at the scene. May I suggest that the fire department speak with some of the other emergency response organizations on the island and come up with a call-out plan that is adequate for each emergency? Presumably, the first person on scene can assess the gravity of the situation and alert the appropriate number of persons required to deal with it.

It may help the fire department to retrieve some of the respect that they have recently lost.

**ROG WEBBER,  
VESUVIUS**

## Farm owners' rationale

Last week we installed four speed bumps on the portion of Beddis Road that passes through our property. We would like to explain the three reasons why we have done this.

First, we farm on both sides of the road and often walk or bring equipment across the road. Several times we have been almost hit by cars travelling too fast along this section of road.

Second, many people bike and walk along our road to enjoy the rural feel of the trees and hedgerows. It's a narrow road and we fear for the safety of these people.

Third, we feel that secondary roads on Salt Spring Island should be slow roads so that all people can enjoy the natural beauty and peace and quiet of our island.

We have attempted to solve the problem of cars travelling too fast for several years by putting up speed limit signs and signs that warn people they are entering a working farm. These signs have had little effect. So we have taken this step as a last resort to slow the car traffic down.

We are able to do this because we pay taxes on the actual area of the road and this portion of Beddis Road was never given up to the Ministry of Transportation. Furthermore, we have maintained the road for the past 20 years and the first and only other previous owners created and maintained the road as well.

We think that many other secondary roads on the island could benefit from such a strategy (certainly Cusheon Lake road comes to mind). Some of these roads were originally walking paths created as shortcuts through private property.

Walking, biking and horseback riding should still be enjoyable and safe activities on our roads. We encourage community discussion and hope that people will petition the Ministry of Transportation and Islands Trust to help make our roads safe.

**BRIAN SWANSON AND MARY LAUCKS,  
LAUGHING APPLE FARM**

## Cusheon residents also concerned about speed

I read with interest the news article about the speed bumps on Beddis Road.

I applaud Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks' encouragement to have community discussion about the safety of our rural island roads.

Cusheon Lake residents have been concerned about safety on our road for decades. It seems we've reached the tipping point now. Traffic calming efforts do not seem to work and for a number of reasons the volume of traffic on the road has increased considerably: we sometimes have as many as 200 vehicles an hour. We need to work with the community and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to address this situation.

**DEBORAH NOSTDAL,  
CUSHEON LAKE ROAD**

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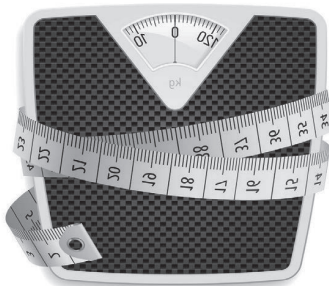
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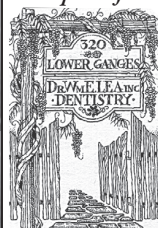
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# Island roads assessment report released

BY THE SSI INCORPORATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Late last year, supported by widespread feedback from the community, the Incorporation Study Committee determined that a thorough assessment of the condition of Salt Spring roads would be needed as part of the study. If the community elects to incorporate, financial responsibility for road maintenance and repair would transfer from the province, where it currently resides, to the municipality. Therefore, it is important for community members to understand the nature of the financial obligation it would be assuming.

The ISC approached the province and, earlier this year, received funding and an extended timeline to accommodate such a study. An engineering consulting firm, McElhanney Consulting Services, was selected in a competitive bid process to perform the study. The final report has just been released. The purpose of this article is to summarize the key results of the report.

Interested Salt Springers can access the full report online at [www.ssiincorporationstudy.com](http://www.ssiincorporationstudy.com) and, as well, two copies are available for reading on site at the Salt Spring Public Library.

The objectives of the road condition assessment were to 1) identify, classify and, using a visual comparative and qualitative assessment, analyze the conditions of all existing roads; 2) identify those roads in need of maintenance and repair, and then provide a list of road improvement priorities; and 3) estimate, over 15- and 30-year periods, the annual costs of road maintenance, road reconstruction and road rehabilitation. The report does not comment on how adequately existing road intersections meet existing user demands, on vehicular, bicycle and/or pedestrian safety, on geotechnical slope stability, or on new road construction requirements.

It is important to note that this report is not a plan for road rehabilitation. Should Salt Spring elect

## INCORPORATION STUDY CORNER

to remain with its present governance system, the province is not obligated to perform any or all of the repairs recommended. This would also hold true for a municipal council, should Salt Spring Island choose to incorporate.

Salt Spring has in total 272 kilometres of roads, four kilometres of which are classified as dirt roads, 59 kms as gravel roads, 41 kms as surface-treated with the remaining 169 kms having asphalt pavement. Of this 272 km total, MSC reported that nine per cent were in "very poor to poor" condition, six per cent in "poor to fair" condition, 13 per cent in "fair" condition, 44 per cent in "good" condition and 28 per cent in "very good" condition. Poor ditching and/or drainage, a condition that reduces overall service life, was noted in approximately 86 kms (32 per cent) of the roads.

Existing Salt Spring roads, including road shoulders, are also somewhat narrower than existing standards (the width required for any new construction) for all four classifications of roads found on the island. On average, local roads are 0.8 metres narrower, minor roads are 1.1 metres narrower, main roads are 1.9 metres narrower, and major roads are 1.4 metres narrower. MSC notes, however, that subsequent study might reveal the existing widths are in some cases still sufficient to meet current community needs.

The study also included an assessment of the quality of sidewalks (1,800 metres, with 70 m made of brick, 630 m of asphalt and 1,117 m of concrete) and curbs (3,000 metres). Twenty-three per cent of existing sidewalks were judged to be in "adequate" condition, 31 per cent in "good" con-

dition and 46 per cent in "excellent" condition. Six per cent of the existing curbing, in contrast, was graded as being in "failed" (unacceptable) condition, seven per cent in "poor" condition, 38 per cent as being "adequate," 47 per cent in "good" condition and two per cent in "excellent" shape.

MCS's preliminary results were graphically presented in an online "crowd sourcing" format and opened for community feedback. This generated 450 comments, though many of these responses addressed concerns (safety or geo-technical issues) that were outside the defined scope of the study. Comments more directly focused on the condition of roads were used to determine which road segments to review once more, as part of the firm's quality-control process. Fifteen segments of road were re-examined, and one change was made to MCS's assessment as a result.

**There is much more of value in the RCA report itself and residents will find it worthwhile, if somewhat technical, reading.**

According to the province, annual routine road maintenance costs for the last 10 years average out at about \$5,000 per kilometre, or \$1.4 million per year for the island's 272 kilometres. MCS recommends annual maintenance expenditures continue at this level.

In addition, a need over the next 15 to 30 years of \$33,000,000 in reconstruction and rehabilitation costs was identified. This works out to annual spending of \$2.2 million over the shorter period of 15 years and of half that amount, or \$1.1 million a year, over 30 years. The point was made that prompt repairs are preferable, as beyond

a certain point, roads decay at an increasing rate.

A road widening estimate of \$29,000,000, the amount needed to bring all of Salt Spring's current roads up to the existing standards for new roads, is also provided. However, further study, as was previously noted, may reveal that many of these "below standard" widths are still in fact sufficient to meet island needs.

Finally, attention is called to the estimated cost for 23 alignment and intersection improvements recommended in the last road condition assessment study conducted for Salt Spring, in 2000. These improvements were not re-examined as part of this study, but the estimated cost from the previous study was converted to present-day dollars, and listed as \$2.3 million.

There is much more of value in the RCA report itself and residents will find it worthwhile, if somewhat technical, reading. What will not be found in this report, however, is the impact on an average home owner's property tax bill of road-related expenditures at the two levels, capital spending over either 15 or 30 years, suggested in the report. These possible impacts will be addressed in the Incorporation Study Committee's final report, taking into account the road-related assistance the province is prepared to provide should a referendum be held and Salt Spring vote to incorporate. The ISC expects to learn the specifics of this offer of restructure assistance from the province by about mid-September.

The ISC will be holding a public event in late September to explain the results of the road condition assessment, give an overview the province's offer of assistance related to roads and provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions.

Once a date has been finalized for this event, it will be advertised in the local media and through the incorporation study website.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

### No need for fuss

I drove home along Beddis Road Saturday to see what the fuss was all about ("Speed humps hit Beddis Road" story).

Turns out the "Laughing Appleists" have — in the words of Paul McCartney — "taken a sad song and made it better."

Now instead of a series of tight narrow corners around which motor vehicles regularly exceed sane rates of speed, we have a bucolic, curving laneway along which walkers, cyclists, equestrians and motorists can happily co-exist. Moreover, highly visible signage on the roadside and atop the speed humps make it all so easy to navigate.

My advice to naysayers: honour Fortuna, "Let her undress your skin, then you'll begin to make it better, better, better."

JOHN ROWLANDSON, FULFORD

### Missed the bus

The Salt Spring Music and Garlic Festival was awesome!

But getting to and from this event with promised "bus" travel was a disaster and non-existent. Many people had to drive their own vehicles at their own peril.

WOLF LACHMUND, SALT SPRING

### Treasured event

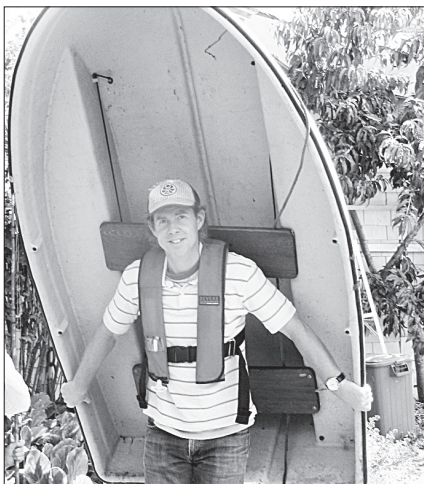
The 16th annual Treasure Fair was a roaring success.

After seven months of work and a three-day auction, we raised over \$50,000! Ninety-two volunteers worked hard to collect, register, renovate, refurbish, reupholster, display and work the live and silent auctions that consisted of 651 donated items donated by 223 loyal and generous individuals and businesses. Attendance was high at the three-day silent auction with people enjoying light refreshments and socializing with neighbours and friends in between bidding. The generous party atmosphere at the live auction indicates that a good time was had by all.

Thank you for helping us to maintain ArtSpring as a true community arts centre with world-class local and professional music, theatre and dance at rental and ticket prices that are among the lowest in British Columbia.

CHRISTIE ROOME, CHAIR, TREASURE FAIR 2016

## RANTS and Roses



### Rants

A boat-load of slimy seaweed to whoever stole our boat, which was tied up securely to the guard rail under the ramp at Fernwood wharf at 1 a.m. Saturday (too late to bring it up to our back yard) and when we went to get it at 10:30 a.m. it was gone. The oars were not in it and there was no wind. My family visiting from Ontario were enjoying it on their holiday, and other grandchildren and friends also enjoyed using it. What has happened to Salt Spring that nothing is safe now? This affects us all. The RCMP and Coast Guard have been notified, so whoever has this little boat, please return it. Just tie it up where you found it. I'll look for it there. Nancy Wigen

### Roses

One perfect rose to each of the ladies of Island Comfort Quilts, who hand-sewed a beautiful green quilt for me in my favourite colour; to Connie and Jill, who made the bag to keep it in. They are both so beautifully made. My thanks also goes to Elizabeth, who delivered it to my door and to the Salt Spring Singers, who contributed one of their CDs. I feel truly blessed to live on this amazing island. Last but not least, I owe thanks to the unknown friend who nominated me. Pat Gorman

Is there a rose varietal named "Good Neighbour?" We would like to give it to Geoff and Anne and to Nancy and Brent, who made us feel so welcome. The hanging flower baskets absolutely topped it all. Thank you! Danke! Ray and Inge

Photo of Peter Wigen with the dinghy that went missing from Fernwood Dock overnight Saturday.

Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority



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Conservation and Efficiency Working Group.

See website for details.



www.ssiwatersheds.ca

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

# Leadership camp gives girls lifelong tools for action

SWOVA explores summer programming

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A small group of island girls from different grades and backgrounds will return to class this fall with new tools to navigate the world thanks to a new program offered by SWOVA this summer.

One-time grant funding from the Lobstick Foundation, the Chris Spencer Foundation and Telus allowed the island non-profit organization to explore new opportunities, offering a girls' leadership camp after its regular school-based programs ended with the school year.

"What this camp was about was really exploring what it means to be a leader and how youth in a rural community can be involved and make a difference in their community as agents of social change," said SWOVA's executive director Kiran Dhingra.

Though the initial group topped out at eight participants plus facilitator Kate Nash and summer student Maja Nordine, the participants' enthusiastic response points both to a community need and to SWOVA's potential expansion



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

SWOVA girls leadership camp facilitator Kate Nash and summer student Maja Nordine after a successful first summer program.

into summer programming in the future.

SWOVA began as Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse Community Development and Research Society and has evolved to go by the motto "Empowering Youth for a Better Tomorrow." Education and men-

toring programs have been at the heart of the two linked goals, with facilitators sharing tools with island youth to help build empathy and self-confidence, accept difference and create healthy relationships of all sorts.

Mentorship programs like Pass it On, which

Nash facilitates during the school year, have a predetermined structure and guidelines.

"The leadership camp is what you want to make of it. We really designed it ourselves, in a sense," said Nordine.

The camp has attracted girls ranging from 13 to 19 years old from various social circles who meet at least once a week for regular sessions. They have also held potluck conversation evenings that everyone from the community is invited to join in. Nordine said that although it can be difficult to join activities that one's friends aren't part of, an important lesson of the program has been about learning who you are and trusting in that knowledge.

"We came in here basically as a group of strangers, but we are united in wanting to make things happen," Nordine said.

She added that one of the best parts of the camp has been just sitting in a circle talking.

"I love listening to everyone. It's so awesome... I'll just remember it's really powerful when girls get together."

As the facilitator of the weekly meetings, Nash has learned more about what local youth might need in terms of services or programs, and at the same time has watched the participants gain valuable skills to their transition into > adult-

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# BACK-TO-SCHOOL

od. Her role has been mainly to listen and courage, asking the girls involved what they want to do about the issues they've raised. "Some of the girls are younger, going into grade 8 and 9. They're gaining a lot of confidence and going into their formative years in high school knowing they can make change, they can advocate and they know how to talk to adults," Nash said.

Nordine noted that although many social and recreational programs are offered for the island's

senior residents, there isn't anything comparable for youth. A key issue that's come up during the talks is the lack of any place where youth can hang out together in a safe and positive way during the evening.

"It's not that youth just want to party, it's that there's no other option," Nordine said, adding that local teens need is somewhere to socialize until 9 or 10 at night.

"I think youth on this island are really screaming for a place to go and activities that aren't drug

and alcohol-related," Nash agreed.

Possibilities like arts and poetry nights have been suggested, but the problem so far is locating a space where this can happen. Dhingra said getting feedback from the leadership camp could be the first step in building the collaborations and community partnerships required to fill the gaps. In the meantime, the group has become something like a seedling youth advisory council.

"I think we'd like to build on the success of it and look for additional funding to run some-

thing next year," said Dhingra. "I think it was quite successful, and I think [empowering girls] really speaks to the core of what we do here at SWOVA."

Community members ages 13 and older (of all genders) are invited to attend the group's next potluck evening this Thursday, Aug. 18 at the SWOVA office. Participants can bring an item to share and a craft or art project to work on for a social evening and conversation about art running from 6 to 9 p.m. ■

## EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

# Transition year about to start

The B.C. Ministry of Education has been in the process of revising both curriculum and assessment methods for the past few years. The following information reprinted from the ministry's website explains changes that will be in effect as the new school year begins in September.

In 2015, the Ministry of Education announced that education system changes would occur.

Consultations about curriculum and assessment were held in 2011-12, and highlighted a need for changes to the existing graduation program. Province-wide graduation program consultations occurred in the fall of 2012. The ministry, in consultation with stakeholders, has been working on modernizing curriculum, assessment and the graduation program since that time.

To allow schools to adjust to the new curriculum and new provincial exams, only modest changes to the graduation credit requirements will be made for now. Further changes to the graduation program are currently being discussed with education partners and post-secondary institutions.

The changes to the provincial exam program are effective July 1, 2016, which is the legislated start to the school year.

## What This Means for Students

Students entering Grade 10 in the 2017-18 school year will be the first group where the new requirements apply entirely. Changes in curriculum, assessments and graduation requirements are being phased-in over the next few years.

The number of credits required to graduate remains the same.

New curriculum and provincial exams are the key differences between the previous (2004) Graduation Program and the new 2017 Graduation Program.

Curriculum being implemented with the 2017 Graduation Program has been redesigned. The new curriculum will help teachers create learning environments that are both engaging and personalized for students.

At the heart of B.C.'s redesigned curriculum are core competencies, essential learning and literacy and math skills foundations. Along with this, the current secondary school provincial exams are being discontinued, to be replaced with two new exams, which focus on literacy and math skills.

There is overlap between the previous graduation program and the new one. There will also be a transition period to account for current students who are progressing under a number of different scenarios. The amount of overlap will depend on how many current courses and exams a student

has completed and written before June 2017.

Some students on the 2004 grad years program may not have to write certain provincial exams. Courses from the 2004 program will fully count towards the 2017 program.

## Provincial Exam Transition Year

For students entering Grades 10-12 in the 2016/2017 school year:

### GRADE 10 STUDENTS WILL:

- Follow most of the current Graduation Program requirements
- Take a Math 10, a Language Arts 10 and Science 10, with classroom assessments instead of provincial exams
- Meet Social Studies graduation requirements with classroom assessments
- Write a provincial math skills exam and a provincial literacy exam before graduation

### GRADE 11 STUDENTS WILL:

- Have completed a Math 10, a Language Arts 10 and Science 10 or equivalent and written the provincial exams
- Meet Social Studies graduation requirements with classroom assessments instead of a provincial exam
- Write a provincial literacy exam before graduation
- Not write the new provincial math skills exam

### GRADE 12 STUDENTS WILL:

- Finish all the current Graduation Program requirements
- Have completed a Math 10, a Language Arts 10, Science 10 and Social Studies 11 (or equivalent) and have written provincial exams
- Take Language Arts 12 (or equivalent) and write the associated provincial exam
- Not write the new provincial literacy or provincial math skills exams
- Students who have completed courses associated with discontinued exams by June 30, 2016 will have until June 2017 to write or re-write exams
- Students taking summer school during July and August 2016 will not be required to write provincial exams in Math 10, Language Arts 10, Science 10 and Social Studies 11 (or equivalent)
- Français langue première 10, Français langue première 12 and Français langue seconde immersion 12 provincial exam changes will be the same as their equivalents above

READ MORE AT: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info#grad-table>

# arts&entertainment



## DANCE

# Arts and culture groups unite for dance-rich month

Dance Talk with Shay Kuebler on Aug. 22

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island is like a pot bubbling over with creativity this month, with four professional dance companies from Vancouver cooking up new works during residencies at ArtSpring.

In addition to offering workshops and "Rough Cut" viewings of works in progress while they're here, the leaders of three of the four companies will be participating in the Dance Talks series facilitated by Kristen Lewis. Held at the Salt Spring Public Library and funded by the Salt Spring Arts Council, the partnership will allow participants to explore how dance relates to other art forms and how it might be relevant outside the art world.

Lewis said she was interested in bringing dance away from the performance space and into the commons as a way to open dialogue in an accessible way. Having the talks at the library serves that idea, while getting the arts council involved has helped expand the discussion.

"I'm interested in how concerns in dance converge with concerns in the visual arts, and I wanted to create dialogue across art forms," Lewis said. "And I'm asking dancers about the role dance can play in addressing the most pressing concerns of contemporary life."

In essence, the professional

dancers/choreographers will be there to discuss why dance matters. The first talk, with Tiffany Tregarthen of Out Innerspace Dance Theatre, took place on Aug. 7 and included a focus on the two-way relationship between dance and the wider world.

"I think that really helps the person who doesn't know dance very much to realize it's what all art is about: echoing the world around us," said Anna Haltrecht, who is ArtSpring's community dance ambassador.

Upcoming dance talks are with Shay Kuebler of Radical System Art on Monday, Aug. 22 and Jennifer Mascall of Mascall Dance on Monday, Aug. 29.

Salt Spring Arts Council administrator Yael Wand said she was immediately excited when Lewis suggested the concept. The council exists to promote all art forms, and while it has worked with Lewis to offer some dance workshops over the past year, that side of the arts has lately been neglected.

"Here's someone who's passionate about something and has something she wanted to create, and we can facilitate that," Wand said about the council's enthusiastic buy-in.

"It's also interesting to ask what any art form says to non-artists," she added, noting SSAC artist talks tend to attract other artists and their friends. This prompts the question: "How do we bring other people in and open up the conversation?"



PHOTO BY ANNA HALTRECHT

Salt Spring's Kristen Lewis, left, and Tiffany Tregarthen of Out Innerspace Dance Theatre discuss contemporary dance and culture during a Dance Talks session at the Salt Spring Public Library on Aug. 7.

"So hopefully this is a starting point for all that," she said.

Haltrecht observed the combination of events taking place this month is the perfect chance for islanders to learn more about dance in general and what individual companies are exploring over time. She said one of the great things about the participating choreographers is they are all very comfortable thinking and talking about their work.

If so inclined, a person could

discuss dance and its wider cultural context at one of the talks, engage bodily in a workshop, and then see how dance companies are expanding their ideas in the previews of their work in progress.

Later on, there's a good chance audiences can see the polished piece that comes out of each residency when groups return for ArtSpring's regular performance schedule.

"It's just so rich, and one

[event] really feeds the next," Haltrecht said. "And the audience is that much more informed about what they're going to see."

"Any performer is having a conversation with the audience, even if it's not direct," Wand added. "But I think this allows for a more educated or informed audience."

While Lewis agrees that not everyone has studied the language of dance, she has a very democratic view of the audience's ability to respond. During the dance talk events she wants attending members of the public to feel like equals, whose knowledge and perspective is just as valuable as the professional dancers they will be hearing from.

"I feel that everyone can trust they can critically engage, and they can ask for dance to be articulate, and ask for it to connect with the greatest concerns of our lives," Lewis said. "That's why I like the idea of dance being articulate and, being articulate, accessible."

Talks take place from 5 to 6 p.m. at the library program room.

Also coming up, Tara Cheyenne will give a Character Creation workshop at ArtSpring on Aug. 19 and share a preview of new work on Aug. 20 at noon.

See the ArtSpring website for Kuebler and Mascall's workshops and Rough Cut performance times later in August and September.

## ART SHOW

# Pacific iridescence shines in photography

August exhibit in the library program room

The pages of a book by two local authors/photographers come to life on the walls of the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room this month.

The Iridescent Silence of Pacific Shores was released by co-authors Susan Gordon and Doug Wahlsten last year as both

an environmental statement and a photographic record of the waters around the island and other Gulf Islands landmarks.

Gordon, also a painter, decided to take a break from writing this year and produce new works for a show that combines common elements between her new acrylic pieces and prints from the photo book. She is also the co-author of The Compassionate Equestrian, which took

over three years to complete. One of the paintings she produced during that time was shown at the SOPA Fine Art Gallery's emerging artists event in Kelowna in 2014.

Wahlsten was the inspiring mentor who decided to turn the photos into large-format, highly detailed prints based on scientifically calculated formulas that ensure a high-quality, sharp and richly coloured image.

Featured in the Iridescent: Above and Below show is A Million Sparkles. At 4' X 6' it is a fascinating, close-up look at a thin layer of water, flecked with golden reflections of sunlight as it rolls over the rocks at Arbutus Point.

The show runs until Aug. 30 during regular library opening hours, providing there are no closed events taking place in the room.

## IMPERSONATION

# Decades of female stars visit Legion lounge stage

Divas extravaganza showcased

Las Vegas comes to Salt Spring next Friday, Aug. 26 when Bonnie Kilroe brings her Divas - Vegas meets Vaudeville show to the island.

Described as "an engaging and hilarious two-hour musical comedy celebrity imper-

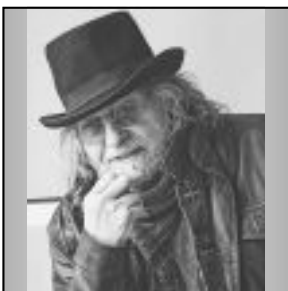
sonation show," Divas features "22 costume changes, gimmicks galore and impersonations loaded with laughs."

Kilroe brings 14 female performers to life, ranging from "classics like Marilyn Monroe and Mae West to everlasting living legends like Cher and Tina Turner . . . and of course

the very current Lady Gaga. All will own the stage in full costume where Kilroe will look, act and sing like your favourites," states press material.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

She performed her Patsy Cline show to a full Legion house earlier in the year.



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## EXHIBITIONS

# Salt Spring Gallery celebrates seventh anniversary

Cooperative space maintains downtown presence

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

On an island full of artists and places to show their work, one space made history this weekend after successfully running a cooperative venture in downtown Ganges for seven years.

Coming this far is definitely reason to celebrate, especially because of the challenges of the unique set-up that turns artists into business people and salesmen.

"The gallery is differently modelled than basically all the other galleries in town," said current co-op president Lloyd Nicholson. "Number one is somehow we've managed to run the gallery all together, which is amazing.

"Most of us have made really substantial sacrifices to make sure the gallery stays open most of the year, but it's like a family," he continued.

"The easiest part for an artist is the creativity part," said Rachel Vadeboncoeur, noting co-op members are responsible for taking shifts at the gallery and therefore have to sell their own work and that of the other members.

Working together creates a sense of group mission.

"We support each other, and we all take decisions together," Vadeboncoeur said.

Several changes have taken place at Salt Spring Gallery over the years, including a whittling down of its name to the current sleek model, its eye-catching exterior wall colour and numerous renovations inside that have improved display space and created the current bright and cheery spot that exists today.

**"Some people have left, some have taken a sabbatical and come back."**

LLOYD NICHOLSON  
SS Gallery co-op member

Along with those changes, a number of local artists on the roster have come and gone after putting in a few years. Some are quite long-lived, however, and many started off with guest exhibitions in the back gallery. Nicholson is one who made the transition, as is Vadeboncoeur. She has now been there almost since the beginning and is responsible for curating and hanging shows, as well as producing her own fused glass work. Beaded jewellery artists Leslie DeAthe and Carol Newmeyer are also among the first generation.

Sheila Hoen, who is one of the gallery's founders, is still very much involved, while Bob Rogers is back after taking a couple of years off to recover from

serious health issues. Heidi Van Impe moved from guesting to becoming one of the cooperative's most longstanding members and active proponents. Ilse Leader has been on board for several years, adding unique fibre art wall pieces and original knitted fashions.

"Some people have left, some have taken a sabbatical and come back. And I think more will come back too," Nicholson said.

Meanwhile, four new artists have recently joined the cooperative. The seventh anniversary show, which opened on Friday, is a great way to catch up on what the gallery stalwarts have been up to and get introduced to the new members, who include Rosemary Partridge and Naomi Grindlay. The former is multi-talented, working in water-colour, metalwork and soapstone sculpture, all inspired by the natural world. She is familiar to many from her earlier days at J. Mitchell Gallery and Gallery 8. Grindlay is newer to the island art scene but has an "old masters" classic approach to her oil painting landscapes, still lifes and portraits.

The cooperative is expecting a busy fall with back-to-back shows, starting with a joint show by gallery newcomers Lisa Lipsett and Kuno Egger that opens on Aug. 26. There are even some guest exhibitions in the rear gallery already booked for next year.

The anniversary show runs until Aug. 24.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Rosemary Partridge, whose work is seen above, is one of four new artists to join Salt Spring Gallery's cooperative space this year.

## RECITAL

## Popular music soars at tea recital

Summer series continues at All Saints

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Those who are following the performance schedule of the new musical series Tea à Tempo will be disappointed to learn that the popular women's chorus Women of Note had to cancel its scheduled Aug. 24 recital.

Fortunately, however, in its place has stepped the ensemble's current leader, the charming songstress Patricia Flannagan, who has delighted Music and Munch audiences with solo recitals each year since 2011.

For next Wednesday's concert, Flannagan has chosen a medley of classic songs from the '60s and '70s, songs made universal from such artists as Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Dylan and Robbie Robertson. She will include songs such as Put Your Hand in the Hand, Farewell Angelina, Blowin' in the Wind and Silver Dagger, popular music that has stood the tests of time, singable songs that are fixed in our hearts and minds, some of which will be put out there by Flannagan for all to join in.

From the age of four, Flannagan received training as a classical pianist. Vocal training came much more informally from being exposed early

on to the pure joy of singing by her musical parents, be it around the house, from the back seat of the car on long road trips or just by being encouraged to join choirs, school or community, or school productions or "whenever asked."

Now here on Salt Spring, Flannagan has long sung in the soprano section of local choir Women of Note and Salt Spring Chamber Choir as well as taking solo parts and, again, "whenever asked."

Flannagan's recital at Tea à Tempo next Wednesday, Aug. 24 begins at 2:10 p.m., ending about 3 p.m., after which all present are invited to repair into the hall for libations of tea, coffee and juice and treats.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

## Photosynthesis show incorporates words

Opening event next Wednesday evening

The 2016 edition of the Photosynthesis exhibit opens next week with a slightly different focus from past years.

The Photosynthesis group has exhibited annually at ArtSpring since 2001 and this has become an exciting not-to-be-missed island tradition.

This year's exhibit represents

a slight departure from past ones in that it will be a thematic show entitled Between Word and Image.

Participating photographers will present new work, chosen to accompany a piece of writing of their choice. The intent is to go beyond the simple viewing of the image and to instead create a symbiosis that engages and challenges the viewer.

The show includes works

by 19 of the permanent members as well as 3 guest photographers and a few students from the High Schools' photography programme. Showing works that have not been previously displayed ensures that the show will be fresh, vibrant and exciting.

The opening reception is on Wednesday, Aug. 24 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring. The show will run until Sept. 6 with at least one member in attendance at

all times to meet visitors and discuss the group's creations. The exhibit can be viewed daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Founded in 1994, Photosynthesis' membership has fluctuated over the years but is comprised of approximately 20 photographers chosen for the quality of their work and invited to join as permanent members as space allows.

For more information, see www.photosyn.ca.



*Portals*

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# what's on this week



## Wed. Aug 17

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Tea à Tempo: Wesley Hardisty.** The third performance in the new Wednesday afternoon concert series Tea à Tempo features fiddler extraordinaire Wesley Hardisty. All Saints By-the-Sea. Music beginning at 2:10 p.m., ending at about 3 p.m., and followed by tea or coffee and treats.  
**Country Honk.** Live band every Wednesday at The Local pub. 5 p.m.  
**Jen Lane and John Antoniuik.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Shut Up and Write.** Meet up with others in the library and write. Co-hosted by author Jane Eaton Hamilton and the Salt Spring Public Library. This is a fragrance-free event. 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Community Wellness Clinic.** Clinic hosted by multiple practitioners from the diverse integrative health team at Salt Spring Island Wellness Centre. 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
**Poker.** Hosted by Albert and Rebekah every Wednesday at the Legion lounge at 7 p.m.  
**SongJam.** A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

## Thur. Aug 18

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Richard Cross.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Open Mic With Dave & Ross.** Every Thursday at Moby's Pub beginning at 8 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Open Community Forum on Energy and the Environment.** MLA Gary Holman and George Heyman, the Opposition Spokesperson for Environment, Green Economy and Technology, host a discussion of the Site C dam issue and the NDP's alternative plan for B.C. power production. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 2:30 p.m.  
**SWOVA Potluck Night.** SWOVA's girls leadership camp hosts potluck evening and conversation about art. Bring a food item to share and art or craft project to work on. Everyone welcome. SWOVA office. 6 to 9 p.m.

**S.W.O.V.A**  
**Tackling Drought.** Event featuring desserts, an opportunity to visit exhibits on rainwater collection, and a panel discussion on potential new sources of water. Community Gospel Chapel. 7 p.m.



## Fri. Aug 19

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Friday WineDown.** Enjoy live music at Salt Spring Vineyards every Friday during the summer from 4 to 6 p.m. Today's scheduled performers are Black Wine.  
**Doug & Thugs.** Local musicians at The Local at 5 p.m.  
**Sean Ashbey.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Amy Helm and the Handsome Strangers at Pitchfork Social.** SOLD OUT. Bullock Lake Farm. Music at 7:30 p.m. Optional dinner with Haan Palcu Chang starts at 5:45.  
**Swamp Donkey.** Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Stay & Play Drop-In.** A parent-child drop-in program for families with children ages birth to 6 years. Come for a snack and play time, connect with other families and access information about community resources and referrals. Family Place. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Tara Cheyenne Dance Workshop.** Dance workshop focusing on character creation. ArtSpring. 5 to 7 p.m.



## Sat. Aug 20

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Roman Building Inspector Skit Performances.** A Salt Spring Hysterical favorite, starring Pecunious Palacious and Dickus Stubbious. Follow the lovely ladies at the Saturday Market to the theatre al fresco in Centennial Park. 11 a.m.  
**The Barley Bros.** Live at The Local pub every Saturday at 3 p.m.  
**The Barley Brothers.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Synergy.** Live at the Legion. 7:15 p.m.  
**Soul Shakedown.** Live soul and rock at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Saturday Market in the Park.** Famous market in Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Xwaaqw'um Welcome Pole Unveiling Ceremony.** Welcome pole unveiling, stories and speakers at Burgoyne Bay (Xwaaqw'um) starting at 10 a.m., followed by food and then a naming ceremony in the early afternoon.  
**Market in the Meadow.** Antiques, makers, artisans and more every Saturday in the United Church Meadow. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Tara Cheyenne Rough Cut.** Preview of new work in process during ArtSpring residency. ArtSpring. 12 noon.  
**Shut Up and Write.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Sun. Aug 21

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Music in the Vines.** Enjoy live music at Salt Spring Vineyards every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. during the summer. Today's scheduled performers are Synergy.  
**Vespers for Mary.** Featuring All Saints music director David Storm and vocalist Rasma Bertz. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4 p.m.  
**Auntie Kate, Brent Shindell and Dave Roland.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Shut Up and Write.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Mon. Aug 22

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Shay Kuebler Dance Talk.** Discussion between visiting artist Shay Kuebler and local dance artist Kristen Lewis on the relevance of dance and other subjects. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 5 to 6 p.m.

## Tue. Aug 23

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Every Tuesday in Centennial Park from 2 to 6 p.m.

## Tue. Aug 23

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Ness Murby Burger and Beer Fundraiser.** Wish Paralympic athlete Ness Murby well and contribute to her ongoing athletic mission at a special burger and beer fundraiser at Moby's Pub. 6 to 9 p.m.

## Wed. Aug 24

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Tea a Tempo: Patricia Flannagan.** Women of Note choir leader sings a medley of classic songs from the '60s and '70s. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea, coffee and treats.  
**Nickey MacKenzie and Friends.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

## Wed. Aug 24

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Shay Kuebler Dance Workshop.** Workshop offered during ArtSpring residency. ArtSpring. 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Photosynthesis 2016 Exhibit Opening Reception.** Opening event for Between Word and Image, the 16th-annual Photosynthesis exhibition at ArtSpring. 5 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Shut Up and Write.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Community Wellness Clinic.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Poker.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**SongJam.** See last Wednesday's listing.

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**Joan Haggerty Book Launch for The Dancehall Years**

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**CINEMA**

- The Secret Life of Pets** — Held over! A comedy about the lives our pets lead after we leave for work or school each day. Fast-paced and funny. A beautifully animated, cheerful family-friendly diversion.
- Florence Foster Jenkins** — A wealthy New York heiress (Meryl Streep) attempts to become an opera singer despite her horrible singing voice.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Photosynthesis's 2016** exhibit titled Between Word and Image opens at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Aug. 24 with a reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and continues daily through Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nicola Wheston** presents **Tools**, small works in oil on wood, at **KiZmit Galeria and Cafe** through August.
- The Salt Spring Gallery** celebrates 7 years in business with a **Lucky No. 7** exhibition running until Aug. 24. Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- A new collection of **Tourist Totem Poles**, 1840 to present, together with north coast artifacts are on exhibit at **Pegasus Gallery** daily until Aug. 20.
- Drawn from Life at The Point Gallery** consists of two exhibits: 1980s Driftwood cartoons by **Jim Dickinson** in the upper gallery, and 101 drawings by 14 artists of figures and faces in the lower gallery. The gallery is open Thursdays through Mondays, 1 to 5 p.m., or by appointment/Show runs until Aug. 21. Call 250-653-0089, or [pointgallery@telus.net](mailto:pointgallery@telus.net). Also, **Anna Gustafson's** Snow Fence is open any time, any day until dark.

- Pandillion**, an exhibition of sculpture by **Michael Robb**, is at **Duthie Gallery** through August. The **Summer Lights** show in the illuminated sculpture park runs from dusk to midnight nightly until the end of the month.
- Jeanne Lyons'** art show, **Portals**, is on exhibit in the **ArtSpring** lobby until Aug. 31.
- Life.Forms** is the Showcase exhibit at **ArtCraft**, featuring paintings by **Chintan Bolliger** and basketry by **Donna Cochran**. Show runs daily through Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in **Mahon Hall**.
- ArtCraft**, the show and sale of work by 100 Gulf Islands artisans, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Mahon Hall**. See also the **LandArt** installations by **Diana Lynn Thompson**, **Laura Keil** and **Melanie Thompson** outside the hall.
- Susan Gordon** and **Doug Wahlsten** show **Iridescent: Above and Below** at the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** during August.
- Margaret Benmore** and **Maggie Argiro** reprise their **Windows, Doors, Passageways and Stairs** exhibit in the **Harbour House Hotel** lobby through August.
- Carol Adam** has artwork hanging in the **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe**.

**This Week's Horoscope** by Michael O'Connor  
[www.sunstarastrology.com](http://www.sunstarastrology.com) sunstarastrology@gmail.com  
 1.250.352.2936 PAGE 19

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 Salt Spring Island's calendar of events, food events, festivals, shows, night life, community events.  
 Thu, Feb 25 Women's Writing Month ...  
 Thu, Feb 25 Youth Book Day ...  
 Thu, Feb 25 MCMAD Dance Project ...

Event Calendar - Salt Spring Tourism  
[www.saltspingtourism.com/event-calendar/](http://www.saltspingtourism.com/event-calendar/)  
 Salt Spring Island, BC (V80) Canada - A day-by-day calendar of events. Next Feb 28 & Sat Feb 27, 7:30 pm (Sat 8:30) - Performance at Edward Thom Feb 26, 5:00 pm ...

Events | ArtSpring  
 Introducing our new calendar!  
 Salt Spring Island, BC (V80) Canada - A day-by-day calendar of events. Next Feb 28 & Sat Feb 27, 7:30 pm (Sat 8:30) - Performance at Edward Thom Feb 26, 5:00 pm ...

ArtSpring - Salt Spring's Centre for the Arts  
 The performing arts centre hosts concerts, theatre and exhibitions, includes a calendar of events and related information.

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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@driftwoodgimedi.com



**TRIBUTE**

## Remembering the tales and kindness of Henry Otto

Bird lover and friend fondly recalled

**BY ROGER BRUNT**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A great longing wells up in me as I think of all the friends I have lost.

For the past 15 years or so, our table at the Salt Spring Seniors lunch every Thursday hosted six men. Now Henry Otto is dead. So is Jack Hallam and Frank Cullis. The remaining chair has been filled and re-filled, again and again. Only Art Falardeau and I are left of the original six.

Henry was my best friend. He died on Oct. 24, 2015. I didn't write a tribute to him then because these things cannot be crafted as if with hammer and nail. They ooze from the pores — the very stuff of life — based upon memories and reminiscences and feelings.

Fifteen years ago, I passed through the eye of a needle, in and out of hospital for months on end. I am hardly unique in this, but Henry took me under his wing, literally and figuratively. Many evenings we would sit in his aviary in the loft above his barn while his 50-or-so canaries went about their business of nest-building and caring for their young, and competing with each other with trills and riffs of canary-song that would break your heart.

Henry had one dove whose mournful call seemed to toll like a bell for all things lost, while a pair of button quail scooted here and there as we sat. It was a peaceful place to rest while the pain of my life gradually seeped away. We often didn't have to talk too much; just being together was enough. Thank you, my old friend, for that.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Henry Otto with one of his chickens in 2011. Otto died last fall.

Henry was already old when I met him. He died at 89. But in his heart he was still a boy, excited by all things in nature. He loved his birds and his dogs and his daughters Katharina and Elizabeth (who he raised by himself after his wife passed away) and his granddaughter Lucia.

**In his heart he was still a boy, excited by all things in nature.**

Henry introduced me to the drama of life on his Kangro Road farm. There was the time Commander Little, a feisty banty rooster,

took over the flock in a flurry of spurs and feathers from the old red rooster, who had been boss on the farm for years.

Just like a person, the old Red Rooster became so depressed he would creep around the yard like a geriatric. Even the soft solicitations of all of his previous lovers no longer perked his interest.

"When you're beat, you're beat," his whole demeanor seemed to say. Oh, Henry. You would hand out small Oh Henry chocolate bars whenever you introduced yourself. It became your trademark.

"How's it going, Henry?" I would ask and you would say, "It could be worse," leaning heavily on your cane. Henry, for the last year of your life it was hard to imagine how it could be worse, it was one thing

after another. But you handled it. You were never beat.

Before Henry came to Salt Spring, he had been a dairy farmer in Ontario after coming from Germany to take over the farm when a family member passed away suddenly.

Henry told me a favourite story about those early days in Canada, his new home. Henry was new to the dairy business, as green as the grass in his cow pastures, so he enlisted the help of his neighbor when his chore list registered "pinching calves." This was the process of rendering the male calves in the herd sexless. After this job was complete, Henry invited his neighbour in for coffee. When Henry pulled the electric plug of his kettle out of the wall socket, there

was a great shower of sparks and his neighbour said it looked like Henry needed a new receptacle.

Henry had to go to town anyway, for feed, so he added "One Receptacle" to his shopping list and, still fresh with the memory of pinching calves, he recited to himself (in his very poor newly acquired English) as he drove into town: "Receptacle, Testicle. Receptacle, Testicle."

When Henry got to the hardware store he told the sales girl at the counter, "My neighbour tells me I need a new testicle." She blushed, and the store manager straightened out the matter.

Oh, Henry, how I miss you, and I hope that wherever you are now, you are well and happy with all the birds and animals that you loved so well.

**FAITH**

## Readings and music celebrate Mary

All welcome to All Saints

Vespers for Mary will be celebrated at All Saints this Sunday, Aug. 21.

The service, which begins at 4 p.m., will celebrate the feast of Mary, mother of Jesus, traditionally observed on Aug. 15.

It will feature music director David Storm and Rasma Bertz. She will provide music from her own diverse and eclectic repertoire honouring one of the most influential women in history.

"Mary is revered in both Christianity and Islam," states an Anglican Parish press

release. "She is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an. A simple format of readings from scripture, instrumental and vocal music, congregational song, silence and prayer make this service gentle and contemplative."

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

**BOOK LAUNCH**

## Author shares Bowen Island-inspired novel

Library event next week

British Columbian writer Joan Haggerty will launch the novel she worked on for 20 years with an event hosted by Mother Tongue Publishing at the library on Thursday, Aug.

25 at 7:30 p.m.

The Dancehall Years begins one summer on Bowen Island during the Depression and moves through Pearl Harbour and the evacuation of the Japanese into the 1970s.

Gwen Killam is a child whose idyllic summers are obliterated by

the outbreak of war. Her swimming teacher, Takumi Yoshito, disappears along with his parents.

The Bowen Island dancehall, well-known during the war as a moonlight cruise destination, becomes an emotional landmark for time passing and remembered.

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PHOTO BY SEAN HOGAN

**FURRY FRIENDS:** Mahjor Bains holds adoptable sibling kittens Etta and James at the Salt Spring BC SPCA's Just for Cats Video Festival held last Monday at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. Film showings were preceded by a "kitty social hour," where people could get to know some of the felines available for adoption and help the BC SPCA fundraiser for cats across Canada. It was the second annual video festival for the local group. Next up on the fundraising roster for the local branch is the Paws for a Cause event on Oct. 2.

# DUPLICATE BRIDGE Richardson event set for Monday

Bridge group remembers past director Isabelle

## BRIDGETRICKS

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Well, Aug. 1 was the B.C. Day holiday, and there were a few taking time off from bridge, resulting in only five full tables. There was a tie for first place, with Ted Baldwinson and Catherine Gardiner getting the identical score as George Laundry and Jeff Bell. Second place went to Liz and Oleh Mycyk (really pronounced "Mitzik," if you were wondering) and third were Al Wilde and Nadene McCoy. Vic Parks and Stuart Farson nabbed the fourth spot.

Meanwhile it was agreed by one and all that Aug. 22's game would be a bit of a party in memory of the late, very much beloved Isabelle Richardson, who served as a director par excellence with her gentle humour and impeccable knowledge for many years, as well as being a kindly but fierce competitor partnered with Jean Elder. So plan to be there even if you didn't know her!

Then came Aug. 8, a chilly Augustoberish evening, warmed up by the arrival of seven full

tables and a Mitchell movement with North-South and East-West winners. It was the guys who were hot stuff N-S, with Al Wilke and John Jefferson coming first, George Laundry and Jeff Bell in second place, and Terry Clement with Ron Hall in third.

E-W was more equitable in more than one way — there were ties for both first and second place, with male-female partnerships sharing in the glory. First were Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette, tied with Zelly Taylor and Ian Thomas. The second place tie was shared by Flo Laundry with Lynn Thorburn and Blanche Poborsa with Terry Wilkinson. Third place all alone went to the Baldwinson-Gardiner pair.

We should also sadly note the passing of a former participant, the much admired singing teacher and bridge addict Patricia MacFarlane, who left this earth on Sunday, Aug. 14 after a long illness. She used to partner the late Ima Krayenhoff and often quoted that "Bridge is a gambling game" and "One no trump is good bridge," all worth remembering.

## COMMENTARY

# Mayne Island knows how to throw a party

Just off the left coast of this country, between Vancouver the city and Vancouver the island, lies a sprinkling of Edenic atolls known as the Gulf Islands. Nestled deep in the cleavage of this leafy/rocky archipelago you'll find Mayne Island. Not big, as Gulf Islands go — maybe 20 square kilometres. It's home to about a thousand people. Usually. On July 13, Mayne experienced a one-day population bump of 167.

They were recently arrived Syrian refugees who are currently finding homes in the nearby city of Victoria. Mayne Islanders had invited them all to a party. A party just for them.

It was a sight. Gaggles of goggle-eyed kids, dark-complected men and — Stephen Harper if you're reading this, stop now — dozens of women in robes and headscarves. Halal hamburgers on the grill, mounds of salads and bottomless cups of ice cream, studded with Mayne Island cherries. It was all "on the house" along with kids' games, music and yoga sessions. There was even a men's drum circle.

I don't know if "potluck" translates into Arabic, but the visitors got the idea quickly enough — sussed it out that these preternaturally friendly islanders had opened their kitchens



Arthur Black

## WIT & WHIMSY

and their hearts to a group of strangers uprooted from the other side of the world. "Other side" in every sense of those words. These people came from places like Aleppo, Damascus and Homs. War-torn hell-holes of bombed-out buildings, shell-holed streets and burned-up husks of vehicles rusting in the sun.

They had left a land where their ears were assaulted daily by the screams of jet fighters, the ratcheting of machine guns and the whump of heavy artillery. Now they were on a Canadian island, where the loudest noise came from squabbling geese, the avuncular chirps of territorial robins and the delighted squeals of their own children leavened by the plangent moan or a BC Ferries whistle. An oasis of utter tranquillity; not a tank or a rifle of even an army uniform to be seen.

But how meaningful could such a party be? After all, these Syrians spoke little or no English and you can prob-

ably hazard a guess as to how many Mayne Islanders are fluent in Arabic.

Didn't matter. Communication was occurring on other planes. People sang and danced. At an open-mic session some men got up and sang songs from their homeland, something they'd been terrified to do in Syria for years.

Who paid for all this? Mayne Islanders — mainly. The Syrian Refugee Support Group got together with the Lions Club, volunteers cooked up the food, BC Ferries picked up the tab for getting the Syrians — correction — the Syrian-Canadians, from Victoria to Mayne and back. But Mayne Islanders made it all happen.

With payoffs a-plenty. Party-goers kicked in \$13,000 toward a fund to pay for ESL lessons for the group. A teenager offered, in halting English, to help pick up garbage after the event.

And then there was the 10-year-old Syrian girl who impulsively grabbed a microphone and shouted "Come closer" to the crowd.

Then she sang O Canada. English was new to her, so she didn't get the words pitch-perfect. And she threw in a three-word cadenza. "I love Canada," she said.

Oh my. Wasn't that a party?

MUSICIANS

# Still Creek Crows go international

Lisa Sigurgeirson  
Maxx returns to  
Iceland

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring singer-songwriter Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx will enjoy a unique homecoming this summer at the same time that she and partner Michael Darragh make their international debut as the Still Creek Crows.

The romantic and musical roots/alt-folk duo made a strong impression at the 97th annual convention of the Icelandic National League of North America, which was held at the River Rock Convention Centre in Richmond in May. That led to a booking at the upcoming Icelandic National League convention in Reykjavik on Aug. 28.

While in Iceland, the Still Creek Crows will also play at an international songwriters' festival and at Bláberjadagur, the international blueberry festival in Suðavík, West Fjords, giving Maxx the opportunity to visit her great-grandmother's birthplace.

"I've always felt that my past and our music could go places, and now it's going to Iceland," Maxx said.

While Maxx is a well-known voice on Salt Spring and beyond, this year's performances and a Still Creek Crows album in the works represent a new era, both for herself and for Darragh. For the past seven years Maxx's performance schedule has been severely reduced. It started with the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Still Creeks Crows duo Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx and Michael Darragh will perform in Iceland later this month.

blow brought about by the unexpected death of her father and continued as rheumatoid arthritis left her unable to play stringed instruments.

Meeting Darragh the year after her father's death started a new chapter. Maxx has been slowly able to bring her music back, singing with her partner instead of hiring musicians, and with Darragh's encouragement she is also starting to play keyboards.

"To have Michael working with me on my music full time is really exciting. It allows us to work on our music, and it's helping me," Maxx said. "So for me, it feels like I'm experiencing a comeback, musically."

Darragh and Maxx started writing music together within about six months of meeting, he producing chords and she adding lyrics and melodies (sometimes working in the reverse order). Like Maxx, Darragh has a long history as a musician. He performed in

several bands in the '80s and '90s, at least one of which was close to making it to the big time. So although Maxx has a staggering repertoire of 250 songs, he felt more comfortable playing them after they had worked out their identity as a duo.

"I wanted us to create our own sound together, something where I had a stamp in it, musically," Darragh explained. "Now that we have established that as a couple, it's more fun to take on Lisa's past work. We get to enjoy the best of both worlds."

Not surprisingly, the performance for the Icelandic National League of North America focused on some of that past work and the strong connection Maxx feels to her Icelandic heritage. Maxx explored her family history during a trip to Iceland with one of her sisters three years ago, but the journey to the West Fjords will be a first. She and Darragh will also be

renting a van and touring the country via its famous ring road after their shows.

The West Fjords is a large, sparsely inhabited peninsula jutting out from the northeastern corner of Iceland's main landmass. After performing at Bláberjadagur, Maxx and Darragh will make a crossing by boat from Suðavík to the now uninhabited region where Maxx's "lang amma" grew up, which she left for the Canadian Prairies in the late 1800s.

Though located close to the Arctic Circle, the Gulf Stream-warmed land and sea will hopefully be hospitable during the end-of-August trip.

"What I'm super excited about is getting on the boat, going across the fjord, taking the guitar and banjo across and hopefully shooting videos for two songs," Maxx said.

"We just like the whole idea of going across a fjord," Darragh added, joking, "I'm going to be changing any religious beliefs I have and transferring authority to the Norse gods [to get across safely]."

The Still Creek Crows are currently ramping up their social media presence with a brand new website (featuring two beautiful new songs) and a YouTube channel, and they hope to film some video blog segments while on the road. On their return they will focus on building their name on Canadian soil and would love to perform at house concerts since the intimate format suits their sound and the emotional character of their songwriting.

Anyone who would like to reach the band can email stillcreekcrows@gmail.com.

FIRST NATIONS

# Burgoyne welcome pole raised Saturday

Whole community invited  
to Xwaaqw'um

BY JOE AKERMAN  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

True to the goals of "reconciliation," it has been another exciting year at Xwaaqw'um, which is the Hul'q'umi'num word for Burgoyne Bay, in the heart of Quw'utsun (Cowichan) territory.

The Xwaaqw'um project aims to continue and revitalize traditional use of the land and sea at Xwaaqw'um and to provide a place for indigenous youth and the Salt Spring community to learn more about and take pride in Hul'q'umi'num and Coast Salish culture, language and ways of life. A short film about the Xwaaqw'um project recently won the people's choice award at the Salt Spring Film Festival.

Over the past couple of years, Salt Spring residents have continued to learn more about the First Peoples of the lands we share by gathering and celebrating local Coast Salish culture in a meaningful way. This year the focus of programming at Xwaaqw'um has centred on Gulf Islands and Duncan-area schools and

youth groups. The second annual week-long Coast Salish Youth Culture and Leadership Camp at Xwaaqw'um just wrapped up and included youth from the Victoria and Duncan friendship centres. It was another big success. A big huy ch q'u (thank you) to supporters and sponsors who donated their time throughout the camp and at various events or prizes for the silent auction at our fundraiser in July in support of the youth camp.

We are excited to invite the community to a historic cultural event sponsored by the First Peoples Cultural Council of B.C. The Xwaaqw'um Welcome (Totem) Pole Unveiling Ceremony will take place on Saturday, Aug. 20 (see time and location details below). For the past several months Quw'utsun carver Harold Joe Sr. has led the carving of the Xwaaqw'um poles along with various Cowichan area school and youth groups, including youth from Cowichan Tribes, Duncan House of Friendship and both Khowhemun and Crofton Elementary. Four generations of Quw'utsun Tzinquaw Dancers from the Ron George (Tousilum) family will dance the land in a special ceremony.

The approximate times are:  
9 a.m.: Parking at the end of Burgoyne

Bay Road, and then a 10-minute walk or shuttle to the estuary at south side of bay, and mix and mingle. At 10 a.m. will be the welcome pole unveiling, stories and speakers. At 11:30 a.m., food will be shared. More cultural work (a naming ceremony) will take place in the early afternoon.

As always we are happy to have volunteers help out, including for set-up, parking/ shuttle and take down. We're also looking for helpers for final sanding and painting of the poles. If anyone would like to be involved or learn more, email me at xwaaqwum@gmail.com.

To build a strong foundation for cultural work and events on the land, we welcome any volunteer or fundraising assistance we can get, including our next priority: building a website.

I will keep everyone posted about upcoming indigenous cultural activities, including our Decolonization/ Cultural Competency/ Reconciliation talking circles which are continuing into the fall, 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the United Church basement.

Hoping to see many friends and relations on the land this Saturday.  
Hey 'ewulh (good bye for now)!

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<p><b>Joseph (Wayne) Moise Fraser</b> June 13, 1953 - August 4, 2016</p> <p>It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved Husband, Son, Brother, Step Father, Grandfather and friend Wayne.</p> <p>Wayne passed away suddenly while walking the Lethbridge, Alberta coulees on a bright beautiful sunny day.</p> <p>Wayne loved the West Coast's oceans and mountains, was an avid sailor, hiker, biker and skier. Tai Chi practice became an essential part of his daily life.</p> <p>Anyone that was in Wayne's presence always felt his compassion, humility, and generosity. He was truly an example of the power of the human spirit. He will be deeply missed by his family and his friends.</p> <p>Donations on Wayne's behalf can be made at the Lethbridge Alberta Police Services, Search and Rescue and Victim Services.</p>	<p><b>CHANCE YOUR TIMESHARE.</b> NO Risk Program STOP Mortgage and Maintenance Payments Today. 100% Money Back Guarantee. FREE Consultation. Call Now. We Can Help! 1-888-356-5248</p> <p><b>CHEAP LAND LIQUIDATION!</b> Humboldt County Nevada. 80 acre parcels only \$ 200/acre! Great for investment, farm &amp; recreational use. Limited availability! Call Earl 949-632-7066. <a href="http://www.cheapruralproperty.com">www.cheapruralproperty.com</a></p>	<p><b>PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING</b></p> <p>Online-based 43 week program includes 8 wk practicum. Regulated Pharmacy Technicians earn \$25-\$28/hr in hospitals &amp; \$20-\$27/hr in community pharmacies. Accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). <a href="http://www.stenbergcollege.com">www.stenbergcollege.com</a> Toll-Free: 1-866-580-2772</p> <p>START A NEW CAREER in Graphic Arts, Healthcare, Business, Education or Information Tech. If you have a GED, Call: 855-670-9765</p>	<p><b>HELP WANTED</b></p> <p>LAKE Cowichan logging company looking for a buncher on processor op, and chaser. Union positions with full benefits. Please email resume northvintimber@shaw.ca</p>	<p><b>\$750 Loans &amp; More NO CREDIT CHECKS</b></p> <p>Open 7 days/wk. 8am - 6pm <b>1-855-527-4368</b> Apply at: <a href="http://www.credit700.ca">www.credit700.ca</a></p> <p><b>GET BACK ON TRACK!</b> Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. <b>1-877-987-1420</b> <a href="http://www.pioneerwest.com">www.pioneerwest.com</a></p>	<p><b>WHAT'S ON pg. 14</b></p> <p><b>MERCHANDISE FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>ANTIQUES/VINTAGE</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE Auction.</b> Equipment Tools, Furniture &amp; more! Aug 27th, 11am, 5407 Sunnybrae Canoe Pt Rd, Tappen. View photos at <a href="http://doddsauction.com">doddsauction.com</a> 1-250-545-3259</p>	<p><b>RENTALS</b></p> <p><b>COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL</b></p> <p>550 SF office/studio for lease. Merchant Mews. Was radio station. Lots of light, wood paneling, bthrm. Richard (in Victoria): 250-380-1669.</p>
<p><b>Hubert (Samuel) Phillip Peebles</b> SEPT. 13, 1929 - AUG. 9, 2016</p> <p>Sam's family regretfully announce the passing of their beloved husband to Sheila, father to Stacey &amp; Jack, grandpa to Sam (Lindsay), Antonio (Alicia) and Jacob (deceased), great grandpa to Owen and Aubrey (deceased), and his only surviving brother Ray. Sam had many well loved nieces and nephews as well as his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.</p> <p>Sam passed away peacefully from his earthly home to his final resting place early Tuesday morning, Aug. 9th at Lady Minto Hospital.</p> <p>The family wished to thank Dr. Reznick and all the caring staff at Lady Minto Hospital, and also the home care staff, for their kind, respectful care of Sam over the past year.</p> <p>A Celebration of Sam's life was held on Friday, August 12th.</p> <p>In lieu of flowers a donation in Sam's memory can be made to the Salt Spring Island United Church, Canadian Blood Services or to a charity of ones choice.</p>	<p><b>NORMAN B. IRWIN</b> AUG. 8, 1938 - AUG. 9, 2016</p> <p>Norman died unexpectedly Aug. 9, 2016 on Salt Spring Island, B.C.</p> <p>Born August 8, 1938 in Timmins, Ontario, he grew up in London, Ontario. He attended Sir Adam Beck High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Ontario and was an officer in the RCAF reserve.</p> <p>He was married to his high school sweetheart Dorothy Vowles, a registered nurse in 1962.</p> <p>Norm served as Chief Financial Officer for Biltmore Industries and later for Compassion of Canada where he had the opportunity to combine his skills with his passion for God and love of travel.</p> <p>A lifelong learner, Norm earned his Masters of Divinity in 1994 and taught at Peace River Bible College in Alberta before settling in Saltspring Island, B.C.</p> <p>Norm generously donated his time and skills to numerous church, missions and community organizations. He brightened all our lives with his quick wit and sense of humour.</p> <p>He will be greatly missed by his wife Dorothy, their three children and nine grandchildren, Sean (Karen), Joshua, Caleb, Hannah and Sarah; Patrick (Kim) and Matthew; Colleen (Bob) Arthur, Jasper, Maxwell and Freddy.</p> <p>Service was held on August 13 at 2:00 PM at Salt Spring Island Baptist Church.</p> <p>In lieu of flowers a donation to the Gideons (PO Box 3619, Stn. Main, Guelph, ON N1H 9Z9) would be appreciated.</p>	<p><b>LARGE FUND Borrowers Wanted</b></p> <p>Start saving hundreds of dollars today! We can easily approve you by phone. 1st, 2nd or 3rd mortgage money is available right now. Rates start at Prime. Equity counts. We don't rely on credit, age or income.</p> <p>Call Anytime 1-800-639-2274 or 604-430-1499. Apply online <a href="http://www.capitaldirect.ca">www.capitaldirect.ca</a></p>	<p><b>HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>COMPUTER SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>CALL BOB'S Computer Service</b> for troubleshooting, software &amp; networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please back-up your important data now!</p> <p><b>MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>PACIFIC ENERGY CAST</b> Iron Alderlea T5 Medium Woodstove. Heats 2,000 sq. ft. 5 yrs old, exc. cond. Comes with 96" stainless chimney and 66" adjustable double wall stovepipe. Asking \$1,250 (retail price is \$2,500) 250-537-4028</p>	<p><b>FARM SERVICES</b></p> <p>BARN Salvage &amp; Custom Barn Board Headboards <a href="mailto:parcchute988@gmail.com">parcchute988@gmail.com</a> 250-309-0662</p> <p><b>WHAT'S ON pg. 14</b></p> <p><b>MERCHANDISE FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>ANTIQUES/VINTAGE</b></p> <p><b>ESTATE Auction.</b> Equipment Tools, Furniture &amp; more! Aug 27th, 11am, 5407 Sunnybrae Canoe Pt Rd, Tappen. View photos at <a href="http://doddsauction.com">doddsauction.com</a> 1-250-545-3259</p>	<p><b>Valley ANTIQUE SALE</b></p> <p>200+ Tables of Treasure for all Ages. 1st Time Vendors and Many Familiar Faces.</p> <p>Concession • Air Conditioned Free Parking • Admission \$5</p> <p>August 19th &amp; 20th Fri 5-9pm, Sat 10am-3pm</p> <p><b>DON'T MISS IT!</b></p> <p>Cowichan Exhibition Park 7350 Trans Canada Hwy North of Duncan at Hays Rd Watch for Signs - See you there!</p> <p><b>FUEL/FIREWOOD</b></p> <p><b>HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD</b></p> <p>GUARANTEED CORD</p> <p>Cut, Split &amp; delivered Cedar Fence Rails</p> <p><b>250-653-4165</b></p>	<p><b>ISLAND EXPLORER</b></p> <p>Property Management Ltd.</p> <p><a href="http://www.islandexplorerproperties.com">www.islandexplorerproperties.com</a></p> <p>250-537-4722 1-800-800-9492</p> <p>Island Explorer is a fully licensed, managed company under the banner of the B.C. Seal.</p> <p><b>OFFICE/RETAIL</b></p> <p>570 SQ FT prime retail space for sub-lease, high foot traffic area, market exposure &amp; ample parking. 250 538-8120</p>

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**Fall Fair Focus**

SECTION 9 BAKING

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- Are you an artistic cake decorator?
- There is a category for everyone in the baking section at the Fall Fair.

Enter your favourite and see how your best does against the rest. Maybe this is your chance to come home a winner!

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PLEASE...Return your trophies as soon as possible.  
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Have fun, and see you at the Fair!

**Safety Concerns: Wildfire Smoke**

Wildfire smoke can harm you in multiple ways. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases. Some tips to help you protect your health:

- Pay attention to local air quality reports (<http://www.bcairquality.ca/>)
- If you are told to stay indoors, stay indoors and keep your indoor air as clean as possible.
- Do not add to indoor air pollution (i.e. vacuuming produces dust)
- Do not rely on dust masks for protection (Not an "N95" mask, when properly worn will have only some protection - See Respirator Fact Sheet <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-144/>)
- Avoid prolonged smoke exposure during outdoor recreation.
- Seek medical advice with your doctor regarding your respiratory management plan if you have asthma or other respiratory ailments.

For more information on Wildfire Smoke Safety see Centre for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.asp>

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**TIP OF THE WEEK**

Eclipse season has begun! Two Lunar Eclipses, one on either side of a Solar Eclipse makes for an exciting line-up. Generally recognized as carrying an extra charge, compared to regular New and Full Moons, the sign, house and exact aspects eclipses make in our Natal Charts tells the real story of what role and impact they are destined to make. But the Horoscopes do provide a glimpse and the themes outlined over the next several weeks will help to illuminate them for you.

**The exact degrees of all 3 eclipses are as follows:**

- The August 18 Lunar Eclipse occurs is 25 Aquarius 52.
- The Solar Eclipse on September 1st occurs at 9 Virgo 21.
- The second Lunar Eclipse occurs on September 16 at 24 Pisces 20

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

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)**  
As the world turns the focus has shifted from fun in the sun to whistle while you work. Okay so you may not be exactly whistling. In fact, your sights are set on creating an opening to get away, but this window is closing and won't open for another few weeks anyway. In the bigger picture you are on a search for new lands to explore.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)**  
A creative leadership cycle continues. Deciphering what constitutes your best area of focus and managing your time well is your current challenge. To succeed, you need to be clear about what are your best talents and/or what do you want to focus upon at this stage of your life. Take a snack, this soul searching march could take a while.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
A major shift of focus on the home front is underway. Completions of old plans and rhythms and the early stages of taking new initiatives are all featured. Many fronts are putting demands on you and you may feel a bit stretched. Fortunately, your confidence levels have been steadily rising and this trend will continue.

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)**  
An extra busy cycle continues and will get busier yet over the coming weeks. Deciphering where, how and why you need to make key investments remains a central theme. The good news is that you are entering a time when opportunities will be knocking louder and more often than they have for some time.

**Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)**  
A pioneering urge continues to taunt you. Its impulse will begin to wane this week, however, so if you want to make the most of it and have not yet taken any initiatives, this is your cue. The time has come to either improve existing foundations and/or to initiate new ones altogether.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)**  
A growing determination to make key improvements in your life will become very apparent this week. From both within and without, you will feel the push. This trend will continue over the coming weeks as well, so you are wise to take action now. The good news is that your financial goals will get a boost as well.

**Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)**  
As old thoughts, ideas, plans and priorities steadily melt away, new ones will come forward to take their place. However, these new ones may not be apparent for a few weeks. So, be aware that you could enter a void period for a while. Cleaning and clearing the business of yesteryear will keep you productive.

**Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)**  
The window for getting the attention you want and feel you need and deserves now closing. The emphasis now is upon your friendships. You probably tend to be the independent and solo type. But that does not mean you don't like to socialize. Reach out to engage and be engaged, even if on your own terms.

**Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)**  
The spirit of adventure and play has been strong these past weeks. But that may be shifting now and should become noticeable this week. In the bigger picture, your world has been steadily expanding, especially in terms of your social and professional status. This has required sober thinking and action and this attitude will deepen.

**Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)**  
Sometimes we have to dig deep to reach high. The planetary alignments suggest that this has been true for you for the past while. It has required that you get out of your own way somehow, a process best understood as spiritual, a dissolving of old ego patterns. A steady shift in your priorities is the result and continues.

**Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)**  
A healing cycle has begun. Like fasting, it includes a process of elimination, on one hand, and cultivation, on the other. Cleaning up and raising your standards and perhaps your overall vibe is highlighted. But, as is the case with deep cleaning, things can get messier, first. But the reward will be a boost of confidence.

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**  
It is somewhat ironic that Leo time, which is about fun in the sun for so many, is one of your more challenging cycles. It is a time when work and play tend to get all mixed up. At least a rich exchange and interchange of thoughts and ideas is underway. The momentum will actually build over the coming days and weeks.

# sports&recreation

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

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



**PARALYMPIC GAMES**

## Salt Spring's Murby named to Rio Paralympic squad

Burger and beer event set for Aug. 23

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Springers can look forward to following one of their own when competition at the 2016 Paralympic Games begins in September.

"I can now officially say 'I'm going to Rio,'" said Ness Murby following Thursday's announcement by Athletics Canada.

Murby, who is classified as visually impaired, will travel to Brazil with sport assistant and wife Eva Fejes, coach Sheldon Gmitroski and guide dog Lexington to compete in the F11 discus event.

She was among 24 Paralympic athletes named to Team Canada last week. Murby won silver in javelin and a bronze in discus at the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto. She is also the IBSA women's powerlifting world champion and has broken world records at the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 world championships and games.

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, Murby settled on Salt Spring after living and working in Tokyo, New York and Vancouver.

"It is Murby's drive and welcome acceptance of a challenge that have made her a world-class athlete in four events (discus, javelin, shotput and powerlifting)," reads parts of her Athletics Canada bio.

Salt Springers can wish Murby well and contribute to her ongoing athletic mission at a special burger and beer fundraiser at Moby's Pub on Tuesday, Aug. 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants will have a chance to meet Murby and bid on a variety of silent-auction items. Tickets are available in advance or at the door for \$20. All proceeds will fund Murby's Paralympic pursuit.

The Rio 2016 Paralympic Games are set for Sept. 7 to 18. The athletics competition takes place Sept. 8 through 18.

"Our nominated athletes in para-athletics bring world-class accomplishments and exciting potential to the Rio 2016 Canadian Paralympic Team," said Chantal Petitclerc, a former Paralympic athlete and Canada's chef de mission for Rio. "I know that all our athletes and coaches are making the most of these final few weeks of preparation before the Games as they work towards a peak performance in Rio. I can't wait to cheer them on at the start line in September."

For more information about Murby's Paralympic aspirations, visit the "Ness Murby: Paralympic pursuit" Facebook site.



PHOTO COURTESY ATHLETICS CANADA

Ness Murby, pictured at last month's 2016 Canadian Championships and Rio Selection Trials in Edmonton, will compete in the discus event at September's 2016 Paralympic Games.

### Total Fire Ban

Campfire Ban in effect  
All permits are cancelled until further notice

The prohibition does not apply to propane, briquettes, gas or gel CSA or ULC approved campfires

[www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com)

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**GOLF**

## Cronin takes TNT tourney title

Eight-week series concludes

**BY MARCIA HOGAN**  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The TNT had a very tight finish on the last night of the playoffs for the summer session.

Roy Cronin capped a great eight weeks of competitive golf, winning all three points on the night and taking the overall honours. Runner up was Kerry Marshall.

Meanwhile, Zak Cutshall managed to improve his ultimate-18 score to a 63 and Randy Miron finished with a 64 in the runner-up position. The fall session starts Aug. 25.

The Amateur Open got a good start with a fun, social "horse-race" on Friday night. Don Nemeth herded 17 teams around a hybrid layout of the course. After the first three holes the first cut was made. Teams that were at one over par or better after three holes were able to carry on. Further cuts were made on

### GOLFTEES

holes four and five until there were only five teams left. They had to tee it up for a tricky shot over the reservoir to the number 7 green. A further cut was made and the teams still standing played over to the ninth green and a tricky flag placement. The team of Mike LeFebure and Tom Brown won in a chip-off against Brian Watson and Tony Faulkner on the ninth hole.

After two days of stroke play, Eric Beamish was declared the Salt Spring Open champion. He topped the scoreboard with 74/77 for a low gross total of 151. Michael Horan was five shots behind with 73/83 for 156. On the net side, Drew Stotesbury shot 134 with consistent rounds of 68 and 66. Chad Williams took second net with 136, following rounds of 74 and 62.

In the ladies division, top place went to Carolyn Sharp, who shot low rounds

of 87 and 89 for a total of 176. Seven strokes behind was Melanie Iverson, who carded 183 with rounds of 93 and 90. Lynda Joyce took low net honours by combining scores of 68 and 74 for a total of 142. Running a close second was Linda Tremblay, who scored 71 and 73 for a final tally of 144.

The Richard Vermeulen Tournament is scheduled for Aug. 27 with a 3 p.m. shotgun start. This annual nine-hole charity tournament, with dinner and prizes, is a means of raising funds for Salt Spring's junior programs. For the Future Links program, the summer golf camps, and weekly Wednesday afternoon junior play, the funds go a long way to making the game as accessible as possible to our up-and-coming young golfers. Teams of four adults and one junior play a scramble format. By entering your team you will be supporting an excellent program. Contact the pro shop for more information.