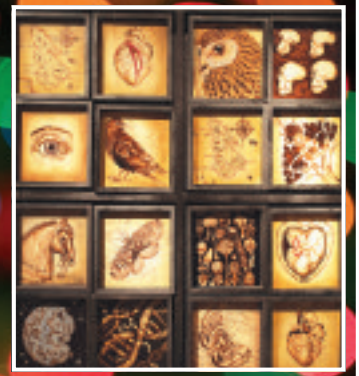




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Masters swimmers triumph  
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Wintercraft visit yields rewards  
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# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 56TH YEAR — ISSUE 50 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

**THREE'S A CROWD:** Three vehicles rest against each other in a ditch after sliding off the road in the 1100 block of Fulford-Ganges Road on Friday. Salt Spring RCMP say the vehicles left the road at different times and a total of four vehicles ended up in that spot.

## WEATHER

# Snowy roads wreak more havoc

Slip-sliding school bus among victims

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Nina de Roo didn't come walking down the street at the usual time after school on Tuesday, Dec. 6, her parents knew something wasn't quite right.

"She always walks home from the bus stop at the end of our street," said Nina's mother, Marcia Jansen.

It was another hour before Nina, 11, made it home, during which time her father Huib de Roo had begun calling other parents to try to track down his daughter.

"He didn't know that the bus didn't come, and he thought Nina might have gone over to a friend's house without letting us know," she said.

The bus didn't come on time because it had slid off Fulford-Ganges Road in snowy and wet conditions near Blackburn Lake after pulling over to drop off some passengers.

When asked about the incident, school district spokesma Rod Scotvold said the rear wheels of a school bus loaded with about 50 students slid off the road as the driver was pulling away from the roadside's snowy shoulder on Tuesday afternoon.

"The driver pulled over at a drop-off location close to Horel Road, and when he started off again, the back of the bus slowly went into the ditch," he said. "Everything was at really low speeds and fortunately there was nothing untoward that happened in the bus and no damage to the bus."

Scotvold called the mishap a "minor incident" that "looked worse than it was."

ROADS continued on 2

## PROTEST

# Pipeline rally rolls in Ganges

Hundreds take part in 'Day of Action'

SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Hundreds of islanders opposed to the federal government's approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline took their message to the snowy streets of Ganges Saturday afternoon.

"What we are doing today is the most important thing that we can do, which is acknowledge that this is a global issue," Salt Spring's Briony Penn told the rally soon after

it got underway at noon in Centennial Park. "This is about climate change, it's not just about one dirty pipeline; it's about a transition, it's about a change in society,"

Kinder Morgan Canada wants to expand the Trans Mountain pipeline between Edmonton and Burnaby to increase the flow of diluted bitumen from northern Alberta to Canada's west coast, where it can be shipped to growing markets in the United States and Asia.

The plan is projected to increase the number of tankers that travel through the Salish Sea from five to 34 vessels per month. Opponents worry about the increased potential for a devastating oil spill and the effects more tanker traffic will have on the marine environment, specifically the endangered southern resident killer whale population.

RALLY continued on 2

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**Mouat's Home Hardware**



# Opponents outline concerns at rally

**RALLY**  
continued from 1

During an Ottawa press conference held in late November, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the federal government approved the Trans Mountain plan subject to 157 conditions that include ensuring adequate oil-spill response measures and adequate marine protection plans are in place. The announcement coincided with the federal government's decision to deny Enbridge's controversial Northern Gateway project.

Approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline project sparked swift opposition from First Nations groups, environmentalists and many residents who live and work along the pipeline route and shipping lanes. The Dec. 10 rally in Ganges followed similar demonstrations in Vancouver, Victoria and other major Canadian cities.

"This is important," Penn told the crowd. "The fact that we've all come out this morning on a very cold, rainy day is evidence that this is going to become a global movement."

Adam Olsen, BC Green Party candidate for Saanich North and the Islands, took aim at what he called the flawed process, including the National Energy Board review that preceded the pipeline's approval.

"All the way through there was good reason why we should be con-

cerned and why we should be gathering to stand up against a 500 per cent increase of tankers in the Salish Sea," he said. "It's completely unacceptable."

He called the review process a "joke" and said the trust between the public and the federal government has weakened as a result.

"What the National Energy Board and what Justin Trudeau are ignoring is going to cost us tremendously. We are all going to pay for him and for the energy board ignoring the information that our elders gave," said Olsen, who is from the Saanich Peninsula's Tsartlip First Nation. "It's not good for the relationship with Indigenous people, for the environment, and it's certainly not good for economic reasons."

"Having Indigenous people go and fight for well-established rights in court is not good for any of us. It's a waste of time, it's a waste of money and, frankly, it's cowardice; it is the same kind of culture of denial that this country was built on. It needs to end, and this is the generation that it needs to end on."

Rally participants marched, chanted and sang along the snowy sidewalks of the downtown core between noon and 1 p.m. as part of the Kinder Morgan Day of Action. The gathering at Centennial featured live music by Phil Vernon and Luke Wallace.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

A procession runs through Ganges on Saturday as part of Kinder Morgan Day of Action activities.

Events continued Saturday night with a well-attended presentation of *To the Ends of the Earth* at All Saints By-the-Sea Church with filmmaker

David Lavallée. Video from Saturday's rally is available at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) and on the Gulf Islands Driftwood Facebook site.

# Dangerously parked cars a problem

**ROADS**

continued from 1

Students were temporarily transferred to another bus as a tow truck pulled the disabled bus clear of the ditch. The vehicle was deemed roadworthy following an inspection, and students were loaded aboard within 30 minutes to an hour of the incident, Scottvold added.

Jansen said she's surprised nobody contacted the children's parents to let them know everything was okay.

"But I am happy that no one was hurt, and Nina wasn't too scared, except from the part when the bus actually slid into the ditch," she said.

The school district said there wasn't enough time to contact the students' parents before everyone was back on board and headed home.

**More accidents reported**

Salt Spring emergency services were kept busy all week after further snow fell overnight on Thursday, Dec. 8, through Friday and then again on Sunday night.

Shortly before 6 p.m. on Monday night, RCMP attended a two-vehicle crash in the 1400 block of North End Road.

According to police, "The driver of a 1995 GMC pickup lost control on a patch of ice while rounding a corner and sideswiped a 2007 Toyota Yaris. Neither driver was injured in the crash, but the assistance of Salt Spring Fire-Rescue crews was required to pry open the door of the Yaris to free the driver. Neither vehicle had passengers on board. North End Road was closed to traffic for a short

time as emergency crews cleared the scene."

On Dec. 9, four vehicles slid off the road in the 1100 block of Fulford-Ganges Road at different times throughout the day. Police say tow and emergency crews were unable to safely remove the vehicles until later in the day due to road conditions and the additional risk their work could pose to motorists in an area with blind curves.

A number of vehicles were dangerously parked on the roadways around the island, likely by drivers who encountered poor conditions, or became stuck in the snow. Police had several of these vehicles towed, as their location posed a risk to other motorists.

"We'd like to remind motorists that if you position your car in a better location in advance of snow, it must be parked completely off the roadway," said Cpl. Darren Lagan in a press release. "The efforts of road crews became increasingly difficult in some areas as a result of haphazardly parked vehicles, leading to additional risk to other motorists due to the limited maintenance they could complete. Access to larger emergency vehicles was also hindered."

"With colder temperatures and additional snow forecast, drivers are reminded to avoid non-essential travel until road crews have had a chance to maintain roadways. If you do venture out, ensure your vehicle is ready for snow and ice driving, with winter tires, or chains where necessary. Remember, posted speed limits are set for ideal conditions. Drivers should slow down, allow extra travel time and keep their distance from other motorists."



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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

Stories & Songs of the Season

Friday and Saturday, DECEMBER 16-17

See What's On calendar, Page 12 for details

### HARBOUR ISSUES

## Harbour authority pays the bill for abandoned boats

Financial burden prompts creation of stringent dock rules

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The vice-chair of the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island says abandoned vessels at its facilities can cost the organization thousands of dollars each year.

Just last week, workers moved a derelict boat from Centennial Dock to the Blackburn Road transfer station, said Per Svendsen.

The costly move followed nearly a year of legal wrangling to determine how to remove the vessel from the crowded dock in Ganges. Svendsen said the boat had become an eyesore, environmental hazard and occupied valuable dock space.

Though he couldn't provide any specific figures, Svendsen said removal of the vessel's fuel tank, legal costs, moving fees and disposal charges ran into the thousands of dollars.

The move follows last week's Driftwood news

story about a ship that washed ashore near the Salt Spring Sailing Club in late November. What comes next for the boat and at least five other abandoned vessels spotted around Ganges Harbour is unknown as they remain hung up in an inter-jurisdictional quagmire.

Svendsen said reading the story encouraged him to come forward to talk about how extensive the issue of derelict vessels has become along the island's shoreline and at HASSI facilities.

"We always run up against things that are outside our jurisdiction," Svendsen said.

Worries about abandoned vessels have encouraged the HASSI board to implement a list of basic requirements that boat owners must fulfill before they can tie up at Centennial Dock.

Every boat must be insured and deemed seaworthy, and every boat owner must sign a contract with HASSI. In spite of these preventive measures, Svendsen added, there are several older boats at Centennial Dock that predate the new rules and will presumably need removal in years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY HASSI

Derelict vessel is brought to Salt Spring Garbage Services' Blackburn Road transfer station by the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island.

### ISLANDS TRUST

## Trustees vote to hire Trust-area freshwater specialist

Staff hydrologist will fill knowledge gaps

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Trust Council members narrowly approved hiring a senior freshwater specialist during their quarterly meeting on Salt Spring last week.

Wednesday's vote means the Islands Trust will devote about \$85,000 for a Victoria-based hydrologist beginning in 2017. Funding for the position will come from the Trust's general reserves fund and will have no effect on taxation levels, said Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member George Grams at the Dec. 7 meeting.

Grams brought the request to Trust Council based largely on work with the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority that reveals significant gaps in freshwater knowledge across islands within the Trust's jurisdiction. A senior freshwater specialist, he told trustees, would provide a sense of

the bigger picture when it comes to water concerns in the Gulf Islands.

"The intention isn't to inflate staffing numbers permanently, it's to add a temporary appointment for a year or two in order to develop a database and gather information in consultation with provincial ministries," he said. "At the end of that period, we should have significantly increased our understanding and knowledge of freshwater issues within our communities, which should allow us to make much more informed land-use issues."

Grams said missing information about freshwater and groundwater resources on the islands makes it difficult for elected officials and staff to plan for the region's future. Unmistakable evidence about the impacts of climate change on groundwater supply highlights the need for more information, he added.

"There is no consideration given to the number of other wells that might be in close proximity, there's no consideration of extraction rates

and there's no consideration given to supply capacity of the aquifers that those wells access," Grams said before the vote. "Given that regime, it's hardly surprising that there are instances where we are over-extracting water and that isn't only in areas where we have high population densities or high populations like Salt Spring, it's happening in islands with populations as low as the low hundreds where salt water intrusion is occurring, and that is irreversible. It can't be stopped once it's done, so a potential resource that is there in perpetuity, because we don't know enough about our aquifers and extraction rates, we destroy."

Grams said the situation on many Gulf Islands has become so severe that many provincial agencies consider the islands the "canary in the coal mine" when it comes to studying the impacts of climate change on groundwater supply.

The proposal was supported by trustees who claimed the potential knowledge that stands to be gained

is worth the expense.

"Water resources are crucial to our land-use planning decisions, and as much as it sort of agonizes me to see another hundred thousand dollars out of our budget, because we all know I'm a little anal retentive about that, it's the right thing," said Paul Brent, a member of the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee.

**"Having an inventory of what already exists would give me a lot of comfort before committing resources."**

HEATHER O'SULLIVAN  
*Gabriola Island trustee*

The plan's detractors acknowledged the sensitivity of water resources in the Trust area but argued creation of a new staff posi-

tion may be premature given how little raw data is available. Others worried the new research could unknowingly duplicate efforts on islands where similar work is already underway or has been completed.

Heather O'Sullivan, a trustee from Gabriola Island, questioned the effectiveness and efficiency of creating the new staff position. She suggested agencies with overlapping jurisdiction like regional districts should contribute a portion of the costs.

"Having an inventory of what already exists would give me a lot of comfort before committing resources because there's areas that I feel are being reinvented rather than moving forward," she said.

Bruce McConchie, a South Pender LTC member, told Trust Council he opposed the move based on an "internal opposition to increasing our bureaucracy" and a lack of clarity over how groundwater is currently being managed across the islands.

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## ISLANDS TRUST

# Trust Council weighs ocean protection tools

New committee to be considered

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council and staff will continue to explore which marine protection tools might be best put to use in local waters after receiving an in-depth report presented at the group's quarterly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Staff created a table to list and compare all the different tools available for protecting the marine environment, with seven potential options pertaining to Trust area waters.

"I think what's beautiful about the Islands Trust situation is we've been preserving and protecting this area for 40 years. We've already been doing the work," said Trust

Council chair Peter Luckham during discussion of the biosphere option.

The need and appetite to ramp up protective measures was directly demonstrated in two of three delegations to Trust Council presented earlier that afternoon. One was from the Salish Sea Trust, a group dedicated to having the Salish Sea declared a World Heritage Site, while the second came from the Mayne Island Conservancy in relation to oil spill response.

Conservancy president Malcolm Inglis asked the council to join his organization in demanding an arms-length and transparent relationship between oil companies and the designated company responsible for oil spill response in British Columbia, Western Canada Spill Services.

"It's pretty clear spills in our

local waters are huge on the public radar. It's a good time to be working on response strategies," he said.

Possibilities that Trust staff floated for marine protection include designating a "particularly sensitive sea area," a man and the biosphere reserve, a marine protected area or a National Park Reserve; employing First Nations treaty rights to halt aquaculture licences; restricting fishing through aboriginal title and rights; and activating marine planning partnerships between the province and First Nations.

Gambier Island trustee Dan Rogers noted there is a concerted campaign in his area to have a UNESCO biosphere region designated in Howe Sound. Bowen Island Council has approved the idea in principle.

"We keep getting approached to

support these initiatives," Rogers said, adding the Trust's approach so far has been "let's wait and see."

"But is there any sense of us choosing a horse to ride or not?" he asked.

Both the staff report and comments from trustees during the review session pointed out the Trust Council's uptake of any particular tool would only be successful with First Nations participation. Such collaboration is also called for under the Trust's proposed First Nations and Public Engagement Strategy.

Council voted unanimously in support of a resolution proposed by Hornby Island trustee Tony Law to further review the briefing and to direct staff to make recommendations with respect to possible amendments to the strategic plan and other follow-up actions.

## HEALTH CARE

# GP recruitment remains concern on Salt Spring

Service gap expected before new arrivals in 2017

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Not having enough family doctors for everyone who needs one remains a top health-care issue on Salt Spring, but local authorities hope to see some

improvement toward the problem by next spring.

The local situation will become more critical after Dr. James White retires in January. Some of his patients have been accepted by Dr. Anik Mommsen-Smith, who opened her practice earlier this year. Others, though, may be left without a family physician until new recruits move onto the island and set up practice.

A joint statement put out this week by the Salt Spring Island Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice and Island Health says the two organizations recognize the difficulty for patients, but a potential solution could be coming soon, with two new physicians hopefully arriving in March.

"Salt Spring Island, like many communities in B.C., struggles with ensuring access to longitudinal primary care or, put simply, having enough family doctors or nurse practitioners for everybody who wants one," the statement reads. "We understand that for individuals without a primary care provider, not having that relationship can leave them feeling vulnerable."

"The Salt Spring Island Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice and Island Health are working together, with other partners, to address this challenge both in the short term and in the long term. The conditions that underpin access are complex and we're not alone as a community in experiencing shortages."

In the short term, the chapter and Island Health are working with the Practice Ready Assessment Program to help fill the service gap. The provincial program assesses internationally educated family physicians who have completed residencies in family medicine outside of Canada and helps them find an alternative pathway to licensure in B.C.

Since it was initiated in 2015, the program has brought 39 family physicians to 27 underserved rural communities. Ideally, the addition of two new physicians on Salt Spring next year will bring that number up to 41. According to the program's website, candidates who are hired by a health authority under PRA-BC are required to fulfill a three-year return of service within the designated community.

"These new physicians would join our existing medical community in providing

comprehensive care to Salt Spring Island residents. Our focus when they arrive will be in helping individuals who do not already have a primary care provider to develop a supportive longitudinal relationship," the joint statement explains.

**"Salt Spring Island, like many communities in B.C., struggles with ensuring access to longitudinal primary care."**

ISLAND HEALTH

"Longer term we're working to reduce barriers to recruitment and retention of primary care providers while creating flexibility and working on enhancing team-based models of care. We're continuing conversations with local, regional and provincial partners on how we can evolve our models of care, develop better supports and provide the structural foundations that support enhanced models of care."

The two bodies promise to share more news as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, Island Health says patients who do not have a primary care provider and need to be seen by a physician should go to the emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital.

"While we normally do not encourage patients to use emergency departments for anything other than emergencies, this is an appropriate stop-gap measure for patients in need until a new doctor is in place," Island Health confirmed in an email statement to the Driftwood.

Patients are also encouraged to call 811, a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line operated by Health-Link BC, to speak to a health services navigator who can help find health information and services, or to connect directly with a registered nurse, registered dietitian or a pharmacist.

"Any one of these health-care professionals will help patients get the information they need to manage their health concerns, or those of their family," said Island Health.



Islands Trust

## 2017 Regular Meetings of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be meeting to consider various matters of general business such as applications received, bylaw reviews and meeting notes.

Regular Meetings are scheduled for:

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday January 12	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday February 9	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday March 2	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday March 23	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday April 13	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday May 4	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday June 1	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday June 29	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday July 20	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday August 10	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday September 7	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday October 5	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday November 2	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday November 30	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Thursday December 21	9:30 AM	Hart Bradley Hall, Lions Club, 103 Bonnet Avenue

The proposed meeting agenda is usually available one week prior to the meeting and may be obtained at the Islands Trust office or on our website. Delegation requests to appear before the Local Trust Committee must be received by the Deputy Secretary by 12:00 noon fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting.

Please note that correspondence received from the public may become part of a meeting agenda that is published online.

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ISLANDS TRUST

# Trust Council agrees to consider reviewing Trust Act

Changes could grant Islands Trust more powers

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Trustees representing communities across the Islands Trust area have voted in favour of a plan urging the province to review and update the Islands Trust Act.

"We need to present a renewed vision at this time, and we think that the Islands Trust Act is limiting the aspirations we have as representatives of our communities," said Lee Middleton, a trustee from Saturna Island, during last week's Trust Council meeting at Salt Spring's Community Gospel Chapel.

The Islands Trust Act is provincial legislation that outlines the governing powers of the Islands Trust, including the local government's mandate to preserve and protect the islands within its jurisdiction. Any changes to the ITA must be agreed upon by a majority of members in the provincial legislature.

The request for decision presented by trustees Middleton, David Critchley (Denman) and George Grams (Salt Spring) states that a review and improvements to the Islands Trust Act would translate into an improved ability to preserve and protect the Islands Trust area.

Speaking in favour of the motion, Grams said it's been nearly 25 years since the ITA was last amended. He said the vote by

Trust Council asking the province to consider possible changes to the act comes at an ideal time as the May provincial election will provide the Trust an opportunity to find a spot on a new legislative calendar.

"I think soon after the election, our government is going to be returned with an open legislative calendar," he said. "Let's get in line, reserve our spot and figure out what we must do."

Of the 24 trustees seated at the table, only three opposed approval of the motion to review the ITA. Seven trustees opposed a follow-up motion to add the project to this term's strategic plan and assign it to the Trust's Executive Committee for further discussion.

Arguments against the motion focused on staff's capacity to

undertake the additional workload and uncertainties associated with a potential governance referendum on Salt Spring early in 2017.

"If we were to put this on the work program, would this be sending a message to Salt Spring Island voters?" asked Mayne Island trustee Brian Crumblehulme. "I think we need to do this properly. I don't feel we should rush it. We could have done it two years ago or maybe in another year or two; let's do it but not now."

Sandy Pottle, a trustee from Galiano Island, said residents need to have more say about the idea before such a decision is made.

"The timeline is very fast, and we haven't consulted the people,"

she said. "Where is the public voice here?"

According to a tentative timeline provided in the RFD, a detailed review of the act could be conducted and approved by council in March 2017. Completion and approval of specific changes could be approved at Trust Council's June 2017 meeting and submitted to the provincial government by early summer.

Grams assured trustees seated around the Trust Council table that potential changes to the act would be relevant to Salt Springers regardless of how a governance referendum turns out.

"Salt Spring is going to remain a member of the Islands Trust," Grams said. "What is in the interest of the Islands Trust is in the interests of Salt Spring."

HEALTH CARE

# Island hosts geriatric sessions

New health services offered for seniors

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Teams leading both the Saanich Peninsula's Community Geriatric Care Redesign Project and Salt Spring's Effective Access to Specialist Services Project are excited to share news of expanded services for seniors on Salt Spring.

Patients who may need geriatric care and are referred by their primary care provider can now access a monthly clinic on Salt Spring with Dr. Marilyn Bater. Bater is a geriatrician who provides services in Victoria, the Saanich Peninsula and now the Southern Gulf Islands.

Janine Gowans, coordinator for the Salt Spring Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice, said the program will provide relief to vulnerable seniors who would otherwise have to travel off-island for the service.

"The travel burden was particu-

larly significant for this demographic," Gowans said. "These are seniors who might be frail or experiencing cognitive impairment, who may or may not be vision impaired and who may or may not have financial burdens. It's a really big ask to take a whole day to go over to the Saanich Peninsula."

The geriatric clinic is the latest program to reduce the need to travel off-island for health care under the Effective Access to Specialist Services. It is a project of the Salt Spring Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice and funded by the Shared Care Committee.

A geriatrician works with the patient's care team to maintain and improve function and preserve quality of life, for maximum independence. According to information provided by the Salt Spring chapter, patients who would benefit from geriatric medicine may have multiple illnesses and take several medications. Compounding issues can include pain and

mobility problems, difficulty with balance and falls, memory problems and behaviour changes.

"This is a really rich service that's being delivered," Gowans said. "It's been an identified need for a long time, so it's fantastic. And Dr. Bater is amazing."

Along with Dr. David Leishman, Bater has been at the forefront of the Community Geriatric Care Redesign Project. That initiative seeks to bridge the gap left by the end of Ministry of Health funding to a demonstration project in Saanich and to improve how geriatric specialist services are offered in the Gulf Islands and the Saanich Peninsula.

Bater held the first geriatric medicine clinic on Salt Spring on Sept. 20. Sessions also occurred in October and November, and the next one in January is already booked up.

Bater hopes to keep visits to an almost-monthly basis and eventually supplement the program with tele-health consultations.

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CONSERVATION

# New film celebrates Trust area

Gulf Islands Alliance video marks group's 10th anniversary

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A non-profit organization that seeks to help the Islands Trust fulfill its "preserve and protect" mandate is celebrating 10 years in operation with a short film showcasing the unique aspects of the region and its governance structure.

The Gulf Islands Alliance has membership throughout the islands under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust and was formed "to support the unique legislation and other initiatives that preserve and protect the Gulf Islands as a treasured environment."

Specific objectives include working with other organizations and individuals to ensure that decisions affecting

Gulf Islands growth and development do not diminish the natural environment or the well-being of their residents.

According to a press release provided by GIA, videographer Bill Warriner spent hundreds of hours travelling to the islands, filming, editing and overseeing production of the DVD.

The film is narrated by Arthur Black, while Valdy re-scored his popular Islander song for the soundtrack. It received great response from the Islands Trust Council and members of the public observing their quarterly meeting at Community Gospel Chapel last Wednesday afternoon.

The council voted to send a copy of the DVD to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Islands in Trust can be viewed on GIA's website at gulfislandsalliance.ca.

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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

## Tune in to reform

The national conversation about electoral reform has revealed a great divide among Canadians.

There's that passionate minority, who will readily debate the differences between electoral systems like mixed-member proportional and first-past-the-post, and then there's everyone else, those who'd rather just pull up the covers and hibernate.

That sentiment hasn't changed since September, when the Special Committee on Electoral Reform began a cross-country tour to speak with Canadians about ways to make our electoral system more accountable and representative. A national poll conducted as the multiparty committee set to work revealed only three per cent of us were following the topic of electoral reform.

That's downright dismal given the process stands to change significantly how politicians are elected to the federal stage.

**THE ISSUE:**  
Electoral reform

**WE SAY:**  
Online survey worth doing

Many who don't follow politics closely complain that the system doesn't consider their perspective, but when a process to improve that system fails to attract widespread public attention, one can't help but question if our problems are too deeply embedded in a collective cynicism that readily dismisses politics of any stripe.

Criticism of the special committee's Dec. 1 report and recommendations levied by fellow parliamentarians and political pundits didn't help the cause. Since then, however, the feds have announced a new effort to engage Canadians and help get the process back on track.

Mydemocracy.ca is an online survey that's attracted its share of criticism, but it shouldn't be overlooked. The 20-minute questionnaire may reveal some national themes about electoral reform. When combined with the Special Committee on Electoral Reform's report and MP input from community town halls, it can only help determine how the governing Liberals should proceed with their election promise to ensure the 2015 federal election was the last held under a FPTP system.

The launch of Mydemocracy.ca, which will be online until Friday, Dec. 30, may not totally shift the holiday season's conversations from hockey and snow tires to MMP versus FPTP, but it's one of several tools we must count on to get people talking about making our democratic process better for everyone.



VIEWPOINT by Allen S. Cunningham

## Incorporation could aid water woes

Hats off to Greg Ast for his excellent reservoir ideas ("Reservoir idea worth exploring," Dec. 7 Driftwood) and to our hard-working North Salt Spring Waterworks District board.

Creative ideas are important to consider for future solutions. It appears that we must currently use conventional solutions because we are not a municipality. Legislation, as I understand, appears to allow provincial water system grants to municipalities who can manage such funds.

Furthermore, the costs involved in creative solutions are often higher in the short run, even though savings are realized in the longer term, making such funding necessary.

A municipality would allow expansion of the water board to other areas where some citizens do not have enough water thus spreading out and reducing the per customer costs. Judging by the amount of shelf space devoted to water in stores on Salt Spring, that need is even greater than most probably realize.

General Electric is now behind the sale of its packaged desalination plants, which offer much lower costs and another solution. Salt in some new systems is turned into a solid so it does not pollute. Parts of Long Harbour are brackish from creeks and do not hold the volume of salt as in sea water. These plants, in various sizes, are seeing world markets opening up, so that may be another choice.

We do need water for affordable housing. However, a

new crisis has developed. Along with successful businesses like the Salt Spring Coffee Company, it appears some islanders could continue to be happy with encouraging our seniors to also move off the island, along with the eight per cent who are handicapped.

However, now there is a barrier to the average person doing so. That is the high costs of rental or purchase of accommodation in Victoria. Since close to half of our population is 55 or older, there is a huge need for Salt Spring seniors housing with all rooms on one level. For that to happen, a North Salt Spring Waterworks District moratorium must now be overcome and so it is now urgent to have water to also fill this need and to get busy and allow floor space ratios for condo units for seniors all on one level.

It appears incorporation is the only answer because it would accelerate solution times through long-term funding grants and as such would ensure solutions would be quickly applied. Then Mr. Ast and the ideas of others could turn into reality.

How lucky we would be to have the Trust and a municipality so the people and the environment are both considered important.

A bonus might be funding to renew all the water pipes of an old system . . . also an urgent need.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

**Creative ideas are important to consider for future solutions.**

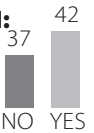
**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Do public rallies have any political impact?**  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:**

**Does your vehicle have winter tires?**



## Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "The timeline is very fast, and we haven't consulted the people. Where is the public voice here?"

GALIANO TRUSTEE SANDY POTTLE ON ISLANDS TRUST ACT REVIEW

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** How is the Trudeau government doing after its first full year?



**HENRY TABBERS**  
*I'm a little disappointed. I promised things they're now backtracking on, especially Kinder Morgan and proportional representation.*



**ANDRIA SCANLAN**  
*A lot better than Harper was doing.*



**JESSICA GARCEAU**  
*I want whoever's been elected to do well for us, and to do their job well.*



**NATE POETKER**  
*I'm disappointed in the lack of leadership and the lack of integrity. They're not fulfilling what they promised to do.*



**IRENE CURRIE**  
*You can't do everything in the first year — doing good so far.*

## 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

### Unique form of government

I really appreciated Susan Paynter's Viewpoint in the Dec. 7 edition of the Driftwood, and it seemed especially significant the day I read it, because I had just arrived on Salt Spring to attend the Gulf Islands Alliance presentation at Trust Council.

I've been an active supporter of the Trust since my own stint as local trustee for Gabriola in the '80s and '90s, and I am so impressed each time I attend a Trust Council meeting in recent years. They are incredibly well organized and represent democracy and diplomacy at its best. I enjoy watching and listening to the trustees from all of the islands, because they confirm my sense of solidarity

for the environment in which we should all be stewards.

The original Islands Trust Act was meant to establish a preserve and protect mandate for all of British Columbia to respect, appreciate and enjoy. That act is as important today as it was in 1974, and should be safeguarded and strengthened by every one of us who realizes the fragility of our marine and terrestrial surroundings.

There are advantages to incorporation, but I think the disadvantages for our island communities far outweigh the possibilities of a more urban form of local government, which immediately isolates an island from its place in a unique federation. It is easier to understand and sometimes more efficient to have services and land use under one municipal umbrella, but we are fortunate

in having good working relationships with our respective regional districts, who for the most part are supportive of the islands in their region.

I am a member of several Trust island conservancy groups and I endeavour to keep up with the local and regional politics of our islands, because it matters to me — not just because it's my home but because we who live on any of our "Islands in Trust" have so many reasons to preserve, protect and support our unique form of local government. Besides, where else but a Trust Council meeting can you find 26 people who show such enormous respect for their constituents, their support staff and their fellow trustees?

**SUSAN YATES,**  
GABRIOLA ISLAND

### Pipeline not in our interests

The approval of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project has people, me included, concerned across Saanich North and the Islands.

As one of the interveners allowed to participate in the National Energy Board hearing, I was part of the flawed process.

The "science" that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau used to defend his decision was not tested by cross examination. Many intervenors cast strong doubt on our ability to clean up a spill of diluted bitumen in the Salish Sea and argued against the plan to increase tanker traffic by more than 500 per cent.

Threats to the orcas, Pacific salmon and countless other species, trampling Indigenous rights, increased climate changing carbon emissions, and the potential negative impact on property, recreation activities and quality of life are all legitimate concerns.

The Salish Sea is home to a vibrant, diversified economy, a pristine environment and well-established communities in the Lower Mainland, Capital Region and Gulf Islands. Our home was undermined and ignored by a regulatory process, that had only one possible result: supporting oil companies who are solely fixated on ramping up raw fossil fuel exports.

It was so bad that Robyn Allan, a respected economist and former CEO of

ICBC, withdrew from the process in protest, calling it "rigged."

We need to trust that our government is acting in our best interests. The federal Liberals betrayed that trust, breaking a number of campaign promises with this decision. The BC Liberals are hiding behind their five conditions, refusing to say if they'll stand up for our coast. Alberta's NDP government is aggressively promoting it, the BC NDP are against it . . . for now.

We can stop this project. The provincial government has the power to do that. We just need the political will.

**ADAM OLSEN,**  
GREEN PARTY CANDIDATE,  
SAANICH NORTH & THE ISLANDS

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Why should B.C. risk its precious resources?

BY HAROLD PAGE

So, our federal government has approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline. The thing that disappoints me most is that our prime minister has blown his credibility. He talks well, and eloquently — "Canada is back," etc. — but they are just words.

About a thousand years ago a simple truth was enunciated to identify good men: "By their works ye shall know them." Not by what they said. By what they did. Whether or not Justin Trudeau during the election campaign said in so many words that he was not prepared to approve that project, we were certainly given to understand that he would not. Now he has done just the opposite.

There are so many conflicting things. I saw him on the television news saying, with great solemnity, that if he were convinced there would be a danger to B.C. he would not approve it. Coming from Québec, where did he get the assurance there would be no danger? From his Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard, Dominic LeBlanc, a lawyer from New Brunswick? Not likely. From the head of the Coast Guard, Ottawa-based commissioner George Da Pont, whose long

suit appears to be involvement with the Canada Food Inspection Agency? Again, not likely.

Maybe it was from all the television advertising that Trans Mountain has been feeding us saying it will be perfectly safe. On the other hand, we have been told that the federal government is about to spend large sums improving the response times to oil spills. Does that not confirm the obvious, that there are bound to be spills? And spills are not a danger?

Let's take a look at the track record of the Canadian Coast Guard. I have the highest regard for the sea-going members, and from my personal experience they are a hard-working, competent crew. However, particularly through the Harper years, things have been made more and more difficult for them to carry out what they should be able to do. Various "efficiency" changes, conceived who knows where (Ottawa?), have been carried out with negative results.

Does anyone remember that after a change in the Victoria-Vancouver radio system, on two different occasions the system went dead for several hours, leav-

## GUEST COLUMN

ing the vessel traffic management system without communication in the very area where the increased tanker traffic would pass? After Harper closed the Kitsilano station, a relatively minor spill right in Vancouver Harbour caused a local protest. Public pressure resulted in the station being opened again after the election.

The situation at Tofino was "improved," and when the Leviathan II capsized, the Coast Guard was not to be seen till after the local people had already carried out the rescue. The Comox Coast Guard station was closed, continuing the Harper program. A major catastrophe was barely avoided at Bella Bella when the local population was able to prevent the grounding of the huge barge being towed by the tug that sank, spilling diesel fuel that ravaged the clam beds, all without help from the Coast Guard. All this does not inspire much confidence in what is now touted to "improve response time."

One might ask why B.C. should be obligated to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for Alberta. Should we have to risk loss of our precious resources — fisheries, orcas, tourist revenues, clean shorelines,

etc. — to compensate for an ill-conceived strategy pushed by Stephen Harper and embraced by Rachel Notley to put most of their economic development eggs into one oily basket? Also, where does all this square with Canada's commitment to the ambitious speeches at the Paris climate convention?

Finally, don't be suckered into believing that the Northern Gateway project is dead. Enbridge has, with encouragement from Stephen Harper, been laying pipe, lots of it, and we can't expect it to just walk away without a fight. Lie in the weeds for a while, hold a few more "consultations" along the route, buy off some of the more vehement protesters, and voila, a new application.

But what about the moratorium the government has declared? I am not aware of any legislation to prohibit tanker traffic. What is a moratorium? The Canadian Oxford Dictionary states, "a temporary prohibition or suspension (of an activity). I emphasize "temporary." Does that tell you anything?

*The writer is a retired professional engineer, provincial government official and long-time Gulf Islander.*

## Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23. Open for usual business hours on Monday, Dec. 26.

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 30. Open for usual business hours on Monday, Jan. 2.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 28TH PAPER:

DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 21, 4pm  
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Classified Display Deadline: Monday, January 2, 2pm  
Classified Word Deadline: Tuesday, January 3, 9am



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## MORE LETTERS

### Don't dismiss dialysis

I read with interest Dave Gibbon's Dec. 7 comment that there is no need for a dialysis unit on Salt Spring and I strongly disagree.

Mr. Gibbon is fortunate that his relative is a candidate for home dialysis, but, as he noted, that is not the case for everyone.

As a neighbour of Mark Clancy, it distresses me to see him making a 10-hour round trip, three times every week, to get his treatment in Victoria.

During the current snowy conditions, he's been forced to stay in Victoria so he doesn't miss his treatments.

Simple things like car breakdowns can threaten his health.

I'm sure there are issues to be dealt with in operating hospital dialysis machines at Lady Minto Hospital. However, due to our aging population on Salt Spring, I feel it should be investigated rather than merely dismissed.

**DAMIAN INWOOD,**  
ROURKE ROAD

Check out Google Earth and see the convenient direct corridor that has already been ploughed through Surrey, Richmond and Delta just awaiting its shiny, brand new pipeline.

Big oil and its Trudeau-lackey are hoping that this stalking-horse strategy will take the wind out of the sails of the opposition and voila, the dirty-oil tar-sands expansion will finally arrive at "tidewater."

**KEN LEE,**  
GANGES

### Accountability needed

Strong-arming people into Smart meters by onerous charges and shutting off their power in the winter looks like another constitutional fiasco that will eventually blow up in the face of Premier Christy Clark and her Liberal government.

Unfortunately, like her predecessor Gordon Campbell, she'll probably only be a bad memory by the time it happens.

The real problem, as we can see from the prolonged teachers court case, is that it's always the public that's on the hook for her government's obvious constitutional violations. (The B.C. judges and lawyers who profited so handsomely by batting this situation around is a whole other matter and yet to be addressed.)

In my opinion, electoral reform is a waste of time. What should be demanded is complete accountability from elected officials and bureaucrats.

Why do Canadians continue to tolerate being defrauded in elections by politicians who lie their way into office or ignore our rights to be safe within our own homes?

**TOM PICKETT,**  
LEE ROAD

### LCC not an option

Is a local community commission a viable or even logical option for Salt Spring Island?

In the first place, an LCC is not actually a form of governance at all. It is simply a minor "tweak"

of our current system of fragmented governance. According to the provincial government, an LCC is very rarely used in British Columbia and used only to administer services in remote areas where another form of administration is hard to come by. In our own neighbourhood, an LCC can only exist at the discretion of the CRD — and it would only be in an advisory capacity — advising on and administering CRD services only. Final budget decisions would be made, as usual, off-island in Victoria.

More importantly, an LCC lacks the capacity to address any of the community concerns identified in the 2013 governance study. It does not provide a "single governing body" empowered over all community affairs i.e. the fire district, water districts and the Local Trust Committee. Nothing changes at all.

It cannot address the island's desire for greater on-island decision making. Nor is there capacity for any form of strategic community planning, long-range or short. Nor can it form a unified budget for the whole island, and nor can it ensure that decision making is balanced in consideration of all the island's needs. Nor can an LCC apply for or receive infrastructure grants.

A municipal structure is the only option that actually resolves these many issues. In essence, adding an LCC provides only a "tweaked" mirror of what we have now. It is still the status quo, an island governance structure remaining as fractured as ever.

With a permanent population of more than 10,000, larger than more than 100 existing municipalities in British Columbia and with an assessment base of over \$3 billion, that kind of "tweak" of our current dysfunctional system is totally illogical and furthermore not viable.

The province has made it clear that our only choice of governance on Salt Spring is either the status quo or a rural island municipality — similar to Bowen Island — as it should be.

**WAYNE TEPPER,**  
VESUVIUS

### Trojan subterfuge

I believe what will happen next, and may have been in the big scheme of things all along, is that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will wait for a month or so and let all the outrage and fulminations about the Kinder Morgan pipeline decision brew.

He will then pull a final announcement out of the bag. He will announce that he "has consulted with, listened to and heard" the people of Vancouver, the epicentre of anti-Kinder Morgan outrage, and has decided to move the Kinder Morgan dirty-oil spigot from Burnaby to Roberts Bank, next to the BC Ferries Tsawwassen ferry terminal. This will remove the nightmare 400 tanker-per-year traffic jam from Burrard Inlet, where it would have absolutely guaranteed accidents, and get it out of sight from everybody's picture windows.

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## RANTS and Roses

A palette of congratulations to all the young artists on a very successful Group of Seven and Tom Thomson exhibit at ArtSpring. We are so very grateful to the Salt Spring Foundation for the generous grant that has allowed us to create an infrastructure of art materials and easels for future ArtSpring Art Enrichment programs. Paint buckets of appreciation to Country Grocer for their abundant donation to the program which allowed us to go on our own kayak expedition with Island Escapades to Chocolate Beach for plein air sketching. A pencil box of colours to Dragonfly Art Supplies, Island Escapades and Apple Photo for their generous support of our program and exhibition. A fluid brush stroke of hearts to our friend Jill Sharpe, who accompanied us on the plein air kayak expedition and shared her artistic knowledge and skills with students. A bouquet of antique paint and brushes and a very special nod to our friend Bruce Grey for loaning his 1950s Chestnut canoe and picnic basket.

Big bunches of roses to my old neighbours, Sabine and Jim. The two of you have come to my family's rescue many times and you always do it with such big, open hearts. Thank you, Jim, for helping us with the frozen pipes and for giving me a sense of well being while being all the way over here in Victoria. You have that true generous Salt Spring spirit that I miss so much. Thank you!

A spirited thank you to the men who helped light up the Visitors Centre: Harvey Moore and John Hobbs had Bob Charlet, Bob Patterson and Chuck, who had recently moved to Salt Spring, as their helpers.

This is a huge thank you to Mainroad, BC Hydro and Search and Rescue for trying to keep us safe. We hope this spell is finished so you can enjoy Christmas with your families. Laura Moore

# Paradigm shift needed for addiction and mental illness

BY CAROL MACKIE

I am a Salt Spring Island-based mother of one of the over 622 people who have died from (primarily) Fentanyl overdoses in 2016 in our province alone.

I also am the mother of an adult son struggling with a mental health disorder. Both my children had the benefit of a loving, supportive and economically secure home with parents willing to spend whatever it took to get them help.

The problem is that Canada simply does not have effective mechanisms in place to provide the kind of assistance that the most vulnerable among us desperately need.

What we need is a complete paradigm shift when it comes to helping Canadians with addictions and mental illnesses. Please let me share with you why I have come to believe that this is absolutely critical.

On July 6, 2016, I found my beloved daughter, Kate, splayed over the side of her bed: cold, hard and with a bluish/blackish mottled face. She had been dead for several hours. The on-site coroner and attending RCMP officer concurred that the scene had all the markings of a heroin overdose.

It took over three months for her toxicology report to arrive, thanks to the huge backlog of Fentanyl-driven demands on the only lab on the B.C. mainland that handles coroner toxicology reports. There was no heroin in Kate's system, only Fentanyl, a drug that my daughter specifically steered clear of as it had almost killed her once before in Calgary.

My daughter had been an addict since age 13. Very few treatment options existed then (or now) and all were designed exclusively for the wealthy. The two very expensive long-term residential programs we tried had abysmal success rates, as did the various short term free treatment programs. But what other choices did we have? About the same choices that my adopted father had when he unsuccessfully sought help for his alcoholism when I was a child growing up in the '50s.

With drug addiction comes the need for cash, which leads to crime, which leads to jail. Kate went through this vicious cycle and came out the other side. She got clean and was paying her debts to society. She moved to Salt Spring Island earlier this year at age 31 to start a responsible, hard-working and much beloved new life with me.

Unfortunately, as in so many B.C. and other Canadian locales, opioid addiction is big business on Salt Spring Island. Between the backyard chemists mixing up and pressing their own pills, the counterfeit drugs flowing in from Asia and the money-strapped folks selling their prescription opioids on the street to supplement their incomes, we have a huge, unaddressed problem here.

## INDEPTH

Relapse is a part of addiction and Kate was not immune.

When my daughter relapsed and sought her drug of choice, heroin, she had no trouble finding someone who would charge her for heroin but, unbeknownst to her, sell her the much cheaper Fentanyl instead. When she inhaled what she thought was a maintenance dose of heroin, she was killed instantly by the far more powerful Fentanyl.

Is this not murder on the dealer's part? If someone sold a lawyer an "all-natural" cookie laced with enough arsenic to be fatal, I'll bet that someone would be charged with murder. Why aren't dealers — trying to profit by selling a cheaper, deadlier drug for a more expensive one — not being held accountable for murder?

No alert was issued island-wide after Kate's death that Fentanyl was being passed off as heroin to our children and neighbours. Her many friends, co-workers and loved ones were left with no answers and certainly no solutions. I have since heard via the medical community of more unreported Fentanyl deaths on Salt Spring Island. Why aren't warnings being shouted from the rooftops by police, health officials, social workers, pharmacists, etc.? Or as a society, are we really okay with this kind of silent carnage? Please ensure that the answer to this troubling question is "no."

Let's talk about common-sense solutions, some of which are admittedly Band-aids while others require systemic change.

On the systemic change front, it is imperative that, as a civilized society, we stop punishing people for their illnesses and start helping them to live productive lives in spite of their afflictions. For this to happen, the boondoggle that is the racist, U.S.-led "War on Drugs" must end. How much more proof is needed of its abject failure? It is time for Canada to show real leadership and break with this incredibly destructive "war" that is tearing apart families, neighbourhoods, communities and the very fabric of our nation itself.

Legalize all drugs. There is no other way to drag drug addiction out of the shadows, the prisons and the morgues. Take the power away from the street dealers/cartels/murderers and stop treating their victims like they deserve what they get.

Surely it is the government's role to oversee the safe production and distribution of all drugs as they do with alcohol and tobacco. Sensible guidelines are expected, but the nanny state doesn't work, so our individual rights as citizens to make decisions about our own health and consumption must be respected. It is only when we cross the line to purposefully do harm to others via illegal drug manufacturing and dealing that the long arm

of the law is needed to step in.

Use the tax money currently being squandered on drug enforcement and punishment and use it for addiction research and education, which will lead to proven and humane treatment methods.

Stop using police SWAT teams to "take down" the mentally ill, either by shooting/tasing them or dropping them off at overwhelmed hospitals or remand centres that take cookie-cutter approaches to medication.

My 34-year-old son cannot handle any of the side effects of the medications for his condition. Therefore, he is considered by psychiatrists as untreatable and is refused any help.

The legal system was unable to complete two court-ordered psychiatric assessments even though he was held for four months, moving back and forth between a forensic psychiatric unit and a remand centre. His sister, Kate, was the only person he trusted and is really the only person that has ever actually helped him cope with his illness. He is, once again, back in the forensic psychiatric centre and his cycle of doom continues.

**Education is crucial to correct the many false assumptions and unhelpful, damaging and discriminatory behaviour towards those who are afflicted.**

The availability of the opioid antidote, Naloxone, or more accurately, the lack thereof, is one of those Band-aid approaches that nevertheless can save lives, unless an addict is alone and cannot self-administer, or the addict has been fed a brand-new designer drug that is Naloxone-resistant.

That said, is there any legitimate reason why Naloxone is harder to find than Fentanyl? Why isn't Naloxone standard issue for every Canadian police cruiser, every EMT kit, every pharmacy, every walk-in health clinic, every legal shooting gallery, etc.?

Also part Band-aid but necessary nonetheless is the banning of the unregulated sale of pill presses. Why make it easier for freelance research chemists to "break bad" by using their knowledge to make and press Fentanyl pills that then kill our loved ones? Making the over-the-counter ingredients of meth less easily obtainable in the U.S., for example, has cut down on the number of mom and pop meth cook labs with all the social, health and environmental nightmares that go hand-in-hand.

We were promised more treatment beds in B.C. We are still waiting while our children die. However, more treatment beds are only effective if effective treatments are being administered in



COURTESY CAROL MACKIE

Katie McDowell, the writer's daughter whose death was caused by Fentanyl on Salt Spring Island this summer.

them. We need to kick our national habit of classifying people with addictions and mental illnesses as less-than-human, castaways to be left to the fate they brought upon themselves through weakness of character.

We must reclassify addiction and mental problems as illnesses — just like Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease. Real dollars must be dedicated to thinking outside of the box to address addiction and mental illness. Surely, best practices from around the world could provide better solutions than we are getting right now here in Canada. Psychiatry also must undergo a major paradigm shift. Offering the same unhelpful solutions over and over and expecting different results is one definition of insanity, isn't it?

Education is crucial to correct the many false assumptions and unhelpful, damaging and discriminatory behaviour towards those who are afflicted. People who are not directly related to an addict

or someone with a mental illness often don't realize that there is much more to these folks than just their diseases. I have known a large number of addicts and many people with mental illness and most of them are or were kind, creative, talented and intelligent.

My son, for instance, is very intelligent and excelled in math. He could work out the square root of a four-digit number in his head when he was six years old. He has a diploma from Loyola in electrical engineering and computer programming. Little good it has done him.

My daughter was very much a people person. On Salt Spring, she was hard-working and well respected by staff and customers, according to the owner of a building supplies company where she worked until her death.

The issue is that my addicted and mentally ill children aren't the only ones. So many people have been failed miserably by our dysfunctional systems and not helped whatsoever. That is why we need to consider a whole new way of solving this enormously difficult problem and archaic, savage way of dealing with our sick and downtrodden.

The broken mechanisms currently in place for addiction and mental illness help next to no one. Not the addict and their families; nor the overwhelmed police, justice and health-care systems; nor the frustrated taxpayer; nor the politicians who insist on keeping useless policies and an unjust system in place.

It is the politicians who should ultimately be held responsible by an increasingly infuriated and ever-growing group of disgusted voters. It is the politicians who have the power to make the necessary changes . . . if only they can find the will and the courage.

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# ArtSpring hosts fun family Christmas event

Music, crafts and a visit from Santa Claus

### SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

ArtSpring invites families, children and Salt Springers of all ages to enjoy a winter holiday celebration, with Santa Claus included.

Family Christmas at ArtSpring, taking place on Wednesday, Dec. 21, is entirely free and open to everyone.

From 5 to 6:15 p.m., hot chocolate and goodies will be served in the ArtSpring lobby, all generously donated by Country Grocer. During this time, elementary school art educator Johanna Hoskins and her grandchildren will assist children in making free Christmas crafts in the ArtSpring galleries. Children are welcome to take their crafts home to give as Christmas presents, or decorate their own homes and trees.

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., everyone is invited to raise their voices for the Christmas sing-along in the theatre. With Adina Hildebrandt as MC, this year's sing-along



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Santa Claus is among guests at a family-oriented Christmas event and food bank fundraiser at ArtSpring next Wednesday.

is geared towards children and families. Children's singer and songwriter Jim Raddysh opens the evening with upbeat Christmas sing-along songs that will get

everyone out of their seats, clapping and singing along.

Pianist Shirley Bunyan provides musical accompaniment for an assortment of jolly, kid-friendly favourites, including Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Arthur Black, formerly of CBC Radio, delivers a stirring retelling of The Gift of the Magi.

Following a quirky interpretation of The Twelve Days of Christmas by Viva Chorale, the moment everyone has been waiting for arrives — Santa Claus. In a magical conclusion to the evening, Salt Spring's own Santa takes to the stage, accompanied by a carol of elves. Santa will dazzle the audience with a magic show and, time permitting, with a reading of A Child's Christmas in Wales.

Family Christmas at ArtSpring is a free community event, celebrating the magic of Christmas with all Salt Spring Islanders and visitors alike.

People are encouraged to bring a donation for the food bank, and if they feel so inspired, to dress up as their favourite elf, snowman or whatever winter character brings them joy.

## SEASONAL MUSIC

# Carol sing raises voices at All Saints

Get-together held next Wednesday afternoon

### SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Carols for Christmastide, the annual community carol sing held in All Saints By-the-Sea, is slated this year for Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.

Hosted by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish for over 12 years, the popularity of this hour-long afternoon event may be due to timing, which allows for daylight driving, together with the ambiance of candlelit intimacy, and the traditional sounds of the pipe organ in this acoustically excellent venue.

It also offers islanders the opportu-

nity to take a break from the Christmas rush and enjoy time together after the singing over delicious Christmas fare, including Sarah's superb Christmas cake, mince tarts, mulled apple juice, and more.

Accompanied by choir director David Storm at the piano and organ, the All Saints' choir will be leading the familiar carols, with soloists performing

**It also offers islanders the opportunity to take a break from the Christmas rush and enjoy time together ....**

seasonal gems that bring Christmas straight to the heart.

Solo sopranos Jean McLure and Betty Rothwell have several favourites in their repertoire, one of them being Bach's lovely Sheep May Safely Graze, while alto Anke Smeele will be singing Handel's Father of Heaven. She will also join soprano Connie Holmes, their rich blend of voices bringing to life John Rutter's Angel Carol and Lauridson's On This Shining Night, both beautifully arranged as duets.

Admission is by donation, refreshments a suggested \$3, with all proceeds going to the Salt Spring Food Bank.

Patrons of the Tea à Tempo series, also produced by Music Makers, should note that the next concert will be in All Saints on Feb. 1.

**Bach on the Rock**  
 with Guest Conductor  
**Don Conley**  
**Handel's Messiah**  
 6th annual Sing Along  
 Sunday, December 18, 2016  
 2:00 pm at Fulford Hall  
 with  
 Cicela Månsson, Soprano  
 Manya Sadouski, Mezzo-Soprano  
 Don Fisher, Tenor  
 Angus Bell, Bass

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## TRADITIONS

# Messiah sounds to fill Fulford Hall

Sing along or listen this Sunday

A delightful seasonal tradition unfolds for the sixth time as Bach on the Rock Music Society presents the Sing-along Messiah at Fulford Hall on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Conducted by Don Conley, this year's vocal soloists are Don Fisher, tenor (and a BC Hydro tech), Manya Sadouski, mezzo-soprano (and physician), Cicela Månsson, soprano (and ArtSpring executive and artistic director), and Angus Bell, basso and honorary Salt Springer.

"The Salt Spring Abattoir is proudly sponsoring Chorus No. 26, called "All we like sheep," and we

have approached the CRD animal control officer to help with any who go astray," explains a press release about the event.

"The choir and orchestra is populated by your friends and neighbours, so come one and come all, and sing along if you wish."

Songbooks have been borrowed from the Salt Spring Singers, so people can follow along with their own score.

The concert also features a beautiful shiny new podium (also borrowed) made by island craftsman Illtyd Perkins.

Sunday's show begins at 2 p.m.

Tickets are at Mondo Trading at 250-931-2553 or at the door.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left, Fiona Pirie, a masked Charlie Beaver and Kane O'Scalleigh perform in the GLSS Holiday Improv show featuring junior and senior improv teams, alumni and musical guests at ArtSpring. The event was a fundraiser for the senior improv team's trip to Ottawa for a national competition.

ART REVIEW

# Colour meets form in Wood exhibit

Fault Line Projects show runs through December

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fault Line Projects gallery at Grace Point Square features work by two Canadian artists who specialize in the abstract this month in 2-Ply, a new show from Alan Wood and Anna Wood that opened Saturday.

Inclement weather made for a slow opening reception, which was a shame, because Anna Wood and her partner had managed to arrive from Vancouver despite travelling through the snow in a vintage car without a working heater. And even after a slightly harrowing evening, she was happy to speak about her paintings and collage work, in which explorations of colour, composition and form are her primary concerns.

Anna's father Alan Wood (who could not attend due to health reasons) is a well-known artist and a former Capilano University studio arts program instructor. The Fault Line Projects exhibition may be the first time Alan Wood's work has been available for viewing on Salt Spring since a Vortex Gallery show held around 15 years ago. He gained international notice for his major environmental art project called Ranch, completed in the Alberta Rockies in 1983. The 320-acre installation involved pieces constructed in wood that were then wrapped in painted canvas.

In his later work, Alan Wood continued to use constructions of wood, canvas and paint to explore ranch, rock and waterfall themes. His abstractions bring nature's forms to their most basic geometry and beyond. Often they are not recognizable as a specific landscape, but reference geography through colour or shape.

Anna Wood has a BFA from Emily Carr University and has inherited her father's eye for abstraction and for colour, which she uses with a joyful exuberance. While her father is undoubtedly a strong influence, and her earlier pieces seem to address a dialogue with his style, her path cannot be called derivative.

Anna Wood keeps bins of paper materials for her collages, including books and artworks from her childhood and endless additions collected since then. A series of collages at the exhibition were made using the leaves of one of her childhood books for the base, leaving each with a tabbed edge where the binding went through.

Backings were layered over with paint and paper cutouts in irregular shapes so that in each one perhaps only a small element of the original illustration is permitted to show through.

Her colour palette has been strongly influenced by the aesthetic of Stanley Kubrick films of the 1960s and '70s, and includes wonderful shades of pink, blue, green and orange plus chocolate brown. (Think also of the delicious colour schemes in Wes Anderson's film *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.) Often many different tones within the family exist in the same painting, but with only a single sliver of each variation.

Thematic influences include natural phenomena from tornadoes to rainbows and sundogs, as well as processes like decomposition. These are expressed more in terms of energy (light and movement) than in structure. Composition-wise, Anna Wood keeps the viewer guessing, producing shifting perspectives that eliminate a traditional sense of "up" and "down." At times, for example, the heaviest elements in terms of colour and mass are positioned near the top of the frame, with open, lighter areas below.

Collaged elements are made unrecognizable by their context, such as the painted-over shapes that once filled the cornucopia in a school Thanksgiving drawing, and the sideways-lying pair of 1930s dancers (whose heads have also been removed).

The cumulative result of these processes is that instead of viewers trying to piece together a narrative or a



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Anna Wood with one of the pieces in the 2-Ply exhibit at Fault Line Projects in Grace Point Square.

picture they can relate to, they are forced to study just how colours and forms relate to one another. It's an enriching experi-

ence—and a fun one, too. The 2-Ply show continues at Fault Line Projects until the end of this month.

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

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# what's on this week



## Wed. Dec 14

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Festival of Trees.** Enjoy decorated Christmas trees from several community groups and businesses. Vote for your favourite tree by placing an item for the Salt Spring Food Bank under it and/or donating money for Copper Kettle. At the Harbour House Hotel. 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day until the morning of Dec. 30.  
**School Board Meeting.** Public welcome at SD64 school board portable. 1 p.m.  
**SongJam.** A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.



## Thur. Dec 15

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Open Mic With Dave & Ross.** Every Thursday at Moby's Pub beginning at 8 p.m.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Encore Theatre presents Richard III.** Starring Ralph Fiennes and Vanessa Redgrave. Two showings at The Fritz Cinema: 3 and 7 p.m.  
**Festival of Trees.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Fri. Dec 16

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Viva Chorale! Carollers Sing Christmas.** Share Christmas spirit with song, hot apple cider and treats. All proceeds go to the SSI Food Bank. All Saints Anglican Church. 7 p.m.  
**Rainwood Dance Winter Recital.** Rainwood Dance Studio students and instructors share dances in various genres in term-end show. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.  
**Stories & Songs for the Season.** Dramatic reading with Arthur Black, Jan Rabson, Ann Stewart, Clark Saunders, Lynda Jensen, Chris Humphreys, plus music for harp, flute and voice. Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. SS United Church. 7:30 p.m.  
**Tumblin' Dice.** Alt country band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Food & Beverage Business Accelerator Info Session.** Community Economic Development Commission program to see if local food and beverage producers qualify for up to \$5,000 in free training, mentorship and more. Rock Salt Restaurant. 2 to 4 p.m. Info: RuralBusinessAccelerator@gmail.com  
**Festival of Trees.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Sat. Dec 17

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Stories & Songs for the Season.** See Friday's listing, except the time is 2 p.m.  
**Ange Hehr.** Rock/dance music at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.



## ACTIVITIES

**Christmas Market in the Park.** Local vendors make it, bake it, grow it with a holiday twist. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Meet & Greet Adam Olsen.** Meet Green party B.C. election candidate Adam Olsen and express your concerns and views for Saanich North and the Islands. Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Teen Movie Night at the Library.** All youth are welcome for a free movie and refreshments in the library program room for the premiere of Teen Movie Night. Screening of How the Grinch Stole Christmas starring Jim Carrey, plus book draws and giveaways courtesy of the library. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 7 p.m.  
**Festival of Trees.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Sun. Dec 18

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Sing-along Messiah.** Annual event presented by the Salt Spring choir and orchestra of Bach on the Rock. Scores available to use, or bring your own, or simply listen and enjoy the wonderful tradition of Handel's Messiah. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.  
**Terry Warbey & Richard Cross.** Live music at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.



## ACTIVITIES

**Food & Beverage Business Accelerator Info Session.** See Friday listing, except the location is at Fernwood Road Cafe from 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Christmas Bird Count - Salt Spring Island.** 24th annual Salt Spring Island Bird Count. To participate, you must have attended a Nov. 29 orientation meeting, or contact coordinator Tim Marchant at timpsm@gmail.com or 250-653-9900.  
**Cusheon Lake Christmas Carol Canoe Caravan.** Meet at the Cusheon Lake public dock to go carolling. 1 p.m.  
**Ganges Harbour Parade of Lights.** Lighted boat parade from 6 to 7 p.m.

## Mon. Dec 19

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Merry Monday.** Sing Christmas songs along with Valdy in front of Salt Spring Mercantile. 5:50 to 7:30 p.m.  
**Festival of Trees.** See Wednesday's listing  
**Transitions Thrift Store's 19th Birthday Party.** Enjoy cake and treats while celebrating the store's birthday. 2 p.m.

## Tue. Dec 20

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Floor Hockey.** Every Tuesday at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.  
**Festival of Trees.** See Wednesday's listing.

## Wed. Dec 21

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Carols for Christmastide.** Annual community carol sing at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2 p.m.  
**Family Christmas at ArtSpring.** Families, children and Salt Springers of all ages are welcome to ArtSpring for a free winter holiday celebration. Events start at 5 p.m. Sing-along starts at 6:30. Bring a food bank donation.  
**Coping With Grief Over the Holidays.** A SS Hospice event at the SS Public Library. 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**Festival of Trees.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**SongJam.** See last Wednesday's listing.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL:

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Terry Warbey, left, and Richard Cross play at Wintercraft. This Sunday they will perform at the Salt Spring Inn.

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**ENCORE THEATRE**  
**Richard III**  
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 Thurs. Dec. 15th only 3pm matinee and 7 pm show  
 Tickets \$22 will be available at showtime.

**FANTASTIC BEASTS**  
 Dec. 16th to 22nd Fri. to Thurs. 7pm  
 Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

**driftwoodgulfislands media.com/calendar/**

VIEW OUR ONLINE COMPREHENSIVE INTERACTIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS LISTINGS

**Messiah Sing Along**  
 With SS Chamber Orchestra and Choir  
 Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Fulford Hall • 2 p.m.

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

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## CINEMA

• **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** — J.K. Rowling's Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them draws on Harry Potter's rich mythology to deliver a spinoff that dazzles with magic all its own.  
 • **Encore Theatre presents Richard III** — Starring Ralph Fiennes and Vanessa Redgrave. On Thurs., Dec. 15 only at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Advance tickets at the cinema Fridays through Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

• **Gallery 8** presents its annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** until Jan. 3.  
 • **Artists from the Fringe** group members present new work at **Mahon Hall** as part of Wintercraft daily through Dec. 22.  
 • **Wintercraft** show and sale presented by the Salt Spring Arts Council runs daily at **Mahon Hall** through Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 • **Into the Light:** A Winter Solstice Art Show of work by multiple artists runs at **Salt Spring Gallery** until Dec. 22.  
 • **Alan Wood** and **Anna Wood** present the 2-Ply exhibit at **Fault Line Projects** in Grace Point Square through Dec. 31.

## EXHIBITIONS

• **Gabrielle Jensen** shows new monoprints at **Auntie Pesto's Cafe** through December, and releases a collection of small **LeRoy Jensen** drawings at **Gulf Islands Picture Framing**.  
 • **Patricia Brown** shows paintings in the ArtSpring lobby until Dec. 21.  
 • **Photographer Annie Palovick** presents **Places and Faces: A Retrospective** at **Fernwood Road Cafe** this month.  
 • **Celia Meade** exhibits oil paintings with themes of transcendence and spirituality in the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** through December.  
 • **Five artists from the Salt Spring Painters' Guild** — **Judith Borbas, Amanda Kuehl, Judy Nurse, Margaret Threlfall** and **Wendy Wickland** — have winter seasonal paintings in the **Country Grocer Cafe** through December.  
 • **Fifteen Salt Spring Photography Club** members show photographs at the **Harbour House Hotel** through the month of December.  
 • **Renee Sanden's** installation called **Trinity: the Mother, the Daughter and the Holy Spirit** shows in the window of **ArtSpace Gallery**, #17 in Merchant Mews.  
 • **Salt Spring Photography Club** members have photographs on display at **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe**.

ART REVIEW

# Wintercraft home to all sizes of art

Mahon Hall show and sale on through Dec. 22

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Alongside the wonderful array of Gulf Islands-produced craft and gift items to be found at Wintercraft during the holiday season, art pieces that meet various budgets and size constraints are also widely available.

This year's show and sale at Mahon Hall includes a special exhibition from the Artists on the Fringe group, the second such show to feature some of the more vulnerable, and often invisible, members of the community. Many of the works on display were produced at art jam sessions coordinated by Lynne Johnson and Stefanie Denz, assisted by the Salt Spring Arts Council and individual artists at space donated by Salt Spring United Church. Gillian McConnell and Pegasus Gallery contributed framing materials and services.

As the exhibition in Mahon Hall's back gallery subtly underlines, there are many reasons why people become marginalized, and various roads that lead to the fringe of society. Exhibition participants therefore may have had various levels of art training, but all have found a way to express themselves, often on a deeply personal level.

Neal Apsassin is one of the more experienced artists of the group. A member of the Blueberry River Band of Fort St. John, he's been commissioned by several elders and chiefs in First Nations communities.

Prints on exhibit were produced during Apsassin's months of homelessness on Salt Spring. Pieces like Buffalo - House and Home show a beautifully sensitive hand and a keen eye for animal anatomy. Home is conveyed by a horse's head stretching toward a softly rendered teepee outline, contrasted with and contained by the buffalo's powerful form.

A young woman named Quill reveals her sense of humour with Oversharing, which she calls "a very gratuitous self-portrait." The crayon and Sharpie drawing portrays a person's bare torso with gaping cavity pulled back to reveal the heart and skullcap missing to show the brain, with bright pink bubbles of emotion emitting from each. Tongue hanging out, the figure has cheerful if wry honesty, with bright colours against a dark background.

A pair of forest monsters in pencil by Charlotte have the whimsical air of children's illustrations, the monsters' humanesque upper bodies and faces devolving into tree roots and branches. There is an apparent tension between the forest's ability to both shelter and harm, although on the whole the creatures seem benevolent.

Other interesting pieces from the fringe include the painting Toast by J., with its collection of toast slice, crossed cutlery and giant fir against a fiery yellow and orange background, as well as a colourful abstract painting by the same artist. Mushroom drawings by Grace are strong in technique ink against a natural paper background.

Outside in the main hall of the juried Wintercraft show, there are various types of visual art amongst the artisan gift items. Donna Ateah has a lovely collection of nature- and science-inspired "pyrography" pieces, with etchings burned into square wood panels inset in wooden frames. Some of my favourites include an owl's face in profile and neck plumage that fills the entire frame in a "close-up," and a crumbling pale-blue gibbous moon set against an edging of white stars and black universe.



PHOTO AT TOP BY JEN MACLELLAN; PHOTOS AT LEFT AND ABOVE BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

At left is a display of Donna Ateah's pyrography pieces at Wintercraft at Mahon Hall, while above is Leslie DeAthe's beaded starfish jewellery and at top is one corner of the Artists from the Fringe show and sale in the back gallery at the hall. Wintercraft and the special exhibit are open until Dec. 22.

Karen Tottman, the owner of the former Stitches store in Ganges, continues to innovate in the textile medium. In her collection of eco-dyed paintings, she uses vegetative matter such as leaves to print natural tones onto silk panels. Overlapping printed areas form elements of landscapes with an air of the traditional Chinese watercolour style. Definition is given in just a small area of each work through a hand-stitched tree or two.

Charlotte Thompson's quilted pieces come for the most part as lovely sets of placemats or individual table runners, but she also has one stunning wall piece. Crazy 8s is a red and white snowflake design that comprises a set of eight good-sized quilted squares. The result is cheerful and eye-catching, a warm way to liven up any wall in winter.

Beaded jewellery by Leslie DeAthe, a longtime member of the Salt Spring Gallery, suggests she's reached master status in her chosen medium. Gorgeous combinations of tiny precious stones and Swarovski crystals are uniquely elegant, and reveal painstakingly complex designs upon close inspection. A collection of starfish pendants in different green, gold and turquoise shades are deceptively simple enough to be wearable anytime but have also have the elements to be as dressy as required while still having that coastal touch.

Artwork that is well designed and produced and that anyone can take home can be found on lino-print cards by Monique Comeau. Charming textured nature scenes in black ink include a badger, and a whale switching back from a dive.



**Stephen - from the Island, for the Island**

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

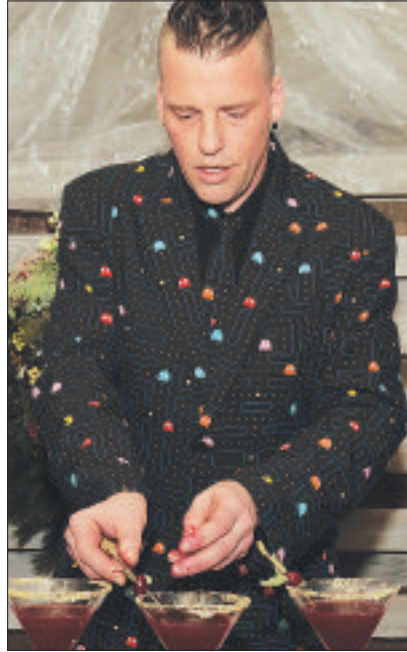
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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

**MIX CRAFT:** Snowy weather could not deter participants in the sixth annual Glowtini Contest, including, from left, winner Christine Pennington of House Piccolo, Tom Messer of the Salt Spring Inn and Jesse Anderson of Hastings House. This year's event, part of Christmas on Salt Spring happenings, took place in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 lounge on Thursday night.

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**ECOLOGY**

## Quest for fairness has ancient roots

Unresolved issues can be deeply unsettling



**Bob Weeden**

### CONNECTIONS

Susan Brosnan and Frans de Waal discovered that if two captive capuchin monkeys were given cucumbers when they solved a puzzle, they were fine. If one were rewarded with a sweet grape, though, you'd think World War III had begun.

"The monkey receiving the cucumber," De Waal wrote in *The Bonobo and the Atheist*, contentedly munches on her first slice, yet throws a tantrum after she notices that her competition is getting grapes. From then on, she ditches her measly cucumber slices and starts shaking the test chamber with such agitation that it threatens to break apart."

It isn't fair! Lots of other ape types have this same sense of fairness. When one of two chimps gets a better reward, not only does the loser get angry, the winner, knowing it's unfair, tries to hide the prize. Another perspective on primate fairness showed up when an adolescent female ape interrupted two juveniles fighting over a

leafy branch. She took the branch away, broke it in two, and gave each youngster half. Guess where Solomon got his idea?

Fairness is deeply ingrained in mammals that live in intimate kinship groups. We can detect it best when the species can communicate complex messages — arms free and flexible, grasping hands and a repertoire of sounds.

That sounds like us, and it should. We inherit (not directly from apes, most of us) strong fairness traits from ancient tribal times in human and pre-human history. When you are a member of a small, isolated clan, you can't afford to waste energy bickering. Fairness, empathy and compassion help you survive.

As a boy, I lived in a small group, too. There were 2.1 billion people on earth in my birth year, 1933, and 300,000 in a 20-mile radius from home. Effectively, however,

the rules that mattered to me and to my tease of sisters were set out by parents and a half-dozen relatives just down the street. The rules didn't always seem fair.

"Bobby has his own bedroom but we've got to sleep two to a bed!" "Ruth (big sister) can stay up to listen to Jack Benny but I've got to go to bed. It's unfair!"

At the same time, of course, the adult world had to follow rules about taxation, traffic, zoning, money transactions, and so on. Still, our neighbourhood lived almost as an echo of tribal times, compared with now, 80 years later. (In fact, the amount of time I spent in trees might invite comparisons with apes. But with a gnarled apple tree against the back wall and a row of big beeches with stout interlocking branches on the riverbank, what's a kid to do?)

Now there are 7.4 billion people and we negotiate between small-group and global neighbourhoods with the push of a button. Things get confused. Fairness is genetically still there, but it threads out from robust ties among kin to the slenderest of strands connecting us with millions of people we've never met who face problems we've never

known.

In *A Fair Country*, John Ralston Saul argues that fairness was a strong trait among pre-contact tribal people, and that the early Europeans who came in the 17th and 18th centuries learned to fit in. They were settlers, not conquerors. Later British and French immigrants, more hierarchical and aggressive, overwhelmed the earlier societies. It was a struggle to keep fairness strong.

The urge to be fair may be durable, but its practice is a lot easier when generation after generation encounters similar situations. That doesn't happen much, now. The new normal is a rapid succession of new normals. Just to give one example, what defines fairness, apart from political power, when a culture scared of people who keep faces covered in public is thrown suddenly together with another culture that demands that women keep faces covered in public?

Unresolved issues of fairness can be deeply unsettling. Taxation, access to jobs and education, gross wealth inequalities — all are sources of such issues. Mr. Trump rode that anger into the White House.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

# SSIFR catches viral Mannequin Challenge

Team-building exercise proves a hit

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue may be having a tough year at home, but the organization has attracted a whole new audience of fans with its contribution to the “Mannequin Challenge.”

“It was more of a team-building exercise than anything,” said Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George of the surprising hit video. “We saw it on social media going viral so we thought, ‘Let’s try it.’”

A couple of years ago it was the Ice Bucket Challenge that had viewers across North America and beyond picking up their electronic devices to see who had joined in the awareness campaign for ALS. This year’s internet phenomenon is a little more difficult to explain and can be attached to basically any cause or interest. It involves staging a group of people frozen in action as if they are mannequins, while a moving camera films around them. Usually the video is set to the song Black Beatles by Rae Sremmurd, following the example of the student originators.



Scene from Salt Spring Island Fire-Rescue’s Mannequin Challenge video.

Everyone from Hillary Clinton’s campaign to sports teams like the Dallas Cowboys and Manchester United have gotten into the act, and even original Beatle Paul McCartney has played along. Salt Spring Fire-Rescue’s popular take on the form is therefore notable for having been viewed some 15,600 times since it was first shared on Nov. 28.

SSIFR’s version features local firefighters at their Fulford training

centre doing some of the key services they practise for: fighting a live structure fire and pulling off a rescue at a burning vehicle. What makes it more remarkable than some mannequin challenges — many of which take place in school hallways or other sites where people are easily gathered together — is the juxtaposition between the frozen emergency crews and the very live-action fire and water.

“Most of the comments from

other fire departments are that it’s probably the best they’ve seen because of the water and fire elements,” George acknowledged.

Indeed, the video received public accolades at a recent Local Trust Committee meeting from chair Peter Luckham, who is deputy fire chief of the Thetis Island Volunteer Fire Department. Luckham praised the Salt Spring department for the video’s professional appearance.

George said about 15 department members turned out on a Sunday for the shoot, which was accomplished in under an hour and required just three takes. Filming and editing was done mainly by firefighter Shawn Stevens, but due to a clever pass-off to fellow member Alex Reid, Stevens also appears in the video. (Look for him in the auto-extrication scene.)

George said the event was successful in its team-building goal, and the video doubles nicely as a bit of promotion about what the fire service does, not just on Salt Spring but in general.

Find the video on the Salt Spring Fire Department Facebook page or search for Mannequin Challenge Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue on YouTube.

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DUPLICATE BRIDGE

# Snow blanks frustrated bridge players

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Snow, snow, go away! Don't come back another day!

No thanks to La Niña, the dreaded Arctic outflow and two surprise Monday mornings revealing piles of beautiful snow, there's only one result to report, and that one was

way back on relatively balmy Nov. 28.

There were four full tables with as usual Jeff Bell and Prem Margolese topping the lot, then George Laundry with Terry Clement coming second, and Flo Laundry and Peter Robinson in third place.

Out of the money but happy anyway were players in a tie for fourth — Patricia Hewett

and Bob Morrisette getting the same score as Nick Beringer and Patricia Sutherland.

Lucky Nick then departed for Puerto Vallarta before the snows arrived on the next two Mondays, Dec. 5 and 12, causing both games to be cancelled. All hope that Dec. 19 will see the roads clear and the seniors centre full of players at our Christmas party.

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**Fitness Expert**

**What Can I Do Over The Holidays To Reduce Stress?**



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

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

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

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

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

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

*Drive Safe, Gyle*

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## TRANSPORTATION

# Carpool effort for island ferry travellers gets rolling

Organizer aims to save funds and emissions

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People travelling between Salt Spring and other communities who want the convenience of car transport but don't want to face the stiff ferry fare alone have a new option for sharing both the benefits and the burden.

Salt Spring Carpool—Beat the Ferry Costs is a new Facebook group orga-

nized by Jenny Wright, a Vancouver resident and long-time island visitor who recently bought a house on Salt Spring. In doing so she's followed in the footsteps of her late father-in-law Gordon Wright, who spent three and a half decades on the island before moving back to Vancouver, where he passed away in 2014.

"I've been coming to the island for 35 years and I've watched the ferry prices climb up," Wright said.

Now that she's a monthly visitor, the cost is even more noticeable.

"I come enough times that it really

adds up," she added. "I just thought for such a green community, I was surprised there wasn't something already in place."

The appetite appears to be strong for such a program. Wright started her Facebook group just last week and has already attracted 57 members. So far the group has yet to result in a ride, but Wright herself has offered space for one person on her next planned trip to Salt Spring on Dec. 17.

Unlike a commuter carpool system where a set group of people takes

part every day and takes turn driving or makes another regular arrangement, in this case individuals will arrange trips as the situation arises and make their own deals for sharing the expenses of ferry fares and gas.

"Given these rising prices with the ferries, it's just ludicrous to me that we should all be one driver with one car," Wright said.

She sees the group as being a useful tool for seniors travelling off island to appointments. Coordination with another group like the Salt Spring Seniors Society, which has a

volunteer driver program in place, is a potential she'd like to explore. There's even the possibility of using the group to keep track of children or others who are able to travel on the ferry by themselves but need help with transportation before and/or after that.

People who are interested in the idea can search for the group on Facebook and request to become a member, which Wright administers. Those who aren't connected to social media can email her directly at jennwright7@shaw.ca.

SALT  
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# More seniors care investments needed

The Office of the Seniors Advocate released its annual Monitoring Seniors' Services report on Tuesday.

While it covers a number of different areas, the report reveals that wait times to secure a residential care bed are increasing while fewer seniors are gaining access to home care services.

According to the OSA report:

In 2015/16, on a provincial level, the average home support hours delivered per year per client decreased by approximately 2% from the previous year, while the number of clients increased by 2%.

Average and median wait times for residential care grew longer in three of five regional health

authorities. The proportion of residents admitted to residential care within the target window of 30 days decreased from 64% in 2014/15 to 57% in 2015/16.

The number of residential care beds has increased 3.5% since 2012, while the number of seniors aged 85 and older has increased 21% over the same time period.

"It's fairly clear from this report that in some key areas related to seniors care are facing some significant challenges," says Daniel Fontaine, CEO for the BC Care Providers Association. "With a rapidly aging population, it is imperative we make new investments to increase the overall capacity

of both home care and residential care in B.C."

"Nevertheless," continues Fontaine, "there are several key areas where there has been some marked improvement, such as the reduction of use of anti-psychotic medications, and improved access to doctors."

Earlier this year, the BCCPA launched MyCareFinder.ca which helps provide the public with access to information regarding underused care beds in the province. In a survey of BCCPA members, it was determined that while seniors were waiting to access care back in the community, hundreds of private care beds were sitting empty.

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COMMENTARY

# Afghan poppies keep blowing in the wind

Let's hear it for Joel Poinsett and Casper Wistar. And a hand for J.G. Zinn, Anders Dahl and Leonard Fuchs as well.

What's special about those dudes? They all have flowers named after them — to wit: poinsettia, wisteria, zinnia, dahlia and fuchsia. What could be more sublime than knowing that a beautiful bloom will bear your name forever?

Johann Friedrich von Eschscholtz has that honour. The genus *Eschscholzia* of the family *Papaveraceae* is named after the 19th century Russian scientist. We know it better as the California poppy.

Which brings us, in a rambling, creeping vine sort of way, to the subject of the day: the poppy. We mostly know the red kind, *Papaver rhoeas*, which we wear on our lapels each November, but the poppy can come in any colour and a bewildering variety of guises. It can grow up to four feet tall; the blossoms can be the size of a dinner plate.

Aside from Herr Eschsholtz' namesake there is the Prickly, the Welsh, the Pygmy, the Wind, the Tulip, the Tree and the Desert Bearpaw variety. Poppies are



Arthur Black

## WIT & WHIMSY

a weed that grows anywhere from the plains of India to the battlefields of Flanders to the front lawn of the RCMP detachment on Salt Spring Island (really).

And the flowers go back a ways. Early Greeks and Romans used them as offerings to their dead. Ancient Egyptian medics ground up the seeds and fed them to patients for pain relief.

And somewhere along the line somebody discovered that if you cultivated the right species of poppy and harvested it at the right time, you got an industrial-strength pain reliever: opium. Later they discovered it was also lethally addictive.

So they dumped it on the Chinese.

Rather, the British East India Trading Company did. Back in the early 1800s, British merchants found themselves with a huge cash crop of opium distilled from the poppy fields of India. They shipped it

off to China (ignoring the protests of the Chinese emperor who had banned the drug).

The British got filthy rich; China got generations of junkies and eventually endured The Opium Wars, in which tens of thousands (almost all Chinese) were killed. Free trade, 19th-century style.

Fast forward to Afghanistan at the end of the 20th century. Under the Taliban, Afghan poppy farmers (who supplied 75 per cent of the world's opium) were put out of business on pain of death.

That was then. A little over a decade later, Afghan poppies are once again blowing in the wind. Last year marked the fourth record year for production of (ahem) non-pharmaceutical grade opiates, 92 per cent of which come from Afghanistan.

The poppy. A beautiful flower that inspired in Flanders Fields, the most famous Canadian poem ever written. A flower of peace and remembrance.

But a flower with a history as blood-soaked red as the petals of a *Papaver rhoeas*.

READING

# Library catalogue holds real treasures

Discoveries reward seekers at Salt Spring Library

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

While looking through the wonderful donations we received last month, I went to the catalogue to determine which titles we already have on the shelves.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that we hold a good number of books, both historical and contemporary, dealing with a wide range of feminist issues. And this fact holds true for any number of topics. Need reference material? Need up-to-the minute information? Check the library catalogue to locate a wealth of information on virtually any topic.

**Price Paid: the Fight for First Nations Survival** is Chief Bev Sellars' latest study of the historical realities of life for First Nations people in Canada. Drawing on her experiences as a member and chief of a British Columbia First Nations band, the author looks at the possibilities of reconciliation based on understanding, respect and acceptance of aboriginal perspectives of our

## ON THE NEW SHELVES

shared past. The book is presented as a selection of essays that frame and explain many of the issues that both divide and unite the peoples that make up the wider community. The result is an interesting, readable text that sheds light and hope on the past and the future.

**Play Anything: the Pleasure of Limits, the Uses of Boredom, & the Secrets of Games** presents the world as our playground and life as our opportunity to enjoy our time on the planet. Rather than looking at the limits of our existence as tiresome, we need to understand that limits set rules that make the game of life fun. Understanding that games consist of regulations and goals allows us to look at our own world views and principles, giving us the boundaries that make the game of life engaging and worthwhile. Partly a memoir, partly a philosophical argument, partly an intellectual history, this book reveals the meaning of "play," "fun" and "life."

Jojo Moyes' latest collection, **Paris for One & Other Stories**, gives readers nine stories that "cast strong, relatable women in the

midst of their everyday lives." As usual, Moyes makes the ordinary moments of peoples' lives into extraordinary, memorable times. Her collection is funny and charming, while delightfully unpredictable and entertaining, raising as many questions about social mores and relationships as it answers.

Genealogy seems to be a topic that

interests practically everyone! **Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher** provides a practical, doable approach to tracing family roots. Relying on proven methods as well as up-to-the-minute technology, anyone can check their ancestry. From start to completion, this book will help users to ask the right questions of the right sources and to utilize every tool to get to the root of their family tree.

**Time to Write: Discovering the Writer Within After 50** is the book for me, and many others. This book promises to take you from a "vague idea to a finished, ready-to-publish manuscript" — a "complete" step-by-step guide for would-be writers. Replete with check lists, inspiring examples, tips and techniques to get you started, this book might just be the tipping point that gets your ideas and dreams onto paper.

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### ANDREA KATHRYN SAWYER HOOGE

March 27, 1973 - Dec. 4, 2016



It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our beloved daughter, sister, niece, aunt, cousin and friend. Andrea was born in Boston, Massachusetts and died in Seattle, Washington, her home for the past 9 years. When she was two she moved back to Canada with her parents and grew up in Vancouver, BC.

Andrea is survived by her parents, Brenda (Conrad) and John (Cathy), her brother Sam (Christine), nieces Lola and Farrah, aunt (Sidney) and uncle (Syd), and cousins Josh (Brigid and their daughter Maeva) and Max.

Andrea attended high school at York House School, received her BA from the University of Western Ontario, and completed her MBA at Royal Roads University. Her career took her to work in Calgary, Edmonton, New York City and Seattle. Andrea was extremely personable and made good friends wherever she went. She loved to travel and explored the world whenever she could enjoying art museums, theatre, different cultures and experiences. Since she was a child Andrea loved vacationing on Salt Spring Island with her family and in Kelowna at her paternal grandparents' lakeshore home. Both were always very special places for her.

Andrea was compassionate, loving, sensitive, insightful and kind to others. People were drawn to her love of life, her enthusiasm, her wonderful sense of humour and her delightful laugh. Andrea was very intelligent and curious about people and places. That was so apparent in all she accomplished in her short life, and the diverse people she connected with everywhere. She loved her family and friends and they in turn loved her. She touched people's lives in very important ways.

Andrea was particularly passionate about art and explored many creative pursuits. She was an artist in so many ways - in her paintings, her love of colour, her appreciation of beauty, her love of flowers, her writing and her vibrancy. She entertained with flair and delight, loving good food and bringing people together. Andrea was a voracious reader and always found great comfort in books and the escape and wider experiences they offered.

As we grieve her loss we are holding her spirit in our hearts. That spirit will live on forever. She will be missed so much. Andrea died prematurely from complications due to cirrhosis. In lieu of flowers donations may be made, if you choose, in Andrea's name to any organization working with addictions and mental health issues.

A Celebration of Andrea's life will be held in Vancouver at a later date.

*If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you Home again.*



### PAMELA MONICA JACKSON

Dec 15, 1959 - Dec 4, 2016  
Mother - Daughter - Friend

Pam passed away Dec 4th after living with the cancer leukemia for more than a year. She was at home with friends at her side as she'd wished. Although there is much sadness in her passing, this comes after what Pam felt was one of the best and most appreciated years of her life and that we should all take solace from that.

Pam is survived by her husband Ken, mother Gisela, aunt Ingrid, cousin Christopher, Ken's father Ken and stepmother Lenore, brothers-in-law Michael and Patrick and their families, predeceased by her daughter Kimberley, father Wolfgang, uncle Heinz and cousin Roy.

Pam was born to German immigrants Wolfgang and Gisela Tandecki, growing up living in Vancouver. It wasn't until her marriage to Ken that Pam became a true global traveler, starting with moves around Alberta before moving with Ken and Kimberley to the USA, China, England, Egypt and Russia, then eventually visiting all seven continents, including Antarctica. Those experiences shaped her views on the realities of our world and helped make her more truly appreciative of being able to settle and build a wonderful life here on Salt Spring Island.

Those global experiences also made her feel incredibly lucky this past year, even on the darkest and toughest days. Pam felt she was afforded some of the finest and most compassionate medical care that could be offered, from the BC cancer clinic to the Lady Minto Hospital and the extended support network beyond that. The family feels indebted on a very personal level for all those who helped support and care for Pam.

In her memory, Pam asked that you help the Salt Spring Library or your local library by making a donation of any kind. A celebration of Pam's life is being planned for early in the New Year. Details of that gathering will be announced at a later time.

### FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN MEMORIAM

**Celebration of Life**  
ROBERT HENRY KIRKPATRICK  
May 26, 1930 - Oct. 6th, 2016

Please join our family to remember Bob on  
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016  
1 PM  
551 Beach #92  
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### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN MEMORIAM

Salt Spring Hospice  
**Coping with Grief over the Holidays**  
Wed. Dec. 21st  
1:00 - 2:30  
In the SS Library Program room  
presented by SS Hospice  
sponsored by SS Public Library

250-537-2770  
[saltspringhospice.org](http://saltspringhospice.org)

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM**



### Patricia Anne Taylor

May 20, 1923 - Dec. 9, 2016

Pat passed away at the age of 93 in the Lady Minto Hospital. Pat was a long time resident of Salt Spring since 1946 and was predeceased by her husband Jack Wellington Taylor and her daughter, Margaret Sheila (Peggy).

She is survived by her brother Jack Milner (Lucille) and sister Sheila (Tom) McIntyre and by her immediate family including Wayne Albert (Mei-Ling) (Wei-Ling), Daniel Edmond, Patrick James (Suzette) (Russell and Chelsea), James Wellington (Keiko) (Caitlin and Jim), Kathleen Anne Taylor-Kok (Peter) (Christopher and Jessica), Jennifer Mary Taylor-Gromme (Kayla and Dylan) and many grandchildren, cousins, nephew and nieces, relatives and numerous friends.

The Funeral Service Mass will be held at Our Lady of Grace Church on 135 Drake Road, Salt Spring Island at 1:00pm with Father Scott conducting the Services. A Celebration of Life will be held in the church hall afterwards.

Special Thanks to Dr. Ron Reznick and his staff, the staff and volunteers of Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital, and to the Care Workers of Beacon, to Father Scott and the many members of the CWL and the parish of Our Lady of Grace Church.

Further information can be found on [haywardsfuneral.com](http://haywardsfuneral.com)

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMING EVENTS

**Community Christmas Dinner**  
Meadon Hall  
Dec. 25th 12 - 2pm  
Doors open at 11:30am  
Meals served from 12 noon to 2:00pm  
*Some of the Best Things in Life ARE Free!*

**SALMON ENHANCEMENT Society** annual meeting  
1-3 pm, Thur, December 15, Portlucck Park portable, (weather permitting). For more info: 250-537-7580.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INFORMATION

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[www.vcrsaltspring.org](http://www.vcrsaltspring.org)  
or call 250 931 0039

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CELEBRATIONS

**Congratulations**  
Dr. & Mrs. Graham and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Spencer are pleased to announce the recent engagement of their son and daughter, Svevia Annabelle Graham and Peter Stuart Spencer.  
Wedding is planned for the summer of 2017.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INFORMATION

**Stories & Songs for the Season**  
DRAMATIC READING AND LIVE MUSIC  
Adults: \$15 Students: \$10  
Friday Dec. 16, 7:30pm  
Saturday Dec. 17, 2:00pm  
SALT SPRING UNITED CHURCH  
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Proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation

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**SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 19**

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*Roger Brown*

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**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US**  
*Stories and Songs for the Season*  
Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30pm & Saturday, Dec. 17, SSIUC, 2pm  
*Christmas Eve Service*  
Saturday, Dec. 24 SSIUC, 7pm  
*Christmas Day Community Dinner*  
Sunday, Dec. 25, Legion (Meaden Hall), noon - 2pm  
(no worship service on Christmas Sunday)  
*Worship Around the Tables*  
Sunday, Jan. 1, SSIUC, 10am

**This Week's Horoscope** by Michael O'Connor  
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Winter Solstice, nature's New Year occurs, as usual, on December 21st. A way to gain a sneak preview of the coming year for us all is to look closely at the exact moment of Winter Solstice. So, looking at the chart cast for the exact moment of solstice, which translates as the literal second that the Sun enters Capricorn (the translation goes both ways), a word that can be used to summarize it is 'carnival'. The twist is that this carnival comes with a rather dark, macabre tone, complete with clowns and other crazy characters and all the expected antics and gyrations of a mad house, the likes of which is sometimes depicted in darker movies. It can also be described as the atmosphere of a wild party late in the night after it has peaked and, some people anyway, would like to turn it all off, suddenly. As the story goes, some people are saying, okay that was fun, if somewhat wild and reckless, but now it is time to get sober and go home. Adding to the plot, it is snowing and the driving conditions are not so good. But, getting sober quickly when one has alcohol in their bloodstream or other chemical stimulants, as the case may be, does not come quickly... So, feeling positive and confident about the drive ahead is challenging. The Moon in Libra will serve as a saving grace. This is especially true with Venus strongly placed in Aquarius, This will activate and deepen bonds of friendship and inspire good will.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)** Striking a balance between your social and professional needs remains in the spotlight. The pull in both directions is equally strong, a veritable tug of war. Positively, you are able to manage your time well and have it all. This trend will continue well into 2017, the push and pull swinging rhythmically from one side to the other.  
**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)** A process of deciphering where to increase and where to release continues. Where is there too much and too little in your life? Stepping back to gain more objectivity is important. Given the continued and steady flow of change occurring in your life, it may be a challenge to feel fully centered. Keep cooperating with the current.  
**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)** A pleasant social cycle continues to inspire you to engage. Woven within the fabric of this otherwise satisfying flow of exchanges exist the seeds of new perspectives. Intellectual exchanges invariably produce some measure of debate which may be understood as their core purpose. Entertain different interpretations.  
**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)** The quality of your regular routine as it helps or hinders your overall state of health remains in focus. While you probably have reason to feel fairly confident, it is over confidence that you are wise to consider. Where do you do too much and where too little? Keep your system clean by way of a moderate yet consistent burn.  
**Leo (Jul 22 – Aug 23)** A playful and provocative theme has been bubbling to the surface these past few weeks and will continue. One of its peaks supports romantic sentiments and interludes. Another emphasizes challenges to your usual philosophy coming from both within and without. See through the relative discomfort and be grateful for the challenge.  
**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)** Giving and receiving are two ends of the same pole. A careful consideration of the quality of your giving in order to receive the desired returns remains a central theme. This could apply to your business, but also to important personal relationships as well. Either way, achieving your outer objectives requires inner work.

**Libra (Sep 22 – Oct 22)** A time of expansion in your life is underway. This cycle of influence will reach well into 2017. Deciphering the quality, scope and actual reality of this process is your invitation to consciously engage. Will it be your influence, your heart, your wallet or your waistline that will undergo this increase? You do have a say.  
**Scorpio (Oct 22 – Nov 21)** You are in the mood to go big. Do you feel confident enough and have faith in your current approach. If the answer to both is yes, then you will very likely succeed. If the answer is no, then you have work to do to achieve the yes in both respects. This process may be described as psychological and spiritual too.  
**Sagittarius (Nov 21 – Dec 21)** Increasing the scope of your influence in the world continues. Your success is directly related to your ability to engage with others. Entering new social circles is implied. Your willingness to engage in new kinds or qualities of communication is featured. Discussions about practical new strategies are highlighted.  
**Capricorn (Dec 21 – Jan 19)** Something of a soul-searching journey continues. Of course, it is ever present. The search is more one of deciphering how to best recognize your soul's presence and to hear and heed its message. This process is classically referred to as learning to listen to your heart. Whatever you hear, keep listening until it is silent again.  
**Aquarius (Jan 19 – Feb 19)** A process of seeing a bigger picture continues. This may apply to your life but also to larger social, political and philosophical perspectives as well. Regarding your own journey, the time is right to boldly go where you have not before. Pushing through familiar perspectives and comfort zones is a central theme.  
**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)** Digging deep in order to expand your scope of outer influence continues. Your confidence levels may be up and down, yet you know that you must break new ground. The time is right to take some calculated risks. It may be described as going big. Do it now, already!

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# sports&recreation

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

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## SWIMMING

# Island-based masters swimmers dominate

Salt Spring women nab firsts in Nanaimo

Two Salt Spring swimmers were successful in the recent Ebttides annual swim meet in Nanaimo.

Susan Huber won four events in her age group and Marcia Jansen placed first in three events.

Huber won the 25-metre freestyle, 25-m butterfly and 25-m backstroke in the 64-69 age group and was part of the winning medley relay where she anchored the freestyle. Jansen placed first in the 400-m, 100-m and 50-m freestyle in her 45-49 age group.

Huber was a competitive swimmer in high school and was about to join the junior Olympic program in Carmel, Calif., but decided she wanted more time for school and art. She returned to swimming in 2011, mainly to get fit again, until she was entered into a race and found her competitive spirit was still there.

For Jansen it was her first swim meet in 28 years. She was a national-level swimmer in the Netherlands before she turned to



PHOTO COURTESY MARCIA JANSEN AND SUSAN HUBER

Marcia Jansen, left, and Susan Huber with their masters swimming Ebttides ribbons.

cycling and triathlon.

Both Huber and Jansen are members of the Victoria Masters Swim Club but they

train on Salt Spring Island. Their next swim meet is the Victoria Hytek meet at the Commonwealth Pool in Victoria in January.

## REC FACILITIES

# Squash court faces final challenge

Water quality problems delay opening

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The quest to complete the island's first indoor squash court has run into a snag that threatens to delay the complex's long-awaited opening by up to a month.

"It's a bit of an unexpected shock," said Markus Wenzel, president of the Salt Spring Squash Club. "What's been really disappointing is that there isn't any room for flexibility."

Though everything is in place to open the court, the Capital Regional District's building inspection department has refused to sign off on the building until it receives proof of a safe water supply.

Water potability tests obtained last week for the well connected to sinks, showers and toilets in the new building on the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club

property reveal high levels of coliform bacteria. Only the squash building uses the well water in question.

Wenzel said installation of a reverse osmosis filter to treat the water is anticipated to cost as much as \$25,000. That's \$25,000 higher than the project's proponents anticipated when they set out three years ago to fundraise nearly \$300,000 for the project.

**"After three and a half years, another month isn't going to make too much of a difference."**

MARKUZ WENZEL  
President, Salt Spring Squash Club

The club is looking at other options that include "shocking" the well with a chlorine solution and testing water from

another unused well on the property. Wenzel said a plan to install water catchment proved too costly and complex.

The search for an alternate water supply follows the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's refusal to connect the building to its network. The decision is in line with the district's ongoing moratorium on new water connections due to water-quantity concerns with St. Mary Lake.

Wenzel said the NSSWD also rejected his request for a temporary connection during the rainy winter months.

The club anticipates it will receive water quality results from the new well within the week. Wenzel said he's already begun to look for funding options to cover the cost of an adequate water filtration system.

"After three and a half years, another month isn't going to make too much of a difference," Wenzel said. "It's just going to take people a bit longer to wear off their Christmas meals."

## RUNNING

# Sneakers not slipped up by snowy weather

Club raises \$525 for food bank

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

About 20 members of the Sneakers running club refused to let a little slush and snow get in the way of a good cause over the weekend.

"Nothing stops the Sneakers' annual fundraiser for the Salt Spring Food Bank," said team spokesperson Lynn Thompson.

Runners in Saturday's eighth-annual Prediction Run estimated their finishing times before setting off on

either a five- or 10-kilometre course along North Beach Road. Whoever finishes their race closest to their predicted time is declared the winner.

This year's champ is Eric Ellis, who finished within one second of his predicted time, Thompson reported.

The runner-up was Huib de Roo, and the day's "predictionally challenged" award went to Donna Cloete, who ran considerably faster than her predicted time.

Post-race activities included an awards ceremony, potluck brunch and gift exchange.

Entry fees and donations totalling \$525 will be turned over to the island's food bank.

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