



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 11 **\$1.25** (incl GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK: Three of 175 volunteers helping out at the Island Comfort Quilts community quilting bee on Sunday are, from left, Emeena Niazi, Ryleh Campsall and Girl Guide Kailan Qammaniq. Forty-five quilts and bags were completed.

FIRE

Dramatic fire consumes SUV

Driver recalls lucky escape at Channel Ridge

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring woman is counting herself lucky after she and three dogs got out of her vehicle not long before it was destroyed by fire on Friday afternoon.

Diane Clarke was on her way to meet a friend for a walk at Channel Ridge just before the incident occurred. Being early, she drove around for a bit before deciding to head to their meeting place at the end of

Broadwell Road and wait in her Toyota RAV4 SUV. While sitting there Clarke noticed what she thought was steam coming out from under the hood.

"I was just so lucky because I was quite a bit early for meeting my friend," Clarke said. "I wouldn't have seen the car was on fire if I continued to drive — the motion of the car would have pushed the smoke away. The car would have been very much further along in the fire if I'd kept driving."

"I was driving a car that was on fire and I didn't know it."

Lt. Mitchell Sherrin of Salt Spring Fire-Rescue said another person looked under the hood and realized there was not just smoke but flames. Clarke fled the SUV with the three dogs, one of which belonged to another friend who is away for a week, and waited on a nearby hillside.

CAR FIRE continued on 2

GOVERNANCE

Referendum called for September 9

Islanders to decide on municipal status

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A referendum on whether or not Salt Spring Island should become a municipality will take place on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development made the announcement in a press release issued Monday.

The news is welcomed by the island's three elected officials.

"I'm pleased that Minister [Peter] Fassbender has accepted the recommendation of the Incorporation Study Committee and authorized a referendum on incorporation. Island electors should rightly be the final arbiters on our future form of governance and that they will have that ability in September is right and proper," said George Grams, one of Salt Spring's two Islands Trust trustees.

While an early fall date for the vote was seen as likely last month, rumours of a June vote had then circulated in the last two weeks. That speculation was quashed with Monday's announcement.

Trustee Peter Grove said bringing the governance matter to the community to decide was something he undertook when he was first elected in 2011, so he's also happy to have the referendum announced at last.

"It is good to have a firm date and, while I would have preferred to get on with it sooner, the September timing gives our community more time to discuss the options and the ramifications of our ultimate decision," Grove said.

REFERENDUM continued on 4

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INSERTS

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- Adams Tarp & Tent
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- Husqvarna
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- Staples
- The Local Liquor

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Extreme damage foils investigation



Salt Spring firefighters wrap up work at the scene of a car fire Friday afternoon on Broadwell Road.

CAR FIRE

continued from 1

"That was scary too," she said, "Because you don't ever want somebody's dog or somebody's kid to come to grief in your care."

By the time fire crews arrived the vehicle was fully involved. One fire truck had been in Fulford for a training exercise at the time of the call out, Sherrin said.

"It was a big fire. People were concerned about neighbouring vehicles," he said. "It went out pretty quickly but because it was so hot the fire kept reigniting."

Fire crews used two truckloads or 700 gallons of water to fully extinguish the blaze. By that point the SUV was completely destroyed, along with any evidence of what may have gone wrong inside.

"It was a fairly newish vehicle, fully serviced — it's very odd," Sherrin said.

He added that the fire was so powerful it left remnants of melted plastic that had to be scraped off the road. He contacted Mairroad Contracting because there was also potential damage to the asphalt.

While the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia will replace the value of her car, Clarke lost everything that was inside, which included her handbag. Along with a fair amount of cash and a loaded BC Ferries Experience Card, she lost her keys, reading glasses, blankets and other items.

Clarke is grateful to the many people who helped her at the scene and afterward. She did manage to take the dogs for their walk as promised before attending to the aftermath.

"Everybody was fine. The dogs were fine. So that's what really matters," Clarke said.

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Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Annual Water Main Flushing Salt Spring Island Water Systems: Cedar Lane

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- Cedar Lane system – March 16, 2017
 - Kanaro Road
 - Mansell Road
 - Cedar Lane

During the flushing, you may experience low water pressure and/or periods of discoloured water at your tap. Although unpleasant, the water remains safe. It is recommended to run your tap until the water clears. For inquiries, please contact the CRD at 250.883.5602.

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS - MARCH 28 - MAY 5, 2017

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District. Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Island youth parliament convened at GISS

Service projects main focus

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School hosted more than 30 young people representing communities across the region this weekend for the 25th annual convention of the Vancouver Island Youth Parliament.

As a member organization of the British Columbia Youth Parliament, the regional group strives to be an ideal of "youth serving youth." Their events are not set up, as some might expect, as a mock parliament with students representing known political parties. While participants are divided into "house" and "opposition," the main goal of their legislative

debate is to set service requirements and projects for the coming year.

"It is a nonpartisan organization. We have a diverse membership but we all come together to learn and to help our community, which I think is wonderful," said Lina Losier, a Grade 11 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School who is serving as Vancouver Island premier this year.

Gulf Islands youth are at the forefront of this year's convention, with GISS alumni and B.C. Youth Parliament cabinet members Kyle Dow and Sky Losier returning to help out. Dow, who is attending UVic with an interest in urban planning and development, was chair of the 2017 regional parliament. As such, his job was to take care of all the organizational aspects of the weekend's events and ensure they ran accordingly.

The school district responded by supporting the event location at GISS by allowing delegates to stay right at the school. A number of teachers also agreed to be on site throughout the weekend to supervise.

"We hosted the parliament here two years ago and we worked really well with the administration," Dow said.

"It's a really good learning oppor-

tunity to be able to lead such a big group of people in a small setting," he added, noting the adult view of youth often casts them as irresponsible and careless.

"I think this event speaks against that narrative," Dow said.

Losier was elected to her position at the end of last year's regional meeting and has appointed her cabinet through a merit-based application process. Her academic interest after graduating from high school lies in science, but she feels there is much to gain from early engagement in civil matters.

"I think it's important for us to have a political understanding because we all have a right to vote and to engage, and I think it's important for us to exercise that because there are many people around the world who do not have those rights," she said.

As premier, Losier introduced legislation that will require the regional parliamentarians to complete at least five service hours over the year, and a bill to change the regional group's name from Vancouver Island to Islands Youth Parliament.

"It's the 25th anniversary, and I personally think that it's really important that our parliament changes with us," she said.

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!
SSI Fire Protection District Board Meeting:
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 SSI United Church hall. 7 p.m.

CONSERVATION

CRD director champions Owl Island protection plan

Donors interested as regional board weighs involvement

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District is being asked to consider joining local First Nations and environmental groups in a partnership to acquire and protect Owl Island, a small but significant property located next to Prevost Island.

Dave Howe, CRD director for the southern Gulf Islands, and Victoria councillor Ben Isitt presented a notice of motion to the board on March 8 recommending that staff report back on the advisability of joining such a partnership. An expenditure from the Regional Parks Acquisition Fund could be considered.

The board took the matter in camera and has yet to rise and report, but Howe said Friday he anticipates bringing the motion to the next meeting. Although his greater goal is to have the CRD look more carefully into protecting the entire Gulf Islands region, Owl Island has presented a more immediate opportunity for action.

"I'd like to make this part of opening people's minds around that board table and saving the archipelago as much as we can for future generations," Howe said.

Owl Island is a two-acre islet that has been owned by Dugal and Ausma Smith for close to 40 years. It's mainly been used for boat camping — by the Smiths and passersby unaware the land is private — and has seen little development other than a dock. The island is remarkable for its largely intact native ecosystem and several known archeological sites.

First Nations leaders such as Tsawout Chief Harvey Underwood have called for the island's return to Coast Salish stewardship since the Smiths first listed it for sale last year. For their part, the owners are looking for a sale price of \$1.88 million but would like to preserve the islet's

qualities as well.

"I'm very encouraged that there would be a conservation-minded group that would be interested in protecting Owl Island and not letting it get developed," Dugal Smith said, adding there appear to be many partners willing to get involved in some way.

Peter McAllister is a Salt Spring resident who has helped champion the case for Owl Island's protection for heritage and ecological values. He said the CRD's notice of motion has brought public attention to the issue, and offers of donations have already started to come in.

"We have the beginnings of substantial contributions," McAllister said.

A formal way of collecting donations and a partnership arrangement has yet to be decided, he added.

Whether the CRD is the right body to get the action rolling, Smith is not sure, but he's happy the idea is starting to make its way through formal channels. The CRD's board of directors is also not clear whether this is something they should get involved with, although the notice of motion filed by Howe cites how it would fit into the 2015-18 corporate plan.

"I'd like to make this part of opening people's minds around that board table and saving the archipelago as much as we can for future generations."

DAVE HOWE
Southern Gulf Islands electoral area director, CRD

Approved priorities include supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health by pursuing opportunities to protect urban and rural natural areas. The plan also states the CRD will engage with First Nations in



PHOTO BY PETER McALLISTER

The view from Owl Island, a small and relatively untouched property that First Nations and conservation groups would like to see protected from development.

activities and services in areas of common interest.

Howe said the CRD has tended to overlook the Gulf Islands in general, leaving the two island electoral districts out of its regional growth strategy and transportation plans, for example. As well, large tracts of land that its taxpayer dollars have helped protect in recent years have largely been in the Juan de Fuca district.

"The CRD hasn't, in a way, said 'Maybe we ought to look east and consider the islands east of Swartz Bay,'" Howe observed. "If they'd look at it and say 'The archipelago is a jewel' and we have that fund for purchasing parkland — but nobody has looked at it in a more macro approach."

Smith made an agreement with Chief Underwood last fall to take Owl Island off the market for six months so that conservation efforts could get started. That time period has recently expired, which is why Howe and Isitt brought the notice

of motion directly to the CRD board last Wednesday.

Smith noted that fundraising campaigns can sometimes take years to unroll, which is why he put the island up for sale once the period had run out.

"There is some urgency in the sense that it's back on the market," Smith said. "Again, I'm encouraged the CRD has taken some interest in it."

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Gary Holman wrote to ministers Steve Thomson and Mary Polak about the matter in January. He asked them to hold off from issuing any heritage alteration permits for Owl Island and to immediately engage with the owners and stakeholders to discuss protection of the island.

"Local First Nations are quite prepared to exercise and enforce their treaty and constitutional rights, there is strong interest among conservation groups, and broad pub-

lic support, to protect these sacred sites. I urge your ministries to learn from our experience with Grace Islet and pursue a much more constructive course," Holman wrote.

A joint reply from Polak and Thomson dated Feb. 6 affirmed there were no alteration permit applications underway and that if one were to be submitted, First Nations would be consulted.

Smith said he met with a group of First Nations officials, including Cowichan Tribes' Chief William Seymour, around three weeks ago in Duncan to give them an overview of his story and the situation. He's sympathetic to their wish to have Owl Island's stewardship return to Coast Salish hands.

"I think they're quite interested in seeing it preserved," Smith said. "They consider it part of their heritage. Unfortunately, most of the First Nations groups don't have much waterfront property or these islands that they historically used."




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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Burning permits now available online

Other changes also in place

Islanders can now apply for fire permits from Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue using their mobile phones or computers.

SSIFR has updated its burn-permit process to improve user convenience, with permits now available through the SSIFR

website at www.saltspringfire.com.

"The purpose of burn permits is to ensure that islanders burn garden debris and campfires safely," said SSIFR Lt. Mitchell Sherrin.

SSIFR adopted a new burning bylaw (#125) in 2016 with a few changes, including the need to have permits year-round.

As well, only property owners or their agents can obtain fire permits and are ultimately responsible for any fires on their property.

For more information about open burning, visit the SSIFR website, drop by the fire hall in Ganges or phone 250-537-2531.

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McIntyre: Voters' choice now

REFERENDUM

continued from 1

Fassbender's decision to hold a referendum was in step with the November 2016 recommendation of the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee, following the release of its final report.

According to the press release, the report identified "a lack of co-ordination between the agencies providing services to Salt Spring Island and a large number of local services administered from the Victoria area.

"The report also identified a fiscally complex governance system with heavy demands on a small number of locally elected officials."

The nine-member incorporation study committee chaired by Mark Aston began its work in mid-2015 and received funding support of \$255,000 from the province. The committee had its final meeting in November 2016, where a majority of the members felt the public now had enough information about the implications of incorporation and should be permitted to make the decision themselves through a referendum.

CRD director Wayne McIntyre said although it may have been a "bumpy road" at times between when the local officials were elected in 2011 and this point, the choice is now rightfully in the hands of local voters.

"As a further step, trustees Grams and Grove and myself will be moving ahead with planning community debates and will be communicating details as soon as they are available," McIntyre said.

"I would like once again to thank our hard-working and dedicated Incorporation Study Committee which has provided us with the information we need," Grove said. "So now let

us move forward over the next five months, working together respectfully and supportively, in order to ensure a positive outcome, whatever our decision. I urge everyone to get involved and participate."

The province has offered nearly \$20 million in transition funding for the new municipality if the vote is to incorporate. Fassbender has also committed up to \$125,000 for the Islands Trust's transition, comprising \$50,000 for completion of a full adaptation strategy, \$60,000 to help support the cost of a dedicated transition manager and \$15,000 to help offset any unanticipated costs in the devolution of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

In a letter to Islands Trust chair Peter Luckham, Fassbender noted in the event of a "yes" vote, the Sept. 9 referendum date would mean the incorporation process would not get started until 2018. The date removes the possibility of an inaugural council serving for one year, as the incorporation study's final report suggested could happen if the referendum were to take place in February 2017.

The first election of a mayor and council members would therefore be timed with regular local government elections on Oct. 20, 2018. An interim administrator would be appointed by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to manage the implementation period.

All permanent Salt Spring Island residents who are Canadian citizens and of legal voting age are eligible to vote in the referendum, as well as B.C. residents of Canadian citizenship and legal voting age who own property on Salt Spring. In order for the incorporation vote to pass, more than 50 per cent of voters casting ballots must vote yes.

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GOVERNANCE

NSSWD tax challenged on two fronts

Brinkworthy responds to court of revision denial

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The owner of Brinkworthy Properties Ltd. is taking his appeal of a new North Salt Spring Waterworks District parcel tax to a higher level.

Raymond Heung, president of VANAC Development Corp., said the North Salt Spring Waterworks District denied his company's court of revision appeal of the tax last month, so he has now appealed to the provincial government's Office of the Inspector of Municipalities.

"Even though it has no financial impact on me, I don't believe it is right," Heung said of the major tax increase.

Bylaws 278 and 279, passed by the NSSWD board last October, create new parcel classifications and put Brinkworthy Estates manufactured home park into a Commercial Residential 3 category instead of Class D for residential or farm properties over 10 acres in size. The result is a parcel tax jump from \$595 in 2016 to almost \$90,000 in 2020, phased in at a 20 per cent increase each year.

Marshall Heinekey, chair of NSSWD, sat on the court of revision for the first time.

Heinekey stands by the NSSWD's change of parcel tax classifications and fees as outlined in the two bylaws.

"We followed the book and had this all vetted through the [provincial govern-

ment] ministry," he said. "Our bosses said we didn't make a mistake."

But Brinkworthy Properties Ltd.'s court of revision presentation stresses that provincial legislation describes parcel taxes as being based on "a parcel, group of parcels, area or value of land or improvements or personal property, or any combination of them."

"A fundamental principle of taxation is one of 'fairness' and 'equity.'"

BRINKWORTHY COURT OF REVISION SUBMISSION

"The concept of 'use' has not been identified as a basis of assessment under the act," the submission states.

Hotels, resorts, B&Bs, commercial buildings, marinas and senior care homes in the NSSWD are also being charged differently under the new bylaws, based on the number of "units" they have. But the number of Brinkworthy residences — 137 — makes the financial impact most acute. It is also the only property in the new Commercial Residential 3 class.

"A fundamental principle of taxation is one of 'fairness' and 'equity,'" states Brinkworthy's court of revision submission. "Creating a separate class of property for tax purposes that is limited to

one property, and in particular to a class that will attract by far the largest increase in taxes, raises some serious concerns about fairness."

Heung points out that the NSSWD already gets revenue from actual water used by Brinkworthy residents and all of the commercial ventures affected by the new bylaws, so to use consumption as a rationale for boosting the parcel tax doesn't make sense.

On the matter of consumption, Heung said it took considerable effort to get data from the NSSWD about how much water Brinkworthy residents consumed when compared to single family dwellings in the district. Then, when it arrived, it was apparent the SFD water consumption had been calculated as a median and the Brinkworthy consumption as an average, significantly inflating the Brinkworthy numbers.

When consumption data is accurately compared, it shows Brinkworthy residences use 43 per cent less water than single family dwellings on the island.

Heung feels the water district has shown a lack of transparency and a lack of cooperation in trying to address concerns. The NSSWD had agreed to a town hall meeting with Brinkworthy residents to explain the change in December but then cancelled it and refused to set a new date.

Brinkworthy Properties Ltd. is also challenging the NSSWD bylaws in the Supreme Court of B.C. A hearing has been set for April 12 in Victoria.

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TRAILS

Regional trails plan seeks island links

Roadside option preferred

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Springers got their first look at how their part in a regional trail system could look during an open house hosted by the Capital Regional District on Thursday.

Carolyn Stewart and Todd Shannon from CRD's Parks and Environmental Services department were on hand to share storyboards and answer questions about a long-term plan to link Salt Spring and the five other southern Gulf Islands with a series of trails. Potential options for routes were laid out for each island, with a survey form to gather opinion at the end.

The proposal for Salt Spring is to work on the long-established goal of linking the Vesuvius and Fulford ferry terminals.

"I'm glad to see Salt Spring is now part of the regional plan because at one point it wasn't," said Kees Ruurs, the former CRD manager for Salt Spring, after taking a look at the material. "It would be great if they could connect Fulford and Vesuvius with a direct pathway. It will be expensive, and a challenge, but it will be worth it."

In general, each regional trail route will provide a spine or loop that other trails can connect with to create a broader network. The goal is that each island's part of the

regional trail will connect its ferry terminal to at least one key destination.

Where possible and feasible, preference will be given to locating the regional trail along Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road rights-of-way to avoid the challenges of acquiring property and doing major construction. In some cases, on-road sections may be required if the right-of-way is too narrow or other geographic features make off-road construction impossible, the CRD info package states.

Several members of Salt Spring's Trails Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission, were present at the open house. While some would prefer to see an off-road trail that goes through the back country, they embraced having movement on trail development in general.

"We're enthusiastic — it's what we're all about. And we're getting quite a bit of support from the CRD on the regional level," said committee member Philip Grange.

The plan to create a multi-use trail between Vesuvius and Fulford has been previously endorsed by Island Pathways and its Bicycle Working Group as a Salish Sea loop in the Galloping Goose/Lochside regional trail network on Vancouver Island. More recently, proponents have suggested adding Salt Spring to the Trans-Canada Trail, which was rebranded as The Great Trail in 2016.

Under the CRD's regional trail

scheme, the route would be completed in three sections: Fulford to Burgoyne Bay, Burgoyne to Ganges, and Ganges to Vesuvius (not listed in order of priority or direction).

CRD director Wayne McIntyre said the regional trail could receive quite a boost if the island votes to incorporate, since part of the transition funding package offered by the province is the complete resurfacing of Fulford-Ganges Road, including a 1.2-metre shoulder.

The section between Vesuvius and Ganges is the part the CRD is seeking input on, with three potential routing options. At Central, the trail could either continue to town along Upper Ganges Road or Lower Ganges Road. If the second, further options are to continue on Lower Ganges Road or divert along existing trails on Atkins and Rainbow roads.

Participants are also being asked about which criteria they think the CRD should use to prioritize trail development, since it won't be possible to start projects on all the islands at once.

Financing plans will be developed once route preferences and feasibility are assessed. The CRD puts \$200,000 each year into trail acquisition and development, but grants and other funding means will also be required.

Those who missed Thursday's session can see the storyboard maps and provide feedback online at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/gulf-islands-regional-trails-plan> until March 31.



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OPINION



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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

Equality complex

It's sometimes hard for Gulf Islanders to feel they are part of a bigger picture.

Time and time again, the Capital Regional District has left Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands off its planning map, and our electoral area directors have had to fight to be included. When they've succeeded — and to the credit of current directors Wayne McIntyre and Dave Howe, their dogged persistence usually wins out in the end — our needs are captured in a separate package. It's as if the archipelago's geography has manifested as a CRD addendum, an actual trail of dots fading out eastward the further away one gets from the board table in Victoria.

Past examples of the phenomenon had Salt Spring create its own Pedestrian and Cycling Masterplan after being left out of the CRD's 2011 planning document. The plan identified "a series of infrastructure investments and supportive programming to aid in achieving a regional mode share of 15 per cent each for pedestrians and cyclists" by 2038 — but only for Vancouver Island-based communities.

THE ISSUE:

CRD planning

WE SAY:

Stop excluding the Gulf Islands

More recently the CRD has started public engagement on a Gulf Islands Regional Trail Plan, but only after McIntyre and Howe protested their districts' exclusion from the Regional Trails Management Plan.

Likewise, the 2016 CRD Regional Growth Strategy contains goals to ensure residents "enjoy a healthy and rewarding quality of life" with a vital economy, livable communities and careful stewardship of the environment and natural resources. All worthy objectives, but not, somehow, applicable to the areas under Islands Trust jurisdiction. This leaves the Gulf Islands communities short, since tools such as acquiring green space, building regional trails and planning affordable housing developments are not ones that local Trust committees can wield.

Howe's motion to have the CRD investigate a possible partnership role to protect Owl Island, a privately owned "ecological jewel" in his district, has double significance. By his calculations, protecting sensitive ecosystems and working with First Nations fits perfectly into the CRD's corporate plan. But he's partly motivated by the hope the request will cause municipal directors to look up from the board table and cast their gaze out across the water, to finally see how the islands are part of the regional landscape.

Island taxpayers contribute to the regional budget. It's time we were recognized as full-fledged members of the district.



VIEWPOINT by Beatrice Olivastri

Pesticide concerns should be raised

Given your readership's interest in food security as well as protecting bees and other important elements of biodiversity, I wanted to bring to your readers' attention an important opportunity to provide their opinion to Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

Late last fall, after an environmental assessment found dangerous levels of imidacloprid contaminating the environment, PMRA proposed to phase out the main uses of this pesticide in three to five years. They announced a formal consultation period as required under their rules so that the public and all concerned could comment on the ban.

At the urging of the pesticide industry, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food asked for an extension so it could submit a report. It then hosted two days of hearings inviting only pro-pesticide representatives to testify. Only after a cancellation occurred were environmental groups allowed one 10-minute slot to address the committee.

At a time when the current federal government says it is committed to open, transparent and democratic procedures, this hijacking of the PMRA consultation process is a cause for grave concern. And it underlines the importance of citizen participation in formal consultations — any and all opinions from a fast-click agreement to a handwritten letter of concern — is an important exercise in democracy and should be valued as such.

Canada's PMRA re-evaluated imidacloprid last year and concluded its current use is "not sustainable" on the basis of risks

to aquatic ecosystems. The environmental assessment found imidacloprid present in Canadian lakes and rivers at levels that are harmful to aquatic insects essential to the health of aquatic ecosystems. This assessment did not consider risks to pollinators, which the PMRA has been evaluating through a separate process with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 2012.

There is no scientific justification for allowing this pesticide to be sold unrestricted for another three to five years.

While we are still expecting to hear results on how imidacloprid impacts managed and wild bees, we think it is critical that PMRA puts a stop to imidacloprid entering the environment. There is no scientific justification for allowing this pesticide to be sold unrestricted for another three to five years.

The European Union has a partial ban on three neonics, including imidacloprid, and France recently passed a law banning neonics altogether as of September 2018.

The PMRA will consult on the proposed phase-out of imidacloprid until March 23, 2017, and will issue a final decision later this year.

We hope many Canadians concerned about food security and a safe environment will go to the Friends of the Earth website and customize a letter to the PMRA calling for an immediate ban on the use of imidacloprid. One also can email directly to PMRA.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca.

The writer is CEO of Friends of the Earth Canada.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the feds ban the imidacloprid pesticide? Yes No

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at midnight or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should SSI cougars be tracked and killed? YES 109 NO 163

Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I was driving a car that was on fire and I didn't know it."

DIANE CLARKE, SALT SPRING RESIDENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How would a trail between Ganges and Vesuvius be best routed?



JASON GRINDLER
I think it should be the most accessible route for everyone and it should have safe boundaries from the road.



RILEY BYERS
I like the off-road idea — if you could go up and over the hill and far away I think that would be wonderful.



KIT LEWIS
It should connect with the TransCanada Trail.



SUSAN ROLPH
It should take the least busy road [in town] and go along Vesuvius Bay Road.



BAARON CAMPBELL
Having a separation from the road is definitely important. We came from the city and we simply won't bike here because it's too dangerous.

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

Animals are the victims

The coverage provided by the Driftwood in regard to our resident big cat/cats is appreciated, particularly your attempt to take an educational, unbiased position.

However, using words like "ghost" and "serial killer" in reference to the mountain lion is completely inappropriate in our day and age. A mountain lion is neither a ghost nor serial killer and these terms should not even be printed by a publication that wishes to be taken seriously, even if the person interviewed used these colourful descriptions. It is poor taste to incorporate these statements to sensationalize something that is natural and a critical topic in a time when human-

ity struggles with not destroying our planet and the ecosystem on which we depend for our own survival.

If this cat/these cats need to be euthanized, it should be considered a loss to our progressive-thinking community, and a very sad day for a beautiful animal that merely wishes to survive in an environment that has been its native home for tens of thousands of years. The cats are victimized by us, not the other way around.

NATASCHA WILLE,
SALT SPRING

Reasons to vote Green

We have a good chance of electing Adam Olsen, Green party candidate, in the provincial election coming up on May 9. Below are some of my rea-

sons for supporting Adam. B.C. needs MLAs who will work to bring an end to the sellout politics and corruption of recent B.C. governments.

Examples include the refusal to bring an end to "the wild west" of political fundraising in B.C., the use of deferral accounts (over 100 per cent of BC Hydro's equity, compared to 11 per cent in the case of Manitoba Hydro) to download debt to future governments and ratepayers and how the government has used slanted studies and hidden information to support its agenda.

It seems lobbyists are speaking out, some even feeling like they are being subject to a kind of extortion, because of B.C.'s "pay to play" political system. Hats off to former Premier Gordon Campbell's chief of staff, Mar-

tyn Brown, who recently wrote about how he "learned a thing or two about how governments abuse 'facts' and statistics as 'evidence' to portray distorted 'truth' for partisan advantage."

Across B.C., many people will assume that if they want change, they have only one option — the NDP. However, the Green party has attracted stellar candidates and we need more Greens to bring ethics back into politics in our province and to hold other parties to account.

It's the only party that decided not to accept any corporate or union donations. Green MLAs will also work towards the shift from largely corporate-controlled fossil-fuel-based energy systems to more locally controlled low-carbon economies.

Thankfully many British Columbians are stepping up to donate and volunteer. Here's hoping that as we do so, we also remember how easy it is to become overly partisan, and that we remember to be thankful for all the good work that is done by people engaging in democracy, regardless of who is doing it.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Bravo to cleanup crew

I was so pleased to read in your March 1 edition about local kayakers engaged in a coastal cleanup.

I frequently walk a stretch of the west side beach, south of Chu An Drive, down to the mouth of Booth Canal, and I regularly carry a bag that gradually fills

with all sorts of plastic, styrofoam, cans, bottles, lighters and all manner of other human waste by the time I return to Quarry Drive.

It's not much, but if each of us thinks globally and acts locally, we can make a difference and help others enjoy our lovely beaches.

There are quite frequently large pieces of foam and other items that need to be removed before they grind on the rocks and leave ever more tiny foam pieces on the shoreline. It's a never-ending struggle.

Thanks for raising awareness of this topic, and bravo to the crew with the kayaks, going to places walkers cannot readily reach.

STEVEN S. BARER,
QUARRY DRIVE

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Attitude change needed to preserve heritage

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT

Susan Hannon's cautionary tale (March 8 "Don't follow Kauai's example" letter) provides a stark picture of the downsides of thoughtless development — development that destroys the quality of life for visitors and residents alike.

If done with great social and ecological sensitivity, the quest to develop the local economy can bring about a better future for our island — providing good jobs for the plethora of talented and hard-working people we have here and have a hard time keeping here, owing to inadequate housing and lack of good jobs. But if development is done thoughtlessly, we can end up shooting ourselves in the foot.

That's what evidently happened in Kauai. Just a few decades ago it was one of the most attractive places on the planet, and it is now overrun by development. And unless we are conscious of the negative outcomes that thoughtless development produces, it may well be that a similar prospect is in the offing for our island.

While the view over our harbours seems to be as idyllic as ever, looking a little more closely one sees some disturbing signs: thick clumps of waste-fuelled algal blooms in Ganges Harbour; gashes in the hillsides from loss of forest cover — the footprint of logging or of development of ridge-top homes; "staircases to the sea" all along our coastline, with little or no attention given to the degradation of the landscape, measured in terms of soil erosion; oyster beds closed to harvesting owing to persistent contamination; and it goes on.

Looking towards our lakes, they too gleam on a sunny day, but they also brim with excess algae, sometimes even toxic — the telltale sign of inflows of sewage and sediments. Soil erosion, lost forest cover, and other consequences of development are undoubtedly factors in the ongoing and seemingly now unstoppable deterioration of the health of St. Mary Lake — despite the endless studies and half-hearted attempts to remedy the situation.

INDEPTH

The fundamental problem is not with development per se, but with our insensitivity to its consequences on our island's limited capacity to be self-sustaining, on the landscapes we cherish, and to the community building that we desire.

Even under the Islands Trust, success in pursuing the "preserve and protect" mission has been all too limited over the past four decades. Why? The failure is not owing to defects in the mandate. It is owing to lack of authority and will and community buy-in to carry it out.

Will we fare any better under an alternative form of governance? That is difficult to say, but if experience elsewhere is any guide, the answer is likely no. There is no indication that a municipality will be any more successful in preserving and protecting our priceless heritage in nature and culture, which is in danger of moving ever closer to the tipping point.

What is needed is not necessarily a change of governance, but a change in

attitude.


Winston Churchill once reportedly remarked: "Attitude is a small thing that can make a big difference." I fervently believe that a change in attitude is our only hope for a viable future — not only for our island, but for the whole world beyond our shores.

We need serious reflection on the fundamental questions of what we truly value in life and how we can achieve it. Economic development can become a vehicle to reach our goals, but only once those goals, and the social values that guide them, are fully articulated in a way that makes us more whole: as a community of shared values and aspirations, with a deep sensitivity to the critical importance of sustaining the life that sustains us.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident, and a former science advisor to Statistics Canada, where he spearheaded the development of a statistical system for assessing the impact of human activities on the state of the environment.

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RANTS and Roses

Rants

Does anyone else feel the ferry corporation is sneaking money out of our pockets? I recently travelled to Vancouver island for medical reasons — with a designated driver — and discovered an extra \$23.30 is charged to our health-care system's budget. The two of us (one senior, one adult) travelling on a weekday with our Experience Card usually fork over \$36.90 for the return voyage. Even with showing our one senior's card (which we were told was unnecessary under the circumstances) the amount dinged the health care system was \$60.20! Perhaps \$23.30 isn't much money to rant about. But for all the patients who can't get medical care here on

Salt Spring, I bet it adds up to quite a "ding" on our tax monies. Ann Heeley-Ray

Roses

Huge baskets of lovely spring flowers to all the many strangers and friends who came to my assistance on Friday afternoon when my car went up in smoke up in Channel Ridge. Also to the firemen and Const. Hastie of the RCMP, and the caring staff at Island Savings. Your many kindnesses and help were much needed and appreciated. Diane Clarke

Many, many shopping carts of thank-yous to the community for supporting the food bank drive held

Saturday at Country Grocer. Over 1,800 pounds of groceries and approximately \$1,000 were donated that day. Thank you to the many volunteers from the Boys Scouts, Salt Spring Garden Club, Salt Spring Poultry Club, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Spring Search and Rescue, and Country Grocer for hosting the event. See you this fall and again, thanks to all from the organizing committee. Per Svendsen

Huge bouquets of multi-coloured roses to the 175 volunteers who signed up to help at the quilting bee on Sunday: 45 finished quilts and 45 bags were completed for Island Comfort Quilts. You are part of a great community team that makes a difference to the recipients of the quilts. If you know of any Salt Springer dealing with a life-threatening illness or injury, remember to make a request for a quilt. Thank you. Island Comfort Quilts

Many Islanders group outlines stance

BY DONALD MCLENNAN

We would like to introduce the Salt Spring Island community to a group of islanders that has evolved over the past while and has reached the point where it has adopted a name. "The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation" is what we have come up with. It is the simplest description of who we are.

We are people who believe that an urban-style municipality is not the best governance model for our island and we want to put our energy into providing facts, figures and discussion to help us all to make an informed decision now that a referendum has been called.

We also believe that Salt Springers have built a vibrant, engaged, resilient community under the current model of governance and have

accomplished so much in the way of community facilities and programs. As well as opposing incorporation, we want to work as a community to make the system we have work even better.

In our view, there are aspects of the impact of incorporation on Salt Spring that require further elaboration and interpretation. In due course, we intend to express our views on key issues with the goal of providing more complete information to inform the vote in the September referendum.

The Many Islanders is a coalition of like-minded folks and we encourage you to join us.

It is not our desire to do battle with those who are steadfast in their decision to promote incorporation. We hope to be persuasive and informative in engaging those island-

ers who have not yet made up their minds.

We were quoted in the Driftwood recently regarding the postponement of the decision as to whether and when a referendum would be called, but our e-mail address was not included, so we are including it here. We hope that islanders who wish more information or who wish to participate with us will contact us at themanyislanders@gmail.com. Your email will be directed to the appropriate committee for response, if required.

For now, I will be the initial contact for the group. The Many Islanders look forward to hearing from you.

The writer is a member of the Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation group.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Donation reform needed

As if Christy Clark's B.C. Liberal Party's negative political attack ads were not bad enough; currently, what makes them even more unjust and irritating is knowing that these ads, which will probably air non-stop until May 9 are (in B.C.) paid for by corporations, foreign interests and countries that may not even be democracies.

Allowing foreign interest groups and the oil and gas lobby to interfere in our political and electoral process is the greatest affront to our democratic basic right to have an equal say in all the important decisions that are made in this province.

To restore fairness, balance and a conviction that each voice matters, British Columbia must ban all out-of-province, corporate and union donations.

CHRISTIAN TATONETTI,
SALT SPRING

Cookers shifted Thanks in order after parking lot fall

We write to let the supporting folks on Salt Spring and other southern Gulf Islands know that on International Women's Day 2017, the Salt Spring Raging Grannies handed over the management of our Lesotho Solar Cooker Project to a man.

This year our project in Africa will supply 40 sunstoves to grandmothers who are raising their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren in the Butha Buthe district of this land-locked kingdom.

For the past 11 years the project has been managed by a woman from Ottawa, who this year is unable to go because of illness. Thus it is being delegated to a local man who from the beginning has been her on-location assistant, and he in turn will be helped by others in the village who are very appreciative of this project.

Many thanks for your support!
JILL WILMOTT,
FOR SS RAGING GRANNIES

Thanks in order after parking lot fall

After reading Maggie Warbey's "Caring community" letter in last week's issue of the Driftwood, about her fall at Country Grocer, I thought I would recount my latest experience of a fall on the island. This happened in the parking lot of Mahon Hall on Feb. 25 on my way in to see the show there.

I was walking from my car in the lower parking lot to the hall and decided to cut through the cars on the top lot instead of staying on the road. It was a bad decision, as I tripped over one of the concrete barriers between the cars. No one saw me, so I pitched myself up and walked to the entrance door of the hall.

Luckily my neighbours were waiting to go in and as I had badly grazed my face in the fall, the Penhales immediately took charge. They got me into

the hall and, lucky me, there was a paramedic in the audience.

Jason took me to a chair at the back of the hall, and with the help of the first-aid kit in the building, and with many concerned friends standing by, he cleaned me up, put a Band-aid on my left cheek, checked me out, both physically and mentally, and I was able to sit and enjoy an excellent show. I can't thank Jason enough.

A neighbour also helped me to get home safely.

What surprised me was the number of people who phoned me afterwards to enquire how I was. I was surprised how many people were concerned. Thank you so much.

My face is almost cleaned up and the minor bruise on my leg almost non-existent. I was lucky.

The accident was entirely my fault, but it might help to have more light in the parking lot during the winter months at night.

NANCY HOLCROFT,
SALT SPRING



Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Home & Garden

Inspiration for your spring home improvement projects!

CREATIVE STRUCTURES

Summer dining enhanced by cute outdoor pavilion

Little blue shed fun to make and eat in

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

You know you've got something interesting in your yard when cars stop and people get out to ask if they can take a closer look.

That's happened a few times to Shelley Armstrong-Plaunt and her husband Myles Plaunt, thanks to their charming home-built dining pavilion. That's what they call the little blue shed in their garden, which has become a favourite place to enjoy summer dining.

"It started with windows," said Shelley.

With the idea of building a greenhouse, she began collecting character windows two years ago, including one brought from the Yukon and one bought in Chemainus. She also made good use of the scrap window pile at Gulf Island Glass.

"I like multi-paned windows," she said.

Then she browsed Country Living magazine's online database, finding ideas offering "she-shed inspiration," a she-shed being a garden retreat that's the female equivalent of the man-cave. Many of the sheds viewed by Shelley incorporated used windows and became places to create art, host dinners or have a glass of wine. One shed used 139 salvaged windows. The Plaunt dining pavilion began to take shape.

"This yard is so hot at five or six p.m., when you want to have dinner outside in summer. We'd eaten under the apple tree and it seemed a cooler spot, so we decided to build the shed there."

The apple tree, which bears yellow apples in early July, flanks one side of the building, while a hazelnut tree is located on the opposite side. Shelley wants to train an existing, beautiful pink rose over the shed.

"When it's blooming, it looks like a waterfall of roses," she said.

The Plaunts began building the shed at the bottom, with cement piers and a pressure-treated deck. Cedar boards were laid for flooring. Then they built one wall at a time on the deck, incorporating their salvaged windows and cedar siding boards, raising each wall upon completion.

The mullioned glass front doors were purchased. They also purchased a shed roof kit, and then sheathed the trusses with clear vinyl roofing and roof cap. The cedar siding is



PHOTO BY PAT BURKETTE

Shelley Armstrong-Plaunt sits outside of her colourful "she-shed," perfect for eating outdoors in summer months.

stained on the outside and painted on the inside.

The Plaunts also made use of a pile of broken hunks of cement paving to build a faux stone patio in front of the shed, creating another seating area and a spot for a bar-

becue. The irregularly shaped cement slabs mimic stone, while keeping material out of the landfill.

PAVILION continued on 10

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Home AND Garden



PHOTOS COURTESY MYLES AND SHELLEY PLAUNT

From left, the dining pavilion under construction, and inside the structure during the summer once the project was completed.

Memorable meals in shelter

PAVILION
continued from 9

"Anything you can upcycle is so great," said Shelley.

The look of the shed is "seashore."

"I grew up on the beach in Ontario," said Shelley, who enjoys kayaking with Myles and friends. "I find the pavilion kind of beachy."

Shed colours are in green and blue tones. The

exterior of the shed is stained Ocean Teal, while interior floors and walls are painted Lakeshore Green. A wooden table, and chairs painted Hazy Blue, welcome diners, and black metal candelabras provide some glow when evening turns to night.

The pavilion offers shelter not just from the sun and wind but from the bane of many a summer meal — the humble but mighty mosquito. So far, there have been many memorable meals there, including a dinner with friends

that lasted until 4 a.m. It's the kind of place that's uplifting, and difficult to leave.

When we go inside Shelley's home to chat a bit more, there are more blue and green tones — a jar of beach glass, a teal straw basket on the floor and various cupboards painted in aqua shades.

Shelley brings out one of the collector bears she creates for her business, Rabbit Creek Bears, which she started up in the Yukon. Rabbit Creek was the original name of a gold-rich location

that was later named Eldorado Creek. This bear is a Mother Hubbard Bear, named after the style of parka she wears. Shelley salvaged fur from discarded coats to trim the parka. Shelley hopes to soon be creating some nautical bears for the Houseboat store.

Shelley's love of design, interior decoration, antiques and collectibles, and her creativity, have all come into play in her Ocean Teal dining pavilion, which reflects the forest and sea of Salt Spring so well.

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RENOVATION

Pitch in and save money

Homeowners can handle some tasks

Home improvement projects can be expensive. While the size and complexity of a project will affect how expensive the project is, homeowners can expect to shell out a pretty penny when they renovate or remodel areas of their home.

According to HomeAdvisor, an online resource for homeowners looking to connect with home improvement, maintenance and repair professionals, the average bathroom remodeling project costs \$9,348, while the average home addition costs slightly less than \$41,000. But renovation-minded homeowners need not reconsider their commitment to remodeling, as there are various ways to cut the costs associated with home improvement projects.

One such way is for homeowners to pitch in and do some of the work themselves. Calculating labour costs can be difficult, as such costs can vary greatly depending on the project, the contractor and the amount of hired help that contractor intends to employ. However, some estimates

suggest labor will account for anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent of the overall cost of the project. So it's no surprise that homeowners can save themselves substantial amounts of money by doing some of the work themselves.

Homeowners who intend to do some of the labour themselves should discuss this plan with contractors during the vetting process. Before hiring a contractor, make sure homeowners' expected labour contributions are clearly defined in the contract.

While it's best to leave the most complicated parts of a project to the professionals, homeowners can pitch in during the following phases.

- **Demolition:** Demolition involves more than picking up a sledgehammer and swinging away. Some demolition projects are best left to the pros. For example, any projects that involve exposure to hazardous materials are risky and therefore best left to experienced laborers. However, many homeowners are capable of safely and effectively pulling cabinets from walls, removing flooring or knocking down drywall. Homeowners unsure of how to approach demolition tasks

can ask their contractors to demonstrate the proper technique so the demolition is done right and on time.

- **Salvage:** Removing debris and items that will no longer be needed once the renovation is complete is another way homeowners can pitch in. Homeowners remodeling their kitchens may be replacing their existing stoves and refrigerators and hoping to donate these items. In such instances, driving the items to the donation site or arranging for them to be picked up rather than taken off the premises by the contractor or his employees can cut labor costs, as it allows laborers to keep working toward the end goal rather than requiring them to leave the work site to drop unwanted items off.

- **Cleanup:** Homeowners also can save costs by cleaning up after the contractors at the end of each workday. Speak with the contractor about cleaning up the site each day, asking him or her what can be discarded and what must remain on-site.

Home improvements are costly. But homeowners who are capable of pitching in can greatly reduce the overall cost of their next renovation project.

Home AND Garden

PLANTS

Salt Spring garden guru's plant book gets reprinted

Dan Jason's research and wisdom in full flower

Some Useful Wild Plants, A Foraging Guide to Food and Medicine from Nature by Dan Jason. Harbour Publishing, \$16.95

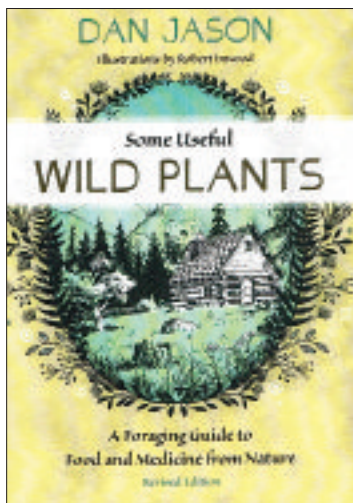
BY CHERIE THIESSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

As a long experienced and practising forager, I welcome the sixth reprint of one of my favourite bibles.

"There were at least six editions in the '70s," says the author. "Howard White (Harbour's publisher) thought it was time to be reprinted. I've made only minor changes to the book."

After 45 years of constant referral my old copy of *Some Useful Wild Plants* was decidedly the worse for wear, stained as it was by salal berry juice, crushed dock leaves and the odd drop of blood while I searched through the book one-handedly for that special unguent that staunches blood flow. The book came with me up mountains, through the Strait of Georgia and Desolation Sound, over to islands, through forests and on a few overseas trips. My original copy had even lost some of its pages, desperately albeit reluctantly, torn out in inclement conditions to start a necessary warming fire.

Many's the time when I was able to fortify my backpack meals with something fresh and healthy from nature, making the pabulum palatable, or the soup heartier and healthier. Forty-five years ago definitely mellowed me, but I still happily forage and I'm still learning. A perfect size for my large jacket pocket, my pristine new copy is now home.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

From top, Dan Jason blows a dandelion seed in a photo from 2009; cover of new edition of *Some Useful Wild Plants*.

book and boy, did I go on a trip."

Maybe we had better all stay away from this verdant — and virulent — green. In my case, I recall my hiking partner David saying, "I'll go up to the ranger's cabin and get help."

Before turning away to heaven I hollered: "No! Do you know the cost of a helicopter trip in America? Just let me die."

Happily, I survived without aid and went on to enjoy crunchy salads made from seaweed and miner's lettuce with milkweed flowers as edible garnishes. I concocted sect repellents from the fragrant vanilla leaf and a healthy and robust tea made from ground ivy, learning the uses and delights of plants many call weeds are constant surprises. I've even found a culinary use for the much-hated horsetail. Who knew?

Divided into five sections of Herbs & Shrubs, Berries, Seaweeds and Trees, as well as a chapter to read very carefully on poisonous plants, the book makes it very easy to quickly find what you're looking for, and you get to impress your friends with your survivor skills.

"I started Salt Spring Seeds in 1985 and I've found that most things grow well on Salt Spring."

DAN JASON
Author and grower

Covering over 100 plants/seaweed and trees and with numerous detailed illustrations by Robert Inwood, the compendium makes it easy to scout out and to identify edible and healing herbs, plants, leaves and bark, so if you missed out when the last six editions came out, grab the seventh.

I was interested to learn that this Salt Spring Island-based writer also supplies over 700 varieties of seeds for many of these delicious wild plants, so if you're tiring of trying to find something succulent and nutritious like miner's lettuce, for example, you can buy seeds and grow some in your garden.

"I started Salt Spring Seeds in 1986 and I've found that most things grow well on Salt Spring," Jason reassures us.

I'm curious whether during his long research the author had ever made a mistake and misidentified a plant, and was intrigued to discover that he had had only one unpleasant experience — the very same one I had up at the top of the Olympic Peninsula (without health insurance).

"Just like you," says Jason, "I ate some skunk cabbage when first researching the



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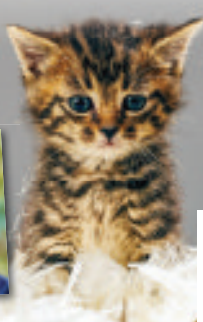


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Home AND Garden

HOME ORGANIZATION

Spring cleaning joyful with life-transforming practice

A new approach to tackling clutter

BY DAWN HAGE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

In the age of tiny homes, condos and a desire to live a simpler life, multitudes of self-help books and articles have surfaced, designed to help people clear through their clutter and streamline their homes. However, many find that while reading about the scientifically proven benefits of living with less is convincing, actually performing the purge remains a difficult challenge.

In the past, when my three children were little, my home exploded with clutter, matching the frenzied, often stress-filled pace of my own life. Reorganizing put things out of view and temporarily created smooth surfaces and empty countertops, but because the stuff was simply out of sight, within weeks, the problem would return.

After years of unsuccessfully battling the problem, I came to a new realization. Simply put, organizing the

stuff is not the answer; the answer is finding a way to let it go.

Although I found success with this approach at the time, I am now entering a new phase of life with the challenges of an empty nest and downsizing. The decisions about what to keep and what to let go have become very difficult, particularly around items that have memories or emotions attached.

In recent years, I have frequently heard the phrase "ask yourself if the item sparks joy" when deciding whether or not to keep something, and I was curious to find the source of this philosophy. I tracked it to a tiny little book that has achieved global success and almost evangelical followers titled *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*. Written by bestselling author and organizing consultant Marie Kondo, this book has become the de-cluttering bible worldwide.

In the introduction to her book, Kondo states a belief similar to my own discovery

years ago.

"Have you ever tidied madly, only to find that all too soon your home or workspace is cluttered again? If so, let me share with you the secret of success. Start by discarding."

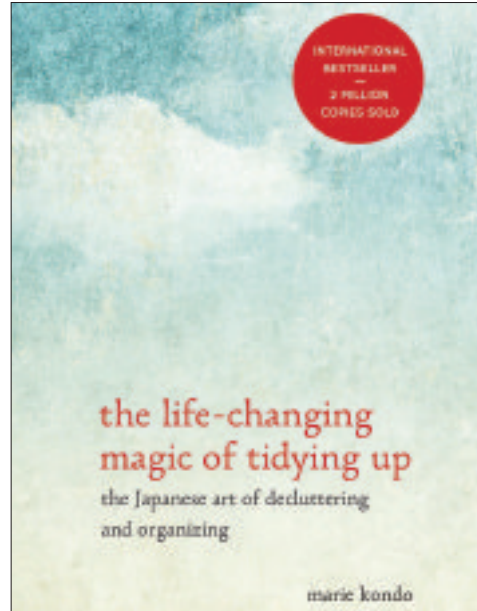
I remembered that as the number of boxes going out the door multiplied, so did my sense of freedom and an intoxicating lightness. Kondo would not be surprised by the joy that I experienced.

"A dramatic reorganization of the home causes correspondingly dramatic changes in lifestyle and perspective," she writes. "It is life transforming."

Kondo's book goes into great detail, but her method can be broken down into two main steps: decide which items to keep and then decide where to put them.

You begin by grouping items into categories. This is a radical departure from traditional methods which have us "tackling one room at a time" or "taking small steps" to achieve our goal.

Instead of just attacking a bedroom closet, you dig



Cover of Marie Kondo's popular book, which is published by Penguin Random House.

after a while, you begin to have a clear sense of whether it belongs in your life or not.

Kondo urges you to be grateful for what the item has given you, even if you discard it. A half read book was meant to inform you of just that amount. A piece of clothing never worn teaches you that you have a different style. An unused appliance at the back of a cupboard highlights the items that you actually use and appreciate. Boxes of photos can be reduced to a handful of the most meaningful moments. Instead of a dreaded chore, the process becomes focused and rewarding, especially as the lightness, organization and simplicity begins to shine through your home.

Once the items in the category have been pared down to the ones that spark joy, you move on to step two, choosing where they will live. Kondo's advice is to designate a specific spot for every thing and return the item to that spot every time.

"The essence of effective storage is this: designate a spot for every last thing you own," she writes. "Once you choose a place for your things, you can keep your house in order."

Kondo's ideas are effective, perhaps because of their simplicity. The book itself is a delightful read, with Kondo sharing her own history, philosophies and detailed steps to apply her ideas to your own home.

This approach has been incredibly effective for me to finally face my most difficult category, child-oriented memorabilia. Thanks to Kondo, I look forward to new adventures with possessions sleekly streamlined and spirit light.

out the clothes from every part of the house, including coat closets, drawers, bins and boxes. When laid out in a pile, you cannot deny the sheer volume, which is an incentive in itself to pare it down. In addition, Kondo believes that the order in which you work on the categories is crucial to success, starting with easier groups and leaving the most difficult for the end.

"Start with clothes, then move on to books, papers, komono (miscellany) and, finally, things with sentimental value," she writes. "If you reduce what you own in this order, your work will proceed with surprising ease."

Once all the items are laid out in a pile, you decide what to keep and what to discard, and this is where I uncovered the famous phrase that

is the cornerstone of her unique method.

"The best way to choose what to keep and what to throw away is to take each item in one's hand and ask: "Does this spark joy?," advises Kondo. "If it does, keep it. If not, dispose of it."

"When you touch a piece of clothing, your body reacts. Its response to each item is different. Trust me and try it."

Despite feeling more than a little skeptical, I decided to give it a try. It was amazingly effective. Holding the item becomes an almost meditative act. You begin to look at your possessions differently. There is a respect for what your things have given you, whether the choice is to discard or keep. You remember when or why you obtained it, how it made you feel and,

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Home AND Garden

GROWING

Salt Spring gardeners excited by hugelkultur option

Woody debris makes great growing spot

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Hugelkultur is a familiar word in permaculture circles. Hugelkultur are no-dig raised garden beds based on decaying wood. Hugelkultur means “hill culture” or “mound culture” and the word hugel rhymes with google.

The idea is to copycat what happens naturally in the forest. As they decay, fallen trees eventually become nurse logs to new tree seedlings. During that decaying process, the logs act like a sponge, wicking water and producing heat, which in turn benefits nearby plants.

But you don't need to be a permaculture expert to experiment with the technique, as demonstrated by the hugelkultur beds I found at the Salt Spring home of Cathy MacLean and Jack Nealon.

“We're not total permaculture people necessarily, but we are gardeners who just decided to try it,” said MacLean.

MacLean and Nealon have gardened in California, the Kootenays and now here on Salt Spring.

After they bought their property and began clean-up, they accumulated a lot of tree and plant material. They looked for ways to deal with it, other than burning.

“Return it to the earth if you can,” said MacLean.

make a bed that decomposes and releases nutrients quickly, or, with larger types of plant material, decays more slowly, and then arrange crops suited for different decomposition times.

Hugelkultur beds build soil fertility and can improve drainage on compacted soils. They also provide heat as decomposition occurs. The beds will benefit from some time to cure or meld, but can be planted right away. The more mass in the bed, the better the water retention. As well, initially, nitrogen loss as the wood decays is something to be aware of and possibly remedied by the cultivation of crops that fix nitrogen.

MacLean and Nealon point out they are learning more about hugelkultur as they go.

“It's a work in progress over time,” said MacLean.

Two years ago, when first made, their bed was six feet high. Now, with decomposition, it's about three to four feet high, 35 feet long and eight feet wide. MacLean says that making a taller bed is a good idea. She leans over the bed and points out “If you make the bed taller initially, then you can reach over and pick at your own height.”

“As well,” said Nealon, “you do have to water for the first year and a half to get enough water for many crops. These beds are well suited to perennials, which establish a strong root system. With shallow rooted vegetables, like lettuce, you might have to water as much as with another raised bed.”

“The decomposing creates heat,” explained MacLean. “The berm is a warm environment.”

But when MacLean kicks at the bed's soil, I can see it is rich and friable.

“We're thinking of planting artichokes and asparagus here,” Nealon said.

They already have strawberries and Jerusalem artichokes in the bed and have previously sown red clover as a cover crop.

MacLean also has another smaller hugelkultur bed, at the border of the property, which is a landscaping feature to provide privacy. There, too, she made use of woody debris to build the bed.

“It's a way to sculpt a bit,” she said.

For folks who don't have a big supply of logs and branches, straw bales have also been used to create hugelkultur beds, either as a border around stacked materials or as the material itself, although moisture and nutrients present in the latter will not be as great as they would in a bed with woody material.

So, as the late musician Prince would say, let's go crazy — with hugelkultur.



Jack Nealon and Cathy MacLean with a hugelkultur bed on their Salt Spring property.

“It's a work in progress over time.”

CATHY MACLEAN
Salt Spring gardener

When you make a hugelkultur bed, you simply make a pile of logs, branches, plant material, compost and soil on the ground, in a mound, typically three feet wide, six feet long and three feet wide. The base of a hugelkultur bed is woody debris. Cedar is not recommended for the beds, while alder and maple are. You can place logs and branches either vertically or horizontally, cut to fit your concept. The mound provides its own nutrients, irrigation and aeration for crops.

The sloped sides of the bed are typically in the 60-80 degree grade range. You can

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Home AND Garden



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

DIGGIN' IT: Working on the Salt Spring Elementary School Garden Project on Sunday are, from left, Philip Aucoin, Gwen Sekhon and Natasha Purvis. The school welcomes donations at its Indiegogo page called A Child's Garden.

FLOORING

Factors to consider for carpet

Comfort, safety, padding and more

When the time comes to choose flooring for their homes, homeowners may be overwhelmed by the vast array of options at their disposal. The choice between carpet and hardwood flooring, laminate or tile is a matter of personal preference. People have long extolled the virtues of hardwood flooring, but carpeting can be just as stylish and provides a host of other benefits as well.

Carpeting insulates rooms in the summer and winter, adding that extra level of protection against the elements. Carpeting also absorbs sound in a home. Many appreciate the warmth and cozy feeling of carpet, especially when stepping out of bed. Carpeting also can increase the level of safety at home. According to the Carpet and Rug Institute, carpeting makes areas of play safer and may also reduce the severity of an injury in the event of a fall.

Today, there are many different types of carpeting available. Selecting the right carpeting for a room comes down to identifying the level of traffic in a particular room, the attributes homeowners would like the carpet to have and any other needs that fit with their lifestyles. The following guidelines can make carpet shopping a bit easier.

Type of carpeting

There are many different types of carpeting, some of which are best suited to certain situations. For example, plush and saxony carpets are better in low-traffic areas. These carpets may show foot-

prints and also vacuum tracks and dirt, but they're higher on the comfort spectrum than other types of carpet. Berber, which is more flat and dense, helps mask stains and tracks. It is durable in high-traffic areas. Textured carpets like frieze are cut from fibers of different heights, so they mask stains and are also softer on the feet than berber.

Padding

Padding can impact the way carpeting feels and how long it lasts. It isn't always necessary to purchase the most expensive or thickest padding. However, it is wise to pick a pad that matches the type of carpeting you're selecting and one that aligns with how you plan to use the room. You may be able to go with a thinner pad in low-traffic rooms and beneath dense carpeting like berber. In high-traffic rooms, choose a thicker, more durable padding. Padding prevents carpet backing and fibres from coming apart over time. It pays to invest in a padding that will last as well.

Installation

Select a reliable carpet retailer and installer for your business. Competent installers will lay the carpeting in the correct manner so that it will look beautiful and maintain its durability for the life of the product. Shop around to find the right installer or even do the work yourself if you feel capable.

Take time when shopping for carpeting, which is a substantial investment that can last for many years if the right material is chosen and installed correctly.



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ART REVIEW

Artistic glory blooms in fine discards

Tossed and Found at Salt Spring Gallery to March 28

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Materials that would otherwise end up in the recycling bin or garbage bin take pride of place once again at the Salt Spring Gallery this month, where Tossed and Found: Part Deux can be viewed until March 28.

Following a highly successful exhibition in the same space last year, coordinators Shirley Command and Jaime Murdoch have returned with the premise of showing both new and emerging artists who are creating innovative art with recycled items. Part Deux features some alumni from the first round and a strong group of newcomers, plus two talented student artists.

The exhibition is once again arranged around an impressive hanging piece displayed at the centre, in this case featuring two works by Erinanne Harper. Grief and Praise 1 and 2 make use of metal household objects and tools as parts of abstract geometric patterns, set in door panel frames. "Grief and Praise 1: oh the world, it turns around" is built on the circle as its main motif, with a ring of different-sized screens and blades set around a wide metal collar as if planets orbiting a hollow sun. The apparent movement in the piece feels lyrical, while areas of metal grating, both utilitarian and ornate, provide both balance and structure. This is necessary for the open areas, which are a crucial part of the configuration.

"Grief and Praise 2: the portals of perception" is divided into four sections by the framing and provides an imaginative idea of the wonders those doors might open to. For example, one panel sets the scene for adventure with chandelier crystals, a decorative picture frame in arabesque metalwork and a fan of chopsticks.

In other parts of the series, Harper creates colourful webs of thread and fabrics in one case, and plastic cords in another.

Peter Allan takes a political turn in several pieces. He references the idea that leadership must stand on its record with a wall display employing vinyl disks, and creates a wonderfully creepy and rather reptilian mixed-media sculpture called Chief Executive: Tiny Hands. Reason-Over-Passion is an assemblage of children's blocks, both the type that have letters and the colourful

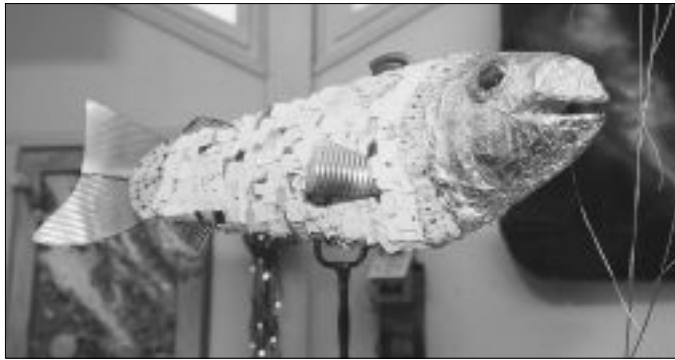


PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Beaded Fish, created by Jane Holmes is part of the Tossed and Found: Part Deux show now on at Salt Spring Gallery.

geometric building shapes.

The Canada 150 update of Canadian artist Joyce Wieland's famous quilted work speaks to the need for reason now more than ever, when political hotheads stand to inflict real damage on the world. Allan's playful reminder of Margaret Trudeau's anecdote about ripping the letters off Wieland's French language quilt and throwing them at Pierre Trudeau brings home the more serious implications of the metaphor, as throwing these wooden letters would actually hurt.

Alison Sparshu has a stunningly personal piece in Repronex: Tiny Lights of Hope. Her used IVF hormone injection bottles (with results costly and so far unsuccessful) are turned into miniature lampshades for a cascade of stringed lights. These spill out from a piece of driftwood with notably female curves. The piece works well without any explanation; with the information provided it becomes truly profound.

Jana Gatién has a series of marine travel-inspired works, of which Navigator 2017 is particularly well-executed. Using a nautical chart as background she creates a sense of the destination with beach glass, seashells and paper collage. Framed in a rough wooden panel, the piece is capped with a length of measuring tape. Its dull yellow sheen is matched by a base made of a partially destroyed painted wooden rudder.

Heather Martin-McNab has fun with her found materials while showing off her always strong weaving/basketry skills in several works. Stillness and Movement is a dynamic piece that makes good use of open space using metal fishing line, wire,

spiral binding and shot glass among the materials. The intimate wall piece Remnants 2017 is more organic looking with rust and wood tones, involving cane chair backing, stone and deconstructed cedar basket.

Karen Gray has created an endearing series of collaged works that combine paper and vintage tins, each one featuring a different animal that humans are fond of, such as a cat or bunny, in a folksy portrait-style depiction. I was most drawn to a bright-eyed red bird set against a backdrop of wallpaper-like flowers and berries.

Other pieces of note include a series of welded Gear Snail sculptures by Nikki Samuels that sold out almost immediately, and characteristically strong submissions by the show's founders. Murdoch expands a decal into a full artwork in the gorgeous Lakshmi Bedazzle. Command builds on her steampunk time machine concept from the first show with an altered cabinet clock (with surprises.)

Jane and Sam Holmes, two students with pieces in the show, pulled their artistic weight as much as any of the adult contributors. Jane, who is in Grade 6, created the fabulous Beaded Fish from kitchen recycling. The sculpture was painstakingly finished in individual scales made of plastic bread-bag tabs. Sam, in Grade 8, has welded together a Big Horned Sheep from scrap metal, employing a jumble of different shapes and colours into a cohesive and engaging design.

The cooperative Salt Spring Gallery is located at the top of McPhillips Avenue, and is open Wednesday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ArtSpring presents

 Kai
GLEUSTEEN violin
 Catherine
ORDRONNEAU piano

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FOLK CLUB

Shred Kelly brings stoke-folk to island

Acclaimed Kootenays group at Fulford Hall

The next Salt Spring Folk Club concert runs Monday, March 20 at Fulford Hall, featuring unique "stoke-folk" music from Shred Kelly.

"Shred Kelly was probably my favourite group that performed at the garlic and music festival last August," said folk club board member Irish Nobile. "As emerging young artists from Fernie, B.C. we are excited to have them back to Salt Spring on their winter tour."

"The band is best known for their dynamic, high-energy and engaging live show that leaves no dance floor vacant," states their website.

"Shred Kelly has garnered themselves sold-out shows across Canada, performed at some of the nation's premier festivals, and received a growing list of awards and recognition. They recently won Album of the Year and Best Live Act at the 2015 Kootenay Music Awards and won a 2015 Western Canadian Music Award for Best Music Video for their latest single Sing to the Night."

The opening act is Sam Webber.

Salt Spring Folk Club
 www.saltspringfolkclub.com

SHRED KELLY

Monday March 20
 Fulford Hall
 Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00)
 Show starts 7:00

Tickets \$25 available at:
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Will Millar

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St. Patrick's Day, Friday March 17th, 2017 • 5pm to 8pm

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Duo performs Friday

Ordronneau and Gleusteen return

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

On Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m., Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau bring the magic of "the Russians" to ArtSpring's stage.

With Gleusteen on violin and Ordronneau on piano, this virtuoso husband and wife team presents a passionate and dramatic evening of classics by Russian composers, including Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky. A tasting from Garry Oaks Winery precedes Friday evening's show.

Kai Gleusteen, born and raised in Calgary, began classical violin at the age of five. Climbing a ladder of recognition in national competitions, the 17-year-old Gleusteen went on to win first place in the Commonwealth Concerto Competition in Australia,

followed by the prestigious Skene Award in Scotland. In the early '90s, Gleusteen moved to Europe and for nine years ensconced himself in the world of Western orchestral music before returning to Canada.

A skilled pianist since her childhood, Ordronneau earned the place of highest distinction at the Conservatory in Rouen and later the Concert Award at the École Normale de Musique in Paris.

Ordronneau and Gleusteen have been performing as a duo since 1999, and have jointly released two CDs. They've appeared together on CBC Radio and the television program Classical Now.

According to the Calgary Herald, "Both performers are exceptional musicians. Elegant, they played with intensity and unmistakable commitment to the music, searching out the most exquisite ways to shape and phrase melodies."

RECITAL

Sims at All Saints

Tea à Tempo concert

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

A special Tea à Tempo concert on Wednesday, March 22 will pay tribute to the memory of a very special islander.

Many people will remember Naidine Sims, the lovely woman who graced our community before passing away last September at the age of 95.

Sims loved music of all genres, especially gospel and jazz. Her daughter, Judy Sims, has sung jazz standards throughout her life in both Canada and the United States, fronting the group Sweetwater on Salt Spring for over 10 years. As Naidine Sims noted last year, Judy just keeps getting better and better.

The Sims family will gather on Salt Spring this month to remember Naidine's life and inter her ashes with the Stark family at Central Cemetery. Respecting Naidine's wishes, only family will be present.

The concert on March 22 will feature the songs of Billie Holiday. Judy Sims, who now resides in Nevada, will sing, accompanied by former members of her Salt Spring band: Karen Arney on piano, John Moore on saxophones, Jim Shultz on guitar, Dave Milutinovic on drums and Alan Wardrop on bass. Hannah Brown will also sing a few of the Billie Holiday blues tunes that Naidine so enjoyed.

The music, by donation, begins in All Saints By-the-Sea at 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats.

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ECOLOGY PROJECT

Kids' ocean plastics book seeks funds

Ocean Champions: A Journey into Seas of Plastic

BY DAWN HAGE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Plastic in our oceans is a problem so devastating, colossal and heartbreaking that it is easy to give up in despair, feeling there is no way to make a real difference.

But islander Michelle Mech has taken the opposite approach, creating a project aimed at children that could have ripple effects for generations.

Mech has written *Ocean Champions: A Journey into Seas of Plastic*, a children's book intended to entertain, educate and inspire readers to become agents of change. She has launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund 1,000 copies of the book in English, with more languages to follow. Her goal is to see the book in schools, libraries, bookstores and ultimately available to as many children as possible, with free online audio books for youth in developing countries.

Ocean Champions is beautifully illustrated by Ian Fry and tells a tale of two children, Kai and Morgan, who are playing on a beach and make friends with Botley, a plastic bottle who is afraid of being pulled into the ocean. They soon discover a dolphin tangled in fishing net and call a rescue centre for help. The rescuers arrive in a super submersible and thus begins a journey of discovery about the devastating effects that plastic debris is having on marine animals. Their adventure takes them to several places, including the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the North Pacific.

Mech provides the grim facts in a way that doesn't overwhelm. The child characters learn and accept the situation and then go on to do something about it, to become ocean champions — exactly as she would want readers to respond.

Mech was inspired to educate about plastics in the ocean after picking up plastic debris while visiting the shores of Melaque, Mexico. She connected with experts in the field, such as Capt. Charles Moore, founder and research director of Algalita Marine Research and Education, who discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 1997.

Eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year from the land, the equivalent of 16 grocery bags full for every metre of coastline throughout the world and end up floating, submerged, or sinking to the bottom. This is harming and killing marine life, either through external entanglement that injures, traps and often drowns them, or through plastic ingestion, which causes suffering and often death by poisoning or starvation.

"I've sailed through the tropics and off our B.C. coast; seen beautiful coral reefs and so many awesome marine animals," said Mech. "It doesn't seem fair that future generations may never get to



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE MECH

A sea turtle is trapped in plastic netting, illustrating the dangers of plastics in the world's oceans.

see many of these things because of the human activities that are devastating our oceans."

Mech initially connected with other educators in Melaque and developed presentations in English and Spanish for high school students, which she thought was a good age group to start with. But then she came to realize that "By communicating this huge environmental problem to young children, there's a chance to change attitudes at the ground level and the hope is that they will educate the adults in their life at the same time."

Mech worked closely with Janet Hoag of the Gulf Islands School District, who set up classroom readings with Mech and advised and supported her throughout.

"I was blown away by the reaction of the kids," recalled Mech. "We had a mixed class of K to Grade 3 students, and I was sure that the kindergarten kids were too young, but they were really into it."

The Kickstarter site contains a wealth of information, including a history of the project, video, synopsis of the story, Mech's inspiration and process, current status of the book and more. Her goal is to raise \$10,500 to defray the costs of producing the book. Her oceans education work is done on a volunteer basis.

Kickstarter is an all or nothing operation. Funds need to be fully raised by Saturday, April 1. Mech hopes to have the book available by late April.

To read more and donate, visit the kickstarter site: goo.gl/Jty3hs. For educational material on oceans, visit: <https://neraida.org>.

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ENVIRONMENT

Travel talk presented

On Tuesday, March 21, local naturalist David Denning will explore the carbon balance sheet of travel in a multimedia presentation called *Greening Our Travel for a Lower Carbon Footprint on a Warming Planet*.

Using colourful graphics and concise information, he will give a clear indication of our total carbon budget to keep the planet below 2°C warming, and then see how travel fits into the challenges to do that.

Denning says the good news is that "technologies and options are now available for truly green travel. The transition to widespread green travel will be an interesting and exciting challenge."

Tuesday's free event begins at 7 p.m. in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room.

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Come join in the fun on Friday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Salt Spring Branch
Refreshments will be served.
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what's on this week



Wed Mar 15

ACTIVITIES
Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting.
 Central Community Hall. 7 p.m.
Salt Spring Digital Social.
 Salt Spring Digital group members meet at Shipstones from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Join the Facebook group and sign-up for updates at saltspringdigital.org.
Songjam.
 Pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Mar 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Open Mic With Dave & Ross.
 Every Thursday at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

The National Theatre Live: Amadeus.
 Shows at The Fritz. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.
GISS Cyber Scorpions Robotics Team Fundraiser.
 Support GISS Cyber Scorpions as they head to Calgary to compete. There will be burgers and beer, a silent auction and music with the Chamigos. Moby's Pub. 6 p.m.
Pollination for the Nation of SSI Presentation.
 With Linda Gilkeson, Wendi Gilson and Ron Pither. SS Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

Thur. Mar 16

ACTIVITIES
Salt Spring Public Library Association AGM.
 The library's annual general meeting will be held in the program room. All active library cardholders are welcome to attend. 4 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development Commission.
 Public welcome to observe business meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 4 p.m.
Introductory Squash Sessions. Drop-in introductory sessions at the new squash court at the golf club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. Salt Spring Squash Club. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild.
 Meets every Thursday at ArtSpring at 10:30 a.m. See www.saltspringweaversandspinners.com for program details.

Fri. Mar 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Kai Gleusteen & Catherine Ordroneau.
 Violin and piano duo present a concert of Russian composers. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Garry Oaks wine tasting at 6:30 p.m.
Doug and the Thugs.
 Wear green for party at the Legion. 7:15 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day Party with the Shanties. The Shanties perform Irish traditional and folk music. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri. Mar 17

ACTIVITIES
Friday Adventure Camp.
 Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Leprechaun hunt and more at PARC's kids' camp for ages 6 to 12. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register through PARC.
StoryWalk.
 On the third Friday of every month, follow a story from the library, through Mouat Park, to the Rainbow Road Pool. Meet at the library at 10 a.m.
BMO 200th Anniversary.
 Celebrate at the Ganges BMO branch with refreshments from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
StoryTime.
 Family StoryTime at the library every Friday at 1:30 p.m. Join us for stories, songs, games, crafts and more in this fun program, ideal for kids aged 3 to 6.
Salt Spring Home & Garden Show Welcome Reception.
 Music, food, cash bar social event for the Home & Garden Show at the Farmers' Institute. 5 to 8 p.m.
St. Patrick's Day with Will Millar.
 Irish Rovers founder shares oil paintings of old Ireland and a few songs. Opening reception for show running to April 7 at Gallery 8. 5 to 8 p.m.
Library Games Night.
 Bring your friends, your snacks, and your 20-sided dice to the library for games night every Friday night. A vast collection of board games is available to play, or you can bring your own. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sat. Mar 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Back on the Rock Concert.
 Back on the Rock choir and orchestra welcomes spring with a spectacular concert of music by J.S. Bach, Handel and Mozart at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m.
Stoke.
 Fundraiser for a new Beaver Point Hall furnace will feature local performers and musicians such as Sid Filkow, Yael Wand, Kaisenjammers and Ursidae Hive, as well as DJs Appecat, Rara Avis and Anchor Hill. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
The Broken Strings.
 Victoria's most diverse cover band plays variety of artists from the '60s, '70s, '80s and beyond. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Home & Garden Show. More than 50 vendors showcase their local products and services. Farmers' Institute. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Beginners Pickleball Training. Lessons and practice drills offered to get you going with pickleball. At Salt Spring Elementary School. 9 to 10 a.m. Equipment included. saltspringpickleball.net
Beaver Point Hall Association AGM. Annual general meeting, with refreshments and conversation to follow. Beaver Point Community Hall. 11 a.m.

Sun. Mar 19

ACTIVITIES
Bolshoi Ballet Live Broadcast: Contemporary Evening.
 Hans Van Manen's Frank Bridge Variations, Sol León and Paul Lightfoot's Short Time Together and Alexei Ratmansk's Russian Seasons. ArtSpring. 10 a.m.
SS Arts Council AGM and Open House. Refreshments and light snacks will be served. Mahon Hall. 10 a.m. Then come back for open house featuring works from in-house workshops from 2 to 4 p.m.
Celebration of Life for Richard Moses. Open-house celebration of life for Richard Moses. ArtSpring gallery. 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Sung Evensong for St. Patrick. Organ meditations by David Storm, prayers, hymns and silence for reflection. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4 p.m.
Rollerblading. Every Sunday at Fulford Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Some rollerblades available to rent at the hall.
Sacred Sound Journey. Re-enter the natural current of life through the power of sound with the vibration of alchemy crystal singing bowls, Tibetan singing bowls, tingshas, drums, rattle, rainsticks and voice. Ram Spring Wellness Sanctuary. Session One: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Session Two: 2 to 3 p.m. Bring a mat, blanket and pillow for your comfort. Pre-registration required at bodhi.carol@gmail.com.
Introductory Squash Sessions. See Thursday listing, except the time is 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Mon. Mar 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Salt Spring Folk Club - Shred Kelly.
 Folk club concert at Fulford Hall. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. (6 p.m. for season's ticket holders) with the music starting at 7 p.m. Sam Webber is opening act.
ACTIVITIES
Matilda the Musical Spring Break Workshop. Week of musical theatre with Sue Newman at RainWood Dance Studio begins today. Register/info: www.rainwood-dancestudio.com.
Salt Spring Fire Protection District. Board of trustees meeting at lower hall of Salt Spring United Church. 7 p.m.
Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission. Public welcome to observe business meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 5 p.m.
Salt Spring Sanctuary Society AGM. Annual general meeting of the seed sanctuary group at 250 Toynbee Rd. Topic of allotment seed gardens is on the agenda. 7 p.m.

Tues. Mar 21

ACTIVITIES
Greening Our Travel For a Lower Carbon Footprint on a Warming Planet.
 Free presentation by David Denning at the SS Library Program Room. 7 p.m.
Introductory Squash Sessions.
 See Thursday listing, except the time is from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Wed. Mar 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Tea a Tempo - Judy Sims and Band.
 Judy Sims and band perform Billie Holiday songs and more at All Saints By-the-Sea as a tribute to Judy's mother Naidine Sims, who died last year. 2:10 p.m. Followed by tea and treats.
Songjam.
 See last Wednesday's listing.
Anxiety & Adolescence with Dr. Kristin Buh.
 Develop a better understanding of anxiety and anxiety problems in children and youth, and learn about helpful resources and strategies for managing anxiety. Free workshop. Register through eventbrite.com. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 6 p.m.



Shred Kelly is SS Folk Club act.

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CINEMA

- The Lego Batman Movie** — Family-friendly fun and beautifully animated. There are big changes in Gotham, and to defeat The Joker, Batman may have to drop the vigilante thing and work with others.
- The National Theatre Live: Amadeus** — Recorded Live at The National Theatre. Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy, arrives in Vienna, determined to make a splash. Awestruck by his genius, court composer Antonio Salieri can promote his talent or destroy his name. With live orchestral accompaniment by Southbank Sinfonia. Thursday, March 16 only. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.

EXHIBITIONS

- Will Millar** of Irish Rovers fame shows paintings at Gallery 8 beginning with a reception on Friday, March 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. Live music with an Irish bent will be part of the St. Patrick's Day event. Exhibit continues until April 7.
- Tossed & Found - Part Deux** — an exhibit of works by several artists made from recycled materials — runs at **Salt Spring Gallery** through March 28.
- Robert Potter** shows oil landscape paintings from his travels at **KiZmit Galeria and Cafe** until April 2, Thursdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.-ish.
- Barbara Levy** premieres her photographs of nature's beauty, along with continuing works by her brother **Michael Levy** at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until March 18.
- Kristin Shoolbraid's** artwork is on display at **TJ Beans** through March.
- Johanna Hoskins** exhibits in the **ArtSpring** lobby through March.
- An exhibit of oil paintings by **Sibylle Leimbiger** is on display through March in the **Salt Spring Library Program Room**.
- Margaret Ann Argiro** shows photographs from Haida Gwaii in the hallway at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.**

This Week's Horoscope
 by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrlogy.com
sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
 1.250.352.2936

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Last Chance!

The Driftwood Readers Survey is available until Friday, March 17. See our link online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or a print copy available in our March 1 issue of the Driftwood or at the Driftwood office, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who have already responded!

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CELEBRATIONS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS

Happy 90th Birthday

Happy 90th Birthday to our amazing and beautiful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Agnes Huser!
Lots of Love from your family.

Andrey "Chico" Skrypnik

On Wednesday March 1, 2017 Andrey "Chico" Skrypnik passed away in Ganges on Salt Spring Island BC.
Andrey was born on December 5, 1954 in Edmonton, Alberta. He was raised in a Canadian Ukrainian home on the Prairies in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. He belonged to Cubs and Scouts as well as PLAST (Ukrainian Scouts). Through PLAST he acquired his love of the great outdoors and the ability to be very resourceful and to survive under any conditions.
Along the way he became enamoured with Harley Davidson motorcycles. This led him on a road trip to Salt Spring Island and in 1980 he became a permanent resident of what he considered the best place on earth. Here he had adventures with a variety of friends, which he cherished. He lived on a boat, sailed tall ships, fished, water taxied and helped build high end homes and businesses on the Island. He also enjoyed "gardening."
Chico leaves a family that loved him very much, his parents Sofia and Yaroslav Skrypnik, his sister Xenia (John Bubel), brother Ostap (Marta), nephews Adrian (Solomia) and Hritz (Shandra), nieces Evanka and Olenka and a great-niece Amy. He also leaves behind a family on Salt Spring, consisting of both old and new friends, all of whom helped him live his life on his own terms.

Online condolences to be made at:
www.bayworldequestrian.com
250-537-1822

Ann Bishop

It's with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Georgina Ann Bishop (nee Wallace) who passed away on March 6th at the age of 82. She is survived by her husband Doug; son Kyle; daughters Tracy (Mark) and Darcy (Bruce); brother Tom (Carol); granddaughter Holly; and grandsons Morgan and Fisher. She was predeceased by her parents Gladys and Robert Wallace; and brother Lyle.
Born and raised in Saskatoon, Ann met Doug in grade 10 and they spent the next 66 years together as they moved throughout the country pursuing their entrepreneurial dreams. After retirement, they settled on Salt Spring Island. Ann's passion for ice skating and needlework, particularly knitting, filled her free time throughout her life.
Ann's quiet calm and dry sense of humour will be missed by all who knew her. The family would like to thank Dr. Manya Sadouski and the spectacular nursing staff at Lady Minto Hospital. A gathering will be held on March 17, 2017 from 2-4 pm at Meadowbrook (121 Atkins Rd., Salt Spring Island) to remember Ann. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

Joan (Violet) LARSON

Joan passed away peacefully at Lady Minto Hospital on Feb 16 at 95 years of age.
Joan will rest peacefully with her husband Gilbert who passed away in 2000.
Joan and Gill are survived by their sons Craig, Tim and seven grand children.
A memorial will be held at All Saints' Church on Saturday, Mar 25th at 2 pm.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday 15th March, 2017 at 7.00 pm.
Public welcome.

FABULOUS FLEAMARKET

At Fulford Hall Saturday, March 25, 2017
10am - 2pm
Table Rentals: 8ft. - \$25
Delicious Homemade Food Available
Call: 250 537-5482

Seed Sanctuary AGM

The AGM of the Salt Spring Sanctuary Society will be held at 7pm, Monday, March 20 at 250 Toynbee Road. Beside regular business, there will be a discussion of Allotment Seed Gardens on Salt Spring Island.
ALL WELCOME

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 22

- DR. ERHARD WALTER LUFT -

Dr. Erhard Walter Luft died in Ganges on Salt Spring Island B.C. after a lengthy illness on Feb. 09-2017.
He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
Erhard was born in Alt-Walddorf Slovakia on Sept. 28 1933.
His parents moved to Germany after the war. There he began his education. He graduated from the Gymnasium cum laude and enrolled at the University of Erlangen where he began his studies in mathematics and physics.
His PHD thesis gained the notice of many established mathematicians. He was offered a position in Bonn as assistant to Professor Hirtzbruck.
Dr. Hirtzbruck sent him to the United States on a Fulbright scholarship expand his knowledge. His first position was at Brandeis University where he taught and researched. After the semester was over, he went to the University California in Berkeley where he also met his future wife. By the end of the academic year his scholarship lapsed and he was faced with the choice of going back to Germany or take the position he was offered in Vancouver B.C.
He opted for the latter. He also sent for his girlfriend and they got married in Dec. 1963. He immediately loved Vancouver it reminded him of his home in Slovakia.
He became a tenured Professor and taught for thirty-five years before his retirement.
He had four PHD students during his tenure that went on to become Professors He loved teaching and helped many aspiring students with their problems. He was very generous with his time and ideas.
He also loved sports. In his mature years, he took up cross-country skiing and if he wasn't skiing he would be at the pool, he loved swimming. He was always encouraging to whomever needed his advice.
His famous sentence "Tomorrows another day and things will be better" are sorely missed.
We love and miss you Erhard

Online condolences to be made at:
www.bayworldequestrian.com
250-537-1822

Joyce Hilda (Noall) Coates
1922 - 2017

Joyce, daughter of Thomas and Florence Noall, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 12, 2017 on Saltspring Island, BC, in her 95th year. Born in Portsmouth, England in 1922, as a young woman Joyce was a member of the Royal Navy WRENs during which time she met her future husband and the father of her six children, Canadian naval officer John Anthony Coates. Following the war, Joyce immigrated to Canada through Pier 21 in Halifax, N.S. where John awaited his new bride. From there, John and Joyce first settled in Victoria, later Prince George and then Toronto, all while John pursued his law career. John and Joyce returned to BC in the 1980s and settled on Mayne Island.
Joyce is predeceased by her daughters Anne and Elizabeth and brother George. Joyce is survived by her husband John, daughters Sandy and Charlotte, sons Chris and Jamie, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.
A memorial service will be held at Lady Minto Hospital on Thursday, March 16 at 10:30 AM. Internment at a later date.
The Coates family would like to extend our gratitude to all staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their attentiveness and loving care.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Joyce's name to the Lady Minto Hospital.

Salt Spring Hospice

What happens at a Death Cafe?
Folks gather to talk about death and related topics.
Curious? Join the conversation in the Artspring Lobby on March 25 from 2 to 4.
250-537-2770
saltspringhospice.org

PERSONALS

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

HIP OR KNEE REPLACEMENT? Arthritic Conditions/CPD? Restrictions in Walking/Dressing? Disability Tax Credit \$2,000 Tax Credit \$20,000 Refund. Apply Today For Assistance: 1-844-453-5372.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION! In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareersStep.ca/MT or 1-855-788-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

WE are looking for a dedicated individual who will be responsible for ensuring the overall success of Salt Spring Islands Homestay Program. For a full list of required knowledge, skills and abilities, as well as how to apply, visit <http://canadahomestay-network.ca/careers/> This is a full-time position with a closing date of March 24, 2017

WENTWORTH MUSIC Kelowna Hiring Full Time Sales & Repair Positions. Starting wage \$12-\$15 wentworthmusic@shaw.ca 250-860-2251

HELP WANTED

NEW GAS ATTENDANTS wanted, male / female candidates, reliable , responsible for part time employment, paid training, must be minimum. 16yrs old, please apply in person with resume to manager tom @ 2760 shawnigan garage, shawnigan lake asap

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE

To own firearms in Canada you must take the **Canadian Firearms Safety Course**. Courses are Sundays at the Saltspring Island Rod & Gun Club located at 223 Long Harbour Road. This 8 hour course starts at 9:00 am and finishes at 5:00 pm. All training firearms provided in the course are disabled and use dummy ammunition. Cost is \$160 and includes the CFSC manual. **To pre-register, please contact Ken Cameron a Government Certified CFSC Instructor at 250-537-1243 or kc12@telus.net. Pre-registration is required.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

CANCEL YOUR TIMESHARE. NO Risk Program. STOP Mortgage & Maintenance Payments Today. 100% Money Back Guarantee. FREE Consultation. Call us now. We can help! 1-888-356-5248

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGALS

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PERSONAL SERVICES


FINANCIAL SERVICES

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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ARE YOU PREPARED FOR AN EARTHQUAKE?

- * Do you know the risks? * Do you have a family plan?
- * Have your prepared your home?
- * Have you built an emergency kit to get you and your family beyond 7 days (at least)? * Do you have a kit for your pets?
- * Are you connected to the neighbourhood for help (the POD program)?

Most people think this won't happen here but starting February 2017 our seismic activity in the area increased by 300%. We can have three types of earthquakes - The Mega Thrust, a deep earthquake and a small crustal earthquake. All of these can impact our area.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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COMING EVENTS

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HARDY TREE, SHRUB, and berry seedlings delivered. Order online at www.tree-time.ca or call 1-866-873-3846. New growth guaranteed.

Notice:

To Members & Public

Beaver Point Community Hall Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Saturday, March 18th, 2017** 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Beaver Point Hall, 1361 Beaver Point Road Refreshments and conversation will follow. **All Are Welcome**

CONCRETE & PLACING

GULF COAST MATERIALS Serving the Gulf Islands

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The Annual General Meeting OF THE salt spring arts council

Sunday March 19, 2017 at 10 am will be held at Mahon Hall 114 Rainbow Road, Ganges

Everyone Welcome. Memberships available. Refreshments and light snacks will be served. Join us again between 2-4pm for the In-House Open House, featuring works made during the In-House Workshops. www.ssartsCouncil.com

DRAFTING & DESIGN

LET'S GET STARTED Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor. **HELSET DESIGN 250.537.1037 Ask for Jim**

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

ARMSTRONG HOTEL & SALOON - Armstrong, BC. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, April 26 in Edmonton. 16 guest rooms, saloon & restaurant. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652, Realtor: Tom Moran (PPEC) - Re/Max Dawson Creek Realty, rbauction.com/realestate.

RENTALS

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

550 SF office/studio for lease, Merchant Mews. Was radio station. Lots of light, wood paneling, bthrm, Richard (in Victoria): 250-380-1669.

What's happening at your Library? Find out at the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Thursday, March 16, 2017 Library Program Room 4:00 p.m.

All active Library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD GUARANTEED CORD Cpt. Split & delivered Cedar/Fir/Aspen 250-653-4165

HOMES FOR RENT

ISLAND EXPLORER Property Management Ltd. www.islandexploreproperties.com 250-537-4722 1-800-800-9492

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (BC SPCA)

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING SALT SPRING ISLAND BRANCH OF THE BC SPCA

In accordance with Bylaw 5.15(d), 9.5(b), 9.5(d) and 14 of the Bylaws of The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the:

SALT SPRING ISLAND BRANCH Will take place on: Saturday March 25, 2017 11 am - 1 pm At: Salt Spring Public Library Media Room 129 McPhillips Avenue Salt Spring Island

For the purpose of: Electing members of the Community Council for the branch, as well as conducting any other business of the Branch For further information on the meeting or to obtain a copy of the draft agenda, please contact Blythe MacDonald - bmacdonald@spca.bc.ca or Theresa Bruce - tbruce22@shaw.ca

A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society is available at: http://www.spca.bc.ca/assets/documents/about/governance-documents/approved-constitution.pdf

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

FUEL/FIREWOOD

HONEST OL'S FIREWOOD GUARANTEED CORD Cpt. Split & delivered Cedar/Fir/Aspen 250-653-4165

PAUL'S FIREWOOD GREAT SERVICE! Serving Salt Spring for 25 years 250-537-4660 Paul Koni WRE BUY firewood logs

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

TRUCK Load Mattress Sale Proudly made in Canada Eco friendly all soya based foam, stretch knit quilted covers, nice and firm. 39" \$239. 54" \$289. Q/S \$299. Sidney Buy & Sell 9818 Fourth St. 778-351-2244

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

Basic FOODSAFE. Monday, April 3, 2017 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. \$80. Lions Hall, 103 Bonnet Ave. Call Sheri 537-1883 to register.

STORAGE

STORAGE All units heated Humidity control 9 foot height 24 hours access

MID ISLAND STORAGE 250-537-4722

Contact your local emergency program to find out more: sseipc@crd.bc.ca

www.prepareyourself.ca

Driftwood YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960

This Week's Horoscope by Michael O'Connor www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com 1.250.352.6871

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): You have been dealing with a rich mix of energies. At worst, you feel pulled in a variety of directions. At best, you are able to be present in and enjoy each of them. Your ambitions are on the rise, yet your drive may be on hold. Focus on deciphering your goals, but take it slow for now.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): Searching for that silent sweet spot continues. Ironically, realizing it requires that you break new ground. As long as you know what you are aiming for, you will feel at peace. That is the goal. What you want to feel peaceful about, specifically, may not yet be clear.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Breaking through your illusions so you can identify your dreams is important now. Dreams are real even if they are still just in your mind. Illusions are dreams that have no reality to them. There is nothing wrong with having illusions but it is good to identify them and set them free.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): A soul-searching journey continues. That it includes finding your place and/or center in the world is not a contradiction. You are the embodiment and vehicle for your soul. It seeks self-actualization. Self-realization implies becoming aware of these truths and committing to them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A process of clearing the way continues. Although it may be tempting to look back, don't bother. The current is moving too fast. Trust and cooperate with the flow of the current. The time has come to up the ante on your learning curve as well. Get ready to go hard.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22): A creative impulse is rising, fast. Already you can feel the current speeding up. This momentum will continue all week. Despite the pull of Venus, your determination is growing stronger as well. This is one of those times when you shift into low and crawl... up the mountain.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22): There is something special in the air, a spring spell of creative magic. Once you see it, you will want it like satisfying a deep hunger. Achieving it may not be straightforward, however. It will require inventiveness and resolve. This is a call to pull out your lucky charms.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): Searching for that silent sweet spot continues. Ironically, realizing it requires that you break new ground. As long as you know what you are aiming for, you will feel at peace. That is the goal. What you want to feel peaceful about, specifically, may not yet be clear.

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Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Something fresh and new is making its way into your world, and just in time for spring. Yet you will have to meet it halfway, at least. At first, it will seem to be coming right at you. But then the tables will turn and you will have little choice but to engage in hot pursuit.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Oh lucky yay! Here is an invitation to come out and play. The twist is that the game stands to include a competitive edge. So, what can you do to show up prepared? Probably the first measure is to be aware. This is hardly an occasion for slippers. More like boots with cleats.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A breakthrough has occurred and this is just the beginning. Spring has arrived early for some and you are among them. In keeping with the season, you feel aroused and this impulse will deepen yet. Love is in the air and you want some but if the love is not so available you will probably settle for some fun.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A series of rather deep changes have been steadily underway for over a year now. These are challenging you to move on and perhaps away... from old perspectives. But doing so won't come so easily. You have work to do and it may amount to some deliberate adjustments of your perspectives.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Hopefully you have taken the opportunity to catch-up on your beauty sleep. Spring suggests action and that is exactly what you are about to take, by choice or circumstance. Expect to push harder for the next couple of months... no, make that, years.

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sports&recreation

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

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



MEN'S SOCCER

Braak, Tweddle heroics not enough

Old Boys' unbeaten streak ends at Frances Kelsey

BY FRASER HOPE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

All week it became obvious that the pressure on the Old Boys to perform was having an effect on them.

Like many well-known professional teams who endure decades without cup wins, like the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, Maple Leafs and Hibernian FC, Old Boys were coping with personal doubts, group anxiety, press interest and scrutiny. A call went out to Antonio Alonso for some guidance from his Bikram yoga associates in India for calming and deep breathing exercises. Team reporter Fraser Hope and the Driftwood's editorial board had emphatically decided not to follow yellow-press tactics and "name" and "shame" those players in a naked attempt to sensationalize the situation for increased circulation purposes.

A depleted team roster was bolstered by the return of Wile E. Coyote, or should that be Ben "The Road Runner" Cooper, back from the Baja, to create havoc down the wings or anywhere else on the Frances Kelsey school field against the Duncan 48s.

As they say in horse racing circles, the

ground was holding and ideal for Old Boys' fast movement and slick passing. Unfortunately, barely three minutes into the game, fast movement and slick passing by Duncan saw a race for the through ball, which cannoned off goalkeeper Henry Braak into the path of the attacker, who smartly passed for an easy tap-in and 1-0 lead.

Continued Duncan pressure kept Old Boys penned in their own third of the field, only relieved by great goalkeeping from Braak.

Both teams left the field amazed by the scoreline. Duncan was amazed they could miss so many goals and Old Boys were amazed at Braak's heroics in preventing a nightmare. With the resilience built up by success in their last five games, Old Boys began the second half as if an against-the-odds comeback was in the cards. But Duncan again controlled the midfield and a misplaced pass out of defence was latched onto by a Duncan striker who sent a screamer of a shot into the far corner of the net, leaving Braak stranded. Duncan led 2-0.

Would the Old Boys crumble now that the dam had been breached a second time? There was mostly one-way traffic on the field, culminating in an extraordinary sequence of three successive corners in which "Captain Stalwart" Tweddle cleared

off the line to thwart Duncan. It was a natural hat trick likely never witnessed in the history of football: one off the head, the foot and the knee! You had to be there to witness history in the making. Both teams enjoyed the comic nature of the events.

Spurred on by this "great escape," a Toynbee shot, a product of timing, direction and power with a hint of spin, curved around the defender beyond the keeper's reach for a goal labelled as soon as it left his foot.

The "comeback" cry resounded around the field as the Old Boys rallied for one final push for a tying goal and a measure of respect. As is the way of things, in an all-out attack the Old Boys left themselves vulnerable at the back and in the dying moments a thunderous shot gave Braak no chance of any last-minute heroics for a final 3-1 victory to Duncan.

Some measure of satisfaction was the news on arrival at the ferry terminal that Colin Walde's U-18s had defeated Cowichan in the Lower Island Soccer Association District Cup. Salt Spring had come back from being 3-0 down, to 6-3 down to earn a splendid 7-6 comeback victory.

The boys next meet Vantreights in Esquimalt on Sunday, provided team members travelling to watch the Whitecaps play Toronto FC on Saturday make it to kickoff!



PHOTO COURTESY STINGRAYS SWIM TEAM

SWIM TIME: Stingrays swim team member Elyse Walsh has fun at a pool party held Sunday at Rainbow Road Pool. Registration is now open for the 2017 season for children aged six to 18. Training runs from May until August. New swimmers are welcome to join. Visit saltspringstingrays.com for more information and to register.



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*Pricing applies to a 2017 Crosstrek Touring with MSRP of \$27,970 including Freight & PDI (\$1,675). Documentation Fee (\$395), Tire Levy (\$25), Air Conditioning Fee (\$100), taxes, license, registration, and insurance are extra. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Vehicle shown solely for purpose of illustration and may not be equipped as shown. Offers available until March 31, 2017. See Jim Pattison Subaru Victoria for complete program details. *Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Please visit www.iihs.org for testing methods. Dealer #40319.