



# Driftwood

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 25 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

**LOOKING UP:** Members of the Gulf Islands Secondary School graduating class of 2017 pose for the annual photo at the school grounds on Saturday. See page 13 and the Driftwood's website and Facebook pages for more photos.

**FIRE DISTRICT**

## Fire board ponders incorporation position

Trustees request more relevant information

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring fire trustees want more information before deciding whether or not they should take a public position on Salt Spring's incorporation referendum.

Trustees voted Monday evening to direct the district's chief administrative officer Andrew Peat to review the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study final report as it references the improvement district and to report back on the financial implications for ratepayers of incorporation versus the status quo. Peat was also asked to look at alternative scenarios, such as transferring responsibility to the Capital Regional District.

Several members of the audience called for the district to endorse incorporation during the town hall session preceding the meeting.

"It seems every time we turn around there is a referendum asking us to fund something, because we can't rely on senior levels of government," commented Dennis Fortin.

Ken Marr and John Macpherson also called for the board to endorse a pro-incorporation position. Marr outlined the burden on ratepayers and the potential savings incorporation would offer in terms of building a new fire hall and administrative efficiencies.

FIRE BOARD continued on 4

**BC FERRIES**

## Salish Eagle makes splashy debut

New schedule and vessel in effect June 21

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ferry fans and other travellers will be on board when the Salish Eagle enters its first day of service with BC Ferries today (Wednesday, June 21).

The Eagle will officially commence service on the Southern Gulf Islands route with a 9:10 a.m. sailing out of Tsawwassen. It will arrive in Long Harbour at about 10:30 and leave on the return trip at 10:50 a.m.

Salish Eagle is the second arrival of the three new Salish Class vessels, which are dual-fuel and capable of operating on either natural gas or ultra-low sulphur marine diesel.

"After the successful introduction of Salish Orca in mid-May, we are very excited to introduce our second new ship, Salish Eagle, into service for our Southern Gulf Islands customers," said Mark Collins, BC Ferries' president and

CEO, in a news statement. "This vessel will provide our customers with safe and reliable service for years to come, and we look forward to its additional environmental and cost-saving benefits as well."

With the arrival of the Eagle on June 21, a new Southern Gulf Islands schedule also goes into effect for the summer.

FERRIES continued on 5

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PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

**SHINY AND NEW:** The new Ganges floatplane dock waiting room is ready for customers after being set in place on Thursday and its windows installed on Monday. The structure was built by Bellavance Welding based on a concept by Dale Rivers, who won a design contest held by the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island two years ago. The previous waiting room was the original wheelhouse for the historic Cy Peck ferry and has been donated by HASSI to the Parks and Recreation Commission for refurbishment and use at one of their sites.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

# Commission sets sights on housing

Round-table session proposed for fall

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The lack of housing options on Salt Spring and the resulting impact on businesses and other service providers continues to be a major focus for the island's Community Economic Development Commission, with plans for continuing research meant to produce an action plan later this year.

Commissioners resumed the discussion at Thursday's business meeting in a follow-up to a special forum at their last session in May.

"I'm really sorry I missed that meeting, because this is an extraordinarily important topic," said Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce president Li Read, who is a non-voting CEDC participant.

CEDC commissioner Laura Patrick has taken the lead on conducting the initial research and planning how the commission might approach worker housing. She reported steps taken since the May meeting date included a presentation to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. The commission asked the LTC to do whatever it could to make existing housing on the island more available, including making the long-term rental of seasonal cabins a

permitted use.

Patrick said the LTC has also been invited to join a round-table discussion with stakeholders that will hopefully take place in the fall once the busy tourist season calms down. A plan with real action items can then be formulated, she said.

Read noted that one of the chamber's suggestions is for Ganges zoning to be changed to permit residential units over businesses. Many second-floor offices are empty, she said, and mixed use would help revitalize the village core at night. Read also said people might want to live behind their store fronts.

"It's time for creativity. I think the entire island thinks something needs to be done, and they might go for it," she said.

Speaking from her perspective as a realtor, Read said the rental housing crunch has been compounded by the fact that many people are buying homes on Salt Spring for immediate use instead of planning to move over in 10 years, which means existing tenants are being evicted. The more lucrative short-term vacation rental market also complicates the picture.

"I don't know what to do about that, but if we can't figure it out, no one will be left here," Read said.

Meeting participants observed there was a huge turn-out for an information session on the proposed Dragonfly Commons affordable housing development

held the week before. The project is specifically aimed at providing housing for the active work force.

Other projects currently in development, including increased seniors and low-income housing at Croftonbrook, could potentially add up to 130 units within the next few years. A Capital Regional District project on Drake Road has been held up by water supply issues, but CRD director Wayne McIntyre reported the leaders are committed to finding a source and continue to explore options.

CEDC chair Darryl Martin repeated that finding a way to open up existing housing would be an important first step. He asked islands trustee Peter Grove, who is an ex-officio commission member, whether there was anything Islands Trust planning staff could do at "a stroke of a pen" to make improvements.

Grove noted the new proposed C7 zoning for the Ganges harbourwalk area will permit residential units over commercial storefronts, and said he would like to see that allowed everywhere in town. He suggested individual property owners could always make a rezoning application if they wished to do so in the meantime.

"I'm optimistic that Salt Spring [can] find a solution for Salt Spring. We need to find a dynamic solution for a healthy community across age groups," Patrick said.

## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed on **Monday July 3 - Canada Day** and will reopen for usual business hours on Tuesday, July 4.



**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday July 5 edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising deadline:  
**Thursday, June 29, 12 noon**

Classified Display Deadline:  
**Friday June 30, 2pm**

Classified Word Deadline:  
**Tuesday, July 4, 9am**

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# NEWS BEAT

**Heads up!**  
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**FISHING**

## Salmon head program moves to harbour authority site

Easy access hoped to boost participation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island are teaming up to aid important data collection on fish stocks through the Salmon Head Recovery Program.

HASSI recently took over hosting the island's only salmon head recovery depot from Salt Spring Marina, a privately run facility that isn't easily accessible to the public, after being contacted by DFO aquatic science technician Erik Grundmann. A new depot station was installed outside the HASSI office in the parking lot adjacent to the Ganges boat ramp just in time for Moby's Fishing Derby last weekend.

"Erik asked if I would take it on and I said 'absolutely,'" said harbour authority manager Jim Heath. "As a small craft harbour, our primary mandate is to support and grow the fishery."

Twenty-four-hour, daily

access means anglers have an easy way to participate in a program that ultimately supports their sport, just by turning in the heads of coho or chinook salmon that have a healed scar in place of the adipose fin. Salmon with this feature may have been implanted with a coded wire tag at a hatchery. Information from the wire, plus added info on the catch date and site, help the DFO help determine the abundance, distribution and survival of salmon stocks.

Campbell River resident Jeremy Maynard, who writes a blog called the Ardent Angler, says the program could be of direct benefit to sports fishermen as reliable data helps better inform fishery management.

"There are enough other threats to [the recreational fishery] over which anglers and the organizations that advocate for their fishery have little control, but anglers can really help their own cause by being diligent in turning in heads from salmon missing an adipose fin. I know it may seem like a bother at the end of a long day on the water but in my view making the effort will



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

HASSI manager Jim Heath with the new fish head depot set up outside HASSI's office at the Centennial Dock

pay off in the long run," Maynard wrote in a June 2016 post.

Coded-wire tags are injected into the nose cartilage of juvenile salmon at hatcheries prior to being released for ocean migration. Canada and the United States together tag over

50 million juvenile salmon each year, with the DFO applying 5.5 million of that total.

Information on the DFO's website states the practice helps identify trends for planning next year's fishing season, among other things. In some cases, cer-

tain hatchery stocks are used to indicate the health of other stocks in the area, some of which may be of concern but in other cases could show recovery.

"Given the frequent trans-boundary migration of chinook and coho this information is also crucial to the Pacific Salmon Treaty process, which deals with salmon management between Canada and the U.S.," Maynard explains.

While salmon head recovery depots can be found in small craft harbours, bait shops and marinas all over the B.C. coast, the program is surprisingly underrepresented when it comes to the Southern Gulf Islands. The HASSI base is the only island harbour outside of Gabriola Island where fishermen can drop off a head.

"With an accessible station on the most commonly used boat ramp on the island, hopefully there will be more uptake," Heath said, adding the June 16-18 fishing derby will provide the perfect introduction.

"I'd like to get the word out that the program's up and running, it's worth supporting and here's why," he said.

Heath noted the new depot has good visibility and plenty of information to help people use it. Anglers will find instructions and tags to fill out — the date and place of the catch are a must, and additional personal information is optional — as well as a map of local waters that show DFO's management areas and sub-areas.

Those who supply their contact information will receive a letter back that includes current information about the program and the data collected if a wire tag was found. If there wasn't a wire inside, the participant will receive a letter describing the health of stocks in the area where the fish was caught.

Heads can be deposited into two buckets filled with a strong salt and vinegar solution, which will prevent decay in between the scheduled pick-up every two weeks. Anglers are asked to please not put the heads into plastic bags, because that will speed up the decomposition process.

Participants should also note there is no cleaning station at the HASSI base, so heads should come in after fish have been gutted.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Missing boater recovered

The body of a boater who went missing in Ganges Harbour on the evening of June 12 was found the following day.

Cpl. Tammy Douglas of the RCMP Island District confirmed that the man's body had been recovered on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 13 near Powder Islet. "The Salt Spring RCMP, with the

assistance of RCMP West Coast Marine, located the body and the recovery was conducted by the RCMP Dive Team," Douglas stated in a press release issued on June 14.

Douglas said the man's name would not be released until his family had been notified. The office of the BC Coroner confirmed Tuesday that the matter was still under their investigation and that privacy rules apply.

Salt Spring Island RCMP received a report of a male falling into the

water near Powder Islet around 8:15 p.m. on Monday, June 12 during stormy weather. Search teams were called off around 10 p.m.

Salt Spring Search and Rescue ground crews and RCMP marine teams then conducted their searches on June 13.

The missing man's dog also went into the water and was pushed to shore by rescue boats on June 12. He was recovered by an animal control officer near Churchill Beach on Wednesday, June 14.

### FOR THE RECORD



ROGER WEBBER

• Roger Webber's fellow crew members left him on shore when the list of Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 volunteers was submitted to the Driftwood for the June

7 boating safety feature. Webber is actually the longest-serving local RCMSAR member at 15 years!

• In the June 14 paper, a story about the hitchhiking pull-out incorrectly stated that the island's transportation commission would supply a barrier for that spot.



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## INCORPORATION REFERENDUM

# Yes and no groups gain speed

Online sites get active

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

While Salt Spring Islanders have been talking about the Sept. 9 incorporation vote for months, two groups on either side of the debate are revving up their activities.

YeSS! — which stands for “Yes Empowers Salt Spring” — went public in early April. The group’s [yessaltspringmunicipality.org](http://yessaltspringmunicipality.org) website contains links to the governance and incorporation studies from 2013-2016 and a Frequently Asked Questions section.

“We hope everyone will investigate the facts and make an informed decision on Sept. 9,” said YeSS! spokesperson John Macpherson in referring to the website resources.

Meanwhile, the Positively NO campaign of The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation was officially launched on June 11. A [positivelyno.org](http://positivelyno.org) website, Facebook page and YouTube videos went live that day.

In explaining the campaign’s

name, spokesperson Jean Gelwicks said, “We wanted to express the idea that although we are against incorporation, our point of view is anything but negative. No is not a negative word when facing real risks too important to ignore. We are proud of Salt Spring’s many accomplishments and our intent is to remind people of what we have here — an exceptional, vibrant, engaged community without the over-development associated with so many other tourist destinations. This is thanks in no small part to our existing local governance.”

According to a press release, “Positively NO is made up of islanders from all walks of life who believe that a municipality is an inappropriate fit for our rural island community. They recognize that Salt Spring is a very special place which has remained that way precisely because of the visionary all-party legislation introduced in 1974 to create the Islands Trust. That legislation stressed the responsibility of local government to preserve and protect, a much-needed intervention in the face of rampant, unregulated development

on Salt Spring and other islands in the Salish Sea.”

Macpherson says YeSS! “represents a broad range of independent Salt Springers joining together to promote the benefits of becoming a rural-style island municipality, while still retaining our unique form of governance within the Islands Trust.”

He said the group is working hard through its website and Facebook page to get the facts out, and is happy to see a high level of interest in the topic from islanders.

“We see more and more people resonating with the idea that cohesion, local decision making and more representation are the best way forward to a healthy and sustainable future. These are people who also value the preserve and protect mandate of the Trust, and love our island’s rural ways. Collectively we share the common vision that our community’s welfare will be better served by a municipality within the Islands Trust, to replace the disjointed system we have now.”

Advance polls are on Aug. 31 and Sept. 6. By-mail voting is also allowed.

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## Extra meetings address backlog

### FIRE BOARD

continued from 1

The board debated whether taking a stance on a political issue was appropriate, but noted similarities between the fire district’s situation and that of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, whose board recently came out in favour of incorporation. Both bodies have large infrastructure needs but as improvement districts are not eligible for provincial or federal grants.

“I think it is incumbent on us as a district to take a position on it, or at least look at the financial aspect as it affects ratepayers going forward, and enable them to make that decision when the referendum comes,” said trustee Chris Budd.

Trustee Howard Holzapfel took the opposite view.

“I believe that here on this board we represent both ratepayers that are pro-incorporation and ratepayers that are against incorporation, and I see the points on both sides, and I feel strongly that we as a board should not become political in this discussion,” Holzapfel said. “We are tasked by the ratepayers to run this department, govern this department, and not to be political.”

The board ultimately approved the motion put forward by Rollie Cook to gain more information with the view of discussing a stance at the next regular meeting.

Trustees also voted in favour of a motion that Cook advanced regarding the need to create a “defensive zone” map for the island in case water supply becomes an issue. The board directed Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George and staff to create a report on how the department would retain its current Fire Underwriters Survey rating if North Salt Spring Waterworks District water became unavailable. The report is to include whether it’s advisable to install dry hydrants (unpressurized standpipes in a lake or pond) in some locations where waterworks hydrants are not available or working.

### Service weighs up

In other business Monday, the board approved a request from George to attend a second professional development event

this year, granting permission for him to participate in the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs conference in Vancouver in September.

Peat reported on his impressions from a three-day workshop he and George had attended in April, which was co-sponsored by the B.C. Fire Chiefs Association, the Office of the Fire Commissioner of B.C. and the Local Government Management Association of B.C.

Peat reported the purpose of the workshop was “to address the perceived need for knowledge, skill development and admin/financial leadership by fire chiefs and CAOs to carry out their responsibilities in providing fire services to their community. The program was aimed at smaller communities operating predominately volunteer or smaller paid-on-call/composite fire departments.”

Peat said Salt Spring appears to be in better shape than many rural communities in terms of having adequate resources and well-trained firefighters who have the skills to serve the community without needlessly risking their lives.

He also discussed how small communities are having difficulties attracting and retaining volunteers and paid-on-call members, as well as the fact that improvement districts are limited to a single mandate of providing their service with no reference to how that fits with other taxpayer needs.

“There’s no one mechanism for the community to say ‘Enough is enough,’” Peat said.

### Old business on agenda

Trustees will be putting in extra hours over the summer months in order to deal with a large number of old business items. In addition to the regular monthly meeting dates, special meetings have been called weekly throughout July and August, with one or two items to be dealt with at each session.

Agendas will be posted to [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com) on Fridays for special meetings that will be held on Monday nights at 5:30 p.m. or on Wednesdays if they fall after a long weekend.

## FIRE DISTRICT

# Fire board gets pro bargaining help

Negotiations to be led by CRD-based group

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Protection District will be adding professional experience to its union contract negotiations this time around through a new partnership with the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association.

The district announced Tuesday that it had been accepted as a member in the regional body, which represents 13 Capital Regional District municipalities and public-sector entity employers.

"As a member of the GVLRA, their professional negotiators will represent the district at the collective bargaining table with International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4467. Trustees are confident the GVLRA will represent the taxpayers of Salt Spring extremely well and do so on a cost-effective basis," a statement from the fire district reads.

The district currently employs eight unionized career firefighters and has 35 paid-on-call members. The

union local's collective agreement expired at the end of 2016.

"We're removing the local politics from the table. Basically, the trustees have said we're hiring the professionals and letting them do their job," the fire district's corporate administrative officer Andrew Peat told the Driftwood.

The decision garnered a positive reception from the union.

"It's good news for us that they've picked their team," said local IAFF president Jamie Holmes. "We've been ready to sit down and negotiate for the past six months so we're happy they're ready to go."

Members of the public have criticized past boards for attempting to handle contract negotiations by themselves. The current board acknowledges that process has been a difficult one.

"Handing this responsibility over to outside professionals allows trustees to concentrate on other business. It is the board's expectation that this new arrangement will help both sides in bargaining come to an amicable agreement that will be more in line with other fire service contracts in the

region," the board states in its new release.

Peat said trustees had been exploring options, including hiring a professional negotiator such as a lawyer or human resources consultant with experience in IAFF contracts. Membership in the GVLRA provides the same expertise at a lesser cost, and comes with ongoing services such as contract interpretations, arbitrations and other activities related to maintaining good labour relations.

The GVLRA has experience with the IAFF and is in the process of wrapping up a new collective agreement between the municipality of Central Saanich and its fire department, which is similar to Salt Spring in its composite structure. The regional body also deals with groups such as CUPE, representing municipal employees, and the Victoria City Police Union.

"They deal with fire and police contracts all the time and they understand how they work. I think that will be of benefit to both sides," Holmes said.

Peat said he believes having outside negotiators represent the district will help bring about a new collective agree-

ment that is fair and middle of the road, without swaying to either extreme.

Local representation will be at the table, as a senior staff member will represent the employer's side along with the GVLRA negotiators. Peat said often that means the fire chief but it has not been decided yet whether it will be Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George, himself, or the two of them participating.

"I don't have any expectation that it will be an easy negotiation process or a speedy negotiation process, but I am hoping it will be fruitful and that it will resolve many of the problems that have been plaguing the district for years," Peat said.

The fire district has also taken steps to establish a joint consultation committee, which is required under the Labour Relations Code. The committee will include an equal number of management representatives and unionized employees who will meet to discuss and hopefully resolve labour issues before they get to a grievance stage.

Board members were appointed to the committee at the district's trustee meeting Monday evening, with union members still to be named.

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### Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District COMMITTEE PUBLIC VOLUNTEER

A number of standing and select committees assist the Board of Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Trustees invite public participation to bring a wider range of knowledge and skills to enhance the effectiveness of each committee. The District considers a number of factors including educational and professional background, previous board or committee experience, or special skills when selecting volunteers.

Additional information and application forms are available on our website [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com).

**Positions are still available for all committees.**

Board of Trustees  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

## Queen of Nanaimo to be retired



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salish Eagle in dock at Tsawwassen waits for first day of service on June 21.

### FERRIES

continued from 1

"It's the beginning of a far better level of service," said Harold Swierenga, who chairs the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee. "It's far more convenient in terms of the schedule — shorter trips, not as many stops. It will be nice to see how it works out."

The vessels accommodate approximately 145 vehicles and up to 600 passengers and crew. Swierenga pointed out that for this year only, there will be increased capacity on the Southern Gulf Islands routes, because the Salish Eagle is replacing the 65-car-capacity Bowen Queen as the auxiliary summer vessel and joins the route's regular ship, the 185-car Queen of Nanaimo.

The Salish Raven arrived in B.C. on June 7, after completing the 10,440 nautical mile trek

from the Polish shipyard where it was built.

After the Raven has been commissioned, the Queen of Nanaimo will be retired and the two 145-car Salish vessels will serve together during the summer and shoulder seasons starting in 2018.

Passenger amenities on board the Salish Eagle include a Coastal Cafe, Passages Gift Shop, comfortable lounge seating, a children's play area, outdoor seating on an open sundeck, a pet area and elevators.

All three Salish-class vessels feature the artwork of a different First Nations artist. St'uminus First Nation artist John Marston designed the artwork for the Eagle.

BC Ferries says its use of natural gas in the three Salish vessels will result in the reduction of an estimated 9,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, the same as taking approximately 1,900 passenger vehicles off the road annually.

YESSI!  
Yes Empowers Salt Spring Island!

### Vote 'Yes' for a Sustainable Future

A municipality provides the right tools to address many pressing challenges.

**WATER:** This is a fundamental concern for our island, yet there is no long range sustainability plan and no connection between the independent water districts and the six water districts managed by the CRD. Our current system is divided and divisive.

John Gauld (former regional planning manager for the Trust) writes "... the current island governance model and the interests of the Local Water Improvement Districts appear to frustrate the larger community interest". An island municipality would change that by providing one local authority over all public water resources on our island.

#### A municipality will ensure local authority and opens the door for integrated planning.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Salt Spring Island has crumbling infrastructure. Our water and fire districts alone need to spend \$31-35 million over the next few years. NSSWD endorses a "Yes" vote because this ensures direct access to very significant grants. Currently, water and fire districts cannot get grants - ratepayers pay 100%. Becoming a municipality ALSO provides direct access to other funding, for community energy systems, wastewater, major roads, and infrastructure for culture, sports and tourism. We can rely on hope that the CRD will apply for this funding, but history shows the CRD does not prioritize our community's needs. Nor is the CRD accountable to Salt Springers. A municipal council would always prioritize projects and apply for such funding!

#### The Islands Trust's study says a municipality is not a threat to its existence.

**ISLANDS TRUST:** The Islands Trust will not disappear if Salt Spring becomes a municipality. A Salt Spring municipality would be part of the Trust, bound by the same "preserve and protect" mandate. Land use decisions would then be made by the locally elected seven member council and Salt Spring would have its own planning department. The Trust's study shows we overpay for planning now and that this can be recovered by taxing other area islanders (just \$53 per \$500,000 assessment). We would still financially support the good work the Trust does for our bio-region and the people of BC. And our unique governance continues, as an island municipality within the Trust!

On September 9 please vote "Yes" for a sustainable future.

Learn more at: [www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org](http://www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org)

# OPINION



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

2016 BCYCNA Awards  
Silver - Environmental Initiative (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - General Excellence



## EDITORIAL

# Negotiated solutions

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District board made a step this week that should improve the process of getting a new contract with its eight unionized firefighters.

Since the district's career firefighters became part of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4677 some 12 years ago, their union contracts have been negotiated locally. Fire district trustees and IAFF members of the sat around the table to come up with an agreement both sides could live with.

While a new arrangement will still see the voice of the IAFF on Salt Spring represented by local firefighters as it has been in the past, negotiations for the employer's side have now shifted. No longer will negotiating be done by volunteer fire trustees. Instead, trustees have assigned responsibility to the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association. Fire district management may be involved in negotiations at the table in an employer role, but not elected trustees.

This arrangement should benefit everyone. Trustees will no longer face community pressure to put their stamp on a hugely complex legal document. And instead of being viewed as too hard or too soft on labour, they can do their job of running the fire district without fearing community judgement for decades to come, at least on the union contract issue.

Union personnel won't be talking to a familiar face, and they will certainly be dealing with someone who represents the employer's best interests. But at the same time, they can be assured their opposites at the table know IAFF contracts inside and out. They will know exactly what the current standard is and what issues can and cannot be easily resolved.

It's rare to find a win-win-win situation, and who knows if firefighters, trustees and ratepayers will all be happy or even satisfied with the new arrangement. But having an experienced and objective body on board to ease the process can only help improve the outcome.

Good on the district for taking the first step toward getting that process rolling.



VIEWPOINT by Richard Walker

# Voting yes to preserve and protect

It troubles me when people tell me why I moved here. Recently someone stated that we all moved here to live an "ungoverned life." That was not my motivation. I was attracted by a number of things, not the least of which was the rural, island setting and pastoral pace.

Living in Canada, I expected that a responsible and accountable local government would collect my taxes and in turn provide services. What I did not expect is to be taxed disproportionately higher than folks on other islands and then have those taxes used to provide services to them. Nor did I expect my tax dollars to pay for employees (hired to make decisions about the services I get) who don't live here. My taxes pay their salaries — their salaries buy groceries, entertainment, paint, coffee and a whole bundle of things in Victoria, not here on Salt Spring.

We have for decades been subsidizing other communities while our own infrastructure falls into decay. We can no longer afford it.

Islands Trust policy lays out three main goals: preserve and protect the ecosystem; ensure that activity is compatible with the environment; and sustain island character while supporting healthy communities. A municipality within the Trust is bound by "preserve and protect," making it a unique form of local governance. It could enact bylaws that work with the Trust and strengthen regulatory controls on development, like those recently passed by Gibson, Tofino and other municipalities.

For a healthy community, we desperately need to access other sources of support — support that is only available to municipalities. The current Salt Spring system works against us, with no grants available for fire and water district infrastructure. With few exceptions we pay all of the costs for culture, tourism, sports, recreation and waste facilities because only the CRD can apply for funding, and the CRD has regional — not Salt Spring — priorities in mind. Nor is the CRD

accountable to Salt Springers. An Island Municipality of Salt Spring within the Trust would change that.

We desperately need a new fire hall, new water treatment plants and new sewer and waste facilities. The North Salt Spring Waterworks District alone needs \$28 million over the next 10 years, and now supports becoming a municipality. Without access to grants and the means to advocate for other funding, these and many other projects will have to be self financed 100 per cent. I suspect that any referendum for \$30 to \$40 million in near-term borrowing/spending would have a rough time passing. Municipalities can get as much as 80 per cent of their projects paid for with grants.

Voting no only ignores the challenges that we must face as a community. Some say that there must be a way to get this done inside the current system — "a third option." Well, there isn't. If there was, we would have done it already. Voting no is a vote to remain in a state of disorganization, decay and inattention to the issues on our doorstep.

Once the main fire hall collapses we will be forced to act. You cannot live long without water, and a community that has a failed sewer system is not a pleasant place, certainly not a tourist destination. Boaters are now warned that there are no showers or laundry facilities in Ganges!

"Get out the charts Edna, we're bypassing Salt Spring and heading to Pender!"

Voting "yes" is a vote to preserve and protect our legacy and our future within the Trust — and gives us the tools and the political structure to face the real challenges ahead. For more information, please see [www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org](http://www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org).

The writer is an author and advisor to local, national and international charities and NGOs.

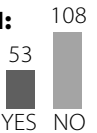
### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you like the new Gulf Islands ferry schedules?  Yes  No

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

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the BC Liberals try to hold on to power?



## Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Hugging culture is pretty prominent here. People hug instead of shaking hands."**

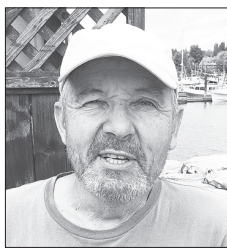
MANDIE BUCHANAN, SALT SPRING ARTIST AND TEACHER

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What do you need to know in order to make an informed decision about the incorporation referendum on Salt Spring Island?



**REED RICHARD**  
*It is such a massive issue and I feel very uninformed on it. Can we amend the referendum... so that it can better reflect what we really need to govern ourselves?*



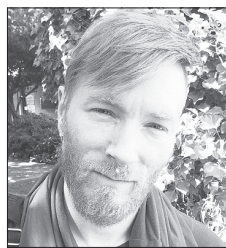
**ARTHUR CONNER**  
*I think I've already made my mind up... Who is allowed to vote? Is it just landowners or is it anyone who has a residence on Salt Spring on Sept. 9?*



**MARY HARKEMA**  
*The water issue. I did read the NSSWD position and that kind of cleared things up a little bit as to why they are going for a municipality, but I'm not totally swayed.*



**BEN OCZKOWSKI**  
*I would have to know what other municipalities require... I guess I would need to see that to see why [Salt Spring] hasn't been incorporated as a municipality already.*



**KEEGAN MCEVOY**  
*I feel like I need to know more clearly what the pay-offs are and what the potential pitfalls are.*

## 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

### Landlords should be monitored

I am a renter on Salt Spring and when I moved last year I was nearly homeless. A friend found me a place two days before I was to move!

The renters are at the mercy of good and bad landlords. I saw many places. I was shown a place that was a small one-room hut and you went up to the main house to bathe, cook food and go to the bathroom. I could not believe that people were allowed to rent such places. I spoke to a senior renting a place like that and was shocked to hear she paid \$700 per month for a place to sleep with no amenities.

There is no laundromat on the island and many people depend on friends to wash their clothes.

We need a system that ensures human rights and dignity for all renters on Salt Spring. The affordable housing on Salt Spring is so limited. It seems the renters are paying for mortgages and holidays for many property owners on our lovely island.

It is a housing crisis for renters and, if it continues, who can afford to be a waiter, a cook, a caregiver at nursing homes, a gardener and many more kinds of workers?

People need to wake up to the reality of affordable, good housing being a right. Some care aides at Greenwoods live in Duncan and other places as they cannot afford to live here. I know

some people live in their vans as there are no options for housing. If this continues, who will be the workers here on Salt Spring? Wake up!

**KATHY DRYDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Help wanted

You will all likely have seen on TV the devastating fire that gutted a 24-storey, high-rise social-housing block in northwest London with about 200 units.

As a retired professional civil/structural engineer, and property developer, with concomitant knowledge of the voluminous codes of practice and building regulations pertaining to habitable units, I regretfully contemplate that the residential population of 600 +/- will either be asphyxiated by

toxic smoke, or homeless, without possessions and — in many cases — family members missing, and the wage-earner(s) missing, presumed dead. The survivors are in desperate straits and in urgent need of financial assistance.

To the point: I was advised last week of a crowdfunding initiative, with matching funding, to raise financial help for those affected. To this I give my wholehearted support and invite you to help. Please refer to The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation: [www.thekandfoundation.com](http://www.thekandfoundation.com), or [donations@thebiggive.org.uk](mailto:donations@thebiggive.org.uk).

Check out their bonafides. They are headquartered close to the tragedy, in a poor, multi-ethnic, high-density, social-housing-dominant part of London,

and they appear to represent these people, rather than the posh residential areas that we normally associate with the multi-million-pound houses in Kensington and Chelsea.

Please ask yourselves: "How can I help?"

1. By direct donation to this crowdfunding site.

2. If you are a corporate entity, you likely will be familiar with applications for funding, and will have models for same with which you are comfortable. If not a direct contribution as above, please revert with ideas for collaboration synergistically with others of a mind to help (e.g., community collection-pots at check-outs, maybe working with a local bank which is prepared to provide a low-cost (no-cost?) charitable account. (I have

worked with BMO before on my Cambodian school project and am familiar with this process.)

3. Branch-operations may be able to persuade headquarters to broadcast the program across their branches and subsidiaries. Please check with your head-office for possible multi-branch support.

How can I help you help others? I am available to quarterback any collective effort and put myself at your disposal. Nothing would better help me mitigate the grief that I feel for these poor souls.

Please call me at 250-537-0666 with any questions and/or suggestions.

**ROSS KING,**  
BEDDIS ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

# MLA: Greens hold 'balance of responsibility'

BY ADAM OLSEN

The past few weeks have been a humbling experience.

During the election I promised to be part of changing the discourse in British Columbia politics. I imagined to work to achieve this over the course of a four-year term as an MLA. But the final results returned a two-seat difference between the BC NDP and the BC Liberals with the BC Greens' three seats holding the balance.

British Columbians are used to majority governments, one party supported by less than half of the voters, holding 100 per cent of the power. For decades politics in our province has been a power "game."

This "game" has not benefited citizens, it has only advanced partisan interests. As a result our political dialogue and the behaviour of our politicians has become polarized.

Throughout the election, I heard from people that they believed we needed a change in government. I heard that they had grown weary of the BC Liberals and that they are suspicious of the BC NDP. In Saanich North and the Islands the results reflected a strong desire for change.

In the weeks following the election, my BC Green colleagues and I were handed a

difficult scenario: The balance of power.

Do we prop up the unpopular Liberal government and risk the Liberals calling another election very soon so they could solidify their grip on power? Or do we prop up an untested NDP government on confidence and budget votes? No matter who we chose to prop up, the "other side" was going to be bitterly disappointed.

After weeks of negotiations and careful consideration we decided to give the NDP our support on confidence and budget votes. Our agreement allowed us to remain an independent third voice in the Legislature as an opposition party.

Let me be clear. We have not sold out our values. We are not a coalition, nor are we the "GreeNDP." I am the MLA of Saanich North and the Islands and the most important decision I have made happened while I was still technically your MLA-elect.

During the campaign I offered a hopeful vision for the future of British Columbia founded on a commitment to intergenerational equity. I promised you that I would: be an insurance policy, holding both the NDP and Liberals accountable; establish a responsive and pro-active constituency

## GUEST COLUMN

office solving local issues and advancing the interests of our communities; and seek and offer pragmatic public policy solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing British Columbians.

The agreement we signed, to support confidence and budget votes of an NDP minority government, allows me to honour these commitments. I will be a community-focused MLA who has your interests and the interests of our riding at the centre of my decision-making. I will honour my agreement with the NDP, but they have to earn my support on all other initiatives, just as they earned our support by making a commitment to advancing certain policy proposals the BC Greens campaigned on.

We could not change government by supporting the Liberals, it would have been more of the same. They would continue down the same path on health care, education, transportation, affordability and housing. Liberal, NDP, Green and independent voters in Saanich North and the Islands told me that was unacceptable.

The BC Liberals have been in power for 16 years, they became out of touch with British Columbians and during the election

so many people told me it was time to reset. Four cabinet ministers were defeated.

It has been more than six decades since our last minority government. I understand the uncertainty the minority government situation has caused. But nobody is more uncomfortable than the 87 MLAs elected on May 9 and that is to the benefit of all British Columbians.

Over the past few weeks I have been asked repeatedly about holding the "balance of power." I choose to regard it as the balance of responsibility. All 87 MLAs share the responsibility to govern the province for the next four years. Every MLA must act responsibly to make it work for the whole term.

We must work together, breaking down the polarization that has eroded democratic debate and good public policy making. Indeed, we are entering a new era of B.C. politics where collaboration and transparency across political lines are needed for the system to work. It's an exciting time for our province and I am committed to work with all 87 MLAs in the legislature as we move forward.

*The writer is the B.C. Green Party MLA for Saanich North and the Islands.*

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# Complex community will be voting

BY PATRI JANZYK

I am responding to Karen Wright's "Groups reflect two disparate visions" opinion piece, which was published in last week's Driftwood.

First, I want to thank Karen for her sincere and intense 18 months of work on the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Committee. However, while it appears she attempted to write a neutral opinion piece for the Driftwood paper it is clear she has made her decision in favour of incorporation.

Our family moved to Salt Spring Island almost 35 years ago and came fully expecting our lifestyles would change dramatically by our decision to move to a small island. And it did. And it was hard at times. That was our choice 35 years

## IN RESPONSE

ago and remains our choice to this day.

From this perspective, it seems that perhaps there is a need to accept that when a family decides to move to a very small and limited community there are inevitable sacrifices that may go along with that decision. Nevertheless, for the most part, many of us find we do not need all the amenities we may have once enjoyed because in exchange many of us find so much more and so we stay. That is our choice.

Therefore, I need to speak to Karen's descriptors of "Guardians" or those who may be opposed to incorporation. If I am one with the "Guard-

ians" flying under the radar, resisting inevitable growth and desiring to restrict human footprints, then I need to clarify. We were never "off the grid," nor in fact do I know any who were. We cleared our land for extensive gardens, orchards and pastures, we put up fencing, drilled two wells, had chickens, raised livestock, killed raccoons and built numerous outbuildings. We definitely did not leave nature alone as Karen's descriptor of "Guardians" suggests.

We built a lifestyle around our land and we love the land. We are farmers and we have livestock. I regret to say that Karen's romantic view of "Guardians" does not capture the reality of our lifestyle in any way. I wish things were as simplistic as she suggests. Unfor-

tunately, it is the simplistic view that can cause false judgements and can lead to false assumptions.

The complexities of incorporation are equal to the complexities of the community of voters who will make the decision. The best we can do is respect those who may have an opinion different from our own and seek to accept those who may see things differently. Perhaps we do not need to understand why we are all so different to accept that difference.

When the votes are cast and the decision is made we will still have choices, even if we do not like the choices we believe we have. They will still be there.

*The writer is a long-time Salt Spring resident.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Special place

I very much appreciated Karen Wright's thoughtful article "Groups reflect two disparate visions" in the June 14 Driftwood. The tone was gentle, and Karen prefaced her comments by saying, "This is strictly a personal interpretation."

I hope everyone, whichever side of the incorporation question we support, can match this level of civility, because in the end, whatever the outcome, we are all neighbours and have to live together on this island we call home.

I agree with Karen's analysis, until she makes the distinction between the "Guardian" vision and the "Community" vision. Many of us who are planning to vote "no" are doing so precisely because we hold the "Community" vision of a vibrant, sustainable and affordable community, and we believe that incorporation is incompatible with that outcome. If Karen is correct in ascribing "community" objectives to the "yes" side, then both the "yes" side and the "no" side appear to have the same objectives!

If we share the same vision, perhaps we can come to agreement on which path is most likely to get us there. Speaking personally, it is crystal clear to me that a Salt Spring municipality would be so burdened with infrastructure debt and liabilities, especially for roads, that much new development, especially high-end development, would be needed to expand the tax base and increase revenues. That's traditionally where municipi-

palities get their money. Higher property taxes and more high-end development is not in my view a recipe for sustainability, affordability or resilience.

Also, in keeping with the "Community" vision, I'd like to remind everyone we are part of a Gulf Islands community. We are just one of the islands in the Salish Sea. We need to stick together. Vote "no" to protect this special place we call home.

**SUSAN PAYNTER,**  
 KING ROAD

### More of the same

A recurring argument found in a number of pro-incorporation columns and letters to the Driftwood suggests that islanders opposed to incorporation are basing their stance on a "fear of change," (e.g. June 14 "No need to fear change" letter).

It is as if the writers expect this characterization to suffice in convincing the clear-eyed Driftwood reader of the irrationality and timidity of those opposed to incorporation.

Readers should not be misled by such rhetoric. Not all change is positive, obviously, and some things are worth preserving. Many who remain wary of incorporation base their opinion not on fear but on a deep love for the culture and environment that flourishes here. Casting a sorrowful eye on the way the rest of the world is going, they remain healthily skeptical of those who would dismantle the system of governance that has allowed Salt Spring to become an altogether exceptional place.

In many ways, Salt Spring Island already represents the kind of change

that needs to happen globally. Voting yes to incorporation in effect would be to vote for more of the same.

**MARTIN ADAM,**  
 SALT SPRING

### Thanks to C-watch

On Sunday, May 14, we took the 11:50 a.m. ferry from Fulford to Swartz Bay, excited to see Maestra Tania Miller's last performance as conductor of the Victoria Symphony.

When we arrived at Swartz Bay, we discovered that the battery in our Prius was dead, so we could not drive off the ferry. BC Ferries' policy does not allow the staff to jump start "hybrid" cars. However, they can provide the owner with the booster to do so.

The "C-watch" crew was absolutely fantastic in their efforts to get us to the Victoria Symphony concert on time. We rose the ferry back to Fulford while engineer Corey, deckhands Krista, Linda and Shelly, and mate Mark tried hard to solve our predicament. After Googling the connection details, Corey had us hook up the booster's -ve and +ve clips to the battery and push the start button.

We reached the symphony in time to see the second half with Tania and to personally wish her continued success in her new endeavours.

We Salt Springers are indeed very fortunate to have such caring and dedicated staff on BC Ferries. A heartfelt thank you to the C-watch crew from both of us.

**ERNIE AND SHEILA HOEN,**  
 LANGLEY ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 9



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# Proud to call island community home

BY GEORGE EHRLING

We have accomplished many things on our little island, and we have a right to be proud of them.

Under the current model of governance, we have built a vibrant, engaged, resilient community that works, and we should never forget that or jeopardize it.

We are a community run not by government but by people who care — by volunteers who support seniors in so many ways, by dedicated men and women who make our terrific library work, by engaged citizens who build pathways, protect land and the environment, and organize public activities like the fall fair, the film festival and the Salt Spring Forum.

We are a highly tolerant community that allows people to be themselves, to live their lives with dignity, respect and support. Our Pride parade is the third largest in British Columbia — and this in a community of only 10,000 people. No matter who you are or where you come from, you can be home here.

In the last 10 to 15 years, our community acquired land and built a new library and an indoor pool, constructed a skate park, erected an indoor tennis facility and squash court. We maintain soccer fields, baseball diamonds and a high-quality track, and we've improved public access to beaches and lakes.

We relocated and expanded facilities for the RCMP and an ambulance station, purchased fire trucks and continue to provide critical search and rescue operations. We've upgraded facilities at Lady Minto Hospital and built a new medical clinic.

We've built seniors housing and

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

## NSSWD stance opposed

Once upon a time in a land far away there lived a beautiful princess. She owned land all over the world including large bits of a magical island in a western sea. Word spread abroad that she was ready to liquidate her assets, one of which was called the Texada Logging Company.

Hearing this, in 1999 two men with big ears and

equally big development ideas came out of the woods and relieved the beautiful princess of her superfluous property. This quickly morphed into the Texada Land Corporation bent on logging large tracts of land in preparation for development, causing fright and panic among the people who lived there.

In the year 2000, it actually scared the pants off a group of the local women. More than that, it shocked them right out of their clothes, and the Salt Spring Women's Preserve and Protect Calendar was born.

The point of this story is that much money was made

as a result of the actions of these bare naked ladies. So much in fact that it was given, all of it, to the NSSWD in trust, to help preserve and protect by acquisition, the watershed lands now owned by this new Texada Land Corporation.

And now we see the NSSWD entering waters that are not theirs to command. Advocating for one form of government over the other is called lobbying. The NSSWD needs to focus on the job they were elected to do and allow the general public to make up their own minds.

The women of the Preserve and Protect Calendar are keen on protecting their

assets. As stake/stockholders we see a responsibility to speak out when there is a concern.

One can only speculate about what might happen should this board continue to stray from its proper course.

More unseemly actions by these women are a distinct possibility, but only if the weather gets a lot warmer! **ANNIKA BURNABY, SUSAN COGAN, LESLIE CORRY, MELANIE FURMAN, CATE MCEWEN, DIANE MORRIS, MARGARET O'HARA, BRIONY PENN, LINDA QUIRING, KAREN REISS, RUTH TARASOFF, MARJOLYN VAN ZANTEN, ELIZABETH WHITE**

# RANTS and Roses

## Roses

I want to send out a heartfelt thank you to all the folks who contributed their products to the contest to name the Salt Spring food security centre. I am happily using the basket and look forward to savouring all the food items and using the gift certificates. I wish Patricia Reichert and the dedicated people at the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust great success in all their endeavours! It has been an honour to provide an inspiring name to your enterprise. Nadja Marda

The EV group and the 111 electric

## INDEPTH

assisted-living units, with more needed, of course, but more are on the drawing board.

We've put solar panels on the roof of the high school, created a network of walking and cycling paths, and acquired funding for a provincially recognized community bus system. We've protected nearly 10,000 acres of public greenspace.

We're growing more of our own local, healthy organic food and raising more livestock — and handling it at our own community-managed abattoir! We drafted an area farm plan, created an agricultural alliance and a farmland trust, acquired community-owned farmland for community gardens and for farmers, and we're planning a new produce centre. Our Saturday market is one of the best in B.C.

Let us remind you: we have accomplished all these things under the current system. If it is as broken as some people say, how can we possibly have done so much?

Salt Spring is a thriving arts community, with hundreds of local craftspeople and artists, and skilled actors, dancers and musicians. Their studios are vibrant places of imagination and creativity. We also have one of the most successful arts centres in any small community in Canada, where people are not only entertained by local talent and world-class performers but where our painters, weavers, spinners and many others come together to hone their skills and exhibit their work.

We are recognized as a centre of holistic health, with facilities of all kinds where both island residents and visitors from afar come for treatment, peace, relaxation, spiritual renewal and, well, even the occasional pampering.

In the Trust area, where bridges are not allowed, we have built our own anyway — not of steel and cement, but of sterner, more durable stuff: compassion, understanding and caring. We know that a helping hand reaches much farther than the length of one's arm, and that there is no door to lock on an open mind or heart.

Yes, we have a right to be proud of what we've built, but not smug, because there is much more to do. We are certainly not finished, and there are challenges ahead.

Though it is not the form of governance that determines the success of a community, we know that governments with vision see farther and reach greater heights than those that do not. Being in the Trust, with its unique environmental mandate, reminds us that we are a part of nature, not apart from it, that we are its caretakers, not its owners, and that we need to be doing a better job.

This is our foundation, and we should be very careful not to tear apart the framework of everything that we've built, not to chip away at the cornerstone and expect it not to crumble. We've shown that we already have the tools we need to build a successful, strong and caring community; let us continue to use them wisely.

*The writer is an author and was a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member from 2005 to 2011.*

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Bushels of blooming wildflowers to everyone who removes invasive weeds from our beautiful island! And a reminder to please dispose of these properly. In particular, don't leave cut broom lying around to add to the fire hazard. Take it fresh-cut before the seeds ripen to feed the goats (call Jan at 250-653-2024).

Meadows full of barking mad roses to my "doggler" friends. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Treats on the way! Andrea

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# arts&entertainment

## BASKETRY

# Basket guild celebrates 20 years

Exhibit outdoors at Mahon Hall

### SALT SPRING ARTS COUNCIL

Beginning Friday, June 23, Art-Craft helps mark the 20th anniversary of the Salt Spring Basketry Guild with an outdoor installation called Nests.

The guild will be unveiling a series of woven installations on the theme of "nests" around the hall, which will be on display throughout the summer. Nests are not exclusively the domain of birds but are used throughout the animal kingdom in one form or another, and even by humans in our homes and family upbringing.

The guild shows us "nests" as nature's baskets. Created from locally gathered plant and found materials, there are oversized bird nests, woven plants, flowers and organic sculptural forms. The large fir tree at the front of the hall is being used as a focal point for the exhibition, with a sweeping willow spiral descend-



PHOTO COURTESY ARTCRAFT

A nest piece by Salt Spring Basketry Guild member Judy Goodman.

ing from the upper branches to a broader nest at the base.

The installations will develop over the course of the summer, both organically, with time and weather, with new nests added by members of the guild, and with the potential for the public to help construct some free-form structures that will then be

woven into the creations.

Basketry guild members Joan Carrigan, Donna Cochran, Judy Goodman, Debbie Magnusson and Jayne Shor will be on site during the opening evening from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 23 to talk about their nests at Mahon Hall, and about the other celebrations for their anniversary.

## CHORAL MUSIC

# Canada gets unique tribute

Two Viva Chorale! shows this weekend at All Saints

BY GAIL SJBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

It's not often that an occasion like a country's sesquicentennial comes along, so Viva Chorale! choir is going all out to celebrate with the community this weekend.

The choir has prepared 16 songs representing each decade of Canada's existence, beginning with the Maple Leaf Forever, which was written by Alexander Muir in 1867.

"On a special occasion like the 150th anniversary it's really cool to have an opportunity to perform all Canadian repertoire," said the choir's artistic director Caroni Young.

The Canada 150 concert runs at All Saints By-the-Sea on Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, June 25 at 2 p.m.

Young said many of the songs chosen will be familiar to audience members, from Four Strong Winds by Ian and Sylvia Tyson to Watching the Apples Grow by Stan Rogers to Valdy's Play Me a Rock and Roll Song.

Alan Moberg is another Salt Spring composer and musician whose famous Williams Lake

Stampede song will be performed for the 1910 decade to acknowledge the first stampede being held in 1919.

And although Stompin' Tom Connors' The Hockey Song was released in 1973, in the concert it represents the 1870s decade because the first indoor hockey rink was opened in Montreal in 1875.

Matching the historical facts with the song from each decade is part of the concert's fun, notes Young.

Viva Chorale! is fresh from participating in ChorFest in Victoria in May, and four of the songs performed this weekend are from that event. Some others have also been on past Viva Chorale! programs.

The choir is accompanied by Diana English. Tickets are available in advance at Apple Photo or at the door.

Young is also leading young singers in a special Canada Day performance of a song called The Future, written by Valdy for the occasion. It will be heard before the fireworks at 8:30 p.m. in Rotary Marine Park.

Kids aged six to 18 can still join that project. Email Young at caroni.young@gmail.com for more information. Singers will also be warmly welcomed to this Saturday's rehearsal at All Saints church at 1:15 p.m.

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## Viva Chorale!

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# CANADA 150

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Diana English, Accompanist

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Adults.....\$15  
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**ALL SAINTS BY-THE-SEA**



# What's on this week



## Wed. June 21

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea à Tempo.** Recital features violinist Natasha Hall from London and pianist Yoomi Kim from Victoria. All Saints. 2:10 p.m. Free or by-donation recital followed by optional tea and treats.  
**Gene Grooms.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island.** Photographers will be out and about with cameras all day and night for Driftwood community photography project.  
**Bittancourt House Museum.** Museum open at the Farmers' Institute every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday through June 30. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Strawberry Tea.** Celebrate the strawberry harvest, summer solstice and National Aboriginal Day at Salt Spring Seniors. 1 p.m.

**Salt Spring Digital.** Community group meets to share connections, get support, explore new ideas and create a thriving digital technology. Legion Lounge. 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**'Salt Spring Island Roads' Show.** PowerPoint presentation of well-researched facts and figures about local roads, to get clear on costs and concerns ahead of incorporation referendum. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m.

**Salt Spring Abattoir Society AGM.** Annual general meeting at the SS Farmers' Institute. 7 p.m.

## Thu. June 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic with Richard Cross.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt House Museum.** See Wednesday's listing.  
**June Book Club at the Library.** This month's pick is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. Salt Spring Library. 1 to 3 p.m.

**Green Drinks at Penny's Pantry on the Green.** Monthly social mixer for Transition Salt Spring, open to everyone. Penny's Pantry on the Green. 5 to 7 p.m.

**Classic Rock Bingo.** Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

## Fri. June 23

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Synergy.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Caleb Hart & the Royal Youths.** Live funk, soul, hip-hop, reggae music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tour des Iles Festival.** Three-day festival allows people to travel between Salt Spring, Pender, Galiano, Saturna and Mayne islands by small passenger boat. Vessels leave Salt Spring from Ganges Harbour starting at 8 a.m. See gulfislands.org for schedule.

## Fri. June 23

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt House Museum.** See Wednesday's listing.  
**Rotary Club BBQ.** Famous Rotary hamburgers and hot dogs at the Country Grocer parking lot in partnership with community groups. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Kids Art Show - Opening Reception.** Young artists will be in attendance at reception for show of artwork inspired by Norval Morrisseau. Steffich Fine Art. 5 to 7 p.m.

**Art Opening - Salt Spring Basketry Guild.** Guild celebrates 20th anniversary with outdoor show 'Nests' at ArtCraft. Mahon Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Art Opening - Salt Spring Basketry Guild.** Guild celebrates 20th anniversary with outdoor show 'Nests' at ArtCraft. Mahon Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Family StoryTime in the Park.** Join Salt Spring Public Library program for ages 3 to 6 at Centennial Park. Parental supervision required. 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

## Sat. June 24

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Costners.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.  
**Happy Daze.** Live at the Legion. 7:15 p.m.  
**'Canada 150' Concert by Viva Chorale!** Viva Chorale! sings "Canada 150, a celebration of 15 decades of Canada through music at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church. 7:30 p.m.

**Aidan Miller.** Live rock/funk/soul at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tour des Iles Festival.** See Friday's listing.  
**Unitarian Fellowship AGM.** Annual general meeting with a view to the future. All members and friends encouraged to come. SS Seniors Centre. 10:30 a.m.

**'Canada 150' concert.** See Saturday's listing, except the time is 2 p.m.  
**Adam, Gwen and Friends.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Special Olympics Salt Spring AGM.** Annual general meeting at Choices at 6:30 p.m.  
**Trivia Tuesday.** At Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

## Sat. June 24

### ACTIVITIES

**Tour des Iles Festival.** See Friday's listing.  
**Saturday Market in the Park.** Locally produced crafts, foods and produce at famous event in Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Movie Night at the Library.** Youth ages 10 and up invited to screening of *Jurassic Park*. Free, with popcorn included, at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

**Toddler Time at the Library.** Stories, songs, rhymes and games best suited to kids aged 3 and under. Saturdays at the Salt Spring Public Library in the children's corner. 10:30 a.m.

**Family StoryTime in the Park.** Join Salt Spring Public Library program for ages 3 to 6 at Centennial Park. Parental supervision required. 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.

## Sun. June 25

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**'Canada 150' concert.** See Saturday's listing, except the time is 2 p.m.  
**Adam, Gwen and Friends.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tour des Iles Festival.** See Friday's listing.  
**Unitarian Fellowship AGM.** Annual general meeting with a view to the future. All members and friends encouraged to come. SS Seniors Centre. 10:30 a.m.

## Mon. June 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Declan O'Donovan.** Yukon musician performs at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Honouring Breakfast.** For SS Elementary School volunteers at the school. 8:15 to 9:10 a.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Basic Foodsafe.** Harbour House Hotel. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register with Sheri at 250-537-1883.  
**SSI Transportation Commission.** Public welcome to observe business meeting. Portlock Park Portable. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Open Mic with Richard Cross.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Special Olympics Salt Spring AGM.** Annual general meeting at Choices at 6:30 p.m.  
**Trivia Tuesday.** At Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

**Declan O'Donovan plays the Tree House on Monday night.**

## Tue. June 27

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic with Richard Cross.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.  
**Special Olympics Salt Spring AGM.** Annual general meeting at Choices at 6:30 p.m.  
**Trivia Tuesday.** At Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

**Declan O'Donovan plays the Tree House on Monday night.**

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**Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**  
1 day only Thurs. June 29th  
3pm matinee and 7pm

## get noticed board

Send your submissions to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

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### CINEMA

• **Wonder Woman** — Held over! An Amazon princess finds her idyllic life interrupted when she rescues a pilot who crash-lands nearby. World War I is engulfing the planet, and she vows to use her superpowers to restore peace.

• **RAW\*** — Shot on Salt Spring Island and produced by Vancouver Film School students, RAW\* tells the inspirational story of a delinquent 17-year-old on a downward spiral. Jakob Levin is sentenced by the courts to serve his time on an organic farm run by his uncle. Put to work with a bunch of misfit interns, he soon discovers that not everything is as idyllic as it first appears, and beneath the beauty of the farm, potentially malevolent forces are at play. Q&A with director David I. Strasser follows. One night only: Wed., June 28 at 6:30 p.m.

• **National Theatre Live's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*** — Against the backdrop of Hamlet, two hapless characters take centre stage. They stumble their way in and out of Shakespeare's iconic drama, increasingly out of their depth as their version of the story unfolds. One day only: Thursday, June 29 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reserve tickets at [thefritz@hotmail.ca](mailto:thefritz@hotmail.ca).

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Steffich Fine Art** hosts an all-kids art show inspired by the artwork of **Norval Morrisseau** as part of the gallery's 25th anniversary celebrations. Opening night reception with all young artists in attendance on Friday, June 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition will carry on through Sunday, June 25, with all kids artwork sale proceeds going to Salt Spring Elementary School's garden program.

• **The Salt Spring Basketry Guild** marks its 20th anniversary with Nests, an outdoor exhibit at **Mahon Hall**, beginning Friday, June 23 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **Eclectic Visions 2017**, an exhibit of work by 30 **SS Photography Club** members, runs daily at Gallery 8 through June 28.

• Photographer **Judy McPhee** shows *Images in Still Life* at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until July 15.

• **ArtCraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council's annual show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artisans, runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The first Showcase exhibition of the year is Mrs. Williams: Homage to a Homemaker, with work by **Melanie Thompson** and **Judith Barnett**, running until July 5.

• **Salty Pear Gallery** is now open at 279 Rainbow Rd. with an exhibition of recent work by photographer **Stasia Garraway**.

- **Duthie Gallery** presents *Imprints 2017*, woodcuts, linocuts, etchings and mixed-media prints beginning with the opening reception for exhibit of work by **Richard York, Nora Layard, Gillian McConnell, Catherine Tam and Arnold Shives** through June 27.
- **Nuesum** is an exhibition of 15 artists working in different media showing at Pod Contemporary until July 8.
- **Jeremy Borsos** presents *Castaways at Fault Line Projects* until June 28.
- **2nd Impressions Print Show** runs in the **ArtSpring** lobby until June 30, featuring 40-plus original prints by members of the **Salt Spring Painters Guild Printmakers Group**.
- **Kizmit Galeria and Cafe** shows the paintings of **Carmen Proffitt, Stephen Lockhart and Mikaela Heydemann** through June during business hours, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Ripple Effect 1 - Making Art Work for the Salish Sea** is an exhibit of work by 27 artists at **Salt Spring Gallery** running until June 25.
- **M.C. Benmore** shows photographs in her *Salt Spring Goddess* series in the hallway at the **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe**.
- **Judy McPhee** shows photographs with a theme of automobiles at **Embe Bakery's** sandwich shop.

TEA A TEMPO

# Warner offers Emerald Isle journey

Recital at All Saints

Irish-born and long-time Salt Spring resident Harry Warner will sing and play at Tea à Tempo on Wednesday, June 28 at All Saints By-the-Sea.

Warner may be accompanied by a friend or two in his Tour of Ireland presentation, which is described as a song, poetry and speaking trip around the Emerald Isle.

"Harry plays a variety of stringed instruments to

accompany his tenor voice and will, no doubt, tell a few yarns about his musical 'career,' which started on Salt Spring 26 years ago with the band Spanner in the Works, and later, the Black Velvet Band," explains a press release from the Music Makers group, which presents Tea à Tempo events.

A few popular sing-along songs will be included in the short concert.

Music begins at 2:10 p.m. The concert is followed by optional tea and treats.



Harry Warner in a past performance.

DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

MUSICAL THEATRE

# As You Like It coming to Mouat Park

ExitStageLeft puts '60s twist on classic Shakespeare romance

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

ExitStageLeft Productions and Graffiti Theatre are ensuring a time-honoured island tradition continues this summer with an original staging of a Shakespeare play in Mouat Park.

While past productions such as A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest have made good use of the existing forest backdrop, this year's play does a step better and actually stages the action in the park in which it will be performed. Director Jeffrey Renn has taken inspiration from local history to locate As You Like It in the Salt Spring of 1967.

Shakespeare's romance has aristocrats escaping dangerous conflict at court for a freer life in the Forest of Arden. The exitStageLeft version will be performed just in time for the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love, and as Renn explains, the themes transfer remarkably well to this updated setting.

"Coming from the East as a kid I always had a sense of Salt Spring Island as this mythical place, and a sense that people came here either to hide or to heal," said Renn, whose research has confirmed that theory.

"In 1967 there were 30 families living in Mouat Park. People came directly from Haight-Ashbury after the summer," he continued. "Plus there were a number of draft dodgers coming through on their way to places like Lasqueti Island, Fiddle Head Farm and Galley Bay. They were all communes, but Salt Spring was kind of a gateway."

Renn is an actor and director who studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. He is an alumnus of the Shaw and Stratford festivals, was an early co-creator at Vancouver's Bard on the Beach and appeared on Broadway in Moliere's The Miser and Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing.

Teaching has been an important part of Renn's artistic practice. He is currently on staff at University of Victoria's theatre department, where he is pursuing his MFA. He is directing a production of A Comedy of Errors as illustrated by pop music in 2018 for his thesis project.

For As You Like It, Renn has built on the link he sees between a quintessentially English notion of spirituality tied into nature, the back-to-the-land movement of finding oneself in the 1960s, and the unique qualities that people still see in Salt Spring today. "In some way I really think we're trying to celebrate this community by doing this play in this way," Renn said. "Which is also what exitStageLeft does: music from the heart."

Company principals Christina Penhale and Jekka Mack appear as the play's heroine Rosalind and her faithful friend Celia, respectively.

The cast includes local actors from age 12 up into their 70s, including six high school students and another couple of recent graduates. Some, but not all, have been part of GISPA, while other company members have been recruited through Wendy Milton, who is the show's musical director.

"It's been an amazing experience. Our purpose in starting our company was to have a really community-minded company of people work together with a goal of producing theatre that inspires people to think. We really like to work with people in a way that encourages them to grow and find their feet in the company," Penhale said, noting Renn embodies this ideal as director.



Ray Colleran, left, and director Jeffrey Renn rehearse a scene from As You Like It.

PHOTO COURTESY EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS

"For me it's a 20-year dream. I came here 20 years ago and said 'Why isn't there a Shakespeare festival here?'" Renn said.

"Back then I thought if I could have my dream it would be to be part of a company that was playing Shakespeare in the park here. But I didn't realize the real dream was meeting these three — [Penhale, Mack and Milton] — because they're amazing."

Penhale and Mack founded exitStageLeft with the goal of producing musicals in particular, and As You Like It is no exception. Milton has been hard at work setting the songs within the text to Beatles tunes, which will be played live on an assembly of acoustic instruments at the group's disposal — everything from flutes, cellos and trumpets to kazoo and tambourines.

In addition, every night will begin with a song circle that starts 30 minutes before the official curtain time, and will feature songs that were in active rotation during the Summer of Love.

The play opens Thursday, June 29 and runs for three extended weekends: June 29 to July 1, July 6 to 8 and July 13 to 15 at 7 p.m., plus one 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, July 8.

Audience members are encouraged to come dressed in their funkier '60s threads and make sure to bring along blankets or low beach chairs for seating. Advance tickets are through Mondo Trading.

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The Kids artwork will be available for purchase with all proceeds going towards the Salt Spring Elementary Garden project.

This will be a fun and important event and we look forward to seeing you there!

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# people&community

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

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or [dwsalty@driftwoodgmedia.com](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgmedia.com)



**COMMUNITY BUILDING**

## Public art project embraces human, emotional needs

'I'd love a hug' sign rationale shared

**BY SEAN HITREC**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Sometimes we just need a hug. Bryan Dubien owns a local board game store, but he might be more well known for the effort he puts into community-oriented projects.

He's the person behind the public pianos that recently popped up in Ganges and Fulford, the convenient hitchhiking signs near Embe Bakery, the "I've got something to say" / "I will listen" seats across the street from the library, and many inclusive and fun events around Salt Spring. He is also the person behind the new

"I'd love a hug" placard on a pole by the Ganges Visitor Information Centre.

For Dubien, what the sign represents is much more important than if anyone even makes use of it.

"That sign just makes it available for you to passively stand underneath so that you can tell the community that you need a hug," Dubien said. "Whether people use it or not is actually not as important as the fact that you could understand that you are allowed to ask for it."

**"We have a lot of infrastructure to gather, to play, to drive, etc., but we don't often have infrastructure built in place to connect people's voices."**

**BRYAN DUBIEN**  
*Community builder*

To better understand this concept, Dubien explained that the root idea of all his projects stems from a personal journey to connect and provide a voice for other humans. He said that in any relationship people have with one another, actively listening and engaging is the most important step for a feeling of acceptance, and while communities often address practical needs, actively listening and engaging people to interact with one another is often underrep-



From left, Bryan Dubien, Na'ara Dubien and Mandie Buchanan under the 'I'd love a hug' sign in Ganges.

resentation with Dubien's daughter Na'ara and local teacher and artist Mandie Buchanan. They met and laid out the intention for the sign.

"Hugging culture is pretty prominent here. People hug instead of shaking hands," Buchanan said. "We were talking about [having a] free hug sign and that's just handing out hugs, but [we'd] rather have the intention that you would like a hug . . . It was kinda along the same line as [the 'I have something to say' bench, where] you want to express something to someone without going up to them, but you can just have this space provided for you . . . and then have somebody come and respond to it."

The bench that can be found across the street from the Salt Spring Public Library is another project of Dubien's that had a similar message.

"I made a bench that you sit on and there's two seats, but one of them says 'I have something to say,' and the other one says 'I will listen,' the goal being, if you sit in one, the other role is available to someone else," he said.

Soon to be returning to coffee shops around the island are Dubien's public art books, where people can be free to express themselves on paper. The purpose, again, is creating community connection.

A long-term goal of his projects is to make people feel safe and inspired to attempt their own projects.

"Doing what you [think] is needed is exactly what we need people to start moving forward with. Instead of just being angry about what we're upset about, just do it," Dubien said. "It'll be great."

resented.

"We have a lot of infrastructure to gather, to play, to drive, etc. and it's really important, but we don't often have infrastruc-

ture built in place to connect people's voices, to hear them, to give them opportunity to share needs," Dubien said.

The sign was made in con-

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**TOURISM**

# Islanders ready for Tour des Îles fest

Reserve boat trips and fun on June 23-25

**BY ROBIN CLEAVER**  
TOUR DES ÎLES COMMITTEE

It's likely something you've long wanted to do: to travel around the Southern Gulf Islands, not by ferry, but by small passenger boat.

It can be a romantic, adventurous and exhilarating experience.

You'll get your chance this June 23, 24 and 25, when the third annual Tour des Îles Festival will welcome you onboard, and ensure you experience memories to last a lifetime.

The boats start their trips at 8 a.m., all three days, from various docks on Salt Spring, Mayne, Pender, Saturna and Galiano, and at a mere \$5 a leg, it truly is "cheap thrills." It's a wonderful chance to ride in the whale-watching zodiac from Salt Spring to Port Washington, or the return for only \$5.

What a great time to reacquaint yourself with the charms of our neighbouring islands. Enjoy travelling between Salt Spring, Pender, Galiano, Saturna and Mayne, and upon arrival at the dock, locals will warmly greet you. All islands have their own feel and peculiarities, and will have island transport, manned by local, knowledgeable and friendly drivers, ready to show you their islands' unique heart. Discover markets, galleries and local natural wonders. Everything that the Southern Gulf Islands are renowned for will be on display, and likely sprinkled with a few surprises!

On Pender, if you decide not to play one of the most unique disc golf courses anywhere, at Magic Lake, you could try your hand at stand-up paddle boarding (Friday and Saturday) in Hope Bay. From Hope Bay, a short boat trip across Plumper Sound to Saturna, where you can say Goodbye to Granny (Friday and Sunday), the locally revered, and recently deceased orca, at East Point. While enjoying sensational Saturna, on Friday head to Breezy Bay Farm, where Meg and Matt will show you Saturna's oldest pioneer homestead, featuring a fantastic organic farm and heritage house.

Mayne will be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir, visiting from Vancouver, on Sunday afternoon at the community hall. Saturday visit the market in Miners Bay, where musicians from the

renowned Campbell Bay Music Fest will be entertaining.

Travel over to Galiano to enjoy the wonderful soulful folk sounds of the Enigmatics at the Oceanfront Inn, or lose a Sunday morning the best way possible, enjoying a musical brunch at the Emporium. As Galiano local Jenny extols, "Over the last few years I've gotten to know people on the other islands because of the tour, and I realize how close we really are, even if separated by water. Each island has its own flavour and local characters, but ultimately we are in the same boat."

Salt Spring offers a Taste of Salt Spring Tour, a four-hour taste bud-tling tour of various culinary artisans, from bread makers, to creators of cheeses, wines, and ales. You will need to register early for this experience (gwenmcdonald10@gmail.com).

On Friday, the gazebo in Centennial Park, Ganges, will be alive with the terrific tones of the Kaizenjammers over lunch hour, followed by the sultry strings of the Reeds and Wires.

All islands have hikes of various lengths, and if wandering isn't your thing but you're keen on some exercise, kayak and bike rental spots are sprinkled all over the islands.

"This is a wonderful festival," says Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands. "In this, the 150th year since Canada was recognized as an independent nation on traditional and unceded indigenous lands, I can think of no better way than to celebrate the people, the culture and the natural beauty of the Southern Gulf Islands. I hope to see you all there!"

People should book their place as soon as possible online at www.gulfislands.org.

## Myth Busters

**MYTH:** "Voting 'yes' spells the end of the Islands Trust and leaves the bio-region in the lurch."

**EVIDENCE:** The Trust's own study says 'yes' is "not a threat to the existence of the Islands Trust". The loss of Salt Spring's subsidy means, at worst, taxing other Trust area residents \$53 per \$500,000 assessment. Trust policy supports the municipal option, which also preserves our unique form of governance, as provided by the Islands Trust Act. As with Bowen Island, all members of council will be legally bound to "preserve and protect." All changes to the Official Community Plan or a land use bylaw must be approved by the Trust. The Trust has approved all changes to Bowen's OCP since 1999. Two members of our municipal council will also be elected as Trustees. As part of the Trust, Salt Spring will continue to pay its share of area-wide initiatives.

**RESULT:**  
**An island municipality is no threat to the Trust, its values or any of the Trust's programs.**

This Myth is... **"Busted!"**  
www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

# Appreciation fed to SS Elementary volunteers

Special event on Monday

Volunteers who help Salt Spring Elementary School thrive will be celebrated at an "honouring breakfast" event on Monday, June 26.

"We have so many volunteers that come into our school for various and sundry reasons," said Cat Lightfoot, a learning integration support teacher at the school.

People volunteer at SSES through the One-to-One Reading program of Salt Spring Literacy, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, the Salt Spring Conservancy, Centre for Child Honouring, through the new garden programs and as parents who accompany students on field trips. Gulf Islands Secondary School students help out as peer tutors, and the Salt Spring Foundation is involved with much-appreciated grant contributions.

At Monday's event, which runs from 8:10 to 9:15 a.m., parents who are involved with the school's Healthy Start program and staff will make a finger-food-type breakfast spread for everyone to enjoy. Students will serve the breakfast. They have also been making banners.

"It's encouraging the kids to give back to the community," said Lightfoot of the event.

All of the volunteers will get a badge that identifies the program they participate in.

That way everyone can get to know others who help support the school, explained Lightfoot.

## Yoga with Dorothy

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I have classes for all ages and abilities. Please don't think you have to look like a gymnast to do yoga! Not sure which class is for you? Call or email me and I will help you find the right class for you, whether it be with me or with another teacher. Check my website for more information on weekly classes and upcoming retreats, or call 250-537-7675.

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br>All levels<br>4:30pm - 6:00 pm<br>SS Centre of Yoga<br>355 Blackburn Road           | <b>TUESDAY</b><br>Slow Flow<br>4:30pm - 5:45pm<br>SS Centre of Yoga<br>355 Blackburn Road    |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br>All levels<br>9:30 am - 10:45 am<br>SS Wellness Centre<br>120 Hereford Ave, Ganges | <b>THURSDAY</b><br>All levels<br>4:30pm - 6:00 pm<br>SS Centre of Yoga<br>355 Blackburn Road |



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**PET PHOTOS!**

Send your favourite pet photo\* to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) by July 8th for publication in a special feature on pets! We'll choose the best ones for publication in **All About Pets coming in July.**

\*Photos must be minimum of 200 dpi



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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Celebrating graduation at GISS on Saturday are, at top, from left, Emily Adam-Oro, Alandra Lara-MacLeod, Safiya Carroll-Labelle and Emrys Duyf. At left is local MLA Adam Olsen addressing the crowd. At far left, Nigel Bisnar gets his moment in the sun after receiving his diploma from principal Lyall Ruehlen. For more photos, see the Driftwood's website at [gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://gulfislandsdriftwood.com) and our Facebook page. For the speech of valedictorian Jennifer Glover, see the Driftwood website under the Opinion section.

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## PUBLIC SPEAKING Successful speaking course set

Toastmasters group presents 'Get Your Voice On' series

### BY SALT SPRING TOASTMASTERS PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB

The word "communicate" is defined quite simply as "share or exchange information, news or ideas." The purpose of communicating is to get someone to understand your thoughts or feelings, usually to improve relationships, to open opportunities, to further your career or to achieve objectives as a team.

If communication is a tool, then like other tools it is appropriate to learn about the correct and most effective use of the tool. Furthermore, to become an effective practitioner of the tool, it can only be helpful to practise its use so as to confidently incorporate the right communication elements into your day-to-day activities.

A local group has been meeting weekly on Salt Spring Island since 2004 to support members in improving their communications skills. Meeting under the banner of Toastmasters International, this group is one of over 15,000 clubs in 142 countries providing an environment where members develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

This summer the Salt Spring Toastmasters Club is excited to be piloting a mini Speaking for Success program with the theme Get Your Voice On! The club is inviting non-club members to join

the four-meeting program on alternate weeks in July and August to explore and apply foundational concepts underlying effective communications. The objective of the mini program is to help participants confidently represent themselves in networking situations, job interviews and formal speaking opportunities.

A variety of methods will be used to introduce communication toolkit components, with lots of opportunity to apply the ideas through impromptu and formal speaking throughout the four meetings.

The Get Your Voice On! program will take place in the Salt Spring Toastmasters Club's new home — the program room in the Salt Spring Public Library. Program meetings will be take place on July 10, 24, Aug. 14 and 28. The program schedule is as follows:

Week 1: The Voice – Tell us about yourself!

Week 2: Brain and Body – Show us your thoughts!

Week 3: Impromptu Speaking – Think AND speak on your feet!

Week 4: Prepared Speech – Present yourself.

To ensure that all participants have ample opportunity to "get their voice on," the club will be able to accept only a limited number of applicants, so people should reserve spots early.

To have questions answered or to reserve a seat, contact Toastmasters mentor Laura Patrick at 250-538-0210 (phone or text) or email [laura@patrick.com](mailto:laura@patrick.com).

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| IN MEMORIAM          | IN MEMORIAM          | IN MEMORIAM          | DEATHS               | DEATHS               | COMING EVENTS           | PERSONALS               |

**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOHN MYERS**  
MAY 25, 1933 - JUNE 20, 2017

Just a line of sweet remembrance,  
Just a memory,  
Just a token  
of love's devotion  
That my heart  
still longs for you.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their compassionate care and to the community who help to sustain Salt Spring Hospice Society. Donations are gratefully welcomed.

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

**IN MEMORIAM**

*“When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure”*

**DEATHS**

*Eunice Florence Davies*  
June 30, 1930 - June 4, 2017

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Eunice Florence Davies, on Sunday, June 4th, 2017 in her home at Heritage Place with her loving daughter Paula and son-in-law Mike at her side.

Mom moved to Salt Spring 7 years ago and would have celebrated her 87th birthday on June 30th. She is predeceased by the love of her life, Tom Davies, her husband of 51 years.

Born in Little Pond, Cape Breton Island, she met Tom in Toronto where they married and raised Glenn and Paula. She is survived by her children Paula (Mike Ablitt) and Glenn Davies (Janice), grandchildren Andrew (Davina), Matthew (Anna) and Jonathan Davies and 2 great-grandchildren Elliott and Mabel, as well as siblings in Toronto and Cape Breton.

The family wishes to thank Sandi and all of the staff at Heritage Place, Dr. Ian Gummesson, as well as her wonderful care-givers who lovingly cared for Mom over the past few years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Salt Spring Sailing Club on Thursday June 29th at 2pm. See [haywardsfuneral.com](http://haywardsfuneral.com) for more info.

The family asks that any donations be given to the Terry Fox Foundation.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Special Olympics**  
Salt Spring Island  
6:30 P.M. at Choices  
June 27, 2017

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IN MEMORIAM

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IN MEMORIAM

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

IN MEMORIAM

**Salt Spring Elementary Volunteer Honouring Breakfast**  
Monday, June 26th • Starting at 8:10am

We are wishing to thank the many, many people in our wonderful community that have volunteered their skills and expertise to support all of the students in our school. We open the invitation to any and all that have pro video their time to support our students whether it was through the One-on-One Volunteer Readers program, big brothers/Big Sisters organization, Salt Spring Conservancy, Salt Spring Foundation, Centre for Child Honouring, Volunteers for our Upper Garden or our Food Garden, GISS Peer Tutors, Coaching for the School sports team, school dances, club organizers, parents on field trips, etc. If we have inadvertently missed a group that you represented, our apologies, and please do come and join us!

**Linda Roth**

Linda Roth peacefully passed away on June 7th, 2017. She chose to die at home, using the new government legislation, M.A.I.D. ....Medical Assistance In Dying.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis Andrews; her children; Jackie Wilson of Queen Charlotte, Tess Daghish (Gary) of North Vancouver, Rick Andrews (Christy) and Jack Andrews (Iris) of Salt Spring, and Michelle MacConnachie (Cal) from Surrey; also by seven grandchildren, Richard, Jordan, Kirsten, Steven, Larissa, Mariah, and Brock; and two great-grandchildren, Gordie and KadyBug. She is survived by her sister Susan of Summerland and her older brother, Andy (Claudia) of Ladysmith, as well as her nieces and nephews; Sheryl, David, Lonnie, Kathy, Kenny, Sam, Angie and Duncan. She is also survived by Tess's father, Erwin Roth (Miyako) from Haida Gwaii. She was predeceased by her youngest brother Bob, youngest sister, Holly and by Jackie's dad, Rick Wilson (Gloria) of Enderby.

Linda's life had a few rather emotional twists and turns. She graduated with honours from Penticton high school, attended UBC for six weeks, and in the throes of home-sickness quit and got married. Four years later, and now a single parent, Linda made another stab at university. She knew that with one year under her belt she could get a teaching job and complete the rest of her degree through summer school. So, in 1965, choosing the Charlottes as the most exciting place she could work and still support her daughter, Jackie, she borrowed her brother's motor bike and headed north on the Skeena Prince.

Along with many other adventures, she met Erwin, the singing house painter. She taught one year, attended one summer school, got married again, and had her second daughter, Tess. She taught a second, rather tumultuous year, quit teaching, and bought the local clothing store, Charlies, which Jackie still runs 45 years later.

After another dramatic life crisis, Linda moved to Salt Spring and married Dennis. They bought Carolee's, renamed it 'Country Casuals' and ran it for five years until she decided on a slower pace in her life. She continued buying for the original store in the Charlottes and managing the financial side of the business until developing heart problems. After that, she phased out the buying and in 2016, when diagnosed with cancer, finally turned the finances over to Tess.

Her focus was not all business and she made a conscious effort to maintain a close relationship with her grandchildren. Along with frequent trips to the Charlottes, and annual swimming lessons on Salt Spring, she delighted in mailing them their Christmas stockings, Easter baskets and Halloween treats.

She also picked up a few hobbies along the way. She took up golfing because Dennis was so good at it, and wished she had started 30 years earlier. She loved to paint and became the family photographer, archiving each year's events with a laboriously created slide show tucked inside each Christmas stocking. She had finally learned the lesson that it is the little things in life that matter.....

A Celebration of Her Life was held in Saltspring Island on June 11, 2017.

Linda's family is hoping to have a small celebration in 2018 on Haida Gwaii to unveil a Memorial Bench in her honour.

**Marjorie Isobell Cade**  
June 10, 1923 - June 15, 2017

Marjorie was born June 10, 1923 in Cymric, Sask, passed away on June 15, 2017, leaving her children, Barbara Cade (Brad Cunningham), John Cade (Debbie Cade), Christina Marshall (Dave Toynbee) and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to mourn her loss.

Marjorie and Art Cade moved to Salt Spring Island in 1972 where they built the first phase of Brinkworthy Mobile Home Estates. They were able to rezone the old Beach farm to "mobile home park" by sticking a labelled pin on a map at a community meeting. At that time Marjorie also transferred her teaching career from North Burnaby to Gulf Islands Secondary School, Home Economics program, until her retirement in 1981.

After Art passed away in 1977, she met Robert (Bob) Marshall and they lived together at Cusheon Lake for more than 35 years and shared many interests and great adventures together. They were active members of the SSI Golf & Country Club and loved travelling south in their trailer with friends, and to Hawaii each year.

Marjorie was also an active volunteer in the community, and when she and Bob entertained - which they did often - she was an elegant and effortless hostess.

The family invites her friends to celebrate and rejoice her life with them on Friday, July 7, 2017, at 260 Cusheon Lake Road, between the hours of 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

*For those who love,  
time is not.  
Missing you today and  
always.*

**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have scheduled special meetings of the Board of Trustees to be held:

- 5 July 2017 (Wednesday) 5:30pm
- 10 July 2017 (Monday) 5:30pm
- 24 July 2017 (Monday) 5:30pm
- 26 July 2017 (Wednesday) 10:30 am

The business of this meeting will be conducted at an In-camera session to deal with labour relation negotiations.

- 9 August 2017 (Wednesday) 5:30pm
- 14 August 2017 (Monday) 5:30pm
- 28 August 2017 (Monday) 5:30pm

Weekly meetings are being scheduled to enable the Board of Trustees to deal with routine business that has been tabled at the regular monthly meetings. An agenda for each meeting will be posted on the District's website together with details of the meeting place, time and the matter(s) under discussion. Members of the public should be aware that some of the business of the meeting may be conducted in an in-camera session.

Meetings may be cancel on short notice, updated information will be posted on the District's website: [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com).

Board of Trustees  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
19 June 2017

**DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS**

DEADLINES  
TUESDAY 9:00 AM

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

**EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**

**EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**

**INFORMATION**

**INFORMATION**

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**HANDYPERSONS**

**HANDYPERSONS**



**artist in the class**  
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**The Artist in the Class Program** is looking for literary, performing and visual artists who have the passion and skill to share their knowledge with students in our school community. Our purpose is to give the arts a stronger presence in the everyday lives of students by bringing the artists of Salt Spring Island into the classroom to share their skills and to create an awareness of arts in our community. Interested? For more information please call Rineke Jonker @ 250-930-1923. Or, pick up your application at the Arts Council Office located in Mahon Hall. If you would like an application form e-mailed to you as a word document you can do so by e-mailing Rineke at rineke.jonker@gmail.com. You can also download the application form from the SSAC website – www.ssartsCouncil.com. **Deadline for applications is July 20, 2017.**

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**SUBMIT APPLICATION BY JUNE 29 TO:**

**Rob Grant**  
Executive Director

**Salt Spring Island Community Services**  
268 Fulford-Ganges Road, SSI

**rgrant@ssics.ca**

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**GIRLS FASTBALL**

## Slayers softball team battles back to win silver medal

Hard-fought final game against Saanich

**BY SHARI HAMBROOK**  
SALT SPRING SLAYERS

The U16 Salt Spring Slayers did not have a strong start in South Vancouver Island District fastball playoff action on Friday, June 16 when the team took a 10-0 loss from Central Saanich Extreme. But the girls knew they had it in them to drive harder.

The Salt Spring U16 fastball team has been playing together since 2012 and they know how to pick each other up, dust off the dirt and get back in there. To stay in the double knockout tournament, they had to win every game.

On Saturday, the Slayers turned the tables and beat Lakehill 15-5. On Sunday, the girls returned to the Duncan field in full force, beating Cordova Bay Heat 10-0 followed



PHOTO COURTESY SS SLAYERS

Back row, from left: Slayers coaches Liz and Rob Wilson, players Linnea Barrett, Brianna Cudmore, Kaitlyn Lazzarotto, Cassidy Bellavance, Rachelle Boland, and coaches Shari Hambrook and Brittany Allan. Middle row, from left: Maddy Smith, Kate Ponsford, Grace Schure, Carlie Aston and Emma Hambrook. Front row: Ella Baker, left, and Lilly Campbell. Missing are Jasmin Wilson and Bronte Mah.

by knocking out the Duncan Rivercats 12-5. The Slayers' defence was unshakable.

Shortstop Brianna Cudmore and Kate Ponsford at first base made it look easy picking off

the hit and throwing to get the batter out at first base with accuracy.

Pitchers Emma Hambrook and Ella Baker struck out many batters and had incredible mental focus.

Fielders Cassidy Bellavance, Grace Schure, Maddy Smith and Brianna Cudmore caught pop flies for outs. Linnea Barrett laid down a hookslide in right field to stop a ball and Rachelle Boland and Carlie Aston covered plays with speed.

Catcher Lilly Campbell was a wall behind the plate, catching pop-foul balls many times and throwing runners out at the bases.

On bats, Ponsford had two home runs. Baker, Bellavance and Campbell had triples, and Cudmore and Kaitlyn Lazzarotto hit doubles.

The Slayers went into the gold-medal game against Central Saanich Extreme, knowing they were at the top of their game and were going to fight all the way — and they did. Baker pitched the game with intensity and catcher

Campbell held back runners with her incredibly fast, accurate throws to the bases. In the fifth inning, Salt Spring was down by only one run with the score at 9-8.

At this point, Saanich switched pitchers, which shut down Slayers' bats in the sixth inning. Going into the seventh and final inning, the score was 11-8 when the Slayers brought in two runs and had bases loaded at the third out. The final score of 11-10 for Central Saanich gave Salt Spring the silver medal after a hard-fought game.

Coaches Brittany Allan, Shari Hambrook, and Rob and Liz Wilson, as well as parents and fans, are so proud of the Salt Spring Slayers' performance on the field and off.

The team also received the South Vancouver Island District Tournament T-shirts, sporting the 2017 logo designed by the team's own Lilly Campbell.

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*Mike Boizard  
& the Salt Spring Island Team.*