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# Driftwood

**GULF ISLANDS**

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 2 \$125 (incl GST)



PHOTO BY MELINDA DIVERS

**GAME ON:** Hockey players hit the ice on the south-east side of Cusheon Lake on Saturday, a rare sight during a Salt Spring winter. The Driftwood has photos of Cusheon Lake hockey players from Jan. 13, 1993, believed to be the last time conditions were suitable for skating on the island's second largest lake. An end to freezing temperatures is in sight, though, with warmer days on the way beginning Saturday.

**DERELICT VESSELS**

## 'Pirate ship' rekindles derelict debate

Walker Hook sailboat latest to plague shoreline

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Concerns about the implications of derelict vessels on the island's shoreline have again resurfaced following the sinking of an abandoned sailboat last week near Walker Hook.

"Nothing is beyond repair but, I'm sorry to say, even I am not prepared to try to fix this," said Lawrie Neish, a resident of Walker Hook Road.

Neish has been watching the dilapidated 20-foot sailboat drag anchor back and forth along the shoreline in front of his waterfront home for about a year. The sight of the wreck had grown so commonplace outside Neish's home that his visiting grandchildren began to call it "the pirate ship." Earlier this month, the vessel became entangled in some fallen trees and logs near the high-tide line and seems to have found a permanent resting place on the shoreline near his property.

Though mooring isn't permitted in the water in front of Neish's property, according to Islands Trust regulations, Neish said he's noticed several buoys appear in recent months. The area around Walker Hook is also a popular stop for boaters visiting the region.

"We had several new arrivals last year," he said. "I have no problem with people mooring their vessels near the hook, it's when people leave them behind that there's a problem."

Neish said he suspects the derelict arrived following a "clean-up" of Lady-smith Harbour last year.

**VESSELS** continued on 5

**ROADS**

## Drivers challenged by weather

Emergency program site offers condition updates

**BY SEAN MCINTYRE**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Tow-truck operator Ron Dewar's phone began to ring off the hook again over the weekend as drivers across Salt Spring contended with winter's latest blast of snow, ice and sleet.

"I had a million phone calls but couldn't do anything because there was nothing you can do," he said. "It was just solid ice."

Subzero temperatures and nearly two centimetres of wet snow was enough to send

vehicles careening across roads and into ditches for much of Saturday afternoon.

RCMP Cpl. Darren Lagan said the Salt Spring detachment received one report of a minor collision but noted there were numerous unreported incidents of vehicles sliding off the slick island roads.

Crews from Mainroad Contracting's Salt Spring yard were out in force to clear the island's major roads by late Saturday afternoon, but many islanders took to social media on Monday to report that minor

roads in their neighbourhoods had yet to be cleared.

"Mount Belcher and Wilkie Way roads are a solid sheet of ice," wrote Janice Dickie on the Gulf Islands Driftwood Facebook page. "As of 8:50 [Monday] morning, no salt or gravel was visible on these roads."

Other commenters related their experience of "ice rink" conditions on Horel, Dukes and Shepherd Hills roads.

**ICE & SNOW** continued on 4

Protect your WEALTH  
Joni Ganderton  
537-1654



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- Home Hardware
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## COURT

# Ganges court witnesses unusual conviction in absentia

Alcohol fuels busy court session

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A provincial court judge issued a warrant for the arrest of Salt Spring's Simon Walker on Monday after he was tried in absentia and found guilty of assaulting a former partner.

Judge Adrian Brooks said he chose to hear the case without Walker because of the seriousness of the crime, the testimony's emotional nature and travel requirements for witnesses involved in the case.

"I am also of the view that Mr. Walker is doing what he can to avoid dealing with matters before the court," said Judge Brooks.

Walker had not arranged for defence counsel to represent him at the trial, which stems from an incident that occurred in December 2015.

Following testimony provided by the victim and an RCMP officer who attended the case, Judge Brooks said he is satisfied beyond any reasonable doubt that Walker is guilty of assault.

## Community service imposed for rampage

A former Salt Spring resident charged with resisting arrest during a drunken outburst at Thrifty Foods in Ganges last February will get a second chance and no criminal record following her guilty plea in court Monday morning.

Staff at the grocery store called 9-1-1 when Emily Girard and another woman refused to leave the building after they were seen swearing at customers and throwing products.

Once RCMP arrived on scene, court heard that it took three officers to pull Girard out from underneath a vehicle parked outside the store and eventually arrest the suspect. Girard is said to have nearly obtained control of an officer's baton during the melee.

Girard, who has no criminal record, received a four-month conditional discharge during which time she is not to enter Thrifty Foods on Salt Spring, must perform 10 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to Salt Spring RCMP.

## Second chance

A 29-year-old Salt Spring man received a four-month conditional sentence and will need to undertake 15 hours of community service after he pleaded guilty to a mischief charge incurred during a violent outburst in a police cruiser on June 21, 2016.

Dorion Balec, 29, was taken into custody by an RCMP officer when he refused to provide officers with a breath sample during a routine impaired driving roadblock.

Court heard that Balec became "agitated and confrontational," eventually resulting in his pushing an officer, Crown counsel Leah Fontaine told the court. Balec is reported to have kicked the cruiser's roof and a rear door while seated in the car's back seat.

Speaking in his client's defence, lawyer John Davies said Balec has undertaken important steps to get his life on track since the incident. These include paying to clean the police cruiser, writing a letter of apology, attending counselling and not drinking alcohol.

The conditional discharge means Balec will not be saddled with a crim-

inal record if he respects conditions of his probation, which prohibit him from consuming or possessing alcohol.

## Gun ban imposed

A two-year firearms and weapons ban was imposed on a Salt Spring man found in possession of a rifle without a licence.

The case dates back to November 2015, when RCMP officers received a call from a resident in the Musgrave Landing area concerned about the sound of gunshots. The caller said he'd heard at least 70 shots coming from the woods near his home at around 11 p.m.

While driving along Musgrave Road to investigate the complaint, Salt Spring RCMP encountered Lanc Seidel with three friends in a grey Dodge Ram pick-up truck.

Police discovered two guns, one of which belonged to Seidel, who did not have a valid firearms licence, along with ammunition.

Court heard that Seidel's weapon held sentimental value and that he was firing off some "last rounds" in the relatively unpopulated area along

Musgrave Road.

"He admits to having acted inappropriately, and he understands the serious responsibility that gun ownership and possession entails," said defence counsel Tybring Hemphill. "I think it is fair to say that his attitude on that day harkens back to a different time, and he understands that."

## No-contact order

Tyler Byron pleaded guilty to criminal harassment and mischief in Ganges Court Monday morning for his role in a disturbing incident that dates back to April 30, 2016.

Court heard that Byron and a friend approached two people inside a parked vehicle on Seaview Avenue, urging them to exit the car. When the occupants failed to comply, the two men attempted to open the locked doors and began to kick the vehicle's passenger door.

Defence counsel Tybring Hemphill said Byron appears to have been "following along with a friend and got caught up in the moment."

Judge Brooks imposed a 12-month no-contact order between Byron and the vehicle's occupants.

## FIRE CALLS

# Chimney fires erupt during continuing cold period

Safe cleaning practices recommended

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Unusually cold weather and greater reliance on wood heat resulted in multiple calls for Salt Spring Fire-Rescue during the first week of 2017.

The department responded to three sep-

arate chimney fires in a single week beginning Monday, Jan. 2, among 30 calls for service.

"Make sure if you are using a wood stove to ensure the chimney is clean and in good working order," advised Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George.

Firefighters were also called to a structure fire on Sky Valley Road around 1 p.m. on Friday. George said the fire started outside on the porch. The owner of the house was

not home at the time of the fire.

"The downstairs occupant was alerted to the fire by smoke in the lower suite. With aid from her neighbour they began suppression efforts with a garden hose until fire crews arrived," the fire chief reported.

A total of 17 firefighters attended the incident. They were able to contain the fire to the outside of the structure with damage only sustained to the exterior wall.

"This was an extremely close call, where

in mere minutes the fire would have spread into the house," George said.

The cause of the fire appears to have been hot ash that dropped on the deck after a fire-place clean-out.

"The safest way to clean out your firebox is to remove the ash, and place it in a large metal container," George said. "Place the ash away from combustibles and store until cold throughout. Cold ash is also a great addition to your compost bin."

## HOUSING

# Copper Kettle plugs housing project

Housing group to host Jan. 15 meeting

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Cherie Geauvreau feels the time is right to finally make a much-needed community housing initiative a reality on the island.

An unprecedented need among Salt Spring's homeless population, the convergence of several community groups and the availability of land near Ganges, she said, have placed her Copper Kettle Community Partnership closer than ever to building a multi-unit, supported-housing project and permaculture farm for islanders in need.

"I just think it's going to happen and so does everybody else," Geauvreau said. "It's been worth the effort because now we have the opportunity to prove to the world that it can be done with community partnerships."

"Everyone we talk to is really excited about the whole idea."

To generate momentum for the project, Geauvreau and her team of volunteers will host a town hall and potluck event on Sunday afternoon beginning at 4:30 at All Saints by-the-Sea Church (110 Park Dr.).

**"I just think it's going to happen and so does everybody else."**

CHERIE GEAUVREAU  
Copper Kettle Community Partnership

The event will feature representatives from various community groups that have expressed an interest in what is known as the "wagon wheel plan" and seek potential fundraising opportunities to acquire land and complete the project.

"It's really preliminary," she

said. "We can't do anything until we buy the land."

Geauvreau said the Agricultural Land Commission's decision to deny a Capital Regional District application for non-farm use of land at 181 Brinkworthy Rd. has created an unprecedented opportunity for community housing on the island.

Geauvreau said she envisions housing in a farm setting where residents can employ permaculture techniques to farm the land and generate modest revenue to sustain the project.

Sunday's meeting will also tackle Salt Spring's lack of sufficient laundry facilities for islanders, she added.

Further information about the event is available from Geauvreau at 250-537-1027 or Shelly Mahoney at newshell@telus.net. The group has also established a website ([www.copperkettlessi.com](http://www.copperkettlessi.com)) and Facebook page with information about the wagon wheel and other Copper Kettle Community Partnership initiatives.



## What does POD mean?

**POD refers to a Neighbourhood Emergency Response program on Salt Spring Island.**

The program's main goal is to connect neighbours to neighbours specifically for emergency preparedness, mitigation and response. There are currently 54 PODs with over 350 leaders identified on Salt Spring Island. If you would like to be a part of the POD program or find out more information please contact Laurel Hanley at [ssidepc@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssidepc@crd.bc.ca) or leave a message at 250 537-1220.

<http://www.crd.bc.ca/service/fire-burning/salt-spring-island-fire-and-emergency-services>

[www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)




# NEWSBEAT

**Heads up!**  
**Copper Kettle Housing Event :**  
 Sunday, JANUARY 15  
 All Saints By-the-Sea, 4:30 p.m.

## FIRE DISTRICT

# Fire department dissolution deemed 'not impossible'

But lack of service scenario raises variety of issues

BY SEAN MCINTYRE AND ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Whether or not the Salt Spring Fire Protection District should continue or be dissolved could resume as a topic of discussion with the nomination period for five new trustees closing this Friday and an election set for Feb. 11.

A spokesperson from the Office of the Fire Commissioner has confirmed that dissolution of a community fire department in British Columbia might be unprecedented but certainly isn't impossible.

"Yes, fire suppression is a voluntary service provided by local governments," a senior public affairs officer with Emergency Management BC said when asked if it's possible for a community of 10,000 residents to have no fire department.

That being said, however, the spokesperson said he's unaware of any similar situation occurring in the past.

Insight from the provincial government follows the resignation of four of six fire district trustees in late October and a subsequent call to dissolve the fire district by former trustee Norbert Schlenker.

In a website launched in November 2016, Schlenker outlined why he believes dissolving the fire district is the only way for the community to bring union-mandated costs associated with wages and benefits for career firefighters under control.

Schlenker said the district's projected costs for staff, equipment and facility upgrades are unsustainable and beyond the means of island ratepayers. According to his calculations, the additional cost of fire insurance would be less than Salt Spring's proportion of property tax paid to the fire service.

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development confirmed dissolution could be discussed once a by-election has been held and the SSFPD has quorum.

"Dissolution of an improvement district generally follows a process driven by the local body. The governing body, and in this case the board of trustees, must have enough information to demonstrate to its constituents what would happen if the improvement district were to dissolve and then facilitate a discussion with their constituents. The board can report back on the extent of support or opposition and present a plan for disbursement or resolution of the assets and liabilities of the corporation," the ministry supplied.

The ministry also outlined how a



Salt Spring Fire-Rescue on scene at a Beaver Point Road structure fire on Boxing Day.

PHOTO COURTESY SSFPD

local government body could take on service delivery by assuming assets, debts and contracts. It did not explain how these would be managed without another body to take them over.

### Fire Underwriters Survey weighs in

Though Schlenker suggests the added insurance costs of having no fire protection would be a better deal than what island ratepayers face down the road, the organization that helps set fire insurance rates in Canada is less certain that coverage would be provided to properties without fire protection.

The Fire Underwriters Survey advises the industry on how to set fire insurance rates by grading communities' fire protection levels. Michael Currie, FUS director for Western Canada, said insurance companies don't usually deviate much from the annual recommendation, but if they have experienced a lot of losses associated with a particular risk — such as farms or remote, unprotected areas — during the past year they would adjust rates to reflect that.

FUS grades for residential dwellings and commercial dwellings let insurers know how much risk they can expect to find, compared to the fire protection services available.

Companies are looking to pay out less than they receive in premiums in order to have a profit.

"For example, compare a detached dwelling property insured in a community with no fire protection recognized for fire insurance grading to a property with identical characteristics in a community with a fire insurance grade that correlates to 'protected.' The difference in fire insurance rates could be as

much as 70 per cent per year," Currie wrote in an article on the history of fire grades.

There is also no guarantee that fire insurance would be available to homes where there is no fire protection, even if people were willing to pay higher rates. In the past, insurance companies were bolstering profits by investing in the stock market, but Currie said this has changed with the worsened financial situation. Companies are therefore "probably becoming a little more risk-averse and underwriting more carefully," he explained.

"In many communities in Canada, particularly remote and rural, insurance companies have low-level capacity for those kinds of risks," Currie said. "In the past they may have been willing to put \$100 million at risk across Canada. If they have a bad year, though, they might lower the line and someone might wind up without insurance — they could say 'No, we're not offering that product.'"

### Emergency services disaster

Salt Spring's Emergency Services Program coordinator Elizabeth Zook said having some sort of service is absolutely necessary for an emergency event.

"It's vital for the safety of the island," she said.

Zook said joint emergency team exercises during the past few years have been focused on building community resilience to wide-scale disasters, including wildfires. Although the fire department's education team has been working on mitigation through the FireSmart program, a single house fire could easily expand to engulf nearby homes or entire neighbourhoods.

"You cannot be living in a community such as ours without a fire service. If you saw what happened in Fort McMurray and how devastating that was, you can imagine what it would be like in our community with our island's two-lane roads," Zook said.

Two years of drought conditions haven't helped, but relying on the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to take over in a wildfire would depend on what resources might be available when other events are taking place around the province.

### "You cannot be living in a community such as ours without a fire service."

ELIZABETH ZOOK  
 Coordinator,  
 SS Emergency Program

"If it's a bad summer in B.C., the Ministry of Forests only has so many supplies," Zook said. "And if they have to bring in people flown in through mutual aid agreements with other provinces or the United States, that's a time lag that could take days."

### Some want out, others want in

While many islanders might like to escape the burden of fire service taxes, others who could have enjoyed that freedom actually sought to end it. The district's boundaries — which do not include much of the Mount Tuam and Musgrave region — have been amended nine times since it was

incorporated on Nov. 24, 1959. The most recent were for subdivisions on Anna's Drive in 2003 and Hamilton-Horne Road in 2006.

A boundary adjustment application to include the 27-property Skywater strata is currently under consideration with the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Brent Taylor, a partner in Polar-Is Land Surveying, acted as agent for Skywater's owners when they petitioned the district to include the development in 2014-15. He has helped various clients through the same process when looking to improve or develop their properties.

Taylor said in the past there were provisions for the fire department to aid structure fires outside the district boundary. While the insurance benefit is one reason for joining, he said, "I think the main thing is the comfort in knowing someone will answer your 911 call."

As currently structured, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue can respond to calls from outside the boundary only at the request of BC Ambulance, the RCMP or the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. There is no other body authorized to respond to residential or other structure fires.

### Forest fires only

According to Emergency Management BC, the BC Wildfire Service serves unprotected districts but only to fight forest fires.

"The BCWS does not engage in structural firefighting. The provision of fire services is a local government decision," information given by Emergency Management BC states.

Based on this fact, Taylor feels the risks of abandoning fire protection outweigh the tax savings.

"I understand the community is concerned about the cost and the contractual arrangement with the union, but if I was a landowner on Salt Spring I think it would be short-sighted to disband the fire department," Taylor said.

"From my perspective, the big problem now would be that knowledge of not being in the fire district, the only fire protection you have is whatever you can do as a homeowner, which is essentially nothing," he added. "Not having it, as a homeowner, terrifies me."

### Fire district election

When former trustee Schlenker resigned from the fire board, he called on potential candidates to step forward to run for the five seats on a platform of dissolving the fire protection district. With the nomination deadline set for this Friday, Jan. 13, we will find out if any individuals or slates decide to pursue election based on a dissolution proposal.

# Most drivers heeding conditions



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

A car that apparently lost course near a dip on Robinson Road was one of many vehicles seen by slippery roadsides Monday morning.

## ICE & SNOW

continued from 1

Elizabeth Zook, who coordinates the Capital Regional District's Salt Spring Island Emergency Program, said she and her team have been busy communicating with road crews, the school district and BC Hydro to keep islanders informed about the latest road conditions since

the snow and ice arrived in earnest in early December.

"We have a relationship," she said. "With Mainroad, we call every morning and talk, and if it's a bad snow day, we talk more than once."

Zook said the emergency program released 19 road and weather advisories in December. She said that's well above the level for an average year.

"We put notices up whenever

we can," she said. "We're trying to fill a gap."

Notices are sent to emergency response organizations and posted on the Salt Spring Emergency Program Facebook page. Zook wants residents from across the island to share information about conditions in their neighbourhood on the site.

"Mainroad has been good," she said. "They've been trying to keep up with this, and there are challenges. The roads can get really treacherous. People have just got to get that it's icy."

An upside to the extended winter road conditions, Zook said, is that island drivers appear to be developing better driving habits: more people are slowing down, giving each other space and allowing more time to reach their destination.

For tow-truck operators like Dewar, however, experience has shown that ensuring vehicles are ready for winter conditions is always a good idea. He recommends proper tires between October and May to make sure vehicles can handle all the slime, muck and snow the winter season has to offer.

"I don't think I've ever towed anybody who had snow tires," he said. "If you don't have suitable tires, then it's just not worth taking the chance."

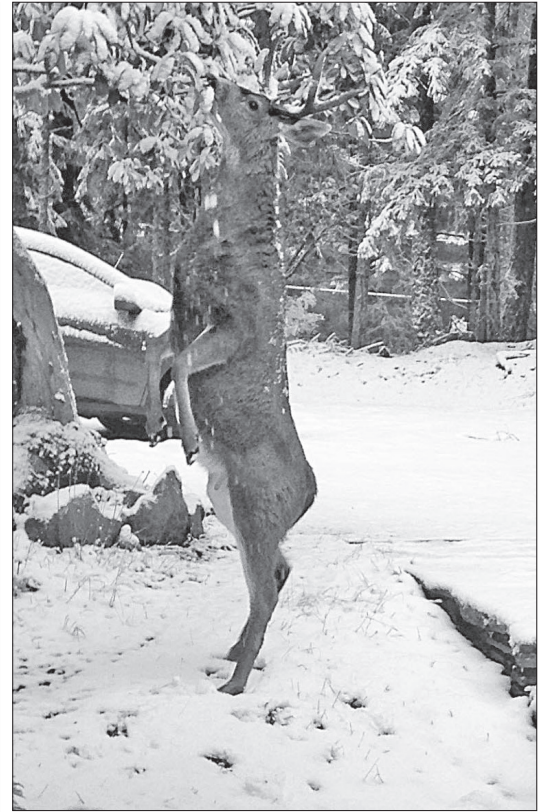



PHOTO BY PATRICIA ROBITAILLE

**REACH FOR THE TOP:** A buck finds arbutus leaves on a tree outside the photographer's Sky Valley Road front door the most accessible food around, with a fresh snowfall covering other sources of nourishment.




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## ISLANDS TRUST

# First Nations policy amended

Trust strives to overcome 'arm-wrestling approach'

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust is heading into 2017 with a new approach to First Nations issues the organization hopes will contribute to permanent and meaningful change.

A staff report presented to trustees meeting at their Islands Trust Council meeting on Salt Spring in December outlines how and why the organization will amend its official policy statement to foster a "sincere relationship" with First Nations groups.

"This is a significant shift for Islands Trust. We are reconciling our organizational history with that of the emerging common law in Canada that acknowledges that First Nations have never had their rights and title fully extinguished," reads part of a Dec. 7 request for decision presented to trustees. "Dealing with these emerging issues head on and with a sense of humility seems like the best approach."

The process will redefine the Trust's relationship with First Nations by amending the government body's policy statement in collaboration with First Nations and other members of the public.

"Embarking on this work will trigger our obligation for 'early and meaningful' engagement with First Nations," reads part of the RFD. "Rather than approach this in a conventional write-a-letter or check-the-box sort of process, let us instead earn the trust of First Nations, so we can ask them to help us define our future and shape our policy statement to

reflect that."

Trust Council members voted to strengthen relationships with First Nations groups by setting up the First Nations Engagement Principles Implementation Project in September of 2016. That discussion followed findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as the landmark 2014 Supreme Court of Canada decision to grant title over crown land to members of the Tsilhqot' Nation in B.C.'s Chilcotin region.

The ongoing project has coincided with the Islands Trust's hiring of a senior inter-governmental policy advisor last year to handle First Nations matters and a budget of nearly \$85,000 to undertake the work within the next 18 months.

Reece Harding, a lawyer with Young Anderson who gave trustees and audience members at last month's Trust Council session a legal primer on First Nations matters within the Trust area, said resolving a course of action to establish a suitable relationship with First Nations is no longer optional as communities transition into an era of reconciliation and new legal precedents.

"We are all here to stay so we have to deal with this," Harding said. "It's not something we can put in the rearview mirror and watch go away."

The Trust's 18-month schedule aims to teach the public, Trust staff and elected officials about First Nations' connection to the land and water of the Trust area, engage First Nations groups in "direct and courageous dialogue about topics of real interest" and explore what changes can be made within the Islands Trust organization to better share indigenous knowledge.

BC FERRIES

# Public input requested on Vesuvius ferry retirement

Quinitsa flagged as replacement vessel

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Public input is wanted this month into BC Ferries' plan to introduce two new vessels in 2019 and retire the aging Howe Sound Queen and North Island Princess.

The plan is to begin fleet standardization of the corporation's smallest vessel class by building the first two of eight new ships for the minor routes. Under the Coastal Ferry Act, commissioner approval must be granted for BC Ferries capital expenditures over \$30 million.

While the North Island Princess is to be directly replaced with one of the new vessels on its Texada-Powell River route, a redeployment program will see other minor class ves-

sels shuffled throughout the system. The Quinista, which served Buckley Bay-Denman Island before a new cable ferry system was installed last year, is planned to replace the Howe Sound Queen on the Crofton-Vesuvius run (Route 6).

Mark Collins, BC Ferries' vice-president of strategic planning, first introduced the proposal during a biannual meeting of ferry executives with the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee held in October. A full report with the rationale for the plan can now be viewed on the BC Ferry Commissioner website at [www.bcferrycommission.ca/reports-press/whats-new/](http://www.bcferrycommission.ca/reports-press/whats-new/).

The office of the BC Ferries Commissioner is accepting the input until Jan. 31.

"The Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee strongly suggests that frequent users of Route 6 read the relevant sec-

tions of the report and forward their comments to the commissioners," said SSFAC chair Harold Swierenga.

The North Island Princess was built in 1958 and is currently the oldest vessel in the BC Ferries fleet. The Howe Sound Queen will be 55 years old upon its retirement in 2019. According to the application, the fleet renewal project will enable the company to collapse eight small vessels in four different classes into a single Minor 44 class.

Swierenga noted the main potential issue is that the Vesuvius-based ferry will be replaced by a smaller ship. BC Ferries currently calculates the Howe Sound Queen as having capacity for 52 automobile equivalent (AEQ) under its new standardized measuring system, and it will be replaced by the 44-AEQ Quinitsa. The ferry corporation says an addi-



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

The aging Howe Sound Queen, seen on the Vesuvius-Crofton run, is scheduled for retirement in 2019.

tional daily round trip will therefore be added to Route 6's schedule to augment capacity if needed, although projections are that existing traffic levels would be accommodated under the current schedule.

"They're fairly positive it will work out even without the possibility of adding another

sailing," Swierenga said. "The only concern I have is what happens if we have a further increase in tourists in the summer."

On-time performance is expected to be better under the plan as vehicle loading is easier on the Quinitsa, and fewer sailing waits for com-

mercial vehicles are expected because the Howe Sound Queen has a dead weight limit that restricts the number of heavy vehicles that can be on the ship at one time.

Using condition assessment reports conducted by Lloyd's Register Canada, BC Ferries has determined that replacing the North Island Princess and Howe Sound Queen now would be slightly cheaper than performing life extension measures on the two ships for the next 10 years, at \$235.1 million for the preferred scenario compared to \$236.2 million. The life-extension option would also carry more risk of break-downs and would be a poor investment, the report concludes.

Comments on the proposal can be sent by email to [info@bcferrycommission.ca](mailto:info@bcferrycommission.ca) or by mail to the office of the BC Ferries Commissioner.

## Federal motion brings hope of action

VESSELS

continued from 1

The newly sunken derelict comes several weeks after residents in the Ganges area reported the appearance of at least two new derelict vessels along the southern shoreline of Ganges Harbour. The continued inability of any government agency to monitor and dispose of such vessels has prompted ongoing concerns among residents in coastal communities about the resulting environmental impact, unsightliness and navigation hazards.

Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, has followed the derelict vessel problem closely since she was elected to Parliament in 2011.

"Many constituents have been working on this issue for years," she wrote in her January newsletter. "Levels of frustration are high."

May added that she feels progress on the

topic is finally being made following the unanimous acceptance of an important motion in late October.

Motion 40 calls upon the federal government to work with provincial and regional organizations to "take meaningful steps to address the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels within six months." The motion also asks that the federal government educate vessel owners about the risks and consequences of vessel abandonment, improve vessel identification requirements, find ways to remove derelict boats and prohibit the abandonment of vessels.

"While motions are non-binding, the fact that we held a recorded vote meant that we had each minister on the record as supporting this, increasing chances for action," May added.

May said she was pleased to hear the federal government's Nov. 7 decision to commit further funding for Transport Canada to deal with derelict vessels and bring forward legislation in 2017.



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

A sunken boat off Walker Hook is one of many in coastal waters.

WORKSHOPS

## Consent session offered

Topics on sexual violence addressed

Violence Against Women in Relationships is working to change the world from a rape culture to a consent culture, with a free workshop taking place on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Sexual Violence and Consent: Salish Sea Consent Culture will run from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the library program room.

"It is estimated that only two per cent of sexual assault incidents are reported to police, and 80 per cent of sexual assault assailants are friends or family of the survivor. Our community and our culture in the Gulf Islands are not immune to these crimes," VAWIR states.

Participants in the free event are

invited to join facilitators Ellie Langford-Parks and Jenny Redpath for a talk that will include sexual assault statistics, survivors and who's most vulnerable; Canadian law and the legal process; medical options and the new sexual assault team on Salt Spring; barriers to reporting; where to find help and how to help a friend; consent definitions; and how to create a consent culture.

The facilitators will help participants better understand formal structures such as the medical and judicial systems, as well as develop strategies to support peers. The workshop is open to all genders, professions and community members. The content is adult in nature.

Registration is through eventbrite.com. Search for Salish Sea Consent Culture Workshop.

### Town Hall Meetings

Saturna Island Monday, January 16 6:30—8:00pm Saturna Island Community Hall 109 East Point Road	Sidney & North Saanich Thursday, January 19 7:00—8:30pm Bodine Family Hall Mary Winspear Centre 2243 Beacon Avenue	Salt Spring Island Monday, January 23 6:30—8:00pm Multi-Purpose Room Gulf Island Secondary School 232 Rainbow Road
Saanich Tuesday, January 17 7:00—8:30pm Lochside Elementary 1145 Royal Oak Drive	Galliano Island Friday, January 20 6:00—7:30pm Galliano Community Centre 141 Sturdies Bay Road	Saanich Wednesday, January 25 7:00—8:30pm Bob Wright Centre Room B150 University of Victoria
Mayne Island Wednesday, January 18 6:30—8:00pm Mayne Island Community Centre 493 Felix Jack Road	Central Saanich Saturday, January 21 3:00—4:30pm Brentwood Bay Community Club 7082 Wallace Drive	Pender Island Friday, January 27 6:00—7:30pm Pender Island Community Hall 4415 Bedwell Harbour Road

Elizabeth May, O.C., MP Saanich-Gulf Islands  
[elizabethmaymp.ca](http://elizabethmaymp.ca) | 1-800-667-9188  
 9711 Fourth St., Sidney BC V8L 2Y8

### MEETING CANCELLATION



Islands Trust

Islands Trust Local Trust Committee Meeting for January 12 is cancelled.

Next meeting is Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the Hart Bradley Hall, Lions' Club.

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# OPINION



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



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

## EDITORIAL

# Watching the roads

The early morning grind of the snowplow scraping along the street is a sure sign that Salt Spring drivers need to prepare for another day of winter driving misadventures — or just stay home.

Despite Mainroad Contracting's best efforts to keep roads clear and safe, keeping up with waves of snow, rain, sleet and consecutive blasts of cold arctic air has stretched response capacities to the outer limit.

Conditions can change within hours, micro climates create cold pockets where black ice can linger late into the morning, and wet weather can instantly flush away any effort to fight conditions with sand and salt.

**THE ISSUE:**  
SSI Emergency Program

Salt Springers can consider ourselves fortunate to have Elizabeth Zook and a dedicated team at the island's Emergency Operations Centre to keep us all posted about the latest road and weather conditions.

**WE SAY:**  
Thanks for the updates

In December alone, the group issued 19 advisories via Facebook and email to give

islanders, emergency responders and media up-to-date information on the status of school buses, hydro outages, weather warnings and, of course, road conditions.

It's not always possible to cover each and every road, but the information provided fulfills an obvious public need.

By posting the notices on the Salt Spring Emergency Program Facebook page, Zook and her staff give islanders the chance to contribute their own observations about Salt Spring's outlying regions. The site can also accommodate pictures for those who feel the need to illustrate the point.

The site is an offshoot of the emergency program's ongoing work to promote Salt Spring's neighbourhood POD program, which facilitates response capabilities in the event of an emergency by dividing the island into manageable neighbourhoods overseen by volunteer POD leaders.

The program relies on accessing and sharing the latest accurate information about conditions in specific neighbourhoods. It's a formula that's proven itself during snow storms, power outages, forest fires and, based on the past several weeks, icy winter road conditions too.



**VIEWPOINT** by Harold Swierenga

# Don't be misled by "rural" labels

There have recently been a number of comments in letters to the editor and columns referring to municipal incorporation as an "urban" form of government as opposed to a "rural" form of government.

This implied distinction is absolutely misleading. Millions of Canadians living in townships, counties and regions would be very surprised to learn that they live in an "urban" municipality.

I, and, I am sure, many other residents of Salt Spring Island, grew up on farms or other rural properties located in incorporated townships, complete with elected councils which have responsibility for local functions such as road maintenance, land use planning, fire protection, sports facilities, building inspection, tourism promotion and many others, depending on the municipality.

"Municipal government" simply provides for a locally elected council to have overall and co-ordinated responsibility for a range of local services, such as, but not limited to, those mentioned above. On Salt Spring we have local services provided by a number of distinct authorities, such as the Islands Trust, the CRD and a range of boards, commissions and other elected or appointed bodies. This does not constitute a "rural" form of local government. Rather, it doesn't give us local government at all. The Islands Trust has specific responsibilities regarding land-use planning, a function normally provided by a board reporting to the municipal government.

It should be kept in mind that the reason the Islands Trust exists is because there was no municipal government in the Gulf Islands when the need for land-use planning became apparent. It should

also be kept in mind that the objective is to have responsible, quality land-use planning, regardless of whatever authority has responsibility for it. In a municipality it would be up to the electorate to ensure that councillors who respect the original mandate of the Islands Trust are elected.

The Capital Regional District, as well as being responsible for specific regional functions, also provides local services in the absence of a local government, such as building inspection, water supply and transit, whether directly or by appointed boards or commissions. Other local functions such as fire protection are currently overseen by elected single-purpose boards. Local road maintenance, another usual municipal responsibility, is provided by the provincial government.

**There is nothing distinctly "urban" about incorporated municipal status.**

The result of the above is that municipal-type services on Salt Spring are provided in an uncoordinated fashion with far less local oversight than is normal for the vast majority of Canadian citizens.

There is nothing distinctly "urban" about incorporated municipal status. Municipalities in Canada range in size from cities with millions of residents to townships and villages with populations numbering only in the hundreds. Regardless of the merits of the pro and con arguments regarding incorporation, please be clear that at present there is no local "government" in the normal sense of the word, whether "rural" or otherwise on Salt Spring Island.

*The writer is a former director of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and a long-time Salt Spring resident.*

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Are federal regs needed to curb derelict vessels?

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:

## Do you believe your property tax assessment is fair?



# Driftwood

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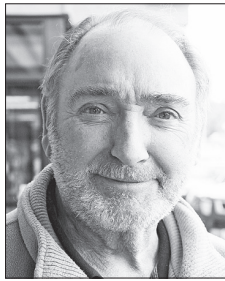
# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "The roads can get really treacherous. People have just got to get that it's icy."

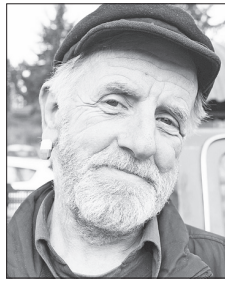
ELIZABETH ZOOK, SS EMERGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What are your tips for safe winter driving?



**ALISTAIR SIM**  
*Slow down.*



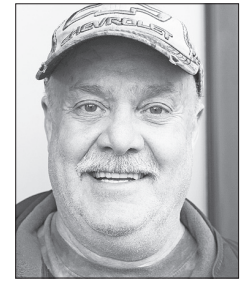
**RON PITHER**  
*Posted speeds are not winter speeds — they are best condition speeds, so slow down.*



**BARB BENNETT**  
*Get snow tires and if you're going downhill, try not to brake on a curve.*



**BEVERLY SUTHERLAND**  
*Have good winter tires and make sure your windshield is clean before you drive.*



**ROD BISCHOFF**  
*Drive slow and pay attention to the person in front of you.*

## Letters to the editor

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

### Don't be foolish

There was a pertinent article regarding sewage in the Dec. 23, 2016 Vancouver Sun and Times Colonist by Randy Shore.

The municipality of Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast is often compared with Salt Spring in terms of population, sewage and ferry access, although we are different and more complicated in roads, topography and employment.

The article describes how the two-year-old \$25-million sewage treatment plant will now have to be expanded as early as 2023 at a cost of an additional \$13 million. It was budgeted for \$15 million but cost \$25 million to build and the much higher than anticipated annual operating expenses are expected to rise to \$1.6 million by 2021 while principal payments

and interest costs on the loan total \$870,000 a year, requiring increasing property tax rates. It is a no-escape nightmare story with conflict of interest of the former mayor who wanted it located further from his home (it is now downtown), the dewatered solid waste is not up to compost standards, it uses more power and has not reached potable re-use standards.

After ratepayers approved a referendum, all it took was a mayor and three councillors to agree to this mega-project and the residents are paying the price for decades.

This happens all the time in municipalities and so many are struggling in debt and as slaves to all development as the federal and provincial governments off-load costs and pretend to pony up grants but always with strings attached.

Salt Spring Island has more democracy and multi-party oversight on potentially

disastrous projects, has relative independence and control over our future and deep connections with the other Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. We would be fools to throw this away and incorporate.

**RICK LAING,**  
WILKIE WAY

### Strong debate

I was particularly pleased to read John Macpherson's response to David Borrowman in the Jan. 4 Driftwood ("Let's inform governance discussion").

Macpherson responded directly to the points raised by David but stayed on the high ground. Undoubtedly David and others on both sides of the issue will have more to say in coming days and that is a good thing. A vigorous, well-informed debate is badly needed. But let's do it with civility.

**TOM TOYNEE SR.,**  
SALT SPRING

### Thanks, Arthur Build on it

Some of life's joys are small in size but huge in pleasure. Since moving to Salt Spring 10 years ago, one of my life's pleasures has been reading Arthur Black's regular musings in the Driftwood.

He has given me a bit a joy that was so large that I usually looked for his Wit and Whimsy column first so that any downer articles became easier to accept.

Arthur has earned his "retirement," as he announced in his final column last week. He has also earned our great appreciation for sharing himself with us each and every week.

I am so happy that he is a true Salt Springer. He just makes our lives better and that is so valuable.

Thank you, Arthur.  
**CURT FIRESTONE,**  
SALT SPRING

This is a response to last week's John Macpherson opinion piece. We happen to live in a unique setting that could have been declared a provincial park back in the mid-70s. But it was already (sparsely) populated and instead some visionaries came up with the concept of an Islands Trust in order to preserve and protect this land for generations to come.

In the meantime, the expectations of increased urban pressure and demands, finite land and resources had become an undeniable reality. It is also a fact that a unique form of governance has shaped this land and community; made it what it is to this point, loved and admired by many.

So why not build on what we already have by amalgamating the principles of the Trust with a more "user-friendly" concept

of a municipality. By that I mean a "municipal Trust hall" donned with a "preserve and protect" banner as a steady reminder, and four Trust councillors out of seven instead of just two.

I know what some will be thinking: "Stop dreaming, it's too unconventional, the government will never go for it." Well, it was the province recognizing that the Gulf Islands were exceptional and thus deserved special consideration. Why not call the province on it? Don't tweak the status quo and instead think out of the box. After all, we are not looking to govern a town or city but rather a small island community.

It would need a bit more time to hammer out the logistics, but it's not something to rush through just before an upcoming election.

**VERA ROBINSON,**  
HOPE HILL FARM

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 9

# Future is bright for conservation land parcels

BY LINDA HANNAH

Habitat conservation, simply put, is about protecting nature.

But like most things worth doing, great conservation can be challenging and complex. In the fall of 2015 the Nature Conservancy of Canada announced it had accepted responsibility for 26 ecological conservation properties from The Land Conservancy of B.C. This transfer of lands from one land trust to another was undertaken to assure a secure future for these important natural areas.

Being able to secure a future for nature means being able to practise good governance, fiscal prudence and organizational transparency. To that end, I believe it is important to report back to British Columbians about the status of the 26 conservation properties, and to outline the steps we have taken to ensure these lands will be managed for conservation for now and forever.

We did not take on the task of saving these 26 properties alone. Thanks to partnerships with The Nature Trust of British Columbia and BC Parks, we have been able to share the responsibility for ensuring the ongoing protection on these lands. Five of the 26 are now

owned and managed by TNTBC, and eight have been folded in the B.C. government's parks and protected areas portfolio. The Nature Conservancy of Canada owns and will care for the remaining 13.

These high-priority lands contain some of the most significant habitats for biodiversity in B.C., including species at risk and vulnerable, rare ecosystems. Spanning forest, wetlands and grasslands, they provide habitat for migratory birds, grizzly bears, salmon and many other native wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada maintains a stewardship endowment fund that is added to with each project we take on. These reserves are held in trust, with the interest used to support land stewardship activities. Because of this and other strong policies and practices, NCC has been ranked as the top environmental charity in Canada by MoneySense Magazine for seven years running. We can confidently say there is adequate funding and institutional strength to ensure that these properties remain in conservation, no matter the economic climate.

## INDEPTH

Managing and stewarding conservation land over the long term is no small task. For each conservation area we own, we conduct an ecological survey and prepare a detailed management plan that outlines the activities needed to maintain and enhance the conservation values on that site. Acquiring 26 new properties in one fell swoop added a mountain of work to our B.C. staff, who have worked diligently over the past 15 months to survey, plan and begin stewardship on the conservation areas now under NCC's management.

We have made many exciting discoveries while getting to know these lands. Our Canadian Rockies stewardship coordinator was impressed by the immense size of the coho salmon found spawning on the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area in the Cariboo. Our stewardship director is encouraged by the good quality Garry oak habitat she found on Kindwood and Lohbrunner Woods near Victoria and on the Raymond M. Goodall Ecological Land Reserve on Salt Spring Island. Our director

of development hails Centre Creek in Surrey as "a little slice of green" in the city and is curious — as we all are — to discover if we can rebuild the historical fish-bearing habitat once found there.

These discoveries are only some of the reasons why all British Columbians can feel proud that these lands are now securely in conservation status. From the smallest parcel (the Clare Winnett Copeland Property near Shawnigan Lake, at 2.2 acres) to the largest (Talking Mountain Ranch, near Clinton, at 947.4 acres), all of these lands nurture valuable wildlife and ecological communities, and will remain preserved through diligent management.

We hope that these conservation lands will not be the only restored values that come out of this transaction, but that faith of the conservation community is also being strengthened by this good news story of partnership, resilience and creative solution-building in the face of complex problems.

*The writer is the British Columbia regional vice president for the Nature Conservancy of Canada.*

# Faster isn't better if you want safer rural highways

In mid-December, Transportation Minister Todd Stone directed ICBC to commission a third-party review to determine how to keep vehicle insurance rates from continuing to soar in this province.

If public input is requested as part of a review, this is what I will suggest: Get rid of the 120 km/h speed limits slapped onto some stretches of B.C. highway two and a half years ago. In my experience, driving everywhere has become more dangerous since the provincial government implemented its "faster is better" program in 2014.

With an aging mother living in Courtenay on Vancouver Island, I drive up there from Salt Spring Island every three or four weeks to visit and help with chores.

I used to enjoy the journey, often made on my own. It was a rare chunk of down time for me spent on a road I am comfortably familiar with.

But ever since the speed limit just south of Parksville on the Inland Island Highway was increased in the summer of 2014 from 110 to 120 km/hr, I pretty much dread it.

Prior to the change, most people drove between 110 and 115 km/h, a few below that mark, and most of the rest at 120. Just a handful of rocket-ship drivers would be encountered in the two-hour trek from Crofton to Courtenay.

Now the regular range is from 110 to 135 km/hr, which makes for a radically different and unnerving driving experience.

While travelling at a sane 115 km/h in the right-hand lane and encountering a 110 km/h driver, it's no longer a matter of maintaining the 115 km/h level and passing the slower vehicle in a relaxed manner. Now there's a good chance that a vehicle travelling at 130 km/h or more is not too far behind the 110/115 duo, and its driver is not inclined to ease up on the gas pedal just a wee bit to let anyone else use the passing lane for a few minutes.



Gail Sjuberg

## LINE DRIVE

Ironically, having vehicles travel at much different speeds on the same stretch of road is exactly what the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure said it wanted to change by raising the speed limit closer to what people actually drive on some rural highways.

Here's an excerpt from the Rural Highway Safety and Speed Review report of July 2014 (page 9) where the rationale for speed limit increases in 33 stretches of B.C. highway totalling 1,300 kms was laid out:

"Because drivers choose different speeds, a range of operating speeds results. Where drivers are unsure of an appropriate speed, large speed variations or 'speed differentials' can develop. This in turn results in less consistent traffic flow, increased driver uncertainty and/or frustration and increased crash risk. Speed limits should be set so that they include the behaviour of the majority of drivers and provide an appropriate maximum speed."

I have to tell transportation ministry personnel that the speed limit increases have in fact radically hiked the "speed differentials" they were hoping to reduce.

While the following from the Canada Safety Council is dated, it's hard to argue with the common sense and nod to physics it contains:

"Speeding increases the likelihood and severity of a crash. The faster a vehicle is moving, the less time the driver has to react to a hazard, and for other road users to react to that vehicle. A speeding vehicle requires more time and

distance to stop, and is harder to control.

And here's some chilling data for you:

"As speed increases over 100 km/h, the fatality rate of vehicle occupants goes up exponentially. For example, the chances of being killed in a vehicle travelling at 120 km/h are four times higher than at 100 km/h."

Never mind that the amount of time saved by driving 10 km/h faster is negligible, or that fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions are unnecessarily boosted, or that maintaining a 120 km/h (or 75 mph) speed is not always comfortable.

Why were some speed limits raised in 2014 when intuitively it seems like an idiotic thing to do if you want to reduce crashes and injuries?

**Sadly, the ministry wasn't swayed by people and organizations with real expertise in the subject of road safety.**

Let's hope it wasn't due to the "public consultation" part of the transportation ministry's Rural Highway Safety and Speed Review, which ran for two months beginning Nov. 29, 2013. Opinions were requested about a range of traffic experience issues, from speed limits to wildlife hazards to slow-moving vehicles and use of winter tires.

Perhaps the ministry was swayed by those responding to survey questions about whether or not speed limits should increase, stay the same or be decreased in specific areas. For the Nanaimo to Campbell River stretch I am talking about, for example, 57 per cent of a whopping 198 people (or 113 of them) said the

speed limits should increase.

Sadly, the ministry wasn't swayed by people and organizations with real expertise in the subject of road safety. The RCMP, B.C. Association of Chiefs of Police, the BC Ministry of Justice's Road Safety Unit, Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, BCAA and the B.C. Trucking Association, among others, all opposed speed limit increases, as outlined in the consultation and engagement summary (pages 27-33).

As expected, once the controversial changes were made, they needed to be justified. That resulted in a classic government dog-and-pony show on June 28, 2016, with transportation minister Stone declaring that ministry studies had determined the speed-limit increases were benign or even a boon to safety.

Stone advised in a press release that ministry engineers "found that on 19 of 33 segments of highways, the crash rate either fell or remained unchanged." The Rural Highway Safety and Speed Review Post Implementation Update outlined how crash data from Nov. 1, 2014 to Oct. 31, 2015 was compared with data from the previous three years in drawing its conclusions.

However, a third-party UBC study by Tarek Sayed and Emanuele Sacchi comparing the changed segments using a different technique "showed a statistically significant increase of crash frequency of 11.1 per cent" in a 12-month period. They recommended further analysis be done when more data was available.

To its credit, the transportation ministry promised safety enhancements for the 14 areas where the crash rate rose following speed limit increases, and said it would drop the limit in two of those 14 sections.

It also undertook some pretty minimal vehicle speed surveying and then declared that peo-

ple weren't really driving much faster, if at all, than they used to in those 33 areas. But something I've noticed on the race track between Crofton and Courtenay since the speed limit has increased is that people drive faster everywhere else. It's most noticeable on the Nanaimo Parkway portion of Highway 19, where the speed limit has been 90 km/h for years, but now the average speed is generally 105.

We've all been given a giant green light to drive as fast as we think we can, knowing that the chance of being fined for speeding is near zero, and we're making the most of it.

ICBC, which lists speed as the top contributing factor in crash deaths on B.C. roads from 2010 through 2014, should perhaps be considered the real authority on this subject.

In August of this year, ICBC president and CEO Mark Blucher reported that vehicle crashes across B.C. had risen 15 per cent between 2013 and 2015, and warned that insurance rates would continue to rise in the near future as a result.

Clearly, accident rates in this province are up, and we're all paying for it with injuries, trauma, lives lost and higher insurance fees.

The third-party ICBC rate review requested by the provincial government in December is welcome news, but it may or may not result in a recommendation about speed limits and enforcement.

We have a provincial election coming up in May. While there will be no shortage of controversial topics vying for candidates' attention, I hope speed and road safety are two that will be rushed to the front of the line.

*The documents referenced in this piece are linked in the online version at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com).*

## RANTS and Roses

### Roses

Sending out pots of poinsettias to all of you who made Santa's Workshop a success once again this year. Special thanks to my hardworking elves: Linda, Barry, Audrey, Christa, Debbi, Robyn, Glynis, Carmelle and Jackie; to the merchants who maintained our distribution boxes, particularly West of the Moon, who helped us buy supplies at cost; to CIBC and their Christmas tree and CRD for their swimming pool passes; to all the kind folks who donated gifts; to Central Hall for kindly providing a work venue; and particularly to the Salt Spring Toy Run folks — we could not do Santa's workshop without you.

As we begin the new year, all of us at Artists From the Fringe would like to thank the following people and organizations/businesses for helping make our show at Wintercraft a success: dozens of pastel flowers to the board of the Salt Spring Arts Council, ArtCraft/Wintercraft manager Richard Steel, administrator Yael Wand and board member Scott Simmons for all your support; dozens of purple and green flowers to Rick MacKinnon at Country Grocer and Sandy Harkema of the Lions Club for provid-

ing financial support; dozens of abstractly coloured flowers to Gillian McConnell of Pegasus Framing for all your time and effort putting the finishing touches on the art, and dozens of exquisitely photographed flowers to Michael Levy for documenting the artists and their process on Sundays at Art Jam. To all who contributed to Norm's Place, a very special bouquet of chocolate-coloured flowers, symbolizing the warmth of home.

The Giant Book Sale committee of Salt Spring Literacy would like to thank the staff of the downtown government liquor store for putting aside boxes for the sorted books during the months preceding the sale — and for selecting some that were "just the right size!"

Sand and gravel roses to Mainroad crew members, who have had to go above and beyond for more than a month now during this extraordinary "real" Canadian winter on Salt Spring Island.

Many, many roses to Paul for your thoughtfulness and kindness in staving off another metabolic crisis. JD

## Have you been forced to switch your medication?

BC PharmaCare has expanded its Reference Drug Program as of December 1, 2016, which means that if you use PharmaCare, your medicine might have been switched with a different product at the pharmacy.

Patients affected by this policy of medication substitution are those who take medication for **high blood pressure** (hypertension), **angina**, **gastroesophageal reflux disease** (GERD) or **heartburn, ulcers, high cholesterol, or arthritis**.

Has this policy caused you any issues, have you experienced any medical problems, new or increased costs, or other concerns (i.e., more trips to the doctor/hospital)?

**We need to hear from you...**

Our survey is open **January 9-28, 2017**  
from Monday to Saturday, 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM  
Call **604-800-8251** or **1-800-313-0737**  
<http://www.betterpharmacare.com/>

**BPC**

Better Pharmacare Coalition

# Writer's pro-incorporation arguments don't add up

BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Let's say that John Macpherson and I have reached a condition called furious agreement on the incorporation issue ("Let's inform governance discussion," Jan. 4 Driftwood).

We agree that local government would get bigger. John, however, foresees only good things coming from larger local government, which shifts responsibilities away from volunteers and into the hands of paid staff. He is also allergic to talking about costs.

His mantra of coordination and balance means that, somehow, good things will happen at the fire district and in water utilities. Perhaps an act of intense coordination will eliminate the need to raise the weir

on St. Mary Lake, or miraculously lower the costs of the fire district. A town hall can no doubt be coordinated into existence at no cost. The Ganges boardwalk will get built through the miracle of coordination.

But the obstacle there has never been lack of local authority, it has always been the Cudmore gap and Ganges Marina issues, and the cost of incorporating them into the boardwalk.

John points out the shortcomings of the current improvement districts, but neglects to state that the province has, for years, encouraged these outdated entities to become regional services. As such, they would be eligible for infrastructure grants, which John would prefer us to

## IN RESPONSE

believe are available only if we incorporate. North Salt Spring Waterworks trustees are now considering this option, and the possibility is also available to the fire district.

As for water districts' inability to supply fire-fighting water, coordination and balance would apparently bring this about, and there would, curiously, be no infrastructure costs. Anyway, somebody should have told Cedar Lane Water District that they couldn't install their new six-inch main to their new 30,000-gallon tank, with a hydrant at the end of it.

And then there is the road system. When I spoke recently with the one-time Bowen Island regional director Richard Littlemore, who remains pro incorporation for Bowen and was a mayoral candidate, he observed that he had cycled all over Salt Spring and that we would be "crazy" to take on our road system under a municipality.

Apparently I find that Bowen Island is "out of control." News to me. I pointed out that their incorporation study predicted a need for five staff, (rising later to 12). I doubt very much that current staff are out of control. All 35 of them.

Bowen's experience with incorporation is mixed, and it is fair to ask if they

have gained the hoped-for improvements. Development is streamlined, as one-stop-shopping for development applications is now in place, and the local Trust office recedes from memory. But Bowen Islanders despair that the town hall promised 18 years ago is still nowhere in sight.

Once the rhetoric has settled, I expect that incorporation would mean moving from an under-served rural area to an impoverished municipality. We know that the Trust has never changed a local decision on Salt Spring, and John assures us that appeal to the provincial minister would not become an end-run under incorporation. Yet apparently we must incorporate

to ensure local control. It doesn't add up.

And is the Trust really protected under incorporation? The 1974 Trust legislation was a splendid confluence of all parties in the legislature. It was a Social Credit idea, enacted into legislation by the NDP, with unanimous support, including from the Liberals of the day.

For those who want to refresh themselves on the Trust idea, there is a 13-minute video narrated by Arthur Black and scored by Valdy on YouTube. Search for "Islands in Trust."

*The writer is a 30-year resident of Salt Spring, a one-time Canadian diplomat and a former island trustee.*

## MORE LETTERS

### Help get blood clinic on Salt Spring

It has been many years since we have had a blood donor clinic on the island. As a result, in the past few years, dedicated blood donors have travelled off island to donate their blood.

The Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island is hoping to change this situation and sponsor a blood donor clinic on island this year and in future years. Everything to do so is in place, but to proceed we need to have a minimum of 100 qualified donors on Salt Spring Island. Although we are getting close to the number required, we still need more qualified donors to register with us.

To see if you qualify as a donor go to [www.blood.ca/eligibilityquiz](http://www.blood.ca/eligibilityquiz) and if you do qualify please let us know at [RotarySIBloodDrive@gmail.com](mailto:RotarySIBloodDrive@gmail.com). So, Salt Springers, be part of this incredible public service and help save lives.

**GILLIAN TAYLOR,**  
PRESIDENT, AND  
**TOM BREMNER**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR,  
ROTARY CLUB OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

### Hummingbird heaven

This very cold winter has been very hard on our beautiful hummingbird population, and I have observed frozen glass containers on my feeders. After careful consideration I came up with a plan.

I cut off the toes on a pair of nice cosy socks and slid the toeless sock over the feeding bottle. I then ordered a large box of hand warmers that are air activated, which will keep very warm for eight hours! This was placed between the bottle and the sock. Problem solved. These were ordered through Amazon and came in a large box of 40 pairs.

Thrilled with the results, the tiny birds start cheeping as I go out into the garden, knowing that their sugar water is again liquid.

My plan worked and I am so very happy.  
**YVONNE SAUNDERS,**  
PARK DRIVE

### Pipeline project opposed

I'm writing to thank all those who attended the Dec. 10 march on Salt Spring to express opposition to the proposed Kinder Morgan project. I was not able to attend the demonstration but want to re-affirm that as MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, and also speaking for the BCNDP Official Opposition, we do not support the Kinder Morgan project.

John Horgan, leader of the BCNDP, has stated this position in writing to the National Energy Board, based on the facts that the economic and environmental risks far outweigh the benefits to B.C., the corrupted review process has no credibility and a number of First Nations, including those in this constituency, steadfastly oppose the project.

I have spoken a number of times in the legislature, and will again in this upcoming spring session, of our legal and moral obligation to protect our endangered southern resident orca. We know from the important work done by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation that the seven-fold increase in tanker traffic resulting from Kinder Morgan would likely extirpate this iconic species. I will also continue to advocate for a National Marine Conservation Area in the southern Strait of Georgia as part of a more sustainable path forward.

It is clear that the Christy Clark government, having already ceded its environmental review authority for the project to the federal government, will approve Kinder Morgan, making it more important than ever to change government in this province. If the BCNDP forms government in 2017, we will do everything in our power to stop this project.

In the meantime, I will stand with you in opposing Kinder Morgan in whatever way I can. This fight is far from over.

**GARY HOLMAN,**  
MLA, SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

### Can't trust councils

We think it is worth sharing with Salt Spring Islanders some recent development experiences in the town of Canmore, Alta.

Back in the 1990s the town approved a residential development (Peaks of Grass) beside a wildlife corridor. Once complete, the town declared the development "built

out" and said that there would be no further development in it.

Fast forward to 2015-2016. Despite loud protests from the townspeople, a developer puts forward a proposal to build more houses. The present town council approves. (Court challenges continue.)

Another case: In 2008 a nearly finished golf course next to a wildlife corridor is not completed because the developer goes bankrupt. Development plans are resurrected in 2015 with new financing. The previous approved plan for a golf course with residences for about 2,500 people is scrapped. The new proposal contemplates no golf course and 10,000 people (present permanent population of the entire town of Canmore is about 12,000).

In response to concerns raised about impact on wildlife movements, the developer is proposing narrowing the wildlife corridor and fencing the new housing development. Town council is showing every indication that this too will be approved. In each of these cases the developer has tried to make their proposal more palatable by offering to construct some badly needed low-income housing.

While the wildlife issues are not common to Salt Spring, that was then, this is now" attitude of elected town councils is a

sobering vision of Salt Spring Island's future under incorporation. For town councils, "forever" is 10 to 20 years.

**DOUG & SUE MACDONALD,**  
SALT SPRING AND CANMORE, ALTA.

### Eternal overloads

*The following was sent to the BC Ferries Commission and submitted to the Driftwood for publication.*

Can you confirm the car-carrying capacity of the Howe Sound Queen at 70 versus the proposed replacement vessel Quinitsa at 50?

I find this change to be unreasonable, imprudent and not consistent with "the contract" for the following reason. With the Howe Sound Queen there are frequent overloads. With the Quinitsa at a much smaller car-carrying capacity there will be eternal overloads.


Please revisit this proposal.

**T. FEDERICI,**  
SALT SPRING

*Editor's note: The car capacities of the two ships are listed on the BC Ferries website at 70 and 50, as above, but a new "automobile equivalent" calculation has now been applied by BC Ferries to make those numbers 52 and 44.*

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# arts&entertainment



## EXHIBITIONS

# Club members show diverse strengths and interests



COURTESY ANNA MCCOLM

Anna McColm's *The Past in the Present*, part of the Salt Spring Photography Club's current exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby.



COURTESY SYLVIA BEECH

Sylvia Beech's photograph called *Sombre* taken at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

Salt Spring FOLK CLUB  
www.saltspringfolkclub.com

## ALEX CUBA TRIO

Opening: Yael Wand  
Monday January 23  
Fulford Hall  
Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00)  
Show starts 7:00

Tickets \$25 available at:  
Salt Spring Books  
Stuff and Nonsense  
Catering by Haidee Hart

**Best sound on the Island**

ArtSpring lobby show on for January

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Photo Club show in the ArtSpring lobby this month is a great place to see how different people can use more or less the same tools to produce completely unique forms of expression.

Some of the most interesting works on display are not just technically sound or reproduce a pretty scene but have something that requires the viewer to spend a little longer thinking about exactly what is in the frame and how it got there.

Anna McColm proves the power of digital layering when it's done sensitively with *The Past in the Present*. A wide view of a beach camp on the Brooks Peninsula as seen from the water is backed by another shot of towering, weathered Haida welcoming poles from Gwaii Haanas Park.

McColm has magnified the scale of the background shot so the poles become huge giants teeming over the tiny modern tent and clothing line on the beach. The reduced opacity of this layer places the poles in the realm of history or perhaps the spirit world, while their monumental size profoundly expresses the artist's title theme. McColm is equally strong compositionally, with her stacking of faded forest and mist behind the dark green conifers and bone-grey beach in the foreground.

Pierre Mineau employs a very different technique on similar subject material in *SGang Gwaii House Supports*. His desaturated "brown and white" archival printing method emphasizes the natural life cycle of the carved trunks. By removing colour and emphasizing the great textural richness, both of the decaying poles and the surrounding forest, Mineau emphasizes that these human artifacts were produced from nature and designed to return to it. This also serves to put the untouched trees on the same standing as human art as another wonder to be appreciated.

Some of the most interesting works on display are not just technically sound or reproduce a pretty scene . . .

*Sombre* by Sylvia Beech is another photo that produces a sense of the individual human's small scale in the face of metaphysical concerns. In this case that environment is more consciously man-made, set within a landscape of concrete stelae at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

The vertical shot tracks a narrow but undulating passageway between towering square pillars, their tops out of view. A tiny figure can be seen walking away at the far end of the passage, while sunlight obscures that end to make the destination mysterious. The vertical trend of walls and shadows is complemented by the geometry in the pathway's small paving tiles, while an inset grate near the foreground catches the reflected light for a nice counterbalance.

Larry Citra has an eye for strikingly graphic compositions, such as his piece *Heels on Wheels*. This side view of a woman riding a bicycle limits the frame to the closer leg and the back wheel. The sharp focus on the wheel makes the background pavement wash out in bright light, which adds to a silhouette effect on the tire and bike frame. The woman's foot in a chic heeled leather sandal stands out against the dark chain guard.

Another one of Citra's

photos centres in on the curves, texture and colours found over the front wheel hub of a General Motors truck. The rusted metal plate with the name spelled out forms the main compositional element of this tight shot, the rusted bar contrasting against areas of mottled grass-green paint.

Elehna de Sousa's *Inside Out* appears to have been shot through water on glass or ice, a room through which a barred window can perhaps be glimpsed on the other side. The beauty of the photo is not in identifying the space but the implied texture that ripples over the surface, and the patterning of light and colour that works its way through.

A red light at the left side of the frame spreads its warmth in subtle waves through softer shades that alternate in indistinct areas of dark and light. The piece achieves a painterly feeling of contemplation without trying to mimic brushstrokes or other aspects of the medium.

Doug Fryett's piece *Now Listen to Mom and Dad* captures that perfect moment that every nature photographer must wait a lifetime for. Two Emperor penguins bend their heads in toward the chick standing between them, arching their bodies and necks to form a perfect heart. The chick's face is pointing downward, as if listing intently. An added feature of the photo is Fryett's sharp focus, which makes the chick's soft fluff feel tangible and the parent birds' remarkable plumage visible rather than appearing as a sleek black skin.

Doug McMillin has an unusual perspective in *Going Home*, which has a surreal sense of being something other than what it portrays: a dog heading back over its own tracks between two snow banks. The angle and framing cuts out horizon or site context, so at first the image is almost as disorienting as being suddenly immersed in a snowscape. The dog's leash dissects the image on the diagonal, cutting from bottom right corner to the centre, where the foreshortened dog moves through the scene as an abstract figure.

Many more interesting photos from multiple other club members are part of the show, which can be viewed during regular hours and before shows through to the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 31.

*salt spring island cheese*

Salt Spring Island Cheese is having our customer appreciation day on **Sunday January the 15th.**

**Ruckles & Juliettes are Buy One, Get One Free, 30% off all other cheeses and 20% off everything else.**

*We hope to see you here.*

285 Reynolds Road, Salt Spring Island  
(250) 653-2300

TRADITIONS

# Scottish Country Dance Club set to celebrate the bard

Robbie Burns event on Jan. 21 at Fulford Hall

BY CATHERINE BENNETT  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

It is that time of year again! Yes, it's time for the annual Robbie Burns Dinner and Dance hosted by the Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club.

It's a celebratory evening toasting the bard Robbie Burns, along with eating and dancing. What a great combination.

The gathering on Saturday, Jan. 21 will mark the 24th anniversary of this fun evening at Fulford Community Hall.

For the uninitiated, a Robbie Burns supper is a traditional celebration of the life and poetry of Robbie Burns, the famous Scottish poet. These celebrations are held the world over. Here on Salt Spring Island we are proud to combine our love of Scottish dancing with music and good food.

One of the highlights of the evening is the Address to the Haggis, which will be delivered so eloquently by Harvey Moore. We then sit down to a wonderful meal of roast beef, neeps and tatties and, of course, the famous haggis.

Then with full bellies we will listen to Reuben Kaufman give The Immortal Memory. He will be followed

by club members Clayne Conings and Joyce Weir, who will offer a heartfelt Toast to the Lassies and in true good-humoured tradition a Reply from the Lassies will follow.

No evening would be complete without a rousing rendition of the Star o' Rabbie Burns, which will be sung by yet another great voice: Walter Stewart.

We will have live music with popular musicians Mary Ross on the accordion and Janette Polson playing the fiddle. The Grand March starts off the dancing as our piper Len Campbell from Nanaimo pipes us in.

Then the shout goes up: "Let the dancing begin!"

This is what makes our Robbie Burns event every year such a fun and successful evening, along with the sharing of the Burns supper traditions with Scots and non-Scots alike in our community.

Our teacher Richard Bennett leads the dancing and will get everyone up dancing a jig or two as he reels us around the floor with a few old favourites like a Dashing White Sergeant, Gay Gordons and St. Bernard's Waltz.

No dance experience is necessary, just a love of and community in true Scottish tradition.

Tickets are available from Pat Spencer at 250-653-4700.

Scots Wha Hae!



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

From top, Scottish banners on display and piper Len Campbell at the 2014 Robbie Burns Dinner and Dance put on by the Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club.

BOOKS

## Perfect winter reading awaits

Latest finds on the New Shelves at Salt Spring Public Library

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

If you are looking for some fine winter reading, check out the New Shelves at the library for the best and latest mysteries, adventures, travels, crafts, how to, cooking, and so much more. You'll find fiction and non-fiction titles to satisfy every taste and interest.

For example, if you love Jack Reacher (and who doesn't?) you will not want to put down Lee Child's latest tale. **Night School** takes us back to Reacher's army days where he serves with honour and distinction. There is enough gratuitous violence and sex to fulfill reader expectations, and a good, solid, intriguing tale to keep Reacher on the move and involved.

This story is one of the best developed plots in the series; it certainly leaves the reader eagerly waiting for the next installment.

**Deadhead: the Bindweed Way to Grow Flowers** catalogues one farmer's experience: experiments, not mistakes, in the flower growing business. This small volume gives a rather impressive overview of what is actually

### ON THE NEW SHELVES

involved in growing flowers for profit as well as pleasure. Down-to-earth, sensible information, specific suggestions, interesting details all flow into a welcome resource for one of the most pleasant and growing trends in the market.

Now is the time to curl up with **Eyewitness Travel's Caribbean**, just one of the many new travel guides to warmer, colder and interesting places around the globe. Full of photographs, maps, useful travel information and cultural guidance, this volume is indispensable for planning your next warm holiday.

One of the most useful features in the book is the tailor-made itineraries that help travellers fit it all in no matter how long or how short their stay. From turtle watching, to beach surfing, to greatest places to stay and dine, this book offers advice that will make your trip your dream holiday.

**Good Kids, Tough Choices: How Parents Can Help Their Children Do the Right Thing** is a stage-by-stage compendium of how to instill children with the desire and tools to live a

value-based life.

The book presents ways of looking at goodness, pitfalls and moving forward. It is full of practical advice, examples from the wide world and beacons to guide parents and children onto the path of ethical behaviours.

Topics covered include thrift, responsibility, morals, ethics, sexuality, stealing and emotions. It is a small but mighty volume that covers a lot of principled themes.

Jay Ingram's **The Science of Why** answers many questions: many you never thought to ask, and many that you always wondered about. "Why does asparagus make my pee smell funny?" for example, is just one of the amazing scientific questions and answers found between these covers.

Other questions include the body, the animal kingdom, the supernatural and the natural world. Such conundrums as "Why does campfire smoke follow you around?" are just begging to be asked and fully answered in a way that enlightens and entertains, not belittles.

And that is just what this author is known for: clear, well-explained answers to those nagging questions that we never knew how, or who, to ask.

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Details and entry form on website  
[www.saltspringartprize.ca](http://www.saltspringartprize.ca)

# what's on this week



## Wed. Jan 11

### ACTIVITIES

**Gulf Islands Board of Education.** School board meets at GISS. 1 p.m.  
**Salt Spring Historical Society.** Guest speaker is Harry Burton, Salt Spring apple historian. Central Hall. 2 p.m.  
**Youth Book Club at the Library.** Youth ages 9-12 invited to read *The Sky is Falling* by Kit Pearson and to participate in discussions, eat snacks, and do crafts and other activities. Salt Spring Public Library. 3:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Teens and Drug Use.** Youth invited to gather for an honest conversation facilitated by Angela Koetzle, youth substance use counsellor with Salt Spring Island Community Services. Refreshments served. Register at [www.substanceuse-youth.eventbrite.com](http://www.substanceuse-youth.eventbrite.com). Core Inn Youth Project. 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Teens and Drug Use: What Adults Need to Know.** Speaker Julie Green of Discovery Youth & Family Substance Use Services will provide information for parents on drug use and talk about risks and protective factors in free workshop. Child-minding is available by registration. Register at [www.substanceuse-cymhsu.eventbrite.com](http://www.substanceuse-cymhsu.eventbrite.com). Salt Spring Public SongJam. A pub-style singalong to the soundtrack of our lives. Moby's Pub every Wednesday beginning at 7:30 p.m.



## Thur. Jan 12

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**GISS Drama: 1984.** GISS Acting 11/12 class adaptation of the George Orwell novel, with original, live music. Not recommended for young audiences. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Open Mic With Dave & Ross.** Every Thursday at Moby's Pub beginning at 8 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**January Probus Club Speaker.** Paul Roberts, chair of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary, is guest speaker. His topic will be the 80 Year History of the Lady Minto Auxiliary. Meaden Hall. 10 a.m.  
**Dance Temple 55+.** New lightly guided dance session for dancers 55 and over and those who want a gentler, shorter dance experience. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 3 to 4 p.m.  
**Dance Temple Thursdays.** A lightly facilitated community gathering to tune in, join in, celebrate, meditate and unwind through movement. Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.



**Intro to Squash.** Free three-Thursday series at the new squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club property begins today. Just bring non-marking shoes and appropriate clothing; other equipment provided. Salt Spring Squash. 6:45 to 9 p.m.

## Fri. Jan 13

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**GISS Drama presents 1984.** See Thursday's listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Youth Writing Workshop.** Salt Spring Island Public Library offers event for youth ages 9-14, facilitated by Nikky and Lina and running the second Friday of each month. First session is on Plot/Theme/Genre. Please sign up in advance at the library information desk. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Jukebox Fridays.** Every Friday night at Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.  
**Argentine Tango Practica.** Fridays at the Core Inn, third floor. 8 to 10 p.m. All are welcome to join the Por el Amor del Tango group at weekly practices.

## Sat. Jan 14

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Vetta Presents Sea and Sky.** Second event in Salt Spring concert series with the Sea and Sky Ensemble features an evening of 20th-century music. Guest Bill Richardson narrates Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Everyday People.** Live music featuring Tom Upex, Tara Hollingsworth, Scout Upex, Mark LeCorre, Bruce Cameron and Peter McFarlane. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

## Sun. Jan 15

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Wesley Hardisty.** Live at the Salt Spring Inn. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Rollerblading.** Every Sunday at Fulford Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Some rollerblades available to rent at the hall.  
**Intro to Squash.** See Thursday's listing, except the time is 1:30 to 3:45 p.m.  
**Copper Kettle Town Hall and Potluck.** With special discussion on affordable housing plans for Ganges. All Saints Church. 4:30 p.m.

## Mon. Jan 16

### ACTIVITIES

**Dance Temple Mondays.** New session at Beaver Point Hall. One hour of dancing, followed by a sharing circle/forum practice. 7 to 9 p.m.  
**Salt Spring Toastmasters.** Every Monday evening (except statutory holidays), a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts meet to improve public speaking skills, and have fun. Guests are always welcome. Shared Space in Merchants' Mews. 7 p.m.



## Tue. Jan 17

### ACTIVITIES

**Innovation and Green Business Workshop.** Join in for a video by E. Sirolli on Enterprise Facilitation, plus presentations on TSSEC's green micro loans and mentoring opportunities, the Rural Business Accelerator program, and local green business start-ups, and discussion on what a green entrepreneur needs to succeed. Co-sponsored by Transition Salt Spring. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m.  
**Floor Hockey.** Every Tuesday at Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.  
**Intro to Squash.** See Thursday's listing, except 9 to 11:15 a.m.

## Wed. Jan 18

### ACTIVITIES

**Tech Cafe: Selling Online.** An Introduction to Selling Online with WordPress and WooCommerce with hosts Phil Rees and Duncan Elsey. Space is limited. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.  
**Central Community Hall Board of Directors Meeting.** Public welcome. Central Community Hall. 7 p.m.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL: [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN  
 Dance Temple sessions are on Thursdays and Mondays.

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**  
 901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 Movie info: [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca)

**ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY**  
 133 min. Rating: PG  
 Jan. 13th to 19th Fri. to Thurs. 7pm  
 Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

**National Theatre Live: No Man's Land**  
 with Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart.  
 Thurs. Feb. 2nd only 3pm matinee & 7 pm.  
 Advance tickets \$22 at the Cinema  
 Fri. to Tues. 6-7pm

**driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com/calendar/**

VIEW OUR ONLINE COMPREHENSIVE INTERACTIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS LISTINGS

**Chronic Pain Self-Management Program**  
 Six-week Wednesday workshop series  
**Begins January 25 • 3:00–5:30pm**  
 Seniors Wellness Centre • Register: [selfmgmt@uvic.ca](mailto:selfmgmt@uvic.ca)

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**CINEMA**

**Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** — A group of unlikely heroes band together to steal the plans to the Death Star, the Empire's ultimate weapon of destruction, in this key event in the Star Wars timeline.

**National Theatre Live: No Man's Land** with Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart — Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart return to the West End stage in Harold Pinter's comedy *No Man's Land*, from Wyndham's Theatre, London. Thursday, Feb. 2 only. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. Advance tickets at the cinema Fri. to Tues. 6-7 p.m. Special arrangements can also be made for tickets. Email [thefritz@hotmail.ca](mailto:thefritz@hotmail.ca).

**EXHIBITIONS**

- **Salt Spring Photography Club** holds its annual lobby show at ArtSpring from Jan. 5 through 31.
- **Weston Abbott-Arcan** presents art work related to the mystical, the symbolic and the afterlife at the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** through January.
- **Sabrina Ali** shows photography highlighted by lines of her poetry at the **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28. Until then, Salt Spring Photography Club members have photographs on display at the cafe.
- A shared photography exhibit is in the **Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe** hallway through January: Doors & Windows by **Margaret Ann Argiro** and Flowers by **Judy McPhee**.

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

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

**This Week's Horoscope**

by Michael O'Connor  
[www.sunstarastronomy.com](http://www.sunstarastronomy.com)  
[sunstarastronomy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastronomy@gmail.com)  
 1.250.352.2936 **PAGE 19**

JAZZ MUSIC

# Dave Brubeck tribute on tap

Rémi Bolduc and band performs

ArtSpring welcomes the new year with a brand new roster of Salt Spring, Canadian and international talent.

The year begins with Canadian jazz hero Rémi Bolduc and his ensemble on the evening of Friday, Jan. 20.

A star saxophonist of Montreal's jazz scene, McGill University professor Bolduc composes, performs and records with numerous ensembles. He released his first CD, *Fable*, in 1996 in collaboration with Marc Johnson, Ben Monder and Owen Howard. Bolduc has recorded many CDs since then, most notably *Tribute to Charlie Parker*, which won him a Félix Award for best jazz album of the year in 2011.

Next Friday's show is called *A Tribute to Dave Brubeck*, when Bolduc will be accompanied by double bassist Fraser Hollins, pianist François Bourassa and drummer Dave Laing.

The performers will play *Take Five*, *Blue Rondo à la Turk* and other compositions from Brubeck's famous *Time Out* album, which was released to great acclaim in 1959.

"Playing that is both intense and under control, breathtaking precision, magnetic stage presence, refreshing original compositions: that's the formidable package offered by Rémi Bolduc, one of Canada's best jazz saxophonists," states the Coastal Jazz website. "Acclaimed at the most important venues from New York to Paris by way of Geneva, Tokyo and Beijing, Rémi



WWW.REMIBOLDUC.COM

Montreal jazz musician Rémi Bolduc channels Dave Brubeck, with an upcoming ArtSpring performance set for Jan. 20.

Bolduc captivates the audience with the dazzling virtuosity and stunning maturity that have made him a most accomplished musician."

The ArtSpring show, sponsored by Seth Berkowitz, begins at 7:30 p.m. and is preceded by a pre-show bar opening at 6:30 p.m.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

# GISS delves into 'Roots'

Dance show pays homage to history

GISS Dance presents *Roots*, a high-energy, vibrant show of new choreography, during two performances at ArtSpring on Jan. 18 and 19.

"For this show, we've gone back in time to discover the roots of dance," a press release from the Gulf Islands Secondary School program explains. "Steps and aesthetics from the New York dance halls of the 1930s have influenced our current popular culture, and we pay tribute to this."

"Audiences will watch us do the *Suzie-Q*, *Breeze in the Knees*, the *Flying Charleston*, *Spank the Baby* and the *Lindy*. The influence of these dance steps — via James Brown and Michael Jackson, of course — are evident in Bruno

Mars' choreography in his latest music videos, and are all around us in popular music and dance culture."

GISS students will also pay tribute to the streets of the Bronx and the origins of hip hop culture. They note that six steps, top rocks and dance battles offered a non-violent way to prove "street cred" and social power, and steered the MCs, DJs and b-boys and b-girls of the '80s to influence current day rappers and dancers such as Drake, Kanye West, G-Eazy, Lady Leshurr and The Weeknd.

"In *Roots*, the teen dancers will transport the audience from the dance halls of New York City in 1939 to the street corners at the Bronx River Houses in 1989 to Havana, Cuba and then to the stage of ArtSpring in 2016," the press release states.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

# Arts education at library

Clay and book design sessions on offer

Islanders looking to expand their creative side and learn new skills will have two unique opportunities at the Salt Spring Public Library this month.

Beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 24, Kathleen Raven will host a free, three-week workshop on *Hand Building with Clay*. In this series of classes, Raven will demonstrate how she creates her signature clay characters and the finishes she uses.

Anyone interested in learning about clay is welcome to attend. Classes run for three consecutive Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. More information on Raven's work is available at her Facebook page under Kathleen Raven Pottery & Clay.

On Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 4 p.m., budding authors and graphic designers alike can benefit from the one-off Book Cover Design discussion with Margaret Boland. Boland is a registered graphic designer who has been a professional book designer for many years. She has taught graphic design at the university level and was on the faculty of the San Miguel Writer's Conference in 2014.

This talk is suitable for Salt Spring writers who are planning to self-publish, and also for those who may be working with a traditional publisher. Participants will begin to gain some insights regarding what steps are necessary in thinking about a cover that both expresses their writing and will also be effective on the shelf or online. Boland will also share some common mistakes to avoid, as well as what a well-designed book cover looks like in 2017.

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**Fitness Expert**

**Helpful Hints For 2017**

- Take time for yourself.
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- Do not skip out of your workout.
- Eat a well balanced diet.
- Some people skip breakfast, eat a small lunch then consume most of your calories at the end of the day. Try to keep the calorie furnace burning and fuel your body's metabolism all day.
- Stay hydrated—drink 8 glasses of water a day. At a cellular level you "burn more calories" if you are well hydrated.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Do something fun for yourself everyday.
- Aqua fit will make you smile, have fun and decrease stress. It will increase your energy, balance, strength, coordination, range of motion and your flexibility.

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There are still snow tires available in most sizes if needed. If you aren't sure if your car is up to the task of getting you around have it checked out by your service provider before depending on it, no one wants to be stuck out in the cold.

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- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in January and February that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:  
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# people&community

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

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



## Christmas trees begone!

Photos by JEN MACLELLAN



Salt Spring Fire Rescue personnel and Salt Spring Wood Chipping teamed up for the annual Christmas tree chipping event Saturday at the Central Fire Hall. Clockwise from top left is Capt. Dale Lundy, the line-up of trees, firefighter Cody Hunsberger assisting machine owner Cam Proudfoot and firefighter Clayton Akerman. The service was offered by donation to the Salt Spring Food Bank. Thirty-five trees were chipped and \$285.85 was collected.

## Spirit of Salt Spring



Viva Chorale! artistic director Caroni Young, left, presents Salt Spring Community Services program director Annika Lund with cash donations totalling \$880, which was raised at the choir's annual Christmas food bank fundraiser concert on Dec. 16 at All Saints, along with several boxes of donated food. The choir thanks all those who attended and donated so generously.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits. **CALL DRIFTWOOD EDITOR GAIL SJUBERG FOR DETAILS.**

**Driftwood**  
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### CHARITABLE SOCIETIES

## SSIWI grants announced

Pie sales aid local organizations

The Salt Spring Island Women's Institute has announced their annual grant recipients, with over \$7,500 given to organizations on Salt Spring Island, Vancouver Island and worldwide in 2016.

Grants were given to the following organizations at the prescribed levels:

**\$100-\$250**  
Greenwoods Eldercare Society; Island Comfort Quilts; SSI 4H; SSI Farmers' Institute Museum; SSI Girl Guides; Santa's Workshop; Therapeutic Riding Association.

### \$500-\$999

BC Children's Hospital; Copper Kettle; Fulford Community Hall; SSI Farmers' Institute; SSI Food Bank; "Water for All" Project.

### \$1,000-\$1,250

Centre for Children's Health of Vancouver Island; GISS Bursary.

Salt Spring Island Women's Institute members (also known as the "Pie Ladies") raise money by selling pies at Heritage Day, the Salt Spring Fall Fair and the Salt Spring Apple Festival. The organization has been active on Salt Spring since 1920 and is dedicated to helping family and community. New members are always needed. Please contact them at [thestinkyfarm@yahoo.ca](mailto:thestinkyfarm@yahoo.ca).

LITERACY

# New program brings reading to park

PARC and library team up for StoryWalk

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The love of reading and the joys to be found in the great outdoors are now coming together thanks to a new partnership between the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and the Salt Spring Public Library.

Launching Friday, Jan. 20, StoryWalk is a monthly program aimed at children who are just embracing literacy, from preschool age to around Grade 2. Parents and educators can bring kids to the library every third Friday of the month for a reading and crafts event at 10 a.m., to be followed by a self-directed walk and reading adventure that leads through Mouat Park to the Rainbow Road Pool, one page of a book at a time.

The new event is part of an effort by PARC programs coordinator Kara MacKay to create more activities for children and youth on the island. She learned about StoryWalk after the CRD-managed West Shore Parks and Recreation Centre started offering the trademarked program, which was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt. and developed in cooperation with the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

"I think it's great for kids because it gets you outdoors. Sometimes going on a walk is boring for kids, so this adds something to be interested and engaged in, and might get them outside for longer," MacKay said.

Librarian Nikky McCarvill has been equally enthusiastic about embracing the partnership.

"I see it from the opposite side — for those kids who can't sit still long enough to read a book, this will allow them to get their energy out and be active and still be excited by a story," McCarvill said.



A StoryWalk panel from Scott County Library in Scott City, Kansas. The collaborative program has its Salt Spring launch on Jan. 20.

Free reading and craft activities will take place at 10 a.m. at the library on StoryWalk days. After that participants can walk through Mouat Park at their leisure anytime until dark. The walk will lead along the creekside path and then cut toward Rainbow Road to the pool.

Story pages will be available for reading from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"For families who are looking for something a little longer to do, we've arranged it to take place while the pool is open, so people can walk to the pool," MacKay said, noting the facility's hours go later on Friday evenings.

"I think it will be a really good routine for a lot of families, too," McCarvill said. "I see it as something families will want to do together. And even if they don't come to the library, anyone just walking through the park will hopefully take a look," she added.

The program will take place on a few third Fridays when school is in session. School groups are welcome to attend — McCarvill asks that teachers contact her first so she can plan a special activity.

The first story title has yet to be decided on, but the book is being borrowed through another partnership with the Early Learning for Families program at School District 64. MacKay hopes to create a shared community effort with Westshore and the Greater Victoria Public Library, which is also planning to start a StoryWalk program.

"I hope all of us can pool our resources together because I think it would be neat if all of us can share our different stories," she said.

McCarvill is meanwhile hoping to build up the local component. She has applied for a grant that would allow her to bring in island authors for library visits.

RESEARCH

# Community snapshot survey announced

March open house among consultation activities

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING FOUNDATION

Think you know Salt Spring? Ever wondered what makes this island of 10,000 very different souls tick? What it's got, and what it needs? Have you thought about the issues that most concern islanders? Are we happy? Miserable? Or are we just muddling along?

Over the coming months the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the charity that helps local charities, will endeavour to answer many of these questions through an ambitious project called Vital Signs®, an initiative that has been undertaken by many community foundations across Canada. Launched to coincide with Canada's 150th anniversary, Salt Spring's Vital Signs report will be published in October 2017 and will present a unique snapshot of the island and the people who live here.

Managed and produced professionally, but guided by

a steering committee of Salt Spring Island Foundation and other community volunteers, Vital Signs will gather data from government and local sources on significant social and economic trends in areas that are critical to the quality of life on Salt Spring. Following community consultations, which include an open house at the library on March 2 and a comprehensive survey of local citizens, the issue areas to be included will be finalized. We will be considering important areas such as health and wellness, housing, arts and culture, the environment, work and employment and others identified as relevant to our community.

Through a combination of data review and comparative analysis, Salt Spring's Vital Signs will offer valuable insights into community strengths and challenges in a comprehensive and highly readable format that will be widely available as a printed report and online.

In past years, Vital Signs has proven an extremely helpful tool for communities and their foundations across

Canada. In 2016, the Victoria Foundation published its 11th Vital Signs report, which throws a fascinating and highly accessible spotlight on the capital and its residents. Many smaller Vancouver Island communities, including Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Nanaimo, have also done Vital Signs in the past and have found the report invaluable.

Among other benefits, Salt Spring's Vital Signs will provide an opportunity to listen to the concerns of islanders, identify some of the most pressing issues in our community and provide up-to-date local information to assist all levels of government and local non-profit organizations in strategic planning and funding. The foundation will contribute to the cost of producing the report, but is also seeking sponsorship from all levels of government, local and regional businesses and individual supporters.

Foundation chair Kees Ruurs says, "This such an exciting venture for Salt Spring. We all think we know our island, but Vital Signs will

provide a wonderful tool for community conversation and collaboration and help the foundation and other island charities understand and plan for the many issues facing us in the coming years."

For more information, visit the foundation website, ssi-foundation.ca, or call 250-537-8305.

### What is Vital Signs?

Started by Toronto Foundation in 2001, Vital Signs has since engaged more than 85 communities in Canada and around the world to mobilize the power of community knowledge for greater local impact.

Vital Signs reports use community knowledge to measure the vitality of communities and to tell the story of how Canadian communities are faring in key quality-of-life areas.

Vital Signs reports are launched the first week of October each year. Current and past publications for other Canadian communities may be viewed at communityfoundations.ca/vitalsigns/reports/.



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## WALKING

# New water regulations will ding non-domestic users

Jan. 18 workshop examines impacts

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Jan. 18 workshop organized ahead of new provincial water requirements will offer farmers and commercial or industrial users a better idea of how they'll be affected by fees associated with B.C.'s Water Sustainability Act.

"The new legislation

requires that all non-domestic wells be licensed and pay rental rates for the use of groundwater by 2019," said Shannon Cowan, coordinator of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority.

Non-domestic wells supply water for purposes such as farming, food production, irrigation of areas larger than a quarter acre and other commercial uses.

"The small-scale, direct-to-consumer farms in the Gulf

Islands are not exempt from these new groundwater protection regulations and will have to obtain water licences and pay annual rents to the government for any non-domestic wells if they are used for food production," Cowan said.

The Jan. 18 workshop in the Farmers' Institute upstairs meeting room will also outline what's in store for people who have a well or plan to dig one for commercial uses on

their property, including bed and breakfasts, Airbnb units, hotels and other home-based businesses.

The 1 to 4 p.m. workshop will help property owners determine how much they will be required to pay, what information to include in their application and how to take advantage of a temporary free licensing period. Changes come into effect in February.

The event is being orga-

nized by SSIWPA in conjunction with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance to coincide with ongoing implementation of the Water Sustainability Act, which is intended to better manage freshwater sources across the province. The act officially came into effect on Feb. 29, 2016 after seven years of discussions held throughout B.C.

"This workshop is most applicable to the farming

community and commercial/industrial groundwater licences," Cowan said.

She encouraged people who have surface water licences or who rely on surface water for any commercial operation to attend and ask ministry staff in attendance about the stewardship of freshwater resources.

For further details about the Water Sustainability Act or next week's event, contact Cowan at 250-653-4867.

SALT  
SPRING

## FOCUS ON SENIORS

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# January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Friends, families and members of the Salt Spring community all experience the personal and social impact of dementia. It's not just their disease. It's ours too.

That's why the Alzheimer Society of B.C. is asking residents to be #InItForAlz and show support for people affected by the disease on the island.

"It's about making dementia not just someone else's problem but everyone's concern. Dementia should be a cause that we can all rally

around because we embrace people living with the disease," says Gabriela Townsend, support and education coordinator, first link for the society's Greater Victoria Resource Centre.

"Alzheimer's disease and other dementias affect thousands of families in British Columbia," says Health Minister Terry Lake. "Alzheimer's Awareness Month is an opportunity to learn more about how we can support people in our community who are living with the disease."

### QUICK FACTS

- Dementia doesn't define a person. They're still the same individual as they were before their diagnosis.
- People with dementia can continue the things they love and remain active in their communities with the right help and support.
- Alzheimer Societies across Canada provide programs and support services to help people with all forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, and their caregivers to live as well as possible.
- The Alzheimer Society is a leading Canadian funder of dementia research. Since 1989, it has invested over \$50 million in bio-medical and quality-of-life research through its Alzheimer Society Research Program.

 **Seniors Program**

**CHRONIC PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP:**  
**WHEN:** Starts Wednesday January 25th and runs for 6 Wednesdays, ending on March 1, 2017, 3-5:30 pm.  
**WHERE:** Senior's office, 129 Hereford Ave.  
**HOW:** to register: [www.selfmanagementbc.ca](http://www.selfmanagementbc.ca). For more information or support call the office.

**Call Seniors' Wellness about up-coming support groups**

- Parkinson's Peer Support, registration open for February
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**FREE RIDE:** Enjoying a ride in the latest Tesla Model X courtesy of Stephen P. Roberts (behind) are, from left, William McDermott, winner of a fall fair draw to win the ride in the electric car, along with his friends Lucas Updegrove and Sam Barrett. Roberts is the local Liberal candidate in the 2017 B.C. election.

**EDUCATION**

# CFUW offers bursary

Generous aid available for local women

The Salt Spring branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women is again offering a \$3,000 bursary for 2017 to a Gulf Islands woman committed to upgrading her education, whether at a community college, a trades institute, a university or a certified online study program.

This Second Chance Bursary is open to a female resident of Salt Spring, Galiano, the Penders, Mayne or Saturna who has been out of high school for at least one year and is in need of financial assistance to continue her education. Preference will be given to applicants who are mothers with dependent children.

An application form with criteria is available on and can be printed from the CFUW website at [www.cfuwss.ca](http://www.cfuwss.ca). The application deadline is March 31.

“Empowering young women to continue their education is an important goal of the Canadian Federation of University Women,” explains a press release. “In addition to the Second Chance Bursary, the Salt Spring CFUW also provides a \$1,000 bursary each year to a woman student graduating from GISS. As well, through fundraising for their HOPE project, the local CFUW has supported many young women in various Commonwealth countries who are struggling to continue their education.”

The Salt Spring chapter of CFUW is affiliated with the national CFUW and meets on the last Saturday of each month at the Harbour House. New members are welcomed. The local chapter will have a display table at the Salt Spring Film Festival (March 4-6) with Second Chance Bursary information available there.

For more information, phone 250-931-6830.



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**IDEAS**

# Science and poetry: why the big fuss?

*Editor's note: The following is the first part of a single essay by Connections columnist Bob Weeden. The second part will be published next week.*



**Bob Weeden**

## CONNECTIONS

Long ago, and almost on another planet, poets who were philosophers invented science. Today, poetry and the youngster are barely within screaming distance. Here's science in one corner, seeing the world as nothing but ongoing clashes of matter and energy without start, finish, designer or purpose. Far away, poetry insists there is something more, an aura around every form, motion and transaction. Science, says poetics, is a cold and barren calculus robbing everything of meaning. Poetry, science scoffs, is a trip to La-La Land.

Nothing but . . . ? Or something more?

Science and poetics one day may shake hands. They are abstractions, pure as only abstractions can be. Only people can make them real, and folks are vastly more complex and contradictory than the abstractions they dream up.

There are scientists who write poems, and poets who do science. Whether one person can be good at several things isn't at issue. The impulses and the potentials are there. Here's poet Mary Oliver's affectionate description of a young carpenter who built her a small house. He can build almost anything, she notes, and works in so serene and assured a manner that he is a joy to watch. What he likes best, though, is a quiet hour to write the poems that itch his insides.

“Truly he is not very good at the puzzle of words,” says Oliver, “. . . but this in no way lessens his pleasure.”

Her book called *Upstream* inspired me to scribble some notions I've strayed onto during 60 years as a sometime practitioner and continuing reader of science, and as a stubbornly amateurish poet. Scientists and poets share a lot more than most of us think. And, yes, there are tangled knots of disagreement.

**Scientists measure things, using the universal language of numbers. Poets use metaphors.**

The biggest contrast is that old bug-a-boo, objectivity. Objectivity is the object of science, while subjectivity is the subject of poetry. One strives to be a clever robot; the other comes naked into the world, takes part in it, feels it and represents that intimate experience in clear, evocative words.

The two are very different in the means they use to describe the world. Scientists measure things, using the universal language of numbers.

Poets use metaphors. Mathematics enhances objectivity. The poet's experience, however, is personal and unique. Described literally, it could bore and bewilder readers. Good metaphors convert long-winded particulars to pithy comparisons that all who share a culture will recognize.

Reporting on winter walks, Oliver writes, “And I search the deeper woods . . . in the silent blue afternoons, when the sand is still frozen and the snow falls slowly and aimlessly, and the whole world smells like water in an iron cup.”

“Like water in an iron cup.” Everyday. Crystalline. Perfect.

If a scientist were to describe that congealed morning, she might give us a recipe for the chemicals producing that odour at ambient temperatures and humidity, with an appendix listing experiments with an adequate variety and statistically significant number of sniffers. The event is too trivial for science, of course. Science isn't much interested in the successive instants of surprise, boredom, ease, exhilaration, fear, adventure, discovery and self-awareness that mark the hours in memory. Still, everyone — even scientists — yearn to make some experiences last, and metaphors can do the trick. Science frowns on metaphors, but scientists use them with scarcely a blush.

A third difference is that poets have to stay in the scale of things we all can experience. Poets can walk a shoreline, hold dying hands or shout at political rallies. They cannot smell a bison, walk the Milky Way, or love a dodo (except, alas, metaphorically). The poet's space is

the human commons. The scientist isn't so limited.

Scientists and poets both have a fierce attentiveness, the ability to shut non-essentials away. It's a rare kind of concentration in these days of quick and shallow. Mary Oliver advises writers to lock study doors, letting no one in, even the everyday self with its grocery lists and dental appointments. That kind of attentiveness, she writes, “is the beginning of devotion.” Scientists would substitute the word “understanding.”

Scientists and poets both love mysteries, though what they do then is different. The scientist works to convert the unknown to the known, replacing mystery first with marvel (fresh knowledge of the world always is marvellous), then, when familiarity takes the shine off, with a mechanistic “thing.” Poets see mysteries, marvels and things all as gifts of grace, each with an aura of something more. Wise poets don't mind when scientists unwrap a puzzle; good science always finds new puzzles to replace the old. The unknown, to both, is where the joy lies.

All humans have creative imaginations, but I think many scientists and poets have more than usual, or exercise them harder. You might raise an eyebrow at the notion that objective science needs a healthy imagination, but reason is useless without it as a partner. There's a story, related in different versions and possibly just a story, about a prominent mathematician who, on being told that a grad student had defected to poetry, said, “Good. He didn't have enough imagination to be a mathematician!”

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM



**MITCHELL DEAN HOWARD**

November 21, 1960 - January 6, 2017

Mitchell Dean Howard arrived into this world on November 21, 1960 with a smile on his face and music in his heart. His loving, precious soul touched everyone in ways that will leave a tender mark in our hearts forever. His smile melted hearts and brightened a room. Mitch gifted us with his presence, his essence, his intellect, his humour, his goofiness, his ability to create community and his love.

Mitch was born in Edmonton, Alberta to Calvin and Lauretta Howard. Music was in his DNA and it was his calling to live a life rich with singing, playing music and performing. In his early childhood days, the living room was his stage. With his siblings and cousins, they created and performed many grand productions that included singing, dancing and acting out many voices for a receptive audience of 2 (his parents). His uncanny ability to mimic any voice, any dialect made for gut-wrenching laughter. Experiencing Mitch and his son Cole's "schticks" with a plethora of impersonations was beyond compare.

Mitch's performing and musical talents continued well into his teen years. At age 12, he starred as "Kurt" in a community production of "The Sound of Music". Then at age 16, played "Pharoah" in the church production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". Mastery of music continued with playing the trumpet and beginning a fine appreciation of a broad range of music of all genres and time periods from Bach to Queen, Mahler to Miles Davis. Mitch advanced his love of music at U of A, with a degree in Music and Education, with Distinction, of course. He honed his trumpet skills in NYC studying at the Manhattan School of Music. He later pursued more formal education continued at University of Victoria where he earned a Masters of Education in 2005 focusing on community music making. While his formal education was impressive and an IQ of 148, it was his informal learning, self-directed learning and thirst for more knowledge that defined Mitchell's intellect and philosophies. He was a true renaissance man knowing something about everything. He was a wicked Scrabble player and mastered the 'art of the real estate'. Few people could beat Mitch at Scrabble...his oldest daughter Brett was his fiercest competitor.

Mitch's winning smile, joie de vivre, love of performing, gift of singing and his easy natural rapport with children landed him his first job teaching Gr. 3 and Music at Collingwood in Edmonton and a choir director position at St. Augustine's Anglican Church. He honed his teaching skills and grounded his teaching philosophy largely influenced by him mom Lauretta and other exceptional mentors. This would build his foundation for his exceptional legacy on Salt Spring Island.

On a family trip to the Gulf Islands (age 12), Mitch turned to his mom and said, "I'm going to live there one day". This pursuit of a dream and 'changing it up big', has been gifted to his youngest daughter Kate as she pursues her own draw to an island and the ocean. Mitch fell in love with SSI on a visit in 1995. He knelt down and picked up beach stones in his hands and declared, "now I am home". Shortly thereafter he accepted a music teacher and principal position at the Salt Spring Centre School (SSCS). His first marriage ended and his three children, Brett, Cole and Kate moved back to Edmonton while Mitch continued the contract at SSCS. The lure of the coast, the mild weather, music and island life was all that Mitch needed to settle into life on SSI. After SSCS, Mitch was hired with SD64 and enjoyed various teaching positions including dance, woodworking, music at the elementary and middle school levels and adult education. He capitalized on his island hopping teaching positions by creating the "Band on the Boat" initiative. He also accepted a position as the Youth Director for the Anglican Church. Mitchell was influential in the music education system in BC, acting as the president of BC Music Educators Association, followed by acting as editor of the BCMEA magazine and columnist for Canadian Music Educator.

Shortly after settling on SSI, he joined a choir called "Tuned Air". He met the love of his life a year later while singing in the choir. Jennifer was a single mom with four children: Pippa, Simon, Daniel and Robyn. Jen was also a music enthusiast and had an equally infectious laugh and smile. They married in 2000 and began a lifetime of love, laughter and magical moments. Mitch embraced, loved and nurtured Jen's four children as if they were his own. He largely influenced and encouraged the innate musicality of Simon, Daniel and Robyn and admired Pippa for her wisdom and work ethic.

Mitch and Jennifer enjoyed several years of making music of many kinds. Together they founded the Children's Honour Choir, and were a dynamic duo with Salt Spring Singers as conductor and accompanist. Their playful bantering made music and magic. There was always a sense of oneness, joy and wonder at his concerts. He built community everywhere he went.

Mitch and Jen were true soul mates, best friends, loved deeply and helped each other shine and grow. They settled into their home on Woodland Drive and began to create a home filled with love, music and a lot of wood! Mitch embarked on a monumental undertaking by renovating their home. His love of woodworking began with the kitchen renovations and continued throughout his house. He constructed the cabinetry and prided himself on each and every detail. He branched into making exquisite fine furniture, each a unique creation. He was passionate about wood and what he could create with it. His weekend gig at Windsor plywood brought him closer to woodworking and home renovations as well as many wonderful friendships. One step into Mitch and Jen's house and it is evident that Mitch's essence in in every grain of wood.

Mitch was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in April, 2008. His attitude towards this disease was always to 'be at one with it'. He embodied acceptance and alignment over anger and hatred towards cancer. In fine Mitch form, he ensured he was well versed in all the treatments, protocols, and stats to be empowered and knowledgeable to have honest and real conversations with his care team. Beyond his knowledge though, it was Mitch's relationships with his doctors and nurses that made him an exceptional patient. All throughout his illness even in his weakest and scariest moments, he always managed a smile, a song, a performance, a dance, a joke or a laugh. This undoubtedly afforded him a few extra years to beat the odds so he could experience life in ways that may not have been possible. Together with his brothers Owen and Trev, they experienced the beauty and architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin with a bit of scotch tasting thrown in. He was able to dip his toes in the icy Atlantic waters with him mom on a glorious trip to Newfoundland. He was able to complete his gifts to every sibling and manage to build the piece de resistance for Jodi. He crafted a shared vision with Dori to renovate a SSI property that embodies every ounce of his presence and the calmness and serenity of his soul. He was able to take road trips with his kids and the entire blended family while singing racy tunes at the top of their lungs. He lived to see the birth of his two granddaughters, Freya and Rowen. And finally, he was able to spend many more tender loving moments with Jen. Mitch left an imprint in everyone's heart and soul.

On January 6, 2017, Mitch passed away beautifully, peacefully and comfortably with Jen, Dori and his mom by his side holding his hands, while his own carefully designed playlist of music flowed through the room. Mitch was always about the music and he is now where all music originates. He left this world with a peaceful glow and we smile on his face.

The family wishes to thank the BC Cancer Agency for many years of exceptional and professional care. The family has deep gratitude for the entire staff of Lady Minto Hospital, especially his physician and friend Magda Leon, his friend and nurse Isy and many more who laughed, cared and loved Mitch as their own.

The family is collecting stories of Mitch. Please feel free to submit a short, succinct paragraph to share your fondest experience of Mitch. Submit to: [www.haywardsfuneral.com](http://www.haywardsfuneral.com)

A Celebration of Life is taking place on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Salt Spring Middle School, 120 Rainbow Road, SSI. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, Mitch requested that donations be made to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation where he received compassionate, loving, exceptional care over the past 8 years and in his final days in the sweet suite!



**PAUL RUSSELL CROUCH**

April 6 1932 - Dec 31 2016

Paul peacefully passed away after a long battle with Parkinsons Disease and Dementia.

Paul is survived by his wife Karen, brothers Ralph (Carol), Barry (Judith). Predeceased by his parents Lillian and Russell, brother Bryan (Margaret) and sister Mary Lynn.

Uncle Paul will be lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews, David, Darren, Tula, Michele, Lisa, Marnie, Robin.

Paul was a Renaissance man. He was a truly gifted artist in sculpture, painting, printmaking, as well as being a professional corporate photographer and graphic designer. He also had great skill in classic Jaguar restoration.

Paul loved kayaking, swimming, pond landscape gardening, classical guitar, antiques, folk art, socializing with family and friends. Paul was a gentle, kind, and thoughtful man with a great sense of humour.

Paul and Karen came west from Toronto for a BC holiday in 1988. They fell in love with Salt Spring and purchased a home on that trip. Good friends and neighbours followed their lead and also ended up on this great island.

Karen is extremely grateful to her Greenwood family for the care and compassion shown to her and Paul. This will never be forgotten. Thank you to Dr. Barclay and Salt Spring Hospice.

Donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Greenwood's Eldercare Society.

*Celebration of Life*  
for  
**PAM JACKSON**  
*Mother - Daughter - Friend*



**Saturday, January 14th**  
Starting at 10am  
Fulford Hall

You're welcome to join us for some informal story telling, a few laughs and tears then some refreshments and delicious food.  
*"There will be gluten"*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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Wed and Thurs  
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Suite 204, Upper Ganges Centre  
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**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY**

Wednesday  
18th January, 2017  
at 7.00 pm.  
Public welcome.

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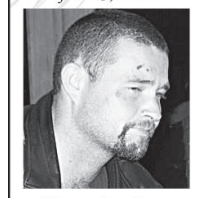
**LOST - Ladies Wedding Ring.** Dec. 31st. Gold and Silver with Diamond Chips. Reward offered - Call Lori: 250 538-7964

**LOST - PRESCRIPTION** Sun-glasses in Black Case, Jan 4th Please call: 778 533-2556

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

**EAMON LIN MACQUEEN**  
April 18, 1980 -  
Jan. 13, 2016



*Those who glimpse eternity are damned with the blessing of knowledge and the cracks and fissures between. What answer does not lead to another question?*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

**Volunteering is a Work of Heart**  
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[www.vcrsaltspring.org](http://www.vcrsaltspring.org)  
or call 250 931 0039

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

**Salt Spring Hospice**  
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250-537-2770  
[saltspringhospice.org](http://saltspringhospice.org)

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

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**EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION**

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**TIP OF THE WEEK**

2017 is underway and has begun to build momentum. Mercury completed its retrograde cycle on January 8th and re-entered Capricorn on the 12th. Neptune conjunct Venus, Mars conjunct Chiron and the Lunar South Node all in Pisces, suggests that some of the inertia and laundry of yesteryear must still be addressed, and now it will be. The march of realistic thinking and attitudes is getting progressively louder. Sun and Pluto in Capricorn sharing the apex point of an opposition aspect between Jupiter in Libra and Uranus in Aries represents the tone of powerful leaders in a serious mood to take deliberate action.

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19):**  
A balancing act between pursuing your dreams, realizing your goals and attending to your responsibilities, continues. Digging deep to address things reveals a process of cleaning, healing, and repairs. Meanwhile, your heart sings to a beat of rhythms and blues.

**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20):**  
You are in a philosophical mood and it centers on practical realities. This includes finances and their healthy flow, or lack thereof, especially associated with significant others. Dreams are sweet but they come with a bitter twist. It may be time for a new round of talks.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):**  
Who has the power and how are they exercising it? Thoughts and reflections producing new answers yet more questions float to the surface from emotional depths. Meaningful communications activate new associations that are the highlight of this drama.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):**  
Power talks yet it must learn to listen and observe as well. Deciphering what is just and fair is featured. Everyone involved is responsible for their part. Black and white notions of victims and perpetrators are an illusion of shallow thinking. Everyone is an expression of light yet casts a shadow too.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):**  
Paying closer attention to the details as the year begins is a good sign. Although a 'hurry up and wait' factor is at play, you can focus on steady, progress. Managing your time well so you can tend to a variety of fronts is ideal. This theme will continue all year so start now.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22):**  
In mind and hopefully in deeds, you are actively engaged, taking new leads. Confronting fears should by now feel like the norm. Yet this year is extra important in this regard. Persevere to push through by exercising your executive. It is characterized as decisive action.

**Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22):**  
Whether cleaning or actually creating, your office space at home is in focus. If it is not an actual place, it may just be your head space; whatever supports you to take charge. Both education and household administration are featured. Time to get organized!

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):**  
Your mind is sober and your focus sharp. Circumstances are commanding your full attention. You may have to pay your dues and your debts too. These may not amount to money but you feel the pinch anyway. Reaching deep into your reserves of faith may even find you whispering prayers.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):**  
Focus. It may not be quite your mantra, but it could be. Even if it is not specifically accounting, you still need to decipher amounts. How much needs to go here and how much there? Striking the balance, you can get a lot done and still find time for friends.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):**  
How far will you go? While distances may be featured, depth is the other word. Driving hard and diving deep can prove complementary. In your ideal you want to achieve both, or does it seem like you are dreaming? Then again, Columbus, Edison, and Einstein were dreamers too.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):**  
Hibernation, please. Whether it is the crazy cold or the maddening crowd, you yearn to get away. Yet, you are not in a position to simply sleep. You need to take the time to devise a plan. Seeing your bigger picture will help to inspire creative thinking free from wishful wands.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):**  
Making friends with discipline is a good bet now. You will need the support of this alliance for many months to come. Already returns are rolling in for efforts made before. But are they enough to inspire full confidence? Roll it over and reinvest; that is how the financial wizards win.

**salt spring island FOUNDATION**  
Connecting your giving with island needs

**The Salt Spring Island Foundation is seeking applications for an Administrative Assistant.**

This position is part-time (14 hours/week) and will commence in February. Ideal candidates will demonstrate education and /or experience in office administration and database management, preferably with non-profit experience.

Please send a cover letter and resume by email to [kisae@ssifoundation.ca](mailto:kisae@ssifoundation.ca) by January 20th.

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# sports&recreation

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

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



## SKIING

# Mountain shuttle bus serves island powder hounds

Ski bus service begins Jan. 13

BY SEAN MCINTYRE  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders who want to hit the slopes and shed the cost of reaching the hill will be stoked to hear about a new transportation option between Salt Spring and the Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

Beginning as soon as Friday, Jan. 13, a 20-passenger school bus will whisk skiers to Vancouver Island's snowy heights from the Crofton ferry terminal.

Ski bus coordinator Kim Hanson decided to launch the service for local youth to recreate an experience similar to

the one she had as a teenager. "When I was in high school, we always had a bus going up skiing for high school kids on the weekend," she said. "It was a great social and physical outlet and it freed up the parents from driving all the time."

As she spoke with other island residents about the plan, it was agreed the ski bus should also be made available to adults who want to avoid the long drive to and from Mount Washington for a day of skiing.

"They might enjoy not having to drive," Hanson said.

Adults and students in grades 10, 11 and 12 can travel by themselves, but younger kids must be accompanied by an adult. Passengers will

need to catch the 7:05 a.m. ferry out of Vesuvius Bay to make the connection.

Hanson said there have been several inquiries and many new likes on the Salt Spring Ski Bus Facebook page. As of the weekend, however, there had yet to be any sign-ups for this week's inaugural trip.

"We need a minimum of 15 people for the bus company to make the trip," she said. "If we don't have that by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, then I will have to cancel the trip for that week. We will offer it every Friday until it catches on or folds."

Hanson said the ski shuttle is not being operated as a business, just an offering for the community to enjoy

what's proving to be an epic season in Vancouver Island's snow country.

"It's a great winter this year, so it's a chance to get up there and enjoy the snow," she added.

Tickets for the bus are \$35 per seat, regardless of a passenger's age. Kids can ride the ferry for free as the trip is considered transport to and from a sporting event. Skiers will depart the mountain at about 3:30, and the return bus journey will try to connect with the 5:55 p.m. ferry bound for Salt Spring.

For more information or to sign up for the next trip, contact Hanson at [saltspringski-bus@gmail.com](mailto:saltspringski-bus@gmail.com) or visit the Salt Spring Ski Bus Facebook page.



PHOTO COURTESY TOURISM VICTORIA.COM

A family of skiers prepares to hit the slopes at Mount Washington Alpine Resort.

## COMING SOON

### The GULF ISLANDS CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY

will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.



If you are building, renovating or repairing, this guide is essential in helping you find professional contractors and suppliers to help you get the job done right. Call 250.537.9933 for more details.

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## SOCCER

# United soccer club activities heat up



Malcolm Legg

## SOCCER ROUND-UP

The year 2017 has arrived for your soccer club, Salt Spring United, and we continue to move forward with our program, but also have many new exciting things to present to the youth of Salt Spring.

No, Lionel Messi is not coming to coach teams on Salt Spring — we have to squash these ugly rumours quickly — yet! But this is what is happening in the exciting world of Salt Spring United soccer:

### Travelling Teams

- League play begins Jan. 14.
- LISA Cup continues on Jan.

### RUNNING

# Sneakers bound into 2018 racing season

Team places sixth

The Salt Spring Sneakers are off to a strong start in the annual Vancouver Island Race Series, finishing sixth among more than 40 teams.

The squad missed out on a top-five performance by a mere four points and out-ranked much larger teams in points earned per runner, said

21-22 (finals in late February).  
• District Cup starts Feb. 25-26 with finals April 8-9.

### House Program

- Program begins Feb. 4-5 in the GISS gymnasium (times posted on website).
- Program tentatively goes outdoors on Mar. 4-5 at Portlock.
- Program wraps up April 29 at Portlock.

### Coaching Clinic

- One-day event on Saturday, Jan. 29 at GISS gymnasium for adults or youths who want to get their coaching certification. Details are on the website.

### Academy Program

- Academy restarts on Feb. 3 and this successful training program runs for eight weeks.
- Program will have guest coaches this session with the

LISA technical director being one who will run one Friday session.

- \$150 is still the registration fee, so get registered now (details on website).
- Academy teams plan exhibition games against other academies.

### Spring League

Our technical director and executive are working on providing a spring league this season. Details will be coming about exact dates (may run April to May) and size of teams (five or seven a side). There will be a fee, TBA, and we have to determine where we will play.

The main concept around this league will be fun and the last day will see a wrap-up event.

### Referees Course

Anyone, adult or youth, interested in taking an entry-

level refs course, please contact me at [mallegg@shaw.ca](mailto:mallegg@shaw.ca).

Course will include one-day instruction on laws of the game, outdoor flagging clinic, uniform, flags, whistle, etc, rules for small-sided soccer and a follow-up assessment doing a game. More details will be posted online.

### Stay tuned

As you can see, there is lots going on in the next few months. Certainly lots to keep any young soccer player busy. And there will be more to come as we are expanding our clothing line, working towards a turf field and looking to do a special event on Canada's 150th birthday and the possibility of doing a soccer camp using players from Canada's national program.

For more details, please go to our website, [www.saltspringsoccer.com](http://www.saltspringsoccer.com), or contact me at [mallegg@shaw.ca](mailto:mallegg@shaw.ca).

Sneakers spokesperson Eric Ellis.

"Nine of 11 Sneakers finished in the top 10 in their age groups," he said.

Sunday's Pioneer Harriers eight-kilometre race at the Saanich Fairgrounds attracted the usual race series participants as well as nationally ranked Olympic-qualified competitors who were participating in the con-

current Provincial Super Run Series. Nearly 500 runners took the chilly winter run challenge.

Leading the way for Salt Spring were Susan Gordon and Lise Fraser, who placed first in their respective age categories. Marcia Jansen, who placed fourth in her age group, finished 90 seconds ahead of her time at last year's event. Jill Thompson finished sixth in her

age class and achieved a personal best. Eric van Soeren was third among 14 in his age group, and Janice Dickie placed fourth among 23 racers in her group. Eric Ellis ranked fifth of 13 in his age category. Marion Young was fifth of 21 in her age group. Greg Taylor finished 14th out of 22 in his new age group, and Julie van Soeren finished 10th out of 18 in her age group.