



Painters step out

Summer show opens Saturday
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Helping paws

Island girl volunteers
at evacuated pet centre
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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 30 \$1.25 (incl. GST)

WATER SUPPLY Cedar Lane well takes big drop

Water commissioners fear new resort stressing aquifer

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of the Cedar Lane Water Service Commission are alarmed to learn the water level at one of their two main supply wells has dropped drastically, despite plentiful rainfall this spring.

Volunteer commissioners are questioning whether the opening of operations at a nearby resort is to blame. Hydrological reports have shown The Cottages on Bullock Lake is on the same aquifer as Cedar Lane, and the two properties' wells are directly connected.

"A few weeks ago, the Driftwood published an article on behalf of the Cedar Lane Water Service Commission in which we identified the vulnerability of our water supply and the potential impact of water use by The Cottages resort which opened for public rentals the beginning of June," a letter to the Driftwood from Ralph Dom, Jane Squier and Troy Newton states.

"It now appears that the wolf is at our door."

The Capital Regional District, which oversees the water service for 37 households, confirmed well #1 is approximately eight metres lower than at the same time last year and approximately five metres lower than the historical five-year average for the first quarter of July. The community is now under an extreme water conserving alert and will have to truck in water if these measures fail.

CEDAR LANE continued on 2



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

CAUTION REQUIRED: Isabella Point Road resident Lisa Dahling asks, "What's happening?" with repairs to the roadside that washed away last winter. See page 3 for an update.

FIRE Teamwork douses Ruckle fire

Fire crews stop brush fire before it gets big

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A brush fire near Yeo Point was quickly extinguished on Monday afternoon with the combined effort of crews from three emergency services.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, the province's Wildfire Management Branch and the Canadian Coast Guard were all involved in fighting a fire reported just before noon on Monday.

The 200-square-foot fire located in Ruckle Park consisted of smouldering vegetation with short bursts of flames, said SSIFR Chief Arjuna George. Because the blaze was located in a provincial park, the Wildfire Management Branch took command of the incident. They supplied one helicopter and an initial attack crew, George said.

When the SSIFR crews arrived, their vehicles could not make it to the fire location, so they had to go in by foot.

"As we knew the location was going to be difficult to access we notified the Canadian Coast Guard to assist us," George said.

The coast guard helped by pumping seawater to SSIFR members on shore.

"It was a perfect example of three agencies from three different government levels working very well together."

FIRE continued on 5

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Residents concerned more units could be approved

CEDAR LANE

continued from 1

The commission has experienced water supply issues in the past and as a result keeps residents on a strict conservation regimen that's harder to get around now that Salt Spring has no public laundromat.

Residents have been asked to reduce their laundry loads, for example, something that's harder to get around now that Salt Spring has no public laundromat.

"It can get pretty severe around here. We try to make it so we don't have to truck water, because that can get pretty expensive," Squier said.

The Mount Belcher Improvement District also relies on groundwater to serve its clients. Chair Paul McElroy said Tuesday the district had just instigated level-two drought restrictions this week — something it normally does as a matter of course on July 1.

"This year water levels were high so we didn't need to, but we had a really wet winter," McElroy said.

Water supply formed a major hurdle in The Cottages troubled history,

and was one of the factors leading to a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee July 2014 decision against Platform Properties' rezoning application. Groundwater monitoring was one of the amenities that Platform proposed to secure the rezoning, which would have allowed the development to comply with the land use bylaw rather than being "legal non-conforming."

"An important decision like that should have involved some sort of democratic community process."

ROLLIE COOK
Friends of Bullock Lake

A hydrology report commissioned by Platform Properties and completed by Waterline Resources Inc. in 2014 found sufficient flow during well pump tests and also predicted less-than-average water use at the resort due to efficient appliances. However, consultants recommended a draw-down of no more than 16.1 metres cubed per day to avoid stressing the aquifer and impacting

a well at 346 Robinson Rd., which was shown to be connected.

A review of the original report commissioned by the Friends of Bullock Lake criticized Waterline for conducting pump tests in the fall and winter and for basing its water-use figures on the Cedar Lane district's conservative practice. Information from the service's 2015 annual report shows the district consumes the least water per resident of any CRD water service on Salt Spring except Cedars of Tuam in the south end.

Waterline completed a supplementary report later in 2014 to specifically address concerns from the Cedar Lane Water Service Commission, since it was not included in the original impact assessment. According to consultant Darren David, pump tests suggested the resort wells and Cedar Lane wells were in fact in "direct hydraulic communication," but impact could be managed through proper monitoring and mitigation planning.

"In the absence of groundwater monitoring, impacts to groundwater systems will only be realized when problems arise and aquifer dewatering has occurred," the conclusion states in part.

Platform spokesperson Andrew Sinclair would not share the occu-

pancy rate at the resort since its opening, but confirmed water usage is under the level recommended in the Waterline report.

"We understand and appreciate the importance of water conservation on Salt Spring, and are promoting it through materials distributed in our welcome packages, on our website and in all the cottages on the property. We are also monitoring water levels and usage to ensure we're being both responsible and informed if issues were to arise," Sinclair said in an email to the Driftwood.

Another potential impact on Cedar Lane's water supply this year is the fact that residents renting a home filled up an above-ground pool, not realizing that's against the rules. Squier does not feel that could account for the huge well level drop, though. She keeps several pools on her property for rainwater collection and is familiar with the volume.

Water quality data suggests the aquifer is stressed in general, as Squier pointed out. Testing over the past couple of years has shown elevated iron and manganese levels, which can be an indicator.

Rollie Cook, a neighbour and founding member of the Friends of Bullock Lake group, believes water use at the new resort is the issue

and the Capital Regional District is to blame for issuing the building permits necessary to finish off the 50 existing units. In announcing the CRD's intention to issue occupancy permits in December 2014, Salt Spring CRD director Wayne McIntyre said Platform Properties would be encouraged to implement expanded water conservation measures.

Cook observed the decision to approve such permits happens behind closed doors, and he believes there is a potential conflict of interest since the CRD both manages the Cedar Lane water system and building inspection services.

"An important decision like that should have involved some sort of democratic community process. Wayne McIntyre and the CRD should have asked what the impact on the community would be," Cook said.

Information Cook has received is that 25 of the resort's 50 units have been in use so far. The draw on water could theoretically double under what's currently in place, and he worries about what would happen if Platform reactivates construction plans for an additional 73 units and lodge.

"We have no assurance the CRD won't do the same thing again and there's no democratic platform for us to pursue," he said.

ISLANDS TRUST

Dragonfly Commons gets first bylaw push

Salt Spring Marina expansion also promoted

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is moving forward with draft bylaws necessary to rezone 221 Drake Rd., site of the proposed Dragonfly Commons affordable housing development.

The private, not-for-profit project by Fernando and Tami dos Santos aims to create up to 30 bare land strata units with a mix of for-purchase and rental units. The 10.53-acre property is currently designated "rural neighbourhoods" under the official community plan and will need to be changed to "residential neighbourhoods" to accommodate the density proposed. A zoning change will also be required.

Initial community engagement determined there was much interest in the project and few concerns from neighbours, although traffic on Drake Road and the intersection with Fulford-Ganges Road is one potential problem. The applicants have a proven ground water source

and the site has shown an ability to support on-site waste disposal.

"There are no secrets with the project because Fernando has kept us well informed from development of the concept right through to this stage, and I think it's communicated really well to the community as well," trustee George Grams commented during consideration of the application at Thursday's business meeting.

"The quality and level of the professional reports we've received, I think, answer all the concerns the community could take . . . I'm in full support of it and I'd like to see it move on apace."

Dos Santos shared news at the meeting that BC Housing has expressed interest in funding the project's full construction costs with a loan at one per cent interest, as long as zoning and permitting requirements are met and community interest in buying the units is demonstrated.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the LTC issued a development permit for redevelopment and expansion of Salt Spring Marina, after receiving a favourable recommendation from the Advisory Plan-

ning Commission.

"I'm thrilled to move it on and it will be a real benefit to the community, I think," said trustee Peter Grove.

According to a staff report, the APC registered concern that a requirement for installing a marine sewage pump-out station had not yet been met, but staff acknowledged the marina's view that installing the station before the new work was completed did not make sense.

Speaking to the committee, regional planning manager Stefan Cermak explained there are better monitoring tools in place now than in the past, and that staff would check to ensure the pump-out station is installed as promised.

In other business Thursday, the LTC approved new signage for the former Salt Spring Auto Parts store on Jackson Avenue, which is now owned by Bumper to Bumper, as well as a development variance permit that reduces the set-back from the shoreline at 359 Long Harbour Rd.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meets next on Thursday, Aug. 10.

Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on **Monday, August 7 - BC Day** and will re-open for usual business hours on **Tuesday, August 8.**

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday August 9 edition will be as follows:

Display Advertising deadline: **Thursday, August 3, 12 noon**

Classified Display Deadline: **Friday, August 4, 2pm**

Classified Word Deadline: **Tuesday, August 8, 9am**



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Invasive Plant Presentation

Wednesday, AUGUST 2, 7 p.m.
Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

BC WILDFIRES

Island girl joins pet shelter volunteers in Kamloops

Rachel Hannah to help care for evacuated animals

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The horrific wildfire crisis in British Columbia's Interior has inspired many more fortunate people to help out where they can. This week that includes a 12-year-old girl from Salt Spring, who is joining a team of volunteers caring for the hundreds of pets that have been separated from their owners due to the fires.

Rachel Hannah has many pets at home and a history of volunteerism under her young belt, so when her dad Peter Hannah heard the Four Paws Food Bank needed help running a shelter for evacuated pets in Kamloops, he didn't hesitate to ask if she'd like to go.

"I'm going to volunteer for two reasons," Rachel said. "One is because I really love animals. Two, I've been through fire before when our studio burned down. I want to give back, and I don't want [the evacuees] to lose anything more."

"She's a very independent girl. She's only 12, but she's very mature. When I offered it to her, I couldn't pull her off the ceiling," Hannah said.

Four Paws Food Bank is a Kamloops organization founded by Bonnie McBride in August 2016 to help families in crisis feed and keep their pets. They have stepped up to coordinate an amazing effort for the beings that couldn't be accommodated under emergency plans.

"Until this happened we had eight volunteers and \$70 in the bank," McBride told the Driftwood. "So we went from teeny-tiny to very large in just a day."

Four Paws volunteers started by meeting families at Emergency Social Services centres and caring for evacuees' pets while they registered for services, as well as offering food, litter

and other supplies.

Around 400 pets passed through their hands during the first few days as people came in from the Ashcroft and Cache Creek area before ESS moved to the larger Sandman Centre.

"We were just in the process of setting up some services there when Williams Lake was evacuated," McBride said.

"Two hours later people started coming through and it didn't stop for 12 hours. Since then we've been running 24 hours a day."

Within that first rush, volunteers saw the number of pets double and their footprint in the park triple in size as tents, tables, crates and fans were set up for an emergency pet shelter. McBride said close to 1,000 people have probably signed up to volunteer, although a core group of 45 is on site every day. They are working closely with the Kamloops BCSPCA branch, which immediately offered up every crate and blanket it had, and has supplied valuable contacts and resources.

Some people have come from as far as Washington and Oregon to help, arriving with trailers full of much-needed supplies. Evacuees have also been very involved.

The centre is housing small animals, including a hedgehog and a chinchilla along with your standard dogs and cats. More exotic pets have been fostered in local homes, as fluctuating temperatures from eight to 35 degrees C make outdoor care challenging. Larger animals and livestock have been housed at the Kamloops Exhibition Grounds.

Rachel and her mother Elsie are expected to arrive in Kamloops today (Wednesday, July 26), where Rachel will report in for duty at 6 a.m. and then sign up for any number of three-hour shifts over the next week. Rachel will be on her own as a volunteer unless a chaperone is required.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Rachel Hannah, a 12-year-old joining wildfire relief efforts for pets this week.

"My mom said she probably wouldn't be able to do that. Humans are enough for her, because she's a counsellor," Rachel explained.

The Hannah family's pet roster currently includes three dogs that Rachel raised from puppies, 17 chickens, four ducks, one fish and one parrot, so she feels confident she can offer all the help the shelter will need, whether walking, feeding or calming the animals or cleaning out cages.

The air quality may be poor, and Rachel has

asthma, so she plans to have her puffer with her. Going into the region itself is not a worry though.

"It's not the first time I've helped in a crisis," she said.

At 10, Rachel joined her family in helping missionary friends working with an isolated Mayan community in Northern Guatemala. The women were forced to travel long distances to bring home water and were often assaulted along the way, so the group installed water catchment tanks as well as latrines. While there, Rachel did a little impromptu English teaching at the village school and helped bring a neglected puppy to health.

"I'm kind of worried I'm going to get attached to an animal and I'm not going to be able to take it home, because that happens to me a lot," Rachel said.

Rachel and her father spent Monday drumming up donations from island pet suppliers and veterinarians. The Kamloops shelter has gone through more than 1,000 large bags of dog food and as of Monday was completely out of cat food and litter.

While residents of Williams Lake are expected to be allowed home this week, the Four Paws group still needs volunteers and donations. Part of its ongoing work will be to ensure evacuees can get their pets home safely and then continue feeding them once they get there.

"We are committed to helping until every last pet is home. Then, we are committed to making sure each community has an ongoing pet food bank until these families are back on their feet," McBride said.

Cash donations will go toward veterinary bills and transportation costs for those who don't have a means to get their pets home. Electronic transfers can be made to four-pawsfoodbank@gmail.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Isabella Point road repair delayed

Mainroad South Island Contracting has advised that a bank protection project on Isabella Point Road has been postponed, and is asking people to be careful near the construction site.

"The job is on hold temporarily due to material supply issues; we will resume the project as soon as possible," David Turenne, Mainroad's bridge and project manager for the south island region, said in an email to the Driftwood last week.

"We would like to warn the public to stay away from the site until we finish the project to prevent any injuries that could occur around the site. Also, we would like to thank

the local residents for their patience during the traffic delays."

Turenne said the delay is expected to last until Aug. 14. The project will then be resumed with completion expected by Aug. 25.

Water limits in effect

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District raised

conservation regulations to level 3 on July 19.

Though the levels of St. Mary's lake water reserve are currently higher than the previous three years, the water district said the water is beginning to drop "more rapidly." NSSWD said the update is also because of absence of rain over the past 30 days and in the long-term weather forecast.

Watering plants and gar-

dens is now restricted to using hand-held containers and hoses equipped with shut-off valves on odd days, based on the street address of the property. Odd street addresses can water plants and gardens on odd-numbered days and even street addresses can use the water for their yard and gardening on even days.

Watering times are from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

to 10 p.m. and watering can only be done for a total of one hour per period, with a maximum of two hours per day.

Also, while water can be used to fill wading pools and hot tubs, it can no longer be used to fill swimming pools under the new conservation level.

For the full notice and additional information, visit www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca.

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ENVIRONMENT

Post-tsunami shoreline cleanup efforts in jeopardy

New hole in funding leaves response stranded

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Joe Stone is more about actions than words.

A self-described activist and environmentalist, he is sailing his way up the northeast coast of Vancouver Island, with only his dog Taz to keep him company, to rid remote beaches of plastic debris. His journey started on Salt Spring, where he worked in order to fund his journey.

By using himself as an example, Stone hopes to inspire others to pitch in to help.

"Nobody can say, 'I can't do anything about it.' Six months ago all I had was a chainsaw, a socket set and a camp stove," he said. "I carried [my things] to Salt Spring. I worked for six months and got this boat."

The problem is the debris he is collecting for two months this summer currently has no way of making it to a recycle plant.

Living Oceans, the non-profit organization Stone partnered with, has been relying on B.C. government funding that no longer exists. Following the Japan earthquake in 2011, that country's government gave Canada \$1 million to help clean up debris that was washed into the Pacific Ocean during the tsunami that followed the quake. The money was passed from the Canadian government to the B.C. gov-



Joe Stone and his dog Taz.

ernment and then handed to a variety of organizations to help clean up B.C.'s coast. Living Oceans received \$85,000, which it used to cover important steps in the cleanup effort.

"Funding from Japan has run out and we have not raised money to helicopter it all out," said Karen Wristen, executive director for Living Oceans.

In order to get the debris from the

remote shores to a recycle plant in Richmond, a helicopter needs to airlift the large collection bags to a nearby offshore barge. The organization can no longer afford to pay the \$14,000-per-day amount for this step.

Living Oceans and other foundations involved in the coastline cleanup told the Driftwood that although some of the several tonnes of plastics found along B.C.'s coast were from Japan, the majority were from other sources. Plastic bottles from other Asian countries, fishing nets and foam blocks litter the shorelines of remote beaches.

"A great deal of that weight turns out to be fishing line and fishnet," Wristen said.

She also said it was important to clean up debris early.

"Last year we noticed that more and more of the plastic is broken down," she said.

Crashing waves on the shore reduce the larger pieces of plastic into microplastics, which are then ingested by marine animals. The Living Oceans team bottled samples of water on remote coastlines last year and found that all of the samples contained microplastics.

Other shore cleanup operations have scaled back their expeditions as a result of the funding end-date.

"Because we don't have that tsunami debris funding this year, doing a remote cleanup wasn't really in our budget this year so we couldn't do it," said Rachel

Schoeler, manager of the Great Canadian Shore Cleanup.

The team is still cleaning easier-to-reach places, but the government funds had allowed her organization to collect a total of 10 tonnes of debris.

Last year alone, Living Oceans gathered up 10 tonnes of material. The barge shared with other organizations held 40 tonnes, said Wristen.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said that continued efforts to clean the coast through stewardship programs, engaging the public and working with other countries is important to having a plastic-free coast.

"I think that it does have to be funding in part or in whole by the federal or provincial government," Olsen said. "We exploit the ocean for our benefit. We also have to be responsible for the impact we have on it."

Olsen said that he is in favour of more help being provided to cleanup efforts. However, he did not offer any immediate solutions to the problem, so for now, Stone's hard work is destined to sit on a beach until someone can afford to retrieve it.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy did not return Driftwood calls by press time.

Stone and Living Oceans are still looking for donations and can be contacted at facebook.com/earthprotectorsalliance and livingoceans.org.

Capital Regional District



Notice of Application to Volunteer as a Scrutineer & Advance Voter Registration for Non-Resident Property Electors

Vote on Incorporation of Salt Spring Island

Public notice is hereby given that the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for Translink has directed that a vote be taken respecting the proposed incorporation of Salt Spring Island into a new municipality.

Pursuant to Ministerial Order No. M098, dated March 7, 2017, qualified electors of Salt Spring Island (including all islands within Ganges Harbour and Russell, Idol and Channel Islands and excluding Fulford Harbour Indian Reserve No. 5) as shown on a map entitled "Proposed Salt Spring Island Municipality" (Number SAL-05-05), will be asked to vote on the following question on Saturday, September 9, 2017:

"Are you in favour of the incorporation of a Salt Spring Island Municipality?"

YES _____ or NO _____

Scrutineers

Applications to act as a scrutineer for and against the question shall be received at the offices of the Capital Regional District, Legislative and Corporate Services, PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm from Monday, July 24, 2017 until Wednesday, August 2, 2017. Application forms and information on the requirements and procedures for making an application are available at the CRD by telephoning

Thomas F. Moore
Chief Election Officer
www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote

250.360.3127 or at the address noted above.

Notice of Advance Voter Registration for Non-Resident Electors Only

Advance Voter Registration closes on Thursday, August 10, 2017 for the List of Registered Non-Resident Property Electors. Please note that the Provincial Voters List will be used for Resident Electors. Application forms and information on the requirements and procedures for making an application are available at www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote.

Voter Qualifications

You may also register on voting day if you meet these qualifications: You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector or Non-Resident Property Elector if you: are 18 years or older on general voting day (September 9, 2017), are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for six months, and either:

- Have been a resident of Salt Spring Island for 30 days immediately before general voting day; (If registering as a Resident Elector on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency, one of which must have a signature); OR
- Have owned and held registered title to property on Salt Spring Island for at least 30 days before general voting day and do not qualify as a Resident Elector.

If registering as a Non-Resident Property Elector, you must provide the following information:

- A recent land title registration of the real property or a property tax notice, which will show the names of all the registered owners and
- 2 pieces of identification (one of which must have a signature) and
- In the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property.

Please Note:

- Only one Non-Resident Property Elector may vote per property regardless of the number of owners.
- No corporation is entitled to be registered as an elector or have a representative registered as an elector, and no corporation is entitled to vote.
- Individuals who are on title with corporations are not entitled to register or vote. Individuals who own an undivided interest in land on which the balance is held by a corporation are not entitled to vote.
- For questions regarding registering as a Resident Elector or a Non-Resident Property Elector, please call 250.360.3127.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2017

WILDFIRE

Musgrave owner fears fire risk

Vigilance requested to keep area safe

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The owner of an isolated property off Musgrave Road is asking for the community's help in reporting risky and illegal behaviour taking place in Salt Spring's southern mountain area.

Ian Blaney owns 160 acres near Rosemurgy Lake. Located just outside the Salt Spring Fire Protection District service area, it's a popular spot for recreational use, including ATVs and dirt bikes. While Crown land is located nearby, Blaney's property is clearly marked with No Fires and No Trespassing signs, but that hasn't stopped people from doing both.

"I love the land. I don't want anything to happen," Blaney said. "I bought it after it was logged and now it's a jewel."

Over the 15 years Blaney and his wife have been visiting the property from their home base of Shirley on Vancouver Island, they watched 22,000 tree seedlings settle in with a 90 per cent success rate. They've also seen the effects of firewood poaching and illegal camping. Last week Blaney picked up a bunch of cigarette butts and found the remains of two fresh campfires.

"A fire's going to happen up there and it's going to be tragic," Blaney said. "It's just a matter of time and the place is tinder dry."

Blaney observed that Musgrave Road is the only way in to the Musgrave Landing community aside from water access, and the only access to private properties located between there and Rosemurgy Lake. The peak of Mount Bruce houses "all kinds of communication towers" that could be destroyed, he added.

While he's come to the conclusion that the people using his property have no concern about fire risk, Blaney is asking those travelling Musgrave Road who do care to keep their eyes out and to report any suspicious activity.

"I think the only salvation is for the good people going back and forth to take notes, and if you see anything serious, call 911," Blaney said.

HEALTH CARE

International doctors move on to Duncan practice

Reasons for leaving Salt Spring office still unexplained

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two doctors who spent a short time on Salt Spring before abruptly ceasing practice have yet to share details of the situation except to say they regret it. Speaking to the Driftwood

Tuesday, Dr. Manuela Lowo said she and Dr. Hala Aljuburi have not yet determined whether they can share the details of why they stopped practising at the office of Dr. Magda Leon in June.

"I can say that it's been a very unpleasant situation. We have been wronged," Lowo said.

Since ending office hours the two doctors have been filling in shifts at Lady Minto Hospital.

The two physicians came to

Salt Spring this spring through the Practice Ready Assessment program, a partnership between the provincial government and Doctors of BC through the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues.

The program helps fast-track internationally trained doctors so they can get their B.C. licence in exchange for three years' service to a community of need.

The Driftwood has received

letters from residents containing alleged information about the situation that cannot be confirmed. Janine Gowans of the Salt Spring Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice, which worked with Island Health to bring the Practice Ready Assessment program to Salt Spring, said she could not confirm or deny any of the scenarios suggested.

Patients who wish to remain seeing either of the two doctors

can book appointments at the Cowichan Way Clinic, where they will begin practising on Tuesday, Aug. 1.

Ferry costs will be covered by the health ministry's Travel Assistance Program through the usual process.

Medical records can be accessed both by continuing patients and those who choose to seek care on Salt Spring by contacting the Cowichan Way Clinic at 1-778-422-3999.

All burning banned as extreme fire risk rating added

FIRE continued from 1

George credited the crews' success with battling the fire to watchful residents.

"A big thank you to the super-vigilant

area residents who spotted the fire early and reported it with very accurate directions," George said.

The cause of the fire is currently unknown, but George said he suspects that humans were responsible.

Command 509, the chief's vehicle 507,

mini pumper 2, engine 1 and tender 2 responded to assist.

"Monday the island reached an extreme fire hazard rating and is expected to remain at that elevated danger for a while. Extreme fire danger means that any fire that starts can grow fast," he said.

"Residents are reminded that all open fires, except for propane campfires, are restricted. This past week SSIFR crews have responded to a number of backyard burns and campfires even though we are in dangerous conditions and a full provincial ban."

ISLANDS TRUST

Cottage bylaw becomes LTC priority

STVR enforcement stance confirmed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee has revised its project list for staff, with an aim of setting achievable goals and putting a stronger focus on affordable housing in the next 15 months.

The LTC voted Thursday to accept a set of recommendations by regional planning manager Stefan Cermak, who presented a quarterly report on staff's 2017-18 work program. Cermak's advice for the coming year was to avoid projects that could not be accomplished before the next local government election in October 2018.

"Generally, elected officials like to complete things within their term," Cermak noted.

As a result of the changes, the legalization of seasonal cottages for year-round rental housing has been moved onto the LTC's top priority list, replacing a project to require rainwater catchment systems for new construction in Ganges village.

Trustee George Grams observed the LTC has several different projects related to affordable housing on its list and wondered if those couldn't be combined into an "omnibus" bylaw. The Ganges rainwater project, for example, replaced an incomplete top-priority project to allow long-term rental of secondary suites and cottages using temporary use permits in March. The committee also added an investigation of issues around short-term vacation rentals to the projects list in May.

"We have to look at how STVRs

are cannibalizing the housing market and appreciate the magnitude of that," Grams said. "And I think dealing with affordable housing, it does require a multi-pronged approach, which I don't think taking the skittles and knocking them down one by one necessarily allows for."

Cermak said adding scope to any bylaw would make things more complicated for staff and members of the public trying to understand it.

"I think if you keep the deliverable tight, if you focus on seasonal cottages or perhaps on using accessory units, we could have a discussion on that, but I think short-term vacation rentals is a whole giant kettle of fish and it will just make the engagement very challenging and time-consuming," Cermak said.

"We have to look at how STVRs are cannibalizing the housing market and appreciate the magnitude of that."

GEORGE GRAMS
Salt Spring trustee

The LTC had originally looked at affordable housing under a holistic approach but had broken it down into smaller elements to accomplish goals, he added.

Trustees voted to tackle one aspect of the problem by reconfirming a standing resolution on how bylaw enforcement officers should approach illegal vacation rentals.

"With respect to STVRs, we do have a bylaw in place, and

it's a question of enforcing that bylaw," said trustee Peter Grove.

Directions passed in 2007 state staff should act under any one or more of a set of conditions, which include STVRs being advertised on the internet, in newspapers or in other media. A further policy directs staff to concentrate "on those properties where there is no permanent resident on site."

"I think we should be enforcing it. For some reason there's an understanding with the bylaw enforcement officer he has to act based on complaints; that's not the resolution that's passed, as I understand it," Grams said, adding the LTC should endorse the concept of proactive enforcement.

Trustees reluctantly moved the rainwater project off the top priority list, but were happy that a preliminary staff report outlined a couple of different methods for tackling legislation if the LTC should choose to move ahead.

"I hate to let this go as it's so important, but with only five priorities being allowed, I do feel it's essential we move with affordable rental housing promptly," Grove said. "It was an excellent report and it provides the information needed that yes, indeed, we can require rainwater catchment, we have the tools do that . . . and I expect we will be pursuing this down the road."

The LTC also approved a project charter Thursday to start work on a development approval information bylaw, as exists on other Gulf Islands, which will provide clear instructions on what information can be asked of rezoning and permit applicants. The committee will defer a marine environment protection project for now.

10 Benefits of a Salt Spring municipality

- 1 Local Decision Making
- 2 More Representation
- 3 Smaller (not another) Government
- 4 Cohesion & Coordination
- 5 Financial Planning & Efficiency
- 6 Sustainability Planning
- 7 Water Resource Planning
- 8 Fully Accessible Local Meetings
- 9 Fully Accountable Local Officials
- 10 Grants and Other Funding

What about the Islands Trust?

Guided by its aim to protect the environment and foster a healthy community... *an island municipality will provide community governance* within the Islands Trust.



For a sustainable and healthy future... **Yes!**

please vote YES on September 9th

YEStoSaltSpringMunicipality.org

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OPINION



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



EDITORIAL

Stop the bleeding

It wasn't long ago that Salt Spring Islanders were celebrating the arrival of two new family physicians.

A lack of doctors for island residents is a long-documented problem, so the announcement last winter that doctors Hala Aljuburi and Manuel Lowo would be coming to the island in 2017 to serve those without a general practitioner was an exciting one for many people.

Unfortunately, the reason to celebrate has been short lived. In June it was announced they were no longer seeing patients at the Lancer Building office they had shared with Dr. Magda Leon. Janine Gowans, coordinator of the Salt Spring Island Chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice and the defacto public voice of health care on the island, said attempts would be made to keep the two physicians on Salt Spring. Those attempts clearly failed.

THE ISSUE:

Failure to retain doctors

WE SAY:

Transparency needed

Regardless of the specific details, the result is uncertainty and frustration for affected patients who must travel off island to another community for routine medical care and "two-steps back" for primary health-care services in our community.

The unfortunate outcome makes us question if there is any hope that other doctors will move to Salt Spring Island and practise here. Gowans has stated that recruiting and retaining physicians is a complex problem. Some factors are "local" and some are "systemic," she said.

We urge Gowans or Island Health to provide transparency to this situation, which is a critical public health-care matter for the island. Then perhaps those local and systemic problems can begin to be addressed by Island Health and other stakeholders.

The possibility of creating a walk-in clinic or a similar type of health-care centre has been discussed behind closed doors for some time. Any and all options need to be explored as soon as possible to stop the bleeding associated with loss of on-island doctors and services.



VIEWPOINT by Johan Gerritsen

Council set-up no conflict with Trust

I'm concerned with some of what I have read about the supposed negative impact on the Islands Trust if we become an island municipality.

If it was as negative as some say, it would seem the Islands Trust Act should not provide for municipal governance and Trust policy should not support the right to choose. But the Islands Trust Act does stipulate that islands can become municipalities within the Trust Area.

I've looked at both sides now and feel that a local council must and will continue to support the object of the Trust, otherwise known as the "preserve-and-protect" mandate. This object, as I understand it, is to show proper and diligent care for the natural environment and also for our community.

It's not one choice or the other, as I've heard it said. Checks and balances are built in by the legal beagles who apply the Islands Trust Act to define what a municipality can do. So I really don't understand why this seems to be a divisive issue when there are so many important social and economic issues we need to work together to solve.

Some people are concerned about "more development," which is a valid concern. However, I've also learned that the current Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw already allow for almost 2,500 more homes. Such a prospect needs a local council and mayor (with weekly or bi-monthly meetings) right here on Salt Spring to be

the final purview with an overall plan the people here would be involved with.

Development is already proceeding and how fast it happens is more dependent on the economy than the Trust. If there are going to be new homes for families and businesses, modest value allotments on building permits imposed by council will allow the creation of a fund for dwellings to house employees.

Any development would still depend on water availability, which leads to the conundrum of having nine separate water districts/service areas: five managed by the Capital Regional District and four by individual improvement districts. That situation would be fixed under a municipality.

If we want such a plan for dealing with development, we need an elected council capable of authorizing one after lots of community input. In the current system the right hand hardly knows what the left is doing. One local council will make it far easier for us to plan and to be engaged as good stewards of all our assets and environment!

I believe we need to move away from the polemic stance some have taken. We can remain consistent with the aims of the Trust and form a municipality for all of us and make our own decisions right here.

The writer is a Fulford Harbour resident.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

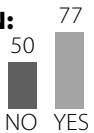
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Yes No

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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you optimistic about the new B.C. government?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I want to give back, and I don't want [the evacuees] to lose anything more."

RACHEL HANNAH, 12, VOLUNTEERING AT KAMLOOPS PET SHELTER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What would you say to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau if you were the new premier of B.C.?



CARRIE-ANNE GREENE
I would like him to be his own man and follow through with the decisions and the things that he set forth in his campaign and not worry so much about what people think.



CORRIE FURST
Please help us protect our coastline. Stop Kinder-Morgan.



NATHAN DENNIS
PEDRO MATIAS-MOTE
Please take care of the things that we cannot do from here. You know what we want. We trust you. Good luck. Let us know if you need anything.



PATRICIA PARENT
Get a grip. Get it together. He promises so much and I haven't seen it yet.



WENDY SIDWELL
I'd say, "How's it going for you so far being prime minister?" ... I don't think I'd ask him anything political at the moment, I would just want to get to know him ...

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

We need more doctors

It is good to see that none of the five respondents to the July 19 Salt Spring Says question encountered difficulties in finding a doctor.

However, the uniformity of their positive experience risks giving the impression that there is no problem on the island in this regard. If the poll had been conducted across the road from

the Driftwood office, the response might have been very different. Those of us leaving the Lancer Building after abruptly learning that the new doctor we had finally found had left the island, and knowing no others were accepting new patients, look forward to understanding the reasons for the sudden departure of two new doctors from Salt Spring.

We also wonder what we can do to ensure access to health care

other than through using the (outstanding) Lady Minto emergency room.

LUCY SUCHMAN,
SALT SPRING

Pioneers ignored

I am terribly disappointed at all news and TV outlets for not mentioning the most important people of our country at the 150-year celebration of Canada.

They are the pioneer men and women

who, facing the greatest hardships, laid the cornerstones for today's unimaginable prosperity.

I met many of these pioneers in Vancouver when I lived in the West End, where most of the rooming houses were run by the prairie women who still earned their living by working, after having endured the excruciating hardships of homesteading and thus opening up our country.

Those prairie women, by running the rooming

houses, worked seven days a week to provide respectable, clean and warm accommodation to the homeless and others.

Now, they, the homeless, are all on the street because I believe that people at city hall, with their total power, taxed and harassed them out to make room for high-rise developments, and the little money these old folks got was totally devalued, if they had survived at all.

Those pioneer folks

were the best people I have ever known. They are the most precious people for Canada, as we also know many here on Salt Spring. They should have been honoured on Canada 150 day in a big way. There should be monuments in every city of Canada.

Please bring this issue to the attention of all our country's population.

RITA APTEKMANN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Ride along to a B.C. Cancer Agency treatment

Today you are coming along for a virtual ride to one of my chemotherapy sessions.

We are catching the Fulford ferry to Swartz Bay and then driving to the B.C. Cancer Agency building at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. We get to the ferry early, just in case there's an overload. We put our vehicle in the ferry lineup and enjoy a cuppa java and a muffin treat at Rock Salt Cafe.

We make sure we haven't forgotten to bring along our completed Travel Assistance Program form, which will provide us free ferry passage home.

After the ferry ride and drive, we pull into the parking lot at the Cancer Agency. We search for an empty parking stall and are amazed at how full the lot is. Cancer seems to be ubiquitous these days and either affects someone in our family or in the families of our friends and neighbours. There are no six degrees of separation when it comes to cancer.

After a bit of circling, we spot a vehicle pulling out of a parking space and immediately take its place. We walk to the BCCA building, deposit several loonies in the parking machine, obtain our receipt and step through the opening glass doors. Chemotherapy, here we come.

Everything about the facility is bright and welcoming. If we didn't know better, we would think we are stepping into the lobby of an upscale hotel. The faces we see are pleasant and smiling. Volunteers in blue vests offer cups of tea and friendly therapy dogs move close enough for a few loving pats.

We ascend the wide staircase to the second floor where we check in. I am asked to state my birthdate (how come everyone in the health field is so interested in my birthday, and yet I don't get any more cards and presents?) and when I answer correctly we are asked to have a

seat in the waiting room.

Soon one of the volunteers calls our name and escorts us to the chemotherapy room. We pass through the automatic doors and enter a large space with 16 bright blue La-Z-Boy recliner chairs placed around the room. Windows on two sides suffuse the area with natural light and views of several large Garry oak trees outside. In the centre of the room is the nursing station where nurses attend their duties, which seems to entail a lot of camaraderie.

We are led to an unoccupied recliner in the room. Sam, my nurse for this particular round of chemotherapy, checks my name, asks me my date of birth, and off we go into the realm of chemotherapy.

There is some apprehension because we know that soon we are going to be poked. Sam feels around and quickly finds a decent vein. He brings over a wet, warm towel, and wraps it around the chosen arm to make the vein easier to tap.

We are left alone for a few minutes to allow the towel to do its work. As we start to relax, we notice the others who are lying back in their recliners having their individual chemo drugs infused into their bodies from tubes attached to clear plastic bottles hanging from metal stands. Almost all of the cancer patients have friends or loved ones sitting in chairs beside them. My wife Jane accompanies me on every trip. Some of the people receiving their chemo infusions are wearing caps, toques, head scarves or wigs. This is because many of the drug "cocktails" cause total hair loss. We've been told that our particular concoction, brentuximab, does not cause the bald-



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

ness effect, but there is no denying that my hairline has thinned to the point where a hair tie is no longer necessary to gather up my scraggly, greying mane.

Sam returns, removes the towel and proceeds to carefully direct the needle, practically painlessly, into my arm and tape it in place. We start the IV drip with just a saline solution to make sure everything is flowing properly. While this is happening, Sam phones the BCCA pharmacy to order our chemo cocktail. This drug is very expensive and it is not until the patient has arrived and the IV is working properly that the drug is actually "mixed together" by the pharmacists.

Before the plastic bag of the actual chemo is connected to the drip line, Sam introduces a measured dose of the antihistamine, Benadryl, to the drip line to counteract any recurrence of a previous allergic reaction.

Not long after that our eyes begin to droop from the sedating effects of the Benadryl. Suddenly, a high-pitched beeping sound emanates from the machinery behind us and we are brought back to total alertness. Sam returns quickly from the nursing station to check the IV line into my vein. As it turns out, our relaxed posture resulting from the antihistamine has made our arm flop over to the side, thereby causing a restriction in the flow of the drug. Sam straightens our arm and the warning beeps cease. A volunteer comes by to offer a warm blanket. All is well.

All is well, that is, until we become very aware that we have to empty our bladder really soon. No problem. The metal chemo stands

are on wheels, so we can get up out of our recliner and take the whole kit and kaboodle, although somewhat awkwardly, into the bathroom with us.

Once back in our recliner we notice that warning beeps are going off every couple of minutes around the room. This is because they signal not only that the drip lines are not acting properly but also that the entire chemo cocktail has been infused and the session is finished for the particular individual receiving treatment. The nurses tend to the problem, or detach the drip line if the treatment has been completed.

Our session is over. The plastic bag holding our chemo cocktail is now empty and Sam carefully removes the needle from our arm. We are separated from the metal stand with all its accompanying tubes and bags. In all, we have spent about two hours in the recliner. Others, we learn, are less fortunate and must remain attached to the drip line for up to seven or eight hours.

As we exit the Cancer Agency building, we realize that we will be returning in three weeks for our next round of treatment. We know there are others fighting more aggressive forms of cancer who must attend more regularly. We smile and make eye contact with everyone as we leave the premises. Their returning smiles confirm the tacit agreement that we are all in this together.

Nobody asked me, but even though I wish I had never been among the unfortunate ones who must be subjected to this experience, nevertheless I am grateful for all the doctors, nurses, medical technicians, ferry crew, friends and family who give me hope for tomorrow.

Thanks for coming along for the ride.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Hitchhiking memories

I am pleased and relieved to see that Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission has come up with a sensible, and hopefully do-able, plan for the pull-over stop near Embe Bakery ("SSITC seeks funds for Ganges Hill safety fix," June 28 Driftwood).

I visit Salt Spring three or four times a year, and almost always pick up a hitch-hiker or two on my way from Ganges to the south end. Over the past 25 years I've probably given rides to at least 60 people travelling from Ganges to Fulford and beyond, and most of them have hopped into my car near the Embe pull-out.

When I think about some of the truly unsafe roads on Salt Spring (like the drop-off gully on Isabella Point Road this past winter and spring), it seems questionable for the RCMP and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to target the one place where drivers know (or should know) enough to slow down and watch for hitchhikers and even just pedestrians walking to and from the village area.

Living on Gabriola Island I pick up hitchhikers regularly and have always felt quite safe and pleased that I can share a vehicle; it's the next best thing to public transit on our islands if the distance is not walkable or bikeable. The first time I ever picked up a hitchhiker on Gabriola was 34 years ago, when I stopped to pick up a young woman with a baby on her hip at the south end of my island. She was wearing a gorgeous turquoise dress and she had the most beautiful blue eyes I have ever seen; her name was Sally Sunshine, and that was a year or so before she and baby Shauna moved to Salt Spring.

SUSAN YATES,
GABRIOLA ISLAND

Talk to islanders on 'the other side'

BY SUSAN PALMER

Dear Salt Spring,
Re: The morning after

I fell in love with you — as many do — on a holiday here once 32 years ago. I was ready to move here then and would have but it was simply not in the cards at the time.

I was fortunate enough to finally make that dream come true 11 years ago. My love for the island — its beauty and the community of people that make it such a lively and engaging place to live — have only grown during that time.

I also discovered years ago that Salt Spring is not nirvana. It has its fair share of warts, one of which has been so aptly captured by Valdy's description of the island as "a difference of opinion surrounded by water." That has never been more evident than it is now in the discussion/debate over whether or not we should incorporate.

This is an important decision regarding the future governance of the island and I find myself not so much sitting on the fence as hopping

GUEST COLUMN

from one foot to the other as I try to consider all the facts of the situation; facts which are sometimes hard to discern from the opinions and emotions which tend to be embedded in the view being put forward.

While I have thoughts of my own on the pros and cons of what option offers the best set of tools and processes for determining our collective wellbeing and for ensuring that the Trust "preserve and protect" mandate remains alive and well, I find myself turning towards a larger question: What kind of a community do we want to be? What kind of a community are we right now? For regardless of the outcome of the referendum, one thing is certain — Salt Spring will still be an island community — a community with passionately held differences of opinion — where neighbours and friends and acquaintances will continue to run into one another

on a frequent basis as we go about our daily lives.

So my question is, dear Salt Spring, can we be big enough to be friendly towards one another regardless of what we think is the "right" way to go? Can we be curious about why someone holds a view different from our own? Can we set aside our own biases and opinions long enough to listen to one another, to try, at least, to understand why someone holds the view they do? Can we be strong enough to not feel threatened by a difference of opinion? And can we walk away from such conversations with a sense of respect for where someone else is coming from — even if we do not agree on the conclusion they have arrived at?

In the weeks to come I'd like to challenge each of us to take time to talk with someone who wants to vote for the alternative you do not personally favour. Is there something in what they say that you can find common ground with?

The point is not to change your mind — or the mind of the other person — I am

thinking about the day after the vote. What happens then? Is this going to be a community riven by its differences? Or one that celebrates its diversity? One that has the grace to be open to a wide range of views and opinions and to try and make space for all of them?

Yes, choices have to be made and this is an important one, but how we make them, the attitude we hold in our hearts towards others is surely even more important than what the outcome will be. Because no matter what, we will all still be waking up on the same island the day after and running into one another at the grocery store and needing to work together to solve problems that affect us all.

Let's bring civility to the forefront and let this small island be an example of how democracy can work at its best.

The writer is a land-use planner who has worked for the CRD and Islands Trust since moving to Salt Spring Island.

RANTS and Roses

Rants

A disappointing rant to the driver of a Rav 4-type SUV who drove into me at the recycle depot on Friday, July 7 at 11:20 a.m.. I was sitting in my gold Subaru Forester. You were parked right next to me and backing out. I was unable to get out of my car at the time and talk with you, as you had driven into the driver's side and I wasn't able to open my door. These things happen. It was an accident. It's crowded in there. It can happen to anybody. But you didn't have to drive away. Connie Kuhns/David Wisdom

Supported by taxpayer funding, the CRD does a great job of creating and maintaining our local parks, but users of the parks also have a responsibility. While not the only responsibility, dog waste is one. As a frequent user of beautiful Duck Creek Park I am appalled by the amount of dog waste left there. Today, within 50 feet of the bag supply and the container for their disposable, there were four piles of waste left along the side of the main path . . . and yes I picked them up. As dog owners it is our responsibility. Wayne McIntyre

Roses

I would like to thank Jodi Banford, Lisa Taylor, Bryan McCrea and Peter Allen for their dedication to the Salt Spring Island Middle School store. Throughout this past school year you were there to cover your shift so students had the opportunity to purchase a healthy lunch or snack. Your time was sincerely appreciated. A thank you as well to Ted, who covered when I was in a pinch. Again, thank you all! Brenda

Many beautiful roses to Country Grocer for their support at our outdoor service. Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

A single yellow rose of friendship to Thrifty Foods for their help with Search and Rescue's work party and barbecue on Saturday, July 22. Thank you, Thrifty Foods, for your wonderful support in our community! SSI SAR

Bunches of roses and gratitude to all Salt Springers with dirty cars. Pam Adams

While gathering some wild sweet peas by the road, I backed into a sign post and fell. I can't believe the number of people

who stopped to see if I was OK! Thank you all for your help and concern. This could only happen on Salt Spring Island. Blessings, Irene C.

To all of the wonderful people who contributed to Lorna Cameron, via Box 70, save-a-tape, a thank you. Before she passed over she requested that "her" tapes go to Box 31, Copper Kettle Community Partnership. Thank you again for all the bags of tapes we have received. That's a copper rose thank you! Copper Kettle at Country Grocer

A matatu (small bus) of roses to all who generously supported the fundraising dinner to provide food for Kenyan school lunches. Money raised will provide food for children for three weeks! Well done! Special thanks to chief cook Marjie Radford, Andrew Peat, Mary Beckett, Mollie Colson and to all the members of the Anglican Parish who so generously helped. Thanks also to the many generous donors to the silent auction. Your generosity made the silent auction a huge success. Finally, a big thank you to all the people who attended the dinner. Lynda



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Let's improve our ability to preserve and protect island

BY DEREK HILL

Sitting outside for breakfast in the early morning sun, it occurred to me how important it is to preserve and protect what we have on this island. That is why we all live here.

Then I thought of the many people I have talked to who, while feeling the same, have been too busy in their day-to-day lives to spend the time to research and understand why wanting to stay the same requires us to change.

My wife and I have lived on Salt Spring for 23 years. We are strong environmentalists who support the Green party and cherish the natural beauty of this island. We have built two homes and ran a popular B&B with a rental cottage for 10 of those years. Our daughter, who was seven when we arrived, attended Salt Spring schools until graduating from GISS.

Through the years we have been involved in the community: schools, sports, tourism, local elections, and I was recently a fire trustee trying to initiate reform. I have spent countless hours on projects requiring

straightforward permits. I have had contact with our different silos of government that I find have limited communication with each other in the overall vision for the island. This has given us some insights on how difficult it is to move forward and protect what we have with our present system of governance.

We would continue to be guided by our official community plan and land use bylaws, and changes would not happen without the Islands Trust participating.

The current system has allowed significant development. The Texada logging boondoggle happened because there was little control from the CRD, Islands Trust or the prov-

ince. As an island municipality I feel we could have been stronger in rezoning water catchment areas, logging truck usage of our roads, and possibly with grants and partnerships bought the land and selectively logged small portions over many years to pay for it.

Have Channel Ridge or the Bullcock Lake resort been developed with island values as to water preservation or long-term goals? Couldn't we be more proactive in these decisions with our island as a direct part of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, facilitating group legal insurance and low-interest, long-term loans?

Despite the almost \$2 million of yearly Provincial Rural Tax paid to the provincial government, which maintains our roads, I have seen our roads slowly deteriorate from lack of proper ditching and drainage. Then, instead of repairing potholes, heaving and cracks, a quick seal coating is often just laid on top. If we vote "no," would that not continue so that in 10 or 20 years we'll have even more major work to be done?

Given all this, I believe Salt Spring

Island would elect a council that reflects our rural desires. We would continue to be guided by our official community plan and land use bylaws, and changes would not happen without the Islands Trust participating. I feel strongly that the preserve and protect mandate will be much better served by decisions made by "on island" people who understand and care what happens to their piece of paradise.

Uncertainty and fear of change will persuade some to vote "no," but will this guarantee our island and our lives will stay the same or slowly deteriorate? On Sept. 9 I'm voting "yes."

The writer has lived on Salt Spring Island for 23 years.

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Changing vote from yes to no

BY GREG SPENDJIAN

In the previous Salt Spring incorporation referendum in 2002 I voted in favour of incorporation. This time I will be voting "no."

Despite my "yes" vote 15 years ago, I had reservations. The main one was that incorporation might lead to the erosion of the "preserve and protect" mandate of the Islands Trust, a mandate I strongly support. The concern of course is that if Salt Spring Island incorporates, the municipal council could be taken over by a group that strongly favours indiscriminate development. Even if this is not the case, budgetary demands could force future councils to increase revenues by promoting commercialization or rezoning, thereby radically altering the character of the island.

Notwithstanding these concerns I was swayed by the argument that the nature of Salt Spring's community ensured that municipal councils would always have members committed to defending a balanced approach to governance and to maintaining those aspects of the island which makes it so special to residents and non-residents alike. The appeal of the idea of bringing decision-making regarding issues affecting the island closer to home was, at the time, strong enough to make me decide to vote in favour of incorporation.

Now I have changed my mind, and my "no" vote will also be more emphatic and without reservations. There are a variety of reasons for this.

Since the last referendum I have lost faith in there being any guarantee that future municipal councils would continue to uphold vigorously the "preserve and protect" mandate. What happened in the interim? Well, Brexit happened. Trump happened. While these events seem far away from our sheltered island, they indicate what can happen when certain electoral forces

INDEPTH

make citizens vote in ways contrary to their self-interest.

What further happened in the interim was that after the resounding referendum "no" vote, an aggressive, confrontational and divisive anti-Trust campaign was waged by some of the islanders who favoured "self-government." Notwithstanding having voted for incorporation, I found the tone and content of this campaign to be very troublesome.

Also, we have the empirical evidence of what happened on Bowen Island since its incorporation in 1999. The Islands Trust is now largely invisible there.

I cannot help having the sense that some of those promoting incorporation would like to see "preserve and protect" aspects of island governance weakened or removed altogether. Many in the business/commercial/real estate sector are amongst those most strongly supporting incorporation. If incorporation happened, they would be the ones with the resources to support municipal council candidates who would make policy decisions preferentially favouring them.

Another of my concerns is that the upcoming referendum has not been preceded by a genuine debate of what kind of vision we islanders have of our community's future. In some ways, the governance structure we have is of secondary importance to our long-term social, economic, environmental and political goals. We have been debating the means, but not the ends. The really important question is: What kind of a place do we want to inhabit? But this has not been dealt with.

That the consultants' report focused almost exclusively on the financial impacts of incorporation is indicative. It was argued the report

could not address "cultural" consequences of incorporation because that would be subjective. But surely it would have been worth putting before the community, even if only as speculation, what the possible non-financial consequences of incorporation could be, for example on levels of volunteerism and community involvement, on the rural character of the island, etc.

Finally, I believe more strongly than ever that there is an important place for the Islands Trust. These islands-in-trust are the only place governed under a "preserve and protect" mandate. It is a grand experiment in many ways. In this day and age when environmental consequences of our socio-economic systems are so evident, it is important to continue exploring alternatives to conventional governance models, alternatives that have as their foundation the preservation and protection of the resource base on which our well-being and quality of life depends.

I do not agree with those who suggest that the incorporation of Salt Spring Island will not have an impact on the Islands Trust as a whole. It would not surprise me if the Trust would disappear in short order following the withdrawal of resources provided by Salt Spring Island. This would be regrettable in my view. I also strongly disagree with those who hold the parochial notion that resources from Salt Spring Island should not be used to support the Trust federation.

All of the above is not to say the current governance model is without problems. I believe these can be addressed by the community with creativity and perseverance, especially now given the context of the new provincial government. But incorporation is not the way to do so.

The writer is a Beddis Road resident.



Remember why you live here

Incorporation: Fiction vs the Facts

"A municipality is still part of the Islands Trust"

By legislation, incorporation would significantly weaken the Trust. Only 2 of 7 municipal councillors would be Trustees bound directly by the Trust mandate. A municipality would vet Official Community Plan changes with Trust Council, but can appeal disagreements to the Province, unlike the Local Trust Committee (LTC). Also unlike the LTC, a municipal council makes both zoning and servicing decisions, while assuming huge new financial responsibilities (e.g., roads, policing). **A municipality could be forced or tempted to approve development to generate tax revenue.**

"Nothing ever gets done – governance is too complicated and we can't get grants"

Since 2001, Salt Spring has protected over 5000 acres of green space, which now totals roughly 20% of the island. We've constructed seniors' and other affordable housing, established the best small transit system in BC, and constructed kilometres of pathways. We built a library, indoor swimming pool, and an abattoir, upgraded water and sewage treatment systems, renovated our hospital. All these projects were 'complicated', and we secured over \$60 million in grants from senior governments to help us. **There is no BC community of our size, incorporated or not, that matches this record of accomplishment.**

"A municipality would be more financially prudent and accountable"

A municipality would take on huge liabilities for 265 km of poorly built and maintained roads, which will only get worse with climate change-induced sea level rise and extreme storm events. Policing will cost an additional \$550,000/year. Bowen Island's incorporation study underestimated their staffing needs by a factor of four. Municipalities can increase (or eliminate) services and borrow heavily without voter approval (e.g., Sidney's new fire hall), and shift the property tax burden between property classes. **Our current CRD-based system actually gives taxpayers more control over new spending and borrowing.**

"We don't control our local affairs and incorporation is the only way to improve governance"

The old saw that land use and servicing decisions are made by off-islanders is overblown. All but 3 LTC decisions in the past decade were made by the two local Trustees. The CRD Board rarely rejects the local CRD Director's recommendations, especially with support of local, citizen-based Commissions. The Province and Trust Council have already supported increasing the size of our LTC. Existing legislation also allows creation of a CRD Local Community Commission (as suggested to Salt Spring by the Province in 2010) which could coordinate all CRD services and include all improvement districts. **We can improve governance without the huge financial responsibilities of incorporation and weakening the Trust.**

facebook.com/positivelyNO **positivelyno.org**

Myths and realities surround affordable housing talk

BY ELIZABETH WHITE

It's not easy to find a place to live on Salt Spring. Like everywhere in southern B.C., housing on Salt Spring, whether for rent or purchase, is expensive and in short supply, especially for average wage earners.

There's some talk that this situation would improve under incorporation, but it is not clear how. In fact, more high-end development — a likely result of incorporation — will make the Salt Spring housing situation worse, not better.

Purpose-built affordable housing is one solution. On Salt Spring this is typically funded by the Capital Regional District, BC Housing and CMHC and delivered through non-profit societies. Salt Spring affordable housing consultant Janis Gauthier says that incorporation would not affect funding for affordable housing because Salt Spring housing providers already

INDEPTH

receive grants from federal, provincial and regional agencies. An example is the \$4.5 million recently announced by the province to add units at Croftonbrook.

Salt Spring already has several successful affordable housing projects: Pioneer Village, Croftonbrook, Meadowbrook, Dean Road, Murakami Gardens, Grandma's House, the Cedars, and at least five projects in process, including three in the Drake Road area — Salt Spring Commons, Dragonfly Commons, and the School District property — plus the Croftonbrook expansion, and Brackett Spring on Rainbow Road.

While the NSSWD moratorium on new water connections has delayed at least one of these projects, this is not necessarily

something incorporation could change. A municipality (which would have responsibility for the water districts and commissions) could lift the moratorium only if the increased draw would not cause Salt Spring to exceed the provisions of its current provincial water licences. Those constraints wouldn't go away simply because we'd incorporated.

Another solution to the housing shortage is for local governments — including the Islands Trust — to partner with developers and require a percentage of units in a new development to be affordable. The strategy can be successful, but only with the cooperation of the developer. Incorporation would not change that equation.

New developments take time. Required referrals to outside agencies would limit what the municipality could do, even if aspects of the regulatory approvals pro-

cess were streamlined. Vancouver Island developers also complain that their local municipalities can take two to five years to approve new projects.

In fact, the quickest and least expensive way to create more affordable housing is something we can also do under our current governance, and that is to encourage island homeowners to provide long-term rental units. So far, few homeowners have taken advantage of this, but the Islands Trust has legalized secondary suites in parts of Salt Spring Island and could easily expand the area. However, for this to work, there must be adequate bylaw enforcement of illegal short-term vacation rentals. Otherwise, too many homes and rental suites will continue to be used for vacation rentals during the summer months. (This also fuels the housing-as-investment

market and raises house prices even further.)

As former Islands Trust CAO Linda Adams has pointed out on a Facebook discussion page, "Rigorous enforcement of our existing no-STVR bylaw has been done by LTCs in previous terms and has had a positive effect on the availability of rental units. It certainly isn't popular with STVR owners (or realtors)." Incorporation would not change this.

Push-back from STVR owners, and from others who gain financially from "hot" real estate markets, needs to be countered by islanders who understand that a stable, sustainable community depends on adequate and affordable housing. Political will, not form of governance, is the issue.

The writer has been a volunteer on a number of community committees over the years.

Broader view: Municipality unites, current system divides

BY JOHN MACPHERSON

Upon reading his own obituary in the New York Journal, Mark Twain quipped, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

I wondered about this while reading Jean Gelwicks' July 5 In Depth piece and from others (July 12) who are con-

cerned about a weaker Trust and more development in a municipal future. Certainly these are honourable concerns, and I would be concerned too if rapid develop-

INRESPONSE

ment lay around the corner. My wife and I moved here in 1999 to enjoy the slower pace and in large part because of the Trust.

I believe the fear factors are overblown. The "no" folks insist that a locally elected council and the Trust will be on a collision course. This is an odd repudiation of democracy that involves unsupported characterizations — of both the future and of those we would elect. It's also an odd repudiation of Trust policy that aims to foster both healthy communities and a healthy environment. Neither the Trust nor the Islands Trust Act nor the incorporation study supports the idea that Trust values would be at risk in an island municipality. Trust policy supports having choice and legislation enshrines the right to choose.

A local island council could not just do as it pleases, as some say. The legal framework that defines an island municipality is provided through the Islands Trust Act. It is designed to ensure that a local council will support and have due regard for the "object of the Trust." This engages the Trust and, if necessary, the province as well. This was the case for Bowen and it would be for Salt Spring too. There are checks and balances built in. The question for our community is whether our future is best served by our current system, with its fractional and somewhat colonial decision making, or by a local, more representative and cohesive decision-making council.

Should we fear that developers will gain the upper hand if we become a municipality? The current system allows for 2,500 more homes to be built on Salt Spring. Developers already know this. The slow pace of development owes more to economics than to our local Trust committee. At current absorption rates it would take many decades, at least, for all 2,500 homes to be built. A municipality won't change the law of supply and demand, nor would we leave the Trust.

As for financial impacts on the Trust, the loss of the subsidy we currently provide translates at worst to a \$53 tax increase per average \$500,000 assessment for other Trust area residents. As a member of the Trust, we would still continue to pay our usual share of Trust overheads and regional programs such as the Trust Fund Board.

Our community cannot live by land-use decisions alone. Whether it's concern for

the fire district, the water districts, the Trust, the province or CRD, the real problem is that we have multiple authorities each following their own vision of excellence, none of them with any concept of a greater good and some with off-island decision makers. Whether it's hitchhiking outside Embe Bakery, speed limits around Country Grocer, the still-unfinished Ganges boardwalk, turf troubles for the Tree House Cafe, water troubles for Fraser's Thimble Farms, NSSWD's failing infrastructure and failed vision for an extra shiny water treatment plant, the fire district's budget escalations and failed vision for a new facility, or the local Trust committee making land-use decisions in a relative bubble — it requires Herculean effort for anyone to engage with this patchwork of authorities whose visions are limited to their own capacities. It is as if we exist as divided and conquered.

This is dysfunctional and cripples any ability to manage holistically and sustainably, with our community issues properly prioritized and balanced. Separate enclaves all acting on their own mandates do not add up to a plan.

I want a system — within the Trust — where islanders are accountable to islanders, where local meetings make it easy to listen and engage, where renters can vote on financial matters such as fire and water upgrades, where we islanders have control over our own tax dollars, where there is one single budget that prioritizes and balances our community needs, where we have direct access to the grant applications process, where there is an integrated plan for a sustainable future. I know all this will require diligence and hard work, but without becoming responsible for ourselves and planning, I believe we are just planning to fail.

On Sept. 9 I'm voting yes for cohesion and a balanced way forward.

The writer is an 18-year island resident and was chair of the 2013 Salt Spring Governance Study Committee.

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For more local opinions on the topic of the incorporation referendum, see the Opinion section of www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

arts&entertainment

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PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Phillips images show big appreciation for small things

Local photographer exhibits on August long weekend

BY SEAN HITREC
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local photographer Osman Phillips is about to open his latest show that consists of a carefully selected group of his favourite shots from the past 26 years.

His focus is mainly on close-up and macro images of small and unique moments around the Gulf Islands made larger-than-life in the prints. The images are sometimes unrecognizable on first viewing and that is part of the point. Phillips' compositions leave room to interpret the objects in multiple different ways. Though he had his own ideas on what the interpretations offer, he also said he enjoys listening to what other people come up with.

Paired with the images are hand-crafted frames made from poplar and eastern maple. Some of the frames have consciously placed natural imperfections that reflect textures in the photographs. In a sense, this breaks the fourth wall of the photographs displayed and allows the viewers' eyes to wander in and out of the photograph to make the connection.

Phillips offers a refreshing approach to his work in this day of digital speed. He shoots everything with film and often returns to the same area multiple times before securing the shot he wants.

"The sort of photography that I do, it doesn't really depend on being immediate. It's not like some newspaper is waiting urgently for the picture to go with the article," he said.

Added to the challenge is the type of film he uses. Phillips prefers colour-positive film, such as Fujifilm Fujichrome Velvia 50 and 100, which is notorious for providing punchy colours and a very small room for error when exposing a photograph when compared to digital, or other colour and black and white films.

The result is a group of photographs that are bleeding with intention.

Phillips has a background in zoology and tai chi, both of which play a role in his photographic work.

"I've always been close to the natural world," he said. "To allow me to study tai chi, I needed to get working at something, so I built up a studio in the advertising area of London near Baker Street and worked in photography of that nature for the time I was in England."

To further this point, Phillips demonstrated what he meant by showing me a basic tai chi body position.

"This is the shape that works," he said. "This doesn't work and this doesn't work," he continued, changing the position of my arm slightly in either direction. "Same with pictures."

To further immerse the viewer, Phillips has mindfully created a unique flow between images. Sometimes the transition between two photographs is compositional, and other times he uses texture or colour tone to mark the change. The transitions allow the viewer to create a narrative of their own on their journey through the 36-photo show.

The final photograph in the series titled Yearling Moose has the most immediately recognizable image, a moose in dramatic lighting. The image taken along the Chena River in Alaska is removed from the rest, sitting alone on a wall and in between two doors. It's also the only image that is displayed with a poem.

He offered insight into the photo. "We'd had a [campfire] the night before and very early in the morning, and it was July, so it's practically light all the time. We were just sitting at our little table and I was cleaning my camera and this moose walked into the camp and started eating the charcoal from the fire," he said.

The quizzical stare combined with the hard, angled morning sunlight shows the animal as a creature whose eminence is tied to its environment.

Phillips' show runs at his studio at 210 Cedar Lane on the B.C. Day long weekend only, from Saturday, Aug. 5 beginning at 10 a.m. through Monday, Aug. 7.



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Osman Phillips looks at some of his photographs hanging at his Cedar Lane Studio in an exhibit that will run from Aug. 5 to 7.

THEATRE

Gift Horse gallops to park

Surrealist physical theatre at Mouat meadow

"traditional vaudeville/cabaret acts, innovative puppetry and magic illusions from grandiose to subtle."

The show is surrealist physical theatre that touches on human levitation, planetary alignment, a walrus song and fine dining.

"Questioning who is really at the top of the food chain, Gift Horse looks itself in its own mouth," states press

material.

The show for all ages was created at the Look-out Arts Quarry by Heather Dawn Sparks, Islando Sparks, Bemya Nymh, Janessa Jan-essa, Sadye Osterloh, Ezra Gabriel, Nayana Fielkov and Matthew Poki McCorkle.

Gift Horse runs Friday and Saturday, July 28-29 beginning at 7 p.m. It is presented by Graffiti Theatre.

Tickets are at the gate.

An ensemble of international award-winning artists is converging at Mouat Park this weekend to present a performance piece called Gift Horse. Described as "a visually stunning spectacle of dreamlike proportions," Gift Horse blends

The Salt Spring National Art Prize

The 2017
SSNAP
Exhibition

Opening Night
September 22

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The Salt Spring National Art Prize

LITERARY EVENT

Writer, activist, visionary visits island on book tour

Deena Metzger and *A Rain of Night Birds*

BY WENDY JUDITH CUTLER
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

"We will not survive as people or a planet if we do not learn each other's reality in every cell of our bodies. We will not survive if we do not look unflinchingly at the grave harm we are doing."

These are the words of Deena Metzger, poet, novelist, essayist, playwright, teacher, counsellor, activist and visionary. Salt Spring is fortunate to host her on Wednesday, Aug. 2 for a reading and discussion of her newest book, *A Rain of Night Birds*.

In her 80th year, her life and prolific writings embody her unwavering passion as a lifelong activist and radical thinker and her commitment to healing the earth and the separations between people and nature.

Her appearance at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 7 p.m. is lovingly organized by her longtime friend, Peter Levitt, poet and Zen master. Her novel presents the confrontations and disconnections between Indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge. Metzger

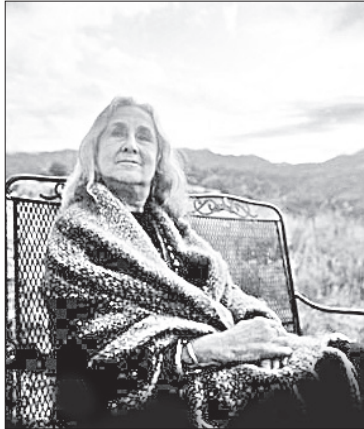


PHOTO BY JESSICA SHOKRIAN

Deena Metzger, whose most recent book is *A Rain of Night Birds*, will give a reading and lead a discussion at the Salt Spring Public Library next Wednesday, Aug. 2.

unflinchingly addresses the realities of climate change and the threat of planetary extinction and bears witness to the colonial mind that enacted genocide on

Indigenous people. Its protagonists are drawn together by a mutual love of and fear for our planet, this precious Earth.

"We are called to share the stories we carry so that we can live within them. We need to speak the stories that shape us as a people and teach us how to live with the earth and each other," Metzger writes.

I first came upon her existence through an iconic poster which is known throughout the world, a photograph of Metzger, her arms outstretched, with a tattoo of a tree where she had a mastectomy on her right breast. Her experience with breast cancer in 1977 is reflected in a subsequent writing, *Tree*, and led to her work as a counsellor and healer, creating *Healing Stories* to address diseases, spiritual and emotional crises as well as community and environmental disintegration.

For Metzger, story is her medicine. And stories are what she encourages us to record and work with. Nothing has equalled the impact she had on my own writing and teaching of her much-lauded and classic writing book, *Writing For Your Life: A Guide and Companion to the Inner World*, published in 1992. Her friendship and collaboration with the writer and diarist Anais Nin inspired this text.

She co-edited the groundbreaking anthology *Intimate Nature: The Bond*

Between Women and Animals, published in 1999. This led to connections with animal justice activists, into the area of interspecies communication and visits to animal sanctuaries, especially her work towards the preservation of the endangered African elephants.

She epitomizes how to be a conscious person in a world that is increasingly in need of healing and, in order to heal our earth, we must be involved in our own healing as well.

Levitt remarked, "She understands that her life belongs to the world and there's a wheel around her that she is in the centre of." He hopes that people from many different communities will attend her talk because her work "has touched so many communities."

I am in awe of Metzger, her writings, her political commitments, her ability to tirelessly create communities of engaged and respectful people who care about other people, animals, the natural world and this Earth. I am certain that I will be inspired and, perhaps, feel energized to continue to be engaged, critical and hopeful at the same time — the paradox of living a full, creative, community and activist-inspired life.

"If we bear witness and afterwards still have hope, then the hope is real."

RECITAL

Vocalists primed for afternoon concert at All Saints church

Tea à Tempo recital set for Aug. 2

BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Returning to the stage of All Saints By-the-Sea church next Wednesday is a delightful soprano songstress who has appeared there four times in Music and

Munch performances since 2009.

Her name at the time was Schuyler Matthews, but, having been remarried in the interim, she is now known as Schuyler Koby and she will appear in the current afternoon series called Tea à Tempo.

Koby is a local mother and teacher who grew up in Princeton, N.J. in a musical family,

often singing folk and classical music in three-part harmony with her mother and sister. Over the years she extended her singing to church, school and university choirs, moving on to a cappella groups in adulthood. Ten years ago she began training her voice for solo singing, working with the late well-loved teacher Patricia MacFarlane. She has taught music and sing-

ing to local children and now teaches in a Waldorf school where the arts are an important part of the curriculum.

Pitch perfect and crystal clear, Koby's voice will be a delight to listen to this Wednesday as the audience is treated to songs ranging from Handel compositions to Celtic ballads. She will be joined by Anne Lampson, an accomplished soprano from the

Cowichan Valley, in duet with her on two songs, and by her daughter Alex Matthews, a GISS student, on two other pieces. Cowichan Valley pianist Ron Kilian will accompany all of the vocalists.

The performance begins at 2:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2 until approximately 3 p.m., after which tea, coffee and goodies are available in the hall.

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GYLE KEATING

How do I get my vehicle ready for summer holidays?

If you are planning a trip of any length, or just several shorter jaunts locally, your vehicle needs to be ready to handle a wide range of conditions. Hot dry weather puts extra strain on the engine cooling system, air conditioning, brakes and tires. Radiator, radiator cap, hoses and drive belts need to be thoroughly checked. Your antifreeze has an anti-boil component as well and must be at the proper concentration to be effective. Try out your air conditioning through its full range on a hot day and have it inspected for leaks and serviced if it's not performing properly. Rain after an extended dry spell will make for a slippery road surface that worn or under inflated tires will not grip safely. Have tires replaced as required. New windshield wipers and properly operating washers can make a huge difference to safe visibility. As always, a complete vehicle inspection while changing oil and filter will spot problems you may not have noticed yet. This will give you and your technician an opportunity to repair worn brakes, steering, and suspension and bring other vehicle systems back normal before leaving on a trip.

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Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

What Should Buyers Do BEFORE Viewing Homes?

Set Your Priorities – BEFORE you view homes and while you are thinking intellectually and not responding emotionally.

Determine Your Price Range – Speak with a mortgage broker or lender and have yourself "prequalified" so that your mortgage limit is predetermined. Establish what your down payment is (who is assisting you, or when the down payment will be "liquid" if it is locked into a term deposit or other financial instrument.)

Find A Realtor To Represent You – Most buyers just "happen" to connect with a realtor who has a house listed that they are inquiring about. Savvy buyers will seek the opinion of their lawyer, mortgage broker or others and determine whom they would like to represent them in obtaining what is likely the largest asset in their lives. Experience and strategic negotiation skills are great attributes. This is the person who will provide *guidance as to offer price and subject conditions to protect... YOUR BEST INTERESTS.*

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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

MOBILE MUSICIANS: Members of Mbira Spirit from the Cowichan Valley perform on the beach at Ganges aboard the Capriola, a trimaran sailboat and mobile recording studio, as part of their Low Tide Tour.

READING

New books explore vaccines, cuddly killers and more

Summer reading options at the library

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The library has a lot more to offer than just books: CDs that cover every taste as well as hundreds of DVDs that include travel, documentaries, how to, TV series and movies. So next time you are looking for an evening's entertainment, check out the library's electronic holdings and take home a disc or two.

• **Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines** looks to answer some very contemporary questions. This author looks at modern parenting among the affluent and how the decisions made about protecting their children may well undermine

ON THE NEWSHELVES

the social good. Through an examination of parental fears regarding "big pharma," autism and potential or unknown side effects, the author engages the reader in a thought-provoking discussion of individual rights, community responsibility and child welfare.

• Who knew that every year thousands of lovelorn people from all over the world write letters addressed to Juliet in Verona, Italy, seeking to find answers to matters of the heart? **Juliet's Answer** is the memoir of one

man's experience in the world of Romeo and Juliet, reading and responding to those very missives. At the same time, Glenn Dixon travels the historic paths of Verona that lead to his own redemption and renewal and reaffirmation that love is real.

• **Cat Wars: the Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer**, should be required reading for anyone who thinks that cats are just cute and cuddly. The uncomfortable truth is that free ranging cats (and let's be honest, owned and loved cats, too) are responsible for close to 4 billion wild bird deaths a year in the U.S. alone as well as the deaths of many small animals. This death toll has resulted in global losses in biodiversity, practical extinction of some species, and unchecked growth

of feral cat populations, resulting in the spread of diseases such as rabies and fecal contamination of shallow ocean areas. What can be, or should be, done about this explosion of felines? Partly historical, partly ecological and partly political, this book is an eye opener to a small problem on a global scale.

• Looking toward eternity, **The Biology of Transcendence: a Blueprint of the Human Spirit** explores the relationships of brain and heart that permit us, encourage us, force us to move beyond the limitations and constraints of our current bodies and cultures to become the "more" that we can and should aspire to be. The author convincingly argues that humans possess a biological imperative that is even greater than

the imperatives of our daily being. He says we must overthrow culturally instilled blocks to reach the realm of unconflicted behaviour, where heart and mind resonate in synchronicity.

• And take a look at the New Fiction shelves, too, for the latest in mysteries, novels, romances and paperbacks. Ellen Hart's latest Jane Lawless Mystery, **Fever in the Dark**, tackles many issues involving same-sex marriage as she delves into what should be the straightforward romance of Fiona and Annie, who return from their honeymoon to a maelstrom of both positive and violently negative social media interest. And, naturally, a delicious murder to be solved. An engaging story that highlights the characters in an all too frequent social dilemma.

ART EXHIBIT

Painters' guild members show stimulating works at ArtSpring

Summer exhibit marks 45 years of activity

ArtSpring's gallery will be immersed in summer colour when the Salt Spring Painters Guild mounts its annual summer show beginning on Saturday, July 29.

New works by 33 guild members can be viewed beginning with an opening reception from 2 to 4:30 p.m., with the show running through Aug. 10.

"Gone are the days of muted landscapes and pallid family portraits," states a press release about the show. "Guild artists are now constantly experimenting with colour, design and differ-

ent types of media, and the results are thrilling. Classes in the past year that have informed the new works included using inks (far beyond black), creating 3D paintings, printmaking, and doing collages from photographs and found materials. New techniques for oils, watercolour and acrylics were also featured."

The result is a treasure trove of 129 stimulating new works in this year's show.

The exhibition is part of the guild's 45th anniversary celebrations.

"The early members might be surprised at what guild members are now up to, but then again they were also at the forefront of art-making in the 1970s."

Jim Pattison
Subaru victoria

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what's on this week



Wed. July 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Amy Haysom. Singer Amy Haysom and guests perform at All Saints for the Tea a Tempo recital. 2:10 p.m. Free music (or by donation), followed by optional tea and treats.
Chamigos. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. Museum open at the Farmers' Institute every Wednesday through Sunday in July and August. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Summer Reading Club. Salt Spring Library hosts in the Children's Area. Drop in for fun books, crafts, games and more with the theme Walk on the Wild Side. For ages 5 and up. 10 to 11 a.m.
Wine Wednesday with DJ Primitive. Enjoy local, hand-crafted wines produced from organically-farmed grapes, with FIX Tacos on site and music by DJ Primitive. Children and well-behaved dogs welcome. Mistaken Identity Vineyards. 4:30 to 9 p.m.
SongJam. A 21st century pub sing-along to vocal and instrumental backing tracks. Wednesdays at Moby's. 8 p.m.
Midsummer Nights Screen: My Neighbour Totoro. First in a series of outdoor films showing at Centennial Park. Grab your favourite outdoor blanket and possibly a lawn chair or two. After sunset (9 p.m.)

Thu. July 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mike Alviano. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Library Book Club. This month's book is *The Stone Angel* by Margaret Laurence. Salt Spring Island Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.



Community Circle on Disagreement and Decision-making. Restorative Justice hosts a circle on Disagreement and Decision-making. Lions Hall. 5 to 7 p.m. Maybe bring a friend who doesn't always agree with you! Info: Ellen: 250-653-4755.
Art Show Opening: Michela Sorrentino. Opening event for Michela Sorrentino's show of new work titled "Many years have passed" at Pod Contemporary. 5 to 7 p.m. Show runs through Sept. 8.
Classic Rock Bingo. Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.



Fri. July 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday Wine Down. Live music, food and wine tastings. Salt Spring Vineyards. 4 to 6 p.m.
Gift Horse. An ensemble of international award-winning artists in a visually stunning spectacle of dreamlike proportions, blending traditional vaudeville/cabaret acts, innovative puppetry and magic illusions. All ages. Moutat Park Meadow. 7 p.m.
Duck Creek. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
SALT and Soul Shakedown. Live at the Legion. 7:15 p.m.
Charlie Parr Concert. PitchFork Social presents self-taught guitarist and banjo player playing heartfelt and plaintive original folk blues plus traditional spirituals. Bullock Lake Farm. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
The County Line. Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Fri. July 28

ACTIVITIES

100 Men March for Community Care & Safety. Community response to sexual assault against women. All genders welcome, with space made to hear from diverse voices. Sign-making at the SS Public Library starts at 6 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. gathering. March at 8 p.m. through Ganges ending up at the Gazebo in Centennial Park.

Sat. July 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gift Horse. See Friday's listing.
Arcadian Suns. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Salty Pear presents e.s.I. Salty Pear Gallery will host an intimate evening with local musician Marta McKeever and her band e.s.I. Live music from 8 to 9 p.m. Open between 6 and 10 p.m.
Sugar Zoo. Vintage pop, soul and funk at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Saturday Market in the Park. Locally produced crafts, foods and produce at famous event in Centennial Park. 8:30 to 4 p.m.

Sat. July 29

ACTIVITIES

SS United Church Boot Sale. Multi-family sale fundraiser for the church in the SS United Church Meadow. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SSI Painters Guild Summer Show. Opening reception for show of new works by SSIPG members. ArtSpring gallery. 2 to 4:30 p.m.
Goat Yoga. Offered by Amy Haysom Yoga and Heartfelt Farm at 145 Shepherd Hills Road. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sun. July 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music in the Vineyards. Salt Spring Vineyards features live music every Sunday. 2 to 4 p.m.
Atom Lazare. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Salt Spring Eco-Living and Home Tour. The self-guided daylong tour includes some of B.C.'s most interesting examples of green living, including energy-efficient and passive solar buildings, rainwater harvesting, food production, renewable energy, and transportation alternatives. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: transitionsspring.ning.com.

Mon. July 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Harry Warner and Friends. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.



Tue. Aug. 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic with David Jacquest. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday through October. Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.
Art Show Opening: Nikky Menard. Reception for Nikky Menard's Alchemy of the Soul exhibit, including mixed media, gelli plate, pen and ink watercolours and soul star paintings, which are on exhibit in August. Salt Spring Public Library. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Trivia Tuesday. Tuesdays at Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. Aug. 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Schuyler Koby and Friends. Singers Schuyler Koby, her daughter Alex Matthews, and Anne Lampson, accompanied by Ron Killian. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.
Terry Warbey. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.
Summer Reading Club. See last Wednesday's listing.
SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing.
Invasive Plant Presentation. Glenn Miller gives a presentation on the ecological implications of plant invasions on water quality, soil biota and animal diversity by highlighting individual weed species. A SS Conservancy event at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 7 p.m.

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@driftwoodgimediamedia.com

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Disney Pixar
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Wed. & Thurs. 7pm

SPIDER-MAN: Homecoming (138 min. Rating: PG)
July 28 - Aug. 3rd
Fri. to Thurs. at 7pm
Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

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United Church Meadow

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CINEMA

- Spider-Man: Homecoming** — Homecoming does whatever a second reboot can, which is to deliver a colourful, fun adventure that fits snugly in the sprawling MCU without getting bogged down in franchise-building.
- Cars 3** — Final two shows. Cars 3 has a poignant story to go with its dazzling animation, suggesting Pixar's road series may have a surprising amount of tread left.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Painters' Guild** opens its Summer Art Show & Sale at ArtSpring on Saturday, July 29 with an opening reception from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Show of work by 33 members continues daily until Aug. 10.
- Pod Contemporary** hosts "Many years have passed, New work by Michela Sorrentino," beginning with an opening reception on Thursday, July 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. Show runs through Sept. 8.

- Nikky Menard's Alchemy of the Soul** exhibit, including mixed media, gelli plate, pen and ink watercolours and soul star paintings, are on exhibit at the **Salt Spring Library Program Room** through August. An opening event is on Tuesday, Aug. 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- The Point Gallery** presents **A Woman's Work**, an installation by **Asha Robertson** in the lower gallery, and **Vertigo**, an installation by **Tai Dunkley-Whelon** in the upper gallery, through Aug. 6. Hours are Thursday to Monday, 1 to 5 p.m., or by appointment.
- Painter Nicola Wheston's A Celebration of Everyday Things** is on the Showcase stage at **ArtCraft** at Mahon Hall through Aug. 2.
- Ripple Effect 2** - Water themed art for the Salish Sea, a multi-artist exhibit, is at **Salt Spring Gallery** until July 30.
- Delicacy of Steel**, a show of sculpture by **Bev Petow** and paintings by **Michael Robb**, is on at **Duthie Gallery** through Aug. 15.
- Susan Rogers** shows paintings in the **Library Program Room** until July 28.

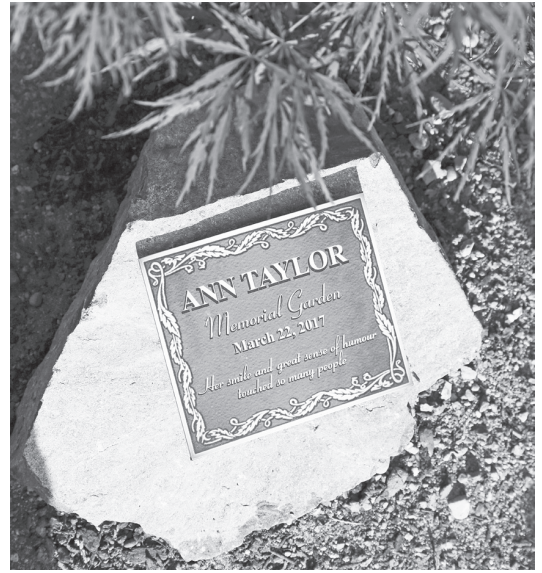
- The Salt Spring Basketry Guild** marks its 20th anniversary with Nests, an outdoor exhibit at **Mahon Hall**.
- ArtCraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council's annual show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artisans, runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Kizmit Galeria and Cafe** Meanderings, paintings, woodwork and pottery by **Barb Edwards**, **Luke Weller** and **Laura Keil** during business hours, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., through July.
- Wendy Taylor** shows work at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until Aug. 12.
- Salty Pear Gallery** is now open at 279 Rainbow Rd. with an exhibition of recent work by photographer **Stasia Garraway**.
- Judy McPhee** and **Margaret Ann Argiro** show photographs in the hallway at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.**

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL:
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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



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

A GARDEN FOR ANN: Friends and family of Ann Taylor gather outside the Ganges Visitor Information Centre last Monday evening to dedicate a memorial garden to the longtime centre volunteer, who died in April at the age of 89. "She was intelligent, witty and loved everyone," says John Hobbs from the visitor centre. "She was well known for her pleasant smile and great sense of humour." Taylor was honoured by the Chamber of Commerce in 2015 with the "customer service of the year" award for her work at the centre. She was also a library volunteer and a Seniors Services Society medical appointment driver.

FUNDRAISER

Islander plans round-Salt Spring swim

Pledges to aid Pull Together campaign against pipelines

A Salt Spring woman committed to stretching the limits of human capacity to improve the health of ocean waters will attempt a daring athletic feat this week, which will also serve to uphold Indigenous rights.

During the week of Aug. 1, Rama DelaRosa plans to swim around the entire perimeter of Salt Spring Island to raise money for the Pull Together campaign.

"I am in love with the Salish Sea," DelaRosa explained in a press release. "This swim is all about putting that love into action to create lasting change, real change, so that one day

when future generations are showing their grandchildren a pod of orcas breaching they can think of me and all the people who came together at a critical time in history and saved our oceans from calamity."

Funds raised will go to the legal challenges of the Tsleil Wautuh, Coldwater and Squamish first nations, who will be in court in October arguing that the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion project threatens their traditional territories, and that the company failed to adequately consult First Nations who will be directly affected.

"The ocean is my habitat, and as a regular occupant and devoted admirer, I feel I have no other choice but to do everything in my power to pro-

tect our beloved Salish Sea," DelaRosa said. "The Salish Sea is already in peril. The sevenfold increase that Kinder Morgan is proposing would mean the virtual elimination of our resident orcas. That loss would be inconceivable and impossible to recover from. We must all do our part to prevent this."

DelaRosa's route is roughly 100 kilometres and will take about a week to complete. Sponsors can pledge to support on a per-kilometre basis to a fundraising page set up at Pull Together (<http://fundraise.raven-trust.com/swim>). Thanks to an anonymous matching funds donor, every dollar contributed will be doubled. The goal is to raise \$14,000 for the Indigenous legal challenges.

ECOLOGY

Invasive plant impacts dissected

Glenn Miller gives presentation next week



Glenn Miller.

An invasive plant specialist shares his expert knowledge at a Salt Spring Conservancy event on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Beginning at 7 p.m. at the conservancy's nature centre at 265 Blackburn Road, Glenn Miller will give a presentation focused on the ecological implications of plant invasions on water quality, soil biota and animal diversity by highlighting individual weed species. There

will be time for a question and answer period.

Miller has 33 years' experi-

ence working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program based in Eugene.

He has a degree in crop science, specializing in pest management from Oregon State University. Miller has worked extensively in the field of bio-control of weeds and as an applicator.

Rangeland, forests, aquatics and estuaries are some of the environments he has worked in. He has also worked with land-owners who own small acreages.

He currently farms 77 acres of hazelnut trees with his son.

Fall Fair Focus

BAKING SECTION 9 page 24

Check out the major changes in the Baking Section this year.

- New classes have been added; cake pops, sausage rolls and quiche to name a few.
- Some classes require that you bring your entry, remove a slice for display and judging then take the remainder home.

This will allow you to exhibit, enjoy your delicious creations and reduce waste ...all at the same time!

Let's get baking and we hope to see you at the Fair!

Industrial Lands Project Notice of Open Houses

Join us at our open houses to discuss industrial lands on our island (Proposed Bylaws 488, 489 and 490)

Fulford Community Hall (Seniors Centre)
2591 Fulford-Ganges Road
Monday, July 24 • 2-4p.m. and 5-7p.m.

Lions, Hart Bradley Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue
Monday, July 31 • 2-4p.m. and 5-7p.m.

More information at:
<http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/salt-spring/projects-initiatives/industrial-land-uses>

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EDUCATION

Network bolsters homestay program

Hosts also needed for international students

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new Gulf Islands School District partnership will result in more support for international students and host families this year.

The non-profit Canadian Homestay Network will offer an expanded resource and support base for people participating in the homestay program as well as for those who work in it. As part of the move, Sheri Wakefield, who has been the district's international program coordinator for the past 18 years, will move into the position of program manager in September.

Wakefield welcomes the change. "Before there was just myself, really, for the homestays to talk to, or each other," she said, "and now we have the Canada Homestay Network, who have a big team across the country. They have lawyers, they have doctors, they have people that speak all these different languages."

There is no monetary catch for extended services offered by the new network, although the registration fee price for international students might change after a one-year grace period, said the network's regional director Nathan Speedie.

"If the fees go up it will be to offset the costs of the program," he added.

The transition will also leave room for two coordinators instead of one. Wake-

field saw the program expand from three international students when she started to 60, so increasing the role from one to two people makes sense.

Mary Turcott, one of the new homestay coordinators, said that pairing and registration under the new system is similar to the old one, but with a few changes. With the current system, homestay families are sent a package and choose from students available.

"With the Canada Homestay Network, we interview the families in depth and then we receive an application from the students and then we find a family that matches the interests," she said. "The students on their side work with an agent and the agent will be in touch with schools in Canada."

The agreement between the CHN and School District 64 began in May following a period of careful consideration.

"We took a lot of time to find the best partner as we moved forward with the changes to the staffing in our international program and we're hopeful that everything is going to proceed without too much of a change from what we've been doing in the past," said SD 64 board chair Rob Pingle.

The homestay program on Salt Spring is still looking for people to offer their living spaces for the students, who are aged 14 to 18.

"We're always looking for homestay people because there's always change," Wakefield said. "[Hosts] are as diverse as our stu-

dents. It could be a single parent, it could be a single person, it could be a retired couple, it could be a huge family. Everybody is welcome because every student's different."

Homestay hosts receive a small monthly cheque to help cover the expenses of the international student, but Wakefield said the actual value of having an international student is in the experience of learning about other cultures.

"Given the right student in the right homestay, the student (and host) will sometimes get as much as they give, sometimes even more," she said.

Sue Kernaghan is in her fourth year of hosting.

"We had the space because we had two older boys who went off to university, so we were used to having a large family," she said. "I felt it was a good opportunity to expose our younger son to the rest of the world."

One of Kernaghan's most memorable experiences with the program was with a "painfully shy" 13-year-old boy who came out of his shell after he started playing baseball.

"He joined the local Salt Spring baseball team because he loved baseball at home. They just completely adopted him," she said.

Kernaghan still keeps in touch via the internet with the students who lived with her family.

Turcott asks people interested in being a homestay family to send an email to her at sd64@canadahomestaynetwork.ca.

IDEAS

Who speaks for the countryside?

Special interests compete



Bob Weeden

CONNECTIONS

Almost a century ago, New Englander Robert Frost wrote in *The Gift Outright* about his forebears, their hearts still on the sunrise side of the Atlantic, who were busy taking a continent from its first people.

"The land was ours before we were the land's.

She was our land more than one hundred years

Before we were her people.

Something we were withholding made us weak

Until we found that it was ourselves

We were withholding from our land of living . . ."

The poet tells us that we became North American after we spilled blood in wars against anyone who disputed us. This possession through power — forever fragile, forever incomplete — established the political abstractions we call nations. A more meaningful possession, through the commitment of lifetimes, understanding, and eventually love, still eludes us. In fact, if love is the ultimate and necessary gift to gain possession of our own birthright, we are farther than ever from securing it.

Who, today, has come to understand and love our countryside well enough to deserve it? Have you? I haven't. Twenty-some years of callow youth in

mas on the walls of dentists, doctors, and lawyers; the same rules followed by government agency offices. If the community has a major resource project close by — a dam, a mine, a pulp mill, a shipping harbor, etc., familiar corporate logos adorn the gates. If I were nosy enough to look, I would find that the schools offer standard studies, health care is standard, kids play the same sports, and local TV programs and computer games are from and of the city.

The point is that all of us, no matter where we live, are far more conscious of culture than of nature. Sure, we all depend on resources grown in, cut from, or mined out of the countryside. City people supply capital and managerial savvy, country people supply labor, and both buy the end products. But day in and day out, the thoughts and pleasures and concerns of urban and most rural people are the same, and they aren't with the land.

There is an important exception to that generalization in communities lived in and built by First Nations people. Some of their residents are orders of magnitude more attuned to the land than people in cities or small highway towns, both by tradition and by current experience. They can speak eloquent truths about the land. One of my most memorable experiences was listening to

First Nations people speak to Chief Justice Thomas Berger at hearings he held in 1975 on the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. The wonderful thing about their testimony was that they spoke from a full and deep relationship with the land. Human spirit, mind, passions, and body spoke of lives inseparable from the land. It was, unfortunately, a rare event in national politics.

When we newcomers talk of the land we tell how fragments of ourselves have experienced fragments of nature, or what we want to change. As an environmentalist I marvel at the scenery or complain about trash in the creeks. Corporations eye mineral prospects. Anglers push trout stocking, ranchers want predator control and bigger leases of public grass. Chambers of Commerce lobby for cottage clusters around recreation lakes. To make more impact we join with others to form interest groups. We hire someone to lobby decision makers. Governments set up departments to match our special interests, and legislative committees mimic them. Civilization is an intricate system of special interests.

Where, then, is the whole person who can speak to the well-being of that indivisible trio, person, community and land?

"If such there be, go, mark them well!"

ECOLOGY

Demo site proves broom can be busted



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Working at their broom removal demonstration site on Long Harbour Road last Friday are Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewardship Committee members, from left, Jane Petch, Deborah Miller, Lyle Petch, Brian Smallshaw, Frances Hill and Jean Wilkinson. Smallshaw is happy to lend out his broom puller to fellow islanders and can be reached at 250-653-4774. The conservancy also has pullers available for members of the public.

Conservancy committee keeps roadside free of broom

BY JANE PETCH
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Five years of cutting Scotch broom on Long Harbour Road buys clear evidence that it is possible to severely limit if not eliminate this invasive fire-accelerator plant spreading through coastal regions.

Starting off in 2013 as a narrow strip of cleared land located between two telephone poles, the demonstration site now covers a full three poles width.

It took several days for volunteers to clear the original site, marked by a white sign which reads "Broom Removal Site." The massive stand of broom has been replaced with grass, spreading patches of native Oregon grape, young willows and, in the spring, flowers like blue-eyed Mary.

This past week it took only a few hours for members of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy Stewardship Committee to cut the still-emerging broom seedlings, and the few older

plants that had managed to escape notice.

"Each year it is faster and easier," said Jean Wilkinson, chair of the group. "Picking a steep hillside is not the smartest thing we did, but it's a great demonstration site to show people overwhelmed with broom that it is possible to get rid of it."

"You just have to be persistent," said Brian Smallshaw. He has led the successful effort to clear broom from Beaver Point Hall to Ruckle Park.

Why a demonstration site? In 2009, Maureen Bendick, as chair of the Salt Spring Conservancy, initiated the campaign to control broom on Salt Spring. With the collaboration of Kees Ruurs and the Parks and Recreation Commission when Ruurs was PARC manager, the first broom drop-off event was held in 2010 in the gravel pit at Lee's Hill. Subsequent annual drop-offs were held on PARC lands, coinciding with the Cut Broom in Bloom signs that the committee puts up every spring. These donation events gave residents a chance to get rid of an invasive weed no longer accepted at the transfer station.

At the same time there was a good

deal of skepticism, if not despair, that broom could be managed on the island, if only due to the immense and growing quantities. For the stewardship committee, permission given by MainRoad, the island's road maintenance company, to designate a demonstration site was an opportunity to discover just how much work and success there would be in clearing, and keeping cleared, a heavily infested roadside.

The short work party held last Friday at the Long Harbour site was testament to the much lighter task of keeping a broom-filled site clear once it has been cut. The freshly cut young broom went to the Eco-Reality farm's goats in the Burgoyne Valley and the older, thicker broom stems went to islander Rick Laing for bio-char, which sequesters carbon.

"We are making progress as a community," said Wilkinson. "Every year we see more and more people cutting broom. And every year we see more and more stretches of roadside where the broom is being replaced by native vegetation."

To paraphrase Roger Miller, broom is no longer king of the road.

FUNDRAISER

Hidden treasures up for grabs at boot sale

United Church meadow a hot spot on Saturday

BY PAT BARCLAY
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The United Church in Ganges is holding its annual fundraising Boot Sale in the church's meadow on Saturday, July 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This mother of all yard sales is a family affair and everyone is welcome, except early birds and Rover,

who's better off snoozing in the shade at home than waiting in a hot car.

If you've never heard of boot sales, they quickly became a "bona fide British institution" nearly 50 years ago when an English cleric on a visit to Toronto spotted a crowd of people buying and selling miscellaneous goods from the back of trucks, and bustled home with a great new fundraising idea for his church. Except that over there, selling from a car trunk (aka "the boot")

is common all year round, even in the rain.

Where and whenever it's held, the boot sale is a lively occasion and practical entertainment for all. If you're a seller, it's a welcome chance to downsize as you raise some cash. And if you're a buyer, it's an opportunity to pick up useful objects at bargain prices, and maybe even a treasure.

Seriously! Just last month, a 26.27-carat diamond ring, bought at a boot sale for only 10

British pounds, was sold at auction for 656,750 pounds. Wittily named the "Tenner" diamond, its previous owner thought the ring was costume jewelry when she found it in the 1980s at yet another boot sale.

Also on offer at Saturday's United Church Boot Sale will be refreshments such as hot dogs with the trimmings, home baking, and hot and cold drinks, along with places to sit and enjoy taking a break with old friends and new.



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



"Bob" Norman Rogers
 June 18, 1949 - July 4, 2017

It is with a sad heart that I announce that my good friend Robert "Bob" Norman Rogers, lost his battle with cancer at the age of 68 on July 4th 2017. He started his next great adventure peacefully surrounded with friends.


Bob was born in Prince George, BC on June 18, 1949 to Andrea and Norman Rogers. An only child, he is survived by his mother Andrea Rogers formerly of Merritt BC now of Kamloops BC.

A long time Salt Spring resident, a friend to many, a member of Toastmasters, an active member of the Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art and a founding member and the first President of the SaltSpring Photography Club, Bob always had a camera in hand and documented the world as he saw it, "one image at a time".

In his early life he lived and worked in the Netherlands for IBM and Philips as a coder but with camera close at hand of course. Returning to BC, he turned his creative hand to fine furniture building. This three dimensional talent served him well in his many years at ArtSpring where his creative eye hung and lit shows, set stages and kept the building warm and welcoming.

There will be a Celebration of Bob's Life on Sunday, August 13th from 1 to 3 pm hosted by the Photography Club at 200 Bay Ridge Place (south Salt Spring near Ruckle Park).

I invite all of his Friends and Family to join us in celebrating his life and sharing stories of him.
 Bob's loving friend and partner, Wendy.



Gerald W. Scott, MD (Gerry)
 Jan. 12, 1931 - July 13, 2017

Gerry died at home on SaltSpring Island July 13, 2017 age 86. Survived by his wife Beryl, 5 children; Martin (Brenda), Nigel (Gyl), Liz (Dean), Celia (Karl), and Ian (Liz), and 9 grandchildren (Xav, Nellie, Logan, Michaela, Becky, Georgia, Matt, Stephanie and Michael). Also, his only surviving sister Carol of Brighton, England.

He reached out to them all in the last few weeks of his life and felt the love all around him.

He was a highly intelligent man, with wide ranging interests, combined with a great passion and curiosity for life.


Gerald graduated from Medical School at University College London in 1955. He took his surgical training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota and emigrated to Canada in 1964. He worked at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary (1966-1973). Charles Camshell Hospital, Edmonton (1973-1989). Lady Minto Hospital Salt Spring Island (1989-1995).

Gerald was an accomplished surgeon and research scientist, and served as the Director of the Surgical Medical Research Institute of the University of Alberta from 1978-1988. In 1989, he left academic life and was the local surgeon on SaltSpring island until 1995. At this point he was able to devote time to his other passions of woodworking, landscape painting and gardening.

He passed away peacefully in the home that he loved, looking out over the Sansum Narrows. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Beaver for his sensitive care and compassion. We also thank Maureen, Karen and the home care team for their care and support in the final weeks of Gerald's life.

Online condolences to be made at: www.kaywohlfuneral.com
 250-537-1922



TERRY GORDON ROMERIL
 June 13, 1945 - July 17, 2017

It is with profound sadness that I announce Terry's recent passing in Lady Minto Hospital on SaltSpring Island, after a very brief battle with cancer.


My life with Terry was never boring. A typical Gemini, he was full of creative talent and innovative ideas, constantly pursuing new challenges to apply his seemingly endless energy and desire to avoid boredom at all costs. During Terry's 30 years on SaltSpring, he embarked on many new ventures, including:

Applying for the proper zoning and permits, then building and operating the Island's first full-service car wash and detail shop. Co-managing a Government-sponsored Job Development Project for unemployed Islanders. Creating and helping to produce the "SS Island Digest" newspaper. Managing Branch 92 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Establishing and operating "Save-on SaltSpring General Store" (or "SOS" as it was known). Working on various construction projects under the direction of some of SaltSpring's most talented and accomplished contractors. Performing general property maintenance tasks for two of the Island's well-known hotels, and for several neighbours in Brinkworthy Place. And, of course, as the consummate "car guy", buying and selling vehicles...too many to count! I will never know what the future had in store for Terry and I, but I will always treasure the many fun times we had, and he will stay in my heart forever. I wish to thank Dr. Shane Barclay and the wonderful staff at Lady Minto for their compassionate care of Terry during his brief stay, as well as expressing my appreciation to the many friends and family who have been there for me during this difficult time.

A gathering to remember Terry and celebrate his life will be announced at a later date.

- Susan Monahan

IN MEMORIAM IN MEMORIAM




Ten years on, since we lost our precious girl, Courtenay Jane, to the wild, unforgiving Pacific. She would be 36 on July 30. Our hearts are broken but our lives have gone on... her brother Casey just received his professional engineering designation and her sister Jennifer (who will be 32 on July 27) is the clinical nurse leader at Ledger House, Queen Alexandra Hospital. We are so proud of them! Jenny, you have been our rock in a storm that threatened to tear us apart. So happy birthday Courtenay... we miss you more than words can say, and a special happy birthday to Jennifer Elizabeth.

Casey and Jenny...you are our sunshine. May the holy angels accompany you.

Courtenay... "to live in hearts we love is not to die..." and you live in our hearts forever.

-Love, Mom & Dad

*You left us beautiful memories,
 Your love is still our guide,
 and though we cannot see you
 you're always at our side.*



Peggy Mackenzie (Margaret)
 SEPT. 28, 1933 - JULY 19, 2017

Peggy Mackenzie (nee Ramsay) was born in Verdun Quebec, September 28th 1933, daughter of Victoria and George Ramsay.

Peggy died unexpectedly July 19th 2017, in Royal Jubilee Hospital Victoria, BC.

Peggy will be sorely missed by her husband of 64 years; Ken Mackenzie, sons; Doug, Keith (wife June, and daughters; Chanelle and Victoria), Donald (husband Luis Araujo), and her loving brother Ken Ramsay.

Prior to moving to Salt Spring Island in 2010, to share her warmth, charm, sense of fun and all round passion for life, as well as her talents as a prolific knitter, quilter, Lady Minto Thrift Store Volunteer, Peggy had led an incredibly full and rewarding life.

In the years 1957 through 1986, Peggy raised her family, and was, for a number of those years, an Adult Education Coordinator, in Chateauguay Quebec.

Early retirement and a dream to be closer to her beloved grand daughters, Chanelle and Victoria lead Peggy and Ken to Kelowna BC. It was in Kelowna where she became an active Golfer.

Her retirement years also allowed her annual trips to visit London England, as well as trips to France and Italy and often to Scotland a place very dear to her heart.


The last seven years of Peggy's life have been in Salt Spring Island, her dream destination, where she has been surrounded with friends and family.

Peggy would often say; "We live in the most beautiful place, it's like a dream and we are with the most lovely people"

A memorial service will be held for Peggy on Sunday, July 30 at 3:00 PM in United Church, 111 Hereford Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC, followed by tea and sandwiches in the Church Hall. Friends of Peggy and of her family are all welcome to come celebrate her.

Memorial Gathering

DR. CLAUD EGGER
 ADDRESS
 January 30, 1933 - June 23, 2017



Dr. Andrew's family would like to invite you to a casual memorial gathering
Saturday July 25, between 2:00-6:00 pm, at the new Innis (226 Dugg Road). Please cover and share your memories of Claud.



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 your local news, in print and online.

Driftwood

INFORMATION INFORMATION

JULY 24, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM DR. ALJUBURI AND DR. LOWO

It is with great sadness that we inform our patients that we will no longer be practicing on Salt Spring Island. We feel privileged to have served this vibrant community, which we still consider our home.

We will continue to provide care for our existing patients out of our new practice in Duncan. As of August 1, 2017, patients who wish to remain under our care may contact the Cowichan Way Clinic located at 291 Cowichan Way by calling 1-778-422-3999.

Accessing Medical Records:

1. Medical records of those patients who wish to remain in our care will be transferred to the Cowichan Way Clinic in Duncan.
2. All patients, including those who do not wish to continue under our care, can access their medical records by contacting the Cowichan Way Clinic located at 291 Cowichan Way by calling 1-778-422-3999

Despite these difficult circumstances we make every effort possible to continue to serve our patients and greatly appreciate their patience and understanding. We truly apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

*Yours sincerely,
 Dr. Aljuburi, Dr. Lowo*



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS



Thanks to everyone who participated in and cheered for the Cycle of Life riders and to those who helped to raise funds and awareness for Salt Spring Hospice.

250-537-2770
saltspringhospice.org

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES TUESDAY 9:00 AM


classified@driftwoodgimedia.com

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!
Jane Stack
 is 66 years young!

To our faithful, generous, honest, Best Friend and Auntie who is always here to help us.
Love from Kathy, Al, James, Adena and Lilah Joan Reimer.



CELEBRATIONS

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS


CELEBRATIONS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

SUBJECT: Freedom Mobile Monopole
WHERE: Legion Hall, 1344 Mackinnon Road Pender Island
WHEN: July 27th, 2017
 12:00 - 2:00pm



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COMING EVENTS

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WHAT'S ON page 14

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

TIP OF THE WEEK

This week on August 2nd at 10:31 pm PDT, Uranus will turn retrograde. What is especially significant about this not so rare event is that it joins forces with Saturn, Neptune, Pluto and the maverick planetoid Chiron, which are all also currently retrograde and none of which were retrograde until April 5th when Saturn led the charge. Essentially, when the far planets turn retrograde, the plots of our lives thicken.

This is especially true, if while 'direct' (not retrograde), any of the far planets in transit forms a close aspect to any of the planets or angles (Cardinal Points, such as Ascendant or Midheaven...) in our Natal Charts. If the aspect happens to be a conjunction, the theme includes important new beginnings, which usually also naturally imply key endings. Consequently, when the transiting planet turns retrograde, it makes the same aspect again, but in reverse. The result is that the themes and areas of our lives affected, which can only be truly determined by a close examination of one's Natal Chart, subtly, surely and pervasively synchronize with a deepening of the themes implied.

The retrograde stage of transiting planets reconnecting with planets and angles in our Natal Charts is the stage when the 'real work' happens. This is an example of how measuring the timing of such motions of the planets reveals a deeper destiny at play and, subsequently, the evidence of a conscious, intentional and purposeful universe. So, look back over the past four months and ask yourself, has my life or that of anyone else I know undergone significant changes? As well, be aware, the next phase of deepening is destined to begin this week.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Deciphering what makes you special and what or who excites you is a central theme these days. At worst, you feel like you are having an identity crisis. Old interests, passions, and patterns of activity hold increasingly less appeal. You are ready for a whole new chapter and last week's New Moon is activating your focus.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) You yearn to get to the heart of matters these days. Refined simplicity appeals to you. Yet, beauty, balance, and harmony are also high on your list. Directing a constructively critical perspective on your life has begun and will deepen this week. Activate your heart beacon to decipher what and where constitutes home.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Many realizations and epiphanies are running through your mind and you want to express and share them. Deciphering how is the tricky part. Do you have the confidence, clarity, and authority to do so? Engaging in meaningful conversation, at least, will prove satisfying. Get clear on what you think and what you believe and try to separate them to increase your objectivity.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Building on new foundations is an important theme in your life these days. This implies becoming more accountable to yourself and others. Further, this can mean taking better care of you as a sense of responsibility both to yourself and others. Are some areas excessive while others are lacking, and so on, are key questions to ask.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Forging a new sense of identity is important to now. This cycle began a few months ago and will continue for many more yet. Deciphering if, where and how you have become too co-dependent is a feature of this process. Doing so now will leave you feeling impatient and dissatisfied. It is time to explore what constitutes a more genuine sense of authentic self-expression.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have arrived at a place on your path where you need to reach out to engage a new and perhaps wider network of associations. This could come in the form of making actual contacts with others or it could come by way of new knowledge presented by authors and teachers and so on. It may be described as a spiritual calling to commune with kindred spirits.

CONGRATULATIONS SALT SPRING ISLAND GRADS OF 1957

GRADS OF 1957



Thank for the memories!
 -KEN SAMPS ON

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

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 Saturday July 29th
 9am-1pm
 *no early birds

From collectables to lawn, from vintage to techs, tools, toys, refreshments and baking too!

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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



GOLF



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Enjoying the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation charity golf tournament earlier this month are, from left, Lee Smallman, Tom Woods and Jim Hamilton. The tournament's Hewitson Cup was won by Chad Little's team following a putt-off with Graham Faulkner, whose team won the sandbagger trophy. The two teams had tied with scores of 28, or eight under par. Some 137 people hit the links and more than 100 enjoyed the event's dinner.

Fundraisers aim for 100 holes of golf

Salt Spring course busy with tournaments and events this month

BY MARCIA HOGAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

July has been very active at the Salt Spring Golf Club with many tournaments throughout the month and an upcoming special event.

On July 29, Salt Spring Golf Club general manager Steve Marleau and professional golfer Brad Morris will attempt to play 100 holes of golf between dawn and dusk as a fundraiser for the club. Pledges to encourage them to complete five and one half rounds of golf can be made at the pro shop at 250-537-2121.

In tournament news, Karen Davies of the 18-hole ladies league played

an exceptional round of golf to take the Marg Johnson Cup with a net 68. Linda Tremblay followed with a net 70.

The men's club have results for four tournaments. Rick MacKinnon won the Parsons Cup in the senior men's match play competition. The Schwengers Cup low net trophy went to Don McMahon with a 68. Brian Dunbabin was right on his heels with a 69.

The Morris, Mouat, Matson competition is moving along quickly this year. The Morris Cup for Low Net was scooped by John Johnson with an awesome 64 score. Runner-up was Larry Davies with a 69. The Mouat Cup for Low Gross went to Zak Cutshall, who shot a one over par 73. Mike Horan was in second place with a score of 75.

The Matson Cup has two divisions,

championship and consolation. The championship semi-final rounds are nearly complete. Cutshall advanced to the finals following his match with Eric Beamish. Horan will take on Jordan Haenen to determine Cutshall's opponent. In the consolation round, Larry Davies will play the winner of the match between Don Sharp and Justin Byron following his win over Doug Fraser.

The winners of the July 22 Adam and Eve Net Tournament were Michael and Jill Thompson with a notable low score of 61. Second-place winners Gary Lehman and Lynn Blanche were just one shot off with a net 62.

Registration is now available for the annual Salt Spring Island Amateur Open taking place from Aug. 12-13 with the horse race on Friday the 11th. It is open to players of all levels.

RUNNING

Sneakers make the grade at Stanley Park

Bronze medal and personal best times for island men

BY SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

Two Salt Spring Sneakers travelled to Stanley Park on July 15 to participate in the annual running of the Vancouver Falcons Athletic Club Summerfest 10K.

Ninety per cent of the course is a circle of Stanley Park on the seawall. We

found out after the finish that one of the organizers misplaced a turn-around marker before the first mile, and the race was actually 9.82 kilometres long. This explained why most runners noticed that the official posted at the official first mile mark was calling out mile times much faster than their watches indicated.

At 44:49, Pat Peron did a personal best at the distance, finishing 122nd of the 419 runners who fin-

ished, 93rd of 216 males and sixth of 15 in his 60 to 64 age group.

At 48:36, Eric Ellis finished 174th of 419 runners finishing, 122nd of 216 males and third of seven in his 70-74 age group, earning a bronze medal.

As this race is part of the BC Super Series 12 race competition, which has an age-graded award, the organizers also calculated the age-grade equivalent for each runner. The

age-grade equivalent is designed to compare all competitors to a similar standard blind to age and gender, and is calculated by comparing each competitor's time to the world record in their age-gender group. By this calculation, Ellis was ranked 62nd at 36:10 at 73.89 per cent of the world standard in his age group, while Peron was ranked 75th at 36:57, 72.33 per cent of the world standard in his age group.

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