



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 32 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

PAINTING BY THE RULES: Sebastian Fielding checks out the "community mural rules" at CranFest VII held over the weekend. The family-friendly event that grew from being a Salt Spring Co-op Preschool BBQ in 2009 celebrates arts, music and community.

FOOD SECURITY

Fridge freezes nutrient loss with cool project

Second Harvest program takes on more stock for better distribution

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Community Services is hosting a program that will see perishable food from local businesses and farms that can't be sold redistributed to the needy.

The program, called Second Harvest, will accept food that is still fine to eat but that grocery stores do not want.

SSICS and Country Grocer have converted a container into a refrigeration unit that is being kept at the Core Inn on McPhillips Avenue. The program aims to help make Salt Spring more food secure and self-sufficient by redistributing good food that would otherwise end up being composted off-island.

"Distribution channels will include meal programs throughout the organization and community, as well as a number of new and innovative ways of getting food directly into homes," SSISC wrote in a press release.

Simone Cazabon is the head of the project. Five years ago, she was given a half-acre plot of land and was asked to grow food for people who needed it.

"I started just showing up with bins of food at places, like, 'Hey, boom, here's some peas and carrots. Does this interest you guys?'"

This slowly grew from a 16-hour-per-week job to a full-time position with volunteers and workers who help out with the farming and distribution. By taking the time to assess people's needs, Cazabon has a unique knowledge of how to distribute food.

SECOND HARVEST continued on 2

BC FERRIES

Eagle elevators break down

Fuelling delays also scheduled for August Wednesdays

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Elevator breakdowns on the new Salish Eagle over the weekend were due to sea conditions, says BC Ferries.

Both of the passenger elevators that carry people from the car decks to the upper decks of the Salish Eagle were down from last Thursday at 10 p.m. until Friday at noon, said Darin Guenette, manager of public affairs at BC Ferries. On Tuesday afternoon, one of the two elevators was

still out of service.

What occurred on the weekend is something that just happens when elevators are placed on moving vessels, Guenette said.

"The elevators in general can be tricky on moving ships," he said. "It depends on the sea conditions."

The failure is not due to the ship being new, he added.

Crews are trained to deal with incidents where elevators are down, but cannot fix them

on their own, Guenette said. Instead, they use a third-party elevator company and "do get priority service done on these as soon as we can."

The Salish Eagle is also set for more delays. Beginning today, Wednesday, Aug. 9, and for the next three Wednesdays — Aug. 16, 23 and 30 — the 10:10 a.m. departure from Tsawwassen will stay in port an extra 40 minutes (until 10:50 a.m.) for refuelling purposes.

BC FERRIES continued on 3

Protect your WEALTH
Joni Ganderton
537-1654



INSERTS

- Country Grocer
- The Source
- Ganges Pharmasave
- The Local Liquor Store
- Thrifty Foods

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Second Harvest will keep wasted food out of landfill

SECOND HARVEST continued from 1

"I'm going to low-income housing . . . and literally putting food in their fridges," she said. "People are crying, people are happy, they don't have to go to the food bank as much."

Now, by getting Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer on board with donations that would otherwise end up in a compost bin, Cazabon is able to collect even more food.

"It's food that's good food. It's not [composting] food, it's not crappy food, it's like an apple that's slightly blemished, it's like yogurt that's going to be expired in two months. It's actually really good stuff. It's just day-old bread that's still fine, but gets thrown out," she

said. "It just doesn't look as pretty and fresh as the other stuff so they have to throw it away."

Food distribution was operating at maximum capacity until the new industrial-sized fridge was in place because SSICS had a small window of time in which to deliver the food. Now that the group can store food for longer, they can take on more inventory and less waste will occur.

"Once we get the full-on Country Grocer [contribution], then we can open it up to farmer's markets, we can open it up to individuals, or other people," Cazabon said. "In the next year we'll have a better understanding."

The fridge is still being filled. "While the exact volume of recovered food remains to be seen, the project is aimed towards

self-sufficiency both in food production, distribution and waste management as well as other sustainability factors entering the equation with food transportation and storage," said the SSICS release.

As the program grows, Cazabon is dedicated to making smart and well-thought-out moves. For now, they are working on expanding and she says they will not be accepting individual donations yet.

"It's not a drop-off centre. It's not where anybody can just come in and drop off food. There is quality control to this. We eventually want to open it up to the public," she said.

Anyone interested in participating is urged to call Cazabon at 250-537-9971, ext. 230.



PHOTO BY SEAN HETREC

Simone Cazabon, Second Harvest program coordinator, at the new refrigerated unit that will be used to store more perishable food.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Site C Inquiry Initiated

The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) has initiated an inquiry into BC Hydro's Site C project, as directed by the Provincial Government in Order-in-Council (OIC) 244 on August 2, 2017.

The full scope of the inquiry is set out in the government's terms of reference for the OIC, which is available online: <http://www.bcuc.com/SiteCinquiry.html>.

The inquiry will be handled in two phases. In the first phase, the BCUC will gather information and produce a preliminary report. Those parties who would like to submit data and analysis to be considered for inclusion in the preliminary report are invited to submit that by no later than August 30, 2017. Data and analysis submitted during this first phase must be within the scope of the OIC.

Opportunity for public comment on the preliminary report will be provided during the second phase of the review. Process details for the second phase will be provided once established.

GET MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about how to file data and analysis on the questions above, please check our Site C website at: <http://www.bcuc.com/SiteCinquiry.html>. The BCUC will make arrangements with members of the public not able to access or submit information online. In these instances, please contact our office using the contact information below.

British Columbia Utilities Commission

Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC Canada V6Z 2N3

P: 604.660.4700
TF: 1.800.663.1385

E: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com



All documents filed on the public record may be made publically available on our website at www.bcuc.com.

INCORPORATION VOTE

Fact-checking request denied

'No' side asks for Linda Adams' participation

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's elected officials have turned down a request to use a second "fact checker" during the Aug. 30 incorporation debate.

Writing for The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation group in an Aug. 1 letter, Donald McLennan had asked that Linda Adams, a retired chief administrative officer for the Islands Trust, be appointed as a second fact checker. Urban Systems, the consulting company that completed the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Report last year, has already been engaged to provide a fact-checking service at the formal public debate session.

Local trustees Peter Grove and George Grams, and CRD director Wayne McIntyre, who have organized the debate as "stewards" of the Sept. 9 incorporation referendum process, replied to McLennan on Friday.

"The simple fact is that we cannot extend to one side of the incorporation lobby a privilege that we do not extend to the opposing side," the elected officials' letter stated. "So we cannot accede to Positively NO's request without offering the Yess! campaign the opportunity to also nominate a fact checker. I'm sure you'll agree that having three fact checkers is not sensible."

"Whilst we have great regard for Linda Adams and recognize her abilities and her objectivity, as a resident and property owner on Salt Spring and as the former CAO of the Islands Trust, she has an identifiable interest in the outcome of the incorporation result. That is not a burden Urban Systems carries. They are demonstrably impartial insofar as they are not affected in any manner by the referen-

dum outcome."
"The appointment of Urban Systems as fact checkers has the approval of the [provincial government's municipal affairs] ministry and we share the ministry's confidence in their appointment."

McLennan had asserted that Urban Systems should not be "the sole arbiter of factual accuracy" because of "well documented challenges made by members of our community to the accuracy of the work presented by Urban Systems in their final report."

Island resident Brenda Guiled has done independent research about road maintenance costs that suggest the service would cost more than outlined in Urban Systems' final report. McIntyre, Grams and Grove have formally requested an addendum roads report from the province to examine Guiled's information.

Patricia Lockie, a media contact for the Positively NO campaign of The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation, also said policing cost estimates in the Urban Systems report are being reviewed.

"We are disappointed, though not totally surprised, by the position taken by the three elected officials," said Lockie.

"The quick rejection of our request for an additional fact checker for the panel debates underscores the officials' unwillingness to concede Urban Systems is not a disinterested party at this event . . . They will be adjudicating disputes about their own work. This puts them in a conflict of interest position."

The Aug. 30 debate will be held at Gulf Islands Secondary School. It will be moderated by George Abbott, who held various cabinet positions in B.C. Liberal governments between 2005 and 2011. Three panel members will speak for the yes and no sides.

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NEWS BEAT

Heads up!

Twisted Town Hall Tuesday:
AUGUST 15 at Centennial Park, 5:30-7 p.m.
A referendum social for 'in-cooperation'

GANGES HARBOUR

Young family faces eviction from Ganges Harbour float

Notice delivered the day after couple's first child born

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Things were coming together for Alex Lambermont and Fiona McNinch.

They'd built up a unique life for themselves and that life was looking up until an RCMP boat stopped by the day after their son Desmond was born. A man stepped out of the boat and handed the family a letter saying they had to leave.

The letter addressed to "occupier of floating dwelling" concluded, "to avoid enforcement action you must stop using the building on the float as a dwelling and you must remove the building on the float immediately."

"It was really overwhelming and very stressful to get that," McNinch said. "I burst into tears. Just thinking about it makes me want to cry."

How they got to be in this position is a story of following passions.

It had been a long-time dream of Lambermont to own a boat. He came to B.C. from Ontario to plant trees two summers ago and, after the five-month season, he travelled to the coast. One day later after arriving, he bought a 24-foot sailboat and set off on an adventure.

The trip ended early though. Lambermont accidentally beached near Trial Islands on his first voyage from Vancouver to Victoria. The accident left him stuck on land. He stayed in the boat on a dry dock for three months while it was repaired.

It was during this time that Lambermont met McNinch. They moved in together while the boat was still on land with the intention of continuing the adventure together. They set off sailing after the repairs were finished and



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

From left, Leah McNinch, her daughter Fiona and baby Desmond, and Alex Lambermont on the floating structure Fiona, Alex and Desmond live on in Ganges Harbour.

headed wherever the wind blew them. Then the two plotted a course to McNinch's hometown of Salt Spring Island.

Like many biographies on Salt Spring, they only intended to stay a few days in Ganges Harbour.

The journey took a different course. McNinch found a steady job as a registered care aide with Greenwoods Eldercare Society and the two decided to stay for a bit longer.

They purchased a second boat to live on. At 31 feet in length it was more acceptable for two

McNinch became pregnant, so they bought what Lambermont calls a houseboat, a three-section floating wharf with a small roofed structure on it, for \$10,000 in March. The idea was to have more area for their growing family as well as a place to dock their two sailboats. It was closer to land, moored very well and sheltered; a perfect solution for their growing family, they thought.

They'd been up for two days on Aug. 1 and McNinch had delivered Desmond the day before. At around 10 a.m. Lambermont and

McNinch's new family heard the sound of a boat approaching. A man who Lambermont says didn't identify himself, handed the exhausted couple a letter and then left in the police boat.

"He just basically said, 'I'm sorry, you have to move,'" Lambermont said.

He suspects that the complaint behind the letter came from an area where large houses overlook Ganges Harbour.

Miles Drew, bylaw enforcement manager for the Islands Trust, was the person who handed Lambermont the letter. (The RCMP were not involved except to provide transportation to the site.) He said he was surprised that there was a newborn on board.

"It's a very unfortunate circumstance for him," Drew said. "You never like to be in a situation when you're delivering that kind of news the day after such a wonderful event in someone's life."

"The thing that I was out there for in the first place was a building under construction that was expanding," Drew added, referring to a neighbouring wharf. The occupier of that wharf had recently torn down and rebuilt structures.

He said the reason Lambermont and McNinch also received the letter was because they were on a floating structure, which is not listed as permitted in the harbour under Salt Spring's Land Use Bylaw 355. Boats, on the other hand, lie under federal jurisdiction, he added.

An issue with this claim is that Bylaw 355 came into place in 1999, while Lambermont says the structure was built in its current spot about 25 years ago.

The first sentence of the letter also states, "You are constructing a building on a float," and Lambermont said the construction happened 25 years ago as well.

Lambermont and McNinch intend to seek legal counsel.

NEWS BRIEFS

Wednesday delays announced

BC FERRIES

continued from 1

The refuelling delay is occurring because the Salish Eagle, which is homeported

on Salt Spring, can only get half a week's worth of diesel fuel it requires from the Tsawwassen ferry terminal depot, Guenette said. Earlier this summer the vessel replaced the Queen of Nanaimo, which doesn't have that limitation.

The fuelling times will be reflected in upcoming schedules, Guenette said, but for now the delays are necessary.

Mount Erskine rescue

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue personnel aided in helping Salt Spring resident Susan Barer down from Mount Erskine after she broke her leg hiking Saturday afternoon.

Five members were dispatched from SSFIR to

help with the incident. A wheel was attached to a stretcher to help get Barer off the mountain, incident commander Warren Nuyens told the Driftwood.

"We did some packaging on site to stabilize her injury and transported her," he added.

"The whole crew were incredibly positive and

helpful in a difficult piece of terrain and a challenging place to carry a stretcher," said Barer's husband Steven.

After the rescue, Susan Barer went to an off-island hospital to have her broken tibia treated.

"Hearty thanks to all who so generously helped us get off the mountain," Steven said.

FOR THE RECORD

The last section of a July 19 story that mentioned a hydrology study for a housing project without a water source referred to the CRD's Drake Road project, not IWAV's Croftonbrook development.

We're voting YES for a healthy and sustainable future!



Mickey McLeod



Suzanne Little



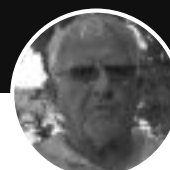
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Yes!
YES Empowers Salt Spring Island



Conny Classen



Tom Toynbee



Liz Anderson

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FIRE DEPARTMENT

Interior deployment continues for Salt Spring crews

Furness Road grass fire tasks fire department on island

Two more Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue firefighters are reporting for duty to help with wildfire suppression efforts in the B.C. Interior.

On the morning of Aug. 4, Lt. Cody Hunsberger and firefighter Ben Westlake left the island to relieve SSIFR firefighters Jason Gaffney and Dustin Bean. The Aug. 4 deployment was the fourth SSIFR team to participate since July 12.

A fifth deployment team could be used if fire conditions do not improve. Salt Spring firefighters have been operating out of Williams Lake, Soda Creek and Springfield.

“Our SSIFR crews have been working alongside numerous other B.C. fire departments setting up residential roof sprinklers, fuel reduction and suppling the wildland firefighters with massive amounts of water,” said Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George in a press release issued on Friday afternoon.

He said that to date more than 400,000 hectares have burnt this year in B.C., making it one of the most destructive fire seasons in B.C. history.

“This past week we have seen the impact on our local air quality due to the wildfires,” said George. “Conditions are expected to change but residents with respiratory illness should avoid too much exposure outside until it passes.”

Local conditions worsen

Fire-risk conditions on Salt Spring Island are also becoming more extreme, he said. In addition to being in an extreme fire danger rating, the island also faced several “30/30 crossover days” this month.

“Crossover conditions are very concerning for the fire department, as fires that start during these periods start easily and grow fast,” said George. “These conditions occur when our local temperatures exceed 30 degrees and less than 30 per cent humidity. When we hit these conditions, we face a heightened fire threat.”

He said SSIFR crews responded to a grass fire that occurred during a 30/30 crossover period on Furness Road on Aug. 2. Firefighters were able to contain the fire very quickly with little damage.

What can and can't be done during extreme fire danger periods on Salt Spring Island?

Under the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Bylaw No.125, the following high-risk activities are closed:

- Mechanical brushing
- Disk trenching
- Preparation or use of explosives
- Using fire or spark producing tools, including cutting tools
- Using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics
- Grinding, including rail grinding
- Mechanical land clearing
- Clearing and maintaining right of way, including industrial grass mowing
- Any of the following activities carried out in a cut-block excluding a road landing, roadside work area, or log sort area in a cut-block

Operating a power saw (But note that use of chainsaws on a landing or on other non-combustible areas are currently permitted for low-risk tasks such as bucking firewood and landscaping.)

- Mechanical tree falling
- Welding
- Portable wood chipping
- Skidding logs
- Yarding logs using cable systems

Certain high-risk activities may be authorized through receipt of a special permit from the Salt Spring Fire Department.

People who are not sure if an activity falls under a high-risk closure or not should call the Ganges Fire Hall at 250-537-2531 or stop in.

PUBLIC SPHERE

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson joins Forum Thursday

Role of big cities explored

BY SALT SPRING FORUM

Far more Canadians live in cities rather than rural areas today. Major centres continue to grow rapidly, leading society forward and encountering many challenges.

Vancouver, for example, is one of the “greenest” cities in the world and on track to be 100 per cent reliant on renewable energy by 2050.

At the same time Vancouver has one of the lowest vacancy rates and

is one of the most expensive places to live in Canada, with the cost of an average one-bedroom apartment topping \$2,000 per month. The city has been hit hard by the homelessness and now the opioid crises.

Of course, these crises are not confined to big cities. Small communities like Salt Spring face similar challenges.

On Thursday, Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson joins the Salt Spring Forum for a wide-ranging discussion about the city he leads, the challenges and opportunities

facing big cities, and much more.

What is the role of big city governments in addressing health, housing and other issues that are the constitutionally-assigned responsibilities of provincial and federal governments? What can we learn from proposed solutions? Do big cities hold the key to a sustainable future?

Robertson has been mayor of Vancouver since 2008. Prior to running for that position, he was a Member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. Before that, he co-founded Happy Planet, a socially responsible company

that produces organic juices and promotes health and nutrition.

This special summertime event will be moderated by Jennifer Breakspear, a part-time resident of Salt Spring Island who serves as the executive director of the Portland Hotel Society. The Portland Hotel Society works closely with the City of Vancouver, providing supportive housing, harm reduction and health care services to thousands of people in the Downtown Eastside and beyond.

Tickets are available at ArtSpring.



Gregor Robertson.

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Real Estate

MAKING AN OFFER Part 1

Ask your realtor for all the documentation on file describing the property (such as Property Disclosure Statement, title search, CRD Building Inspection report, septic & woodstove permits, survey, well log & water tests).

Is this home accurately priced? Ask your agent for comparable sales to see what other similar homes have sold for in order to assist in determining your offering price. Consider the listing to selling price ratio for similarly priced homes.

Confirm with mortgage broker or bank that you are qualified to make the purchase and that you have deposit funds of approximately 5% of the selling price available within 2 weeks.

List the “chattels” that you wish to have included (and excluded) in your contract.

Above all put your agent to work for you - ask lots of questions so that you can make informed decisions.

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Neck-deep water supports 90 percent of your body weight and relieves stress on knee and hip joints. Pressure is released when a joint is submerged in water, encouraging freedom of movements through its full range of motion.

The buoyancy of water also provides support for older individuals decreasing the risk of injury due to falling.

Water provides resistance in multiple directions, with hydrostatic pressure exerted equally on all surfaces of the body. Movement in any side-to-side forward-backward direction meets equal resistance, so the opposing muscle groups work equally.

Begin aqua fit exercises slowly and gradually increase the pace so that your body is prepared for your workout.

Come try a class it is great to work out in the water especially when the weather is hot.

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Mechanic

Lets avoid vacation breakdowns this summer.

While your vehicle is in for its regular service have belts hoses and coolant checked.

Your tires will be working extra hard on the hot pavement - have pressures and wear checked regularly. Beware of slippery roads after the first rain following a dry spell. Deposits of tire dust, oil drippings, etc. can make for an extremely slippery surface until the debris is washed away.

Worn brakes will overheat sooner than a well maintained braking system resulting in far less stopping power. Ask for a complete brake inspection at your next service.

Transmissions and differentials should have their oils changed regularly and now would be a good time if they haven't been done recently.

Remember, maintenance repairs are cheaper than breakdown repairs.

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REFERENDUM

Mail-in voting explained

Option for resident and non-resident electors requires some planning

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

While Salt Spring's incorporation referendum is still one month away, people who are not able to vote on Sept. 9 or the Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 advance polls should make plans for mail-in voting soon.

Mail-in ballots are only available to qualified resident electors or non-resident property electors who have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote or those who expect to be absent on general voting day and both advance poll dates.

Ballots can be acquired after submitting an Application to Vote by Mail form, available through the CRD online at www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote, which is the section about Salt Spring's incorporation referendum.

According to Emilie Gorman, the CRD's deputy corporate officer and deputy chief election officer, copies can also be provided through the new Salt Spring CRD office in the Creekside building on McPhillips Avenue, if requested.

Completed Vote by Mail forms can be mailed to or dropped off at the CRD's 625 Fisgard St. office in Victoria, faxed to 250-360-3130 or emailed to legserv@crd.bc.ca. A mail-in ballot package will then be sent in the mail. Completed bal-

lots must be received at the Victoria CRD office by no later than 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Qualified voters are those who are:

- 18 years of age or older on general voting day (September 9, 2017); and
- a Canadian citizen; and
- a resident of the Salt Spring Island electoral area for at least the past 30 days or a registered owner of real property in the Salt Spring Island electoral area for at least the past 30 days; and
- a resident of B.C. for at least the past six months; and
- not disqualified by any enactment from voting in a local government election or otherwise disqualified by law.

Only one non-resident elector per property may vote.

Qualified resident electors include people who rent their residences on Salt Spring.

For more details about the voting process and details such as identification needed at the polls and how to become a registered voter, see the CRD's website on the page with all the referendum details. The link to the Salt Spring referendum page is on the website's home page.

Voting locations on Sept. 9 will be Fulford Elementary School, Gulf Islands Secondary School, Community Gospel Chapel, A.R. MacNeill Secondary School in Richmond and the Mary Winspear Cultural Centre in Sidney.

Advance poll voting spots are the Salt Spring Public Library and Community Gospel Chapel.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

YESSIES & NOSIES: Robert Birch and Nomi Lyonns don clown noses and their sense of humour to promote a Tuesday, Aug. 15 event set for Centennial Park. They want people on both sides of the incorporation referendum debate to lighten up and come together for some fun games, community-building discussion and to enjoy some live music and dancing. Twister debates, a three-legged race pairing yes and no supporters, plus a Tug of Peace while everyone wears clown noses are on the agenda. There will also be a "how not to have a debate" session, small discussion groups and a "dance your pants off finish." The event, called a Twisted Town Hall Tuesday: a Referendum Social - Vote for In-cooperation, runs at the park from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

DERELICT VESSELS

CRD to seek federal funds to help address boat debris

Jurisdictions aim for better coordination

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The Capital Regional District Board decided last week to seek federal funding to help deal with derelict vessels in regional waters.

A total of \$1,050,000 will be sought in two grants from the government's recently announced Abandoned Boats Program. Grants consist of \$50,000 in Abandoned Boat Education and Awareness funding and \$1,000,000 in Abandoned Boat Assessment and Removals funding, with the CRD suggesting it could contribute \$16,667 and \$333,333, respectively.

"Abandoned boats create a significant environmental and safety risk for our region," said CRD Board chair Barbara Desjardins in a press release about the issue. "The board supports a regional funding application to maximize available fed-

eral grants and ensure ongoing leadership to address the issue."

Application funding deadlines are in the fall.

"This is a serious issue on Salt Spring, both in Ganges Harbour, the heart and soul of Salt Spring, as well as Burgoyne Bay."

WAYNE MCINTYRE
Salt Spring CRD director

The CRD support will come from an expansion of the Environmental Resource Management Community Clean-up Program to include the ABP initiative. Further, CRD staff will approach the Southern Vancouver Island Regional Districts, the Islands Trust and First Nations regarding potential ways to work together to address abandoned

boats under the federal ABP initiative.

Salt Spring resident John Roe of the Veins of Life Watershed Society has been instrumental in encouraging the CRD to work with other agencies on the issue.

"This is a serious issue on Salt Spring, both in Ganges Harbour, the heart and soul of Salt Spring, as well as Burgoyne Bay," said Salt Spring director Wayne McIntyre at an earlier board discussion on the topic.

The CRD board also agreed to write a letter to federal Transportation Minister Marc Garneau, outlining comments and concerns from CRD directors, including streamlining the vessel removal process into a simple one-call solution; using B.C. as a vessel licensing program test site; the need for federal research into materials that may safely be used in hulls; and strategies for the disposal of vessels that may contain hazardous waste.

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OPINION



2017 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best All-Round | Gold - Best Editorial Page | Silver - Best Front Page | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Silver - Best Coverage of the Arts | Best Community Newspaper Magazine (Aqua - Gulf Islands Living)
Silver - Best Print Innovation (Driftwood wall calendar) | Silver - Best Print Ad (Home Hardware fall fair catalogue)

2017 BCYCA Awards
Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



EDITORIAL

Prepare for mail votes

In some ways Salt Spring's Sept. 9 referendum seems like a far-off, distant event.

In other ways it's just around the corner. The latter is especially true for people who will not be near a polling station on either the Sept. 9 voting day or the two advance polling dates of Aug. 30 and Sept. 6. On Saturday, Sept. 9, stations will be set up on Salt Spring, of course, but also at Richmond and Sidney locations, mainly for people who own property on Salt Spring and qualify as "non-resident electors," but also for all qualified voters who might be on the mainland or in the Sidney area on that day.

Advance polling stations are only on Salt Spring, however.

For people who don't believe they will be able to vote in person between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on any of the three available days, a mail-in ballot is the only choice. But "mail-in" is almost as ominous as it sounds.

THE ISSUE:

Referendum voting

WE SAY:

Mail-in voting needs some time

Using the process requires completion of a form requesting the special ballot package. The Capital Regional District, which is administering the referendum, advises timing things to get the ballot package from the

CRD office in Victoria before Aug. 31 to be assured of having enough time to return the ballot by mail (or in person) to the Victoria CRD office by Sept. 9.

Emilie Gorman, the CRD's deputy corporate officer and deputy chief election officer, says that while the CRD would prefer people print off their own application forms from the CRD's website, some will be made available upon request at the new CRD office in the Creekside building on McPhillips Avenue.

For people feeling pressed to make up their mind too far in advance of when mail-in ballots must be dealt with, ample information is available through online venues, upcoming public events and the Driftwood (both online and in print).

In the meantime, some of Salt Spring's more creative community members are organizing an event meant to keep things light and bring both sides together. Twisted Town Hall Tuesday: A Referendum Social — Vote for In-cooperation" will take place at Centennial Park on Aug. 15 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. It will encourage people from the yes and no sides to discuss issues in a less serious manner, perhaps while tied together in a three-legged race.

Only on Salt Spring . . .



VIEWPOINT by Judi Stevenson

Keep our local government special

The July 12 issue of the Driftwood included an In Depth column by Bob Rush, a longtime resident of Salt Spring Island ("Look both at and beyond road costs").

Bob is one of those people who has given generously of his time, energy and intelligence to our community over the years, and I admire and thank him for it.

But I have to take issue with a number of points in his column. On the subject of road costs, which is far from being the only issue voters are talking about (as Bob suggested), Brenda Guiled's research has raised many questions about whether we have been given a fair and accurate cost estimate to bring our many crumbling roads up to a reasonable standard, and where the money would come from. And that is just one of the questions that is not adequately answered by the consultants' report.

To me, the answer to uncertainty on roads and so much else is, okay let's vote no until we can get genuine clarity and perhaps some creative new thinking about our present system of local government, in conversation with our new provincial government. The new NDP government can and will reset the dial on any number of issues. Let's ask for a thorough review of the strengths, weaknesses and ways of improving our specially designed form of local government, which, the NDP brought into existence in 1974.

Turning to Bob's list of eight so-called "advantages to incorporation," I think there are some big holes there, particularly in terms of the funding that our current local government does in fact already get.

Yes, we do get a direct allocation of gas tax moneys, in fact about \$550,000 per year. This has helped pay for Pathways proj-

ects, improvements to water treatment and other projects.

Yes, we are eligible for money from the Strategic Priorities Fund right now, through the CRD. And maybe we could be pushing harder for it.

In fact, Salt Spring may be more successful that any other community of our size in getting grants of all kinds. According to my information, it has added up to \$60 million over the past 15 years! This includes funds for green space protection, public transit, the library, the pool, affordable housing, and also water and sewage treatment.

No doubt there is more to be said about both roads and taxes, but Bob is right that we have to look beyond these things. So let me wrap up by telling you what I think is the single biggest advantage of rejecting incorporation.

Salt Spring is a very special place on the planet in both its natural and social environments. That's why the Islands Trust was created in the first place, to protect these islands not just for their residents but also for the people of BC and beyond. And we know how to work together as a community to get things done, raising money for what Salt Spring needs through wonderfully creative public campaigns and hard work with committed local officials to access government funding. In Victoria, we're famous for it.

And I like that our local government is special too — not like anywhere else, a little unusual, a little quirky, full of ideas, sometimes a little pushy — and always with our gumboots on.

Join me in voting "positively no" on Sept. 9.

The writer is a Mount Belcher Heights resident.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

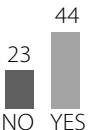
Are you still undecided about the incorporation referendum?

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

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should local governments have more control over cell towers?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "People are crying, people are happy, they don't have to go to the food bank as much."

SIMONE CAZABON, SECOND HARVEST FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What are you going to do with the remainder of the summer?



ANNE KILKENNY

We have a cottage over on Wise Island . . . We just kinda hang out and go places on the boat and enjoy the Gulf Islands.



ERIN CHEWTER

I was supposed to go on a road trip up to Nelson . . . however the van we were supposed to buy seems to be falling through . . .



GRAHAM KIRBY

We're on a cruise for 10 days, half way through. We're going to do a bit more cruising and head back to Vancouver.



KIM HUNTER

I'm going to stay home and enjoy the island.



MARILYN WALKER

I'm bringing my two nieces back from Toronto to spend two weeks on Salt Spring. They can hardly wait.

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

Protect what we have

We have owned property on Salt Spring since 1989 and spend three to four months per year here. Our other home is in Canmore, Alta.

In the beginning we questioned the need for the Islands Trust as what we saw as a fourth level of government. Watching what has happened over those 28 years we have come to a deep appreciation for the place we are privileged to share with those who have made their lives here, and for the unique place the independent preserve-and-protect oversight of Islands Trust

has created. Also by living in another incorporated tourist-focused community we have the perspective of the other side. Sometimes it's easier to see the real situation when you spend time outside of it.

We see a vote for incorporation as a kind of "Gulf Islands exit"; a step from the special status created and maintained over 40-plus years back to the ordinary, with all the unstoppable pressures and social problems our other home faces despite its "let's keep the brakes on development" elected officials.

As our other residence is not in B.C. we are unable to vote in the referendum, so we would ask that you vote "no" to pro-

tect what we all have, and in recognition of what we are all in danger of losing.

DOUG + SUE MACDONALD, SALT SPRING + CANMORE

Ask the Trust

Greg Spendjian's July 26 "Changing vote from yes to no" piece is based largely on unfounded opinions. As an engineer I prefer to be guided by factual information.

Many of Greg's statements deserve comment, but I'll limit them here to just two. (1) He states, "I do not agree with those who suggest that the incorporation of Salt Spring will not have an impact on the Islands Trust as a whole"; and (2) "It would not surprise me

if the Trust would disappear in short order following the withdrawal of resources provided by Salt Spring Island."

Let's see what the Islands Trust has to say about those on their website at www.islands-trust.bc.ca. There are two pertinent documents. One is titled "2016 Update of the Islands Trust Impact Analysis." The other is titled "Transition Plan in the Event of Incorporation of Salt Spring Island." In the very first paragraph of their transition plan, the Trust says, "The possible incorporation of Salt Spring Island is a significant event, but it is not a threat to the existence of the Islands Trust."

In the impact analysis doc-

ument, among other things it says Salt Spring would "remain a member of the Islands Trust and contribute to Trust-wide services and programming." It also says "island municipalities contribute towards (a) the cost of operations of Trust Council and Executive Committee, and (b) the cost of administrative operations of the Trust Fund Board."

Rather than Greg's opinions I prefer to believe what the Trust says. Regardless, I agree wholeheartedly with another of Greg's opinions. That's his concern that "the upcoming referendum has not been preceded by a genuine debate." That's a good argument for incorporation.

There is no public "forum" for debating important issues that affect our community, such as this incorporation debate. Nor is there any "group" with the authority to speak on behalf of Salt Spring Island. Through a municipal council, there could be rational public debate on community issues, and a consensus arrived at. The council could then proceed accordingly, whether it is to take action on local matters, or to speak on behalf of Salt Spring on external matters.

BOB RUSH, SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Voting yes to create a greener Salt Spring Island

BY MEROR KRAYENHOFF

As I understand it, most of the people voting "no" in the Sept. 9 referendum are doing so because they are worried about development and the cost of incorporation. I'm voting "yes" for those very reasons. Let me explain.

The Islands Trust was formed in 1974, which was prior to the energy crisis, the centralized Walmart business model (e.g. Costco, Amazon), and outsourcing in general. Back then the survival of our species was not at all in question. We now live in a time where there are melting polar ice caps, record CO2 levels, acidification of the oceans, rapid rate of extinction of species, radiation issues from Fukushima, Chernobyl and depleted uranium war heads, environmental refugees, etc. What matters now is so different to what mattered in 1974. We need to act according to today's issues.

Back in 1970, Denis Hayes coordinated the first Earth Day and later expanded it to over 180 nations. He is a hero of mine. What is he doing now? He is a developer, and one of the best. Here's what he says: "The era of harm reduction, half steps and lesser evils is behind us. As a society, we need to be bold in ways that were once unimaginable. Luckily in the building sector, we now can imagine where we need to go."

I know some people think that building is a minor issue. Consider that how we currently build is responsible for 40 per cent of energy consumption and 50 per cent of landfill waste in North America.

Denis Hayes' latest project is the six-story Bullitt Center in Seattle. It is not connected to Seattle power, water, or sewage. It has a pro-

jected lifespan of 250 years and is cash flow positive. It breaks all the rules. It would be impossible to do on Salt Spring.

Who is Denis Hayes inspired by? Jason McLennan, a Canadian from Sudbury, who started the Living Building Challenge 11 years ago. It is by far the most rigorous building standard on the planet. All Living Building Challenge projects need to be net zero energy, net zero water, not use any of the 351 toxic chemicals found in most buildings, etc. It was designed to be unattainable and now these types of buildings are showing up all over the world. Jason's own home on Bainbridge Island is a Living Building Challenge home that required collaboration with the island municipality so he could build it as it breaks all the rules. It would be impossible on Salt Spring.

How are municipalities handling the environmental imperative? Dozens require LEED Silver minimum. More than that require LEED Certification. At least one municipality requires Passive House. How about Salt Spring? In B.C. we now have a five-step building code standard. Salt Spring is and will remain at the bottom step if we don't incorporate.

I am so proud that we have elected Elizabeth May and Adam Olsen. I'm embarrassed by how we build. As far as I know we don't have a single commercial building on Salt Spring that is higher than the minimum standard.

The pool, the high school, the RCMP building, the proposed fire hall, and likely the upcoming affordable housing projects all occur the same way. But let's look at the library, because

INDEPTH

it is most recent, and because it started within months of ratification of our OCP. After tremendous community input, we decided in our OCP that from now on all Salt Spring buildings should, as much as possible, use island labour, island materials and express our unique culture. The building of the library, run by the CRD from Victoria, made sure that nothing was local. They flirted with LEED Gold but threw that under the bus when the budget got tight. To me that is the epitome of bad development. Even the stonework used imported stone and off-island stone masons. The building could just as easily sit in Moose Jaw.

I know that many people think we can't afford to do good environmental work, and I would agree with them if we continue on the same trajectory. Again to the library: It cost about \$7 million. Where did all that money go? Straight to the community where the CRD is, Victoria. As a community we had our pockets picked for over \$7 million that could have landed in island pockets.

If the library had been built using local materials and local labour expressing local culture as per the OCP, we would have had that money in the hands of locals and half of that would have been re-spent on island. So actually our pockets were picked for over \$10 million. We missed out on \$20 million for the high school, and further millions on the pool and RCMP building. We now outsource our roads, our electricity, our investments, our planning and our governance.

We have a massive financial hemorrhage, which is totally unsustainable. It also repre-

sents an enormous opportunity. If we kept that money on island we could easily support the things that really matter, like supporting farmers, building affordable housing, improving our water supply and building bicycle paths!

What if we instead had a municipality that required Living Building Challenge buildings and all were built as much as possible with local materials and local labour expressing local culture? What if our rural residences became self reliant for water, electricity and sewage? There are so many ways we can make the island an environmental beacon for the world, and almost all are impossible without incorporation.

Some would say that they are voting no because that is how to keep the island the same. I holidayed here with my family in the 1950s and have seen a tremendous amount of development, most of which was under the Trust watch. No matter how you vote, there will be change. It's the only constant. The island has gone from largely self sufficient to broad acceptance of outsourcing, and the trajectory of development is bleak, given what's possible.

I am voting yes on Sept. 9 so we can ensure good development and bring in policies that keep our money on island. I encourage you to put the era of harm reduction, half steps and lesser evils behind us. Act with courage when you vote. No is not enough.

The writer owns Terra Firma Builders, a rammed earth building company, on Salt Spring Island.

It's now or never for alternative governance options

BY SAM SYDNEYSMITH

The sheer size of Salt Spring is its "achilles heel" in any plan to incorporate and grow as a municipality. Large size means a large road network, which means high annual road costs, which means much higher taxes for all residents if Salt Spring incorporated as a municipality. In short, we simply do not have the population size and/or tax base to afford this on our own.

Paramount to a decision on how best to govern ourselves in the future is the right to be informed on all options available and to choose a form of governance

best suited to this unique place. Something other than being just a "standard municipality" on the route to urbanization. There is a definite need and desire by many islanders for the opportunity to examine such options. But first, at this stage there is one very important condition, or caution, to consider. Namely, we must vote "no" on the upcoming referendum to avoid a possible trap because a "yes" vote on Sept. 9 would slam the door shut on considering any other governance options in the future.

There is simply too much to lose to let this happen.

It turns out there are alternative models of governance already out there and available under existing provincial legislation. Attempts have been made in the past to consider these alternatives, such as electing a Local Community Commission of four to six members empowered to make on-island decisions; or increasing the number of local trustees from two to four. Both options allow for greater efficiency and representation in our local governance structure, while still retaining the provincial government's support for Salt Spring's roads. A win/win situation.

Unfortunately, the government and a well-organized pro-incorporation lobby have been successful in side-stepping these options in favour of a single pre-empted choice of "municipality: yes or no?" while down-playing the fact that as a municipality Salt Spring would lose its rural status and provincial financial support for roads.

All this happened because there was no effective push-back against the pro-lobby and government's wish to get Salt Spring off its books. Or perhaps after the 2002 referendum came out with 70 per cent against incorporation,

maybe voters felt that that was a clear enough message for a while.

However, things are different now with the recent formation of a well-organized and well-supported group to fight the referendum with a "PositivelyNO" vote, and then go on to consider other forms of governance better suited to the unique character and needs of Salt Spring.

So please vote "no" this time and save this precious island from the senseless forces of urbanization.

The writer has lived on Salt Spring for 28 years.

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- 407 Express Toll Route. The world's first all-electronic, open-access toll highway, Highway 407 is an integral part of the Toronto Area's transportation network. It currently spans nearly 130 kilometres and 385,000 cars drive on it every day.
- Dorna Sports Management. This Spanish sports management, media and marketing company organizes the MotoGP and the FIM World Superbikes Championship, the world's two most popular motorcycle racing circuits.
- Broadcast Australia. This company develops and maintains the infrastructure at 622 TV and radio sites throughout Australia. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Special Broadcasting Service are among its largest customers.

Find more information at www.cppib.com.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

It could happen here too

Judging from their Facebook posts, those in favour of incorporation want a system where islanders are accountable to islanders. They want greater and more inclusive decision making. And, indeed, who doesn't?

But neither "accountability" nor "greater and more inclusive" are on the referendum ballot. The only question we get to answer is this one: "Are you in favour of the incorporation of a Salt Spring Island Municipality? Yes or No?"

And in the real world, municipalities all too often fall far short of these praiseworthy goals. IntegrityBC.ca recently highlighted a few of these municipal disaster zones.

Seven of eight Nanaimo city councillors want their mayor, Bill McKay, to quit. Grand Forks council went to court to force a councillor out. They lost. Greenwood residents tried it too. Their petition was stayed by the court, but they're not giving up. Meanwhile, taxpayers are stuck with the court costs.

Vancouver council — under cover of darkness — voted themselves a 12.6 per cent pay raise. Add in additional supplements and one-time payments and it comes to 17 per cent.

In the real world, accountability and transparency simply don't automatically accompany municipal status. Quite the opposite. IntegrityBC.ca found that most municipalities in B.C. have more secret in-camera meetings than the City of Toronto. Another "frequent knee-jerk reaction" they uncovered was eliminating public question periods, as did White Rock. "Fighting freedom of information requests tooth and nail," they report, "seems to be standard operating procedure at most city halls."

I know, there's a certain line of thought that says, "It couldn't happen here." This strikes me as dangerously naïve. The issue has nothing to do with "trusting your community." It has to do with recognizing that municipalities impose typical political and economic pressures that mayors and city councillors, whether from White Rock, Grand Forks, Nanaimo or Vancouver, respond to in typical ways. I wouldn't want to bet the house on Salt Spring somehow being the lone exception.

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

No legal foundation

In a July 26 Driftwood story ("Cedar Lane well takes big drop"), there is a reference that cites: "Rolie 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."

As the agency responsible for Salt Spring Island land use and planning, the Islands Trust issued a news release dated July 18, 2014: Salt Spring LTC Releases Legal Advice On Bullock Lake Rezoning Application. The news release was very specific in its response to the Local Trust Committee's request for a legal opinion: "The legal opinion indicates the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee has no legal foundation to contest the CRD's re-issuance of building permits needed to complete the entire resort development as originally proposed."

WAYNE MCINTYRE,
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

Different interpretation of 2011 events

I am saddened by Frances Hill's attack against me last week in the Driftwood ("Worry about assertions" letter).

It's a rehash of the 2011 volleys that were aimed at private citizens who wanted to stop elected officials from breaking the law. All we wanted was for our Islands Trust trustees Christine Torgrimson and George Ehring to be transparent and correct when spending our tax dollars.

The trustees had ample opportunity to withdraw their motions once alerted to their breach of conflict of interest rules. They could have tried to re-award these funds in a legal manner. Instead they elected to go to court over a protracted period and spend a large amount of our tax dollars.

It wasn't George and Christine's volunteer work that raised red flags and put them in hot water. Their fault was adding the two money request motions to the Trust

agenda without notice, not having any written request from the groups they chaired and not declaring their positions within the groups. Video footage of that meeting shows this and it includes Islands Trust chair Sheila Malcolmson aware of and uncomfortable with the irregularities.

I am an ardent environmentalist and believe climate change is the biggest issue of our lives. I tried to join the climate action group and was refused membership by Christine Torgrimson, the chair, and Peter Lamb, a member. I later found that there were only nine members in the group, our elected trustees and a few long-time close associates. Membership was carefully controlled.

Ms. Hill's claim that the Trust would be a puppet government to a municipality is also in error. Bowen Island has been an island municipality since 1999 and has worked hand in hand with the Trust without conflict.

As I wrote in my article two weeks ago: "Let's improve our ability to preserve and protect" by becoming an island municipality. Ms. Hill has strengthened my resolve that seven elected islanders will ensure our tax monies are spent properly, not handed out willy nilly to special interest groups connected to only two people. A council of seven would mean less concentration of power and a better expression of democratic procedures safeguarding our future.

DEREK HILL,
SALT SPRING

Same old fairy tales

Frances Hill (Aug. 2 letter) fires a salvo at Derek Hill, one of the brave souls who argued for the rule of law in 2011.

She must believe it's a good idea that elected officials should be able to break the law without being held accountable. Perhaps she hopes that, if we vote to keep the current system, we can repeat the sorry and expensive debacle that our islands trustees put us through six years ago.

Meanwhile, the 2002 No campaign lives on in the Driftwood, with the same names attached to the same tired arguments. (Don't believe me? Go read the letters and ads in the June 2002 Driftwood.) Three false drums were beaten in 2002. The same three are being beaten today.

No said (and says), "Taxes will go up!" We voted "no," and taxes went up more than 300 per cent from 2000-2015, more than any similar-sized municipality in B.C. This is not just because of a new library and pool. Our local government model is fractured with multiple budgets and no common planning. We pay the price.

No said (and says), "We can fix this!" The same people who wrote this then, and are floating this now, had the levers of power in their hands for long stretches of the last 15 years. Is governance better? Are the roads fixed? Is there water in your fire hydrant? Is there a boardwalk in Ganges? Where is the Burgoyne liquid waste facility that every landowner has been putting \$55 a year toward since 2009? Did we get a grant for the new fire hall we need? Did handing small water districts over to incompetent CRD engineers get residents better water at reasonable cost? The current governance model is broken. We pay more and we get less.

No said (and says), "Preserve and protect will be no more, the Islands Trust will be gutted, and developers will pave Salt Spring from Southey to Isabella!" The truth is that a Salt Spring municipality remains within the Trust. "Preserve and protect" will be written into our island municipality's founding documents, just as was done with Bowen Island in 1999. The Trust itself says that it is not threatened by Salt Spring's incorporation.

Finally, please look at a satellite photo of Bowen Island on your computer. A 20-minute ferry ride from one of the hottest real estate markets in the world, a municipality for 18 years within the Trust, it's more forested than Salt Spring.

The "no" side told us fairy tales in 2002. Positively NO is retelling them today. Don't be fooled again.

NORBERT SCHLENKER,
SALT SPRING

Enough activity for one park already

What is going on with our Parks and Recreation Commission members?

First they wanted to take agricultural land abutting a community of vulnerable seniors to be used as a ball park for a few months of the year, leaving it wide open

for those "living rough" (as opposed to those who actually pay to camp).

Now they plan to convert 1.3 to three acres of Mouat Park into a bike park by Seaview Avenue and ArtSpring (Aug. 2 Driftwood PARC meeting report).

When rumblings of this plan were first heard in the spring a group of us daily users of this park quickly gathered a sheet and a half of signatures opposing this project. We outlined our reasons for not supporting this park, submitted our names to PARC, but were told not to be concerned until September, for no action would be discussed before then and that we would, indeed, be "kept in the loop."

And now they are looking into project costs and management issues and the bike park is a done deal?

Why weren't our voices heard? Why wasn't a delegation of those who actually love and use this park informed that a meeting regarding Mouat Park's future was to be held?

A bike park on Salt Spring — okay — but not in Mouat Park.

Bikers like exercise: let them cycle farther afield in search of their park; perhaps Channel Ridge would be more suitable. It's less used and already has an extensive trail system.

Leave Mouat Park to the moms and toddlers, to the elderly with their canes and walkers, to the disc golfers, joggers, dog walkers, picnickers, school kids and summer performers. That's quite enough activity for one park.

MARIANNE HOBBS,
CEDAR LANE

Force virtue on the Trust

Julia Lucich has accurately captured the sad state of the Islands Trust ("Value of democracy should be in vote equation," Aug. 2 Driftwood).

I fully share her diagnosis but I suggest a different cure because running away from the conceivably reformable to forever inescapable, tempting as it may be, becomes no wise folk.

It is certain that the Trust is non-self-reformable. But we, the people can force virtue onto it. I believe that we can fix the Trust if we put our minds to that. Let's not surrender our right to try — let's not defeat ourselves.

TOM VARZELIOTIS,
BOOTH CANAL

TOP 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...

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please vote YES on September 9th

YEStoSaltSpringMunicipality.org

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

Gulf Islands schools support broad approach to health with expanded programs

Schools report on range of activities in 2017

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMPSON

Soccer action during lunch hour at Salt Spring Elementary is one way students can get healthy as part of their school day.

In the Gulf Islands School District, there's been an increasing focus on health and well-being in recent years.

Practices that "support students' physical, social, emotional and mental health, safety and well-being" are even part of the district's strategic plan.

At their May 2017 board meeting held at Fulford Community Elementary School, trustees heard about health-related activities taking place at district schools.

Some of those activities are:

Fernwood Elementary School: "Social thinking" groups with a goal of developing friendships were active. "The groups help develop social skills to help find friends, understand friends, keep friends, and learn to solve problems in the social realm," the school reported. Groups are facilitated by a teacher certified in the Friends for Life Program, which is an evidence-based anxiety prevention and resiliency-building program that has been offered in B.C. schools since 2004.

Fulford Community Elementary School: Fulford had a Fun Friends curriculum for boys and a girls' empathy group with all of the Grade 3-4 girls. A similar program held two years ago "went a long way in supporting our



GISS students listen to Wellness Summit keynote speaker.

girls' social interactions and problem solving skills," reported Fulford principal Marie Mullen.

Galiano Community School: A varied menu of health-related activities include daily whole school fitness sessions such as outside yoga, trail runs, aerobics and more; social thinking and counselling sessions; breathing and mindfulness practice; art therapy sessions with the whole class and a teacher/counsellor.

Gulf Islands Secondary School: Last spring GISS held its first Mental Wellness Summit, which served as a fantastic initiative to open up the discussion about mental health

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL



JOHN CAMERON PHOTOS/SDSA

Speaker Andrea Paquette, executive director of the Stigma-Free Society during the February 2017 event.

Put safety first on morning list

Tips for getting to school and home again

(NC) Every September brings textbooks, homework, new friends and . . . road rage? Parents with young children are reporting an increase in unsafe driving practices in school zones, according to a recent survey by the Canadian Automobile Association. The top two dangerous driving behaviours that motorists are guilty of in school zones are speeding and distracted driving.

While there are lots of things drivers can do to make mornings and after school safer for students, it's also important to prepare your kids and arm them with advice to keep them safe.



Here's some information you can share with them to help create a safer commute.

✓ Make time

If your kids are biking, walking or wheeling to school alone, help them get organized the night before and ensure they have time in the morning for a leisurely journey. Rushing means making quick, and sometimes potentially unsafe decisions.

✓ Get the right gear

If your kids walk to school, make sure they have comfortable shoes with good traction. If they bike, a well-fitting helmet is a must, as is learning your community's bylaws for cyclists. Also make sure your children know how to signal their intentions for turning and know to make eye contact with motorists when crossing.

✓ Ask your kids for help

The number one thing parents can do to be safer is give themselves more time to drop off their kids — but they can't do it alone.

Ask your children to help you get them to school on time by preparing their backpacks the night before, lending a hand at breakfast and generally supporting the goal of getting out the door sooner.



✓ Be a great bus passenger

Almost a third of Canadian students ride a school bus or vehicle. They can help their bus driver give them a safer ride to school by being on time for pick-ups, waiting in a safe place that's well back from the edge of the road, keeping their voices down in the vehicle, and staying seated facing forward at all times.

and wellness by providing an abundance of information and resources. "As a student who feels the everyday pressures of achieving academic success, along with the constant nagging thoughts of postsecondary education and balancing a personal life, it is easy to feel lost, hopeless, and to let your mental wellness sit on the back burner," said one of the student organizers. "Attending three of the 40+ workshops provided, I have been able to gain a better understanding of what myself and others are experiencing with conditions such as anxiety, depression, and body image."

• **Mayne Elementary/Jr. Secondary School:** Every day after lunch break, the whole school participates in exercises and yoga in the gym with the lights set on low. It is described as "a calming, quiet time together" that gets kids ready for their afternoon lessons.

• **Pender Islands Elementary/Secondary School:** The school had the services of a "wellness support teacher" whose main focus was to support and connect with all the students in the school, with a mandate to build emotional skills and awareness. "These skills are so important in helping students have healthy social interactions at school and beyond," stated the Pender school report.

• **Phoenix Elementary School:** Phoenix school had a focus on mindfulness and awareness of place by starting each day with meditation and yoga or a walk in nearby Moutat Park. "This allows the students and staff to transition and prepare for the day of learning ahead," said Phoenix staff. "Large population-based research studies have indicated that the practice of mindfulness is strongly





correlated with greater wellbeing and perceived health. Studies have also shown that mindfulness-based sessions are effective in the reduction of anxiety."

• **Salt Spring Elementary School:** Healthy eating was a focus at the school. Once a month the Parent Advisory Council sponsored a Meet and Greet Breakfast for all students interested. Parents and staff also worked to distribute the food received from the BC Agriculture in the Class project to all students in the school. Staff is also providing healthy lunches to any student who wants one through funding from CUPE and the Lions Club.

• **Salt Spring Island Middle School:** A breakfast program is one way the middle school promoted wellness last year. Hot oatmeal, dried fruit, sliced almonds, fresh oranges, hard-boiled eggs and yogurt were on the menu. Staff said the program was a big hit with students and created a warm and positive early-morning atmosphere in the student centre. "Teachers have noticed a positive change in students who, (because of time constraints in the morning or other factors), don't have time for breakfast — reinforcing the idea that breakfast is the most important meal of the day."

• **Saturna Elementary School/Saturna Ecological Education Centre:** Swimming lessons, a walk in the forest and playing at the Kanaka Road Skate Park as part of six weekly trips to Salt Spring were some of the healthy activities undertaken last spring. Saturna kids also joined Middle Years (Salt Spring) and Pender SEEC program students on challenges, team-building activities and nature connection at a farm on Pender.

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Island farmers cultivate a 'no' vote

If Salt Spring wants to remain a rural area, it makes sense to look at what could happen to the farming economy if we were to vote to incorporate.

We know that farmers will be hardest hit by property tax increases. The provincial farm tax exemption for farmers' homes and buildings will be phased out over five years. The Urban Systems incorporation report estimates that farm property taxes would increase by \$194/year on average, a 10 per cent increase. Increases applied to all residential property would raise taxes even further.

The district of West Kelowna incorporated in 2008. Five years later, after the transition period, farmers faced property tax increases of up to 240 per cent, whereas the average homeowner had increases of only 17.5 per cent. Small farms cannot afford large tax hikes.

The biggest impact on farming may come from increased development pressure. Farming on Salt Spring is often a labour of love and not very lucrative. A cash-strapped municipal government, facing big bills for road repairs, policing, water system upgrades and a new fire hall, would

be challenged to find extra funds to cover costs, many of which are currently paid by the province. Our island's small and mostly residential tax base would not take kindly to big property tax increases. It's easy to imagine that it would make financial sense to homeowners and municipal councillors to support new development to bring in more revenue.

Land in the Agricultural Land Reserve could not be converted to other uses without approval from the provincial Agricultural Land Commission, but all the farms not in the ALR would be attractive to developers if land-use decisions were made by a municipality and not by the Islands Trust. More development will bring more competition for scarce water supplies, and water for summer irrigation is already a big concern for island farmers.

Farmers have many reasons to oppose incorporation, not the least of which is that our current system is the only "green" local governance model in Canada, and recognizes the importance of agriculture and our small island farms. It has evolved over the years and could easily be modified to better meet current and future challenges.

Incorporation cannot be rolled back.

As farmers, we are very concerned that incorporation will damage the local farm economy. Many thanks to all those who support local farms by buying local food. Your support is invaluable for helping us to stay afloat. Please help Salt Spring's farm community again by voting "no" on Sept. 9.

CAROLINE AND ANDY HICKMAN, MICHAEL ABLEMAN, DAVE AND KATHY THOMAS, HARRY BURTON, RON PUKHY AND KIM HANSON, BRIAN SWANSON AND MARY LAUCKS, GAVIN JOHNSTON, GAY ALKOFF, MARK STEVENS, GEORGE BOWIE, JULIA AND SUSAN GRACE, NICK JONES, ROB BURNS, DARIA ZOVI, JANE SQUIER, TONY THRELFALL, MARSHA GOLDBERG AND JANE SCHWEITZER, CAROL GROOMS, CONRAD PILON, JAN STEINMAN, JIM ERICKSON, ROLLIE COOK, CATHY VALENTINE, GENE DRZYMALA AND SHARON HAWKE, EDWARD DODDS, MARGARET AND ALAN THOMSON, KEVIN KUNZLER, DELAINE FAULKNER, JANET SIMPSON, MARK WHITTEAR, MIKE AND MARJORIE LANE, ELISE RATHJE, BELINDA SCHROEDER

Incorporation is not the only choice

BY RICHARD KERR

We don't need to incorporate. Improvements to our existing governance can be made without the increased road and policing costs and other risks of incorporation.

Shockingly, the provincial government official overseeing the 2013-2016 Salt Spring Island governance and incorporation studies directed the committees and their consultants not to consider improvements that could be made under our existing form of governance. The committees were told that incorporation was the only alternative they could consider, even though existing provincial legislation allows numerous, less drastic changes.

A Local Community Commission and other options: In 2010, a B.C. government official advised local elected representatives to consider converting improvement districts (water and fire) to CRD local service areas and creating additional CRD commissions to manage CRD service delivery: "Establishing a local community commission (LCC) could allow residents to have direct involvement in managing municipal-type services such as sewer and water systems..." The 2013-2016 governance and incorporation study committees and consultants were forbidden to consider these measures, thus denying voters crucial information about positive alternatives to incorporation.

Urban Systems (the incorporation study's consultants) dismissed LCCs, claiming they are "best suited to remote isolated communities where it is not practical

INDEPTH

for regional district staff to administer and operate local services." In actual travel time, Ganges is twice as isolated from its regional headquarters as the five communities where LCCs already exist! Nothing in the provincial legislation restricts LCCs to smaller communities. A recent governance study in Okanagan-Similkameen found that LCCs are "more appropriate for communities with larger populations from which to draw candidates."

An LCC would consist of four or six Salt Spring-elected commissioners and the electoral area director. Successive CRD directors have noted their position's overwhelming demands. LCC commissioners could share the burden. Gas tax fund and other grant allocations, affordable housing, CRD bylaw enforcement oversight and other responsibilities could be assigned to a Salt Spring LCC by the CRD Board. Possible CRD concerns about liability would need to be addressed, as they have been with existing services. The Positively NO website provides ministry-approved background documents on LCCs.

Protocol agreements between the CRD, the Islands Trust and other agencies could provide for consultation and coordination with the Salt Spring LCC regarding planning, roads and policing.

The governance and incorporation studies were not even allowed to consider models of fire department service delivery that already exist under the CRD

umbrella. The non-profit Pender Island Fire Protection Society is contracted by the CRD to provide fire protection services. PIFPS appoints the fire chief and provides oversight and planning to the department. Other fire departments are supported by CRD advisory commissions and staff. The Pender fire department and others have received grants for fire hall construction and other facilities through the CRD.

Two of our most successful services — the library and the recycling depot — are operated in CRD-owned facilities by local non-profit societies under contracts with the CRD. The CRD received a \$4.55-million grant from the Canada/BC Building Canada Fund to help pay for library construction. Following that model, could the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and the fire department be converted to non-profit societies contracting with the CRD? Fire and water services would be eligible for infrastructure grants through the CRD under either the contracted non-profit or CRD commission approaches.

Multi-service model: The Comox Valley Regional District contracts with the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association which operates solid waste disposal facilities, a community hall, community parks and comfort stations, and oversees fire protection. Hornby's fire hall was partly paid for from a gas tax grant through the CVRD. This approach was not considered by our governance study because it was "outside" the committee's provincially restricted terms of reference.

The Islands Trust Council has decided that if Salt Spring votes "no" to incorporation it will consider a governance and service delivery review, examining ways to increase Trust efficiency and reduce Salt Spring taxpayers' subsidy of local planning on other Trust islands. The new NDP-Green alliance is likely to be more committed than the BC Liberals to the continued effectiveness of the Islands Trust. The new B.C. government could allow reconsideration of an increase in the number of locally elected LTC members from two to four, but with all Salt Spring LTC members having full voting rights on Trust Council.

Conclusion: Alternatives available under our existing rural island governance can address almost all of the concerns that Salt Spring's locally elected officials catalogued when they requested provincial funding for a governance study in 2012. The CRD and the Islands Trust have already shown a willingness to adapt to Salt Spring's needs. We don't need to take the risky, irreversible step of municipal incorporation with its multi-million dollar burden of downloaded roads and policing costs, and its inevitable weakening of the Islands Trust.

The writer is an economist who served on the 1999-2002 Salt Spring Restructure Study. He has chaired the Highland Water and Malview Sewer Commission and served on the Islands Trust's Salt Spring Advisory Planning Commission, CRD's Community Economic Development Commission and other local volunteer organizations.

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ART EXHIBIT

Past and present blend in stories project



COURTESY GREG KLASSEN

An image of the HMS Ganges ship, left, is included in a modern-day view of Ganges Harbour as part of Greg Klassen's Salt Spring Stories exhibit.

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Art show and speakers series opens Aug. 11

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A series of images that speak to the uniqueness of place on Salt Spring will launch to the public this Friday, Aug. 11, along with a speakers series that showcases islanders past and present.

Presented by ArtSpring as a celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, Salt Spring Stories offers a way of marking the national milestone that both makes sense to a particular community and makes room for voices that have been sidelined until now. Photographer Greg Klassen has worked with his wife Andrea Locke to create a personally meaningful and socially relevant approach to telling stories about the island, which has been their home for the past five years.

"This exhibition was designed not just to communicate our sense of wonder and awe at this amazing place but to provide a space for our community to come together and share in the stories of this place and its people, and in the making of new stories that will unfold as we continue to move between past and future," an artist's statement explains.

As Klassen described to the Driftwood, each image involves a visual narrative he produced by layering new photographs with historic ones. The history behind the elements and related stories are described in text that Locke assembled.

The images are large-scale panoramas, uniformly two feet high but anywhere from five to 11 feet long. The base for each is a different beach photographed over the past year or so, highlighting the commu-

nity's island setting. The stories that Klassen has chosen to tell there can be serious or light.

"The story of the present and past is about how sometimes we've willfully ignored the past — and sometimes the past has just blended into the present," Klassen said.

For example, a scene of Booth Bay includes a historic photo of a Japanese youth club. Many of the figures have been "ghosted" — these are the people who never returned to Salt Spring after being deported to WWII internment camps. A beach off Isabella Point Road located near the old Hamilton homestead is ornamented with images of modern people at work and at play as well as historic Hamilton family members in both states. Shining over the horizon is an image of Susannah Trage, a Cowichan Tribes woman who married a German homesteader.

"During the process of making the series the context of these stories and our goals for the series have evolved and radically expanded."

GREG KLASSEN
Salt Spring Stories initiator/artist

One important element who inhabits every image is Klassen and Locke's daughter RhiAnnon, who is part of the island's disability community and acts as the photographer's avatar.

Klassen is taking the opportunity of the show's opening to "out" himself as a person of disability.

He received a diagnosis of having an Asberger's personality late into adulthood, but was advised not to make that a focus of his art personality when he graduated from Emily Carr University several years back. Part of the reason for having RhiAnnon in each image is to suggest how the community looks, and has looked, through different eyes.

"What's missing on this island is art for a social cause," said Klassen, who said he believes art should communicate an idea and make people think.

In addition to the art show, there will be speakers every day the show is open, starting with an introduction by Klassen and ArtSpring's executive and artistic director Cicela Månsson at the opening reception Friday night through closing day on Aug. 22. Topics will include today's disability community, historic settlers from the African-American, Hawaiian and Japanese communities, local First Nations, and the arts, among others.

"During the process of making the series the context of these stories and our goals for the series have evolved and radically expanded. Therefore the exhibition has become a celebration of, for and by a community," Klassen explained.

Funding for the show came from the Canada Council for the Arts, Canada 150 funding through the Salt Spring Foundation and support from ArtSpring. In collaboration with the Gulf Islands Families Together Society, the gallery's mandatory show sitters have been hired from the island's disability community.

A satellite exhibition is taking place at the Salt Spring Public Library, as well as Steffich Fine Art, which will show some of Klassen's older works. The opening reception runs from 5 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 11.

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what's on this week



Wed. Aug. 9 **Thur. Aug. 10** **Fri. Aug. 11** **Sat. Aug. 12** **Sun. Aug. 13** **Tue. Aug. 15** **Wed. Aug. 16**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Nicky MacKenzie.
Singer-songwriter Nicky MacKenzie performs at All Saints. 2:10 p.m.

Luke Wallace.
Performance and music recording session with Luke Wallace as part of the Turning the Tide: Paddle for the Salish Sea events. Ruckle Park group campsite. 7 p.m.

Auntie Kate, Brent Shindell & Dave Roland.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day.
With singer Susan Cogan at Peace Park/Heiwa Garden. 6 to 7 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting.
Special general meeting to discuss fundraising. Public welcome. Central Hall. 7 p.m.

Midsummer Nights Screen: E.T.
Watch E.T. outdoors in Centennial Park. Bring blankets and/or lawn chairs. 9 p.m.

Songjam.
A 21st-century pub sing-along to vocal and instrumental backing tracks. Wednesday at Moby's. 8 p.m.

Summer Reading Club.
Drop-in program, with crafts, games and fun for kids aged five and up. Come back each week for a different fun-filled theme. SS Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Billie Woods.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Probosc Club.
Elizabeth Dow, former executive director and a current member of the Salt Spring Hospice and Bessie Dane Foundation, is the guest speaker. Elizabeth will speak on the history, achievements, mission and challenges of the Salt Spring Hospice group. Meaden Hall. Doors open at 10 a.m. with the meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Turning the Tide: Paddle for the Salish Sea.
Community gathering/picnic dinner & discussion with MLA Adam Olsen and 80+ people paddling through the Salish Sea to raise awareness of pipeline-related threats. Ruckle Park group campsite. 5:30 p.m.

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

Salt Spring Forum: Mayor Gregor Robertson.
Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson joins the Salt Spring Forum for a wide-ranging discussion about the city he leads and the role—and future—of large urban centres in Canada and around the world. ArtSpring. 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday Wine Down.
Salt Spring Vineyards features live music every Friday. Come for a wine tasting and stay for the live music. 4 to 6 p.m.

Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Auntie Kate & the Undes of Funk. Live at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Soul Shakedown. Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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. until late afternoon.

Movie Matinee at the Library.
Featuring your favourite movies based on books. Every Friday at 1 p.m. until Aug. 25. Families welcome. Unattended children under 10 years old must be signed in and out.

Salt Spring Authors' Tea.
For all published island authors at the SS Public Library. 4 to 5 p.m.

Salt Spring Stories – Intro with Greg Klassen. Artist Greg Klassen and ArtSpring director Cicela Månsson open exhibition and speaker series celebrating the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary, with show running Aug. 11 to 22. ArtSpring gallery. Opening reception 5 to 7 p.m., talk at 5:30.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Luke Wallace.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Downtown Mischief.
Funk/hip hop/jazz band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.



ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.
Locally produced crafts, foods and produce at famous event in Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Salt Spring Stories – Kate Roland.
Kate Roland talks about Kanaka community as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.

Ros Vijndren Book Reading.
Creator of Granny in the Trees series reads from several books and answers questions. For ages 5 to 95. Mahon Hall. 2 p.m.

Salt Spring Stories – Yuri Arais.
Artistic director of Kickstart Disability Arts & Community gives talk as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Music in the Vineyards.
Salt Spring Vineyards features live music every Sunday. Come for a wine tasting and stay for the live music. 2 to 4 p.m.

Sean Ashby. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Special Olympics Bocce Tournament. Salt Spring team hosts visitors for event in Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Salt Spring Stories – Joe Akerman. Joe Akerman gives talk on local First Nations history as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.

Artists From the Fringe Silent Auction. Silent auction of art to raise funds for the weekly Art Jam program. SS United Church, lower level. 2 to 4 p.m.

Michael Wall: Artist Talk. Photographer Michael Wall gives a talk at Mahon Hall as part of his Six Persimmons: Homage to Mu Ch'i exhibit. 2 p.m.

Mon. Aug. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vaughn Fulford. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Stories – Matt Steffich. Gallery owner gives talk as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th Anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic With Host David Jacquet. Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Stories – Robert Birch.
Doctoral student gives talk on LGBTQ community as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

Twisted Town Hall Tuesday: A Referendum Social. Clown-hosted event in Centennial Park to encourage co-operative relationships between the yes and no sides in the incorporation referendum debate. A Tug of Peace, 3-legged races, Twister debate and small group discussions are among activities. 5:30-7 p.m. Bring a clown nose if you have one, although some will be available.

Trivia Tuesday. Tuesdays at Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Roads Talk. Join Brenda Guiled for a repeat of her June talks about all aspects of Salt Spring Island roads: Facts, costs and concerns and with a few new details. Fulford Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Phil Vernon.
Salt Spring singer-songwriter Phil Vernon performs for Tea à Tempo at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Scott Cook.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Summer Reading Club.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Songjam.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Salt Spring Stories – Usha Rautenbach.
SSI Historical Society researcher give talk on the island's historic black community as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.



Salt Spring Island Roads Talk.
Join Brenda Guiled for a repeat of her June talks about all aspects of Salt Spring Island roads: Facts, costs and concerns and with a few new details. Fulford Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.

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CINEMA

• **Despicable Me 3** — Final two shows. Despicable Me 3 should keep fans of the franchise consistently entertained with another round of colourful animation and zany, scattershot humour. The adventure continues for Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters-Margo, Edith and Agnes and the Minions.

• **Dunkirk** — Dunkirk serves up an emotionally satisfying spectacle, brought to life by a gifted ensemble cast that honours the fact-based story.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Greg Klassen** presents Salt Spring Stories, a series of images that speak to the uniqueness of place on Salt Spring, at ArtSpring, beginning with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. A satellite exhibition takes place at the Salt Spring Public Library, as well as Steffich Fine Art, which will show some of Klassen's older works.

• **Janice Parker** shows new paintings in Renewal at Salt Spring Gallery through Aug. 22.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Michael Wall's** photography exhibition titled Six Persimmons: Homage to Mu Ch'i runs daily at ArtCraft at Mahon Hall until Aug. 23 and with an artist's talk scheduled for Aug. 13 at 2 p.m.

• **Karen Reiss** and **Donna Hall** present an exhibit called Close to Home at Kizmit Galeria and Cafe through August.

• **Salt Spring Painters' Guild's** Summer Art Show & Sale of work by 33 members runs daily in the ArtSpring gallery through Aug. 10.

• **Delicacy of Steel**, a show of sculpture by **Bev Petow** and paintings by **Michael Robb**, is on at **Duthie Gallery** through Aug. 15.

• **The Island Textile Artists group** presents their latest work in an exhibit called Loosely Connected in the ArtSpring lobby through August.

• **Pod Contemporary** hosts "Many years have passed, New work by **Michela Sorrentino**" through Sept. 8.

EXHIBITIONS

• **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.

• **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.

• **Wendy Taylor** shows multi-media paintings 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 flower photographs in the hallway at Salt Spring Coffee Co.

TEA À TEMPO

Phil Vernon poised to lift audience spirits

Prepare to sing along at next All Saints recital

BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Summer is a time to head for the cool of the high mountains. This advice comes from local singer-songwriter Phil Vernon.

Most summers while raising their daughter, Vernon and his partner Maggie would go backpacking as a family, hiking for days through B.C.'s alpine wilderness.

"Singing was a good way to pass the time and lighten the load going up a steep grade or, more importantly, to keep the bears away," he said.

Vernon will be on stage next Wednesday, Aug. 16 at Tea à Tempo, the afternoon musical series at All Saints By-the-Sea church.

"Singer-songwriter" is one description of the man, but labels don't do justice to Vernon, for he could also be called social activist, environmentalist, artist, designer. He was very much involved from the start in overturning the decision to allow development on Grace Islet, re-writing Amazing Grace and other



FILE PHOTO COURTESY RON WATTS

Salt Spring musician Phil Vernon.

songs to lift the spirit of the community during that disturbing period in our island's life.

Many of Vernon's songs reflect people in their everyday lives not only here at home

but people he's met in his travels abroad in such places as Kenya and Rwanda. Some of his songs come from his own upbringing — singing with his family, gathered around his mother at the piano — while others are more contemporary. Audiences are drawn to his easy, relaxed manner of telling stories with the aid of his beloved guitar or just as a raconteur.

This year Vernon and his family will again be in the high country — wildfires and smoke permitting. He'll be polishing up some of the old songs and will be sharing them with his Tea à Tempo audience.

Many of the songs pay tribute to singers and songwriters who inspired him from his earliest days and later as a songwriter and performer.

"Be prepared to sing along," said Vernon. The performance begins at 2:10 p.m., ending at about 3 p.m.

Donations for the artist and to aid in the continuance of the series are greatly appreciated.

Tea, coffee and goodies are available for purchase following the performance.

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ART REVIEW

'Loosely Connected' artists enliven lobby

Textile art on display through August

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring textile artists are sharing the fruits of their relationships this month with the Loosely Connected show in the ArtSpring lobby.

A working retreat at Mount Washington to explore natural dyeing and eco-printing techniques provided both the name of the show and its signature piece, comprising nine individual panels created by the participating artists. The resulting three-by-three collection is linked with rusty washers, while the panels reveal how different eyes and hands tackle the same exercise — in this case embellishing indigo-dyed cotton with rusted metal, embroidery and other touches.

Likewise, the show itself offers a remarkable breadth of materials, techniques and applications. Gillian Kidd has a striking black-and-white piece called Falling Snow that features mono-prints of tree images onto fabric, both in positive and negative. Three main images of bare tree branches are set against strips of smaller embellished panels, which soften and add texture to the starker panels.

Elna Gravelle's Postcards from Canada offer more traditional landscapes in postcard-sized scenes nestled within thick wooden frames. Quilting techniques bring together different fabrics into two cohesive designs, while stitching adds dimension in the foregrounds as individual flower stalks and grasses. Gravelle's Milkweed Pod is a bolder type of work — there's no doubt the juicy pod, in orange and brown against plain black, serves a reproductive purpose.

Karen Selk also favours bold designs and colours in her botanical series, with works that offer subjects in close detail such as Apple Blossom Time and Poppy's Head II. Coral Jesters is more styl-

ized with its patterning of teal polyps "blooms" on an embroidered cherry red background. Silk fusion, stitching techniques and beading went into creating a piece that teams with riotous energy.

Bobbi Janowiak shows a flair for abstract and geometric design in her pieces, which are structured on building blocks of colour or shape. Severed but With Connections, for example, is reminiscent of a kimono displayed on a wooden bar. Different-sized square and rectangular panels are linked together with thin fabric bars and a through-line of patterning. In contrast, Early Morning Light creates the idea of sunrise over low hills with a grid of different-coloured silk-fusion squares.

Joanie Paterson's work lies along the lines of embroidery more than quilting. Three scenes shown together demonstrate a variety of techniques within the method, with mastery of hand and machine stitching, and the use of silk and cotton threads on cotton and canvas backgrounds. The works are organic but not strictly defined. Like Selk's corals, they have a wider encompassing view of life. They could be flowers, a vibrant collection of microbiota or the universe itself.

For a truly island-centred view of life, Susan Paynter's Spring at Last is sure to raise a smile. Glittery beading magnifies the beauty of brilliant-yellow skunk cabbage blossoms, while the use of rusted fabrics stitched into the backdrop speaks to the quiet forest floor.

Danielle Manners also pays homage to the forest in Marg's Hibou. Cotton embellished with wool stitching and beads gives shape to a beautiful owl nestled among tree branches and flowers, with the blossoms matching the soft grey and toffee tones. Added beauty is found in the hanging rod, which is embellished with a bark and flower centrepiece.

Linda Counsell enjoys a colourful palette in her Beneath the Sea series, in which hand-dyed and painted cotton provides the necessary green and tur-

quoise ripple to suggest the viewer is looking up at a bright sky. The watery gardens team with life — fish, dolphins, starfish and corals find space together beneath the surface. Image transfers in black ink add definition to the happy chaos.

Karen Tottman shows an elaborate eye for West Coast iconography — and the technique required to pull it all together — that made her an obvious choice to represent Salt Spring in the CRD's 50th anniversary quilt project last year. The arbutus tree is the unifying element in Island Themes, while different scenic views nestle between each branch.

Lobby exhibits can be viewed during ArtSpring's regular hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily or before shows in the theatre space.

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For complete information, visit ssifoundation.ca, or email kisae@ssifoundation.ca.



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Fall Fair Focus



Summer Projects for Youth

Make your projects before going back to school!

- Decorate a T-shirt • Make a collection
- Draw a picture • Find the largest maple leaf to pick in September

For ideas in the Fall Fair Catalogue see pg 35 Youth Projects \ pg 29 Hobby Arts



See you at the Fair!

Safety Concerns: Wildfire Smoke

Wildfire smoke can harm you in multiple ways. Smoke can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, & worsen chronic heart and lung diseases.

Some tips to help you protect your health:

1. Pay attention to local air quality reports (<http://www.bc.airquality.ca/>)
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3. Do not add to indoor air pollution (i.e. vacuuming produces dust)
4. Do not rely on dust masks for protection (Not an "N95" mask, when properly worn will have only some protection) - See Respirator Fact Sheet <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-144/>
5. Avoid prolonged smoke exposure during outdoor recreation.
6. Seek medical advice with your doctor regarding your respiratory management plan if you have asthma or other respiratory ailments.

If you know of a fire in the area you can also check out Canada Fire Smoke website which provides a snapshot of the smoke coverage of the fire. www.fireSmoke.ca

www.prepareyourself.ca

Driftwood
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ART FUNDRAISER

Artists group sells works via auction

Event raises funds for more art supplies

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Artists from the Fringe group is holding a silent auction of selected works this Sunday, Aug. 13 at the Salt Spring United Church from 2 to 4 p.m.

The auction aims to help fund more art supplies for the group's Art Jam sessions and to provide a space for the artists to make money themselves. It will feature an array of work curated by a third party and will be the artists' third show since its inception in 2015.

Art Jam is a weekly get-together that hosts Salt Spring artists who, as they would say, "live rough."

The program started with the help of Lynne Johnson.

"It's one of the best things I've ever done," she said. "After years of working in hospitals as a social worker, to come here and have the opportunity to meet these folks from the homeless community, get to see them on their own turf and get to know them as people has been so rewarding for me and such an honour."

"We don't really fit anywhere [when it comes to qualifying for grants]."

LYNNE JOHNSON
Art Jam organizer

Art Jam's inception is rooted in the winter shelter on Salt Spring in 2015.

"I noticed that they were always taking the paper that we were supposed to write down who's in line for laundry and showers, and drawing pictures on it," Johnson said. "So I went home and got a bunch of computer paper and I went out and



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Some of the paintings created in Art Jam sessions by Artists from the Fringe group members. Selected artworks will be sold through a silent auction at the Salt Spring United Church lower hall on Sunday, Aug. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

bought a bunch of coloured pencils and put them in a box and brought them in and said 'Here.'"

"Before we knew it, we had all these colourful drawings up on all the walls of the shelter. It was fabulous," she said.

Then the United Church offered Johnson a space on Sundays to have people come in and make art together.

"By November of 2015, we were in the lower hall of the United Church at no charge," she said. "I had a trunk full of art supplies that had been donated by members of the [Salt Spring] Painters Guild and other artists in the community."

An event like this Sunday's silent auction is one of the only ways to fund the group.

"We don't really fit anywhere [when it comes to qualifying for grants]. When they talk about arts groups, they're all looking for groups where there's a teaching component," she said.

One of the artists whose work is being showcased at the auction goes

by the name of Ohrm. He's been drawing most of his life and prefers to live outdoors.

"I can't imagine living inside," he said, explaining that he feels being indoors stifles his creativity and sense of self. He prefers the outdoors for "the freedom of it, the fresh air. Being in touch with the Earth. I'm not necessarily claustrophobic. I feel like there is a relationship with my mental state and where I am."

Ohrm began going to Art Jam when it started and is a regular participant. He said the program has helped him stay motivated to make art and has even got him some commissions.

"People now approach me whenever they have creative projects," he said, noting that not too long ago he painted a design on the side of a van for someone.

For those who cannot make the Aug. 13 event, the Artists from the Fringe will hold two more shows this year. One will be at the Salt Spring Public Library in the fall and the other will be during Wintercraft at Mahon Hall before Christmas.

CONCERT

Texas performers up next

Carrie Elkin and Danny Schmidt

als, states his website.

The Pitchfork Social musical evening on Aug. 19 features the dynamic duo of Carrie Elkin and Danny Schmidt from Austin, Texas.

Elkin is described in press material as having ridden "a gypsy breeze of serendipity for the last 10 years, landing for a time in Cleveland, Athens, Taos, Steamboat Springs, Colorado Springs and Boston, finally coming to settle in Austin, Texas in the summer of 2007. It's exactly this sort of openness to the people and places that pass through her life, and to the opportunities that might emerge in every new and particular circumstance, that grew to become the central theme of her brilliant new album, *The Jeopardy of Circumstance*."

Schmidt has built an enthusiastic and "nearby cult-like" following while simultaneously inspiring the admiration of his fellow artists and critical acclaim from industry profession-

"He is an authentic timeless troubadour in the tradition of Townes Van Zandt, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Dave Carter, who delivers his craft with a quiet power, a level of complexity and an underlying humanity that is truly rare in this age of sound-bite marketing. It's his songwriting which won him the prestigious Kerrville New Folk award, but it's his intense live performances that leave listeners with a sense that each of his songs is necessary, plain and simple."

Pitchfork Social evenings take place at Bull-ock Lake Farm and offer an optional farm-to-table dinner before the music. See www.pitchforksocial.com for tickets and all the details.

The Driftwood has two tickets to this concert to give away to our readers. Just be the first person to send an email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com with a line about why you want to attend the concert.

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people&community

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Salish Sea paddlers making waves

Public events Aug. 9 and 10 at Ruckle Park

For the fourth year in a row, a flotilla of kayaks, canoes and other people-powered watercraft will pass through Gulf Islands waters to raise awareness of threats to the maritime environment.

More than 80 people are signed up for this year's Turning the Tide: Peoples' Paddle for the Salish Sea. They will leave Swartz Bay on the morning of Aug. 9 and head first to Salt Spring Island.

The paddlers are of diverse backgrounds and interests but have one thing in common: they want to protect the Salish Sea from ongoing industrialization and increased oil tanker traffic.

"We create connections between people who live on islands and the mainland throughout the Salish Sea bioregion, and strengthen connections between people and the natural environment," said Emily Rogers, a member of the Turning the Tide organizing committee. "If we know each other and our environment intimately, we will stand up to protect what we know and love."

The first on-land Turning the Tide event takes place on Salt Spring on Wednesday, Aug. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Ruckle Park group campsite. That's when musician Luke Wallace will give a performance and also lead those gathered in a song to be recorded for Wallace's next album. The project will be a collection of songs recorded live in series of frontline communities featuring voices of those who are fighting to protect their homes from environ-



PHOTO COURTESY TURNING THE TIDE

Musician Luke Wallace paddles in support of the Salish Sea.

mental threats.

Then on Thursday, Aug. 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m., everyone is welcome to bring picnic foods to the campsite area for a discussion on Salish Sea protection issues with new Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen.

Another community gathering for Turning the Tide takes place on Saturday, Aug. 12 at Port Browning on Pender Island.

Paddlers will return to Vancouver Island the following day.

HUMOUR

Hitting balls with bats is harder than it looks

Once, a long time ago when I was a much younger man and my children were still pretending to be children, I volunteered to coach a Little League baseball team.



Paul McElroy

Then, as now, I knew as much about baseball as I knew about Basque needlepoint, which is to say, nothing. My knowledge of the game was limited to a recognition that baseball players wore knickerbockers instead of proper trousers and that they spat a lot.

I think I must have decided that any sport that encouraged spitting would likely suit my three sons since there wasn't one that involved breaking wind.

And so it was that I bought a baseball glove from Zellers and turned out for my first training session with my youngest son in tow, a shiny new mitt hanging limply from the end of my arm like a dead bat. I had had one or two throwing and catching sessions in the backyard and very quickly discovered that I was as suited to baseball coaching as Stephen Harper was to running a home for destitute Liberals. But there was no way out ... I was a father and, without exception, North American fathers coach Little League baseball. And if they don't coach it, they turn up and shout at their children.

AND ANOTHER THING

I'd like to have been able to blame my absolute ineptitude on cricket (different ball, different bat and sensible trousers) but I'd never played that either.

Here's something you should know about me. My father was a physical training instructor in the Royal Air Force, which is to say he inflicted physical exercise on young men whether they needed it or not. My younger brother took to it, running and jumping when my father told him to run and jump, whilst I would politely demure, rather preferring to get on with my Basque needlepoint. It goes without saying that my dad was unimpressed by such delicacy and so I was forced onto the playing fields of England with a reluctance matched only by a French nobleman being invited to step up to the guillotine.

In the end, I turned into a half-way decent rugby

player simply because in those days it was a sport that embraced lumpy young men who had no intention of running anywhere quickly, but weren't concerned about getting their knees dirty.

But my experience of games that involved striking a ball with a bat had never inclined further than an occasional game of ping pong and consequently, hitting a ball with a long thin stick was beyond challenging. I had known before I took to the coach's corner that a bat and ball were important components of the game, but had assumed it would be the small boys and girls doing the hitting and that I would simply call "Well done!" or "Bad luck" from what I later discovered were called the bleachers. Within five minutes, I was undone.

You will know, as Canadians and therefore North Americans, that for a child to become a half-decent baseballer they will eventually be expected to master hitting the ball. A young baseballer who cannot hit a ball is a poorly formed thing, the object of the game being to hit the ball as far as you can, preferably out of the park, which is possibly why it's not much played in Stanley Park.

The second thing they will need to learn is how to catch a ball, hopefully in their

glove and not between the eyes.

Have you ever been sneered at by a group of six-year-olds? It is not a happy place to be.

On a playing field filled with children who seemed able to hit anything that was thrown at them because they had been attending baseball practices since before they were potty-trained, I was to hit balls for them to catch. You'll have seen competent coaches doing it ... throw the ball in the air with one hand and hit it with a bat in the other towards one of the kids in the field.

I just couldn't do it. I don't mean I had some kind of moral objection to hitting a hard ball in the direction of a soft tot. I just couldn't do it, physically ...

As I recall (and even now I blush at the memory) I hit the ball once in 30 or 40 increasingly desperate swings of the bat until the other coaches put me out of my misery and volunteered me to be in charge of the oranges.

Shortly afterwards, I hung up my glove, and read a book on baseball until I was confident enough to turn up to games and harangue my sons from the bleachers.

And now I look forward to haranguing my grandchildren.

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Table with 8 columns: FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEATHS, PERSONAL SERVICES

Celebration of Life BOB ROGERS August 13, 2017 1:00pm to 3:00pm 200 Bay Ridge Place (near Rockle Park) Contact: 250.653.4034

Salt Spring Hospice Your donation supports compassionate care in this community. 250-537-2770 saltspringhospice.org

Richard Essington Weston August 1, 1933 - August 1, 2017 Rick passed away on August 1, 2017 in Victoria General Hospital after a fall in Braehaven caused by a massive stroke.

GEORGE ARMAND QUESNEL November 22, 1944 - July 28, 2017 George passed away July 28th at Victoria General Hospital, Victoria, BC, with his son and daughter by his side.

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In Memoriam NORMAN B. IRWIN B.A. C.A. M.T.H. M.D.IV. AUG. 8, 1938 - AUG. 9, 2016 Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, And danced the skies on laughter - silvered wings;

After his return Rick joined ABC AM Station (Australian Broadcasting Station) in 1962, and transferred to the FM station when it was formed in 1975. Rick was a founding member of ABC FM & worked as a producer & presenter until he retired due to health reasons.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING EVENTS AGM - FULFORD Community Hall - Tuesday, Aug. 15, 7:30pm @ the hall.

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Table with 2 columns: FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS JAMES KEITH WELSH, PHD 1940 to 2017 Jim passed away in the early hours of July 27 leaving behind his wife Gisela, daughter Johanna (Bob) and three grandchildren, sister Jane (Ken) and family.

While on Salt Spring Rick & his buddy Richard Moses volunteered for the local FM station after a lot of hard work to get it started. They took turns to present the classical music programmes until Rick had his first stroke.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY Wed. 9th August, 2017 at 7.00 pm, to discuss fund raising. Public welcome.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION HELP WANTED SALT SPRING ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEM requires part time bus driver.

Table with 2 columns: DEATHS, DEATHS

As a radio amateur, he enjoyed the Salt Spring Island club. His helpful nature will be missed by many. Many thanks to Dr. Reznick and the nursing staff at Lady Minto Hospital. A Celebration of Life to take place August 27, 1-4pm at 290 Southbank Drive, Salt Spring Island.

Remembering Our Loved Ones

Table with 2 columns: COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Post Your Volunteer Opportunities with Us! Volunteer and Community Resources www.vcrsaltspring.org

Table with 2 columns: PERSONALS, LOST AND FOUND

FOUND - Unusual Bracelet, call Helga describe and to claim - 250 653-9856

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 19

Salt Spring Hospice Salt Spring Hospice Society is currently seeking an Executive Director to work in our Ganges office in a part-time capacity (20 hours/week) to guide the society and its volunteers, organize consistent and regular training, educational programs as well as to promote the society and its services in the broader community.

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This Week's **Horoscope**
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TIP OF THE WEEK

With all the record breaking heat waves and the scope and magnitude of fires this summer, one wonders if there are indications astrologically. Well, yes, there are. Uranus in Aries is a prime suspect in this regard. It is not the only player contributing to this dramatic synchronicity, but it is a major one.

Uranus in Aries is occupying the planet of the highest degree and has since late May and will until the end of September, save for some brief interludes of the close planets, Mars, Venus and Mercury occupying that top position. It has been illustrated by researchers that the sign placement of the far planets when in prominent positions tends to synchronize with the element activated. In this case, it is the fire element.

So, if you live near a place where forest fires are likely, stay vigilant and alert with an emergency evacuation plan in place. This basically includes a gas tank at least never below half and all your camping gear packed and ready as though you are planned to go in an hour. Other considerations include children, pets and your most precious valuables placed in a secure place and way. This is, of course, a very short list, but is a good start.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

A dynamic, exciting and dramatic cycle continues. Your enthusiasm to engage should be evident. Focusing your creative energy on your home is likely. Your powers of critical analysis are running strong increasing your attention on the details. Enjoy these simpler days as some big changes are brewing and these will manifest before the year is out.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

Tapping your creative reserves is extra important to you these days. Doing so is less about show, popularity or fame and more about personal satisfaction and a deeper sense of security. Digging deep now may well include renovations and/or major moves, such as moving to a new home or living situation. Have faith in this flow.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your energy levels are running high and you probably have a variety of projects on the go. Enjoying social activity is also highlighted. Yet, you want to associate with others who you feel you can trust. Also, achieving practical objectives is high on your list and you are in an administrative mood. Get organized and cover a lot of ground.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Building new foundations continue. This often includes clearing the way. Your powers of critical analysis are running especially high. Be careful not to commit casualty causing criticisms towards others. Redirect your focus towards improvement, especially on relationships fronts and lead by example. In other words, be diplomatic.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Forging ahead and exploring new territory continues as a central theme. The inspiration to do so will increase as August unfolds. Financial interests and concerns are high on your list. Deciphering how to cut corners and exercise frugality while still maintaining the quality of life you enjoy is a central theme.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

A busy time behind the scenes just got busier. This trend will next over the next couple of weeks especially. However, busy could imply a long list of fun in the sun summer activities as well as more sober tasks. One thing seems sure; you are not idle, although, you might wish you could be. If you can both get things done and get away from it all you will have hit the bull's eye.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Your individuality is shining as bold as polished brass. In other words, you are in the mood to speak your mind and are less concerned with what others think. Yet, your sharpened mind may be turned inward as well. Be careful not to cut yourself with sharp criticisms neither. New information and interpretations will bring rewards.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

If you have not hit your stride yet, you will soon. As this month progresses and especially in September you will be on a roll. The Solar Eclipse on August 21st is a blast off point for you. It may inspire travel and other cultural interests. You will feel open your sharp mentally. The only real danger indicated is over optimism.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Destiny is calling and you feel the drive and determination to answer it. If courage is what you need, you got it. Your focus will be sober and sharp. Mercury retrograde could cause you to feel doubts, however. This negative influence could last a few weeks. The answer now is to focus and do not over analyze.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The drum beat of big changes continues to roll. These are especially indicated in your closest personal relationships. Dealing with feelings of confusion and disorientation is quite possible over the next few weeks. This is not the time to be rash. Patience is your greatest ally over the coming weeks. This storm will pass.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Passionate and dramatic exchanges on relationship fronts continue to keep things interesting, and you busy. Circumstances continue to push you to give more than you may want. Moods are up and down, but nothing serious. Research and other investigative activity will prove satisfying. Expect the temp to remain...punchy, for a while.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Changes in your lifestyle are needed. These are linked to your health. As the saying goes, 'food is the best medicine' so, at least taking stock of the quality of your diet comes to mind. But what is indicated is a bigger change yet, a change of lifestyle altogether. The good news is that you are being invited to play more and get creative.

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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



DRAGONBOAT RACING

Smoke on water becomes firey spirit

Spirit Point Dragons race at Comox Nautical Days festival

BY DONNA COCHRAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Spirit Point Dragons raced in Comox on the long weekend at the 2017 Victor Simonson Dragon Boat Races.

The festival was part of Comox Nautical Days and 15 participating teams (nine women's and six mixed) didn't let a little smoke get in the way of some great paddling.

The venue started off from the Comox marina with the dragon boats loading alongside pleasure boats and whale watchers from the docks. There were three 350-metre races as well as a fun mystery race that took place

in beautiful Comox Bay.

It was a round robin format so the race times were tallied to determine the winners in the mixed and women's teams. Spirit Point's combined time didn't place us in the medals but, (to paraphrase Deep Purple), there may have been smoke on the water, but there was fire in our team's spirit.

For the mystery race, the organizers drew names from all the teams to make up three mixed boats. The race started with participants paddling only with their hands. At the sound of a horn, they picked up their paddles and had to make a 360-degree turn before paddling down the course and under the pier requiring the steersperson to make a tight turn to squeeze through the pilings. Then the boats raced to a buoy where the caller

had to grab a Canadian flag and all paddled the final leg around one last buoy and across the finish line. There were several paddlers picked from Spirit Point Dragons who joined in the fun.

At the sound of a horn, they picked up their paddles and had to make a 360-degree turn before paddling down the course and under the pier . . .

Spirit Point paddlers for the races were Audrey Den-

ton, Lorrhaine Ekelund, Donna Cochran, Robyn Huntley, Lynda Green, Leslie Grott, Wendy Eggerston, Melynda Okulitch, Wendy McEachern, Carmelle Labelle, Susana Helgason, Ann Marie Davidson, Ware Hartwell, Barry Green, Lorenn Ekelund, Connor Ekelund, Andrew Okulitch and Mary Lou Cuddy. Special thanks to guest paddlers Janet Bright from Senior Momentum and Charlene Tufford from Island Breaststrokes. And a heartfelt "paddles up" to guest caller Dee Westwood, also from Island Breaststrokes, who drummed and sacrificed her voice as caller for our team! Tom McKeachie expertly steered the boat through the changing tides.

New paddlers are always welcome. Contact coach Mary Rowles at onthewater181@gmail.com.

SOCCER



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring's Taylor Akerman holds the gold medal earned as part of B.C.'s U-16 girls soccer team at the North American Indigenous Games.

Akerman wins gold as part of B.C. team

North American Indigenous Games in Ontario

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A Salt Spring soccer player was part of a gold-medal sweep for B.C. at the North American Indigenous Games last month.

Taylor Akerman was invited to be part of the U-16 B.C. girls soccer team as a result of her play on the high-level Vancouver Island Wave team in the B.C. Soccer Premier League.

Akerman's squad won all four games played between July 17 and 21 in Hamilton, Ont. against teams from New York, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the North West Territories. They faced Saskatchewan again in the final on July 22 and emerged with a 4-0 victory.

B.C.'s four soccer teams — both girls and boys at the U-16 and U-19 levels — won gold medals.

One NAIG highlight for Akerman was participating in the cultural components of the opening ceremonies.

"You just felt like they were your family . . . you felt so welcomed there. It was just really cool."

The various B.C. team members also enjoyed cheering each other on, she said.

Accommodation and games took place at McMaster University. Most other NAIG events were held in Toronto.

Akerman is entering her fourth season on the Wave team where she is usually a fullback. For Team B.C. at the NAIG event she played a centre back position.

Akerman was a gymnast for much of her young life, but after suffering various injuries her mom Tanja suggested she try soccer instead. In addition to participating at the Indigenous games this summer, she has attended a camp at the University of Victoria and will soon to another one at UBC, as well as an event called a World Cup Camp.

She also plays volleyball at Gulf Islands Secondary School and hopes to play on the soccer team too, although the practice schedule currently conflicts with Wave team participation.

"My goal is to get a university scholarship through soccer," she said.

Akerman also hopes to repeat the positive experiences of this summer's games as a B.C. U-19 player in 2020.



PROVIDE YOUR INPUT - Draft Gulf Islands Regional Trails Plan

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has drafted a Regional Trails Plan for the Gulf Islands that is ready for public review. The draft plan identifies a conceptual regional trail route on each of the main islands and outlines how regional trails will be developed. The draft plan and comment form are on the CRD website. General highlights of the plan will be on display at the following locations. The draft design for a 2.3 km regional trail demonstration project on Mayne Island will also be reviewed on Mayne, September 9.

Island	Date	Time	Location
Galiano	Sat., Aug. 12	12:30-2:30pm	Galiano Library, Catherine Holahan
Mayne	Sat, Sept. 9	11:30am-2:30pm	Community Centre
North & South Pender	Sat, Sept. 23	11:30am-2:30pm	CRD Building, Suite 31, Driftwood Centre
Salt Spring	Tues., Aug. 15	3-6pm	Centennial Park market booth
Saturna	Sat, Sept.16	10:15-11:15am	Recreation Centre, Lounge

Provide your feedback online from July 31 to September 30, 2017.
www.crd.bc.ca/project/gulf-islands-regional-trails-plan

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