



Spamalot
Musical comedy gets on its horse
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Best of Salt Spring Island
Our 6th annual edition!
INSIDE



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, August 16, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 33 \$125 (incl. GST)

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust to enforce no-STVR policy

Local trustee works toward compliance

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee has made another step toward cracking down on short-term vacation rentals, unanimously approving a new policy Thursday that includes enforcement beginning this fall.

The LTC had previously passed a resolution on July 20 signalling that a standing policy on STVRs both applied and should be enforced, with the interpretation suggesting a proactive response.

Short-term vacation rental is defined as rental of a dwelling, suite or cottage in a residential zone for less than 30-day periods. Bed and breakfasts, which are allowed in residential zones, are defined as a home-based business that provides temporary overnight accommodation and a morning meal to paying guests.

Islands Trust bylaw enforcement manager Miles Drew reported Thursday that staff had previously understood STVR enforcement should take place only if complaints had been made, and recommended a new standing policy with explicit wording be accepted.

"The proposed new resolution will make crystal clear the intention of the LTC that STVR enforcement be proactive," Drew said in his report.

STVRS continued on 2



HOORAY: Special Olympics athlete Dawn Hadler cheers during the annual invitational bocce tournament at Centennial Park on Sunday. The Salt Spring hosted seven teams from Campbell River and four from Oceanside.

PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

FIRE

Rainfall fails to dampen fire risk

Wildfire Act fines handed out on coast

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders were grateful to receive some rainfall over the weekend, but the turn of the weather overnight on Aug. 12 and 13 was not enough to shift the island's fire hazard.

With just 2.5 mm of rainfall accumulation recorded at Salt Spring weather stations, a total fire ban, including campfires and objects like sparklers and tiki torches, remains in effect.

Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George said the good news is only two fires have been reported locally during the past week.

"The island has been extremely cooperative with the ban and are being very vigilant about fires. This is so fantastic to see," George said.

Members of the public should not get complacent, however. Provincial Wildfire Act regulations are in effect and have come with escalated fines since 2016. They are being actively applied in other parts of the coastal region where people haven't been as compliant, including \$10,000 shared among nine people who refused to shut down a bonfire near Keats Islands on the B.C. Day long weekend.

FIRE continued on 5

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INSERTS

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- Home Hardware
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- Thrifty Foods

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Salt Spring enforcement plan models Pender, Galiano

STVRs

continued from 1

The LTC also approved a timeline for STVR communications and enforcement, based on strategies currently underway on Pender and Galiano. The process will start with letters and information packages sent to STVR operators to let them know about the regulations and how to apply to be compliant, if possible.

Enforcement timeline

Information letters are set to go out to STVR owners in September. Those who have not contacted planning staff, applied for a temporary use permit or ceased use by November 30 will receive warning letters by the end of the year.

LTC chair Peter Luckham observed vacation rentals are part of a perennial cycle of complaint across the entire Trust area.

"I'm just hoping this can be more effective than the observations that I've made and seen over the years how this escalates in the summer and then dies off in the winter," Luckham said.

"On the islands where we've got specific direction to be proactive, the enforcement is ongoing," Drew replied. "On the islands where it's by complaint only, it's sporadic."

"This is my point in this report . . . STVR enforcement has to be approached from a strategic, ongoing application of resources [and] political will, because it impacts affordable housing, economic ability, living, all that stuff," Drew added.

The LTC further voted to add a media release to the communications plan.

"I think that would be helpful spelling it out, because it's not just the people who are running STVRs. The rest of the community needs to know what the approach is, particularly those who are concerned about the lack of housing on this island," said trustee Peter Grove.

Conditions under which proactive enforcement will apply include any of the following: STVRs that are advertised on the internet, newspapers or other media; STVRs that are not managed by a person on Salt Spring; more than one dwelling on a lot is available as an STVR; rental guests stay in tents, trailers or RVs; there are issues related to health or safety; there is a written complaint regarding nuisance issues; and/or the owner uses more than one property on Salt Spring as an STVR.

accessory building is on an 11-acre property in the Agricultural Land Reserve and is in the Agriculture 1 zone. Agritourism accommodation is a permitted use of ALR lands, but STVRs are not permitted under Salt Spring's agriculture zoning.

Ramsay said the accommodation is offered to people who wish to get back to nature in a sanctuary setting and to interact with two horses on the property under the liberty training concept. This is an experience she actively facilitates for guests.

"When there's an expression of interest in coming to the sanctuary I connect with those people and discuss what the sanctuary is about," Ramsay said.

Grams said he and Ramsay are working with Drew and the Agricultural Land Commission to ensure compliance of the accessory buildings. They expect to be finished with that process in the next few weeks, and until then have taken down online listings.

"Any infraction was clearly inadvertent," Grams said.

Trustee explains personal situation

Trustee George Grams, who moved the resolution, has himself wrestled with how to meet the land use bylaw. He and his wife Geri Ramsay started offering a specialized type of agritourism accommodation on their property this summer.

Speaking after the meeting, Grams explained the couple renovated and restored their cottage in 2009. The

ISLANDS TRUST

Farming, water conflict bubbles up

Trust aims for best practices

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A bylaw to protect rural watersheds from farming activity continues to produce conflicting opinions from the two sectors of the community most concerned with the outcome.

Water protection advocates who lobbied for regulations governing agriculture in watershed zones succeeded in having their concerns taken seriously by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee, who established the project last year and approved the terms of reference for a joint working group in December.

The draft bylaw proposes a 15-metre setback from drinking water body boundaries for agricultural activities. It does not apply to lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and existing farms will have legal nonconforming status that protects exist-

ing activities.

A report revealed ongoing conflict, however, with contrary recommendations coming through referrals to the Advisory Planning Commission and the Agricultural Advisory Planning Commission. As a result, the LTC directed staff to look into how farmers might be compensated for infrastructure costs associated with the new bylaw.

The AAPC took the stance that watershed protection is ideally achieved through best practices and education, and said the bylaw as drafted could produce an undue burden of cost in terms of fencing required to keep livestock out of the setback.

Referrals sent to local First Nations, however, produced a response from two groups that 15 metres might not be sufficient. Cowichan Tribes and Malahat First Nations suggested a 30-metre setback would be more appropriate.

Planner Jason Youmans

noted in his report the LTC had decided on a regulatory approach over an educational one when it established the project.

"The 15-metre setback from a water body is effectively the best practice — it's the minimum best practice, to the best of my understanding," Youmans said.

"I think it was the purpose of the working group to study these best practices and come back to the LTC with recommendations that would reflect best practices in farming."

Bylaw enforcement officer Miles Drew further offered his opinion that legally, it's better to have clear guidelines such as a setback that can be measured than terms that are open to interpretation.

The LTC also considered but has yet to act on a proposed amendment to the official community plan that would reaffirm the LTC's ability to regulate farming for environmental purposes. A previous amendment that received

second reading on June 1 stated the LTC would not make changes to bylaws resulting in "obstacles to the creation of local abattoirs, cold storage facilities, or other facilities that would improve local food security."

The APC found that statement to be overreaching. Staff recommended replacing it with: "The Local Trust Committee could consider changes to local bylaws to prohibit or restrict farming in areas outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve where farming is now allowed in order to protect the natural environment and/or water quality."

"I don't think I'm comfortable taking an oath promoting farming above all else," commented trustee George Grams.

He noted the rural watersheds bylaw is about striking a balance between protecting the environment and food security, but ultimately the Trust's mandate is to "preserve and protect."

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FOR MORE FACTS: [yestoaltspringmunicipality.org](http://www.yestosaltspringmunicipality.org)

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!

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ACTIVISM

Salish Sea swim met with a whale of an encounter

Successful event aids
Pull Together campaign

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

To raise money for the legal battle against Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline, Salt Spring's Rama DelaRosa recently finished the first recorded swim around the island.

The purpose of the 86-km swim was to raise money for Pull Together, an organization whose goal is to help fund First Nation groups' legal battles against the controversial pipeline. DelaRosa's goal was to raise \$14,000, half of which was to be covered by an anonymous party. To date she has raised just over \$12,000.

"My intention with the swim was to raise money and awareness to protect the coast and to do so in a way that was in alignment with my personal politics and beliefs," she said.

The swim took place in the Salish Sea, waters that are threatened by the increase in tanker traffic that the pipeline will create. It has been reported that even if there aren't any spills, the increase in noise caused by more tankers will drive off food for the remaining 78 whales along the coast, as well as hamper their navigation.

"I was inspired by Turning the Tide in 2014. I paddled from Salt Spring to Pender with a group of people and I thought it was just

"My intention with the swim was to raise money and awareness to protect the coast and to do so in a way that was in alignment with my personal politics and beliefs."

RAMA DELAROSA
Swim for the Salish Sea

such a super effective way to raise awareness because it was so fun and beautiful," she said.

So she set out on her journey and, as if in a symbol of solidarity, one of the remaining 78 orcas joined her on the afternoon of her first day. The whale appeared in a moment of overcoming what would be an ongoing challenge in the swim, strong currents.

"The current was really strongly opposing us where we were swimming and we weren't making very much forward progress. So we got out, had a powwow and I was like, 'Hey, guys, I've got all this energy, we've got an hour and half, let's just see. If I don't make any forward progress, we'll just get out and this will be our waypoint for today,'" she said.

She got back into the water in



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Rama DelaRosa stands at the Fulford Ferry Terminal, across the water from Drummond Park, the starting point for her seven-day swim.

an attempt to tackle the strong currents. That's when she saw a whale-watching boat in the distance.

"Shortly after that we started to see dorsal fins, about four or five dorsal fins where they were," she said.

That realization gave her time to prepare for a possible encounter. Then it happened.

"The first approach was face-to-face. It just came straight at my face and under me," she said. "Then it came up beside me... It could have been an inch away."

"I felt really blessed. It felt like this was bigger than people business. It felt like nature was on my side," she added.

Over the past few years, DelaRosa has made lemonade out of the lemons handed to her. She originally planned to do a shorter swim last year, but was held back by an injury.

"I had a brain injury and I had to cool it, I couldn't do any physical activities. So I had to cancel it for last year, which really hurt my pride because I had been working really hard," she said. Instead of giving up, she pushed forward to greater heights. "Then I started working even harder and that's why I had to up my goal, because at that point 10 kilometres felt like breakfast."

The biggest hurdle DelaRosa

had to overcome was the back eddies and swimming against the current. This led to two "low-kilometre days," but luckily, on the last day, she hit a fast current going in the right direction to help carry her through the final leg of the swim.

"My top speed that day was clocked in as 22 km/h," she said, noting that her pace without oceanic help is around two km/h. "Catching some of the eddies was really fun, because I had the current pushing me through them and so I would hit the eddy and I would feel all of this turbulence, but I would just be ripping through it. It almost feels like a wave pool or a rollercoaster ride or something, but I'm cruising."

Apart from raising money for the Salish Sea and the profound seven-day adventure, DelaRosa said the community spirit for her journey was something she greatly appreciated.

"So many people live here on Salt Spring because it is so beautiful and we have such a beautiful coast and they want to be here experiencing this," she said. "So I found this way to take all that love that's already here and just focus it on the ocean. I just became this lens of the laser love beam."

DelaRosa is still looking for donations to reach her goal of \$14,000 and donation information can be found at <https://fundraise.ravenstrust.com/fundraiser/1023686>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Atkins path work begins

Partners Creating Pathways is getting ready to start work on its latest pathway in the Ganges area, this time on Atkins Road.

The path will be the final connection between Rain-

bow Road and Lower Ganges Road, with the contract awarded to Earth Heart Productions. The site work is scheduled to begin this month, so project management is advising members of the public to keep an eye out for equipment.

The Atkins pathway will complete the original Ganges Village Path-

way Network conceived 10 years ago. Partner Creating Pathways is a partnership of Island Pathways, CRD, Salt Spring Transportation Commission, PARC and the Trail and Nature Club. Contributions have also been made by local residents, the Salt Spring Foundation, Victoria Foundation and BC Hydro, among others.

Trust Council invites delegations

Islands Trust Council invites members of the public to observe and participate in its next quarterly business meeting, set for Sept. 12-14 at

the Denman Island Activity Centre.

Trust Council encourages people to attend the town hall session starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

Anyone wishing to make a formal delegation to Trust Council must send their request in writing at least three weeks before

the meeting.

The topic, speaker's name and contact information must be sent to Emma Restall (email: erestall@islandstrust.bc.ca) by Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Guidelines for presentations to council can be viewed at <http://islandstrust.bc.ca/talktocouncil>.

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www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



DOCK TALK

Island's harbour facilities continue to improve

BY PER SVENDSEN
HARBOUR AUTHORITY OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

It's been a very busy time for the crews of the Harbour Authority during the summer months.

Jim, Devin and Ben have kept

things running smoothly and greeted a large number of new and returning visitors, while ensuring our local needs are met.

Many improvements have continued to come to fruition that will ben-

efit island residents and especially the island visitors. For the island boater, we had the new floats installed to compliment the new ramp that was finished last year. What a treat to be able to launch a boat and to be able

to walk on the ramp without fear of slipping into the harbour.

Aerodrome markers have been installed in Ganges Harbour to make it safer for boaters and to assist the numerous flights that touch down and take off on a daily basis. Late night boaters have found them helpful after dark. The float-plane docks have been readjusted to accommodate the larger aircraft that is presently servicing us.

You may have noticed that the "Cy Peck wheelhouse" replica — not the "original" one as sometimes noted — that served as a waiting room for plane passengers is no longer at its location on the floatplane dock. It has been donated to the Salt Spring Transportation Commission. There is now a larger, more useful, state-of-the-art passenger waiting kiosk. It is being called the McColl Room, dedicated to Saint-Clair McColl, a long-time serving member of the Harbour Authority and local businessman and pilot. Outside of this waiting kiosk is a notice board and a new windsock.

Draft plans are in the works to renovate the harbour master's office with the intent to source a local contractor to build this. This will include improved facilities for visiting boaters and more usable work space. You will notice lots of new paint on the buildings, improved electrical and water stations on docks, work done in conjunction with the transportation ministry to improve access at Burgoyne, thanks to our skilled maintenance man Brett Jollimore.

In consultation with the fire department and the Department of Fisheries, we have reviewed and revised fire safety plans for all the docks, being prepared but hoping that we will never need to use them.

A lot of time, cost and effort went into replacing the pump out on the Breakwater float. This is the only station servicing the Southern Gulf Islands.

Overlooking the inner harbour, we have recently installed The Mother and Child wood carving of Willard Davis, who passed away last year. Plans are in the works to try to protect it from the elements so that it can be viewed for many years.

The Kids Don't Float kiosks have proven to be a huge safety hit in providing free loaner PFDs to kids while near the water.

We sadly accepted the departure of board member Saint-Clair McColl. His insight and cheerful personality will be missed and we wish him the very best in his new adventures. We welcome Corey Johnson of Island Marine Construction to Saint's seat and are looking forward to his extensive experience on docks to help guide us in upkeep, future improvements and decisions. We are also fortunate to have Cornelia Krikke from the Chamber of Commerce and Christine Hunt, well known special native advisor, join the team to move the board along. Thank you to these individuals for volunteering their time, dedication and expertise.

The Harbour Authority door is always open for written suggestions and ideas for improvements that would benefit our beautiful island home and help keep access to our surrounding marine environment. Drop these off at the office.

Capital Regional District



Province of British Columbia

Vote on Incorporation of Salt Spring Island

WHEREAS Pursuant to section 4(2) of the *Local Government Act*, the Minister may direct a vote be taken of persons in an area specified by the Minister respecting the proposed incorporation of those persons into a new municipality:

AND WHEREAS the Minister has received a request from 2 or more residents of Salt Spring Island requesting a vote with respect to incorporation of Salt Spring Island as a municipality:

AND WHEREAS section 3(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act* states that if more than 50% of the votes counted as valid in favour of the proposed incorporation, the Minister may recommend incorporation of a new municipality to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

NOW THEREFORE PURSUANT TO MINISTERIAL ORDER No. M098 DATED MARCH 7, 2017, OF THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY, SPORT & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSLINK Public Notice is hereby given for which the electors of Salt Spring Island (including all islands within Ganges Harbour and Russell, Idol and Channel Islands and excluding Fulford Harbour Indian Reserve No. 5) as shown on a map entitled "Proposed Salt Spring Island Municipality" Map Reference Number SAL-05-05 and dated December 1, 2016, will be asked to vote on the following question on Saturday, September 9th, 2017:

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

YES _____ or NO _____

VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL VOTING DAY will be open on Saturday the Ninth (9th) day of September 2017 TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SALT SPRING ISLAND at:

1. Fulford Elementary School Gymnasium, 203 South Ridge Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
2. Gulf Islands Secondary School Multipurpose Room, 232 Rainbow Road, Ganges, B.C.
3. Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
4. A.R. MacNeill Secondary School, 6611 No. 4 Road, Richmond, B.C.
5. Mary Winspear Cultural Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, B.C.

AND SUCH VOTING PLACES SHALL BE OPEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF **Eight (8:00) A.M. and Eight (8:00) P.M.**

ADVANCE VOTING shall be open on Wednesday the Thirtieth (30th) of August 2017 and Wednesday the Sixth (6th) of September 2017 TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SALT SPRING ISLAND between the hours of Eight (8:00) A.M. and Eight (8:00) P.M. at:

1. Salt Spring Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, B.C.
2. Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

MAIL BALLOT VOTING is available to qualified Resident Electors or Non-Resident Property Electors who:

- Have a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity, and/or
- Expect to be absent from the regional district on General Voting Day (Saturday, September 9, 2017) and at the times of all Advance Voting opportunities (Wednesday, August 30, and Wednesday, September 6, 2017).

To Register To Vote By Mail, eligible electors who meet the criteria must submit a completed mail ballot application form in advance of General Voting Day, September 9, 2017. Application forms are available on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote. Completed application forms may be submitted via email, mail, in person or via fax at the following contact information listed below:

Mail: Capital Regional District, Legislative & Corporate Services, 5th floor, 625 Figgard Street PO Box 1000, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6
Phone: 250.360.3127
Toll-free: 1.800.663.4425 local 3127
Fax: 250.360.3130
Email: legserv@crd.bc.ca

If you are not on the Provincial Resident Elector List or the CRD Non-Resident Property List of Electors, you may register at the time of filling in your mail ballot.

After receiving a mail ballot application, the CRD will send out the applicable mail ballot package. If we receive your application at a date that does not permit mailing, you should arrange to pick up a package from the CRD, Legislative & Corporate Services at the address listed above. **To be counted for the assent voting, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer, or delegate, no later than 8:00 p.m. on September 9, 2017, at the CRD address listed above.**

It is the obligation of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer within this time limit.

For questions regarding voting and voter registration, call the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3127 or toll-free at 1.800.663.4425 local 3127, or Thomas Moore at 250.472.0059.

Given under my hand at Ganges, B.C., this Tenth (10th) day of August 2017.

Thomas F. Moore,
Chief Election Officer

A person must not vote at the submission of the question unless entitled to do so.

RESIDENT ELECTOR

To be registered as a resident elector you must meet all of the following requirements on the day of the submission of the question.

- (a) You must be, or will be, age 18 or older on General Voting Day.
- (b) You must be a Canadian Citizen.
- (c) You must have been a resident in British Columbia at least six months before General Voting Day.
- (d) You must have been a resident of Salt Spring Island for at least thirty days immediately before General Voting Day.
- (e) You must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or otherwise be disqualified by law.

If you are not on the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors you may register on General Voting Day or Advance Voting Days providing you meet the eligibility requirements. You must produce two pieces of identification, one of which has your signature, preferably with pictorial identification, e.g. drivers licence and a credit card.

NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY ELECTOR

To be registered as a Non-Resident Property Elector of Salt Spring Island, you must meet the following requirements on the day of registration:

- (a) You must not be a resident elector.
- (b) You must be, or will be, age 18 or older on the day of voting.
- (c) You must be a Canadian citizen.
- (d) You must have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before General Voting Day.
- (e) You must have been a registered

owner of real property on Salt Spring Island for at least thirty days before General Voting Day (only persons who are registered owners of real property, either as sole owners, joint tenants or tenants in common are entitled to vote, those individuals who are holding property in trust for a corporation or other trust are not entitled to vote).

(f) You must not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

Only one person may register once as a non-resident property elector in relation to one parcel of real property on Salt Spring Island. If the property is in multiple ownership, you must provide written consent from the majority of registered owners that you have been designated to vote accompanied with adequate documentation, such as a Land Title search, proving ownership of the property claimed as a basis for a vote. A copy of the consent form may be downloaded from www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote.

If you are a qualified Non-Resident Property Elector, you may vote if you have registered in advance on or before August 10, 2017, or if you apply at the time of voting.

At the time of application you must provide the information noted above and two pieces of identification proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). If you are already registered as a Non-Resident Property Elector on the CRD Non-Resident Property List of Electors and provided that you still meet all of the requirements of the *Local Government Act* in order to be registered under this category, you are not required to re-register in order to vote.

The following are acceptable classes of documents for proof of identity for both Resident Electors and Non-Resident Property Electors:

- BC driver's licence or BC driver's licence and service card
- BC ID card issued by the Motor Vehicle Branch
- BC CareCard or Gold CareCard
- Request for Continued Assistance form SDES8
- Social Insurance Card (Canada)
- Citizenship Card (Canada)
- Real property tax notice (municipal or rural)
- Credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution
- Utility bill

For more information, visit www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote.

ASTRONOMY

Solar eclipse this Monday excites citizen scientists

Safe viewing gear crucial

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A total solar eclipse that will be visible in North America this Monday has scientists and members of the public excited about what the skies may reveal.

"An eclipse is probably the most radical thing that can happen to the daytime sky," said Geoff Olson, a Salt Spring resident and journalist who has taught astronomy for the Vancouver public school system and at the Gordon Southam Observatory.

Observers within the narrow "path of totality" can watch the moon as it completely covers the sun. Outside that 112-kilometre-wide path, which will traverse the United States from Lincoln Beach, Ore. to Charleston, S.C., viewers will see a partial eclipse. It's estimated that 90 per cent coverage will occur along B.C.'s southern coast.

For those who are used to missing astronomical events such as meteor showers that peak in the middle of the night, an eclipse marks a rare opportunity.

"Eclipses are often referred to as 'day turning to night,' but that is not quite what happens," Bob MacDonald, host of the CBC program Quirks and Quarks, explained in a recent blog post. "While the sky does turn dark, it does not go black as night. Instead, the area close to the sun turns a deep cobalt blue, which becomes lighter blue lower down, and

then sunset gold all the way around the horizon. It is not like any sky you have ever seen."

Although the moon will fully block out the sun's light for just two minutes starting at 10:20 a.m. on Aug. 21, the effects will last longer, beginning around 9 and ending around 11:30.

Weather permitting, the otherwise hidden solar corona will become visible, as well as bright stars and four nearby planets.

"We're in the right place at the right time in the universe for seeing this."

GEOFF OLSON
Astronomy enthusiast

Olson was hoping to get to Oregon to see the full eclipse before his hotel plans fell through. He witnessed the strange thrill that even an obscured eclipse can bring in Cornwall, England during a trip in 2000.

"There was cloud cover so our expectations were very minimal, but actually it worked to our favour," Olson said, recalling how the sky acted as a projection screen for the moon's 120 km-wide umbra. He and his party watched the shadow travel over the horizon like a giant space ship.

As Olson wrote in a story for the

Vancouver Courier, "A huge dark disc emerged on the western horizon, and as it rushed over us, the countryside fell into shadow. In seconds everything went from twilight to midnight, as if on a dimmer switch."

The temperature dropped several degrees, cows started returning to their shelters and the birds went silent. The effect was dramatic enough that a teenage girl burst into tears.

Olson noted that such unusual changes to the daylight have a visceral effect. An eclipse completely confuses and disturbs animals, but can impact humans strongly as well—even a minor event such as the recent wildfire haze had on the sun's colour felt surreal to many people.

The last time a total eclipse crossed North America was in 1918, which is one reason the event is getting so much attention. An amazing set of circumstances creates the illusion that the two celestial bodies are the same size: the sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, but the moon is 400 times closer to the earth.

Olson said other changing conditions such as the Earth's place in its elliptical orbit make this year's total eclipse possible.

"We're in the right place at the right time in the universe for seeing this," he said.

Salt Spring optometrist Dr. Andrea Varju has been well prepared for local interest and took the precaution of stocking certified solar eclipse viewing glasses—the only safe way to view the partially

eclipsed sun without risking severe retinal injury.

"Unfortunately we sold out of the 50 glasses we ordered quite quickly," said optometric assistant Gretta Hildebrandt. "We want everyone to know that it is not safe to view through regular sunglasses, telescopes or binoculars."

If certified glasses can not be found before Monday, NASA suggests pinhole projection as an alternative safe viewing method.

"For example, cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. With your back to the sun, look at your hands' shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground, showing the sun as a crescent during the partial phases of the eclipse."

Olson recommends finding an open area with high ground for best viewing, and to check it out the day before to ensure the sun is actually visible from that location. While planning a Salt Spring experience, he's still open to a last-minute road trip if one or two interested people would like to join him.

Email gefo@shaw.ca for more information.

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RCMP willing ban enforcers

FIRE

continued from 1

Sunshine Coast RCMP also handed out Wildfire Act violation tickets for illegal campfires in Sechelt on Aug. 10 and in Gibsons on Aug. 3, according to their weekly police reports.

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue implemented a total burn ban on July 6 in tandem with the B.C. Wildfire Act ban across the coastal region. Information issued by the Coastal Fire Centre on July 20 stated more than 50 illegal fires had been reported in their administration area since the ban, and that enforcement patrols would be stepped up as a result.

According to the B.C. Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation, "Anyone who lights, fuels or uses an open fire when a fire prohibition is in place or fails to comply with an open fire prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$1,150 or, if convicted in court, be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be subject to a penalty of up to \$100,000 and ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs."

The fine for dropping, releasing or mishandling a burning substance—such as a cigarette—is \$575, as is failure to extinguish a burning substance.

Like Salt Spring, Sechelt provides fire services through an improvement district model, while Gibsons has a volunteer department. The ability to fine Wildfire Act violators under the improvement district structure was recently questioned by a group of eight former Salt Spring fire trustees in an open letter to the current board dated Aug. 10. According to the signatories, only a municipality would

be able to provide enforcement or issue tickets under its bylaws.

George said he has received conflicting information from the B.C. Wildfire Management Branch about enforcement on Salt Spring and has been seeking further clarification for several weeks. However, Sgt. Ryan Netzer, senior officer of the Salt Spring RCMP department, confirmed local police do have the ability to act if the fire ban is not complied with.

"Absolutely. It's a provincial offence," Netzer said.

As of Monday, Netzer was just returning from vacation, but said he was unaware of any violation offences so far this month.

Nicole Gagnon, a fire information officer with the Coastal Fire Centre, agreed that RCMP can enforce the act and said a number of different people are also empowered to issue violation tickets. These include B.C. conservation officers, compliance officers with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and various officials as designated by the B.C. Wildfire Service.

Under its open burning bylaw, the Salt Spring fire department also has the ability to initiate cost recovery for its services against a property owner of a burn location, at the discretion of the fire chief.

The Coastal Fire Centre covers all of the area west of the height of land on the Coast Mountain Range from the U.S.-Canada border at Manning Park, including Tweedsmuir South Provincial Park in the north and including the Sunshine Coast, the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and Haida Gwaii.

Gagnon could not confirm whether any additional enforcement had been targeted specifically in the Gulf Islands region.

Incorporation ... Are You Undecided?

Announcing TWO panel sessions that present key reasons for Voting No

Speakers and Panelists Include:



Arthur Black
Writer and CBC
Radio-columnist



Brian Brett
Farmer and Poet



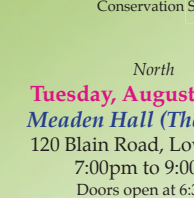
Gary Holman
Former CRD
Director
and MLA



Ronald Wright
Novelist and CBC
Massey Lecturer



Linda Adams
Retired Islands Trust
Chief Administrator



Dr. Tara Martin
Conservation Scientist



Richard Kerr
Economist



Michael Ableman
Farmer, Author, Activist



Greg Clayton
Permaculturalist,
Mortgage Broker

North

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Meaden Hall (The Legion)

120 Blain Road, Lower Level
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Doors open at 6:30pm

South

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Fulford Hall

5:00pm to 7:00pm
Doors open at 4:30pm

Positively
NO

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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

Cutting the waste

Excess and waste are two terms that seem to go hand in hand in our society.

Food Banks BC estimates that 40 per cent of all food produced in Canada is thrown out rather than being consumed. Thirty per cent of fruits and vegetables are reportedly rejected by supermarkets for cosmetic reasons only.

Salt Spring Community Services, which runs the island's food bank and other nutrition programs, is one agency that looked at those statistics and decided to change them on Salt Spring by creating its new Second Harvest program.

The food bank receives generous support from island residents and businesses. But it's been clear for a long time that more fresh food could be reclaimed and redistributed to those in need locally before it's thrown out.

THE ISSUE:
 Second Harvest food program

WE SAY:
 Deserves full support

Community Services personnel have been working on the issue behind the scenes, and were already getting food to some individuals outside of the once-a-week food bank, which is not practical for everyone to access. But its hands were otherwise tied when it came to changing the existing system.

Community Services was therefore justifiably excited to recently announce that a new refrigeration unit located on Community Services' Core Inn property in downtown Ganges is now up and running, thanks to serious support from the island's two main grocery stores, farms and other businesses. A Victoria foundation grant also helped make it happen.

The Second Harvest program is starting by collecting fresh produce that has not been sold by Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods, or from local farms, including Community Services' own Burgoyne Valley farm. It aims to add dairy, baked goods and other perishables.

Community Services welcomes both funds and volunteers to help it thrive. Food security coordinator Simone Cazaban is the person to connect with at Community Services.

Salt Spring is an island of riches in an ocean of plenty. By supporting this project with time and money, we can ensure the wealth of our food resources is shared to become a viable "second harvest" for islanders.



VIEWPOINT by Harold Page

Current system has fewer dangers

There has been a lot written recently about the pros and cons of incorporation, which is good. People are at least thinking about it.

There are views as to the effect on taxes, other services, road maintenance — even whether the the Fulford-Ganges Road would be widened by one metre, maybe more.

Much of it is based on supposition.

The fire board has for now taken the position of neutrality, evidently feeling that its job is to run the fire department rather than advising us on political matters. The North Salt Spring Waterworks District board, on the other hand, has chosen to support incorporation, being understandably interested in receiving more grant funding. On this point, one might wonder whether with the change from 16 years of Liberal government policy on funding could conceivably be a change that would be beneficial.

There is a recurring theme that we want to manage our own affairs by being a municipality, that "we would be able to negotiate with the provincial/federal government on our needs and priorities . . ."

I have news for you. I lived in a municipality for 41 years. "We" could do no more than "we" can do right now. The municipal council is what has jurisdiction to do those things. If we like its decisions, fine. If we do not, then perhaps we could change that come the next election!

Speaking of which, we need to be realistic about how councils get elected. Putting fantasy aside, it is well known that real estate developers are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to influence municipal councils by funding candidates' campaigns.

The Vancouver Sun reported in one case that of 15 top donors, 11 were development related. John Sprague, perhaps with tongue in cheek, said in his letter to the editor, "I can see it now. After an election, the mayor and one councillor are real estate agents. Other councillors are a lawyer, a building contractor and business owners who would welcome more customers." Hmmm.

With any complex issue there are many minor items to consider, but there is a danger that we tend to get so involved thinking about the small issues that we lose sight of what should be the main objective. Let us step back and think clearly on what it is that we want to preserve. Surely it must be this amazing collection of unique Gulf Islands, fortunately still pretty much in their pristine state.

I see this as our opportunity and our responsibility to maintain them not just for our present pleasure of living here but also for future generations and for others from elsewhere to come and see and enjoy. Were we to incorporate as a municipality, it would open the door and provide an incentive for pro-development councils to be elected. We have seen it happen elsewhere and we would be naive indeed not to believe it would happen here.

Like many human endeavours, the system we have presently could be improved, but it has fewer dangers than the other option being promoted.

The writer is a retired professional engineer and long-time Gulf Islander.

Let us step back and think clearly on what it is that we want to preserve.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

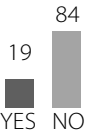
Should SSIs STVR prohibition be enforced?

Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you still undecided about your referendum vote?



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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 Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday
Subscription Rates: In the Gulf Islands \$25.00
 Elsewhere in Canada \$88.20* Foreign: \$235.00*
 Digital Edition: \$39.85 anywhere | Prices include GST
 Digital Edition with Print Edition subscription additional 1yr \$12.60 | 2 yr \$18.90

Editorial: Elizabeth Nolan, Sean Hitrec
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Funded by the Government of Canada



Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837
 International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council



ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It felt like this was bigger than people business. It felt like nature was on my side."

SWIMMER RAMA DELAROSA ON HER ENCOUNTER WITH AN ORCA

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What do you think about the new ferries servicing Salt Spring Island?



JOHN DUFFY

I haven't been on them yet for one thing, but from what I hear, they're very good. I am feeling positive about them.



BLAKE GOLD

Salt Spring's always against change, but 3 months later all the things that weren't great are gone like ripples in the water... New ferries are wonderful.



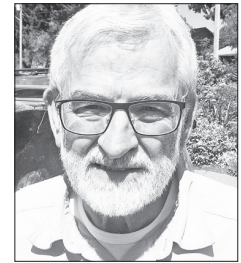
GILL TAYLOR

They seem to be having a bit of an issue with the elevators in them... and the stairs are really steep.



MAUREEN FATH

I like the idea that there's more trips from Vancouver straight to Salt Spring.



ROY ALLINGHAM

I haven't tried them yet, but I think there should be more direct ferries to Vancouver, that's for sure.

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

Ask the right question

If we do not ask the right questions we will not get the right answers. I read the letters focusing on many points from both perspectives on incorporation.

My sense is that we should perhaps look at a bigger picture and ask the question: "What is the most compassionate choice for all beings on and around the island?" This includes all of us humans, the trees, the wildlife, the mountains, the ocean, the whales and all beings in the Salish Sea that surrounds

this beautiful island. Is this not why we all came here, because of its beauty? We are here to preserve and protect as we agreed upon by moving to an island that is part of the Islands Trust.

Yes, there are certainly challenges for developers that would like to make it easier to develop this last oasis in a paradise. Perhaps that is why so many people want to move here from municipalities that did incorporate and now regret the massive debt loads after the drug of \$20-million payoff wears off. Perhaps so many people choose to move here because of the quirky, uniqueness that has blessed

us with such a unique reputation.

Perhaps if we look past a yes or no referendum, we can see "yet." Those will no longer be options if we choose to vote yes to incorporate. Voting no is voting for even better options!

I feel that the most compassionate choice for all beings is to vote no and then have time and space to explore even better options than yes. Let us be a new model for the future. We have a new provincial government here now that will be more open to us creating even better options.

ALLEN SCHOEN,
SALT SPRING

Slower pace on our island

I'm sending out an SOS: Save our Salt Spring.

We arrived in 1975, a young family seeking a "safe harbour." We found it.

Over the years, I saw the efforts of dreamers and volunteers inspire islanders to turn their dreams into realities that we have all benefitted from. This "candor" independence is part of what built the island communities with people who shared an understanding of what it is to live in harmony with nature and be willing

to take the time and effort to do it.

The creation of the Islands Trust to preserve and protect the Gulf Islands was a clear recognition of the value and importance of saving these unique, sensitive areas from the monetization and destruction of their natural beauty and resources. It is important for those who live and even visit here to be aligned with those objectives or the islands will be changed forever.

What brought you to Salt Spring Island?

If it was financial opportunities, more development, more taxes, more

government, more rules and restrictions, more garbage, more congestion, perhaps you should head for a city.

If you wanted a slower pace, time to think, the peace and beauty of the forests, lakes and ocean, a caring, committed community that values "the island way of life," you came to the right place. Sometimes less is more.

So, I'm sending out an SOS: Save our Salt Spring. Vote no to incorporation.

Trust it!

APRIL CURTIS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Island is already an almost-perfect paradise

BY NINA RAGINSKY

In 1968 I moved from London, England up to the Arctic, to Old Crow, to do a photography assignment for the National Film Board for the summer months. On my way back to London, I stayed at a friend's cottage in Vancouver, and somehow never went back to London.

Vancouver in the late '60s and early '70s charmed me with its neon, the old round house, the Sweeney's Cooperage, the On-On, The Green Door and Foncie, the street photographer, the False Creek boatyards and the Ovaltine Café.

Then, one by one, they all disappeared, and one by one shiny new high-rises emerged.

In 1973 I moved to Victoria, charmed by the quaintness of the city, and I didn't have to own a car, and could ride my bike everywhere, with very little car traffic. Then, slowly, after 15 years, many of the old heritage buildings downtown were demolished, or turned into shopping malls, and my neighbourhood gradually shifted from funky-run-down-affordable to upscale chic and more high-rises emerged.

In 1989 we moved to Salt Spring, where there was a lovely sense of quietude, camaraderie and natural beauty.

Today, 28 years later, the island is still charming, even more so, thanks to all the decisions we made as a community over the years. (I must confess that I dearly miss Wendy's milkshakes at the old Ships Anchor restaurant, and the deluxe smoked ham hocks cured by Don at the Red and White grocery store.)

And thanks to our unique Islands Trust governance policy, with its preserve and protect mandate, our island has maintained its rural

character, natural beauty, and peace and quietude, so rare in this crazy world of ours.

Now, I wonder if we were to become a municipality, if all this would slowly disappear.

After following the letters in this newspaper, over the past few months, I'm not sure if I understand, or agree with the benefits of becoming a municipality, or with their raison d'être: "We need to take destiny into our own hands, and make our own on-island decisions without outside government interference."

Now, all this time I thought that we were making our own decisions, without being a municipality, and without government interference, but with government largesse, to the tune of \$60,000,000 since 2001!

So I thought I would make a list of a few of our community decisions, starting in 1989.

Public Buildings

In 1989 we made the decision to acquire land to build ArtSpring. In 1999 ArtSpring opened.

In 2005 we made the decision to acquire land to build our new library. In 2013 the library opened.

In 2004 we decided to build a new swimming pool. It opened in 2008.

In 2012 we saw the need for and made the decision to receive land to build a local food processing and storage facility. Construction is slated for this autumn.

Governance Decisions

In 1994, we made the decision to start work on updating our official community plan. With

INDEPTH

hundreds of hours, and 80 dedicated planning volunteers, we created a land-use planning document that protects and preserves our waterways, shoreline, sensitive ecosystems, forest lands, farm lands, watersheds and wetlands.

In 2005 we made the decision to support the new NAPTEC program, created by the Islands Trust to reduce property taxes by 65 per cent in return for covenanting privately owned lands in the Trust area.

In 2002 we made the decision to vote "no" in an incorporation referendum.

In 2008 we passed an updated OCP with new policies that include climate change, energy efficiency, food security and potable water.

Park and Greenspace Acquisition Decisions

Over the past 20 years we have protected 10,000 acres of green space on the island.

In 2001, hundreds of community members made the decision to stop the logging of 5,000 acres by the Texada Logging Company. We succeeded, and the Burgoyne Provincial Park was established.

In 2001 we made the decision to purchase the Maxwell Lake watershed from the Texada Logging Company.

We also made decisions to build a skateboard park, a disc golf park and an off-leash doggy park.

Various Community Decisions

We made the decision to establish the Salt Spring Transit bus system in 2008.

Over the past few years the community acquired indoor tennis courts, and squash courts, the sailing club boat moorage expansion, new fire trucks and equipment, new Lady Minto Hospital equipment, and bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

Affordable Housing Decisions

We made the decision to build Meadowbrook, Croftonbrook and Murakami Gardens, with more affordable housing projects underway.

Food and Farmland Decisions

In 1999 we decided to organize the first Salt Spring Island Apple Festival.

In 2010 we made the decision to move the Tuesday Farmers Market from the meadow to Centennial Park. It has now become a burgeoning enterprise — a haven for foodies, with fresh local produce and flowers, and gourmet delicacies of all sorts, and the best ice cream in the known universe!

In 2013 we made the decision to acquire farm-land in the Burgoyne Valley, which is leased to the community for farm use, and for allotment gardens.

Today, Salt Spring has become an almost perfect paradise, without being a municipality. Of course it would be very nice to have a laundromat and public showers, a cobbler, a fabric store, and... a baseball diamond!

We can make it happen!

The writer lives at Walter Bay on Salt Spring.

News Updates

Follow the Driftwood on Twitter
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Red Robinson speaks out about Hearing Loss.



"Forget what you knew about hearing aids. Ask about the Oticon OPN with BrainHearing™ Technology. They are the first hearing aids proven to be 'easier' on the brain."



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Keep big money out of local politics

BY SHARON MCCOLLOUGH

First, please just grab a coffee and sit on a bench in Centennial Park, or have a seat at Barb's or TJs or in your own kitchen, and hear me out. Actually, in this case, read me out.

Let's put the "fear-mongering" accusation aside for just a moment and explore the factual relationship of development and municipalities.

It is common knowledge that big money plays a big role in federal and provincial politics. Many who have come from incorporated jurisdictions are all too familiar with the role that money can play in local municipal politics as well. Development corporations have deep pockets. This is not news.

Some believe that our community would never succumb to destructive development pressures. It may not be the first council, or the second but perhaps the fourth when the transition bundle of provincial "carrot" funds has been spent. Eventually, the fiscal reality is that even the greenest of councils must pay the municipality's bills. If we incorporate we will definitely have more expenses, i.e. roads, policing, municipal hall, municipal employees, municipal cars and trucks. Where will our increased source of revenue come from?

Municipalities derive their revenue from property taxes. A council has the choice of cutting services, raising taxes or increasing revenue to balance the budget. Historically, the first two options haven't seemed to be incredi-

bly popular. Commercial and industrial-zoned properties are taxed almost three times more than residentially zoned properties. Salt Spring's current tax base is 95 per cent residential. Subdivisions will increase the tax base but the infrastructure costs (water, roads, sewer) must be deducted from those development costs.

However, commercial and industrial properties require minimal infrastructure and therefore become the most practical fiscal option. It's where the money is to be found. There are no grants for municipalities just to pay their bills. The pressure to rezone rural and residential properties to commercial and industrial developments is built into the municipal governance model. The Islands Trust model separated the land-use planning function from the delivery of services specifically to alleviate development pressure.

Some believe that our community would never succumb to destructive development pressures.

Development corporations contribute to election campaigns of mayoral candidates and councillors. Their common bargaining approach is "councillors, you approve our industrial park

and we will donate an improvement to your community pool."

Salt Spring presently has some development companies owning properties on the island. None are locally owned. Over the years the Trust has stopped development proposals from national, foreign and international corporations. Yes, some unpopular and inappropriate developments have slipped through. But imagine what we would be today if we had not had the Trust's protection?

Personally, I'd prefer any off-island vision for our island to come from the other Gulf Islands, or even Victoria, rather than a development corporation with offices in Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle, Los Angeles, Tokyo or Hong Kong. Ironically, there's a high probability that those big pockets (who can also sue) will end up calling some big shots locally. Regrettably, we see evidence all around us that municipal councils can be often be bullied or bought. Sometimes because they just have no other source of funding!

It is often said that we all have the same vision for our island, just differ on the best way to get there. I know this is true for some of us who would like to see development projects that enhance our island environment, such as wagon wheel housing, duplexes, a laundromat, an art and music college, etc.

The writer is a longtime island resident.

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.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Proper pick-ups

I would like to share an example of the absolute wrong way to pick up hitchhikers that I encountered last week.

Coming north through town while traffic was at its peak, I was in a lineup of at least 15 cars. When we came adjacent to where the knife-sharpener sets up across from the beginning of Park Drive, a blue van at the front of the lineup stopped abruptly upon noticing a hitchhiker, only slightly pulled over and was still totally blocking traffic. There is a double-wide space there for parking, which this driver totally ignored. The driver then engaged in a lengthy discussion with the hitchhiker, and then finally drove away without even taking on the passenger. During this time, the lineup was unable to proceed and tied up traffic further for Park Drive cars trying to enter Lower Ganges Road.

If you wish to pick up a hitchhiker, you must pull off the travelled portion of the roadway in the same manner as if parking. You should also be parallel to the road, and not perpendicular. As it is technically illegal to pick up hitchhikers, if you are blocking traffic and cause an accident, you will be held responsible.

There are many proper pick-up spots, and also good parking areas for pulling over. In future please use them.

SHARON BOULTER,
 LONG HARBOUR

Misleading

I see a "Yess" ad that includes, in the list of pros for incorporation, "tenants can vote too."

True. But by repeating over and over how renters can't vote in improvement district elections and referenda, people are getting confused. One of my friends who is well informed on governance issues in general actually thought that renters couldn't vote to elect our local elected representatives (Islands Trust and CRD), which

is definitely not the case.

I notice so much on the Salt Spring Incorporation Discussion Facebook page in particular that is not entirely correct. Voters have been misled on Salt Spring before, so please check with people holding diverse perspectives before you assume that something you read or hear is true.

Virtually all Canadian Salt Spring residents can vote in the Sept. 9 referendum. Tenants too.

And we can all do what we can to build connections across the "yes/no" divide. It's exciting to see that happening already.

JAN SLAKOV,
 SALT SPRING

Ask for other options

Re: "Island farmers cultivate a 'no' vote" and "Incorporation is not the only choice," I felt much relief when I read those two opinion pieces in last week's Driftwood. Preservation of farmland is extremely important for all of us and most especially for our children and grandchildren as we continue to battle climate change and its resulting extreme weather events.

As I write, I hear that a 62-hectare parcel of farmland has been granted exclusion from the Agricultural Land Reserve in the fertile Fraser River delta; this follows strong opposition from community activists but was supported by Delta mayor and council.

I have long believed that where there are two opposing points of view, there is always a third alternative. Thus, much gratitude is owed to Richard Kerr for providing such an alternative. It is indeed shocking that the previous government restricted our committees to only two options. The question now becomes, why are we holding a referendum to choose between the options given? Why don't we approach our new government and request that other possibilities be considered?

WILMA HAIG,
 BAKER ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Consultants respond to study's road figures criticism

BY JAMES KLUKAS AND DAN HUANG

The Salt Spring Island community faces an important decision whether to remain as an unincorporated area or incorporate as a municipality.

As the authors of the incorporation study, our goal has always been to provide the community with unbiased, objective information on the potential impacts of incorporation. In light of recent community conversations on the topic of roads, the local CRD and Islands Trust elected officials have asked Urban Systems to provide clarification on two main points.

First, there has been dialogue on the issue of historic and current capital costs for roads. The core incorporation study analysis was limited to assessing what current service levels would cost as an incorporated municipality. As a result, while there was a recognition that actual spending levels could be different based on decisions of a potential future council, the study had to include

an assumed figure for the current level of capital road expenses.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not publish a long-term capital plan or a singular report on historic capital expenses. Therefore, professional judgement was required both to interpret the ministry's available data on non-maintenance-contract capital expenses, and to determine a reasonable assumed figure for analysis. The annual \$500,000 figure was based on a snapshot in time and an attempt to balance historic capital spending levels with the fact that the ministry's recent capital spending has declined, with a focus on emergency repairs.

A community member has also compiled data on historic road capital costs from multiple freedom of information requests that were made before and during the course of the incorporation study. The community member's estimates suggest a 14-year, inflation-adjusted average of capital spending that is in the range of \$634,000

to \$680,000 (not including transportation studies completed by other bodies or allocations for engineering and administration that are treated separately in the incorporation study). If this level of annual spending were assumed, the incremental additional annual tax impact would be approximately \$20 to \$27 for the average residential property (over and above the core study findings and based on 2016 tax rates).

Second, there has been dialogue on the level of Provincial Rural Tax revenue from Salt Spring Island versus actual road maintenance and capital expenses. While this comparison is a point of interest, it does not affect the overall incorporation study tax impact analysis. Our review continues to suggest that recent contract road maintenance and road capital expenses have indeed averaged slightly less than annual Provincial Rural Tax revenue from Salt Spring Island, which has remained steady at about \$1.9 to \$2.0 million per year (not inflation-adjusted).

It is acknowledged that this comparison does not factor in the administration and engineering support that Salt Spring Island receives from MOTI's district office in Nanaimo. Within the scope of the incorporation study it was not possible to quantify the ministry's current administration costs specifically for Salt Spring Island roads. However, the study includes a separate allocation for Public Works and Engineering Administration under incorporation, which is treated as a new cost.

In contrast to any assumed figure for current service levels, McElhanney Consulting Ltd. prepared a road condition assessment as part of the incorporation study, and identified a need for higher levels of annual capital spending to facilitate road network renewal. These higher spending levels have been factored into the sensitivity analysis within the study. Additionally, the incorporation study identifies other risks, opportunities and

uncertainties related to roads. The incorporation study does not presume that current costs will be future costs, nor does it set out to predict future conditions or council decisions that could impact future service levels or costs.

Ultimately, voters considering road issues are faced with a decision as to whether the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure or a new municipality is best positioned to provide the desired level of service for roads, funding for roads, and address the various risks, opportunities and uncertainties. All of these factors should be considered as part of the sum of the issues surrounding municipal incorporation. Regardless of how residents and taxpayers feel about these issues, we encourage all to get informed and to vote on Sept. 9.

The writers work for Urban Systems Ltd. and are the authors of the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Final Report.

Don't want to be limited

My Aug. 2 "Worry about assertions" letter to the Driftwood was not intended as an attack against Derek Hill personally, and I am sorry if it caused him any grief.

While we disagree about the need for incorporation, I agree that improvements could be made to our governance, such as the Local Community Commission or increasing the seats on the Trust, a suggestion that was overturned because of the lobby by Islanders for Self-Government several years ago.

In A Fair Country, John Ralston Saul points out that our governments are modelled on European ideas: linear progress, fear of complexity and ownership of the land, rather than the First Nations' way of inclusive circles and reconciliation through talking. Our narrow Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study by Urban Systems seemed designed to justify forming a municipality, and even ignored the voices of Hul'qumi'num people who have lived here for 5,000 years.

A relatively recent arrival (1959), I feel deeply rooted here. My vote will be "no" on Sept. 9 because I do not want to be limited to a model of government that does not fit this unique place.

FRANCES HILL,
VESUVIUS

Accurate facts

Re: Brenda Guiled Gillespie's report on the costs of road maintenance, I have known and worked with Brenda for over 25 years and, over that time, I have come to appreciate her abilities: she is an extremely competent and ferociously thorough researcher. If she presents facts, you can be confident that they are accurate.

(N.B. - Brenda didn't ask me for any testimonial!)

MARLYN HORSDAL,
FULFORD

Conflict of interest

I was disappointed to read in last week's Driftwood yet another challenge to the integrity of the work of the incorporation study consultants, Urban Systems ("Fact-checking request denied").

I refer to the decision to have the fact checker for the upcoming referendum debate be a member of the Urban Systems team.

This is akin to having the fox guarding the hen house. Not only is it visibly wrong, it is in fact a conflict of interest. The fact checker is in the invidious position of either supporting or criticizing his or her own work.

Because I am legally trained, this conflict of interest is easy to spot. Individuals watching the debate, however, would assume the fact checker to be unbi-

ased. This is unfair and disrespectful to all the Salt Springers counting on being informed in an honest manner.

LIZZY DUNN,
SALT SPRING

Responsive to our community

This will be my last commentary on the upcoming incorporation vote.

I read, with interest, the views, opinions and fears that are expressed in this media and over community postings and would ask that everyone step back and take a deep breath and think about this.

If we choose to keep the existing system then we will have a system where we feel that others, mainly government employees, will continue to decide our future direction and opportunities.

The alternative is that we choose to be self-governed and elect citizens from the community and hire municipal workers from the community who will provide services to the community. The costs of these services will flow through the island, providing jobs and opportunities. The officials/staff will be responsive to the needs and desires of the community as we elect them based on what we know and what they promise.

We already pay significant costs to off-island people and organizations to get our services today, but the dollars go into their home communities, not ours. I believe that once everything is accounted for the difference is not materially different in costs than the present structure. If there is a significant cost difference then we are saying that we are happy that taxpayers throughout B.C. are supporting our lifestyle. If so, then are we really independent islanders or just more people at the public trough that want more than we can afford at the detriment of future generations?

Anyone that really believes that we, as a group, would ruin this island by electing developers that would run amok building highrises or massive subdivisions is either underestimating the character of the inhabitants or suffering from paranoia that leaves them out of touch with any reality.

I really hope that we can rationally put our concerns and fears in perspective and believe that the democratic process will ensure that the good we want will prevail and the negative aspects will not overwhelm the lifestyle that we all want regardless of what process we choose.

TONY MAUDE,
FULFORD

MORE LETTERS continued on 12

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?

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photosynthesis show ready to dazzle again

Seventeenth annual edition
 explores 'pretty pictures' concept

BY SAM LIGHTMAN
 SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

For the 17th consecutive year, the Photosynthesis show will provide a look at what some of the island's top photographic talent is producing.

Photosynthesis is a group of accomplished Salt Spring Island photographers founded in 1995. Membership has fluctuated over the years but it currently comprises 18 photographers, chosen for the quality and originality of their work.

This year's theme is "Pretty Pictures?" It encourages each photographer to explore and express their attitude about the current state of photography: whether to indulge the decorative aspect prominently featured on social media or attempt to go beyond it through imaginative and creative expression. All works are new; none have previously been shown. This ensures that the show will be fresh, vibrant and exciting.

Participants in Photosynthesis 2017 include Alane Lalonde, Seth Berkowitz, Shari Macdonald, Chris Stackhouse, Alan Bibby, Brigit Freybe Bateman, Tamar Griggs, Christina Heineman, Greg Klassen, Michael Wall, Jen Holmes, Avril Kirby, Grace Sevy, Bernadette Merten-MacAllister, Timmy Gibbons, Judy McPhee, Sam Lightman and Gulf Islands Secondary School student



COURTESY BRIGIT FREYBE BATEMAN

Brigit Freybe Bateman's 'Barefoot' image, which is part of the Photosynthesis 2017 exhibit that opens at ArtSpring on Aug. 23.

Ariana Fraser.

The opening reception is on Wednesday, Aug. 23 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring.

The show will run daily from Aug. 24 until Sept.

5 with at least one photographer in attendance at all times to meet visitors and discuss the group's works. ArtSpring gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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TEA A TEMPO

Tenor and piano duo at All Saints recital

Victoria musicians
 give Aug. 23 concert

Tenor Adam Dyjach and pianist Braden Young from Victoria hit the Tea à Tempo stage on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Young is a graduate of the Camosun College Piano Performance Diploma Program, won the prestigious Irving K. Barber Scholarship and completed his undergraduate degree in music scholarship (piano) at UBC in the studio of Dr. Corey Hamm. He has a master's degree in collaborative piano from the University of Toronto.

Young has won many solo and collaborative piano awards including the JVPAP Lieder Accompanist award 2012 and the Erzsebet Gessler Memorial Scholarship 2010. He has also been the collaborative pianist for two recent winners of the Roberto and Mary Wood Scholarship (in 2012 and 2014).

In the past several years, Young has organized and participated in benefit concerts for the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, Cambodia Support Group, the MS Society and a collaborative concert to support his studies at the



COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

From top, tenor Adam Dyjach and pianist Braden Young.

University of Toronto. Two years ago, Young had the privilege of attending the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy. He has been awarded the Women's Musical Club of Toronto

Foundation Graduate Fellowship (2014-2016), the Philcox Collaborative Piano Scholarship and a university fellowship.

A native of Waterloo, Ont.,

Dyjach commenced his musical education at Wilfrid Laurier University in voice performance under the direction of Kimberly Barber. Now residing in Victoria, he completed his master's degree in voice performance with Benjamin Butterfield at the University of Victoria and currently studies privately with Carolyn Sinclair.

In June, Dyjach was privileged to attend the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute where he specialized in early music performance practice. Past performance highlights include the Evangelist in Bach's Weihnachtsoratorium (Sooke Philharmonic Choir), tenor soloist in Bach's Cantata 196 and Handel's Messiah (Handel Society of Music), among many others. His numerous operatic roles include Ferrando in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte, Ernesto in Donizetti's Don Pasquale, Oronte in Handel's Alcina and Romeo in Neil Weisensal's City Workers in Love.

He has also been a member of Fear No Opera, the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus and the tenor section leader in the Victoria Philharmonic Choir.

Next Wednesday's concert begins at 2:10 p.m. at All Saints.

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MUSICAL THEATRE

Arthur legend upended in Python musical

ExitStageLeft's Spamalot opens Aug. 25

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People looking for a reminder to take life less seriously can look forward to an especially silly bit of live theatre as the summer eases to a close.

As international politics heat up to nuclear levels and local discussion around incorporation seems even more likely to explode, a send-up of legendary power and politics may be just the relief we need — and Monty Python's Spamalot, the musical based on the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, is just the production to do it.

Beginning Friday, Aug. 25, Salt Spring's own musical theatre company exitStageLeft Productions is back at ArtSpring for six performances of one of their most ambitious works to date. Company founders Jekka Mack and Christina Penhale brought us highly accomplished renditions of Rent and Cabaret in previous years, plus Shakespeare's As You Like It earlier this summer. They're set to advance the scale yet again with Spamalot.

"We like to do a very different show to whatever we've previously done, so you can't really compare one to another," Mack said on the company's turn to comedy during 2017.

"And we're also working to expand our repertoire so there's always new challenges and things to work on," Penhale added. "And Spamalot is light and fun, and the way the world is right now, I feel like we just need a laugh."

Similar to the Holy Grail film, Spamalot follows King Arthur and his servant as they recruit other knights to the quest. As You Like It director Jeffrey Renn leads the cast as Arthur, with Patrick Cassidy appearing as his foil, among six major male roles.

In addition to their many tribulations en route, the theatrical version also makes time to lampoon musical conventions and other popular shows like Fiddler on the Roof and The Phantom of the Opera.

The high level of absurdity in Monty Python's humour does not mean the cast has levelled off its commitment to the material. Instead, their engagement goes so deep that even the knights' imaginary horses have fully realized personalities and movements the actors keep track of along with the very real intricacies of people, sets and costumes.

"The thing I love about this cast is their sense of play," Penhale said. "They're all really creative and playful, and they're creating a foundation of play in the show."

Taking on the Monty Python work is something exitStageLeft's music director Wendy Milton has wanted to do for a while, and she's risen to the challenge by adapting a score meant for 50 musicians to a scaled-down orchestra of seven. In many other aspects,



PHOTO COURTESY EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS

Spamalot rehearsal scene with Sue Newman as Lady of the Lake in the centre.

the musical has maintained epic numbers that rival the Tony-winning Broadway show. Costume designer Maureen McKay has created around 145 original pieces, while technical director Al Lehmann has supervised the creation of 15 large set pieces, including the famous Trojan Rabbit and a gondola. An entire team has been needed to assemble the 90 or so props, some of which are used for just a few seconds.

"It's just crazy-making, but very rewarding," Mack said.

"It's been quite the undertaking for everybody," Penhale agreed. "Our cast is amazing, but this time the crew are really the stars of the show."

Mack and Penhale are putting much of their focus into directing and producing this time around — unlike many of their past works, Spamalot doesn't have many juicy female roles. In fact there's just one. Sue Newman will command the spotlight as the Lady of the Lake.

"No one else could do it as well as she could," Mack observed.

Female cast-mates including Penhale and Mack do appear in the form of the Laker Girls, a supporting chorus line with plenty of action. The play features around a dozen dance numbers, all with different genres and styles. One of the stage directions, for example, calls for a Las Vegas-style show done "in the worst possible taste."

"It's been really fun doing the choreography, asking, 'Is this move more ridiculous?'" Mack said.

"It's a really great show," Penhale concluded. "It's a show for people to leave everything

behind at the door and have a night of frivolous entertainment. It's really about having a great night out at the theatre."

Monty Python's Spamalot runs at ArtSpring on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 25 and 26, and then from Wednesday to Saturday, Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. all nights.

Audiences members are invited to come early for savoury pies and refreshments, and to wear their best medieval costumes. Rated PG13 for bawdiness/swearing.

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CERAMIC ARTS

Potters popping up in park

Event helps fund ceramic arts awards

Salt Spring Potters' Guild members are holding a "pop-up" sale on Sunday, Aug. 27 in the market area of Centennial Park.

Included in the sale will be a silent auction with the draw at 2 p.m.

Auction pieces have

been donated by well-known Salt Spring Island potters Beth Feller, Judy Weeden, Meg Buckley, Margo Zak, Wendy Squirell, Denys James, Pat Weber, Bruce Cochrane, Joan Warren and others. Many other items will be auctioned, including a basket by Pat Bennett, a water-colour painting by Libby Jutras and an arbutus burl bowl by Antonio Alonso.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A dozen potters are offering their works for sale on the 27th, with some proceeds going to support the Salt Spring Island Ceramic Awards juried exhibition and sale in the fall of 2018.

To learn more about the ceramic awards, visit www.ssicceramicawards.com.

Incorporation = more farm tax = fewer farmers

"I have made the decision to vote NO on September 9th. We need to work on improving what we have and I'm unwilling to chance something that has such a potential for changing the very fabric of life on our island."
Michael Ableman

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Eco-sustainable mecca possible here

BY NANCY KRIEG

Dear Salt Springers: What an opportunity we have before us.

We have a chance to truly express who we are, our past and importantly, our values as they relate to our future.

Now we have the opportunity to dispel the undesired title: C.A.V.E. dwellers (Citizens Against Virtually Everything) by spearheading the measured and exciting change that will propel Salt Springers to the forefront as the leaders of tomorrow.

We have such an extraordinary wealth of wisdom and experience on this island that we no longer need off-island babysitters to tell us what to do, how to do it and all the while controlling the purse strings.

We can "out Islands Trust" the Islands Trust if we have the compunction to do so and become the most eco-sustainable island with an equally sustainable community if we all work together, rather than barely survive in the silos of today.

Where does it state that council members are also developers? On our island we have far more eco-warriors than anywhere else that I know of, and I am sure they will make certain all development will be sustainable.

Salt Springers wrote the Salt Spring Official Community Plan! With our own council of "on-island" members and a mayor the champion of our goals, we can achieve our Salt Spring

INDEPTH

vision stemming from the OCP. What could this collective vision include? To begin with these are some ideas that have surfaced during conversations with you.

- Create an eco-tourism ethos that would outshine Costa Rica. An ethos that would draw like-minded environmental visitors to this island.

- Create the most affordable and appropriate ecological waste management system on island that even the Scandinavian countries and Germany would admire.

- Transform Ganges into an eco-aesthetic oriented seaside village, vibrant with life day and night; focussed towards the sea with a boardwalk as a quintessential artery, instead of the Ganges of today: a hazardous place to walk and park, with empty restaurants, empty second floors and food truck vending with seating viewing the lovely traffic and congested parking lots.

- Entice young entrepreneurs with ideas to produce environmentally oriented products with minimum impact so that we could become a "pillar of authority" on this very important aspect of global climate change.

And what of all of Salt Spring's incredible wealth of fine arts, music and drama . . . perhaps this island could

embrace an art school that would draw upon this wealth of experience and at the same time attract a younger demographic so desperately needed amid our grey/white/no-haired population.

Currently there are too many silos, each with separate budgets, different agendas and their own priorities. I have experienced this over the past 10 years assisting my clients, who are public and private landowners alike. Too often I have seen well-meaning Salt Springers wanting to do something for the island end up defeated, confused and frustrated with today's Medusa bureaucracy.

Owners of two of the most successful businesses on this island that are the two most iconic destinations — Salt Spring Cheese and Tree House Café — have both expressed their opinions as to why a "yes" vote is important to this island. Shouldn't they should be taken seriously?

We need a dedicated champion for our island. Self-governance would provide this elected champion.

Self-empowerment is a right we teach all our children. Shouldn't we embrace it and become the stewards of this special place we call home?!

Seize the opportunity. Vote "yes" and control the outcome of our island's future.

The writer is a Salt Spring landscape architect and director of Whitepine Consulting Ltd.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

Hidden truth

Salt Spring taxpayers owe Brenda Guiled a debt of gratitude for her research into the costs of this island's road network: a major capital liability that should have been more accurately tabulated by the consultant, Urban Systems, hired and guided by our officials.

Ever since the preliminary report of Oct. 30, 2015, it has been evident that the truth about the road infrastructure would be hidden in footnotes, buried in the back pages and otherwise obfuscated.

The threat of legal action to discourage Ms. Guiled and to disparage her work speaks too clearly of the mentality underlying the push for incorporation. This reversion to intimidation when challenged has become all too familiar on Salt Spring in recent years. The call for yet another review of road costs

is either an astonishing admission of ineptitude or further evidence of an effort to make incorporation palatable by confusing the voting public as to the facts. In contrast to Ms. Guiled's substantial conclusion, the 10 claimed benefits of a municipality read like a spongy wish list freed from reality.

CHARLES BRETH,
SALT SPRING

Better way to go

In a letter published in last week's Driftwood, Murray Reiss points to malfunctioning civic governments in B.C. and other provinces and warns that it could happen here too.

He is right, but the fact is we have already suffered from dysfunctional government on Salt Spring. Since the advent of our current governance model we have gone through a number of periods when the relationship between our three elected representatives could be best described as toxic. A perusal of Driftwood archives covering the 1970s and

'80s will support that statement.

During the past few terms the working relationship between our elected representatives seems to have been pretty healthy, but that could easily change at the next election. We might elect a pair of trustees who are at loggerheads, leaving decision making to the off-island chair of the local Trust committee.


Democratic governance can get messy, as evidenced by the present situation in the U.S.A. Regardless of what happens on referendum day it is more than likely that there will be turbulence in our local government structure from time to time. Salt Spring wasn't described as a disagreement surrounded by water for nothing.

So, which of the governance choices is better for Salt Spring? I am voting for incorporation because I believe a locally elected mayor and six councillors representing a variety of interests and dealing with community issues right in the community is simply the better way to go.

TOM TOYNBEE,
SALT SPRING

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Embrace island way

Islander Reid Collins wrote a great song more than 10 years ago. The chorus went "If you love the island, please don't come."

You came, and instead of embracing the island way of life, some of you seem to want this island to become a replica of what you left.

Vote no to incorporation.
MICHAEL CURTIS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 13

Salt Spring's a community to emulate

BY RON PUHKEY

I arrived on Salt Spring in 1974 when a GP colleague who wanted to return to Victoria with his family offered me his practice. The island population was then about 2,300. There were approximately the same number of sheep.

As my colleague greeted me and my partner Wendy he handed me his obstetrical forceps and said, "You'll need these." Surprised, I asked why, since the maternity room at Lady Minto was fully equipped. "Well, about a third of my practice are hippies, draft dodgers and back-to-the-landers," he said. "They want home births. And a lot of those will be in tepees."

He was right. I had become heir to these new arrivals, along with people who had been on the island for generations and a few mainland retirees. The people of Salt Spring welcomed all of us into island life. We soon knew pretty well everyone on the island and felt completely at home in this amazing place.

It was also the year that the

Islands Trust Act was being formulated by the NDP government, after the Social Credit government had earlier put in a 10-acre freeze. It was definitely a welcome measure for our small community at that time, and the new NDP government also introduced the new Agricultural Land Reserve Act. Wise actions by both the left and the right, and pretty well universally accepted by islanders of that time. These measures were truly unique, from both a provincial, national and even an international level.

The following year we bought a farm in the Burgoyne Valley, and I began to incorporate the new field of holistic medicine into my practice. Our neighbour, Bob Akerman, the patriarch of the Akerman families in the valley, soon invited me for a glass of his blackberry wine. He told me stories from his Salish grandmother about the Indigenous history of the valley and my new farm. He also said, after I described what holistic medicine was, that it was exactly the way they

had lived on the island, working hard physically, growing their own food, helping one another out in hard times and celebrating together the good.

Well, here we are now, with 10,700 permanent residents and throngs of visitors, esteemed around the world as a truly unique place. What a gift those clear thinkers bequeathed us over 40 years ago. They saved us from ourselves and the narrow parameters of self-interest — a small miracle when you look at the megacities that have arisen around us, and the neighbouring communities that are now bedroom suburbs, complete with urban woes.

The upcoming referendum will be the biggest choice of our voting lives. If we incorporate, it's forever. Sooner or later, the clumsy municipal system so well-described by others will force us into over-development and we'll lose this wonderful, cohesive community. Is it worth taking a chance on a municipal fantasy that doesn't work very well anyway, and

inevitably favours development?

We can continue to better our community, and to develop it, without incorporating. There's still land for sale, and there are smaller, less impactful ways to provide affordable housing and amenities. The community plan can be adjusted to allow for new projects that accommodate the changes we see in our society, without the irreversible dangers of incorporation.

Dear friends and neighbours, take a good look around at what we have here, and what's out there. This is a place of tremendous creativity, respectful of the environment and its natural beauty, an island of gardeners, small farmers and talented, generous people, a unique place to raise children. What we need are more communities like ours! We already have a working model for the good life and for sustainability: it's us.

The writer is a doctor of integrative medicine practising on Salt Spring.

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Mayor and council leadership is needed

BY KEN LEE

I will be voting "yes" in the upcoming referendum on incorporation.

Having a mayor and council will allow us to punch above our weight on regional boards, such as library, housing, arts and water. We would also get a stronger voice locally and provincially, with a seat at the Union of B.C. Municipalities and more opportunity to speak directly to our government representatives.

For me, as I vote for incorporation, the most critical issue, following the wisdom of our North Salt Spring Waterworks District board, is the central management of our island's drinking water. Yes, Salt Spring is an island paradise that we all want to preserve and protect, but unless our water resources are centrally and sustainably managed, our paradise could rapidly change into a very expensive nightmare.

Having served as a municipal councillor in a similar Ontario community, I know that water management, fire and police protection, affordable housing, sewage treatment and rational road maintenance require municipal government.

After retiring here in 1991 and building a home at the south end, I got involved

with island politics and arts. All the big island issues were being addressed on a broken front. Bureaucracies such as Ministry of Education, Vancouver Island Health Authority, BC Ferries, TELUS, Fire Insurance Underwriters, the Islands Trust, Ministry of Transportation and the CRD were controlling the daily lives of islanders in well-meaning but totally separate and uncoordinated ways. BC Ferries was threatening to close its Long Harbour terminal and build a terminal at the end of Isabella Point Road, and trying to balance its out-of-control budget at the fare box.

VIHA, which had initially encouraged islanders to finance a state-of-the-art operating room at Lady Minto, had grabbed the money raised and reversed its position. TELUS seemed uninterested in expanding its operations to include much-needed high-speed internet service. The Fire Insurance Underwriters body was pressuring the fire board to upgrade the Ganges fire hall. The largest Gulf Island was getting sand kicked in its face.

I served three years as a school trustee, four years as a fire district trustee, three years as president of the South Salt Spring Property Owners and Residents Association

and five years as a Salt Spring BC Ferries stakeholder. One achievement was the petitioning and funding of Shaw high-speed internet service and cable to the Beaver Point Road area. We all knew how much easier that task would have been with the political support of an island mayor and council.

A few years ago, during an effort to obtain property tax exemption for our Legion, I reminded a deputy minister in Victoria that at least 10 other Legions in B.C. were getting property tax exemptions. I was told that that this was because those Legions were located in municipalities and was reminded that I was a second-class citizen in B.C. if I did not live in a municipality.

I am convinced that, if we incorporate, the Salt Spring men and women we elect will work tirelessly and responsibly for the benefit of all of us and that, as they sit around the council table, they will be acutely aware that all their actions will be vigilantly monitored if and when they seek later re-election.

The writer has held various elected and volunteer positions on Salt Spring and in Ontario.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 12

Developer?

In Meror Krayenhoff's Aug. 9 column titled "Voting yes for a greener Salt Spring Island," he cites Denis Hayes (coordinator of the first Earth Day) as now being "a developer."

I worked with Denis for a few years in the late 1970s in Washington, D.C. So I would like to clarify for Salt Springers that since 1992 Denis has been the president and CEO of the Bullitt Foundation in Seattle. I suppose in a narrow sense he was

a developer when that foundation built the solar-powered six-storey urban infill Bullitt Center. But I believe that was an effort to practise what they preach, and to provide a model of where building construction needs to go. Deep Green Buildings is one program area of the Bullitt Foundation; others include Regional Ecosystem Health and Thought Leadership and Innovation.

Although the quotes Mr. Krayenhoff cites are accurate, Denis Hayes is not a developer as most people understand that word.

**LINDA STARKE,
SALT SPRING**

Bullies

I was horrified to hear that individuals on both sides of the referendum debate have been exposed to abusive phone calls and seriously offensive attacks on Facebook, from anonymous sources.

Such behaviour is cowardly and bullying. And that is consistent with bullies generally: they are cowards and hide behind the screen of anonymity. We must not tolerate such behaviour.

There are two ways of dealing with bullies. Stand up to them or, frequently just as effective, turn your back on them. Bullies require an audience. Refusing

to engage removes their power.

We have just under a month left before the referendum. So far, with a few exceptions, our community is debating and discussing the issues in a respectful and intelligent way. There will always be a few who are not able to participate in an appropriate way. Let them not spoil it for the rest of us. Let the rest of us work towards doing what we each think best for Salt Spring.

No matter what the result of the vote, our community will thrive and we will continue to be among the very best places on earth in which to live.

**PETER GROVE,
SALT SPRING TRUSTEE**

What's on this week



Wed. Aug. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Phil Vernon. Salt Spring singer-songwriter Phil Vernon performs for Tea a 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. 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.
Bittancourt House Museum. Museum open at the Farmers' Institute every Wednesday through Sunday in July and August. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Salt Spring Stories – Usha Rautenbach. SSI Historical Society researcher gives 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.
Art 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.
SongJam. A 21st-century pub sing-along to vocal and instrumental backing tracks. Wednesday at Moby's. 8 p.m.

Thu. Aug. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music at the Tree House Cafe. To be announced. 7 to 10 p.m.
Susan Cogan CD Release Party. Susan Devor Cogan releases *Nine Goddess Tales* at special event. Accompanied by Jerome Jarvis. Potluck at 6 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. Event held on a private estate. Confirm by email to reserve spot and get instructions. susan@susancogan.com

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Salt Spring Stories – Arthur Black. Radio personality and writer gives talk as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
Art Talk: Creating the Story Dragon. Tracy Harrison, a local multimedia artist and clay sculptor, will discuss the creation of a paper clay architectural ceramic installation she created with local school children for the new library building in 2012 (the year of the Dragon). Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.
Classic Rock Bingo. Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.



Fri. Aug. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Friday Wine Down. Salt Spring Vineyards features live music every Friday. 4 to 6 p.m.
Karaoke. Karaoke with Drew at the Legion at 7 p.m.
Brent Shindell. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Entangados. A band of musicians and actors from Argentina who perform as clowns. Since 2004 the band has mixed theatre with genres such as rock, cuarteto, música báltica, reggae, cumbia, ska, folklore, and tango. Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. Enjoy a walk through Moutat Park while reading pages of a picture book. Crafts and stories in the library at 10 a.m. Walk from 10 a.m. to dusk.
Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Rotary Club BBQ. Famous Rotary hamburgers and hot dogs are available Fridays in the Country Grocer parking lot in partnership with community groups. 11 a.m. until late afternoon.
Salt Spring Stories – Greg Klassen. Photo-based artist and show creator gives talk as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
Movie Matinee at the Library. Come to the Salt Spring Public Library for a family-oriented movie matinee featuring your favourite movies based on books. Every Friday at 1 p.m. until Aug. 25. This week's pick is *Freaky Friday*.

Fri. Aug. 18

ACTIVITIES

Art Reception – Nikki Menard. Reception for Nikki Menard's *Alchemy of the Soul* exhibit, including mixed media, gelli plate, pen and ink watercolours and soul star paintings, which is in the Library Program Room through August. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Julia Beattie. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Carrie Elkin and Danny Schmidt. Live at the Pitchfork Social at Bullock Lake Farm. 7:30 p.m.
Salt. Live band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Locally produced crafts, foods and produce at a famous event in Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.
Salt Spring Stories – Rose Murakami. Rose Murakami gives talk about the island's Japanese community as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
StoryTime in the Park. At the Gazebo at Centennial Park, for ages 3 to 6. 12 noon to 12:45 p.m.
Art Opening – Second Growth. Drawings and paintings by Sibeal Foyle and furniture by Peter Pierobon in an exhibition running to Oct. 1. Opening reception at Duthie Gallery from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sun. Aug. 20

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday's listing.



Salt Spring Stories – Louise Doucet. GIFTS chair gives talk about the island's disability community as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
A Plein Air Event. Live music, art demos, wine & cheese and more for everyone. Artists RSVP to get a painting spot. Bring your easel and your art. Dragonfly Art Supplies. 2 to 6 p.m.

Mon. Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music at the Tree House Cafe. To be announced. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Solar Eclipse. Astronomical event starts at 9:08 a.m. and ends at 11:37 a.m., with maximum coverage of the sun at 10:20 a.m. View only with certified filters or glasses.
Salt Spring Stories – Bob McWhirter. SSI Historical Society chair gives talk as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
Moon Sisters Camp. Three nights of camping and sisters' workshops for women at Ruckle Park, offered by mymoonmothers.ca, starts today. Camp set-up at 4 p.m.
Discovering your Children's Spiritual Gifts. Free public talk by Ellen Hayakawa. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m.

Tue. Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music at the Tree House Cafe. To be announced. 7 to 10 p.m.

Tue. Aug. 22

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Stories – Chris Arnett. Anthropologist gives talk about First Nations and colonial history as part of exhibition and speaker series celebrating diversity in the Salt Spring community during Canada's 150th anniversary. ArtSpring. 12 noon.
Life Drawing. The life drawing group now meets on Tuesdays at Lions Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. Info: Rosamund: dupuyonssi@telus.net.
Tuesday Farmers' Market. Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.



Trivia Tuesday. Tuesdays at Moby's Pub. 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Incorporation: Are You Undecided? An opportunity to pose all your questions about the upcoming referendum to a group of friendly, engaged and informed real live people. Sponsored by the Positively NO campaign. Meaden Hall from 7 to 9 p.m., with doors open at 6:30.

Tue. Aug. 22

ACTIVITIES

The 5-Step Blueprint to Creating the Joyful Divinely Inspired Work you Love. Free experiential workshop given by Ellen Hayakawa. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m.

Wed. Aug. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo. Tenor Adam Djach and pianist Braden Young from Victoria. All Saints. Music at 2:10 p.m., optional tea and treats by donation to follow.
Live Music at the Tree House Cafe. To be announced. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.
Summer Reading Club. See last Wednesday's listing.
SongJam. See last Wednesday's listing.
Incorporation: Are You Undecided? See Tuesday's listing, except the event is at Fulford Hall. 5 to 7 p.m. with doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Photosynthesis – Opening Reception. For the 17th consecutive year, the Photosynthesis show will provide Salt Spring Island with a look at what some of our top photographic talent is producing. This year's theme is "Pretty Pictures?" ArtSpring. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

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EXHIBITIONS

• **Duthie Gallery** presents *Second Growth* — drawings and paintings by Sibeal Foyle and furniture by Peter Pierobon from Saturday, Aug. 19 through Oct. 1. Opening reception is on Aug. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.
 • **Photosynthesis 2017** opens on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at ArtSpring from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Theme of 17th annual multi-photographer show is "Pretty Pictures?" Exhibit continues until Sept. 5.

Sun. Aug. 20

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.
Alan Moberg. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

- **Greg Klassen** presents Salt Spring Stories, a series of images that speak to the uniqueness of place on Salt Spring, at ArtSpring, daily until Aug. 22. 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 her *Renewal* exhibition at Salt Spring Gallery through Aug. 22.
- **Michael Wall's** photography show titled *Six Persimmons: Homage to Mu Chi* runs daily at ArtCraft at Mahon Hall until Aug. 23.
- **Karen Reiss** and **Donna Hall** present an exhibit called *Close to Home* at Kizmit Galeria and Cafe through August.
- **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.

- **Nikki 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. A (postponed) reception is on Aug. 18 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- **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.
- **Salty Pear Gallery** is now open at 279 Rainbow Rd. with an exhibition of recent work by photographer Stasia Garraway.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL:
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people&community

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

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



SALING

Racing twins set sail for the nationals

Salt Spring Sailors seek community help to attend national competition

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring sailors Callum and Cianan McGuffin, current 420 dinghy class provincial leaders, are raising money to compete in the Sail Canada Youth National Championships in Nova Scotia.

What started as a hobby for the 18-year-old twin brothers around six years ago quickly turned into a passion.

"Our parents signed us up for sailing lessons and we just kinda went from there," Callum said while on a break during a shift volunteering with Cianan at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club. He remembers the fear that struck him the first time he sailed at the club and was put in bug (a small single person boat). Now he can be seen speedily gliding on the ocean, hanging off the side of a 420 class or any other boat the two can get their hands on.

They say that since they started racing in 2015, they've enjoy the physicality, intensity and the mental aspect of the 420-class sailboats.

"It's kind of like a big chess game," Cianan explained. "You have all the rules and it's very specific, what you're allowed to do, but then you also have the freedom to go off to one side of the course, or tack on top of somebody, so there's a lot of strategy and a lot of thinking, but it's also very physical, so it's a nice combination of those two things."

"The rule book is like two inches thick," added Callum.

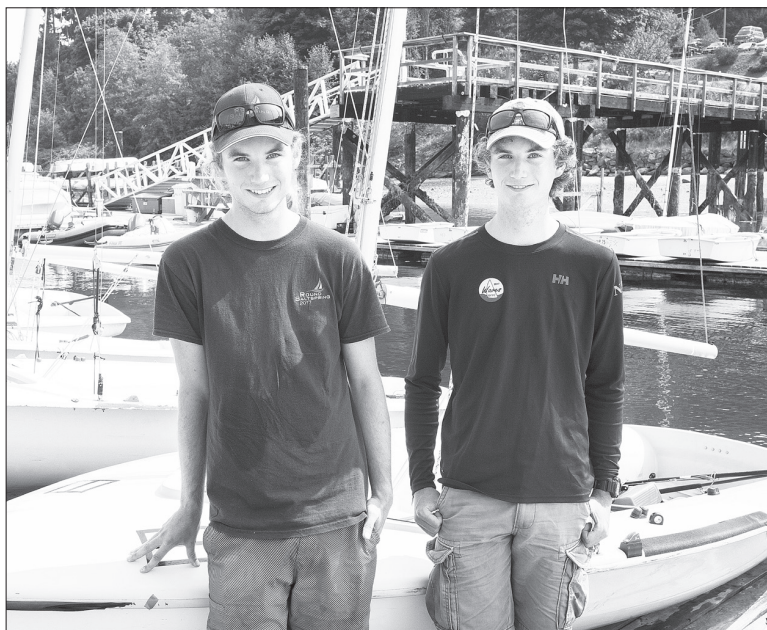


PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC
Twins Callum (skipper, left) and Cianan (crew) McGuffin stand in front of their favourite 420 dinghy class sailboat at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club.

"Our parents signed us up for sailing lessons and we just kinda went from there."

CALLUM MCGUFFIN
Competitor; Sail Canada Youth National Championships

And as punishment for breaking a rule during a race, it's common to make the offending boat do a 360-degree spin. The brothers said they have had to do quite a few spins to get where they are now.

Being twins gives the brothers a competitive edge, they said. Communication during sailboat races is key and

because of their lifelong connection. Callum and Cianan are able to communicate quicker and with fewer words than other crews.

"Normally I'd have to say I'm going to sit down so we need to keep the boat balanced and when we're moving out to the edge." Callum said. "We don't actually have to do that, which means we can focus more on tactics."

Cianan recalled a race where they were thrown into a boat class they hadn't yet sailed.

"In the middle of the winter there's a... kind of a fun regatta in Victoria," Cianan said. "Just an hour before the race we found out that there weren't any other 420s coming, so then they switched us into a 29er... so it's really really unstable. We actually came in third in that race, just because we are so well coordinated."

The brothers excitedly recounted how they continue to learn and grow with the sport as time goes on.

"We're definitely getting more aggressive. We used to be very passive," Cianan said. "We're working on our starts a lot. Just getting more coordinated and getting our accelerations and being on the line at 'go.'"

The two have been chosen to represent B.C. and Salt Spring Island Sailing Club in Nova Scotia at the national regatta because of their performance. The event is at the end of the month, so they're trying to get the funding through crowd-sourcing. They have to raise \$8,000. At the time the article was written, they were just over halfway there.

To help the brothers out, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/mcguffinsailing/>.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Victories scored through smoky screens

Future games in line for more clear skies

BY JILL EVANS
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

There was rather a lot of smoke from the mainland wildfires in the air in recent weeks, but seeing that winning at bridge sometimes involves using a bit of a smoke screen, it didn't deter four and a half tables from showing up at Seniors on July 31.

BRIDGETRICKS

But smoke did not get in the eyes of two pairs, who tied for first place — Bob and Judy Ripley, and Jeff Bell with Prem Margolese. Next to see through the haze were George Laundry and Terry Cleadment, followed by Ted Baldwinson and Catherine Gardiner. Almost as all-see-

ing were Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette.

Aug. 7 was B.C. Day here and N.B. Day there, Saskatchewan Day in Saskatchewan, Heritage Day in Alberta, John Galt Day and Simcoe Day plus various other days in Ontario, a mere Civic Day in Nunavut and nothing at all in Quebec, Yukon or Newfoundland-Labrador. So maybe some players had visitors enjoying the holiday because there were

only four full tables. It was Nick Beringer and Patricia Sutherland who were celebrating the most for coming first, with the Ripleys in the second spot and the Laundry-Clement pair coming third.

They say the smoke will have cleared by the time this appears, so come one, come all. For info, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.



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COMMUNITY GROUPS

GLOSSI ends era as more inclusive DAISSI takes root

New name reflects intention for inclusivity

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The organization formerly known as GLOSSI is signalling a new way forward with a name that better reflects the people it represents.

Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island has officially become Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island, a move that will hopefully encourage anyone identifying outside traditional gender and sexual norms to feel at home. The name change comes after the board recognized a need and then initiated a fulsome process for arriving at a new one that took two years to complete.

While many longtime members were attached to the old moniker, they also acknowledge the time is right for a shift. DAISSI vice-chair Bill Turner was one of those who was most resistant to change, until he had a meeting with a trans woman new to the island



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, Anna Wårje, Shellyse Szakacs and Bill Turner of DAISSI.

who explained why the limiting term "gays and lesbians" was not welcoming to her.

"She spoke very eloquently over coffee at TJs one day and changed my mind forever," Turner recalled.

Anna Wårje, who served as the very

last president of GLOSSI, identifies as trans and non-binary and uses the gender neutral pronouns they/them.

"I guess there's a feeling that a name is a symbol, and while GLOSSI always represented diverse people, people like myself who identify as trans or

non-binary didn't feel they were named there," they said. "Everyone was welcome, but that wasn't coming across. It was sending a message that it wasn't as inclusive as it could be."

While some might ask what's in a name, Wårje said there's actually a lot at stake, both in terms of the organization as a whole and the different people it serves. Although Wårje is just 34, people younger than them are now identifying with labels that they haven't heard of yet. Finding a way to include everyone now and into the future is crucial.

"A lot of us are still grappling with who we are, and what it means to be ourselves and be proud, let alone expressing that to our community," Wårje said.

"As a someone with an alternate sexuality, accepting oneself is always the hardest thing," Turner agreed.

Shellyse Szakacs, the current DAISSI chair, noted once the organization decided a change was in order, it then had to determine how to find a name that worked and truly represented the broadest community possible.

"That was the next step, and we went through a really rigorous process," Szakacs said.

This included several rounds of surveys led by Andrew Cameron, whom the group praises for "his exemplary work on making the lengthy name-change process happen in a way which was extraordinarily fair and inclusive." A round table discussion was also facilitated by Kingsley Strudwick, the founder of Victoria-based Ambit Gender Diversity Consulting. While some members of the community still did not feel there was a safe place to express their views, some that were hesitant at first did come and participate.

"It was really exciting to hear all the dialogue and emotions that arose as we considered this symbolic shift," Wårje said. "I thought it was a really nice opportunity for those in the community to hear different feedback from each other."

Another important aspect of the process has been demonstrating the involvement of the entire community it serves in DAISSI's work. The organization wants its members to know they have the say in its direction — it's not a top-down decision process by the board.

With the name change now accomplished, DAISSI will turn its attention to how to live up to its key words "diverse and inclusive." The expanded vision opens space for the complex intersection of factors that continue to prevent some people from having equality in Canadian society, including gender, sexuality, race and class. At the same time, it will look at the barriers that may be preventing people from participating in DAISSI events, such as low income, mental health issues or a continuing sense of not being welcome.

"We're at the very beginning stages. We're starting to have those conversations," Szakacs said.

"Now we're trying to live up to the name, and how to be more diverse and inclusive," Turner added. "Pride is coming up, so we're asking how we can manifest that in our parade, in our dance and these celebrations around Pride. It's a conundrum. We're trying to figure out what we can do."

The Pride committee will be looking at how to get more people off the sidelines into the Sept. 9 parade, for example. The weekend will include signature events the entire community enjoys like a post-parade celebration at Centennial Park and a dance with Queer as Funk on Saturday night. This year the festival also includes a concert with Ferron on Friday night, something Turner, for one, is "over the moon" about. Events specifically aimed at the queer community will include panel discussions and talking circles on various issues.

"I think we've learned a lot as an organization going through this process. It's really created a lot of dialogue," Szakacs said. "It's a process and we don't pretend to have it all figured out."

"I think we're engaged in a growth process, an expansion process, that we're very committed to," Wårje agreed. "It can be challenging or messy at times, but dialogue is integral to any growth."

Yoga with Dorothy

To Salt Spring Islanders Dorothy is known as a local yoga teacher.

Dorothy has found herself living a very interesting life. Not only teaching her beloved Salt Spring students but also teaching local and worldwide yoga retreats. Attending these retreats are students from Vancouver, Victoria and all over BC, Alberta, Ontario, Seattle, Maine, New York, Texas, England, and even Egypt! "It has been a very interesting progression." She can hardly believe how she managed to do it. Once, at a retreat she was teaching in Tuscany, while overlooking the hills of vineyards and olive groves, she actually pinched herself to make sure she was really there! "How did I do this?" She asked herself.

Well in reality, with lots of hard work and risk taking. She credits her daily yoga and meditation practice with helping magical things happen in her life.

Dorothy's natural love and passion for this ancient practice is clearly evident in her weekly classes and frequent retreats. She has enjoyed watching her students, here on Salt Spring Island as well as her worldwide students, grow and experience the life changing benefits of yoga.

Dorothy teaches asana (poses), pranayama (breathwork) and meditation at every retreat. Students attending a retreat with Dorothy can look forward to life changing transformations and experiences.

Check Dorothy's website for more information on upcoming retreats and local classes.

www.santosha-yoga-retreats.com



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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS



KEVIN CHARLES MARKS
07/08/1953 - 07/08/2017

*May the winds of heaven blow softly
and whisper in your ear,
How much we love and miss you,
and wish that you were here.*

Kevin Charles Marks aged 64 of Salt Spring Island passed away peacefully after a long struggle with cancer surrounded by family at Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges.

Survived by his older son Philip (Taryn) and younger son Christopher (Gabby) and grandchildren Maryke, John and Lyla, his sister Tina (Malcolm Gray), and niece Kelly (Ian Ford), and nephew Anthony Marks (TerryLynn).

Kevin was born on 7/8/1953 in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England to Jean and Charles Marks both of whom are pre-deceased.

Kevin worked as a milkman to help put himself through college and then became an accountant. In 1976 he married Helen (Cotterill) and had his first son Philip. He brought his family to Vancouver Island in 1983 for a year and then after a brief stint back in England finally brought his family back with his second son Christopher and settled down on Salt Spring Island where he changed his trade to painter and decorator and had his own store, Paint Plus in Ganges. Following divorce he met Carol (Gay) and helped raise her four children, Suzanne, Liz, Catherine and Alex for many years. In later years he met Nancy (Coburn) and she was with him till he passed on.

Kevin was a jolly person, always had a smile and a joke to tell, loved to help his sons with projects (he could fix anything). He also loved fishing and cooking (curry of course). He was always a willing helper and had good work ethics. He spent many happy hours chatting with his sister Tina.

It was always important to Kevin that his boys were happy.

Kevin will be sadly missed by his children, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Please join us at the Celebration of Life that will be held at the Legion in Ganges on Salt Spring Island, 27th August at 2pm. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the cancer society of B.C.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Reznick, Anne Miller RN and all the hospital staff at Lady Minto for the support and wonderful kindness shown Kevin.

Also would like to thank Carol for being a wonderful supportive caregiver during Kevin's illness and her husband Alan Johnson - Thank you.



JENNIFER BAXTER

May 12, 1962 - July 28, 2017

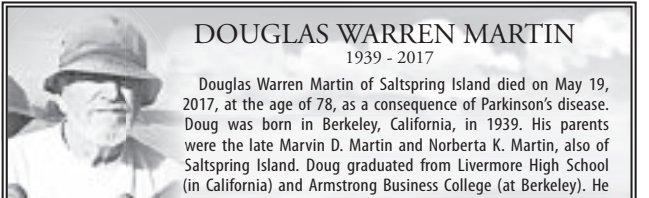
A brilliant, loving, daughter, sister, aunt, daycare worker and artist, left her grieving family on July 28, 2017 and is already deeply missed. Jennifer grew up in Priddis, Alberta on a forested acreage where her passionate love of nature took hold and stayed with her until she died.

Before she became ill with Parkinson's Jennifer loved being on Mt. Washington either skiing, snowshoeing or hiking, and in her earlier days skiing and hiking on Mt. Norquay in Banff where she worked for 3 years. When Jen lived on Salt Spring Island she had a lovely yellow kayak and enjoyed paddling the areas around the Island and a number of times kayaked the Broken Islands with her family. Walking was one of her passions, whether to her Salt Spring Island daycare work or in the Valley when she moved here in 2002. Jennifer loved being with the children she worked with in the daycares and she was immensely sad when her Parkinson's caused her to leave her work. Through all of these years Jen managed to stay connected with her painting either in classes on Salt Spring, here in the Valley and at L'Arche - it was one of her greatest joys. Her favourite subjects? Without a doubt, birds and flowers! And a favourite pastime? Jen loved nothing more than cruising in her sister's little truck listening to 'golden oldies'.

We want to thank Dr. Laura Bell for her loving care of Jennifer, and Tracy Black and the Gatehouse staff for taking such good care of our beloved daughter and sister for almost 3 years. And a special thank you to the L'Arche community for offering Jen such beautiful support and inspiration. A few weeks before she died she told us she was so sad because she wouldn't see her friends anymore...you all meant so much to her.

Jennifer leaves behind her parents, John and Rosemary Baxter and her sister Diane in Courtenay, and her brother Greg and his wife Leslie, and their son Sean in Edmonton. And her Uncles and Aunts, cousins and many friends, on Salt Spring Island, in Courtenay and elsewhere.

A celebration of life will be held near the end of August. In lieu of flowers please consider supporting L'Arche Comox Valley.



DOUGLAS WARREN MARTIN
1939 - 2017

Douglas Warren Martin of Salt Spring Island died on May 19, 2017, at the age of 78, as a consequence of Parkinson's disease. Doug was born in Berkeley, California, in 1939. His parents were the late Marvin D. Martin and Norberta K. Martin, also of Salt Spring Island. Doug graduated from Livermore High School (in California) and Armstrong Business College (at Berkeley). He was an independent businessman, providing purchasing services to private and public entities.

Doug is remembered by friends and family as a seaman through and through. In 1966, at the age of 26, he sailed the 32-foot sloop Avanti from San Francisco to Honolulu with his wife and six-year-old son as crew. Some 700 miles out of Honolulu, a hurricane toppled the mast; still, the Avanti completed its 26-day voyage under the sail power of a jury-rigged spinnaker. This adventure set precedent for a lifelong philosophy of independence and survival, a preference for all things "off the beaten path," and an attitude of "no one can stop me." Doug was an avid reader, and it comes as no surprise that his favorite book was Sterling Hayden's autobiographical Wanderer, a sea adventure featuring independence and the floating of convention.

In 1973, Doug moved to Port Alberni, BC, and built a home near Sproat Lake. In 1989, he moved to Salt Spring Island, where he hand-crafted yet another home at Long Harbour. In the course of his near 30 years on Salt Spring, Doug could often be found on the Ben Gunn, still moored at Grace Point.

Doug is survived by his three children - Steven Douglas Martin of Hawaii, Sandra Ann Martin of Hawaii, and Julie Kristine Martin of Victoria; by his three grandchildren Christopher Peterson of Hawaii, Ryan Peterson of Hawaii, and Amanda Mills of Victoria; by his sister Susan Romano of New Mexico and her husband Roberto; and by his niece and nephews Raquel, Alex, Robbie, and Nicholas Romano. He is fondly remembered by Betty Campbell of California, Jeanette Martin of Victoria, and Judy Sproule of Vancouver.

Memorial services will be held on Salt Spring on September 24 and in Hawaii on November 11 of 2017.

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DEATHS

DEATHS

DEATHS

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NILS CHRISTENSEN
Aug. 15, 1921 - Aug. 6, 2017

Nils was born in Høvik, Norway and served in the Norwegian Merchant Navy and the Royal Norwegian Air Force in World War II. Nils emigrated to Canada in 1951 and worked for de Havilland Aircraft of Canada and Sault Airways in Ontario, and Victoria Flying Club and Forest Industries Flying Tankers in B.C. Together with his wife Sheila, he established Viking Air Ltd. in 1970.

Nils has been honoured by Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame (2012), B.C. Aviation Hall of Fame (2016), Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Hall of Fame (2003), Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal (2012) and the Robert Hope Pursuit of Excellence Award. Nils has also been awarded lifetime memberships to the Royal Canadian Legion and the B.C. Aviation Museum.

Nils was predeceased by his infant son, John Nils. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Sheila; daughters, Randi and Marit; son, Erik; grandchildren, Stephanie, Nils, Jenna and Michelle; and great-grandchildren, Dakota, Taylor, Kiersten and Tait.

A Celebration of Nils' Life will be held on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 at 1 pm at the B.C. Aviation Museum, Sidney.



ROBERT (BOB) TARA
April 6, 1931 - August 9, 2017



Bob passed away on August 9th, 2017 at 4:20 PM after a long and hard battle with cancer. Bob's passing was very peaceful, giving his family surrounding and holding him one more beautiful smile moments before his passing. Bob was loved and adored by his family and leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Helen, his older son Ken and wife Shannon, their children Cole, Kaden, Jada and Tia, and Ken's grown daughter Jessica, and his younger son David and wife Joanie, and their son Kalen.

Bob was born in Ladner on April 6th, 1931, in the family home near the Westham Island Bridge on River Road West. Bob was the second oldest of five children and only son of Mario and Elvera Tarabocchia (nee Bussanich). Bob started school in Canoe Pass in a one room, six grade school with no electricity and a potbelly stove. His father Mario was a boat builder and fisherman.

During his adolescence, Bob fished in the summers in the nearby Fraser River, at first with his father and later on his own in a gillnetter. Bob graduated from Delta Senior Secondary School in 1949 and continued gillnetting and helping his father build boats in the shop on the edge of the river, something that he continued in the off season until 1954. In 1950 he got a job on the seine boat Nanceda and fished for 5 years all along the coast. Also in 1950, Bob met his future wife Helen at a dance hall in Milner. It was love at first sight for Bob. They later married on December 21, 1954.

After working in construction for a few years, Bob started his own successful building construction firm. Then in 1967 after a heart attack, he and the family moved to Salt Spring Island where he worked in Real Estate until retirement. Bob was proud of having built 6 of the family homes including the retirement home on Price Road.

Bob loved to travel and did so to many countries. He loved to go fishing up the coast with his son David and grandchild Kalen for salmon, halibut and whatever else they could catch.

During his time living in Fulford, Bob volunteered as a dishwasher at the Fulford Community Hall. He loved to watch and feed the birds around the house. He worked with wood and turned beautiful bowls using locally sourced wood. He always grew a great vegetable garden and fruit trees that he grafted and pruned himself, and loved to share the bounty with friends and neighbours. Bob loved crab fishing, canning salmon, making bread and pickling herring. He dearly loved his spaniels. Bob loved to have fun, to tease, joke, laugh, visit friends and neighbours, to drink, and to have coffee with his buddies at Embe Bakery.

Bob chose to die at home, his choice to die using the new government legislation MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) was fully supported by his family. Thank you to Dr. Trouton, Vancouver Island Health Authority, and MAID. Thank you also to Bob's family physician Dr. Butcher.

Bob's Celebration of Life will be from 1 to 4 pm on August 26, 2017 at the Royal Canadian Legion at 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island. Sincerely, the Tara Family.

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This Week's
Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrlogy.com
sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
1.250.352.6871

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

Something special will be activated in your life by this eclipse. Call it a birth. It could be a literal birth as in a pregnancy or the actual birth of a child. However, it could also manifest as the emergence of a new creative interest or talent. Either way, it is destined to bring focus to what makes you special and will have a measurable effect on your lifestyle.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

Home and family, love relationships and lifestyle, in general, will undergo changes due to this eclipse. These will become public and noticeable to others. In some respects, you will invite this, but in others, you may feel uncomfortable with the attention. It will push you to dig deep and make room, such as renovations or moves, for what is coming in.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

New perceptions will be ignited by this eclipse season. In some respects, you are able to think more clearly and see a bigger picture. As well, you may feel inspired to engage in a variety of creative activities where aesthetic appreciations are emphasized. Your career and/or public reputation will be influenced and subsequently your home life as well.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Questions of value are emphasized with this pair of eclipses. These may well touch upon financial considerations. Taxes, inheritances, and investments are likely areas that will be affected. It looks like money is coming in and from unexpected sources. These are destined to influence your perceptions and beliefs.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

With the Solar Eclipse in your sign, your overall mode of self-expression will receive a boost. Positively, it will bring improvements in your lifestyle and especially in the financial department. Your career as it affects your lifestyle, and the other way around too, is featured. Invariably, relationships will be affected and include reconnecting with old friends.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

Although this Solar Eclipse is not occurring in your sign, it is just over a degree away so you will feel its full impact. It will activate you to new modes and qualities of expression. Your daily life, rhythm, and routine will be influenced. Rare and profound glimpses into things could include metaphysical and/or philosophical interests.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Your circle of friends will change due to this eclipse. Positively, new love will come into your life. Yet, endings and unexpected changes are likely, as well. Your sense of individuality will be activated and this could manifest as a rebellious attitude, or perhaps even as a revolutionary one. Old love interests could be sparked as well.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your public and professional life linked to your social network will feel the impact of this eclipse season. Reunions with family and friends are quite possible. These may be seeded now but actually occur later in the year. Creative interests could also get an extra surge of energy inspiring you to new levels and heights.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Seeing a bigger picture and, in doing so, inspired changes in your public and professional life are all evidenced by the particulars of this eclipse season. Travel and other cultural interests are featured. Visiting places that you have not before, whether literally or intellectually are very likely over the coming weeks and months.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Big changes destined to occur are happening now. These may seem to come from outer circumstances and therefore be chalked up as coincidence and perhaps bad luck since endings are indicated. But, destiny is at play here. These will bring about changes in how you see yourself and the world and yourself in the world.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Who you are and who you love and how are all destined to feel the impact of this eclipse season. Drawing upon existing skills but at a higher and more productive level is indicated. Financial interests are featured and this could prove to bring in more money. Your talents and skills will be exercised, increased and improved in the process.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Projects that have been brewing for some time, perhaps even years, will come to the surface as a consequence of this eclipse season. A new wave of creative expression may become the new norm in your life. The scope and quality of your lifestyle linked to your most intimate relationships, both romantic and professional are part of this exciting plot.

sports & recreation

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

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



BASEBALL

Blue Jays win provincial third with tight-game magic

Boys put it all together at Surrey tournament

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's Blue Jays proved they have a flair for the dramatic when they finished their season as the third-best AA Mosquito-league team in B.C.

The team of mostly 10 and 11-year-old boys won five of six baseball games played Aug. 4-5 at Lionel Courchene Park in Surrey. Four of the five games were won by only one or two runs.

"It was heart-pounding to try to hold on to those two leads," said team manager Rowan Hughes, referring to their first and last games.

Salt Spring kicked off the tournament keeping their Richmond opponents at bay, maintaining a lead for a 13-12 win. Game MVP was Donovan Grimmer and Flynn Shugar got the save.

"Richmond was the top team in their zone so we knocked off a favourite for sure," said Hughes.

The Blue Jays started their second game by scoring four runs in the first inning, but took a 22-4 loss to Salmon Arm, the eventual tournament winners. Easton McDougall was game MVP with an amazing catch in centre field and a big double.

Starting pitcher Shugar was MVP of the third game against Surrey, throwing 50 of 80 pitches



PHOTO BY DANA HARRIS

Salt Spring Blue Jays team with bronze medals from provincial championships in Surrey.

for strikes, an unheard-of ratio at the Mosquito level. Surrey charged back with seven runs in the sixth inning, but closer Olin Pauker-Hoover shut them down for the 14-12 win.

In the fourth game the Blue Jays were on the

other side of the comeback equation, beating Burnaby by a 12-10 score. The team needed only two pitchers for the whole game: Pauker-Hoover and game MVP Sisaye Patterson.

Salt Spring's fifth match was against a Comox

squad that had beaten them every other time in the season. Finn Hughes was the MVP in the 11-6 win.

Playing against Cloverdale to determine third and fourth place, a three-run home run in the fourth inning by game MVP Harlan Harris took the Jays to 12 runs. While Cloverdale inched up to get 11 runs of their own, Salt Spring hung on for the win.

Hughes said Harris had an impressive two walks, five doubles, a triple and a home run on the weekend.

"He definitely swung the lumber for us." The Salt Spring Blue Jays qualified for provincial championships by finishing third in Vancouver Island finals earlier in the summer.

The team also had fun at a skills competition that was part of opening night events on Aug. 3. They won the first "around the horn" event and were competitive in several others.

Hughes gave credit to his deep line-up. "We practised a lot and they were a confident group."

Besides Patterson, Shugar, Harris, McDougall, Pauker-Hoover, Grimmer and Finn Hughes, other team members were Roman Wellington, Lucas Updegrove, Bryce Roberts, Nolan Boivin, Sam Barrett, Tegel Pauker-Hoover and Boone Harris.

Colin McDougall and Ryan Wellington also coached the team.

Jim Pattison Subaru victoria

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ROWING

Salt Spring's Stacy Mitchell leads B.C. team to gold

Local rowing coach sees national success

BY SEAN HITREC
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A provincial rowing team coached by a Salt Springer took home four gold medals at the Canada Summer Games earlier this month.

The B.C. Women's Rowing Team won golds in lightweight double sculls, pairs, fours and eights with coxswain, silvers in double scull and quadruple sculls and a bronze in single scull rowing. Salt Spring

resident Stacy Mitchell was the coach behind the team this year and was very happy with the results from the Winnipeg event.

"It was pretty incredible," she said.

Mitchell started rowing when she was 14 and living in Ontario. She continued her rowing career when she went to Queen's University and was a member of the Kingston Rowing Club. Around 10 years ago she moved to Salt Spring to teach math and sciences at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Wanting to share her love of the sport with her new

community, she initiated the junior program at the Salt Spring Island Rowing Club.

Assembling a team across B.C. was a large obstacle to overcome for the Summer Games. The group had only three weeks to practice together.

"I had about five athletes in Victoria, five in Vancouver, one athlete in Europe at the U-23 world championships and another athlete who lives in Nanaimo," she said.

Even though there was a tight practice window, the team still yielded stellar results in the games.

Everyone placed.

"The biggest thing was just bringing them together," she said. "And then the mental side of it," which consists of staying focused and on course during the event, where nerves can become a mitigating factor to success.

Another challenge for Mitchell was a last-minute change to the rowing lineup. Ivy Elling Quaintance was subbed in at the last second into single sculls, giving her less time to get up to speed with the team.

"It was a bit nerve wracking and I

wasn't sure if she would pull it off," Mitchell said. "The single is probably one of the toughest races to race because you're by yourself."

She did pull it off, however, and got a podium spot winning bronze.

Being back at home, Mitchell is looking forward to continuing her work with youth in the island's rowing club. She noted that due to the age and participation levels at the Salt Spring club, she's had to do a lot of work to get people to be serious about rowing, but interest is on the rise.

"Rowing is growing," she said.

TRACK, TRAIL & TRIATHLONS

Athletes stretch around the world

Reports on Salt Spring Sneakers and friends

BY ERIC ELLIS
SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

Salt Spring athletes are found far afield this summer, competing in many different disciplines and venues.

On July 18, Ness Murby qualified for and competed in two field events at the IAAF World Championships for Para-athletics in London, Eng. In the morning, she competed in the F-11 discus throw, earning a sixth with a throw of 26.99 metres. In the evening, she competed in the F-11 javelin, with her throw of 23.69 metres not only being a personal best but earning her a bronze medal.

Closer to home, the Salt Spring Sneakers held a club run on July 29, offering two courses at Fernwood — a 10-K and 5-K, and raising \$550 for the Multiple Sclerosis charity.

On Aug. 5, Dr. Richard Hayden competed in the Isklar Norseman Xtreme Triathlon in the mountains of Norway. Offering the full triathlon distances, the Isklar Norseman distinguishes itself in the manner in which it accomplishes it, the entire 226-km distance accumulating over 17,175 feet of climbing.

The competition begins at 5 a.m. on a ferry in the Hardjanger fjord, 322 km northwest of Oslo. A dive into 12 degree C water starts a 3.8-km swim to the village of Eidfjord, where competitors transition to bicycles for a 180-km ride to Austbydige, climbing 14,311 feet and descending 13,652 feet. Finally, the competitors run a full marathon from

Austbydige to the top of Gaustattoppen, an 1,800-metre mountain above the treeline.

Of the 294 competitors who qualified to enter, 246 began the race while 13 did not finish. The winner, a 26-year-old Norwegian, broke the 10-hour course record, finishing in 9:53, coming in first in each discipline, while the last finisher completed in 19 hours, 38 minutes, 34 seconds. Hayden finished the 3.8-km swim in 110th place in 1:13:13, left on the 180-km bike ride in 101st place, and finished the bike ride in 6:59:41 in 90th place.

On Aug. 11, Khai Foo, who is normally seen running up and down Mount Erskine and Mount Maxwell, often in the same run, began the 120-mile Fat Dog ultra trail run in Cathedral Park near Keremos. This bills itself as one of the most difficult trail runs in North America, boasting that over the course competitors will climb almost the elevation of Mount Everest. After 12 hours of running and maintaining 13th position of 72 competitors for most of that distance, Foo reached the 41-mile aide station and curtailed after experiencing nearly 20 miles of severe leg cramps.

On Aug. 12, Janine Fernandes-Hayden, fresh from serving as the principal support team for her husband Richard in Norway the weekend before, ran the Seawheeze Half-Marathon circling downtown Vancouver and the Stanley Park Seawall. She covered the 21.1-km distance in an official time of 1:40:48, finishing 396th (top four per cent) out of 9,641 runners, and 174th (top two per cent) of 7,404 women. Racestats.org, the database of all runs on Vancouver Island, lists this as her personal best at that distance by three minutes.

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Spirit of Salt Spring



Sandy Harkema of Island Savings, left, gives a \$500 cheque to Sabrina, a Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding participant, and Erika Ponsford of the SSTR Society. The donation is part of Island Savings' Simple Generosity program, which saw Island Savings choose Harkema to give a donation to a group of her choice.

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

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GOLF

Amateur Open nets fun

BY MARCIE HOGAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Amateur Open got off to a good start with a fun, social "horse-race" on Friday night.

Don Nemeth herded 16 teams around a hybrid layout of the course. After the first three holes the first cut was made. Teams at even par or better after three holes were able to carry on. Further cuts were made on holes 4 and 5 until there were only four teams left. These teams had to tee it up for a tricky shot over the reservoir to the number 7 green. A further cut was made and the teams still standing played over to the ninth green and a tricky flag placement. The team of Patrick Larouche and Scott McCartney won the race. Second-place finishers were Don McMahon and Kavan Manson.

After two days of stroke play, Ste-

ven Elwes was declared the open champion with eight over par for a low gross total of 150. Manson was four shots behind with 75/79 for 154. On the net side, Gary Tremblay shot 140 with rounds of 71 and 69. John Wickham also shot 140 but fell to second place through retrogression after scoring 68/72.

In the ladies division, top place went to Franki Johnstone, who shot low rounds of 86 and 88 for a total of 174. Eleven strokes behind was Carolyn Sharp, who carded 185 with rounds of 95 and 90. Johnstone also took low net honours by combining scores of 71 and 73 for a total of 144. Running a close second was Diane Olschessky who scored 72 and 76 for a final tally of 148.

Jeff Neilson knocked off 18 other qualifiers in the putting contest to take the top prize.