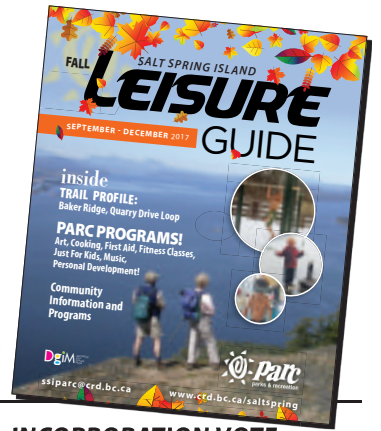


**Island mystery**  
Ruckle painting comes home  
PAGE 17

**Fall Leisure Guide**  
A new season of activities  
INSIDE



# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 34 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left, Chloe Hildebrandt, Ezra Daws-Knowles, Summer Hildebrandt and Adina Hildebrandt take in Monday's solar eclipse with special glasses acquired for the occasion. See the Driftwood's Facebook page for more eclipse photos.

## INCORPORATION VOTE Fire trustees give a pass to referendum stance

Post-vote town hall planned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees has declined to make a formal endorsement either for or against the island's incorporation, citing local government procedures and their non-political mandate Monday night.

The board allowed 30 minutes of their regular town hall session for pro and anti-incorporation advocates to speak on the matter, but disappointed the yes side by failing to add a decision to that night's meeting agenda.

"We feel at this time we cannot decide as a board to take a stance yes or no," board chair Per Svendsen announced.

In previous fire district town hall sessions this year, the yes side made a case for incorporation and asked the board to make an official endorsement as North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees had done, based on its looming infrastructure replacement needs and the inability for improvement districts to apply for government grants. The no side made its own presentation with reference to other governance options, but asked the board not to take an official position either way.

Svendsen said the board was not implicitly endorsing "no" by not taking a position.

"There are also some underlying thoughts in that we're trustees, we're not politicians," Svendsen said later in the discussion, "and for us representing the entire island, unlike the waterworks, which represents a portion of the island, the best way we can represent our people is to turn out on Sept. 9, or one of the polls prior, and vote at that point."

FIRE BOARD continued on 4

### NATURAL WONDERS

# Rare solar eclipse wows locals

Viewing safety messages heeded

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents joined people across North America who took to the streets on Monday, this time not to protest injustice but to celebrate the wonders of the universe.

Canada may have missed the path in which a total eclipse could be viewed, but that didn't stop thousands from stepping outside to see what was visible with official

viewing glasses, welding hoods and homemade pinhole cameras.

Dr. Andrea Varju's Salt Spring Eyecare office took a rare field trip Monday morning for a viewing party at the Island Escapades beach. Optometric assistant Gretta Hildebrandt said between 30 and 40 people arrived, both people who knew about the event and others who happened to be downtown.

"Wow" is the first thing most people

say," Hildebrandt said of the experience of actually looking at the sun in that state.

"Some people didn't even notice much of a change [to the light]. But it was cold — I didn't expect that. And it did get quiet. There weren't any birds on the beach. Then after the eclipse you could hear a dog barking from a boat, and a bunch of little birds came back onto the beach."

ECLIPSE continued on 5

Protect your WEALTH  
Joni Ganderton  
537-1654



### INSERTS

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

### INDEX

Arts.....	12	People & Community.....	17
Classifieds.....	22	Sports & Recreation.....	21
Editorial.....	6	What's On.....	14
Letters.....	7		

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SALT SPRING POLITICS

# Clowns gather to help ease incorporation debate ills

'Town hall' meeting attempts to get incorporation debate off the computers and into community

BY SEAN HITREC  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A sea of red noses gathered in Centennial Park last Tuesday in an attempt to help heal a divided community.

The Salt Spring incorporation referendum debate has polarized community members in both online and face-to-face interactions. Reported incidents have included coffee thrown on a "no-side" supporter, threatening phone calls, business boycotts and the online posting of a yes-side campaigner's 13-year-old divorce documents along with a gratuitous comment.

Robert Birch and Nomi Lyonns had seen enough, so they organized a meeting for both sides to air out their differences and similarities in the real world with a comical twist. Called the Twisted Town Hall Referendum Social for In-Cooperation, it attracted about 50 to 75 people.

"The twisted town hall meeting, or you can call it twisted clown hall, was an opportunity to bring in political performance as a way to invite the island to reconsider that you're actually talking about your neighbours



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Dave Campbell and Greg Clayton participate in a "twisted" debate on a Twister mat where they argue for the other person's chosen side of the Salt Spring incorporation referendum.

when you're throwing out your ideas," Birch said. "You're actually making comments about people who, probably, in the past have supported you or someday might."

Birch was not happy with the way things were going. In his opinion, the debate has been off the rails since the start.

"Both sides were irresponsible about not bringing this island together before they dug in to their threatened positions. So I'm angry and I'm in love with this island," he said. "I respect the passion and I'm furious with the way this process unfolded. So, when I'm in the face of that level of tension and inspiration, I go to its opposite, which would be play and looking at the sacred clown who is able to say

things out loud that most people wouldn't listen to if it was from behind a [computer screen]."

"There's a lot of vitriol and nastiness and in-your-face pointing and blaming and it's very toxic," Lyonns said. "It's just brought out a lot of fear in everybody."

The beginning of the event was used to help raise money for a much-needed laundromat in the community. Birch said that almost \$400 was raised for the cause and was a reminder that the community has real needs that go beyond the debate at hand.

Lyonns and Birch noted the yes side of the debate was underrepresented at the event.

"I know there was some concern," said Lyonns. "I heard that

from several of my yes friends, who said they were worried. They felt like they wouldn't be welcomed."

"There were very few people from the yes side. I only saw four self-identified yessers or yessies. There was tons of people that were the I-don't-knowsies and a handful of solid nosies," Birch added.

A main segment of the evening was a debate between Dave Campbell, who supports incorporation, and Greg Clayton, who does not. The two had five minutes each to state the reasons for their vote choice, then were asked to play Twister while arguing for the other's side. The hope was to get opposing sides to use their listening skills and understand each other's points of view by restating

them, which is a common conflict resolution tactic.

During the game of Twister, Campbell (A yes supporter who argued for the no side) argued points against incorporation, such as "taxes will go through the roof," while for Clayton (a no supporter who argued for the yes side) one reason to incorporate was "I don't understand my taxes."

"I just bought a house and I think incorporation will benefit homeowners," and "I'm so desperate for change, I'll take anything," Clayton also said as arguments for incorporation.

"I think one was very earnest and the other was very passionate," Birch said. "How well did they listen? I'd say not very well in my clown-like opinion. Neither of them were actually that effective at listening. They were still arguing their own position, so in a way they were manipulating the game. That's why we played Twister, to see who could actually tell the truth."

People were then directed to form groups and talked about the referendum vote among themselves. The groups were open for anyone to respectfully chime in.

A trust and community-building exercise followed. People from all sides held onto a rope in a circle and leaned back, supporting each other by participating.

The evening ended with a dance to Diplo's Devil Remix of the Pixies song titled Hey.

Lyonns would like to have at least one more event like the one on Aug. 15 before the vote on Sept. 9.

"In the ideal world we're all gonna die here," said Birch. "Let's do so with that in mind, about taking care of each other along the way no matter what our chosen or well-considered or well-educated opinion might be."

## BEADS SALE

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Sunday, Sept. 3 10am-5pm  
Monday, Sept. 4 10-2

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CRASH

## Car careens through garage wall and over embankment

Fire department rope team rescues man

BY SEAN HITREC  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring emergency services responded to an incident on Alders Road Saturday night where someone ploughed through a garage and off a nearby cliff.

Crews arrived on scene at around 8 p.m. to find a man and a crashed car approximately 60 feet from the back of the garage. He had driven through the garage wall, over approximately 40 feet of the grass yard of the residence and then off a steep embankment and into a wooded area.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue firefighter Warren Nuyens was the incident commander at the scene. He said a total of 10 firefighters responded to the call, which saw a rope team assembled to rescue the

driver. Though able to stand on his own, the driver was placed in a harness and transported back to safety.

Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Ryan Netzer said that alcohol was not a factor in the incident.

"It is believed that driver error caused the collision," he said.

The man was cared for by ambulance personnel and discharged at the scene with minor injuries, Nuyens said.

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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

### Salt Spring Toy Run

Saturday, AUGUST 26 at 11 a.m. sharp  
From the Farmers' Institute

## ENVIRONMENT

# Concerns floated on kelp harvesting in local waters

Conditions govern commercial practice

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Large areas of bull kelp are disappearing from regular locations in the Salish Sea, raising questions about whether over-harvesting, a natural phenomenon or climate change are to blame.

Salt Spring resident and retired teacher Jim Watkins raised the alarm about a potential *Nereocystis luetkeana* (bull kelp) over-harvest after a friend reported seeing a boat taking large swaths in Porlier Pass near the Penelakut First Nation reserve on Galiano Island earlier this summer.

"Further out by the inside lighthouse there is a reef that had bull kelp so thick that herons could stand on it while they hunted for fish. That reef has been entirely stripped," Watkins wrote in an email to B.C.'s Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

"Once I realized what I was seeing I paid more attention to reefs I know that have had bull kelp on them. The reef west of Long Harbour on Salt Spring Island running northwest from the U49 buoy also has no kelp. I was looking at low tide as well," Watkins continued.

Watkins told the Driftwood that boaters like himself should be keeping watch for environmental degradation in the area, and reporting violations if necessary. As well,

he's worried First Nations interests may be violated.

"This is anecdotal at this point, but the more eyes on that water, the better," Watkins said.

Nicole Prichard, FLNROR's senior aquatic plant specialist, agreed there may be some cases in which concern is warranted. She confirmed that one commercial harvesting licence has been issued for the area, but said one family has received an annual permit for a number of years.

The most recent licence was issued on March 14, 2017. It permits up to five tonnes of kelp harvest during 2017 in a large area stretching from Galiano to North Saanich. The licence does not grant permission to harvest from foreshore fronting First Nation reserves without a valid written agreement by the applicable First Nation council. As well, it does not grant permission to harvest from leased land, wildlife management areas, land conservancies or Crown land disposed for any other purpose, without a valid written agreement or authorization by the applicable lessee and/or government agency.

Bull kelp is an annual plant, with high-density spores falling down to the ocean floor during the summer. Although populations usually regenerate well, best practices are important to sustain a part of the ecosystem that's still not entirely understood in terms of fish habitat.

"My motto is I only take from abundance," said Sequoia Lesosky, a Salt Spring resident who harvest



RHEANNA DRENNAN PHOTO COURTESY MAYNE ISLAND CONSERVANCY

Bull kelp bulbs float on the surface in Miners Bay on Mayne Island.

seaweed commercially north of Campbell River for five years.

"Ideally you're never taking more than five to 10 per cent of something."

Lesosky said bull kelp is a "really interesting, salty seaweed" that is usually best harvested in June and July. If taken later in the summer, most of the seeds will probably have dropped.

Plants die off in the fall, and new masses can change locations depending on things like ocean currents moving the spores, or better growing conditions. Prichard said there is also a theory that longer trends such as climate change might be impacting kelp growth.

Commercial licence conditions meant to ensure a sustainable population are that harvesting must be done by hand only, using a sharp cutting instrument. Only blades

(seaweed ribbons) may be cut, and no closer than 20 cm from the bulb. Harvesting of the bulb or stipe is not permitted, nor is harvesting of live, whole plants.

Most pertinent to Watkins' concern is the stipulation that no more than 20 per cent of the plants in any bed may be harvested.

"If that's happening, we need to know that," Prichard said.

No current regulations govern kelp harvesting for personal use, but anything over 100 kilograms of wet kelp is considered a commercial amount and requires a licence.

"They have to still respect the plant and be sure it is able to regenerate for the next year," Prichard added.

While not much is known about total kelp populations in the region, the Mayne Island Conservancy has been mapping kelp beds in the

island's coves and bays for several years. They created a report for the Seagrass Conservation Working Group, a consortium of community groups, biologists, consultants, First Nations and government agencies who work to conserve nearshore habitats like eelgrass and kelp.

"Anecdotal evidence is showing a decline in bull kelp in the Salish Sea. Measuring change in area of kelp beds over time (monitoring) will enable us to detect declining populations and determine why," the Mayne Island Conservancy's website explains.

Salt Spring biologist Leanna Boyer, who led the Mayne Island project, has also been conducting mapping with the non-profit organization SeaChange in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the University of Victoria's Spectral Lab.

SeaChange trained volunteers on Pender Island and in Cowichan Bay to map bull kelp beds by kayak or canoe. A project at the University of Victoria shows satellite technology could also make things easier. Boyer said they've recently determined the sensors bounce off the masses well.

Public awareness of regulations will be an important step toward future monitoring and conservation efforts.

Anyone who may witness over-harvesting or has other concerns about a kelp harvesting licence can contact AquaticPlants.Courtenay@gov.bc.ca.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Book sale action starts

Salt Spring Literacy volunteers are hard at work preparing for their major fall fundraiser: the Giant Book Sale and Jewels for Literacy Sale.

A donation drop-off day for islanders' used books

and jewelry is set for Tuesday, Aug. 29 at the Country Grocer parking lot from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will be under the tents in the middle of the parking lot, ready to accept donations.

For people who can't bring their items to Country Grocer on Aug. 29, jewelry can be dropped off at Cafe

Talia, Mondo Trading and the Salt Spring Literacy centre. Book bins are set out at BMO, CIBC and Island Savings in Ganges.

SSL cannot accept books that are mouldy, in poor condition, old computer books, textbooks, Reader's Digest or National Geographic publications, or magazines.

### Hit and run investigated

Salt Spring RCMP are asking for help to resolve a hit and run that occurred in the Country Grocer parking lot last month.

On July 18 at 3:15 p.m., a female was struck by a

vehicle in the parking lot, causing minor injuries.

"The driver of the suspect vehicle did not stop to provide any assistance, nor did he report the incident to police, only apologizing to the female and driving off," states an RCMP press release.

"The suspect vehicle is described as a brown

Land Rover/Range Rover.

It is believed that the first three letters of the British Columbia licence plate are 221."

Anyone who may have any information on this incident is asked to contact Crime Stoppers or Const. Kyle Van de Sype of the Salt Spring RCMP at 250-537-5555.

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## INCORPORATION

# Aug. 30 incorporation panel participants announced

Ministry confirms roads offer details

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With advance polls for Salt Spring's incorporation referendum set to open in just one week and the official Sept. 9 vote looming close behind, the final push for distributing the information necessary to make a decision is also taking place.

Salt Spring's three elected officials, Peter Grove, George Grams and Wayne McIntyre, have finally received answers to some abiding questions on the provincial restructuring offer. A letter from Municipal Affairs Minister Selina Robinson that arrived Tuesday confirms the significant detail that provincially funded resurfacing of Fulford-Ganges Road is to include a 1.2-metre shoulder on both sides of the roadway.

"This shoulder width may need to be slightly reduced in some areas due to utilities or private property conflicts, but generally the 1.2 metre shoulder will be achievable," the letter states.

The roads portion of the offer also includes \$5.7 million over five years for road maintenance costs, slope stability mitigation on Walk-

ers Hook Road, and financial assistance to resolve the outstanding road tenure issue on Beddis Road, should it not be resolved prior to incorporation.

Robinson said the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will additionally engage in discussion with BC Ferries to determine if there is an opportunity for joint investment to improve the approach to the Fulford ferry terminal during the terminal improvement project slated for the future.

A separate letter from Robinson received Tuesday outlines the way a new municipality's letter patents would be drafted.

"Letters patent largely deal with the transition of the community's services, local government regulations and inter-governmental relationships into a municipal context," the letter explains. "Once established, a municipality may exercise any municipal authority and must observe any municipal requirements established in the broader legislative framework. The letters patent do not duplicate authorities under legislation; rather, they address a limited number of specific matters."

The documents would designate the name and boundaries of the new municipality, set dates for the election for the first council and first council meeting, set what must be accom-

plished at the first meeting, and outline first-year financial matters. The Order in Council that issues the letters patent also dissolves the improvement districts, revokes their letters patent, and transfers their assets, obligations and bylaws to the municipality on a specified date.

Further information and opinions on the potential merits and drawbacks of incorporation will be offered at a panel debate on Wednesday, Aug. 30, starting at 7 p.m. at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gym. Michael McAllister, Ken Marr and David Wood will present their case for a change to an incorporated structure. Greg Clayton, Brenda Guiled and Gary Holman will present the case against that change.

The discussion will be moderated by former B.C. Liberal government cabinet minister George Abbott. Fact-checking will be provided by Urban Systems, the consulting firm that created the Salt Spring Incorporation Study Report.

"The format and structure of the panel discussion was carefully considered and has been agreed with the moderator and the ministry," an Aug. 15 press release from the elected officials states.

A live-stream of the debate and later access

to video-footage for those who can't attend is also in the works, said Grove.

Islanders interested in learning about local governance options other than incorporation can find out more at the Lions Hall this Monday, Aug. 28 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Representatives from Hornby Island's non-profit local governance association will share their experiences and answer questions. In addition, options such as Local Community Commissions, improvements to Islands Trust and CRD, and potential Improvement District eligibility for federal and provincial grants will be explored by Linda Adams, Gary Holman, Richard Kerr and former Incorporation Study Committee member Clayton. Doors will open at 6:30 and light refreshments will be served.

Positively No is also sponsoring open houses at the library. See the What's On calendar for details.

For those interested in hearing more from the pro-incorporation side, community members will have information tables set up various afternoons this week at Country Grocer, TJ Beans and Mouat's. As well, two events for the undecided are scheduled at a private home at 221 Chu-An Drive on Sunday, Aug. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. RSVP to betsyderek@gmail.com.

## FIRE DISTRICT

## Board proposes 2018 fire budget

Hall reserve fund set

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustees gave first reading to a \$2.577-million 2018 operating budget bylaw at their Monday night meeting.

The deficit budget predicts a less than one per cent increase to expenses over 2017, which were budgeted at \$2,533,250, and proposed \$50,000 for a new capital reserve that will be dedicated to Fire No. 1. Under the wording, the fund can be used to fund repairs and upgrades to the current downtown Ganges fire hall, or construction of a new hall at the district's Brinkworthy site.

Trustee Rollie Cook outlined a plan to start saving \$50,000 every year to reduce eventual borrowing needs. He suggested that with a \$2.5-million budget, the community could end up having to borrow as little as \$1 million. At current provincial borrowing rates, the annual \$50,000 contribution would go most of the way toward debt ser-

ving costs of the loan, estimated at \$67,000 per \$1 million annually.

"If we try to put a massive borrowing bill to the community, the normal resistance will be there," Cook said, adding the reserve fund will allow for a gradual approach instead.

"It makes the task of doing the job more manageable, step by step."

While the fire district already has a reserve fund in place, corporate administrative officer Andrew Peat noted it can be used for any capital replacement needs. Having a fund that is specifically dedicated to Fire Hall No. 1 will go toward securing a down payment on future construction, and signal the board's priority to the project, Peat said.

The board also approved a recommendation from the finance and audit committee that excess cash balances be transferred to the fire hall reserve fund. Peat clarified for members of the public that such transfers would require a motion from the board directing him to do so.

Second reading of the 2018 operating budget is scheduled for the September board meeting.

In other business Monday, trustees agreed to start looking into a contract proposal that would have consultants analyze fire department response times and make suggestions for improving efficiency under current budget restrictions, if possible. Response times were flagged as an issue in the latest report by the Fire Underwriters Survey.

Peat explained after the meeting that times are within National Fire Protection Association margins during the day, but are probably more of an issue at night because four members have to arrive at the fire hall in order to send out a truck.

FireWise Consulting has been suggested as a possible option for conducting the study. The full parameters and analysis required will be explored.

Trustees also considered whether to move monthly board meetings back to the Ganges fire hall starting in September but voted to stay at the Salt Spring United Church hall instead. The annual cost of \$600 was thought to be low enough to justify the venue's added comforts over what the fire hall training room can provide.

## 'Reasoned input' request put aside

## FIRE BOARD

continued from 1

"The decision is up to you, whether you want to make a statement or not," responded Norbert Schlenker, a member of the yes campaign. "I would just say the community expects you to provide reasoned input that will help them decide on Sept. 9."

Trustees also declined to take the option of holding a special meeting on Aug. 28 to vote on the question, something Ken Marr asked them to consider.

"The board heard from the yes side, the board heard from the no side, and the consensus was to let Salt Springers make up their own minds," said trustee Rollie

Cook.

Noting the matter had been deferred at a previous meeting without a specific motion to bring it back for decision, Cook said it would require three of the four trustees in attendance that night to reverse that direction.

"So I'm just trying to manage your expectations. It's not likely going to happen," Cook said.

The board has plans to hold a special town hall session after the referendum, and agreed Monday to explore venues and possible dates for October. The session will discuss next steps in the process in the event the vote is for incorporation, or seek public input for future governance options if the referendum fails.

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# Islanders seek alternate ways to view eclipse

## ECLIPSE

continued from 1

Hildebrandt said not many people on the beach came with the proper glasses, but a lot had made pinhole camera devices. The eye-care staff also shared around the glasses they had.

While many viewers were expecting the sky to become much darker and may have felt underwhelmed by the event, others were excited by an unexpected effect that turned leafy tree canopies into virtual pinhole cameras. Photos of crescent-shaped disks cutting through the shadows appeared on multiple Facebook pages over the following day.

Driftwood employees were enjoying just that experience on the office building's back deck when a generous subscriber showed up with his viewing glasses. Peter Lettinga thoughtfully arrived just in time to share the peak moment with the staff.

At Salt Spring Stonehouse B&B, a camera obscura was set up in the courtyard to aid safe observation of the eclipse.

"We used freestanding shelf units as the support structures, topped by old hot tub covers," Stonehouse personnel stated in an email. "We then draped various rugs and fabrics around the structure to enclose

**"Between the camera obscura and some solar viewing glasses, the solar eclipse experience was a memorable highlight for everyone who was here."**

STONEHOUSE B&B

a dark interior. On the side facing the sun we placed a bit of cardboard framing a hole covered by a sheet of aluminum foil. A single pin hole in the foil acted as the focal point through which the image of the eclipse projected inversely onto a white board inside.

"Between the camera obscura and some solar viewing glasses, the solar eclipse experience was a memorable highlight for everyone who was here."

Other people took the opportunity to see the total eclipse where it passed at its closest point to the Gulf Islands, in Oregon.

Christian Nally of Galiano Island travelled by bus and then had a 45-km bike ride after viewing the eclipse. He felt CBC host Bob McDonald best summed up the

experience in an article titled "It's worth the drive to totality."

"I had a lot of time to think while biking. The amount of fossil fuel burned by those who went for the totality was staggering. I hope they start associating just how accurate science can be with the climate scientists too," Nally added.

Lynn Price-Wallace is another Islander who made the trip to Oregon.

As she posted to the Pender Island Forum: "I'm in awe. It's long over, and I'm actually stunned by what I saw. It got cold, and dark, the birds went first insane, then quiet, the street lights came on in the distance. Truly an amazing work of nature."

Fortunately all the messaging about safe viewing practices appears to have sunk in. Salt Spring Eyecare ordered in 50 pairs of certified viewing glasses for purchase, which quickly sold out, and made multiple attempts on social media to share the dangers of looking at the sun without the proper gear.

Hildebrandt said the office had yet to receive any calls for appointments related to eclipse damage.

"I do feel sorry for people who didn't have eclipse glasses, because it was a really beautiful sight," she said. "We feel bad that we didn't order enough glasses — but we had no idea people would be so interested."

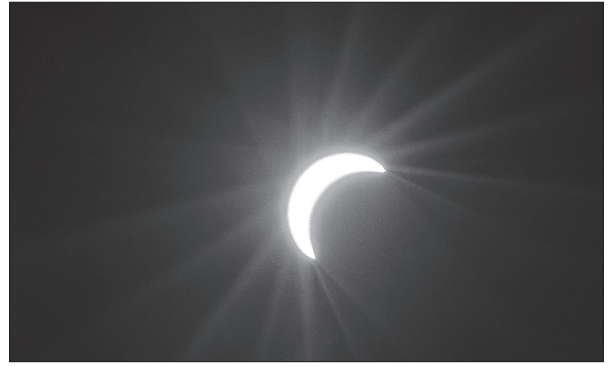


PHOTO BY DREW UNDERWOOD

The sun's corona becomes visible during Monday's eclipse.



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

The crescent-shaped portion of the sun left by the moon passing by is reflected through "pinhole cameras" in the tree canopy outside the Driftwood office.

## WILDFIRE

# Fire ticketing concerns linger

Cost recovery considered unwieldy option

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A debate about whether the Wildfire Act can be enforced on Salt Spring is still unresolved during the worst fire season on record in B.C.

In response to questions from the Driftwood last week, local RCMP and the Coastal Fire Centre said provincial violation tickets could be issued on Salt Spring. The RCMP reversed its opinion shortly after, since Section 4 of the act states it does not apply to a municipality or local government that has an open fire bylaw.

"The RCMP's on the same page as us that the Wildfire Act does not apply within the borders of a protection district," Fire Chief Arjuna George said at the Salt Spring Fire Protection District meeting on Monday night.

George said he had been getting ready to send out a press release clarifying matters earlier that day when he received a call from the Coastal Fire Centre, which has different information about the ability to issue tickets through the RCMP, conservation officers and other designated officials. Further clarification is being sought.

"BC Forest Service would like to look at it a little closer," George said.

Wildfire Act violation tickets were issued by RCMP in two municipalities in the Sunshine Coast area earlier this month. A media communications officer for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development was not able to provide an answer on why the situation there might be different, but suggested it's because of the RCMP's agreement with the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue attended three open burns that were prohibited and one fireworks incident during July, according to the monthly fire chief's report. The fire department does not have the power to impose its own tickets or fines as an improvement district, but can sue for cost recovery for services in the event of non-compliance. George said the process is "very onerous," however.

The enforcement of burning regulations has become an important issue not just in terms of wildfire season but as a position point for the "yes" side in the community's incorporation debate.

Norbert Schlenker and seven other former fire trustees cited the fire department's inability to issue tickets as one more reason why the board of trustees should take a public stance on how incorporation would benefit its ratepayers.

Trustee Chris Budd agreed the enforcement issue posed a significant problem, adding before the trustees' letter people at least had the belief that tickets could be issued.

"You've totally blown that out of the water," he said.

Richard Kerr, a member of the "no" side, stated during the town hall session that the fire department could also enforce tickets related to burning bylaws if it were to become a service area under the Capital Regional District. The fire regulation bylaw for its service areas in the Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca electoral areas lists 31 offences with fines of \$100 to \$500.

Places the Wildfire Act is not in dispute on Salt Spring include crown land and the Musgrave area, which is outside the fire district boundaries. George said three camp fires were reported outside the boundary during July. BC Wildfire Management was notified.

## Building a sustainable future



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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

# Credible debate

**S**alt Spring residents can't be blamed for feeling weary when it comes to the incorporation referendum debate.

People heavily involved in the yes and no campaigns have been full-on this summer trying to promote their positions and reach as many voters as possible.

Discussions between engaged and passionate people have raged online for even longer. That discourse has not always been civil or led to clarity about the topics being probed.

For everyone else on the sidelines trying to determine accurate information and how it aligns with their needs and values, the process might be less emotionally taxing but is no less important.

People in both "camps" believe their statements, or interpretations of legislation or what happens in other places are the indisputably correct ones, of course. As is the case with all political campaigns, it is more likely that the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

### THE ISSUE:

Aug. 30 debate

### WE SAY:

Don't miss it

That's why the public debate/discussion set for next Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Gulf Islands Secondary School gymnasium is probably the best bet for undecided voters needing help with making a decision.

The official debate structure has been criticized, especially when elected officials Wayne McIntyre, George Grams and Peter Grove would not agree to add a second "fact-checker" suggested from the no-side campaign group. Representatives from Urban Systems, the consulting firm contracted to undertake the island's incorporation study, will be the only ones holding debaters' feet to the fire on "factual matters."

Other people have been concerned that the debate could not be accessed online after the event is over, but elected officials have confirmed it will be made available.

With three credible individuals on both sides set to argue their positions in a format moderated by former cabinet minister George Abbott, it is the must-see event of the campaign.

Voters are reminded as well that the first advance poll is on Wednesday, Aug. 30 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at both the Salt Spring Public Library and Community Gospel Chapel. The second advance poll is on Sept. 6, while Sept. 9 is the regular voting day.



PARKER

VIEWPOINT by Dave Campbell

# Island vision and direction needed

For me the Sept. 9 referendum is a vote of order-vs-chaos.

Salt Spring's quaint hodge-podge of electoral and improvement districts represents anything but order, in my opinion. It's a creature with many tentacles but no brain.

Just look around: No acceptable traffic plan in Fulford village; inadequately marked walking trails; none of the roads leading out from any of our three ferry terminals have even so much as a welcome sign for tourists. Speed limit signs on Fulford-Ganges Road are inconsistent, which invariably means ending up behind a confused tourist settling on 50 km/h for the drive to or from Ganges. Water lines supply drinking water to homes but provide a questionable supply to fire hydrants, when they're even operational. I understand to some people who defend the status quo these might seem like minor details, however, one can easily extrapolate from there.

Under a municipality that aforementioned creature would have a brain. It would be able to coordinate and efficiently communicate with the other parts. The left hand would know what the right hand is doing. In other words, some semblance of order. Imagine a sailboat with no rudder . . . wind in the sails but no particular heading or direction. As a community we're merely floating.

We have zoning and an official community plan. "Planners" and enforcers but no plan in terms of how to adequately address the very pertinent and growing needs that are outpacing and running rings around the system's ability to address them. That's what happens when you don't have the proper tools. Issues get bandaged and duct taped. Why does it have to take such an extraordinary superhuman effort to get a boardwalk finished, or a housing project off the ground?

Many who are vociferously against a municipality are currently extolling the virtues of tweaking the current system. The amount of

energy the Positively No group have poured into opposition should have already been utilized since the last referendum to improve our governance. Why now the praising of a toothless Local Community Commission, which only the CRD has any power to create?

I think we as a community have a bit of a confused identity. We're like children (taxpayers) being raised by our nannies (CRD, Trust, fire district, water districts and the provincial government) rather than our real parents. In a municipality we'd be able to see the mayor or one of our councillors in the grocery store and say, "These are the people I can talk to."

A popular concern from the no campaign is that we can't guarantee in 10 or 15 years we won't have a corrupt municipal council loaded with developers. That's like me saying I shouldn't ever leave my house because I might get hit by a bus while crossing the street! There is no substitute for awareness.

Salt Spring's riding has twice elected a Green MP and lately a Green MLA. As long as we continue to have a population which holds strong conservationist/environmental awareness, there most will certainly be candidates running on that platform and elected to council. And I expect the electorate would be vigilant. If the community's values shift, well, so will the council. It's called a democracy.

In the meantime, if we don't incorporate, who is representing this community? Who is the leader? Where is the vision? Where is the direction? I'm not interested in watered down versions like a Local Community Commission. I want the real thing. That's why I'm voting "yes."

The writer is a 14-year Salt Spring resident, trades person and musician.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Should Canada send troops to Afghanistan?

Yes  No

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

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

## Should SSI's STVR prohibition be enforced?



# Driftwood

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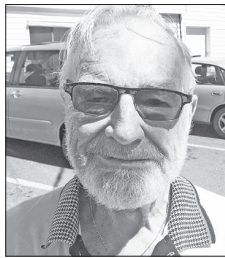
# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "Both sides were irresponsible about not bringing this island together before they dug in to their threatened positions."

ROBERT BIRCH, TWISTED TOWN HALL CO-ORGANIZER

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:**  
What did you do during Monday's solar eclipse?



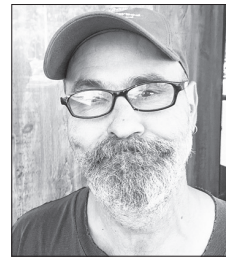
**BOB RIPLEY**  
*I was working in the garden and I didn't even notice it. . . . My son came over at about 10 or 10:30 and we saw just the end of it.*



**A LITTLE SPACE**  
*I set up my camera to record the whole event and I actually haven't looked at it again, but I'm excited to see what exactly happened because I didn't watch it with my eyes.*



**THEO AND CAROLYN MARILL**  
*We made pancakes and eggs and had a couple of friends over and used a pizza box to [watch the eclipse].*



**BRUCE OSBORNE**  
*I worked. I was down in Fulford village working on a roof cleaning moss.*



**AVRIL KIRBY**  
*I made a [pinhole] box . . . put my head in the box and when the sunlight comes in from the back you can actually see the shape of the eclipse.*

## 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

### Democracy is priority

As a new resident of Salt Spring Island, I thought I would add my opinion to the ongoing debate. My first thought is that I am a bit puzzled about the focus on things like cost of roads and increasing taxes.

If the costs of things were our main concern, we would not have bought property on Salt Spring Island. It is a price to pay to live on a little piece of paradise.

Regarding taxes: taxes always go up, it is a law of nature. No matter which way the vote goes, it is guaranteed the taxes will go up, and I will take a bet from anyone on that.

What I see as the main issue at stake here is

accountability, and on a more basic level, pure democracy. Do we have a say about what is happening in our community?

I read comments about dysfunctional municipal councils elsewhere (hello Nanaimo!), but when we talk to long-time neighbours, we hear tales of rampant conflicts of interest and sheer incompetence amongst the amateurs that try to run Salt Spring Island. Something clearly needs to change.

My bottom line is that democracy is the highest priority. Many years ago Tommy Douglas visited our Grade 8 class during an election campaign. Instead of telling us why we should persuade our parents to vote for him, he spent the time educating us on

democracy, and I have always remembered that, and how important it is to vote so that the government remains in the control of the citizens.

So to me the fears of a council authorizing rampant development on Salt Spring strike me as bizarre. How could such a council ever be voted in?

One precedent I am familiar with is from Oak Bay. They had one council that allowed the apartments close to the marina, and were all promptly defeated in the next election. I think any council on Salt Spring Island that tried something similar would meet the same fate, if not something worse.

**GLEN WILLIAMS, SALT SPRING**

### Need another drink

Last week a contingent of "Yessers" treated an audience in the Brinkworthy clubhouse to a litany of woe that was downright depressing. It seems the ineptitude of island volunteers serving on a range of "archaic" improvement districts knows no bounds.

But added to that problem are the evils of a distant, uncaring and unknowing Capital Regional District Board and its array of equally inept employees. It was all so terrible I wondered how we've managed to survive. Two hours later, some of us thought we needed some sort of bracing beverage.

The Yessers said all we have to do to clean up the mess is be our own boss and elect

a mayor and six councillors. They'll be close at hand: "You can talk to them at GVM." Not only that, they will, quite naturally, hire an array of talented, knowledgeable and skillful employees whose portfolio will be to get us out of all the messes our inept volunteers have got us into.

Well, I agree we can't keep depending forever on rapidly aging volunteers to do all the civic work that has to get done on this island, so I was almost persuaded. But then I asked, "Where are all these talented, knowledgeable and skillful employees going to come from and how much will we have to pay them so they can afford to live on this island?"

The Yessers didn't quite answer that question, but they did insist that our taxes will only go up an average of \$10 a year and we will

definitely not have rampant development because we don't have enough water to support the level of development that could raise the kind of money we'd need to pay all these wonderful employees.

So what, I wonder, is our poor, pitiful council constituted, as promised, with our friends and neighbours going to do? I needed that beverage before I saw the awful truth. While keeping our taxes low, low, low, our municipal councillors will be reduced to begging the rest of us (inept though we may be) to volunteer to clean up all the messes the Yessers spent a whole afternoon itemizing.

Bartender, I need another drink.  
**HELEN HINCHLIFF, BRINKWORTHY**

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Salt Spring: it's a nice to place to visit, but . . .

BY PETER VINCENT

Last week, an acquaintance came up to me at a party on Prince Edward Island and said, "You live on Salt Spring Island?! You're so lucky!"

Turns out the Charlottetown Guardian had a feature page in its weekend travel section waxing poetic over our "hippie and high-end, luxurious, artsy and foodie off-beat" island. The Gazette joins scores of other publications singing our praises — Forbes, Conde Naste and the New York Times, to name a few. We are one precious little island, if the headlines are to be believed. Just how precious is a matter of interpretation.

For many of us who count our time on the rock not by years but by decades, the blush is off the bloom. Roads are a pot-holed, filled amalgam of patched-up asphalt and oil-soaked gravel, bicycle rides are death-defying tightrope lines alongside speeding cars and giant trucks, medieval sewer systems held together with duct tape, tap water that tastes like swimming pool and looks like swamp, our actual swimming pool is awash in red ink, we have houses stacked up like Monopoly board pieces at the end of Rainbow Road, rotting, laying fallow, someone's utopian solution to the

affordable-housing problem gone terribly awry.

We experience the endless Saturday Market squabbling between farmers and artists, the lack of affordable rental units, forcing many to live in tents deep in the woods, a hospital with not enough doctors, a crumbling fire hall, a fire department top heavy with extremely well-paid career firefighters, a school district relying on international students and a four-day school week to keep its doors open, papered-over storefronts, three pubs shuttered, restaurants closed, not even a laundromat, a decaying harbour with little or no services for boaters, highlighted by a rotting, half-finished boardwalk.

We have a population moving in the wrong direction. In the past 10 years, Salt Spring's permanent population increased by 9.5 per cent, but the number of school-aged children (between five and 19 years of age) flatlined. During that same period, those aged 55 years and over soared to more than 5,355 — over 50 per cent of the total population. In 2011, the percentage of residents aged 55 and older was 46.7 per cent of the population.

Working families are moving away.

## GUEST COLUMN

Retired folks are arriving by the boatload. This can't go on.

The current governance system is a mess. They have spent millions on failed pet projects such as sewage treatment/transfer plants, mothballed aerators bobbing around St. Mary Lake, a hastily purchased entire indoor tennis facility that ultimately sold to an off-island purchaser for pennies on the dollar. We have seen entirely worthwhile projects such as the Ganges Marina and the Salt Spring Coffee Company's facility rejected with no rational explanation. We have water districts banning new water hook-ups, effectively slowing new construction to a trickle and slamming the door on most existing home renovations. We have seen truly community-minded affordable housing projects such as Norton Road die under the weight of bureaucracy.

Yup . . . just how precious we are here is a matter of interpretation.

It is apparent to me that we are heading in the wrong direction if Salt Spring is ever to be a vibrant, financially healthy place to live. In my opinion, we have outgrown the current system. For someone to somehow believe that by keeping our current system — the one that must ultimately

bear responsibility for this sorry state of affairs — and to believe that blind faith in the current system will make things right is the very definition of futility.

Please don't misunderstand. I dearly love this island. I arrived 30 years ago when it was still possible to buy a home, to start a business and to lay down new roots. I bought a home for less than \$150,000, started a business for less than \$10,000 and have literally thousands of connections with like-minded Salt Springers.

Today, unless you are independently wealthy, this is no longer possible. It will be a long and winding road to get back to that place that welcomes and encourages newcomers looking to start a made-on-Salt Spring life. The first step is incorporation.

We need to take the reins. We need the ability to make decisions based on what we want, not just accept decisions made by a bureaucrat manning a desk and a clipboard in Victoria, or worse yet, a couple of trustees from Gambier Island (population 247). Our island. Our destiny. A made-on-Salt Spring mayor and council. Please vote yes for incorporation.

*The writer owns North End Fitness and is a longtime resident.*

# Democracy's an obligation and task, not an answer

BY BRIAN BRETT

Once again that old word "democracy" has been reverentially dusted off and presented to us in a referendum battle.

Since we are so keen on democracy these days, perhaps we should examine the word. Its Greek roots are "demos," or "people," and "kratos," or "strength." The strength of the people. Sounds terrific, doesn't it? Except the legendary Athenian democracy excluded women, slaves, foreigners, non-landowners and men under 20 years old. This innovative government muddled into life around 522 BC. The Athenian democratic experiment lasted 186 years with two short interludes where it voted itself out of existence. This is the government that ordered Socrates to commit suicide for corrupting the youth of Athens, e.g., he taught them too well how to think. And that's also democracy for you.

Aside from a few utopian communities and a number of tribal cultures, no true people's government appeared until some American scholars with a rebel bent — Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Thomas Paine and John Adams — with a little help from Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, came up with the extraordinary American constitution which originally offered freedom and voting rights to the usual suspects: everyone except women, Indigenous people and slaves.

## INDEPTH

There's been talk the constitution was inspired by the Great Law of Peace of the six nation confederacy, which frankly, wasn't the greatest at peace. But there's no real evidence the writers knew about the Great Law, and besides, if you believe governance by unelected chiefs installed by their mothers is a democracy, then you definitely belong among the many who have no idea what democracy means. Nevertheless, the Great Law is a marvellous document with many progressive ideas that still deserve consideration.

The American constitution inspired various European nations, especially the British, which finally allowed total emancipation for all men and women in 1918. Since then the concept has spread around the world with mixed success. All Canadians (except prisoners) including Chinese and Indigenous people, didn't finally receive voting rights until the 1960s.

There are numerous reasons why Winston Churchill announced democracy is "the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

Democracy is great when it works, not so great when it doesn't.

It's claimed Churchill also once said: "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

Democracy is a word that shape-shifts according to each individual's beliefs. Salt Spring is already entangled in four levels of democratic government, federal, provincial (including its water management and highways boards), CRD and the Islands Trust. Incorporation will only add a fifth layer to this tangled and messy cake, without losing any of the others. More government doesn't mean better government. However, it will clearly disable the finances and powers of the Islands Trust, which I believe is the true intent of this referendum.

The Islands Trust acts as a group democracy — one island for all, all islands for one. It is this buffer that has saved us from excessive development. Crippling it will shift Salt Spring into a development-driven municipal structure; it will also victimize the other islands due to the diminished finances and powers of the Trust.

Municipalities are mostly property-tax funded and thus development driven. The preserve and protect mandate of the Trust is another universe, much to our despair at times, but hey, like all good democracies, it generally works.

The Trust was born in the '60s when subdivisions on Gabriola cre-

ated hundreds of lots without water, which were sold to those not quite dumb enough to buy swampland in Florida or the Brooklyn Bridge.

Then Magic Lake Estates on Pender Island arrived — the largest real estate subdivision in Canada at the time — to the horror of everyone. When the dust settled both a NDP and Socred government combined to create the Islands Trust with its preserve and protect mandate.

Still, despite the Trust's preservation nature, the population of the Trust islands was "growing at double the pace of Vancouver: up 61 per cent between the 1976 and 2006 censuses, compared to 29 per cent for Vancouver" (2011 BC Business article).

This debate isn't about democracy, or "better" committees, it's about stealing the jewel in the Trust's crown, the zoning powers that control development. Our islands are a paradise, and like most paradises it's gold-plated developer bait.

Do we want a democracy capable of taxing our farmland out of production? There's no money in farm taxes. The money is in condos and subdivision despite the reality that development eventually leads to escalating taxes.

And then consider Salt Spring's legendarily dysfunctional committees. If we can't elect a non-controversial fire department board directly, will we do better if we elect a council to appoint one? Does democracy mean

more convoluted committees, and paying more for roads, policing and community services? I don't think so.

The writers of the American constitution were so terrified of political takeovers they accidentally created a tendency to gridlock due to all the multi-governmental checks and balances — too much government.

Democracy can also be money driven. In the U.S. a presidency costs \$5 billion; a senate seat is \$95 million. Then consider some of the brainless idiots and pawns of big business this kind of money elects.

Democracy is not an answer, it's a task, an obligation; protecting real democracy is part of paying your dues to your community.

And what kind of democratic referendum are we voting for? One like Turkey (or Chile) where they just voted to cripple their own voting rights, or the big money driven politics that manipulated the Brexit vote?

Do you understand the "democracy" you are going to vote for, or will you be like the Iraqi man given the right to vote for the first time in his life? When was asked how he'd vote, he replied: "I'm going to vote the way my imam (priest) tells me to vote, and then he looked at the camera. "That's democracy, isn't it?"

It could be.

*The writer is the author of Trauma Farm, The Wind River Variations and Tuco, among other books.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Civility and honour

I have a position on incorporation, but I will not reveal it. The issue is too divisive and I don't wish to be engaged in discussions with the yes or no camps.

I have friends in both the outspoken yes and no camps. They are great folks, and retaining their friendships for as long as I am a resident on Salt Spring (the plan is to be buried here) is far more important than if we are incorporated or not.

One only has to look just south of the border to see how a divisive nation is being successful with governing. They are not, and their divisiveness is the core problem and governance is suffering.

Please consider the following. After the vote on Sept. 9 and the results are announced, whether you wanted a yes or no and got your result, please congratulate those that were not part of your tribe. If you were a no and yes won, then be part of making an incorporation work for you. If you were a yes and no won, then be part of making no work for you.

In fact take members of the other team for coffee and make plans for the preservation, protection and reasonable growth on our precious little gem of an island. We live in a democracy, a proud democracy, and whatever decision is made needs to be honoured and supported. I will do that because it is the right thing to do.

P.S. In my unique position of being undeclared, I am available to be coffee with members of the yes, no or undecided camps.

**JIM STANDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

## MORE LETTERS

### We can enact changes we need

Much has been written over the past months on the matter of the upcoming vote on incorporation.

It has made us all look at these islands we call home with a different eye. We can take pride in what we have achieved in the Islands Trust era as we look locally at our remarkable community: thriving agriculture, admirable transit system, affordable housing projects, outstanding library, pool and art centre structures, community gardens, pathways projects, astonishing arts programs, bustling business community — in short, a community thousands want to visit each year and a treasured place to live. It is a place that has engendered creativity, volunteerism, determination to achieve and original approaches to getting things done.

We should all look at the municipal model of governance and its current status. Throughout Canada for some decades now, municipalities have been beleaguered. All struggle with the need for affordable housing and infrastructure upgrading. Federal and provincial responsibilities have been heaped upon them and funding reduced. Added to that we now have international agreements being formed with investor state dispute mechanisms that will further reduce the control municipalities will have. Climate change means access to water is more critical; environmental protection is absolutely essential. No municipal government has "preserve and protect" as its core.

The Islands Trust governance model is unique. Not perfect but unique. It has the flexibility to adapt and the stated inten-

tion to do so.

We are an effective, intelligent and determined populace and we can bring about the changes we need in the years ahead. Why would we adopt a one-style-suits-all municipal mode with no hope of returning to the system that allows us to plot our own unique course? Voting "no" will give us more options.

**MARIAN HARGROVE,**  
SALT SPRING

### Bills must be paid

Even the greenest of councils must pay the bills. Rezoning rural and rural residential properties to commercial and industrial properties brings in the most tax revenue. Corporations have deep pockets and often can sue. Several development corporations already own island properties.

There are many examples of municipal councils that were bullied or bought: sometimes because they had no other means of raising funds. Developing a destination Japanese golf course and high-end condo complex in the Ford Lake area or Burgoyne Valley is not our community vision for our beloved, environmentally sensitive island.

Incorporation will weaken the Islands Trust, which is unique in its mandate to preserve and protect our unique island home. The Islands Trust is not a perfect governance model but its our best hope of preserving our rare ecosystems, farms and forests, endangered species and rural lifestyle.

**SHARON MCCOLLOUGH,**  
SALT SPRING

*Editor's note: The end of Sharon McCollough's opinion piece in last week's Driftwood was inadvertently cut off so she has submitted concluding statements in this letter.*

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

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## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 - Labour Day** and will reopen for usual business hours on **Tuesday, Sept. 5.**



**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday Sept. 6 edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising deadline: **Thursday, August 31, 12 noon**

Classified Display Deadline: **Friday, Sept. 1, 2pm**

Classified Word Deadline: **Tuesday, Sept. 6, 9am**

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**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 8

**LCC not a viable choice for our island**

In his Aug. 9 Driftwood piece titled "Incorporation is not the only choice," Richard Kerr is suggesting that Local Community Commissions can be a step towards coordinating local services provided by the CRD, short of going all the way to municipal incorporation.

Others have suggested voting "no" in the Sept. 9 referendum so that this option can be pursued. However, the realities are:

(1) The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development in effect told the incorporation study committees of 1999-2002, 2012-13 and the latest one that municipal incorporation is the only local governance option available to Salt Spring;

(2) We have been advised that LCCs were designed for relatively small areas served by regional districts. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (that Richard referred to) considered LCCs as an option for their Electoral Area "D." Their June 26 Options Sheets document listed existing LCCs. One was in their regional district, in "Olalla, a community with a population of about 400 people." Others listed elsewhere were (a) Bear Lake (Regional District of Fraser-Fort George), (b) Coal Harbour (Mount Waddington) and (c) Fort Fraser (Bulkley-Nechako). Quoting further from that document: "These communities are all relatively small compared to Okanagan Falls, and have anywhere from 150 to 400 people."

(3) If an LCC is to be created for Salt Spring (a) it would create an additional level of governance, (b) there must be evidence of major public support, (c) a request to the CRD Board must go through our CRD director, (d) the CRD Board must be convinced of the need and suitability for an LCC for Salt Spring, before approving by majority vote, and (e) an LCC must receive approval through a referendum. Bottom line? It is totally unrealistic to expect that voting "no" will lead to the creation of an LCC.

Voting "yes" for incorporation on Sept. 9 is the only option available to us for a change in governance. It would not be heading us off blindly into unknown territory. Of the 162 municipalities throughout the province, including Bowen Island, we would be larger by population than over 100 of them.

**BOB RUSH,**  
SALT SPRING

**Too much traffic**

Last summer, at the real estate office where I work, a gentleman was perusing the outside window display. Eventually he wandered into the office and asked questions regarding real estate on Salt Spring Island.

He also asked if what he had heard was true. Would there be a vote concerning incorporation in 2017? He then explained he had a particular interest in the vote and would be watching for the outcome as he has been experiencing municipal governance on Bowen Island.

He described the change that has occurred on Bowen. He said that previously there had been off-island agencies to which the islanders went to ask for assistance in dealing with the island's issues. Now, he said, we just have ourselves and there is constant fighting. He also mentioned some of the islanders who had been "dead keen" now regretted the change but there is no going back. His parting words were "Don't do it!"

Recently I received a letter from a friend in Fort Langley where she and her husband have lived for some years. She is unhappy about the changes that have occurred there: "We are both involved in the battle to keep Fort Langley as an historic village. Unfortunately, developers here have influenced the council and there is development everywhere. We are losing the farmland and creating traffic line-ups on all highways."

With increased development on Salt Spring, inevitably the traffic flow will increase. On Salt Spring, all roads lead to Ganges. Finding parking space in Ganges on weekends is beyond imagination. Even on weekdays parking is at a premium. If Joni Mitchell happened by she might suggest that Centennial Park be "paved to put up a parking lot."

"You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone." (Joni Mitchell - Big Yellow Taxi)

**PHYLLIS WAKELYN,**  
SALT SPRING

**Municipalities and governing charters**

BY RUTH TARASOFF

Gordon Campbell, when Mayor of Vancouver, was responsible for the creation of what became known as the Vancouver Charter.

It still serves to benefit Vancouver in ways inaccessible to any other city or municipality. then, after becoming B.C. premier, in 2003 he created a similar body, the Community Charter, in Private Members Bill M-222 (1995), ostensibly to give the municipalities more autonomy. That is, they would be given the responsibility as well as the authority to manage their own affairs. It was "advanced as the residents' desire for more local involvement and having the provincial government out of their face."

Sound familiar? Similarly, it begs the question, "Who are these residents so anxious for establishing a new level of government?"

I am quoting from a speech made in opposition to the charter by former MLA for Richmond-Steveston, Allan Warnke. He feared the "current fashion of empowering local communities and limiting the powers of the provincial government [who have a responsibility for the welfare of residents] in local

concerns but in actuality, limiting the power of the provincial government in favour of powerful local economic and political interests." This so-called autonomy was widely seen as a way of off-loading costs to municipalities.

The problem is that municipalities do not have the same access to public funds as the two higher levels of government, the provincial and federal governments. B.C. residents pay a variety of taxes, ranging from income tax, sales tax, property transfer tax, probate tax, carbon tax and property tax. Local governments rely almost exclusively on property taxes, totally unrelated to receiving a smaller proportion of total government income. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 50 cents of every tax dollar goes to the federal government.

More recently, "municipal governments lack the funding tools to support the national economy and meet the needs of Canadians in their communities."

The relatively slow process of increased market value in real estate is all that may be expected as a way to keep municipal coffers topped up. It's that or increase the tax base by building more homes with increasing density,

all fine aspirations until one comes up against the issue of water supply and demand on the finite topography of an island/islands.

Did you know that municipal governments are responsible for building and maintaining over half of the country's infrastructure? Have you been listening to the chorus of complaints from municipalities large and small across this entire nation?

**Did you know that municipal governments are responsible for building and maintaining over half of the country's infrastructure?**

They are starved of cash. They want more. Always more. Apart from the very real problems of aging and broken infrastructure (yes, Salt Spring roads too), they are financially burdened with homelessness, lack of affordable housing, water woes, potholes, shortage of mental health services, shortage of doctors, aging

sewer systems and all the other ailments that are blamed on our present governance system.

To claim as some do in our community that all our problems will be solved by becoming a municipality is a complete pipe dream. Will our immediate requests for grants be rewarded? Maybe and maybe not. Perhaps the provincial government feels it has greased the palms of Salt Springers with enough money already. Maybe they'll think we've been pampered enough.

Applying for grants while competing with every other municipality is a mugs game and a very poor excuse to change the benevolent governance of an entire archipelago. Grant money is available now and the respective elected officials responsible for managing our affairs need to put their backs to it and get it done. They can certainly get it done without inflicting yet another layer of government on this beautiful island.

Long live the Trust and long live the engaged community of Salt Spring that recognizes its worth and are willing and able to make the changes that will make it even better.

*The writer is a longtime island resident.*

# TOP 10 Benefits of a Salt Spring Municipality

- 1 Local Decision Making**  
made by SALT SPRINGERS!  
...not by the CRD ...not by the Province  
...not by Non-Resident Trustees!
- 2 More Representation**  
LOCALLY ELECTED 7-Member Council...  
Eliminates the concentration of power in the hands of too few!
- 3 Smaller Government**  
One 7-Member Council WILL REPLACE...  
• Four Water Districts • Fire District  
• Local Trust Committee • CRD • Province
- 4 Cohesion & Coordination**  
One Council will... PRIORITIZE & BALANCE  
all service decisions with an overall view to the greater good
- 5 Financial Planning & Efficiency**  
One Central Budget REPLACES many...  
Opening the door to long term financial planning and cost efficiencies
- 6 Sustainability Planning**  
INTEGRATED Long Range Planning...  
Salt Springers will have the tools to bring visionary projects to life
- 7 Water Resource Management**  
One local authority ENSURES...  
Integrated Long Term planning
- 8 Fully Accessible Local Meetings**  
100% Local Meetings WILL CREATE...  
• MORE local participation  
• Tenants can vote on everything too!
- 9 Fully Accountable Local Officials**  
Salt Springers will be held ACCOUNTABLE  
...by SALT SPRINGERS!
- 10 Grants and Other Funding**  
DIRECT ACCESS to gas tax funding and senior government grants  
...CRD does not prioritize us  
...OUR council would!




STUDIES DONE FOR AND BY THE ISLANDS TRUST SHOW THERE IS NO THREAT TO THE TRUST OR TO TRUST VALUES AS CLAIMED BY THE "NO" SIDE

FOR MORE FACTS:

Yes to saltspring municipality.org

# Yesss!

YES Empowers Salt Spring Island

Authorized by YESS!, Registered Sponsor Under LECFA, saltspringislandmunicipality@gmail.com

# Highlands councillor shares municipality experience

BY KAREL ROESSINGH

I'd like to weigh in on the incorporation debate with what I hope will be a helpful perspective. I do not have an interest in the outcome, but I do have many dear friends on Salt Spring, so my intentions are not to meddle but to relate my experience of six terms on council, two as mayor, in the Highlands.

Before incorporation, Highlands was one of many areas represented at the CRD Board by an electoral area director. Since our population is relatively small, our part in electing a representative was also small, and our only tool in land use was to organize and show up at public hearings in large numbers. It worked some

of the time: a proposal to build 650 houses on what is now Gowland Tod Park was thwarted. But it was risky and there was always an option for our "representative" to go against our wishes at the CRD Board. We voted by a margin of 2:1 to incorporate in 1993, largely because of land use issues.

Incorporation has given us local power over land use, but also power to fix our roads and bridges, pass bylaws on local concerns such as soil deposit and removal, tree cutting, dumping, blasting and noise, create development permit areas for any of a number of factors, determine budgets for however much staff we feel is

necessary, equip our volunteer firefighters for whatever equipment they feel is needed in what is a very sensitive urban/rural interface area, and fund whichever community initiatives we feel are valuable. It has allowed us to create municipal parks, and negotiate with higher levels of government to create regional and provincial parks and to fund infrastructure projects that we feel are important.

It has allowed us to determine our own OCP and to speak with one voice to assert our identity locally, to the region and to the rest of the world. Before incorporation few people in the region knew where to find the High-

lands; now it is well known who we are and where we are.

There have also been extremely positive side effects of incorporation: we are very effectively represented in the region at the library board, on the CREST board, at the recreation society, and on the CRD Board, committees and commissions, including arts, housing, parks, and environment. I would have to say that with our own seat at the table, our influence in the region has been significant. We are given equal voice in the creation of the regional sustainability strategy and other regional policy.

Some words of caution as well: having our own council requires constant vigilance and partici-

pation. Though now public hearings are generally quiet events because citizens usually have faith that their council is doing the right thing and that public consultation has been extensive, there is always a danger that the democratic process divides residents.

For several elections in a row, votes were extremely close between those who favour large development and those who oppose. It has not always been pleasant! But it has been extremely rewarding and crucial in determining our own identity and future.

*The writer is a council member of the District of Highlands.*

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## Trust future stewards of the island

BY GILLEAN PROCTOR

I've been following with interest the many points of view around the upcoming referendum.

It's been fairly plain sailing for the past few years with our present Islands Trust trustees and CRD director, who have done an excellent job. However, many seem to have forgotten the upset and discord between islanders precipitated by the previous trustees, who I feel created the illusion that they were the "local government," which of course they were not. This clearly demonstrated the inadequacy and frustration with our current local government model.

Let's not forget that it was for this reason in part that the subject of another referendum was floated on Salt Spring. Let's also not forget that the present trustees and the CRD director ran for office and won on a platform of promoting a governance study, with a view towards a possible referendum. Thankfully, they were able to calm the waters and life on the island settled down again.

Let's not forget that in a municipality, a mayor and councillors are elected by the community, and consequently will

be subjected to all the rigorous scrutiny that Salt Springers can throw at them, so I am not concerned about crooks and swindlers being elected.

Let's not forget that we are all here for the same reason. There is a unique "energy" here on Salt Spring that we all enjoy and are attracted to that doesn't exist anywhere else. This is not the result of our unique form of governance.

**There is a unique "energy" here on Salt Spring that we all enjoy and are attracted to that doesn't exist anywhere else.**

I believe the energy is created largely by the vibrancy of our younger generation who love this place and have made it their home. They need jobs and affordable housing. Without them Salt Spring will just become another retirement community — a sleepy hollow.

I am voting "yes," not just for myself and a short-term view, but for our chil-

dren and grandchildren who will be the future stewards of this beautiful place, and I trust in them that they will look after Salt Spring better than we have been able to. But they will need the tools that are not available with the present governance situation.

Many are frightened by change and vulnerable to scaremongering expressions like "corruption, unscrupulous councilors, uncontrollable development, out-of-control costs," etc.

Salt Spring's current zoning bylaw already allows for hundreds of "developments" and many are in process on this island, and costs are escalating dramatically. It's a sign of the times and I believe that there will be much more scrutiny and checks and balances regarding all of these from a Salt Spring municipality.

There is no community that will be more "on it" than Salt Spring. I believe that with the extraordinary talent we have here, we have the ability to create a model municipality that will be highly effective and the envy of other communities in Canada.

*The writer is an artist living on Salt Spring Island.*

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## RANTS and Roses

### Rants

A rigorous ranting rant to the driver who hit the tiny fawn (Sunday morning, Aug. 13) and left it struggling and fighting for its life in the middle of Long Harbour Road. May your karma be with you! S. McCollough

Last week, a man on his electric tandem bike lost his balance and fell into my parked car in Ganges, denting my fender. After I made sure he was not injured I helped him up, and while I was examining the damage, he hopped on his bike, scurried away and found a hidey-hole to avoid detection. His action will cost me several hundred dollars and a lot of aggravation, and will, I think, cost him a lot of self-esteem. That's surely not the way to handle a mistake. G. Pyper

Don't smoke in tinder dry forests, no mat-

ter how "careful" you think you are. Keith Wahlstrom

### Roses

Many roses of many colours to the customer who was selecting a new purse to purchase in our shop. She came to the cash desk with the selected purse, her \$2 to pay for it and made a donation of the \$50 bill she had found folded in one of the purse's small pockets! The Thrift Shop

Hugs and a year's heap of roses to the wonderful vet from the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre (Marielle), who responded immediately and gave compassionate care to the by-then terminally injured fawn. Thank you, Marielle, for your professionalism and your kindness. S. McCollough

# Consultants' road cost numbers still not adding up

BY DONALD MCLENNAN

We have finally received some explanation of the historic road costs in the Salt Spring Island Incorporation Study Final Report from the authors, Urban Systems consultants ("Consultants respond to study's road figures criticism," Aug. 16 Driftwood).

It is surprising to say the least. Their stated goal has been "to provide the community with unbiased, objective information on the potential impacts of incorporation." In this respect, I believe they have failed.

## Historic road costs

They say that "the study had to include an assumed figure for the current level of capital road expenses."

## IN RESPONSE

They chose \$500,000, even though Brenda Guiled obtained data from the transportation ministry of a 14-year average expenditure of \$710,000 (not the \$634,000-\$680,000 in their article), excluding an allocation for engineering and administration.

The key question is why Urban Systems assumed the lower amount as their "core study findings" rather than the higher, publicly revealed ministry data. There is no attempt to answer that question in their article, which casts continuing doubt on the reliability of their findings.

The article acknowledges that if they had assumed the ministry figure, "the addi-

tional annual tax impact would be approximately \$20-\$27 for the average residential property" and much higher on business properties. So now the tax impact would have been \$30-\$37, substantially higher than the \$10 tax impact figure given such prime attention in their report. But that's just a start.

Brenda also included an estimate for the missing years in the ministry data and an allocation for administration and engineering costs of 30 per cent, a figure that Urban Systems confirmed during a public meeting. This raises estimated annual historic road costs by \$400,000 more than the final report estimate. This would represent a further property tax increase of about \$60 per residence and about \$180 per business property.

## Rural property taxes and road costs

It is stated seven times in the final report that annual ministry road expenditures of \$1.86 million have been less than the annual rural property tax revenue of \$1.95 million from Salt Spring. But the numbers are wrong. In their article, Urban Systems acknowledge that "this comparison does not factor in the administration and engineering support that Salt Spring receives from the ministry." Without having a firm number for this support, the consultants estimated an annual \$324,000 for this purpose for all public works in a future municipality. This reinforces Brenda's argument that the cost of annual ministry road spending has long been

higher than provincial rural taxes paid by Salt Spring Island residents.

There is more. In their final report, Urban Systems note that these rural taxes actually include an amount of \$320,000 for policing. This means that the amount of annual Rural Tax for roadworks is reduced by that amount to \$1.63 million compared to the adjusted road costs of \$2 million. So annual road costs have been almost \$400,000 more than tax collected for roads on Salt Spring over the years.

## Future road costs

The article rightly refers to the road condition assessment report by McElhannan Consulting, which estimated needed spending of a net \$28 million for road network renewal on Salt Spring. A

municipality would have to bear this very real cost to avoid further deterioration of Salt Spring aging roads. A municipal council would need to spend up to \$1.4 million each year representing a further property tax increase of \$207 for a residential property and \$680 for an average business property. Incorporation would lead to the province downloading the costs of an extensive road network on Salt Spring which would be beyond the capacity of our small rural community to absorb.

I agree with the Urban Systems conclusion in their article. Salt Spring Island residents are "encouraged to get informed and to vote on Sept. 9."

*The writer is a former chair of the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 9

## Misleading

I was shocked to see online a poster from the "Yess" campaign group that appears to suggest that the Islands Trust is backing their campaign in favour of incorporation. The top of the poster says: "Please vote Yes for a Healthy and Sustainable Future." Beneath that is a banner, which states, in caps, "IN CONCERT WITH THE ISLANDS TRUST" and this is followed by "SALT SPRING ISLAND MUNICIPALITY."

To me, and, I feel, most readers, this suggests that the Islands Trust is in favour of/endorse the idea of the municipality.

I wrote to the Trust asking for clarification and received the following reply from the vice-chair: "Thank you for forwarding this to me. The leaflet is certainly misleading. There is no association between the Trust or local trustees, and the Yess campaign. I will contact the Yess campaign and ask to have the leaflet withdrawn or the reference removed."

A week has passed and the poster is still circulating. I find this misinformation from the pro-incorporation lobby particularly galling since I am aware that the Trust would be much weakened under incorporation.

A Salt Spring Island municipality would be required to "have regard for" the Islands Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate, but this is different from having that concern front and centre. As I understand it, in a municipality there would be no Trust planners or Trust office. The Trust would suffer financially from our leaving and be considerably weakened. Under incorporation, the Trust would become less powerful and this, I think it is fair to say, is something many pro-incorporation campaigners want. The poster glosses this over and discourages

voters from taking into account what would happen to the Trust if we became a municipality.

Open discussion is a good thing, but we can do without this kind of manipulative tactic when it comes to making an irreversible decision about the way we govern ourselves.

KATHY PAGE,  
SALT SPRING

## Trust is neutral

There is much information and disinformation about the Islands Trust being circulated within the community in advance of the municipal incorporation vote for Salt Spring Island electors on Sept. 9.

A publicity poster recently circulated by the "Yess" campaign regarding the Salt Spring Island incorporation process describes a "Salt Spring Island Municipality" and includes the phrase "In Concert with the Islands Trust." This leaves the reader with the impression that the Islands Trust approved the messaging of this poster and is supportive of the yes side of this important civic decision.

We wish to make clear that the Islands Trust, at direction of Trust Council, is neutral in its position and respects the right of islanders to choose their preferred form of governance. Any public materials that suggest otherwise are a misrepresentation of the Islands Trust position.

The Islands Trust remains engaged with this process and has developed a transition plan and developed a set of 'frequently asked questions' to support citizens' decision making. These materials and other relevant information can be accessed through our website at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca).

RUSS HOTSENPILLER,  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,  
ISLANDS TRUST,  
VICTORIA

## Hatred is as old as humanity

Like millions of others, I shake my head in disbelief when I get the news from Trump's America. How did hatred get so bad so quick? There's no easy answer. Racial hatred is as old as humanity. It has been festering all my life, for sure.

Hatred spans generations partly because kids learn it from adults. One of the saddest songs I've ever heard is from Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific: "You've got to be taught before it's too late: before you are six, or seven, or eight, to hate all the people your relatives hate — you've got to be carefully taught." That was 1949.

That root of the problem was acknowledged, and a step toward correction offered, on Aug. 18 this year in The Walrus' Weekly Roundup. Headline: How a White Mom Teaches Her Black Son To Stay Alive in America. Subtitle: "Educating my son about hatred has taught us both about racism."

Childhood lessons to hate particular "others" are powerful, but why do they last and get worse? Your experience has to feed them. If you live where hatred is imbedded in the neighbourhood, it will.

But so many people who join a mob in loud, fist-waving anger don't even have that "excuse." Maybe life somehow goes sour, and out of a generalized negativity you look for something to blame. Race is handy . . . and didn't your parents tell you XX folks are bad? As Paul Simon wrote in The Boxer, "All lies and jest; still a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest."

'Tis a puzzlement. When I grow old enough to have wisdom, I'll let you know. Don't hold your breath.

BOB WEEDEN,  
SALT SPRING



## 10 Dangers of Incorporation:

- Islands Trust sidelined, "Preserve and Protect" undermined
- Higher taxes for roads, policing, and a costly new layer of government
- Farmers hit by higher taxes and lost exemptions
- Rent hikes for tenants and small businesses
- Debt: public borrowing no longer needs a public vote
- Secret council meetings, common in municipalities
- Big developers get more say
- The province has final word, NOT US
- Over-development threatens tourism, our economy, and our island culture
- There is no going back!

This is the third time we've been forced to vote on this divisive issue.  
Remember why you live here!  
Please vote positively NO on September 9th.

[facebook.com/positivelyNO](https://facebook.com/positivelyNO) [positivelyno.org](http://positivelyno.org)

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## ART REVIEW

# Coastal artists undergo 'Second Growth'

PHOTOS BY  
ELIZABETH NOLAN

Peter Pierobon studio furniture piece combining polished and natural wood elements in the foreground with Sibéal Foyle drawings and paintings in the background at Duthie Gallery, top, and Pierobon's piece Barnacle. The Second Growth show featuring the two new islanders runs to Oct. 1.



and collecting front by design-focused work that makes use of new technologies. What he calls the "Ikea effect" has also influenced the average home, with choices reflecting its modern, inexpensive and visually unobtrusive nature. Despite all that, he continues to work toward producing original pieces that have more depth.

"Woodwork is limiting sometimes, but that's the challenge, to see how you can make it satisfying aesthetically and functionally," he said.

While Pierobon is navigating how to continue his larger pieces without a proper studio and big tools for the time being, Foyle, his wife of 17 years, is looking forward to putting more time into her studio work. She will retire at the end of this month after 28 years as a drawing and painting instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. During much of her career she balanced working with being a single mother, and still found time to commit to her own art practice.

Foyle has already been inspired by her first couple of months on Salt Spring, producing a set of lovely pastel drawings based on the local natural environment. She gets the colour and the conflicting curves and textures of arbutus bark just right in one series. Balancing the rich copper tones against a simple white background, the effect is striking and deceptively simple. Another couple of pieces in the same vein focus on the beautiful red berries of the Kousa dogwood, rendered in watercolour and pastel.

Foyle is one of just six Salt Spring artists who made it past the "blind" jurors as a SSNAP finalist for 2017 and is thrilled and honoured to have done so. She entered a larger-scale oil painting; examples of similar work at Second Growth make it no surprise the jury was interested.

In stark contrast to the nature-based drawings, her paintings are densely layered, abstracted and emotional in nature.

"She's from Ireland so storytelling in general is very important," Pierobon observed.

Far Across the Salish Sea has the sense of a tropical jungle with its highlights in yellow, turquoise and cerise. A burst of light in the central column is bracketed by dark forest. Nature is larger than human life here: a central flock of hummingbirds outweighs a tiny motor boat making a crossing from an equally tiny house, nestled into the towering trees.

A starry night in French Beach Camping makes its way into the campsite, while blue smoke from the campfire creates an alternate Milky Way leading up into the night sky. The scene is illuminated by a domed orange tent, which glows from within as if a hearth. A little dog somehow has a pony-like stance, lending a cheery bohemian appeal to the scene.

Second Growth continues at Duthie Gallery to Oct. 1. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

## Duthie Gallery show introduces new residents

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's celebrated arts community continues to increase in number and prestige, with two of the most recent arrivals bringing exciting portfolios along with them.

Peter Pierobon and Sibéal Foyle received their official introduction as new islanders at Duthie Gallery this weekend, where their Second Growth show opened on Saturday. Having just moved from West Vancouver two months ago, they're already demonstrating the impact of their new home. At the same time, both come with impressive credentials and experience.

Pierobon's studio furniture has in fact been a key element in Duthie Gallery's space over the past 10 years. As the former Salt Spring Woodworks, Celia Duthie and Nick Hunt started out with a focus on the fine B.C. craftsmen dominating the international scene.

Pierobon began his artistic career studying ceramics at Capilano College in the late 1970s and then went to Rochester, N.Y. to study under Wendell Castle. He continued his career on the East Coast for 20 years before moving back to Vancouver. His work can be found everywhere from the McDonalds Canada headquarters in Burnaby to the Smithsonian Institute.

As Pierobon's artist statement explains, his work seeks to "satisfy

functional needs while challenging precedents of design and concept." Many of his pieces feature curves and unusual features: a horizontal chest of off-set trapezoidal drawers, for example, or a polished slab table pierced through with a chunk of raw-edged rock.

Pierobon said if there's any influence coming through from his early days in ceramics it's an unconscious one.

"But I do love organic shapes, and with wood it's very easy to make things flat and square. It's much more difficult to make things round," he observed.

His furniture at the Second Growth show reveals an innovative marriage of opposites, with pieces that put together the natural and the heavily refined, the rustic and the sleekly modern. For example, a long desk combines a modern right-angle slab of blonde wood with a chunky driftwood support leg. Barnacle, a sculptural/functional piece, sets an oval box in polished butterscotch maple onto a small driftwood log. Castaway is a similar idea but the box is finished in a lighter blonde tone. Inset with a lift-out tray lined in velvet, it's clear how much craft went into creating the seamless oval form. That craftwork is both magnified and made more interesting by the driftwood juxtaposition.

Pierobon said studio furniture enjoyed an ascendance for around 30 years beginning in the '80s and now is being challenged on the critical

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PAINTINGS BY  
**Jeannette Sirois**

## The Stillness of Life

Mahon Hall: Aug 25 – Sept 17  
**Opening: Friday, Aug 25 | 6 - 8pm**  
Artist talk: Sunday, Aug 27, 2pm

ART SHOW

# Fernwood cafe hosts Love's artwork

Salt Spring youth shares talent and meaningful cause

Young "artholic" Amelie Love is the latest artist to show her work at Fernwood Road Cafe.

Love, who is 10 years old, has been drawing "ever since she could hold a pencil" and can always be found with a sketchbook in her hand, finding inspiration in the world around her.

"This young artist enjoys exploring different art styles but likes to focus on faces and making expressions come alive," explains press material about her show titled I'm An Artholic.

Ten per cent of all Love's art sales will benefit VOKRA, an organization that helps orphaned kittens find forever homes.

"This is a very meaningful cause for Amelie as three of her four kitties were adopted through this caring program."

Love's show runs at the cafe until Sept. 16.



Artist Amelie Love with some of her pieces shown on the cafe wall above her.

PHOTO COURTESY FERNWOOD ROAD CAFE

FOR MORE SALT SPRING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT HAPPENINGS, SEE OUR WHAT'S ON CALENDAR ON PAGE 14.

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EXHIBITION

# Stillness of Life comes alive at show



IMAGE COURTESY ARTCRAFT

Ranunculus by Jeannette Sirois.

Jeannette Sirois art show opens Friday at Mahon Hall

SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS COUNCIL

The final showcase of the summer opens on Friday, Aug. 25 and will run until ArtCraft closes on Sept. 17.

Jeannette Sirois takes to the Mahon Hall stage with a series of oversized botanical portraits created by many hours of painstaking work with oil and wax and coloured pencils, rendered on paper and mounted on cradleboards of up to 36" x 54" in size.

Each still life study demands attention from the shocking strength and beauty of the colour,

to the up-close, hyper-real rendition of every detail of petal, stamen and thorn, built up with layer after layer of pencil strokes. Individually each work is breathtaking but collectively they have a power that draws the visitor up onto the stage to be closer to them, albeit with a sense of nervousness as the gallery space is so obviously controlled by the plants.

Sirois is comparatively new to Salt Spring and has only started showing her work here in the past couple of years, but has been creating and teaching art in other parts of B.C. for many years. She had a number of exhibitions in the Lower Mainland.

Over the years she has used many different media to explore and create, from oils, acrylics and watercolours to charcoal and clay. However, for now at least she has settled on the oil and wax sticks as her chosen instruments. It is a challenging and time-consuming drawing medium, requiring multiple layers of detail and colour to be built up to get Sirois' desired result. It is also a less commonly used technique, and rare to see works of this size and intensity created by oil and wax pencils.

Sirois recently completed and showed a series of portraits of people with a hyper-real feel, showing every line, blemish and discoloured blotch of the subject. They conveyed a real sense of bravery, vulnerability and sometimes pain. Artist and subject would often have emotional reactions during the sittings, as Sirois would get to know the intimate details of her subject's life.

In The Stillness of Life there is perhaps less of a sense of getting to know the subject, but there is still a conveyance of a sense of character and the depiction of some plants in blooming health, and others sagging into later life. There are conversations to be had, borne out by contemplation and the stillness of each study, as well as the sense of wonder at the power and majesty of these plants, magnificently brought to a new life by the skill of the artist.

The Stillness of Life has an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. and is presented by ArtCraft and the Salt Spring Arts Council. An artist's talk will be held at Mahon Hall on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m.

**Jewels for Literacy + Giant Book SALE**

**Donation Drop-off Day**  
Tuesday, Aug. 29  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring us your baubles and books!

Salt Spring Literacy  
COUNTRY GROCER PARKING LOT

Salt Spring Literacy welcomes donations of used jewelry of all kinds and books in good condition for our fundraiser.

**COMING SOON**  
**Referendum Open Houses at the Library**

**Why vote NO?** Find out more during Open Houses, all day from 10am to 5pm. Displays, handouts, videos.

**Sunday, August 27th** – Focus on *Affordable Housing* with Janis Gauthier starting at 12pm, and on *Options/Alternatives* with Richard Kerr starting at 2pm.

**Monday, August 28th** – Focus on the *Costs of Incorporation* with Peter Lamb starting at 10am, and on *Water/Environment* with David Rapport starting at 2pm.

**Tuesday, August 29th** – Focus on the *Costs of Incorporation – Fire & Police* with Donald McLennan starting at 10am, and on *Grants/Options* with Gary Holman starting at 12pm. From 7-9pm, Free Film Night – *Islanders Speak Out!*

**In the Library Program Room. Free. All are welcome!**

Authorized by Positively NO, registered sponsor under LECPA themanyislanders@gmail.com **positivelyno.org**

# what's on this week



## 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

**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 3 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. 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. ArtSpring. 5 to 7:30 p.m.

## Thu. Aug. 24

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt House Museum.** See Wednesday's listing.  
**Library Book Club.** My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante will be discussed. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Classic Rock Bingo.** Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

## Fri. Aug. 25

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Friday Wine Down.** Salt Spring Vineyards features live music every Friday. Come for a wine tasting and stay for the live music. 4 to 6 p.m.  
**Almost Willie Sugarapps.** Pitchfork Social concert at Bullock Lake Farm. 7:30 p.m.  
**Andy Meyers.** Live at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.  
**Monty Python's Spamalot.** ExitStageLeft presents the hilarious musical "affectionately ripped off" from the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, with added riotous send-ups of musical theatre for a rollicking evening of irreverent fun. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt House Museum.** See Wednesday's listing.  
**Salt Spring Motorcycle Toy Run.** Campers set up, plus music, a beer garden and a BBQ beginning in the evening. Salt Spring Farmers' Institute.  
**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.

## Fri. Aug. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**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. This week's pick is The Secret World of Arrietty. 1 p.m.  
**Paradise: Opening Reception.** Opening reception for Salt Spring Gallery's 8th anniversary group show. 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Artist's Reception: Jeannette Sirois.** Opening reception for The Stillness of Life, a series of oversized botanical portraits. Final ArtCraft Showcase of the 2017 season. Mahon Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

## Sat. Aug. 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Monty Python's Spamalot.** See Friday's listing.  
**The Barefoot Thieves, with Carmanah and Kyle Huamali.** The Barefoot Thieves rock out in celebration of their album titled The Time Being. Beaver Point Hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Food provided by Humsa. Tickets at Island Escapades in Ganges.  
**Caleb Hart and the Royal Youths.** Soulful funky reggae music. Live at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

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

## Sat. Aug. 26

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Motorcycle Toy Run.** Motorcycle ride leaves the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute at 11 a.m. sharp. Bike games in the afternoon. Dinner and dance in the evening. More info: www.saltspringtoyrun.com.

## Sun. Aug. 27

### 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.  
**Don Conley Organ Concert.** Music Makers of the Anglican Parish hosts an evening of organ music with accomplished musician Don Conley. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Positively No – Library Open Houses.** Focus on Affordable Housing with Janis Gauthier starting at 12 noon, and on Options/Alternatives with Richard Kerr starting at 2 p.m.  
**Yes! to Salt Spring Event for the Undecided.** Learn more about benefits of incorporation. 221 Chu-An Drive. 1 to 4 p.m. RSVP to 250-538-5541 or betsyderek@gmail.com.  
**Jeannette Sirois Art Talk.** Final ArtCraft showcase exhibition of the season has artist's talk at Mahon Hall at 2 p.m.

## Mon. Aug. 28

### ACTIVITIES

**Positively No – Library Open Houses.** Focus on the Costs of Incorporation with Peter Lamb starting at 10 am, and on Water/Environment with David Rapport starting at 2 p.m.  
**Flamenco Workshop with Maria Avila.** Three-day session starts today. RainWood Dance Studio. Classes run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. every day to Aug. 30.

## Mon. Aug. 28

### ACTIVITIES

**Local Government Options Without Incorporation.** Representatives from Hornby Island's non-profit local government association share experiences, and other options will be explored by Linda Adams, Gary Holman, Greg Clayton and Richard Kerr. Lions Hall. 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m.

## Tue. Aug. 29

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Piano Concert with Daniel Bellefeuille.** Daniel Bellefeuille will present his latest work entitled Opus 1, a collection of 12 pieces for solo piano which he will be touring during August/September. Salt Spring Island United Church. 8 p.m. Pay what you can.

### ACTIVITIES

**Jewels for Literacy/Giant Book Sale Donation Drop-off Day.** Bring donations of books in good condition and used jewelry to Country Grocer parking lot for Salt Spring Literacy's book and jewelry sales. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Positively No – Library Open Houses.** Focus on Costs of Incorporation – Fire & Police with Donald McLennan starting at 10 a.m., and on Grants/Options with Gary Holman starting at 12 noon.  
**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Local, organic food producers and food artisans offer goods every Tuesday in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

## Wed. Aug. 30

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea a Tempo presents Caroni Young.** Viva Chorale artistic director Caroni Young performs with accompanist Jim Shultz on guitar. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.  
**Monty Python's Spamalot.** See Friday's listing.

### ACTIVITIES

**Incorporation Referendum Advance Polls.** Non-resident property owners and residents who are 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months and have resided on Salt Spring Island for the past 30 days can vote on whether the island should incorporate as a municipality. Salt Spring Public Library and Community Gospel Chapel. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Wed. Aug. 30

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Incorporation Debate.** Official event organized by Salt Spring's three elected officials, moderated by former BC Liberal cabinet minister George Abbott. Michael McAllister, Ken Marr and David Wood will present their case for a change to an incorporated structure. Greg Clayton, Brenda Guiled and Gary Holman will present the case against that change. Gulf Islands Secondary School gym. 7 p.m.  
**Special General Meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Community Hall Society.** At the hall to discuss fundraising. Public welcome. 7 p.m.  
**Bittancourt House Museum.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Summer Reading Club.** See last Wednesday's listing.



PHOTO COURTESY EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS  
Jeffrey Renn and Sue Newman rehearse Spamalot.

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**  
901 North End Rd. 250-537-4656 Movie info: www.thefritz.ca  
\*\*\* We are open 7 days a week for the summer! \*\*\*

WITNESS THE END

**WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES**

FINAL 2 SHOWS

140 min. Rating: PG

Aug. 23 - 24  
Wed. & Thurs. 7pm

1hr 38 min. Rating: G

**DESPICABLE ME 3**

Fri. to Sun. Aug. 25 - 27 7pm  
Sun. 3pm matinee and 7pm

1hr 47 min. Rating: PG

**DUNKIRK**

THE EVENT THAT SHAPED OUR WORLD

Aug. 28 - 31  
Mon. to Thur. 7pm

### CINEMA

• **War for the Planet of the Apes** — Combines breathtaking special effects and a powerful narrative to conclude this trilogy on a powerful — and truly blockbuster — note.  
• **Dunkirk** — Dunkirk serves up an emotionally satisfying spectacle, brought to life by a gifted ensemble cast that honours the fact-based story.  
• **Despicable Me 3** — Fans will be entertained with zany humour, continuing the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their three daughters and the Minions.

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Jeannette Sirois** presents The Stillness of Life, the final showcase exhibition of the season at ArtCraft at Mahon Hall, beginning with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. An artist's talk takes place on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. Show continues through Sept. 17.  
• **Paradise** — an exhibit of work by Salt Spring Gallery artists — opens Friday, Aug. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues through Sept. 5.

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Duthie Gallery** presents Second Growth — drawings and paintings by Sibéal Foyle and furniture by Peter Pierobon through Oct. 1.  
• **Photosynthesis 2017** is the 17th-annual multi-photographer show running at ArtSpring until Sept. 5. This year's theme is "Pretty Pictures?"  
• **Michael Wall's** photography show titled Six Persimmons: Homage to Mu Ch'i 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.

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Amelie Love** shows artwork in an exhibit titled I'm An Artoholic at Fernwood Road Cafe until Sept. 16.  
• **Nikky Menard's** Alchemy of the Soul exhibit, including mixed media, gelli plate, pen and ink watercolours and soul star paintings, are on exhibit at the Salt Spring Library Program Room through August.  
• **The Salt Spring Basketry Guild** marks its 20th anniversary with Nests, an outdoor exhibit at Mahon Hall.  
• **ArtCraft**, the Salt Spring Arts Council's annual show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artisans, runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 17.  
• **Salty Pear Gallery** is now open at 279 Rainbow Rd. with an exhibition of recent work by photographer Stasia Garraway.  
• **Bob Fenske** shows photographs on the theme of Life in the Streets in the hallway at Salt Spring Coffee Co.

DANCE

# Flamenco workshop coming to studio

Performance also scheduled

BY SEAN HITREC  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A dance that originated in the Roma caravan camps of Spain in the 1700s will be making its way to RainWood Dance Studio on Salt Spring this week.

Maria Avila, a flamenco dancer and teacher from Vancouver, will offer three days of classes from Aug. 28 to 30, where students will learn the basics of the powerful dance.

Then on Aug. 31, Avila and willing students will perform at RainWood studio at an event that includes tapas and wine. RainWood provides a range of dance instruction from jazz to musical theatre, but the studio owner has recently fallen for flamenco and wants to share the experience with Salt Spring.

"It's my new love," said Rosita Larrain, a recent enthusiast of the style. "I love the energy of that dance and I love the fact that everybody can dance their own version of flamenco and put their signature feel into the movement."

Larrain also reflected on the strength in the dance.

"I feel empowered, I feel confident. I feel like I can communicate," she said.

Flamenco originated in Roma camps in Spain. The dance is full of emotion and communication between dancer and the musicians. The mood and message are unique to the dancer and the song, but still tied to the people playing music in way of a jazz-like solo structure. The dancer is also an audible instrument, with tapping and stomping of the feet adding to the sound to create an immersive experience for the audience.

Avila has been doing flamenco since the late 1990s. She started practising the dance in high school and now travels to Spain to study with "the greats."

"As a dancer I feel like it's an outlet for passion and strength," she said. "The songs are usually about hardship or overcoming pain or surviving, so when you're dancing you feel those roots and express those feelings."

Performing partner Peter Mole, who is on Salt Spring for a holiday, will join in on the last day of the workshop as well as



Vancouver-based flamenco artist Maria Avila visits RainWood Dance Studio this week.

for the performance on Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m. The two have been working together for 11 years, Avila said.

There will also be an opportunity for students to perform

in front of the audience if they choose to do so. The intimate setting allows for a maximum of 40 people. For more information, see [rainwooddancesstudio.com/events](http://rainwooddancesstudio.com/events).

TEA À TEMPO

# Young and Shultz up next at All Saints

Viva Chorale director performs

BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Among the many talented musical artists on this island of Salt Spring is a woman fast becoming well known and well appreciated for her complete absorption in her craft, which is simply making music.

Her name is Caroni Young and she is probably best known as the artistic director of the community choir Viva Chorale.

On Wednesday, Aug. 30, along with guitarist Jim Shultz, she will be performing songs at Tea à Tempo at All Saints church.

Young takes much pride in saying that she grew up here on Salt Spring Island. She credits the community and teachers of the island for instilling in her a passion for music and creativity as well as a desire to learn. She has been singing since she was a child, participating in her first choir at Fulford Elementary School, but it wasn't until high school that she developed a passion for jazz music. It was there that she discovered a three-disc box set called Women in Jazz, and she was hooked. On the CD were the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne and others. There was no turning back for her.

Young attended Capilano University where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies. She earned her Bachelor of Education at UBC and then taught elementary music and band in Delta for four years. Currently, Young works as a teacher on call for School District 64 and, in addition to her leadership of Viva Chorale, is involved in numerous other musical projects around the island.

Shultz, a very busy musician on Salt Spring, says he is delighted to accompany Young for this event. He is a vital member of the ever-popular Swing Shift Big Band, and has been part of a number of musicals and concerts.

Performance of the Young-Shultz duo at Tea à Tempo begins at 2:10 p.m. ending at 3 p.m. and is followed by optional refreshments in the hall.

CONCERTS

# PitchFork Social hosts Pieta Brown and friends

Indy-Americana artist plays Sept. 1

Bullock Lake Farm will play host to an ingenue of the roots scene on Sept. 1, with a PitchFork Social performance by Pieta Brown with Bo Ramsey and special guest Clarence Bucaro.

Brown is an American musician and singer-songwriter who has released multiple albums and EPs. She has performed with artists such

as Mark Knopfler, John Prine, Amos Lee, Justin Vernon and Calexico.

"Hailed as a 'self-styled poetess, folk goddess and country waif' by the BBC, Brown first came to international attention with her 2002 self-titled debut," her press material states. "She has since been recognized by NPR for her 'moody, ethereal' songwriting, applauded by the Boston Globe for her 'mercurial voice' and has continued to gain wide-spread critical attention for both her singing and songwriting with

each release. Wall Street Journal, American Songwriter, and Amazon have all included her albums in year-end, "best-of" picks. Along the way she has shared stages with everyone from Emmylou Harris and JJ Cale to Neko Case and Richard Thompson, in addition to performing at major festivals like Bonnaroo and Mountain Jam."

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. A pre-show dinner (not included in the ticket price) begins at 5:30 p.m.

## expert ADVICE

250-537-9933 OR SALES@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

### Mechanic

**Here's hoping our good weather continues.**

We are still enjoying excellent summer weather so lets not talk about the coming change.

The hot dry weather takes its toll on tires, brakes and drive train components.

If you are noticing unusual hot smells or spots of fluid under your vehicle have it checked as soon as possible.

Strange noises when braking or turning could indicate a problem or may be just an accumulation of dust.

The hours of daylight are changing and now is a good time to check all your lights to be sure you are visible in low light hours.

A check by the practiced eye and ear of a professional technician can catch developing problems before they become costly breakdowns.

Stay on top of your maintenance to prevent costly repairs.

*Drive Safe, Gyle*

**537-2876 • #2-319 Upper Ganges Rd.**  
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm

### Real Estate

#### House Inspections

Once a contract to purchase is accepted and "subject conditions" are in place, the buyer will require inspections that typically include a house inspection, checking boundary lines, electrical or pest inspection (if necessary) and having the septic field examined with a camera. Confirmation that the woodstoves and fireplaces comply with today's requirements for insurance as well as satisfactory water test results are often requirements for obtaining financing. Many buyers also review the status of building permits and title documentation with their lawyer and may need to confirm that their intended use of the property complies with zoning bylaws. If significant issues arise during the inspection process it may be possible negotiate a selling price adjustment or require that the problem be corrected in order to facilitate successful completion of the sale.

*As a Buyer or Seller ask your realtor to guide you through the inspection process.*

**Jan Macpherson**  
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**TOP SELLER ON SSI for 2016** based on highest number of listings & sales - Victoria Real Estate Board statistics.

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www.SaltSpringGuide.com

### Fitness Expert

#### The importance of stretching

Often participants leave class without stretching. Stretching is just as important as the class itself. Stretching helps restore muscles to their resting length, helps improve posture and increases the ability to function and perform daily activities with ease. Stretching can help prevent injury, relax the muscles, increase range of motion and flexibility. After a workout there is a build up of lactic acid in one's body and stretching helps remove lactic acid, therefore alleviating muscle pain and cramps. When stretching we need to breathe deeply and "smell the roses" which will recharge you for the rest of the day. Stretching is an important part of self care for all individuals.

**Brenda Akerman**

**250-537-1402 • 262 Rainbow Road**

# Solo piano concert on Tuesday

## LIVE MUSIC

A Vancouver-based composer and pianist performs at the Salt Spring United Church on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Daniel Bellefeuille will present his latest work entitled *Opus 1*, a collection of 12 pieces for solo piano he is touring this summer.

Originally from Medicine Hat, Alta., Bellefeuille moved to Vancouver to complete his studies in music composition at UBC. He is a composer of both music and words, and a multi-instrumentalist and singer. His previous work includes three

albums (two with the Vancouver-based label The Weingartner Phonogram Company), numerous chamber pieces, a choir piece, a short film, a book of poetry and countless performances in diverse venues.

Tuesday's concert begins at 8 p.m.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

# Organist shares French music

Don Conley ready for Languedoc tour

## SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

Music Makers of the Anglican Parish will host an evening of organ music on Sunday, Aug. 27 at All Saints By-the-Sea with accomplished organist Don Conley at the console.

Lovers of organ music and church goers have long been enjoying the magnificent sound of the four-manual Rogers digital organ hybrid in All Saints. Conley has demonstrated the versatility of the instrument as well as his skill as a musician on several occasions since its installation in 2015.

Conley began his organ career at the age of 12 when he was asked by his pastor to play for Sunday liturgy at the local Roman Catholic Church. His improvisational skills were set in motion as the church struggled to implement new reforms, language and style, moving the liturgy from Latin into the vernacular.

Conley became a recognized educator in liturgical music and choral conducting within the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and after completing a Master's Degree in Music in 1981, he was posted to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in southern Minnesota, followed by a two-year renewal mission program across Canada with the Redemptorist Order of Preachers.

When Conley moved to Salt Spring in 2009, he brought an extensive repertoire and knowledge of music that he shared through teaching, conducting and performing. He established a studio, became the director of Salt Spring Singers, subsequent to the retirement of the late Mitch Howard, and in 2010 began playing at Simply Organic, the organ recital series made popular by the late Rev. Barry Valentine.

Sunday's concert is a launching pad for a series of concerts to be performed by Conley in the Languedoc region of southern France this September, namely, Montpellier, Pezenas and Roujan. This, for him, will be a dream come true with the opportunity to play French repertoire on instruments that inspired the composers to write the very pieces we will hear at the concert, with the exception of pieces by J.S. Bach.

Tickets to Sunday's event, which begins at 7 p.m., are available at the door.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 (9<sup>th</sup>) 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 (30<sup>th</sup>) of August 2017 and Wednesday the Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) 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](http://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, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 625 Fisgard 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](mailto: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 (10<sup>th</sup>) 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](http://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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote).

# 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@driftwoodgimedi.com



## ISLAND HISTORY

# Bittancourt museum welcomes Ruckle painting home



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

An Agnes Ruckle painting of Mount Maxwell circa 1904 is seen among other items at the Bittancourt House Museum. The painting recently returned to Salt Spring from New Zealand by way of Alberta.

## New donation reveals mysterious history

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's number one repository of pioneer history, the Bittancourt House Museum at the Farmers' Institute, has been blessed by a number of exciting donations over the past few months.

In addition to some antique clay pipes, a set of ladies' kid gloves and three early model telephones, the museum now houses a painting by a member of the Ruckle family dating back to 1904.

"It's a nice painting. And it's got history to it," museum coordinator John Fulker said during a recent visit.

A typed tag attached to the back of the painting supplies some of the item's history, but in some ways creates as many questions as it answers. According to the tag, Agnes Ruckle painted the view of Mount Maxwell not long before she died in a drowning accident. The writer states Ruckle was "mother's dearest friend." As well, the person notes Tom Ackerman's (sic) farm in the foreground was "opposite my grandfather's farm across the road."

Another item of interest on the back of the painting is a framing tag from Tauranga, New Zealand. Who wrote the tag, and how and when the paint-

ing made its way to New Zealand, are unknown.

The painting came to the museum through the kindness of Pauline Green, a resident of Alberta who picked it up in New Zealand some years back. Green took the painting to Canada at the request of a man named Matt Schneider-Marfels. He had acquired it at an estate auction in Tauranga.

"There was no interest for it and it would have ended up in the rubbish bin, had I not rescued it. It was the scene depicted, which reminded me of my childhood surroundings in Saxony/Germany, as well as the inscription at the back of the painting which intrigued me. Unfortunately, the auctioneer has since died and I was unable to find out more about the original owner of the painting," Matt Schneider-Marfels wrote in an email to the Driftwood.

"Right from the beginning I had the strong feeling that it should be returned to the family Ruckle, if at all possible. When Pauline, who I know through yoga class, told me that she was returning to Canada I asked her whether she would be prepared to take the painting back to Canada and try to trace the Ruckle family. As it turns out, there do not appear [to be] any descendants of the family living in Canada, so I asked Pauline to donate the painting to a local museum, which she did."

Green is originally from New Zealand but has been living in Canada for 31 years. She has adult daughters living

in Vancouver and Duncan, but it was three or four years after her last trip home before she had a chance to visit the West Coast.

As it happened, Green and one of her daughters arrived on Salt Spring just in time for Heritage Day this July, so they were able to present the Ruckle painting to the Bittancourt museum on its biggest day of the year.

"We went there on a mission. It was exciting to be able to take it," Green said.

A report published in the Grand Forks newspaper, the Evening Sun, on Aug. 8, 1905 stated Agnes Ruckle was 24 and "highly accomplished" when she died. She had taught school in Cascade four years before her death and since then had dedicated her life to landscape painting. She had family and friends in the area, and was on a day trip to English Point, Christina Lake when tragedy struck.

According to the Evening Sun, Ruckle's friend Ida Anderson, age 22, ventured out beyond her depth when most of the large party was some ways away. Ruckle attempted to save her, at first with a long pole.

"Finding it too short, she swam to her assistance. On reaching her, Miss Anderson threw her arms around her would-be rescuer, and they both sank."

The accident site was reviewed by the district coroner and a provincial police constable, but it was decided an inquest was unnecessary.

"The sad accident has thrown a shade over the town of Cascade, as both young ladies were popular and highly accomplished. It is said that some of the wealthiest people on the coast treasure very highly some of Miss Ruckle's landscape gems," the Evening Sun reported.

According to a map showing Salt Spring family homesteads in 1912, the family of A.R. Raynes lived right across Fulford-Ganges Road from Joseph Akerman. Further along was the family of John Mollet. He and his wife Maud bought Mereside Farm on Ford Lake in 1896 and then moved to the Burgoyne Valley around 10 years later. Other nearby families included the Lees and the Reids.

Anyone who has information about a family who moved to New Zealand and had ties to the Ruckles and other pioneer families is asked to contact the Driftwood or Bittancourt museum to update the painting's history.

## Fall Fair Focus



### Volunteers needed!

Are you interested in volunteering at our Fall Fair this year?

**The Horticulture Section needs you!** Spend an hour and half monitoring exhibits in these Sections: Flowers, Fruits, Vegetables, Junior Horticulture. Spend early Saturday morning helping the judges by: writing comments, helping to tally the results, placing the ribbons on the entries.

**If you can help call Susan Lee at 250-537-2994**

*Have fun, and see you at the Fair!*



## POD Activities

These are many of the different ways that you as a POD Leader could connect with the Neighbourhood Leaders in your area or you as a Neighbourhood Leader could connect with the residents in your neighbourhood.

- Neighbourhood Parties
- Disaster Movie Nights
- Invasive special removal work parties
- Workshops on Preparedness and Disaster First Aid
- POD-ween (dress up as your favourite disaster movie character or favourite first responder)
- POD-ings (POD leader crowns one of the Neighbourhood Leaders as Leader of the Year for their contribution)

These are many of the different ways that you as a POD Leader could connect with the Neighbourhood Leaders in your area or you as a Neighbourhood Leader could connect with the residents in your neighbourhood.

Contact Laurel Hanley at 250 537-1220 or email to ssidepc@crd.bc.ca to find out more about connecting to your neighbours through the POD program.

www.prepareyourself.ca

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**AGING with GRACE: A rosy nose knows**



by HELEN HINCHLIFF

**"Since I've seen your scar, let me show you mine," he offered. And then he started unbuttoning his shirt and rolling up his pants leg. We were standing on one of Salt Spring's busiest street corners and he was disrobing. A prude at heart, I stepped back.**

"Don't recoil," he pleaded. "I just want to show you my scar." And then with both hands he opened his shirt revealing a hunk of manly chest decorated with a massive scar. "I'm recovering from quadruple bypass surgery," he declared with pride. And then he showed me the scars on his legs from which surgeons had removed veins to replace his clogged arteries.

Well, it was something only a man can do, although someone I know once offered to let her uncle feel her surgically implanted breasts following a double mastectomy. "I can't feel anything," she explained, "so there's nothing sexy about it!"

I cringed anyway. Last month I went public about my puny little operation for the removal from the tip of my nose of a basal cell carcinoma the size of a pencil eraser. Ever since, it seems half of Salt Spring wants to show me their scars or tell me about people they know who've lost bits and pieces to skin cancer. Saskatchewan farmers wearing only baseball caps tend to lose their ears, I'm told.

People have also taken pride in showing me their recoveries from severely broken wrists and ankles and one woman offered to pull down her pants to show me her scar from hip replacement surgery.

I said no, but I did listen to my chest-baring friend describe not having felt too great while doing

some construction work on an outer island and making the difficult decision to down tools and take the next ferry home. At Lady Minto he learned he'd been having a heart attack.

But mostly people have shared their skin cancer stories. This is what I've learned:

Three local friends have survived melanoma. One showed me an indented scar on her leg that I remember being about 1.5 by 3 inches; two men had back lesions which they didn't offer to show me, thank goodness. The University of California at San Francisco Medical Centre says melanoma mostly occurs on men's backs and women's legs. Don't ask me why. The Melanoma Foundation reports this deadly form of skin cancer represents only one per cent of all skin cancer cases. Nevertheless, in the U.S., melanoma is the fifth most common form of cancer in men and sixth most common in women in all age groups and its incidence is rising. The Canadian Cancer Society reports significant increases here too, attributing them largely to inadequate protection from UV radiation.

A couple of people told me they used a prescribed cream to remove superficial basal cell carcinomas. My brother did too, but short-term results were not only hideous (imagined brilliant-red peeling skin), but he was not allowed out of doors from sun up until sun down for several weeks. He has since had several surgeries on his face and his dermatologist checks him for more lesions every six months.

People have told me they've had their carcinomas removed with laser treatment. For me, that was

only a first step. After the laser scab healed, my itchy patch remained. It's my guess this treatment is sufficient only when lesions are superficial.

Many people have questioned the need for Mohs surgery because they had their carcinomas removed in their doctor's office or at Lady Minto or in Duncan. I'd guess it all comes down to location, breadth and depth. About 20 years ago, my doctor removed a squamous carcinoma from my midriff during a routine checkup. Given its location, he could make a large incision and remove a lot of extra tissue and then stitch it up again. With my extra paunch, he didn't have to reconstruct anything.

My brother had a lesion removed from his cheek, but it was very small and no reconstruction was necessary. If either flaps or grafts are to cover the hole that remains, then you need to be in a skin care clinic. One friend had to go to the Royal Jubilee when his reconstruction suddenly required general anesthesia.

People have praised my bravery in showing my stitches. Well, between you and me, I never liked my nose. Then it got worse. Twenty years ago, it turned red (rosacea can also be triggered by too much sun) and I started hating it. So I had nothing to lose by showing those stitches and lots to gain.

Now everybody wants to share their success stories, reveal their worst fears, or simply tell me my nose is looking great. Somehow I knew it would be easy.

**LIBRARY**

**End of summer prompts travel thoughts**

New guides arrive at Salt Spring library

**ON THE NEW SHELVES**

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

With summer coming to a close, many will be dreaming of winter travels. The Non-fiction New Book Shelf is the perfect place to start.

Almost weekly, we receive the latest travel guides for far away and nearby destinations. Specific winter get-a-ways like Baja California are there, as are further destinations in Eastern Europe, South America and Africa.

**Novel Destinations: a Travel Guide to Literary Landmarks from Jane Austen's Bath to Ernest Hemingway's Key West** is sure to be of interest to both armchair and real-life travellers. Following in the footsteps of authors, this volume offers behind the scenes stories, valuable travel hints and interesting itineraries that take

readers to over 500 literary locales in the United States, Europe and elsewhere. Included in the book are details of festivals, museums, accommodations, tours, photos and more. Whether you want to follow in the footsteps of Steinbeck or Tolstoy, this book is both informative and entertaining.

Summer through Fall are probably the best times to visit the northern British Isles, and **The Rough Guide to the Scottish Highlands & Islands** offers a thorough guide on which to plan travels. Replete with maps, photos, and sound travel advice, this book prepares travellers on all aspects of what to expect, what to plan, where to go and when to go there. Included are specific

of traditional Scottish dishes, typical Scottish and Gaelic phrases, a brief history of the area, a calendar of events, and many other items. Of particular interest is the section on visits to the off shore isles, with descriptions of their traditional lifestyles and specifics of how to get there and what to do.

**Lonely Planet's Iceland** is a good place to start planning for next summer's travels. Included is a detailed map of Reykjavik to aid in getting around. The section on History and the Survival Guide are especially interesting and useful. The volume offers suggestions about tours at various times of the year, as well as for specific durations. And, of course, the section of Natural Wonders will help travellers to determine when to go and where to go. Taken as a whole, the book is an eye opener that will give readers a taste of this unique

and under-explored island country.

**Everybody Behaves Badly: the True Story behind Hemingway's Masterpiece The Sun Also Rises** takes readers back to the summer of 1925 as Ernest Hemingway and his clique of followers move from Paris to Spain and become the grist for his ground breaking novel.

Based on thorough research, insights and gossip, this book recounts the stories of who was there, who did what and with whom, as this lusty band of artists, writers, and hanger-ons shift morality and modernity. As the forefront of the lost generation, Hemingway pushes all boundaries and sets the stage for those who follow. The book includes several photos of Hemingway and his associates that help to bring the prose to life. This volume is a fine read for those thinking to travel in Hemingway's footsteps in the coming months.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Goat yoga wraps up successful trial

New partnership sought for 2018 season

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The latest yoga trend to sweep North America has landed on Salt Spring, with the improbable “goat yoga” joining aerial, hot and paddle board variations before it.

Those of us who find it difficult to still our constant inner voice during a regular yoga lesson have probably never considered trying to do it with livestock thrown into the mix. Adding a curious and unpredictable baby goat to the environment is not the obvious choice to help improve mindfulness, even in a practice that features downward dog, cat and eagle poses.

Salt Spring yoga teacher Amy Haysom said when “goat yoga” was first introduced in Oregon, jokes, disbelief and questions about maintaining focus were tops in an online discussion group for instructors. But then they started noticing the 600-person waiting list for classes and figured there was something to it after all.

“I’m really glad I dove in and tried it out,” said Haysom, who offered a number of trial classes at Salt Spring’s Heartfelt Farm this summer.

As someone who has been teaching for five years on Salt Spring and Victoria, Haysom said goat yoga is inspiring her to dream big. She was already interested in bringing yoga outdoors when the idea of doing it in a farm setting presented itself.

“The way I teach yoga, I talk about the inner landscape and how it connects to the outer landscape,” she said. “There are so many different kinds of yoga, but the idea is that all yoga is giving you the ability to have a practice that trains you to be in the world.”

“We’re in a busy world,” she added. “We are constantly being surrounded by kids, phone calls, technology



PHOTO COURTESY AMY HAYSON YOGA

Yoga instructor Amy Haysom demonstrates how to stay focused during one of her goat yoga classes at Heartfelt Farm this summer.

... I do think the world has more distractions than we’ve ever had before and learning how to navigate them is important. But rather than practising with toddlers and cell phones ringing, let’s bring yoga outdoors.”

Haysom noted that yoga as traditionally practised inside brings with it some helpful supports to stability: the ground is flat and people can use the four walls around them to help gauge balance. In real life, however, we’re always having to make adjustments. Having a mindfulness practice like yoga is meant to help with just that.

Most people these days have had exposure to yoga — but some might be getting bored of the same routine. Haysom offered a full moon class on a dock this summer, which offered both wonderful and challenging moments. She said the question, whether on a shifting dock or in a barnyard environment, is “How do we find our centre in all of it?”

During classes at Heartfelt Farm, baby goats and their mothers were free to interact with yoga practitioners as they saw fit. Haysom had participants do some poses

in which interaction was encouraged: balancing while holding out a handful of feed, for example. In other cases she asked students to do more meditative poses and to focus while goats checked them out, or not. The reactions people have to the experience can range from uncontrollable laughter to a powerful sense of connection with the animals.

Haysom recommends some yoga experience before trying it with goats, since even simple poses can become challenging when animals are involved. And while kids are welcome, she asks that they be at least 10 years old and have the ability to participate in a full-length class.

One thing not everyone will love is the natural consequences of livestock biology, but for those willing to accept it, there are further lessons to be learned.

“Yoga is very much about letting go and embracing what is — embracing the poo, embracing the pee — and we also have things to clean the mats off afterward,” Haysom said.

The inaugural season of goat yoga on Salt Spring was a short one as the baby animals

rapidly became too big for the job, and the temporary farm hosts needed to get back to business.

“I’m grateful we did this and I’m really grateful we ended this at the right time. If they got any bigger it could have gotten dangerous,” Haysom said.

Plans for next year are to develop themed classes, with some aimed at more advanced students, families and kids, or offering some at night along with live music, to name a few ideas.

Haysom has since learned from a friend at the Victoria Lavender Farm that Nigerian dwarf goats are the preferred breed — they are small and curious enough to enjoy jumping onto people’s backs. It turns out that’s something participants said they would also like to experience, so Haysom is hoping to form a new partnership with a local farm in time for next year.

Anyone who breeds Nigerian dwarf goats or would like to start doing so and has a space that could be developed for yoga classes over the winter is encouraged to contact Haysom at 250-538-8927 or amyhaysomyoga@gmail.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY AMY HAYSON YOGA

Students and Heartfelt Farm goats interact in an outdoor classroom environment.

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Motorcycle riders invite island to toy run gathering

Patience during short ride needed

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The Salt Spring Motorcycle Toy Run will roll for the 21st time this weekend, with events unfolding from the Farmers' Institute beginning on Friday night.

All donations of toys, cash or gift cards go to Santa's Workshop, whose volunteers ensure that underprivileged children on Salt Spring enjoy a happier Christmas.

The Farmers' Institute will be set up on Friday afternoon for people who wish to camp there for the weekend. On Friday evening there is music, a beer garden and a

BBQ. Everyone is welcome to attend whether they ride a motorcycle or not.

On Saturday the ride leaves the Farmers' Institute at 11 a.m. sharp.

"Anyone who has any type of motorcycle is welcome to participate," said organizing group member Kerry Butler.

"We ask for the cooperation of the public in making

this event a safe one. While it is a weekend event, the ride itself only takes a minute or two to pass by," he added. "We will have flaggers out to help ensure the safety of everyone, participants and public alike. Please follow the directions of the flaggers. It is for the kids, and co-operation and safety are paramount."

The route goes through Ganges, along Cusheon Lake Road to Fulford and then back up through Ganges. Riders will continue along Upper Ganges and Robinson roads, down Stark Road to North End Road and back to the Farmers' Institute.

"Santa will be leading the ride and he does like to see people and children out cheering the riders on," said Butler.

The ride takes about an hour to complete. In the afternoon, people can watch riders participate in "bike games" and enjoy a beverage at the same time.

A dinner and dance follow completion of the games.

On Sunday the campers depart and the site is cleaned up, said Butler.

For more information, see [www.saltspringtoyrun.com](http://www.saltspringtoyrun.com).



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN  
Santa leads motorcycle riders in a past Salt Spring Toy Run.



Salt Spring Salads would like to thank the Island for another amazing season.

Our last day this summer will be Friday September 1.



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# sports & recreation

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

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



## ISLAND ATHLETES

# Richard Hayden completes gruelling triathlon in Norway

Extreme conditions and emotions in Norseman

BY MARCIA JANSEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Richard Hayden had just one goal in the Norseman Xtreme Triathlon: getting to the top of the Gaustatoppen, an extinct volcano in the south east of Norway.

It's a privilege for only the first 160 out of 250 athletes in the race. If you make the cut and finish, you earn a black finisher T-shirt. If you don't, you get a white one.

Hayden already had three Ironman distance triathlons — 3.8-km swim, 180-km bike and 42.2-km run — under his belt when he toed the start line of the Norseman Xtreme Triathlon: a race where you have to jump off a ferry into an ice-cold fjord and swim back to shore, ride your bike over five mountain tops and run a marathon that ends with a 17-km climb to the top of the Gaustatoppen, 1,880 metres above sea level. It is believed to be one of the toughest Ironman distance triathlons in the world.

"I had seen videos of the Norseman Xtreme and it seemed like an interesting race in an interesting place," Hayden said. "It's so different from a normal Ironman, which can be extremely tough too. This race is not about finishing in a specific time, or a placing in your age group. It's all about getting up that mountain and earning a black finisher T-shirt at the top."

Only 250 athletes every year have the chance to participate in the Norseman Xtreme. Race entries are given by lottery and Hayden had entered four years running before being granted a spot. He wanted extreme and he got extreme.

"The swim wasn't too bad and I did handle the cold pretty well," said Hayden, who finished the swim leg in 102nd place. When he'd changed into a dry set of clothes, the Norseman Xtreme got in full swing on the bike.

"Forty kilometres into the bike portion it really started to pour and I got so cold that I thought I wouldn't be able to continue. I was at the mercy of rain, cold, wind and hills; the elements took me to tears and almost made me quit. And in the midst of it all, there was the amazing view of the Hardangervidda plateau."

Thanks to his support team, his wife Janine and his nephew Joel, he kept going. They were his cheerleaders. They supplied



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD HAYDEN

An exhausted Richard Hayden after completing the Norseman Xtreme Triathlon in just over 15 hours and 27 minutes, with wife Janine Fernandes-Hayden at his right.

him with food, they gave him an extra jacket at the right moment and even climbed to the top with him.

"Without them, I couldn't have done it. They were working their butts off too. If they missed a beat, it meant me missing an even bigger beat."

With sheer determination and the help of his support team, he made the cutoff in 75th place. Only 160 athletes are allowed to finish the race at the top. For the rest of them, the race ends with an alternate finish.

"The ironic part was that getting to that 32-km checkpoint and going up this huge mountain, it mentally marked the downhill part of the race for me. I thought that if I made it to the cutoff, I was almost there, but I couldn't be more wrong. I didn't have a lot of energy left — everything that I tried to eat with the exception of a handful of potato chips was making me sick — and the climb was absolutely gruelling. There wasn't even a path. It was all rocks, boulders, streams

and mud. I asked every person along the way how much further it was and everyone gave me the same answer, so Janine made me stop asking."

After more than 15 hours of hard labour, Hayden made it to the top in 125th place. "Even at 500 metres before the finish line, I wasn't sure I could do it. With 15 steps to go, I roared and didn't believe I could take another step. When I was getting closer to the top, I expected to hear the announcers cheering through the fog-covered peak, but when you get to the top there is no fanfare. They take your timing chip, give you a blanket and a bowl of soup and that's it. What I realize now is that you don't need someone to announce or validate the accomplishment. When you get there, everyone just knows, and more importantly, you know it. This race was beyond my expectations and lived up to its extreme tag: extreme conditions, extreme emotions. I was taken to the edge of what I could do, and at the end of the day I took a black shirt home!"



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD HAYDEN

Richard Hayden ascends the extinct volcano Gaustatoppen as part of the triathlon.

## GOLF

# Best-ever game gives win to Heaton

North/South tourney up next

## GOLFTEES

BY MARCIA HOGAN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

In ladies 18-hole play, the 2017 Bank of Montreal Cup winner was Denise Heaton with a low net of 69.

As she turned in her card, Heaton said, "This is my best game — ever!"

Runner-up April Wright bounced back from a tough game the previous day with a net 70.

Franki Johnstone's direct line to the flag on both Hole #2 and Hole #11 ensured she picked up the KP prize. Jane Hickie won the putt pot with just 28 putts.

The nine-hole senior ladies played for the Libby Noble Cup on Aug. 3. Connie Hardy stepped up for her second big win of the year. Anne MacAulay took second place.

It is time to think about the next big tournament, the annual North/South fundraiser. This year it plays out on Saturday, Sept. 2 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start followed by lunch and both a silent and

a live auction. The game is a two-person scramble and there will be a number of carnival golf options on some of the holes, providing opportunities for more challenges and fun. People can sign up at the pro shop.

Don't forget to dig around for hidden treasures to donate to the auctions or offer a service or event that the bidders can't refuse.

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Today and always, Ryan, you are in our hearts. Love Chelsea, Isaac, Garrett, Mackenzie and Heidi

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June 29, 1972 to August 26, 2013

*We who loved you sadly miss you  
As it dawns another year  
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Mom, Suzanne, Andrew, Austin & Colton

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**Salt Spring Singers' Fall Sessions commences September 5th, 2017 at the Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Road.**

New members are always welcome whether you are a Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone or Bass.  
All male voices are especially welcome.

As this is a community choir, no audition is required and the ability to read music is not a mandatory requirement either, although singing in pitch is appreciated.

Registration is from 6:15-6:55pm, Tuesday, September 5th, followed by a rehearsal and introduction to this session's music.

Registration cost is \$100.00 per registrant with a fee of \$50.00 for students. Try us out and should you feel that the choir is not a "good fit" for you, we'll refund your registration fee (within the first 3 weeks only).

We are a fun group of people who love to sing under the direction of our very talented director, Don Conley. Rehearsals run Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm. On Mondays voice sectionals take place for an hour. This is a valuable additional practice and all who are able are encouraged to attend.

Our Christmas Concert will be held Dec. 9th and 10th at ArtSpring Theatre. Participation in the concert is not mandatory.

**For inquiries, please contact Romy at 250-538-7642 or Penny at pennysira@gmail.com. [www.saltspringsingers.ca](http://www.saltspringsingers.ca) for additional information and access to our registration form.**



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

<b>FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
<b>DEATHS</b>	<b>DEATHS</b>

**Helen Kottke Wiebe**  
Mar. 4, 1921 - Aug. 6, 2017

Helen Kottke Wiebe age 96 of Salt Spring Island passed away in her home on Sunday Aug 6 2017. She was born to the late Richard Otto Kottke and Margaret Anna Jung on March 4 1921 in Illinois USA.

Helen studied for 5 years with John Gilbert Wilkins of the Chicago Art Institute and had participated in many art seminars at the time. Over the years she developed her skills to include: watercolor, oils, china painting & pastel. In her later years she gave china painting lessons and art lessons in both her home in North Carolina as well on Salt Spring Island.

She was predeceased by her husband John Wiebe who was born in the Ukraine Apr 22, 1925 and died Apr 24, 2001 on Salt Spring Island, who owned and operated "Salt Spring Gems & Art" which had been located in Grace Point Square on Salt Spring. She used to help out in the store occasionally and sold her art there. Also predeceased by her daughter Patricia Campbell (John) who was very dear to her.

Helen is survived by her sons John Birmingham (Dorothy), Steven Birmingham (Lilian) and John R. Wiebe (Cheryl). Also 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

*We are planning on a Celebration Of Life at 133 Arnell Way on Saturday September 9th at around 4 pm.*

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- Coordinates office maintenance
- As this is a small office, candidates should be flexible - able to handle other related tasks

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- Education: High School - post-secondary courses would be an asset
- Experience: 2 to 4 years office admin
- Adaptable to change
- Interpersonal skills in establishing cooperative working relationships both internally and externally
- Ability to be discreet and handle confidential information
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
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- Good time management, with ability to organize, prioritize and meet deadlines
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- Work with children, or experience in education or a non-profit would be an asset

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PHOTO BY DAVID BLAIR

**MARINE MAMMAL?:** A buck swims in front of the Skeena Queen ferry en route to Swartz Bay last Wednesday afternoon. David Blair, who snapped the photo, said, "As we drew nearer, the ferry then started to shake and shudder. It started to slow and then came to a full stop, just a few feet from where the deer was swimming. The captain came over the loudspeaker and called everyone's attention to this freak event of nature." Blair added that the ferry didn't really stop on a dime, "but rather stopped on a buck."

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

# Charger users get donation boxes

EV registrar encourages contributions

Two donation boxes for EV charging services have been set up to help offset costs incurred by Transition Salt Spring's EV Group.

Fulford Hall and ArtSpring are two sites that have electric vehicle chargers on their properties.

According to Jim Standen of the Transition Salt Spring's EV Group, "The funds are intended to be directed towards the ongoing costs (electricity), maintenance and future replacement costs. The electric bill

... in the early years, was quite marginal. Over the last few years the cost has increased due to the increased number of EVs on the island."

Standen, the island's EV registrar, said 119 electric vehicles are now on the island.

The donation boxes were designed and built by local steel fabricator Ron Ateah. Installation and signage was by George Sipos and Barbara Dempster of the EV charger group.

"Please say a big thanks to them when opportunities arise," said Standen.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

# Project study updated

Process aids strategic planning and funding

Salt Spring's first-ever Vital Signs report is on track for release on Oct. 3.

Since the survey closed, consultant Maggie Hodge Kwan, who is managing and producing the report in consultation with the Salt Spring Foundation's Vital Signs steering committee, has been busy analyzing the results and collecting other important data about the community. The report's release will coincide with the national launch of Vital Signs reports.

"Vital Signs is an ambitious initiative that has been undertaken by many community foundations across Canada, including several on Vancouver Island," explains a Salt Spring Foundation press release. "Salt Spring's first Vital Signs report gathers data from government and local sources on significant social and economic trends in areas that are critical to the quality of life on Salt Spring, including health and wellness, housing, arts and culture, the environment, work and employment and other areas identified as relevant to our community."

The foundation undertook the Vital Signs project in order to identify the most pressing issues for Salt Spring and provide up-to-date information to assist all levels of government, local non-profits, businesses and other organizations in strategic planning and funding.

"Vital Signs will give policy makers better information to assist in making

informed decisions," said foundation chair Kees Ruurs. "We need good local data in order to improve the quality of life for islanders."

Hodge Kwan, who has worked on Vital Signs reports for two Vancouver Island communities, said, "I've been impressed by the high level of engagement on Salt Spring. I've never held so many focus groups nor had so many people attend, and we had an excellent response to the survey."

She has also found that local people are committed to making Salt Spring Island a vibrant, interesting place to live. "I see this in the number of arts organizations, charities, volunteer hours, hobby groups, recreation facilities, library usage, and many other indicators. It's amazing how many ways there are to get involved on a small island of 10,000 people."

**"We need good local data in order to improve the quality of life for islanders."**

KEES RUURS  
SSIF chair

Community members are invited to get a first look at Salt Spring's Vital Signs report at a launch event on Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the library's program room.

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## This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor  
www.sunstarastrlogy.com  
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**TIP OF THE WEEK**

As Virgo time gains momentum, the winds of change activated by the Total Solar Eclipse a few days ago will be increasingly evident by now. If you are destined to experience a direct activation, it usually begins quite quickly. However, sometimes the change is there but is not recognized for what it is. The objectivity astrology provides serves to awaken us to the currents of destiny beyond our socially conditioned perceptions and attitudes. As of this date, Mercury in still Retrograde in Virgo and will conjunct the Sun on August 26. Mars in Leo is currently exactly conjunct the Lunar North Node. This has the effect of giving destiny a big push. Fortunately, according to the details of the chart, this extra muscle comes with a playful and sincere tone. Despite the many dramas in the world, this energy pattern is suggestive of heroism, as well. On August 31, Mercury re-enters Leo and, a couple of days later forms a conjunction with advancing Mars. The synchronicity of this is likely to manifest as the next big sensation in the headlines with strong and even revolutionary appeals for change improvement. Virgo can generally be described as the strong, silent type, despite a very sharp critical attitude, constructive and otherwise, but with Leo involved, the hermit comes out of the shadows with all the pumped personality, sparkle and dazzle of a famous talk show host.

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**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)** By now, the destined effects of the Solar Eclipse are unfolding. They may be obvious or not so, or perhaps no planets or angles were specifically aspected so the influences will be minimal. Otherwise, something new has been conceived and significant changes in your lifestyle have begun. Positively, something very special has been activated.

**Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)** What changes close to home and with family and in your closest relationships have been triggered? If the answer is not evident yet, it will be soon. Fun, play, games and romance is featured in this equation. Yet, in some respects, you are very serious about what is going on. Renovations and other deep measures require diligent efforts.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Your energy levels and a sense of optimism have been boosted by the recent eclipses. It may feel as though you have come through something of a storm these past several months. Then again, it may not be entirely over. Getting your 'house in order' may feel like the right thing to do so you are prepared for anything.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** Getting clear on your priorities is an important theme amplified by this recent eclipse season. Basically, play will be focused on what you do and do not want and need. Deciphering the difference between them will prove important as well. This could include clearing the clutter. Cleaning-up your finances to ensure you are not losing money is also likely.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** A big boost of confidence is likely yours to enjoy now and this trend will continue. Changes are indicated, yet they appear to be a positive activation that will touch upon financial, professional and public involvements. Although your work load could increase over the coming weeks, so too will your influence, and your income too.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Definite shifts in your overall state of awareness and mode of self-expression should be increasingly evident. This eclipse season has been especially impactful for your sign. Your overall state of awareness and attitude are undergoing shifts. In turn, these are influencing your daily rhythm, approach and lifestyle, in general, and your career.

**Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)** Dreams and other features of your destiny awaiting their turn in your subconscious have received a definite nudge. Now they have begun to awaken. These are activating changes in some of your most intimate relationships especially. So, your love life may be getting a boost... or a jolt. Otherwise, creative inspirations and challenges require your unique response.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Friends and colleagues too and anyone or anything else linked to your career have been activated to play a special part in your life at this time. Home and family are also indicated. Each of these is influencing the other. In some respects, you may feel the urge to escape, while in other respects you feel rebellious and up for the fight.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Your perceptions and your beliefs are playing on each other in new and exciting ways. You feel bold and determined as a result. This is an opening and presents an opportunity for a breakthrough of some kind. Your career and family life are both being influenced as well, at least indirectly. This is pretty big.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** A deep and steady flow of changes has been underway in your life for the past 2.5 years. The momentum of these is therefore already strong. This recent eclipse season has activated the next important wave. Changes close to home can include endings of key relationships, personal and/or professional, renovations and your priorities in general.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Your career, lifestyle and those relationships linked to both are feeling the impact of the recent eclipses. Positively, new projects and assignments have begun. These will likely have a very positive influence on your current and future fulfillment and income. Trust these shifts and focus to cooperate with them as they will be the keys that open new doors yet.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)** Projects that you have been working on will come into focus for the sake of completion over the coming weeks. These are directly linked to your work and financial flow. It is important that you focus and make all the necessary efforts required, which stand to be substantial. This is an important follow-through period, so bring projects to completion now!

