



Small is beautiful

Gallery 8 Christmas show
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Poetry prize

Island writer wins national honour
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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 48 \$1.25 (incl GST)

CRIME

RCMP investigate car thefts

Residents advised to lock vehicles after recent incidents

Salt Spring RCMP are investigating a vehicle theft and the theft of other items taken from cars among the 60 calls for service they fielded over the past week.

RCMP are on the lookout for a suspect in an incident involving a stolen vehicle and crash on Monday evening. According to a police report, the vehicle was stolen from the Park Drive area, where it was left unlocked with the key in the ignition.

The vehicle was located later in the evening after being involved in a single-vehicle collision. The driver fled the scene and attempts to locate that person were unsuccessful. The matter is still under investigation.

The local detachment was also called to two separate incidents of items taken from motor vehicles on Monday, Nov. 20. The first occurred while a vehicle was parked at a business on Upper Ganges Road during the early morning hours. Undisclosed items were taken.

The second theft occurred from a vehicle parked in the downtown core, also in the early morning hours. An electronic device was taken. In both instances, the vehicles were left unlocked. Police are reminding the public to lock their vehicles and remove any items of value.

Anyone who may have any information on any of the above-mentioned investigations, or any other crime, is asked to contact the Salt Spring RCMP or Crime Stoppers.

RCMP continued on 2



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

IMPACT: Salt Spring Olds Boys player David Toynbee, left, beats his Centaurs opponent to the ball in a 5-2 victory at GISS on Sunday. For Fraser Hope's report on the game, see the Sports section of www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing details shared at info event

Mixed model development to promote social health

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

About 50 islanders turned out Saturday afternoon to hear more about Island Women Against Violence's plans for expanding housing options at Croftonbrook.

IWAV's housing director Kisae Petersen, project development consultant Janis Gauthier and design consultant Donald Gunn presented comprehensive aspects of the project before offering a question and answer period to the crowd. The project will meet a range of rental needs from shelter rates for the homeless and vulnerable sector to varying rents for people of low to moderate incomes.

"IWAV understands that safe and affordable housing is the foundation for a healthy life," said executive director Dana Peace, who opened the meeting.

Peace explained IWAV operates three types of housing to support that goal, with transitional housing for women leaving abusive relationships at the Transition House, longer-term second-stage housing at The Cedars, and housing for low-income seniors and people with disabilities at Croftonbrook.

CROFTONBROOK continued on 2

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Project must overcome several regulatory hurdles

CROFTONBROOK

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"Yet current Croftonbrook operations have clearly proven that with virtually no vacancies, infrequent turnover and an active wait list, there is an urgent need for more housing, particularly amongst low-income seniors," Peace said. "Aside from the individuals we work with, we also hear consistently how difficult it is for the workforce in our community to find affordable housing. The need is clear across the service industry, health and social sectors, teachers, care providers, and the list goes on."

Major project funding for Croftonbrook's expanded mandate has come through a partnership between the Capital Regional District and the provincial government, with additional grants and support from the Capital Regional Housing Trust Fund, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Salt Spring Foundation and others.

As the project leads explained, the proposed development will

come in two phases, with Phase One adding to 20 existing units built in the 1980s. Phase Two will see 20 more units built in five townhouse buildings on a portion of the land zoned for dense residential use. Phase Three will require rezoning a portion of the property zoned for agriculture in order to build an apartment complex with 34 units.

"We're hoping rezoning will be in place and on time so we can just roll into Phase Three," Gauthier said, explaining the group hopes to start construction on Phase Two in 2018 and have it completed in one year.

Despite high-level government support there are still many regulatory hurdles to cross, even before the first construction. Sign-off on a sustainable water system and a development permit from the Islands Trust will be necessary before Phase Two gets started. The water system will consist of a combination of well water, grey water recycling and rainwater catchment, which Petersen said will be a first for Salt Spring.

Finances are also tricky. Even with government grants of close

to \$5 million, those funds will not cover the mortgage or operating costs. Various rents along the spectrum will be needed to support the operations.

Questions from members of the public included some of the issues raised by Islands Trust planning staff and trustees during the rezoning application's first hearing, such as emergency egress points and accessibility, increased traffic and passenger safety on Corbett Road, and around affordable rents and income requirements for new and current tenants.

"We're hoping rezoning will be in place and on time so we can just roll into Phase Three."

JANIS GAUTHIER
Project team member

Croftonbrook's current tenants reported feeling much stress about their situation, with the existing operating agreement and its rent-

geared-to-income structure set to expire in 2020. Some have feared their rents will be increased in order to subsidize the new development, but Petersen explained that will not happen. Phase One will be kept as a separate operating budget. While rents there will have to cover operations, the mortgage will be paid off and tenants will be able to apply for subsidies under the Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters program. IWAV will be meeting with individual tenants to work out the best plan for each, Petersen said.

Another question was whether Phase Two could financially operate if Phase Three rezoning and/or construction were held up. Gauthier said it could, although rents might not be introduced at the low income level at first.

"It is being structured so it can be stand-alone because likely it could be stand-alone for a while," she said.

Questions around traffic and pedestrian safety earned a response from Salt Spring Transportation Commission chair Robin Williams. He said there was a good possibility that SSITC and

Partners Creating Pathways could construct a proper sidewalk along Corbett Road as long as Ministry of Transportation right-of-way space allowed. As well, the turn-around area required for fire truck access could also lead to space for a bus turn-around, with potential for extending the Ganges Local bus route, Williams said, by the time all phases are complete.

In the meantime, a neighbour proposed the three large housing developments on Corbett should all have stop signs installed at the end of their driveways.

Having an emergency egress route that exists along a small panhandle of the property has been ruled out. That portion of the property is on a steep incline, making construction difficult in any case, but Lady Minto Hospital administrators have capped it by reporting they have plans for their property where the access road would have come out.

People with more questions have been invited to contact the project coordinators. More input will also be possible when the rezoning bylaw reaches the public hearing stage and other points.



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EDUCATION

District superintendent resigns

Halstead serves notice for Aug. 2018

The Board of Education for School District 64 announced Thursday it has accepted the resignation of superintendent of schools Lisa Halstead, effective Aug. 1, 2018.

"Tendering my resignation for the end of the current school year was a very complex personal decision," Halstead told the Driftwood. "My plans for the future are multi-faceted. I will continue to reside on Salt Spring Island. Future plans include finding space to explore personal interests, as well as the intention to continue to contribute to public education."

"We wholeheartedly thank Lisa and wish her success in her future endeavours," said board chair Rob Pingle. "Through her leadership over the past five years, Lisa has deeply and positively influenced the culture and climate of our district."

A press release issued by the board said Hal-

stead had stated in her letter of resignation that it had been an honour to serve the district's students, staff and communities, and that she felt privileged to have had five years in the role.

"Additionally, she stated that while it is her intention to leave the employ of School District 64 at the end of the 2017-18 school year, there is much work to be done between now and then. She looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively in support of our shared goals and commitment to quality public education," the press release states.

Pingle reported the school board will be meeting its partner groups on the morning of Wednesday, Dec. 6 to discuss the process and timeline for finding the next superintendent.

"We believe working with them first is the best way forward to selecting the most successful person. The process and timeline will be presented to the public during our afternoon board meeting on Wednesday," Pingle said.

AVAILABLE NOW



at the
DRIFTWOOD OFFICE

Checks increase

RCMP

continued from 1

Roadside safety checks are another matter keeping local officers busy this month, and police say they can be expected to increase as the holiday season approaches in an effort to keep impaired drivers off the road.

Salt Spring RCMP issued a 90-day immediate roadside prohibition and impounded the driver's vehicle for 30 days after conducting a road safety check

stop on Lower Ganges Road on Thursday. Police noticed signs of impairment in a southbound driver and issued further sobriety testing, which the driver failed.

As well, RCMP responding to a single vehicle collision on Vesuvius Bay Road Sunday evening found that a vehicle had left the roadway and slid into a ditch. The uninjured driver had been consuming alcohol and was issued a three-day immediate roadside prohibition.

NEWS BEAT

Heads up!
Salt Spring Local Trust Committee:
 Thursday, NOVEMBER 30
 Lions Hall; 9:30 a.m. and town hall at noon

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Brinkworthy Place owners get NSSWD right to vote

Controversy over large parcel tax rate change not yet resolved

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Voter turn-out at the next North Salt Spring Waterworks District elections should be higher after a waterworks board decision made earlier this month.

NSSWD trustees have agreed to give voting privileges to owners of homes in the 137-unit Brinkworthy Place manufactured home park. Because the residents do not own the property, only their houses, they had previously been disqualified from voting in NSSWD elections or borrowing referenda.

"We are very happy about it because we do pay the taxes and as such we feel we are entitled to vote," said Brinkworthy Home Owners Association president Gladys Kelsey.

She said association members pressed for the change after the NSSWD announced a change to its parcel tax structure that would see the Brinkworthy property's annual tax rise from \$595 in 2017 to \$14,700 for 2018 and \$70,000 by 2021. The property's owner, Brinkworthy Properties Ltd., also pays water consumption charges that are passed on to the individual home owners. A vocal Brinkworthy contingent made their point about wanting to vote at the NSSWD annual general meeting in April.

NSSWD chair Marshall Heinekey explained that because the home owners are deemed to have "a substantial interest" in the property, the NSSWD letters patent can be interpreted to allow those individuals to vote.

"It is a situation where you can justify saying that they have a substantial interest, so



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Entrance sign for Brinkworthy Place, the 137-unit manufactured home park on Lower Ganges Road. North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees recently agreed to give the park's home owners the right to vote in NSSWD elections and referenda.

let's give them the vote."

The NSSWD hopes the change can be made in time for the April 2018 AGM.

"I don't want another meeting like the one we had at the last AGM," said Heinekey.

Meanwhile, the reason for residents' discontent — the major parcel tax change — has still not been resolved. After announcing a new rate classification system that affected the Brinkworthy property and not meeting with residents to justify the change, property owner Raymond Heung initiated a lawsuit to have the relevant bylaws quashed. A June 7 Supreme Court of B.C. judgement by Justice Bruce Greuell found that NSSWD was within its rights under the Local Government Act to change its parcel tax classification system.

Greuell did throw out the rate-change bylaw, however, saying it "did not meet the test of transparency and may have been based on improper assumptions."

Heinekey said the NSSWD board will revisit the rate at a special meeting set for Dec. 7. Afterwards they will meet with Heung and BHOA representatives.

In an Oct. 26 judgement, Greuell awarded Brinkworthy Properties Ltd. its court costs.

"While the district was successful on the issue of whether the bylaws were intra vires its powers, an undoubtedly important issue to the district, Brinkworthy was successful on the main issue of striking down the part of Bylaw 279 that imposed the tax rate on them," he stated.

NSSWD meets with province over grant issues

In other NSSWD news, Heinekey and NSSWD staff are giving a presentation to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing personnel this Thursday to outline the NSSWD's financial challenges and case for being included in senior government infrastructure grant programs. At present under provincial government legislation, because the NSSWD is an improvement district (and not a municipality or a regional district), it does not qualify for federal-provincial grants to help build water treatment plants or other major infrastructure. Without financial assistance from senior governments, or becoming a Capital Regional District service, more than \$20 million of infrastructure upgrades — St. Mary and Maxwell lake treatment plants, and the Duck Creek weir — must be wholly paid for by owners of approximately 2,080 properties in the NSSWD district.

"I am pleased that they really accommodated us in a hurry," Heinekey said of the new NDP government.

He outlined the district's argument rationale. "Every one of our ratepayers pays income tax and that money is being used for infrastructure development [in other parts of the province and country], and so how come we are not eligible for grants?"

The NSSWD will go to Thursday's meeting armed with a new third-party report detailing the costs of the district's infrastructure projects and its revenue sources.

"We now know the costs, and it's going to be a struggle."

The Water Utility Financial Review 2017 report by consultant Ecomics is available on the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

NEWS BRIEFS

Former UN adviser at forum

Michael Doyle, a one-time advisor to former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, joins the Salt Spring Forum this Friday, Dec. 1 for a wide-ranging discussion about the major issues facing the

international community.

The forum promises the event starting at 7:30 p.m. in the GISS multipurpose room is the place to be for anyone wondering what global challenges and opportunities the New Year will bring, and for those trying to get behind the headlines to understand the "big picture."

In addition to his work with Annan, Doyle has

served as vice president of the International Peace Academy (1993-1994), director of the Center of International Studies at Princeton University (1997-2001), and chair of the board of the UN Democracy Fund (2006-2013). He is now a professor at Columbia University Law School.

Tickets are available at Salt Spring Books and online through Eventbrite.

Island Savings wins national award

Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, has been named as the winner of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Partnership Award, a national award that acknowledges extraordinary generosity and community

leadership by an organization.

The credit union was chosen for the award based on their extensive work assisting Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) agencies to raise their community profiles. According to BBBS, the commitment of 25 Island Savings team members serving as mentors to children or as leaders within the organization's board of directors and committees has

made a tremendous impact on the success of local BBBS agencies.

Additionally, two Island Savings process improvement experts spent a week with BBBS Victoria, sharing their skills and knowledge to improve volunteer intake. As a result of this commitment to the In School Mentoring Program, 1,165 children have been matched with a positive, caring mentor since 2012.

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DYING with DIGNITY | PART ONE IN A THREE-PART SERIES

Salt Springers at forefront of right-to-die movement

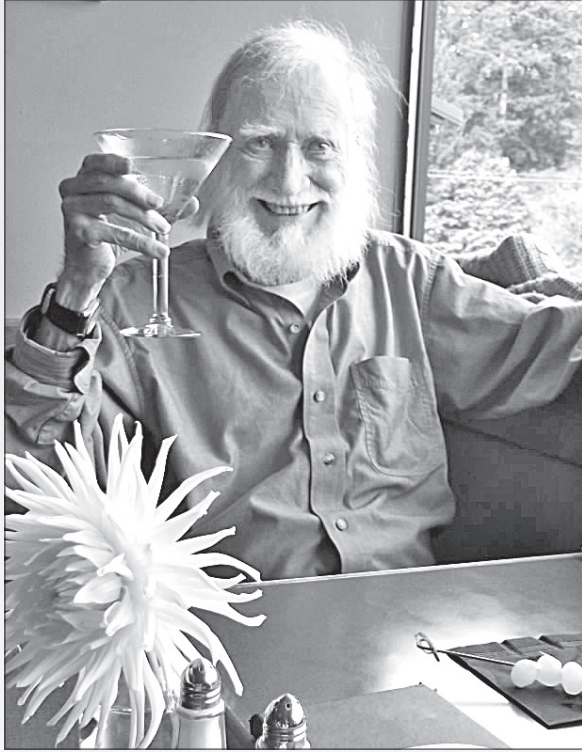


PHOTO COURTESY BEATE DENZ

Joe Bengé enjoys his favourite martini with vermouth just “waved” over. Bengé chose to use Canada’s new Medical Assistance in Dying legislation last November.

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Nearly six months to the day after medical assistance in death was legalized in Canada, a different but related “first” was taking shape in the pages of the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

The Dec. 21, 2016 issue included two obituaries for Salt Spring Island residents with explicit references to the right to die with dignity.

The notice for Joe Bengé stated his full and varied life journey began in a Chicago suburb and led to the Canadian wilderness, but in his final days “he was bedeviled by increasingly serious chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that literally took his breath away . . . He used the new Canadian law permitting physician-assisted death as the best ending.”

A second obituary, for Roy Kaighin, mourned someone who had been ineligible for such assistance because he had Parkinson’s disease.

“If I could leave you with any thoughts, let it be this. Canadians need to change their mindset about assisted death,” Diane Alton-Kaighin wrote as a final message, after summarizing her husband’s many accomplishments in the military and as a musician.

“It is not killing someone, it is relieving their suffering. Please support Dying with Dignity Canada. It is inhumane for the unnecessary suffering of the per-

son who is ill and their families who have to watch,” Alton-Kaighin concluded.

The unprecedented discussion playing out in the pages of a small rural newspaper echoed the situation taking place across the Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands region, British Columbia and Canada as a whole. Islanders and Canadians had advocated for and won their right to a compassionate death with the landmark Supreme Court decision *Carter v. Canada* in February 2015, and took up those rights as soon as they became available after federal legislation passed on June 17, 2016. Patients with intolerable conditions and their families soon found, however, the legislation doesn’t meet the full intent of the ruling and shuts out many of the people who would like to have the choice of a medically assisted death. Looking at the situation more than a year later, it’s evident that barriers to access continue to exist, even for those with eligible conditions.

Over the next three weeks, the Driftwood will look at Salt Spring’s role in the national situation, the challenges to accessing service in a small community, and the systemic barriers that are restricting medical assistance in death here and across Canada.

A SHIFTING TIDE

“Joe did not want to have a painful lingering ending, so he was prepared to do something even on his own,” said Beate Denz, Bengé’s partner of 10 years. “I am glad he

was able to have assisted suicide. It kind of legitimized the process of ending one’s own life without being criminalized for doing so.”

Before 2016, Section 241 of the Canadian Criminal Code stated that anyone who counselled or aided another person to commit suicide was liable to charges leading to imprisonment. That included doctors with patients who were suffering and close to death and had asked for help to bring about that death sooner.

Court challenges by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association and individuals seeking to end their own pointless suffering helped create awareness and convince the vast majority of Canadians that under certain conditions, a compassionate death should be a right. An Angus-Reid poll conducted in 2012 found over 80 per cent of Canadians supported doctor-assisted suicide.

Gulf Islands residents have been part of the groundswell of support right from the beginning and, as members of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (AKA Island Health), are part of a larger community that is asserting its rights.

“The islands are a beacon of hope for other parts of the nation, and also the world,” Cory Ruf, communications coordinator for Dying with Dignity Canada, told the Driftwood this year. “The leadership is there — there’s a lot going on.”

“It is not killing someone, it is relieving their suffering.”

DIANE ALTON-KAIGHIN

This is perhaps due in part to the prominent case of Sue Rodriguez, a Victoria resident who fought for the right to die in the early ‘90s and then had illegal help from a physician when her challenge failed. Kelowna resident Gloria Taylor, who like Rodriguez was diagnosed with ALS, became the face of the BCCLA legal battle in 2011. She received a personal exemption to the law after the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled against the federal government, but died in 2012 before assistance could take place.

In this environment of awareness, Salt Spring residents formed the first chapter of Dying with Dignity Canada to organize outside of Ottawa. Joan Farlinger and Marcia Hogan started the chapter in the fall of 2012 after attending an info session with Dying with Dignity Canada’s then-CEO Wanda Morrison held at the Lions Hall.

By 2013, the Salt Spring chapter had launched a petition asking the House of Commons “to respect the will of Canadians by enacting new legislation that provides clear guidelines to physicians, and provides competent,

fully informed and terminally ill patients the option to make their own end-of-life decisions.” Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May brought the petition to Ottawa, although the evidence of public opinion failed to sway the Conservative government in power at the time.

Dying with Dignity Salt Spring members were among those who celebrated when the Carter decision of 2015 ended criminalization of medical assistance in death, and ordered the federal government to draft supporting legislation. According to the Supreme Court of Canada, medical assistance is a right as long as the recipient is “a competent adult person who clearly consents to the termination of life and has a grievous and irremediable medical condition, including an illness, disease or disability, that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual in the circumstances of his or her condition.”

EARLY ADOPTERS

During the first year that medical assistance in death was available, people living in the Vancouver Island region took the opportunity at a much higher rate than those living in the rest of British Columbia and Canada. Of the 500 MAID deaths recorded in B.C. between June 17, 2016 and June 30, 2017, nearly half (210) were from the Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands area, despite it having only 16 per cent of the provincial population. The island region accounted for fully one-tenth of all the assisted deaths in Canada over the same period.

Salt Springers were again in the vanguard: Bengé was one of the first islanders to choose a medically assisted death, after his chronic obstructive pulmonary disease intensified over several years.

On Oct. 28, 2016, Bengé won the juror’s award for his submission to ArtSpring’s exhibition *Surfacing*, with a photo he called *Spiffing Up the Entrance*. He told the show’s coordinator how happy he was to receive the honour, and that he was now looking forward to his assisted death. He received the medical service he sought at home on Nov. 16. He was 85 when he died.

Though for Bengé the choice may have been easy, it wasn’t a simple matter for the people around him.

“I am still suffering an emotional sense of loss . . . of my own life with Joe,” his partner Beate Denz told the Driftwood in June. “I was not in support of Joe doing this assisted suicide. To know he wanted assisted suicide and be there by his side until the time came was unbearable. My heart was pounding in my chest every time I dwelled on what he might be feeling or anticipating — as if it was my life that was going to ‘drop off,’ but it was Joe’s.”

“At times I wish he did have a quick death, but he continued

on enjoying many days and then when assisted suicide was legalized he made the decision to make arrangements for a doctor to come to his home.”

After a painful period of waiting for phone calls and then a date, a provider came over from Vancouver Island. So far there are no family physicians on Salt Spring who have registered as providers of medically assisted death, perhaps because it would be impossible to keep the fact private in a small community. A Salt Spring doctor did help Bengé get the assessment necessary to line up the physician who provided the assistance.

Denz said it was Bengé’s wish to mention the manner of his death in his obituary, as he wanted to get the message out that he had planned it even though he could have lived longer.

“He was an ‘ad man’ from Chicago. He was good at telling a story and this one was his best one,” she said.

LEFT BEHIND

Because of the years of pain he endured, Bengé’s story cannot be called a happy one, but it does end with a compassionate release. And it is a marked contrast to the story Roy Kaighin’s wife felt compelled to share in his obituary, about what happens when that relief is denied. Part two of this series will delve further into Kaighin’s situation and explain how federal legislation has failed to offer the breadth of assistance the Carter decision seemed to promise.

Medically Assisted Deaths June 2016 - June 2017

Island Health Region : 210

B.C.: 500

Canada
(excluding territories): 1982

AVERAGE PATIENT AGE:

Island Health Region: 72 yrs

B.C.: 74.3 yrs

Canada
(excluding territories): 76 yrs

Most common underlying medical condition of patients who obtain a medically assisted death, in order of frequency (B.C.)

- Cancer-related
- Neuro-degenerative
- Circulatory/Respiratory



ISLANDS TRUST

LTC to review public boardwalk feedback Thursday

Several options for proceeding recommended

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee will take some time this Thursday to consider public input gathered earlier this month on proposed harbourwalk rezoning and development.

The Nov. 30 meeting agenda includes a report from Dillon Consulting Limited, who facilitated a public engagement session held on Nov. 4. The plan was to collect community ideas on the proposed new C7 zone for four properties along Ganges Harbour, whose cooperation would be needed in order to complete the boardwalk.

The report notes that organizers were unprepared for the strength of community interest,

which saw approximately 150 people turn out and some of those turned away due to exceeding fire safety limits at Lions Hall. The huge crowd and some misguided expectations also led the consultant to abandon tools meant to demonstrate how different types of development might look along the harbourwalk upland in terms of size, siting and setback.

Despite the limitations, Dillon found one message came through resoundingly clear during the exercise: "While the harbourwalk is seen as a desirable outcome, there was agreement that it should not be at any cost."

"While not a consensus, the majority of the attendees were opposed to the C7 zoning initiative," the report states. "The majority were in agreement that the LTC should not be offering higher development density to obtain the harbourwalk."

The Dillon report does not offer any professional recommenda-

tion for action but it does lay out a number of recommendations stemming from the participants. These include abandoning the C7 zone and instead pursuing a statutory right-of-way through the Capital Regional District and the province. If government agencies will not force the statutory right-of-way, the participants suggested either waiting until the foreshore leases come up for renewal and not renewing the leases without the provision of the right-of-way, or else expropriating the space.

Other suggested steps are to commission a final design of the harbourwalk; prepare an interim harbourwalk plan, showing an upgraded sidewalk along Lower Ganges Road that would span the Ganges Marina to the "Cudmore Gap" and use that as the connector until the statutory right-of-way is acquired; and for project leaders to work with the community to develop a construction

plan and funding applications.

Some or all of the above items fall under the purview of the Capital Regional District, whose Harbourwalk Steering Committee and Salt Spring Transportation Commission are already engaged on some of the questions involved.

The public engagement group agreed that rezoning applications should be dealt with as they are submitted by property owners and the LTC should not take any initiatives to pre-determine development. As well, they said development on the upland properties should correspond to current zoning.

Islands Trust planner Jason Youmans has been overseeing the LTC's harbourwalk project. His recommendation for Thursday's meeting is that trustees direct staff to further explore options for moving forward and possible project charter amendments.

"In the weeks before and after

the Nov. 4, 2017 community consultation event, the LTC has received more than 80 pieces of public correspondence concerning how the LTC may wish to proceed on its Ganges harbourwalk project," Youmans wrote. "In light of this correspondence, and the considerable public interest in this project, staff recommend that the LTC take the opportunity to evaluate all available options to enable the construction of the Ganges harbourwalk in collaboration with the Capital Regional District, the Chamber of Commerce, the Salt Spring Island Harbour Authority and other interested stakeholders, adjacent property owners and the Salt Spring Island community."

Consideration is scheduled to take place in the morning portion of the meeting. A delegation from the Save Our Shoreline group is scheduled during the reports and town hall session starting at noon.

TRANSPORTATION

Pathways group seeks to expand network

New funding model proposed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Partners Creating Pathways is looking to branch out beyond Salt Spring's downtown core in the next few years, after successfully completing the commitment to the Ganges Village Pathway Network it made in 2007.

Members of the Island Pathways committee attended the Salt Spring Transportation Commission meeting Monday night to update the member group on the completion of its 10-year plan and set the next pathway goals in motion.

The group's priorities for the next three years are to start bridging the core with pathways heading north. Projects are proposed for Lower Ganges and Upper Ganges roads, extending as far as Central on Lower Ganges. The immediate ask for 2018 is \$81,000 for a pathway running along Lower Ganges from Booth Canal Road to Baker Road.

"Every time we do one of these we have people calling us and telling us, 'These are great. We want one of these.' So we're swamped," said PCP member Philip Grange, noting there are 22 pathway proposals on the long list.

PCP member Donald McLennan reported the organization had created a pathway network valued at \$1 million but taxpayer dollars accounted for just a quarter of that cost. The group had leveraged funding with additional grants and fundraising and managed many of the operations through volunteer work.

In the past the transportation commission has supported PCP's work with annual transfers of around \$15,000 from its tax requisition and has topped off contract costs when needed on occasion. Going forward, PCP has suggested a direct funding commitment for construction of the next three pathways as a community amenity. PCP would continue to provide and/or pay for all road surveys, neighbourhood consultation, pathway design and staking, grant applications,



PHOTO BY JEAN GELWICKS

Partners Creating Pathways volunteers Peter Lamb, left, and Donald McLennan install a bench that McLennan built for their latest work on Atkins Road.

permit application drafting, construction drawings for tendering, landscaping, volunteer work parties, benches, kiosks and signage.

SSITC chair Robin Williams told the group that funding the entire pathway proposed for 2018 might be challenging, but there could be a new strategy for the next four-year local government term. The commission hopes to secure another taxpayer referendum in order to finance improvements to Ganges Hill, the same way it received funding for the North Ganges Transportation Plan in 2014. The commission plans to finish those sidewalks, pathways and crosswalk improvements along Lower Ganges and Rainbow roads in 2018.

Williams suggested funds for PCP's work could be added to the next referendum.

"For the larger picture, I think we're looking at probably a million for the SSITC and up to as much as \$400,000 for PCP for a four-year program. And I think that's financially much more responsible to the community, rather than going out for these alternative processes or little

bits of funding here and there," Williams said. "Also it sets you up very nicely if we find that way, where you can go on your own priority budgeting process — basically you can put through your projects at your timetable over a four-year plan, and basically when your money runs out your tenure runs out."

PCP chair Jean Gelwicks said the group is applying for a grant, so there is a chance that it could get started with its 2018 pathway goal.

Karla Campbell, the Capital Regional District manager for Salt Spring, added the good news that plans are coming together for the commission's work at Lower Ganges and Rainbow roads. Permit applications have been submitted to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and it's expected the project will be ready to tender in January. As well, the CRD has hired a new engineer for the island and the project will be one of his first priorities.

"If we play this right we could really have an amazing year next year in the whole pathways system, and really do what we committed to do for the original referendum," Williams said.

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PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES

Salt Spring Island is prone to severe storms (i.e. power or snow) which may cause power outages due to down power lines. We may be without power for over two days. Below are some tips take from BC Hydro that will help you prepare for an outage:

- ✓ Develop a preparedness plan and have a contingency plan in case power is out for a long period of time.
- ✓ Ensure you have a plan for heat, light and alternate power. These could include: fire places (heat), generators, solar power or even electric cars.
- ✓ Have surge protectors to protect sensitive electrical equipment such as computers, DVD players and TVs.
- ✓ Include a battery operated or solar flashlight in your emergency kit to avoid using candles - they can be a fire hazard.
- ✓ If you rely on life-sustaining medical equipment, be prepared to be self-reliant by having adequate backup in the event of a power outage. A contingency plan, may include moving to the home of a family member or friend in an area with power.

For more information on preparing for a power outage go to: <https://www.bchydro.com/safety-outages.html>

Reporting or finding about an outage in your neighbourhood contact: **1 888 POWERON (1 888 769 3766)**

www.prepareyourself.ca

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EMERGENCY PROGRAM

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 BCYCNA Awards
 Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



EDITORIAL

Keep up the pace

Few Salt Spring sagas have caused as much heartache as the attempt to build a pedestrian boardwalk in Ganges Harbour.

With numerous government agencies and private landowners necessarily involved throughout the decades, it's no wonder the boardwalk/seawalk/harbourwalk project has been fraught with challenges, abandoned and slow to be rekindled.

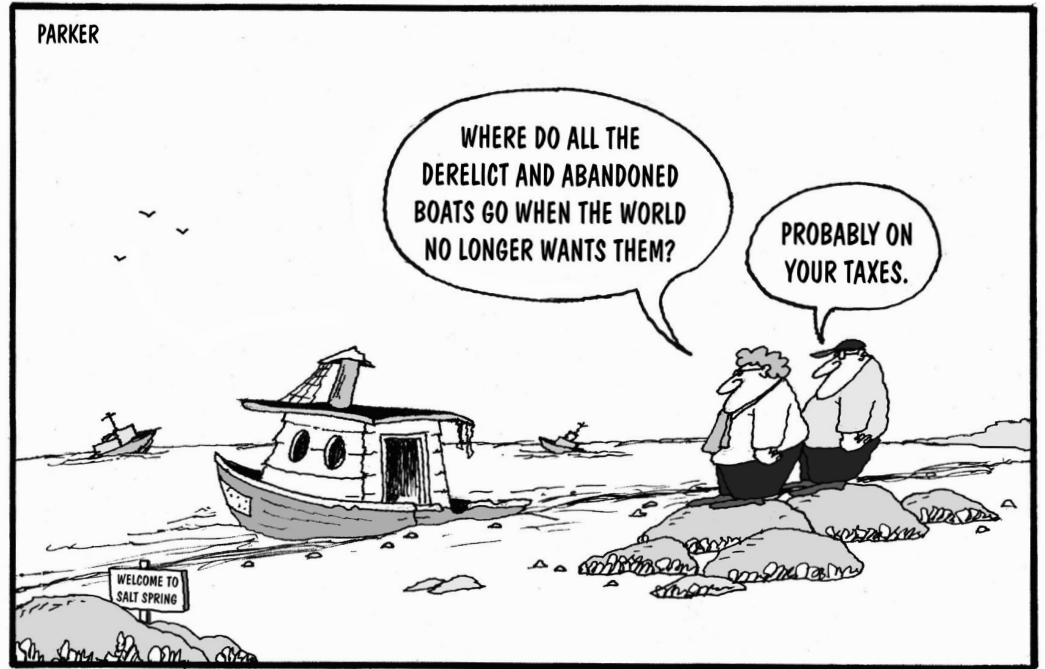
Enthusiasm for the concept is easy to understand. Getting as close as possible to the seashore and the workings of a busy harbour is a natural draw for residents and visitors. The completed part of the original project — around Centennial Park, Grace Point and the Mouat's harbourside properties — is well-used and could be considered Ganges' biggest asset.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's draft Bylaw 491, or Ganges Marina ownership's counter-suggestion for a 16,000-square-foot building, may not be the vision most community members want to see. But the bylaw is only a draft and a reasonable starting point for further exploration or negotiations.

Of course it would be wonderful if no "deals" had to be made in order to complete the amenity clearly desired by most people. On the other hand, some added commercial development with services for residents and visitors should not be unwelcome in Ganges. Making the harbour more attractive and appealing could have a positive effect on our economy. The number of vacant commercial premises in Ganges these days indicates signs of struggle for small business owners. Eliminating industrial zoning in that area could also be a positive outcome.

Not having the harbourwalk continue as a foreshore structure all the way to Peck's Cove Park would not be the end of the world. Plans are already underway to at least make an adjacent roadside route safer, and that should be undertaken regardless. But the LTC, Capital Regional District, its commissions and several individuals have put considerable time, effort and some money into trying to complete and enhance the original boardwalk vision.

All parties involved should not throw up their hands and abandon ship now just because feisty opposition to one vision has arisen. How to make the long-desired boardwalk something everyone can get behind must be a community priority.



VIEWPOINT by David Rapport & Luisa Maffi

Send Bylaw 491 to the dustbin

It seems that trustee Peter Grove may have not properly read the community's mood. In his viewpoint in the Nov. 22 Driftwood he continues to advocate for Bylaw 491, arguing that it is in the best interest of the community, and that the opposition stems from "confusion" generated by Ganges Marina's "informal" re-floating of their notorious 2002 development proposal. Whether informally presented or not, the marina's intentions are unambiguous. They want to expand their operations and bring in an urban-style development to our village that would stick out like a sore thumb. And, it seems, it's either that or no "deal" from them on the boardwalk.

Mr. Grove seeks to advance the cause of Bylaw 491 by telling us that if we don't go ahead with the proposed bylaw we might face much worse, because of what is already possible, in principle, according to the current zoning of the three shoreline properties in question. Instead of the honky-tonk development along an environmentally, culturally and esthetically significant portion of Ganges' inner harbour that rezoning the properties to Commercial 7 would permit, we might be facing a collection centre for recyclable materials or even a vehicle repair shop on our shores. What seems implied between the lines is, "Now you wouldn't want to see that happen, would you?"

Certainly not, but that isn't likely in the cards either. The case for industrial development and residential development, respectively, on two of the thin slivers of land along that shoreline seems rather slim — or the landowners would have moved forward on such possibilities long ago. That leaves open the case for the Ganges Marina development, which the community rejected already a decade ago — but which the marina appears to still be pursuing. Nevertheless, three property owners are demanding concessions in order to grant

the boardwalk right-of-way. We already commented in a previous piece about the level of goodwill and community spirit that attitude reveals.

Through their large and vocal opposition to Bylaw 491, community members have made it abundantly clear that while they would certainly like to see the boardwalk completed, they are adamant that it not be done at the cost of creating a Coney Island along the Ganges shores. And further, they are in no mood to be held to ransom by the shoreline property owners — even moreso when information unearthed by a concerned fellow islander now suggests that it may not at all be necessary to entertain such demands for quid pro quos in relation to projects deemed to be in the public interest. The community has left little doubt that a non-commercial Ganges boardwalk, focused on public enjoyment of harbour scenes and scenery, is just one such project.

As the heart of Salt Spring, Ganges Harbour draws tourists by the thousands from all over the globe. The delight of coming into the harbour by boat or by walking the shore resides in its relatively unspoiled esthetic appeal. There are all too few places in the world that can still make that claim. It is that character, and not the next honky-tonk, that makes Ganges Harbour unique and attractive. Let's keep it that way: good for the soul and good for responsible and community-minded business! Bylaw 491 should be sent to the dustbin.

David Rapport and Luisa Maffi are Salt Spring residents who have worked for decades with governments, international organizations and local communities worldwide on assessing and restoring the health of eco-cultural systems.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

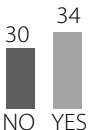
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Yes No

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LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should PARC consider Portlock Park for new ball fields?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "He was an 'ad man' from Chicago. He was good at telling a story and this one was his best one."

BEATE DENZ, ON JOE BENGE'S OBITUARY AND DECISION TO DIE

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: Which local holiday event do you look forward to?



RICK BELL
Merry Monday, when Valdy sings in Fulford.



ALEX KEATING
We usually do the Fulford Hall craft fair and the Christmas Market in the Park.



CHRISTINA DIXON
The Lady Minto craft fair they have right in the hospital.



HELGA BAGNELL
Our Fulford freeby-do. We're looking for volunteers and donations right now.



JORDAN STRATFORD
When the Salt Spring Elementary choir does carolling outside the Tree House, especially Frosty the Snowman.

Letters to the editor

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

We're an alternative community

After our incorporation referendum vote and the Nov. 4 boardwalk meeting, we all know what Salt Springers want. More importantly, we know what they don't want.

As it pertains to the Ganges boardwalk, I thought the following excerpt from writer Che-

rie Thiessen in the fall 2017 British Columbia Magazine about Refuge Cove in Desolation Sound pretty much hit the nail on the head as to what a good boardwalk should be, and what it should imply.

It goes like this: "The first thing you notice are the boardwalks. One fringes the shoreline, connecting stilt dwellings and looking the worse for wear; another leads to the General Store, a convert-

ed barge settled among the rocks and propped up partially by barnacle-encrusted pilings; and yet another passes the outdoor cafe and culminates at an expansive building that houses the Refuge Cove Gallery. The second thing you notice is the monochrome hue of the buildings, all untreated planks: grey, dun and smudging together. The third thing is the welcome splashes of colour from the flower baskets

hanging outside the General Store.

"Overall, the feeling is that of an alternative community. But what you may not notice — and what you will never get to know unless you hang around long enough, or chat with the bleary-eyed sleepwalker driven down to the docks by the aromas of cinnamon buns and fresh brew wafting from the Refuge Cove Cafe — is the special brand of people drawn

to this remote outpost on West Redonda Island.

"A rural and remote environment, without the niceties of the modern world, attracts, but only those folks who invest great value in their freedom, independence and eccentricities," says one of the community's originals, writer and past owner of the General Store, Norm Gibbons. "A remote island life requires constant adaptation, thinking outside

the box, frequent development of new skills, and an understanding of the unwritten social contracts in very small communities. People feel freer to pursue their fantasies, a leisure that seems to be denied frenetic urban dwellers. In a sense, the energy in place becomes a catalyst."

ROGER BRUNT,
BRINKWORTHY

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Automation in public washrooms alarming

You've heard me rail on about this before, I know. I just can't help myself. I can't let it go. Maybe the grumpy old man in me is taking over.

What I'm referring to here are those damned automated devices that have now monopolized public washrooms in hospitals, restaurants, airports and especially on BC Ferries. These include toilets that automatically flush when you get up off the seat, self-rinsing urinals, paper towel dispensers, hand dryers, water faucets and even soap squirters. Although these mechanisms are supposedly designed to simplify and make more efficient our activities inside common lavatories, their main purpose often appears to be to confound, aggravate, and demoralize the user.

Both the automated urinals and self-flushing toilets are meant to be activated by some kind of motion on your part that tells the mechanism that you are done with your business. Unfortunately, often the slightest movement, such as reaching up to scratch your nose, can signal the sensor that now would be the perfect time to flush. Nothing says "well, tickle me pink" like having the toilet flush while you are still sitting on it.

After leaving the cubicle you go to wash your hands and survey the sink options available. If there is more than one sink, you can bet your booties that the one you choose will either have an uncooperative soap dispenser or a faulty faucet. I have seen soap sprayed all over the counter and water that flows non-stop or not at all. And activating each faucet requires a different manoeuvre. You wave your hand under some, you wave your hand over some or you press an invisible button (after surreptitiously watching the person next to you do it correctly). There

are no instructions. It's a puzzle to be solved each time, adding extra stress to an otherwise mundane activity.

Next you have the automated paper towel dispenser. You are instructed to wave your hand in front of the electric sensor in order for a measured length of paper to slide out of the machine slot. Half the time nothing happens as you wave back and forth, forwards and backwards, making strange dance-like movements as your hand slowly tightens into a fist. If no one else is within earshot, you might even speak to this machine, cajoling it into fair play. If you are lucky and the device works, a very narrow strip of paper will roll out of the dispenser. The machine, being programmed by sadistic penny-pinchers, will not offer you any more until you have torn the first towel away. However, because your hands and fingers are still wet from having been washed, they merely tear away moistened pieces of paper towel which flutter uselessly to the floor. You then have to start the wave/dance all over again. Eventually, your hands become dry, but only because of the vast number of times you end up waving your hands in front of the sensor. Might as well dispense with the paper altogether!

Then there are the hand dryers that are activated by an electric eye hidden somewhere in the circuitry of the machines. Many of the newer ones have compartments that you insert your hands into and have them blown dry by cool air. This is great for your hands but not such a smart idea if you choose to give your face a good wash. You are left standing helplessly in front of the



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

dryer with water running down your nose and from your chin onto your now dripping wet shirt. You consider for a moment trying to squeeze your head into the slot designated for your hands, but re-evaluate the situation when you imagine the possibility of never getting it back out again.

Besides all this automation, another issue that sends me over the edge in our public facilities is toilet tissue. First of all, nearly all the rolls they use in these washrooms are only one-ply, which means that each sheet is about one molecule thick. Couple that with the fact that the rolls themselves are so gargantuan that they could be mistaken for those gigantic, white marshmallow-shaped bales of hay you find out in the fields of the Burgoyne Valley in late summer, and you can understand why it is almost impossible to generate enough pull energy on the outside sheet to get the roll turning and overcome the force of inertia. If you are lucky, you might be able to tear off a single sheet of one-ply paper which has about as much use for the business at hand as a postage stamp. More likely, you just shred off tiny bits and scraps of a sheet which will fall aimlessly to the floor and add to the layer left by everyone who has used the washroom before you. When you leave, many of the odds and ends of toilet paper will exit with you as they stick to the soles of your shoes.

Even more frustrating is when you can't grab the end of the toilet paper roll because it has slipped up into the locked plastic compartment and is no longer visible. No matter how much you try to contort your hand

and arm to reach up for the loose end, it is always just beyond your grasp. It is much more probable that you will get your arm stuck between the two rolls of paper and have to wait for the fire department or a search and rescue crew to extract you from your torment.

And why is it that they lock the damn compartment that houses the toilet paper? Do they actually believe that someone would be stupid enough to want to steal a roll of scratchy one-ply? And speaking of stupid, what is it with that partition between the rolls that you are supposed to be able to slide out of the way when one of the rolls is empty? Not only does it never slide, but it seems to take great joy in allowing you to see the spare roll but not be able to access it.

I suppose you could attribute all these toilet paper bugaboos to the ethics of reducing paper overuse and saving the earth's rain forests. It just doesn't jibe with reality, though. You end up using at least twice as much toilet paper when you have to tear it off one sheet at a time or when you have to fold it over 10 times on itself to make sure it does the job it's intended to do.

Nobody asked me, but I'm sure there are more worthy causes about which to get your knickers in a knot than the state of our public restrooms after automation. You can be certain that you can count on me to man the front lines when it comes to protecting the environment or fighting climate change. But first, can I please have some quiet quality time inside the toilet cubicle without being splashed from behind by an impatient motion sensor? Next time this happens I won't be saying "tickle me pink," that's for sure!

National treasure of wild salmon should be preserved

BY NANCY WIGEN

I'd like to add to the Nov. 22 letter "Farmed fish dangers" by Margaretha Nor-dine.

As I said in a letter to MP Elizabeth May regarding farmed fish and the Norwegian open net pen salmon farmer Cermac, which applied for a permit to dump millions of liters of toxic pesticides into Clayoquot Sound, the recommendations of the Cohen Commission that open net pen salmon farms should transition to closed containment are ignored to the peril of our wild salmon and other fish, shellfish and wildlife.

Public money of \$36 million was spent on scientific research and evidence to protect our wild salmon and our coast

from the problems caused by open net pen salmon farms, the lice, diseases, chemicals, hormones, antibiotics and effluent that are dumped into our otherwise clean, healthy ocean waters.

The mostly foreign salmon farmers see our wild fish as competition they'd like to be rid of so instead of complying, there are more farms and resistant organisms with worse chemicals. The result is that our wild salmon had the lowest return ever this year. Our wild Pacific salmon are being destroyed by the continued presence of open net pen salmon farms in their migratory routes and environment.

Is there no justice for Canadians in Canada?

Wild Pacific salmon are a national trea-

sure, an extremely important food source not just for us but for bears, eagles, wolves, orcas and other marine mammals, and as they enter the rivers they feed more animals, birds and the entire environment, even the forest, for hundreds of miles inland with protein from the wide Pacific Ocean. They have nourished our entire coast with healthy organic protein and other nutrients forever.

Wild Pacific salmon are the heritage of our First Nations, and they are my heritage too, the heritage of all Canadians. They are also a very valuable resource for our commercial and sport fishers, the tourist industry, and an important part of our economy, particularly for coastal communities.

Wild salmon swim into the rivers to

spawn and when they do any lice on them die. If the salmon farms were transitioned into closed containment as the Cohen Commission recommended 10 years ago, the fish in them could easily be treated with fresh water instead of poisonous pesticides. This fish would be healthier food and our ocean would be saved from the pollution by dangerous toxic chemicals, diseases and effluent it now suffers.

And most important, with these dangers and obstructions removed from their migratory path our native wild Pacific salmon would have a chance to recover from the decline they've suffered since open net pen salmon farms were allowed on our coast.

The writer is a Fernwood resident.

Finish the harbourwalk without Bylaw 491

BY RICHARD KERR

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee has seemingly thrown away our best chance to complete the Ganges harbourwalk without bowing to upland property owners' demands. Perhaps, though, there is still a positive way forward.

Ganges Marina's 30-year foreshore lease for 9.8 acres of Crown-owned foreshore in Ganges Harbour expired last April. Neither the Local Trust Committee nor the Salt Spring CRD director asked the provincial minister to seek agreement for a harbourwalk right-of-way as part of the lease renewal. According to the B.C. government's Gator database, Crown Lands and Resources renewed the marina's lease on July 5 with no harbourwalk right-of-way.

A June 1 Trust staff report had suggested that the LTC could direct staff to request a meeting with the minister responsible for Crown Lands and/or explore options for securing a statutory right-of-way from the Crown. The LTC did not choose either option. Five weeks later the marina lease was renewed.

Before the lease was renewed, the provincial minister had considerable leverage to get the marina's agreement to a harbour walk right-of-way. That leverage has now been greatly reduced.

We may still be able to complete the harbourwalk without unacceptable upzoning of neighbouring properties, but it will now be much more difficult. This will require our locally elected political representatives to work together and listen to and follow the community's wishes.

The LTC's offer of C7 zoning to owners of property above the unfinished harbourwalk was strongly rejected by community members at a Nov. 4 special LTC community consultation meeting. C7 was not accepted by the upland owners themselves and local First Nations are also opposed. The LTC should proceed no further

INDEPTH

with Bylaw 491.

In 1989, the LTC granted development permits to owners of the Fishery property and Ganges Marina to construct a boardwalk within their foreshore lease areas and to place rip-rap and fill up to that boardwalk. The fill was to be seeded with grass and clover. The owners were to be responsible for maintenance and liability insurance for the sections of the boardwalk within their permit areas. They were also to meet all provincial ministry requirements.

The Fishery property's owners paid for boardwalk construction and fill placement in 1990. They purchased the filled area from the province and agreed to a foreshore boardwalk right-of-way.

There is likely broad community agreement that harbourwalk completion would be in the public interest. Bylaw 491 does not have community support.

The marina's then owner agreed to placement of pilings on the leased foreshore. All but the final 175 feet of boardwalk was built, with a combination of private and public funds. The marina's then owner reportedly became concerned about the expense of completing that portion of the boardwalk and potential liability issues. Gordon Cudmore, another of the upland property owners, expressed

similar concerns. A 1990 Driftwood editorial noted that "although the seawalk would be a public thoroughfare, the CRD refuses to assume liability for the entire walkway, only the public portions." The project then came to a halt.

In October 2005, the current marina owner's rezoning application for a major development was rejected by the LTC following strong community opposition.

Past approvals by the provincial government for placement of fill and boardwalk construction need further clarification. If the marina has not followed the terms of its lease or subsequent provincial approvals, the provincial minister could require the marina to restore the leased land to a satisfactory condition and/or terminate its lease.

Ganges Marina owns three thin lots along Lower Ganges Road with a combined area of only half an acre. It is clear that the 9.8 acres of public foreshore that the province has leased to Ganges Marina are far in excess of the amount required to respect these properties' riparian rights.

BC Crown Lands policy states that "The authorizing agency may . . . alter the terms and conditions of a replacement tenure . . . if development contemplated in an approved management plan has not been completed, or where it is deemed to be in the public interest." When the marina's foreshore leases came up for renewal last April, the minister could have used its considerable leverage to get the marina's agreement to a narrow harbourwalk right-of-way near the edge of the 9.8 acres of leased public foreshore. The pilings and most of the boardwalk have been there for 27 years!

Perhaps it is not too late for a combined delegation of our elected representatives — Islands Trust, CRD, MLA and MP — to persuade the provincial minister that issuing rights-of-way across public foreshore would be in the

public interest. The minister, the LTC and the CRD may still have sufficient leverage to get the marina owner's agreement.

The Cudmore family reportedly wants to see the harbourwalk completed while getting something in return for the compromised riparian rights of their property adjacent to the Rotary Park. Does the CRD's Rotary Park property have riparian rights that would conflict with those of the Cudmore property? If so, a reasonable compromise could be for the province and the Cudmores to agree to a CRD right-of-way and boardwalk construction linking Rotary Park with the existing Fishery boardwalk section — with a boardwalk design that would not interfere with access to the Cudmore dock. An alternative approach could be for the CRD to purchase the Cudmore property. Its current assessed value is only \$81,500.

The Farmers' Institute owns a sliver of land between the Fishery and Cudmore properties. The institute supports harbourwalk completion, but has "serious concerns" about the uses that would be permitted under Bylaw 491 and the probable commercialization of the boardwalk.

There is likely broad community agreement that harbourwalk completion would be in the public interest. Bylaw 491 does not have community support. Nor do the even more extreme development proposals of those upland property owners, who would appreciate zoning changes in return for agreeing to walkway rights-of-way across publicly-owned foreshore.

The LTC should abandon draft Bylaw 491. They should instead meet with the provincial minister, together with the CRD director, MLA Adam Olsen and MP Elizabeth May, to explore ways of obtaining the necessary rights of way.

The writer is an economist who has been a volunteer on a number of committees on Salt Spring Island over the years.



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Parking reprimand leads to love, humour and grace

BY TAMAR GRIGGS

While driving around town last Thursday afternoon, looking for a parking spot near Uniglobe Travel, all the spots were taken, except . . . how heavenly, how inviting . . . the spot designated PARKING RESERVED 24 HOURS - CHURCH CLERGY.

I did some quick calculations and thought, what are the chances that the reverend would come to church on a Thursday afternoon? Nil. And heck, I was only going to be at Uniglobe for 10 or 15 minutes, so I snuck in, feeling quite satisfied and safe from receiving an infraction.

When I returned to my car, not even 15 minutes later, there was a big note wrapped in a plastic envelope stuck under my windshield wipers.

Oh no! I was caught!

Dumping my little toy poodle into the front seat, I climbed in, took a deep breath and opened the note.

It said: WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SERMON ON SUNDAY.

I was laughing so hard I couldn't drive for a few minutes.

I thought, "I am going to take you up on this!" It was too good an opportunity, even though I have never attended a service at the United Church.

If this was my intention, I knew I had better find out what time the service began on Sunday, and at least advise the church of my plans. But the days flew by, and I left it up to chance.

I didn't even know if I'd have the



Salt Spring United Church sign designating a 24-hour reserved spot for its reverend.

guts to do this when Sunday morning rolled around. But I dressed in a nice sweater and black jeans, and big brown boots, and walked my toy poodle around Mouat Park.

Then the voice kept challenging me. "Tamar, you CAN'T let this opportunity pass you by! At least stop by the church and find out what is happening."

So I entered the church office and proudly said to a woman named Sally, "I have come to give the sermon! What time is the service?" showing her my invitation to speak.

Reading it, she replied, "The reverend has just begun his sermon, but I will take you upstairs, and when he has finished I will tell him you want to speak, and see what he says." How sweet is that? No judgement, no questions . . . just acceptance.

Sally and I slipped into a pew, and I sat through Rev. Clark Saunders' sermon about how life is not fair, yet we all can experience grace in unexpected moments.

At one point, Sally turned to me and asked, "Are you new to the island?"

RANTS and Roses

Roses

Thank you to all who came out for our annual Abattoir Birthday Bash and for supporting our island agriculture. For all the donors and volunteers, a shower of rose petals. More details to be reported on. Myna Lee Johnstone

A kitchen full of roses to an anonymous donor who has donated the complete Modernist Bread set of books to the library.

We are so grateful to the

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue department and emergency services for their excellent attendance, expertise support and care during our fire on Nov. 4. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks as well to Gary Stunder and BC Hydro for services provided on a Saturday afternoon. Special thanks to Gordie and Linda Lee and Len and Bev — neighbours extraordinaire. We are humbled by the assistance, care and support offered to us. We are truly blessed! Jim and Carol Spencer

A greenhouse (or green library) full of roses to John Klein for cleaning the library windows and donating back his fee to the library's annual campaign.

A dozen roses to the person who found my eyeglasses and handed them in to Salt Spring Mercantile. You made my day.

Girl Guides of Salt Spring Island are sending a huge bouquet of yuletide roses to everyone at Windsor Plywood, Ted and Donna Akerman and all the island families who have supported our Christmas tree sales over the past nine years. We are unable to

continue with this annual fundraiser and wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Roses to all who contributed to the success of the Fabulous Fleamarket at Fulford Hall. Helga and Michael for making the space spotless; Hafiz, Ranji and Brian for the set up; the 653 Cafe team under the leadership of Peggy for the delicious baking and lunch; the vendors who rented tables; the buyers; and the members of the Fulford Hall Committee for the take down and clean up. Also to Ed, for without his help I could not do this. Thank you all! Together we raised funds to keep our dear old hall operating. Jan

poor families with only the land around their hut, and numerous chickens have been delivered to special schools and HIV+ mothers.

All this is done through the simple act of Salt Springers buying cards. The card and price for each project is different. Each project card has been designed by SOLID volunteer and South African native, Louise Adele. People can still buy cards for previous projects but the main project for 2018 is the provision of food for children who attend Amalemba Elementary, which is the school that covers most of the slums in Kakamega, Kenya. Salt Spring residents will be going to Kakamega in early 2018 to provide school lunches for the 1,134 students at the school. Eighty per cent of the students go to school with no breakfast and

have no lunch. The lunches will only be given during the famine season from March to August.

More importantly, Salt Springers will assist the school in the development of a school garden so that the children can continue to feed themselves. The lunch and garden cards are available from SOLID or the Anglican Church office at All Saints By-the-Sea on Park Drive. Cards for other projects are also available from SOLID at #100-149 Fulford Ganges Rd. (beside Centennial Park), or from me, Lynda Turner, at 250-931-1214.

Thank you, Salt Spring.
LYNDA TURNER,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

I chuckled. "No. I have lived here for over 25 years."

The sermon ended, and prayers began, and hymns were sung. I love hymns, as I went to an Episcopalian day school from kindergarten through Grade 9, and attended chapel five days a week for 10 years. So I am not a stranger to church services and felt quite comfortable in the pew.

Then, near the end of the service, without any idea of who I was or what I wished to say, Rev. Saunders approached me, holding a microphone, and asked, "Do you want to say something?"

"Yes!"

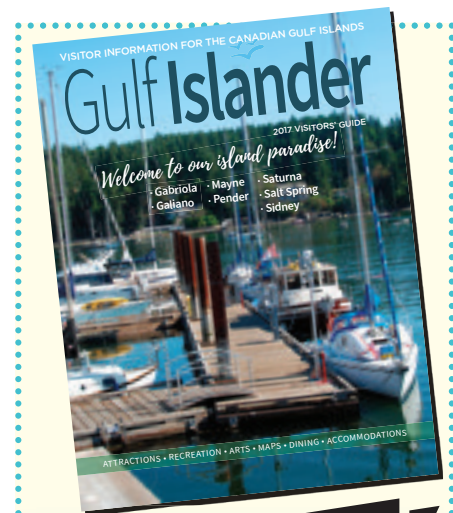
I wasn't nervous because this was so much fun.

I relayed the story of my hunting for a parking space and receiving the church note, saying it was the best reprimand I have ever received and I could not refuse the opportunity to give a sermon today.

I am not sure what I said, but something on the order of how gracious the church was in chastising me. Then I said, "My message to you is when you are angry with someone, or disappointed when someone does something you disapprove of, treat them with kindness, love, humour and grace. You all have grace! Your church is filled with it. Thank you."

The congregation broke into peals of laughter and applause, and I took my seat, feeling satisfied and a bit dizzy from the fun. I might even attend their church services.

The writer is a longtime Salt Spring resident.



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MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Cards can help Kenyans

For the past eight years, SOLID has been printing and selling cards to aid families and particularly children in Africa.

So far over 350 goats have been delivered to HIV+ mothers, 115 solar lights to Grade 8 students writing their national finals, \$3,000 worth of textbooks to schools that had no books, 1,300 hygiene kits to Grade 7-8 girls, and 1,500 uniforms to keep children in school.

Half a ton of maize and bean seeds have gone to HIV+ mothers, 926 trees to

arts&entertainment

SALT SPRING INN
Open for Breakfast every day at 9am
Sunday Brunch served until 2pm
"Where Islanders & friends start their day"

BENEFIT

Jon and Roy Holiday Special makes leap to Fulford Hall

Multi-performer evening benefits
Salt Spring Gymnastics

BY RAE PORTER
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Jon and Roy's Holiday Special is something of a festive tradition in Victoria. Now in its ninth year, it's as much a part of the capital city's yuletide celebrations as the Empress' Christmas tree or the carol singers downtown.

This festive season sees the band and friends take the ferry across the channel, bringing their own brand of holiday cheer to Fulford Harbour for the first time on Dec. 8.

"We've always wanted to bring the holiday special to Salt Spring Island and we finally get to do so this year," said Jon Middleton, the eponymous Jon of the group.

Band members are no strangers to the island, having played multiple venues over the years, from intimate sets at the Tree House Cafe to rollicking nights at Beaver Point and Moby's, with a little Garlic Fest and ArtSpring cameos thrown in for good measure. In fact, they're treated like part of the island family.

"Since we first became a band, Salt Spring Island has been one of our favourite places to play," said drummer Roy Vizer.

"The warmth of the community and the feel of playing in the classic, woodsy halls really creates an inspiring atmosphere," added Middleton. "After a very successful New Year's Eve show last year, we knew Fulford Hall was the place to do it. This year's line-up is going to be a special one."

He's not wrong about that point. One of the real joys of the holiday special is its revue-style roll out, with a diverse and talented line-up of B.C. artists taking to the stage before Jon and Roy.

Joining our hosts this year are indie-pop darling Ashleigh Ball (most recognizable as Hey Ocean's magnetic front woman) and the live, funky, electronic ambience of Astrocolor, a five-piece, jazz-infused ensemble from Victoria. Add to that a solo acoustic set from everyone's favourite blues-rooted, lion-maned rocker Jesse Roper and you've got



KIM JAY PHOTOGRAPHY

From left, Jon and Roy group members Louis Sadava, Jon Middleton and Roy Vizer. The band brings their annual holiday special to Salt Spring Island this year.

yourselves one fine shindig.

The Jon and Roy Holiday Special is also a celebration of community, so all ages are welcome and delicious food from CocoLoco's Creations will be available for purchase.

A percentage of ticket sales will

benefit the Salt Spring Gymnastics Association.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., with the first act stepping up at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are available through Ticketweb.ca, Salt Spring Mercantile and Lyle's Place in Victoria.

TA DA!

Pat Webber Pottery
Studio Show & Sale



Saturday, December 2, 10 to 5
Sunday, December 3, 12 to 5

@ 425 Stewart Road, Salt Spring Island
www.patwebber.ca

LITERARY EVENT

Visiting author anchors CanLit night

Lisa Richter
makes tour stop

Islanders can help celebrate the launch of a Toronto writer's book tonight (Wednesday, Nov. 29) at the Salt Spring Public Library.

Lisa Richter's first full-length collection of poetry, published by Tightrope Books, is called *Closer to Where We Began*. Richter's poems have previously appeared in journals and anthologies, including *The Malahat Review*, *The Puritan*, *Contemporary Verse 2 Magazine* and *The Literary Review of Canada*.

She will be joined at the reading by Salt Spring residents and



WWW.LISARICHTER.CA

Toronto writer Lisa Richter.

writers Jane Eaton Hamilton and Natalie Meisner.

Hamilton is the award-winning author of nine books of creative non-fiction and poetry, including the 2016 novel *Weekend*

and two prior collections of short fiction. Hamilton's books have been shortlisted for the *Mind Book of the Year Award*, the *BC Book Prize*, the *VanCity Award*, the *Pat Lowther Award* and the *Ferro-*

Grumley Award.

Hamilton is an editor at *Many Gendered Mothers*, a founder of *CripCanLit*, which aims to make *CanLit* more accessible, and serves on the *Equity Task Force of the Writers' Union of Canada*.

Meisner's non-fiction book, *Double Pregnant: Two Lesbians Make a Family*, was a finalist in the *Atlantic Book Awards*. A full professor in the Department of English at *Mount Royal University*, teaching theatre, creative writing, Canadian literature and gender studies, she is a widely produced author of stage plays.

Events begin at 8 p.m. A Q&A will follow.

SALT SPRING SINGERS
Yuletide Fires
Don Conley, conductor
David Storm, accompanist

ARTSPRING
Dec. 9 @ 7:30 pm
Dec. 10 @ 2pm
Tickets \$20 Adult, \$5 Youth
artspring.ca / 250 537 2102

ART REVIEW

Christmas show evokes seasonal warmth

New Gallery 8 artists shine amid long-term favourites

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gallery 8's annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works offers the opportunity to see many works by the gallery artists all at one time, allowing for a much broader sample than is sometimes possible.

The show is the chance to break into the market with some of the gallery's more established names. The small size is further inviting as it can inspire artists to focus in on the compressed platform with extra attention to technique or composition.

Gallery stalwarts like Pieter Moleenaar produce excellent work no matter what the scale. His series of oil landscapes for this show emphasize the horizon in a short but wide rectangle format. Many times he takes up the Netherlands' serene coastal landscape as his subject, or similar-looking territory near White Rock, but these pieces are satisfyingly West Coast. Sky and an expanse of wet sand in his piece called Beach Comb are divided by a line of conifers, mist trapped in the base met by the frothing white incoming waves. Sunlight diffused by clouds and hints of blue beneath are reflected on the smooth wet beach. Footprints in the Dunes takes the view from the shore looking straight out at the water, but seen through three sand hillocks topped with beach grass. Here the light hits the beach as if through an unseen break out of the frame, while the sky ahead is more troubled over a line of breakers.

Another longtime member with consistent quality is EJ Feller, who continues to explore different mediums for her exceptional ceramic work. Here, hand-carved porcelain and metalwork in matte black or flat white embellish newspaper text for unique multimedia wall pieces, framed under glass. Leaf and flower shapes overlay the text so patterning and contrast become the key elements. The headlines that name the works do stand out as readable text: Completely Different in one case and Aspirations and Reality in another.

Janet Cameron is accustomed to working in a small frame, with her jewel-like works in modelling paste and acrylic paint or thread much sought after. This time she includes a few humorous pieces in her collection. Rainy Day Window Watch (two versions) poses cartoony cat silhouettes in black against a white sky with birds flying free beyond. The Empty Nesters is a Last Supper type of scene, but just one old couple sits at the long table, separated by a Christmas banquet.

JD Evans, another gallery mainstay, contributes just one perfect example of her oeuvre for this show. The acrylic on paper Reign of Fire combines the softness of Asian ink brushwork with brilliant splashes of vermilion and robin's egg blue. In another contrast, a graphic black edge is interrupted by a chaotic swirl of colour, while the hint of a landscape emerges from the abstract marks. It's a work of many layers and nuances.

Deborah Tilby is also at the top of her game with a series of city land-



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From top, Patrick Skidd's On Ganges Harbour; one section of the Christmas Exhibition of Small Works upstairs at Gallery 8; and Janet Cameron's Empty Nesters piece.

scapes in oil. Where she has previously perfected the contrast of surface and texture in scenes of wooden boats on the water, she now turns to semi-urban scenes and the way light hits swaths of asphalt, decorative trees and interrupted skies. Her treatment of the light in Rockland Avenue and The Cathedral 2 proves there's beauty even in asphalt with the right eye.

Adam Noonan of Victoria is a newer artist to the gallery. He contributes some lovely little streetscapes, just 6 by 8 inches in oil on board. Cadboro Bay Shopping tightly frames a Victorian-type home/shop, with a glowing yellow and orange palette suggesting the day's final light. Ken's Neighbour also prominently features warm tones. This piece depicts a small orange house and just a tiny strip of background. White framed windows match the snow-covered roof and slip of foreground; the home is cast in bright sunlight with a couple of deep

orange shadows at the edge providing depth.

On the sculptural side, new gallery member Patrick Skidd has a stylized modernist interpretation of the island with On Ganges Harbour, where a set of three white sailboats crest curved blue waves in painted wood veneer.

Sean Goddard's marvellous metalwork and enamel insect sculptures are another new addition. An oversized mosquito is alarmingly detailed with fine metal hairs and iridescent eyes, while a cute ladybug is even more charming in its turquoise shell.

Gallery 8 long-time member Ida Marie Threadkell adds to her impressive collection of tiny sculptural garments. In Joanna, the goldenrod-yellow sheath is made with silk fusion, cricula cocoons, kelp, cedar roots and citrine.

The Christmas show continues daily at the Grace Point Square gallery through the month of December.

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LIONS Santa Ship
Saturday Dec. 9th
7:00 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock.

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Follow Santa into Moutat's Mall. Give him your wish list for Christmas. He'll also visit Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital.

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33RD ANNUAL BEAVER POINT HALL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
SALT SPRING ISLAND

FRIDAY	DEC 1	5-9
SATURDAY	DEC 2	10-5
SUNDAY	DEC 3	10-4

AWARDS

Salt Spring writer wins prestigious CBC Poetry Prize

Alessandra Naccarato delves into elders' stories

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring writers continue to pull in some of the nation's most important literary prizes, with Alessandra Naccarato awarded the 2017 CBC Poetry Prize last Wednesday.

Naccarato will receive \$6,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts and her work Postcards for my Sister will be published in Air Canada's enRoute magazine and on the CBC Books website as part of the prize.

"I'm really honoured to be able to share this story on this platform, particularly because it honours women's reproductive rights, and the many decisions people make around motherhood and family that are so often in service of community and others," Naccarato told the Driftwood, adding her poetry isn't what most people might expect when pulling out their copy of enRoute.

The CBC award is but the latest in a string of honours for the 33-year-old writer, who is accomplished both in spoken word performance and poetry that is meant for the page. She is a three-time national slam poetry finalist, was shortlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize in 2014, and has received the Bronwen Wallace Award for emerging writers and Event Magazine's Creative Non Fiction Prize.

Postcards for my Sister was inspired by the life of Naccarato's paternal grandmother, who found the courage to leave her second arranged marriage while in her 70s, having left her vil-



PHOTO COURTESY CBC

Alessandra Naccarato, winner of the 2017 CBC Poetry Prize.

lage in Italy for a new life in Canada as a young woman.

"I have been walking with my grandmother's story for many years. I was really dedicated to creating a relationship with her after her passing through creative work," Naccarato said.

Interestingly, the last time she reached the CBC shortlist was for a poem called Coyote Medicine / Medicine Coyote, which was based on her maternal grandfather's life.

"I hope my work inspires and encourages others to turn to the elders in their family and hear their stories and carry their stories forward," she said.

Teaching and sharing poetry with youth is another important aspect of Naccarato's work, as well as a source of inspiration. She created a mentorship program while completing her MFA at the University of British Columbia's creative writing program and holds annual artist-in-residence placements in the Toronto

District School Board, among other youth-centred projects.

Her residencies in particular have helped produce a deep understanding of her own need of expression. As she's discovered: "The story and the message are at the heart of why I write and what I write — which is for the most part about our relationship to the environment and our relationship to our elders."

Research that went into Postcards for my Sister took Naccarato to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax, where she listened to recorded oral histories of immigrants and searched out family records. She also visited the small Italian village where her grandmother was born — the first family member to have returned since she left.

She wrote much of the resulting poetry at the Banff Centre's writing studio, working under the mentorship of Karen Solie and Ocean Vuong. Ken Babstock and Sheri-D Wilson are some of the other influential teachers she's sought out in the past.

"I've been really lucky to work with poets whose work and minds and pedagogy are quite out of the box, who are quite willing to take creative risks and innovations, and who don't expect me to write poetry like someone else's poetry," she said.

Naccarato first started visiting Salt Spring in 2010 to spend time at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga, and with that experience decided to take her MFA at UBC. She moved to the island in June 2015 while writing her master's thesis, in which she explored a turn from spoken word to poetry composed for the page. She also publishes personal essays and explained that for

her, the stories she tells are different depending on which form she uses.

Poetry that wants to be told through the body and voice, and requires an immediate connection with an audience, fits the spoken word platform, she's found. On the other hand, work on the page can be more contemplative and complex. This has suited Naccarato's explorations of hybridity between the natural world and the human body.

"Working on the page has allowed me to really explore that — a world where natural law works differently — and take new risks," she said.

As someone who grew up in metropolitan Toronto, Naccarato's relationship to the environment was restricted for most of her life. She recalls the small ravine near her house being her sanctuary, and the family's annual week of camping her only time for connecting with the beauty in nature. Coming to Salt Spring therefore amounted to a huge shift.

"I think the time I've spent here has profoundly changed my writing, because it's profoundly changed my life," she said.

While Naccarato has experienced the full challenges of the island's rental crisis during her two years on Salt Spring — and is even now looking for a new place to live — it feels enough like home that she is hoping to make it work for the long haul. Meeting people who are engaged with spirituality, alternative living and the question of how to exist with nature in a time of environmental crisis has made a strong impact.

"As a writer, it's really inspiring to live in a community that's actively exploring and seeking a solution to those questions," Naccarato said.

Salt Spring Concert Band

Keith Ollerenshaw, music director

Winter Song & Dance

Friday, December 1

7:30 pm
ArtSpring



RECITAL

Glorious music at next Tea à Tempo

Patricia Flannagan, Women of Note and BOTR choir perform

The Dec. 6 Tea à Tempo recital at All Saints is set to uplift its audience as the winter solstice approaches.

Leading the program is enchanting songstress Patricia Flannagan with a program she hopes "will inspire thought and musical enjoyment as we prepare to go through our darkest

days until the light renews."

The varied program ranges from a 14th-century Spanish round to contemporary choral compositions, folk and musical theatre. Songs include You are the Light of the World (from Godspell), The Music of the Night from Phantom of the Opera and Nella Fantasia, the theme from the movie The Mission.

To help Flannagan in performing this ambitious program, she will be joined by Women of Note choir and, for the finale, the Bach on the Rock

Chamber Choir led by their director Michael Jarvis. The choir and audience will sing the Hallelujah Chorus, with some scores available.

Flannagan has sung soprano with Women of Note for many years. She also sings with Bach on the Rock, often in solo parts, most recently alongside mezzo soprano Linda Quinn in Vivaldi's Gloria at ArtSpring last month. Quinn is also Flannagan's accompanist for next week's concert.

Music begins at 2:10 p.m.

CONCERTS

'Yuletide Fires' warm audience

Salt Spring Singers concert
Dec. 9 & 10

Salt Spring Singers will be sharing some of the most beautiful music ever composed for Christmas and the solstice in their annual winter concert this year.

Audiences are invited to attend the Yuletide Fires concert at ArtSpring, with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Choir director Don Conley and accompanist David Storm will lead the singers in celebration, featuring sacred pieces by Bach, Barber, Britten and Handel, traditional arrangements by Willcocks, Rutter and Davies, and a new suite composed by Tate with lyrics written by Emily Carr.

"Our program is a real celebration of music around the yule, the fire that warms during the season of declining light and

the birth of new light," Conley explains in his director's notes.

"Yuletide in pre-Christian times was celebrated widely in Europe with fertility rites, promises for the coming year and the dawning of new light. Over time and with the advance of Christendom, many of these pagan practices intermingled with the narratives of the Nativity. Astonishingly there are many seasonal songs that are sung around the world that have their roots in pagan practices and we will be singing several in the second half of the program."

The first half of the program tells the nativity story while the second half focuses on the celebrations of yuletide and solstice arising from pagan practices. Conley has also included a trilogy of poems written by the renowned artist Emily Carr, set to music by B.C. composer Brian Tate.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

Christmas Story Writing Contest

• Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the Christmas season.

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 8th.

Win a cash prize for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.



Tel: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613
328 Lower Ganges Road
email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

• All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.

• Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.

• Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.

• The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.

• Send entries to the Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or fax to 250-537-2613.

• For more information, call 250-537-9933.

Teachers: Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

what's on this week



Wed. Nov. 29	Thu. Nov. 30	Fri. Dec. 1	Sat. Dec. 2	Sun. Dec. 3	Tue. Dec. 5	Wed. Dec. 6
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Early Spirit. A founder of the seminal folk group Spirit of the West and a solo artist for over 20 years, J. Knutson debuts an exciting new group featuring harmonious vocals, Celtic influences, and rock rhythms. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Open Mic. Thursdays at Moby's. 8:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Winter Song & Dance. Salt Spring Concert Band and new music director, Keith Ollerenshaw, share their rendition of folk songs combined with traditional Christmas carols, with familiar western European traditions mixed with Russian and South East Asian selections. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Ben Sures House Concert. HomeRoutes event, with Lindsay Woolgar also playing. All proceeds to the artists. Over the Rainbow B&B. 310 Isabella Point Rd. For more info call 250-653-9123. Everything I've Known: Dylan Stone Album Release. Special event at Moby's. 9 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. See Friday's listing, except time is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. See Friday's listing, except time is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas Craft Fair. At Lions Hall. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pat Webber Pottery Studio Show & Sale. See Saturday's listing, except time is 12 to 5 p.m. Photos with Santa. Mout's Home Hardware fundraiser benefiting the Salt Spring BC SPCA. Bring your children and/or pets dockside in front of Fever Tree for a professional photo with Santa and free goodies for your pet. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SS Unitarian Fellowship. Amanda Tarling presents Embracing the Sabbath as a Spiritual Practice at SS Unitarian Fellowship at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 10:30 a.m. Child-minder available. SSE Garden Work Party. Help build a three-bin compost in the Hillside Garden at Salt Spring Elementary. Snacks provided and the ELF room will be open with parent supervision. 12 noon to 3 p.m. Advent Service. Deepen the spiritual depth of the season with service based on the celebration at St. John's College Chapel, Cambridge, England: an evening service of readings and music, similar to the more well-known Nine Lessons and Carols sung at King's College Chapel. All Saints. 4 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Have Fun Learning Squash. See Thursday's listing, except time is 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. 150 Days, 150 Volunteers, 150 Organizations. Volunteer and Community Resources wraps up Canada 150 with their exhibit running December in the library program room. Opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn to Spin With a Drop Spindle. A Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild event at GISS. 7 p.m. Preregister at saltspingweaversandspinners.com	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Gulf Islands School Board Meeting. Public portion of meeting begins at 1 p.m. at the school board office portable. Special General Meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Community Hall. Special meeting to discuss fundraising. Public welcome. Central Hall. 7 p.m. SS Film Fest Presents Django. The story of Django Reinhardt, famous guitarist and composer, and his flight from German-occupied Paris in 1943 is told as a mixture of biopic and historical drama. ArtSpring. French with English subtitles. 7:30 p.m. Mother Goose. See last Wednesday's listing. Songjam. See last Wednesday's listing.
ACTIVITIES Mother Goose. Join Nomi and Hannah on Wednesdays in the Salt Spring Library Program Room for Parent-Child Mother Goose, with songs, rhymes and playtime. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Writing as a Spiritual Practice. Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice workshop with writer, poet, teacher and editor Lorraine Gane. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Preregister at staroftheseasi@gmail.com Festival of Trees. Trees go up for fourth annual event, which has community members vote for best decorated tree with a food bank donation. Harbour House Hotel meeting room (rear entrance.) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn About Spinning Qiviut and Cashmere. Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners event at ArtSpring at 10:30 a.m. All welcome. Followed by a workshop from 1:30-4:30 at a different location. (Spinning experience necessary.) Preregister at saltspingweaversandspinners.com. Have Fun Learning Squash. Drop-in introductory sessions at the new squash court at the Golf Club (805 Lower Ganges Rd). Bring clean non-marking shoes. Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Family Movie Matinee. Free event Fridays at the library for families with kids ages six and up. Today's screening is The Nightmare Before Christmas. 2:30 p.m. Pre Christmas Champagne Soiree. Fundraiser for food for Kenyan school children. Fabulous door prizes. All Saints By-the-Sea. 3 to 5 p.m. Info: 250-931-1214. Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Annual artisan fair at Beaver Point Community Hall. 5 to 9 p.m. Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. Annual seasonal fair at Fulford Community Hall. Delicious homemade food available too. 5 to 9 p.m. Christmas Craft Fair. At Lions Hall. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Salt Spring Forum: Michael Doyle. Michael Doyle, former assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, presents New World Disorder. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. See Friday's listing, except time is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. See Friday's listing, except time is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Craft Fair. At Lions Hall. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bazaar Bizarre. Christmas baking, attic treasures, books and gift items at NDP fundraiser. SSI United Church Hall. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Salt Spring Christmas Saturday Market. Salt Spring Saturday Market is open at Centennial Park for a few weekends before Christmas. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pat Webber Pottery Studio Show & Sale. At Pat's studio at 425 Stewart Rd. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Santa Fly-in. Meet Santa at the Ganges floatplane dock at 1 p.m. and follow him to the Salt Spring Public Library where kids can have their photo taken with him as they share their Christmas wishes until 3 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair. See Friday's listing, except time is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair. 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A Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild event at GISS. 7 p.m. Preregister at saltspingweaversandspinners.com	ACTIVITIES Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing. Gulf Islands School Board Meeting. Public portion of meeting begins at 1 p.m. at the school board office portable. Special General Meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Community Hall. Special meeting to discuss fundraising. Public welcome. Central Hall. 7 p.m. SS Film Fest Presents Django. The story of Django Reinhardt, famous guitarist and composer, and his flight from German-occupied Paris in 1943 is told as a mixture of biopic and historical drama. ArtSpring. French with English subtitles. 7:30 p.m. Mother Goose. See last Wednesday's listing. Songjam. See last Wednesday's listing.
					Wed. Dec. 6 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Tea to Tempo - Patricia Flannagan + Friends. Salt Spring vocalist Patricia Flannagan, pianist Linda Quinn, Women of Note and Bach on the Rock Choir perform at All Saints. 2:10 p.m.	



FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Chili Cookoff runs Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA
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To watch the previews of movies visit our website.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
1hr 54 min Rating: PG
Final 2 Shows
Nov. 29 - 30
Wed & Thurs 7pm

VICEROY'S HOUSE
1hr 47 min Rating: PG
Dec. 1st - 3rd
Fri & Sat 7pm
Sun 3 matinee & 7pm

BATTLE OF THE SEXES
122 min Rating: PG
Dec. 4th-7th
Mon - Thurs 7pm

National Theatre Live: Peter Pan
One day only
Thurs. Dec. 14 3pm
matinee and 7pm.
All tickets \$22

Mon. Dec. 4
ACTIVITIES
Festival of Trees. See Thursday's listing.
ArtsSpring AGM. All ArtSpring members are invited to join 2017 annual general meeting, beginning at 4 p.m. in the gallery.

Chili Cook-off. Annual competition to see who makes the best chili on Salt Spring Island. Plus caroling by Viva Chorale choir. On the Fulford-Ganges Road side of Centennial Park. 4 to 6 p.m.

150 Days, 150 Volunteers, 150 Organizations
Exhibit organized by Volunteer & Community Resources
Opening reception
Tuesday, December 5th • 4-6 pm
Salt Spring Public Library program room through December

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CINEMA

- Murder on the Orient Express** — Final two shows. A lavish trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard a train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, the world's greatest detective — Hercule Poirot — arrives to interrogate all passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again.
- Viceroy's House** — In 1947, Lord Mountbatten is India's last Viceroy, charged with handing India back to its people.
- Battle of the Sexes** — The 1973 tennis match between women's #1 Billie Jean King and ex-men's-champ Bobby Riggs became one of the most watched TV sports events of all time.
- National Theatre Live: Peter Pan** — One day only on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca for tickets.

EXHIBITIONS

- Craft Fairs at Beaver Point Hall, Fulford Hall and Lions Hall** run Friday through Sunday, Dec. 1-3. (See above calendar for times each day.)
- Gallery 8** holds its annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** daily through Dec. 31.
- Salt Spring Gallery** presents its **Solstice Show** with gallery artists and special guests through Dec. 22.

EXHIBITIONS

- Pat Webber Pottery** holds a studio show and sale on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3 from 12 to 5 p.m.
- Wintercraft**, the annual show and sale of work by **Gulf Islands artisans**, opens Friday, Nov. 24 at Mahon Hall. Presented by the Salt Spring Arts Council, Wintercraft runs daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 21.
- Upstairs Valley Gallery** at 2123 Fulford-Ganges Rd. continues its seasonal sale on Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 30 is the last day to see **150 Years and Counting: Fighting for Justice on the Coast in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room**. Then, Volunteer and Community Resources wraps up Canada 150 with their 150 Days, 150 Volunteers, 150 Organizations exhibit running in the program room through December. The opening reception is on Tuesday, Dec. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Artists From the Fringe** group members show work as part of **Wintercraft** at Mahon Hall. The exhibit will be up from Nov. 30 through Dec. 21.
- Salty Pear Gallery** on Rainbow Road hosts **Damaz Studio - Natural Tendencies** on Thursdays through Saturdays until Dec. 1.
- Gabrielle Jensen** shares new work at **Gulf Island Picture Framing**.

Dear Saltspring,
Thanks for shopping the **Upstairs Valley Gallery Seasonal Sale**. It was great! So good, we are offering one more chance to see Jacob Burton's Bronzes, Joshua Beckett's paintings, and Yantara's Jewellery & Collectibles this coming weekend, December 2 & 3, Sat. & Sun. Don't miss out!
We'd love to see you here at 2123 Fulford-Ganges Road from 11-5.
~Best of the Season, Yantara

gulfislandsdriftwood.com/events/

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@driftwoodgimmedia.com



ORGAN DONATION

Island woman seeks living donor for kidney transplant

Disease management no longer viable for Brenda Bowes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring woman is reluctantly looking to fellow islanders for help restore health and possibly save her life through the gift of a kidney.

Brenda Bowes was diagnosed with progressive kidney disease

in 2001 as a result of her annual check-up. Since then she's been managing her condition as well as she can by means of diet, and she's had some success at living a normal life. With her kidney function now down as low as 14 per cent, however, the only choice left is to go on dialysis or to find a donor who is willing help.

"I've managed pretty well until now, but it's really at a stage where it's in my face," Bowes said. "I've had up and down times, but now it's more down than up, absolutely."

To the casual observer, it can be difficult to tell that anything is wrong with someone suffering from kidney disease. On the outside, Bowes looks healthy enough, but on the inside her system is unable to properly process toxins and waste. She feels nauseous 99 per cent of the time — a blow for someone who used to like to cook. She's also too tired to do the exercise she has enjoyed her entire life.

Bowes learned about her disease by chance as a result of a regular checkup, just after she retired from teaching at Douglas College. One reason she may have stayed fairly healthy until now is by doing yoga, but at this point she is too fatigued to get more than halfway through a class. Her food choices are limited, she's not able to drink a lot of fluids and she often doesn't feel well enough to socialize with family and friends.

Dialysis is the next step when kidney function levels fall permanently below 15 per cent. But as



Salt Spring resident Brenda Bowes, who is in urgent need of a kidney donor and making a local appeal.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

well as putting a drain on health-care resources, it's an imperfect and temporary way to move toxins through the body. Bowes would be required to go to Victoria or Duncan three days a week and her well-being would actually decrease in the process. The average lifespan for a patient on dialysis is five years.

Doctors at the kidney clinic have therefore recommended a transplant if possible. With the wait list for deceased donors running

into years, a living donor is the preferred solution. Two of Bowes' friends have been tested as possible donors but were not suitable matches.

A person can have a normal and healthy life as long as there's one fully functioning kidney, but Bowes has found it difficult to turn to the community for help, even though she and her husband have owned their home here since 1988.

"It's a really hard thing to ask. It's not like asking for a cup of sugar

for a pie. I really do know what a big ask it is," Bowes said.

As the addition of any other disease would make her ineligible as a transplant candidate, there is increased urgency to act now. One thing working in Bowes' favour is donors no longer need to be an exact blood match. Donors are carefully screened to make sure it is safe for them to donate. The transplant team makes the donor's health and well-being a priority.

"I understand this is an extremely personal decision and there is a lot to think about," Bowes said, adding anyone who wishes to explore donation would not be pressured to follow through and could back out at any point.

The Living Organ Donation Expense Reimbursement Program, administered by the Kidney Foundation of Canada, makes it easier for living donors to contribute by reimbursing some of the expenses associated with the gift. Eligible expenses can include travel, accommodations, parking, meals and potential loss of income.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the process can call the donor nurse coordinator at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver at 604-806-9027 or 1-877-922-9822 or email donornurse@providencehealth.bc.ca. The contact at Vancouver General Hospital is 604-875-5182/1-855-875-5182 or kidneydonornurse@vch.ca. There is also extensive information on the BC Transplant website, www.transplant.bc.ca.

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WINTERCRAFT

salt spring arts council

FILM

Django Reinhardt biopic swings at ArtSpring

Salt Spring Film Fest presentation

BY JAMES COWAN
SS FILM FESTIVAL

The year is 1943 and France is under German occupation, although that doesn't seem to bother Django Reinhardt, a jazz musician with a laissez-faire attitude. He and his Quintette du Hot Club de France continue to play sold-out shows in Paris to crowds of young jazz fans and disapproving SS officers.

Reinhardt gets persuaded by his manager to tour Germany with the possibility of performing for the Fuhrer himself. However, there are restrictions that must be met such as removing all black jazz elements such as the blues and certain percussion instruments deemed as racially impure by the Nazis.

The guitarist seems mostly willing to do the tour and he claims that he isn't French so the war doesn't really concern him. An old girlfriend of Reinhardt's pops back into the picture and warns him of the risk for Gypsies under Nazi control, where they suffered a fate similar to that of the Jewish

population.

A plan is hatched that will allow Reinhardt and his family to travel south and escape over the Swiss border. Apprehended there he is forced to stage a concert for a group of high-level Nazis at a luxurious lakeside villa, but the heat of Reinhardt's hot jazz drives the Germans into a frenzy and results in a riot. Reinhardt escapes in the confusion and survives the war.

Reinhardt is known for his prolific recordings, and performing with many of the great jazz musicians of the time. His music has been in dozens of films ranging from multiple Woody Allen films, to Lacombe Lucien, to The Matrix. There is much less known about his short life, which ended after he suffered a stroke at the age of 43.

This film is loosely adapted from a book, which is loosely adapted from his life, and is one of the rare biopics about Reinhardt. The film focuses almost entirely on the window of time around the Nazi occupation. The story is told much more as a drama film than a biography.

Django has been seen at many film festivals around the world, as part of the program and also as an opening night selections.



Film still from Django, with actor Reda Kateb as the famous guitarist.

The film is shown at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are available through ArtSpring.



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND SAVINGS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE:
 Sarah Harker from Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, lends a helping hand at the Salt Spring Community Services Food Bank as part of Make a Difference Days, Island Savings' community service program that facilitates volunteer opportunities and encourages employee involvement at local non-profit organizations and charities.

BOOKS

Winter finds on library new shelves

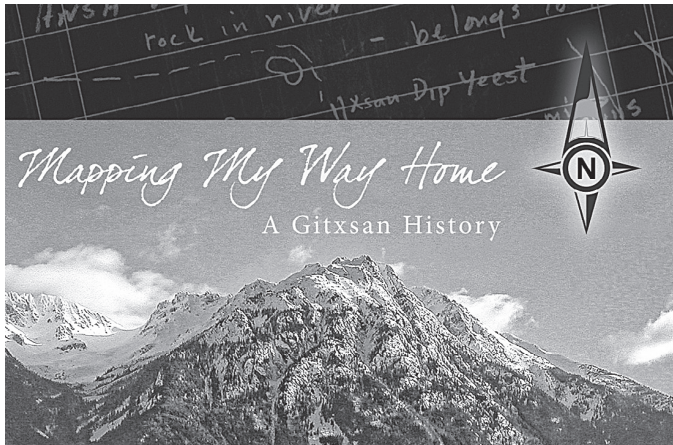
BY MAGGIE WARBEY
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Winter reading is the best! Those long, cold, dark nights give us a reason to be indoors and bundled up by a fire with a stack of the best of the new books. Look on the library shelves to find them all!

Mapping My Way Home: A Gitksan History will entertain and inform readers about this northern First Nations group. Living for centuries in the Skeena and Nass Valleys, the history of the Gitksan is very much the story of North-western British Columbia. The author, a hereditary chief of the people, shares his personal journey to recognition of his heritage and responsibilities along with the cultural, political and physical journey of his people. The book is illustrated with historical maps and photos that detail the ancestral roots and heritage rights.

Baking is right up there with reading as a winter pastime, and **Modernist Bread** is the consummate bakers' guide to artisanal skill. Whether utilizing a machine or hands, directions are complete and easy to follow. The recipes are not too complex, yet full of variations and possible results. Recipes include standards, like cinnamon raisin bread, whole wheat sandwich bread with variations, as well as vegan, international options and crackers. Also included are bread-machine breads and steamed breads. A wonderful compendium of how to bake bread. My only complaint: no pictures.

A Brief History of Stonehenge is a complete history and archaeology (as of 2007) of the world's most enigmatic stone circle. The author painstakingly debunks



ages old myths and mystical notions to present a modern, rational, view of how the stones came to be and what they represent. By providing researched analysis to the stones' origins, positions, and mythology, as well as the importance and relationship of the henge to other pre-historic monuments found in and around the Salisbury Plains, the author gives readers a new and more acceptable explanation of Stonehenge and its place in human habitation of England.

Endorsed by none other than Noam Chomsky, **Censored 2018** is a top read in the "Post Truth" world. The authors of this book selected what they considered to be the top "Censored Stories and Media Analysis" of 2016-2017 to put together a fascinating and informative volume that should concern everyone. Included in the book are articles to inform readers

of both "fake news" and ignored or suppressed news. Stories about ISIS, the rise of maternal mortality, racial profiling, the shocking rise in the number of transgendered people being murdered, Trump's universe, the toll on wildlife in military training are all included, as are a large number of other underreported topics.

On the New Fiction shelves, alongside novels covering all passions, are mysteries. This time, Mary Higgins Clark conspires with Alafair Burke to bring us **The Sleeping Beauty Killer**. In a story fraught with intrigue, outright lies and behind the scenes manipulation, our heroines fight to determine the innocence of an unfairly convicted killer who has every reason to hide her past and to seek revenge. It is a thrilling romp through the unimaginable, with enough heat to keep readers on edge through a winter's night.

FAITH

All Saints observes sung Advent service

All welcome this Sunday

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to deepen the spiritual depth of the Christmas season by coming to All Saints for the annual celebration of Advent this Sunday, Dec. 3.

The event starting at 4 p.m. is based on the celebration at St. John's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The evening service of readings and music is similar to the better-known Nine Lessons and Carols sung at King's College Chapel, Cambridge at Christmas.

"Advent means 'arrival' and names the season that prepares the church for the celebration of the birth of the Christ-

child," information from Anglican Reverend Richard Stetson explains. "This service features the All Saints Choir, directed by David Storm, singing several liturgical portions of the service and choral pieces."

The congregation will join in singing some of the well-known hymns of the season like O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Once in Royal David's City, and Joy to the World as well as some newer songs and carols. Readings from Hebrew and Christian scripture are intertwined with prayer, music and poetry by contemporary poets.

Admission to the event is free but donations are gratefully received.



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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

GREENERY: Arlene Dashwood holds some seasonal arrangements at the United Church's annual WinterFaire craft sale and fundraiser on Saturday. Craft fairs get underway in earnest this weekend on Salt Spring. Events are on at Lions, Fulford and Beaver Point halls, as well as a number of other spots. The Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft is also running at Mahon Hall through Dec. 21.

SELF-HELP

Holiday-season grief help offered

Special session on Dec. 9

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING HOSPICE

She wasn't looking forward to this time of the year. This is the first December in 23 years she'd be without her loved one.

Her sadness seemed so out of place in the midst of the festivities around her. The sights, sounds and smells brought back memories. She felt no joy, only a deep grief that followed her everywhere, all day.

This is the experience of many bereaved at this time of the year. "Getting through" or "surviving" the

holidays is what many in grief see as yet another challenge.

This response to the holidays may continue for years after a significant loss. It acknowledges and expresses the pain and distress of loss that wells up at special times of the year. This deep ache and sadness is normal. Recognizing the grief you or your family feel is the starting point for developing new ways of living through the holidays.

Salt Spring Hospice will explore ways of "Coping with Grief over the Holidays" at the library's program room on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 2 to 3:15 p.m.

If you have lost a close friend or loved one, this time can be challenging, whether your loss is recent or distant. Grieving takes energy. By developing compassion for yourself and simplifying traditions, you may discover new ways to live through the holidays.

We'll provide you some helpful materials and strategies to support you in your journey. Please bring yourself, or come along with a friend or family member.

People can contact Salt Spring Hospice to pre-register at 250-537-2770, or email office@saltspringhospice.org.

SEASONAL COMFORT

Blue Christmas service reaches out

United Church event
next Thursday

The Salt Spring United Church's annual Blue Christmas service is set for next Thursday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

The church notes that Christmas is a happy time

of year for most people as they enjoy spending time with family and friends and attending concerts and social gatherings. But that's not the case for everyone.

"If 2017 has brought the loss of a loved one or a job, or if the holidays bring conflict or estrangement in relationships, the joy of

people around you may only serve to underscore your own feelings of grief or loneliness or abandonment," explains press material from the church.

The Blue Christmas service is "a time where people may gather for a short while to reflect on the sadder side of Christmas and have those

feelings acknowledged."

For those who wish to remain after the service, there is an opportunity for conversation over refreshments.

Although the service is organized by the United Church, it is open to any in the community who may wish to attend.

TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

Annual club luncheon last event of the year

Short activities list in
December

Hikers

Dec. 5: Jan and Larry McIntyre will lead a moderate hike up and down Reginald Hill (some steep and slippery sections), then around the loop trail on the Tsawout lands, with lunch on the beach overlooking Russell Island. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or at 10:05 a.m. at the parking area at the end of Morningside Drive by the mailboxes and before the

gate to Reginald Hill.

Dec. 12: Sheryl Taylor-Munro will lead hikers (and fast walkers) on the quieter roads in Ganges. Meet at 10 a.m. at All Saints By-the-Sea Anglican Church for a hike/walk before the Christmas lunch.

Walkers

Dec. 5: From ArtSpring to Baker Beach and back — a somewhat circular route through parks, across fields and along paths and byways. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. Leader is Andrea Rankin (250-537-1904).

Dec. 12: Lorrie Storr will lead a walk in the Ganges area before the Christmas luncheon. The route will be weather dependent, but it will include some road walking and some trails through the forest. Meet at the Anglican Church parking lot at 10 a.m.

Ramblers

Dec. 5: Meet Betty Ball at 10 a.m. at the Country Grocer parking lot for a ramble on Norton Road and Kings Lane. Lunch at Uptown Pizza.

Dec. 12: Christmas lunch at All Saints By-the-Sea.

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DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM	COMING EVENTS	BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES	CRAFT FAIRS	CRAFT FAIRS

THOMAS AGNEW CARTWRIGHT
October 15, 1926 to November 22, 2017



Tom was born 91 years ago, in London, England to a family that valued music, art, history, and eccentricities while maintaining their strong British values.

He was sent to Canada in 1940 to get him away from the relentless bombing of London in WW2, which had of course fascinated him and propelled him to the roof tops to watch.

He boarded with cousins in Cultus Lake and started high school in Chilliwack, where he met the love of his life, Joanne Ferguson.

He graduated as the valedictorian and attended UBC briefly before enlisting in the RAF. He was posted to India and had a LOT of stories about his years there, where he became fluent in Urdu.

Tom and Joanne were not to be separated by the war, or by continents, and they married in England in 1950, and set sail back to Canada.

In Canada Tom worked at a variety of jobs, including varnish maker, potato chip maker, burger flipper, and real estate agent, all while attending UBC, to become a teacher. He finished his BA degree and his Masters Degree over the years, part time. He mainly taught Grade 6 -- at Marlborough, Seaford, and Clinton Elementary Schools. He was a popular and inspirational teacher.

He retired after 30 years of teaching, at age 60. He and Joanne built their ocean front home on Salt Spring Island, with a stunning view that each of them loved and looked at until the day they died.

Tom and Joanne spent their retirement years on Salt Spring, enjoying the unique and charming Salt Spring culture, volunteering at the library, and participating in the Trail and Nature Club. They supported environmental causes and the arts. They were extreme conservationists, so that any visitors had to be immediately instructed on toilet flushing (not so much), garbage disposal (there was to be no garbage) and water use (as little as possible). Tom also practiced his hobby of food price comparisons and always watched for sales. As a result he had a huge reserve of canned and frozen foods.

Tom was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and teacher. He was a philanthropist: ever frugal when spending on himself, he donated generously to environmental, animal welfare, and health related causes. He was a world traveler, and life-long learner of other languages. He and Joanne took up skiing in their 40s and he reluctantly gave it up at age 86. He liked to ski fast and drive fast, and we are so grateful he went peacefully as a result of heart failure and not in a horrible multi-vehicle accident, as many had predicted.

He could fix anything, and given the basement full of everything they had ever owned, he had an inexhaustible supply of spare parts. Having made a recent survey of the basement, we've concluded he could have survived a zombie apocalypse in conjunction with a massive solar flare.

Tom loved gardening, cooking, and socializing. He was a friendly, kind, and compassionate man. He had infinite patience. He had original thoughts and ideas and could converse on topics from physics and astronomy to literature. He was a humble man and a world class mumbler. He loved to gently mock (behind their backs) officious and self-important twits. He literally couldn't kill a fly. They had to be rescued.

Tom loved jazz, swing, r&b, and southern rock, particularly Lynryd Skynryd and the Allman Brothers. He was a terrific dancer and figure skater. He was smart, well educated, observant, irreverent, and flat out hilarious. We loved him so much.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Herbert and Henrietta Cartwright, his sister Mary, and his beloved Joanne, 4 years ago. He is survived by his loving children and grandchildren: John (Judy); Jane (Alf Kempf) and Madeline (Cody) and Molly; Catherine (Des Doyle), and Thomas (Tammy), Patrick (Maddy), Jacqueline (Max), and Caroline; and Robert. He is also survived by his cousin Barbara and life-long friends Caroline and Ralph.

A reception will be held at Tom's house at 235 Monteith Road, Salt Spring Island, on December 9th, from 2 pm onwards; and in Burnaby, on December 16th at 2 pm at John and Judy's house at 4366 Portland Street, Burnaby.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a number of animal welfare and Salt Spring conservation charities listed on the Haywards Funeral Memorial page.

Online condolences to be made at:
www.heywardsfuneral.com
250-537-1822

Salt Spring Hospice

Coping with grief over the holidays?
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Attend our free event on December 9 from 2 to 3:15pm at the SSI Library.
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saltspringhospice.org

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY
Wednesday 8th December, 2017
at 7:00 pm,
to discuss fund raising.
Public welcome.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THE ISLAND ARTS CENTRE SOCIETY
WILL HOLD ITS AGM ON
Monday, December 4, 2017 at 4:00pm at Arts Spring.
Topics to be discussed:
• Directors' Reports
• Annual Financial Report
• Election of Board Directors
• Bylaw amendment
ARTSPRING
100 Jackson Avenue
Salt Spring Island
www.artspring.ca

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

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COMING EVENTS

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COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

General Meeting OF THE salt spring arts council
Sunday, December 10 2017, 4pm will be held at Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road, Ganges
A very brief members meeting will be held to appoint a financial reviewer for the 2017 fiscal year.
View the Agenda on our website.
SSAC members and the community at large are invited to attend our Holiday Party 3-5pm.
There will be treats, discount member shopping, an Open House with Artists from the Fringe, and the Great Salt Spring Gingerbread Hall Challenge.
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Christmas Baking, Arts Treasures, Books & Gift Items
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BRINWORTH CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE
Saturday, Dec. 9 10am-3pm
135 Brinworth Road
Follow the signs to the Clubhouse
Wonderful hand-crafted items from talented Salt Spring artists
Christmas treats to share, home-baked beautiful breads & sweet treats, plans, knitted gifts for all - lovely! Painted works of art
A great variety of gifts for Christmas, whether in our store!

BEAVER POINT HALL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
FRIDAY DEC 1 5-9
SATURDAY DEC 2 10-5
SUNDAY DEC 3 10-4

Christmas Craft Fair
December 1, 2 & 3
10am to 6pm
103 Bonnet Avenue (LIONS HALL)

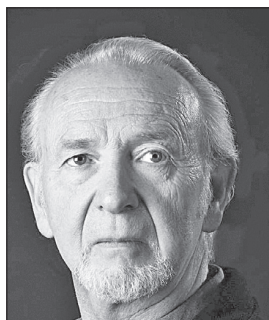
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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 19

CREATIVE LIVES

Dyslexic novelist shares tale

Islander publishes novels and more despite ADHD and dyslexia



Jim Dickinson, author of *Night of the Raptors* and *Marooned in a Strange Land*.

BY JIM DICKINSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

On Sept. 11, 2015, The Salt Spring Library sponsored a book release for *Raptor Night*. After talking with two teachers present, they suggested I come forward with my real background story.

Within the first three months of being in Grade 1, I knew I was different. It would be nice to say that I was much brighter, but the truth is, I was struggling. Nobody understood dyslexia or ADHD.

By my mid-30s, I went back to university, but this time in a creative program where I excelled and found all the other artists who could not spell.

For the next 12 years, it was a struggle to get passing grades in math and English. I could not add a column of numbers up and get the same total twice. I understood the principal, and always got my marks from showing my work. Then there was my

designer and project manager. During those 15 years, my assistant was an English teacher, who loved history. All of my proposals were proofed and sent back with red ink. We worked on developing storylines for exhibits, and when she retired, she said, "I have no more to teach you. You have been my best student."

The computer was my saving grace because I have never been able to spell. If I can get the word close, it corrects it. If not, I had Judy my wife correct it when she proofs the document. It was my creative storytelling that became the most important skill.

The *Wimborne & District History Book* has been described by Friesen Press as their best local history book to date. I did a good deal of research and wrote the 50-page introduction as well as many support stories. All the photos and text were laid out in my design studio. In 2016, the *Torrington and District History* was released.

Night of the Raptors was my first novel. The feedback that has come in from the first 100 books confirms that it is an engaging story that keeps most of the readers looking forward to the next chapter. *Marooned in a Strange Land* (2017) is a prequel to the series. I have started book three, *Return of the Queen*.

Based on my aptitude test 50 years ago, finishing my career as a writer would have been considered impossible, but heroes often overcome great difficulties by the end of a good novel.

abysmal spelling. There were more recesses spent at the blackboard writing out the spelling list for the day, over and over. Did it work? No, not really.

While my skills in English were just passable, I could draw very well. I published my first cartoon at 19 and went on to get three awards while drawing editorial cartoons for the *Gulf Islands Driftwood*.

I was a slow reader, but I eventually learned to read for fun. By my mid-30s, I went back to university, but this time in a creative program where I excelled and found all the other artists who could not spell. We jokingly thought the lawyers should have to pass a basic drawing test to graduate, just like we had to have a basic English course. In 1990-91 I taught Industrial Design at the University of Alberta.

As I was raising my two small girls, I worked as a museum

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

TIP OF THE WEEK

The 12th month of the year coincides aptly with the 9th Sign, Sagittarius, since 12 represents completion and ending, as well. Astrologically, Pisces is the 12th sign and it is symbolic of the link between the conscious and the subconscious, the manifest and the unmanifest, the embodied and the disembodied soul. December leads us to Winter Solstice and the socially contrived New Year, which begins at the strike of 12 midnight when the 12th month officially ends and the 1st begins. We live immersed in symbolism that comes in many forms, such as numbers. Astrology and Numerology share a close relationship and serve to reveal a natural order. The seasonal round operates like clockwork and we have since time immemorial and continue to this day to live in the context of it. Traditionally and cross-culturally the seasonal round was regarded as sacred and most religions are founded upon the various peak points in the natural cycle. This is certainly true of Christianity even though these anchor points are usually denied and rejected, haughtily deemed Pagan. While tradition prevails, it like most things in our modern era has become commercialized and the roots of these traditions are overlooked, dismissed and denied. Looking at the state of the world, the human condition, we see the results of this everywhere. Despite our unprecedented levels of technology and economic flow, the very fabric of society is fragile. Many feel overlooked, dismissed and denied and alienation is prevalent. Despite a complex social order, division prevails over unity. Artificiality is firmly established and is steadily rising as robotics, for example, progressively replaces people. Yet, the natural rhythms of nature continue and will so and their psychological, spiritual and cultural influences will too, even if concealed beneath superficial layers of plastic, alloy, and circuitry.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

Are you dreaming, or is it more of a nightmare or something in between? Some situations are more complex than others and this one ranks pretty high. You want to have perspective on both the bigger picture and insight regarding the immediate politics. The bottom line is just that, pay close attention to it and focus to secure an outcome that works financially for you.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

Circumstances are pushing you to take a plunge, yet again. The good news is that this one includes measurable returns. You are on the verge of a new focus and one that could take some sizable unexpected turns. You are ready and willing to make all the necessary efforts but you may also need help, perhaps professional.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Opportunities to increase your social outreach are available now. Even so, you may not feel as confident as you would like. Circumstances may not be desperate but they are and have been a challenge. Fortunately, you have also been in a sporting mood which is also lingering. A busier time is coming; get ready go hard for a while.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Changes in your usual rhythm are underway. These may even amount to measurable shifts in your overall lifestyle. Whether by inspiration or desperation, investing more time and energy to achieve your goals is featured. Positively, you are on a health kick and are already noticing beneficial results. If not, that is the way to go.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your creative juices are flowing. These include and probably require imaginative input and perhaps a lot of it. The other side of the deal is the big efforts and long hours implied. The pace will accelerate and will include a rather steep learning curve that is probably already evident. There is more to come so get ready to really get to work.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)

Your ambitions have been steadily rising. This may be due to financial interests and/or setbacks. You may be feeling overwhelmed and depressed about it, but you best bet it to persevere. This includes attending to a variety of fronts, a theme that will continue for many months. Be open to pioneering initiatives. Your drive will increase measurably very soon.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Something and perhaps several things are piquing your interests. Financial considerations are part of this plot. It may be that someone needs your help. If so, they are lucky to be catching you at this time as you are feeling generous. Besides, the situation may be calling for your extra input. You are fine with that but you still want to strike a fair deal.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You are in an enthusiastic and expansive mood. Challenges that appeared large before no longer do, or at least less. However, you still have to breach some internal barriers. This includes breaking free of procrastination. It may simply be a matter of inspiration. If you are lacking the fire, seek it in the direction of new interests.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Sun, Mercury, Venus and Saturn all in your sign suggests a rather sudden turn over the past while. It could basically put you in a festive mood. Yet, it also speaks of the spirit in the deep and mysterious atmosphere that graces this time of year. Like fast moving clouds, it will not last. So, whether you are on a high or otherwise, trust the flow.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Saturn is your ruling planet and so it might be expected that you would handle it best. Well, this is the test. It will enter your sign on Solstice's eve. At worst, it could bring a weight of restriction and depression. The good news is that it will make a clean entry into your sign, no retrogrades and that is a good thing. Still, the plot is thick.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Things are shifting quickly now, everywhere, and pretty much everyone knows it and can feel it. This is how synchronicity works. It is not merely a matter of outer, random circumstances. Of course, everyone is having their own experience, the variable in the equation. For your sign, thus influencing you, there is a sudden push to advance, to increase.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

You have entered an important time window. It is not simply about the time of year. There is much more going on that the annual round. Big shifts are occurring for everyone, regardless of their circumstances. These could prove to be positive, but you likely have work to do. A big final push through 2017 is ideal and perhaps necessary.

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

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



YOUTH SWIMMING

Amazing experience for GISS swimmers at provincials

Nine out of 12 swimmers qualify for B.C. finals

BY BRAD BUNYAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Gulf Islands Secondary swim team was in the water at provincials in Richmond on the Nov. 17-18 weekend, with nine swimmers competing at the highest level in the province in seven different events.

After a lengthy delay, final results have been officially posted, and the Gulf Islands found themselves very well represented, finishing in 10th (women's division) and 15th (men's) in British Columbia, after a very exciting final Saturday and a strong day of heats on Friday.

First up on finals' day, the men's 4x50 medley relay team put together a terrific swim, improving on their heat time by more than four seconds and finishing 13th in the province. Even more encouraging following the race was a unanimous feeling from all four boys (Rylan Burnett, Austin Bisnar, Aramis St. Gelais and Zadian St. Gelais) that their times could each be improved, and with the ability to repeat the race next year, this team appears poised to take a run at finishing in the top eight next year, which would allow them to compete for medals.

Shortly after this, Zoey Johnson took to the pool in her 50m backstroke. The morning was not as kind to Johnson as was expected, and this day saw her finish in 15th place, a drop of four places from her previous day seeding. Such is the nature of events which take place in just over half a minute, and her focus quickly changed to her next events. Not long after, she found herself racing for medals in the 100m freestyle event, in a race where she was seeded first in the province.

Johnson's race began strongly, as she swam three-quarters of a second faster through the first 50m of her race, a pace nobody had met the day before. At the end of the race, she improved on her time by 0.3 seconds, which is a substantial jump in times. However, two swimmers from the Interior turned in some amazing swims, including a new B.C. high school record, and the time that was expected to win finished in a bronze medal finish, and a roar of amazement from the watching gallery at an incredibly fast event.

Aramis St. Gelais was next in the boys 50m butterfly stroke. With a few technical adjustments made to his turn and a strong start, he was able to improve on his qualifying time by two-tenths of a second, and moved up four

places from 15th to 11th, and to within a second of competing at the medal level in future years. He also had the distinction of racing next to another record breaker in this event, as more than a full second was taken off the high school record time by the event winner, in another incredibly fast and competitive event.

Johnson was back in the water for her third event of finals day after this, racing in her 100m individual medley race. With a short recovery time between these two events, fatigue was beginning to set in for her, and another very fast event saw Johnson finish sixth when the wall was touched at the end, one place lower than the seeding position from the heats on the day prior. However, halfway through the race, she was sitting almost four seconds behind the leader, and Johnson closed strongly to make up almost three seconds of the gap in the final legs of the race.

Closing out the day, Johnson was joined by Emma Phillips, Gabriella Oloriz and Charley Bennett-Peters to swim in the girls 4x50 freestyle relay. After a very strong heat on Friday, the girls missed out on swimming in the medal race by four-tenths of a second, and another good swim saw this young team finish 10th in the province, more than three seconds ahead of the next team. As a team that professed to be happy to just swim at provincials, they all seemed amazed at how close they were to being in medal contention at their first high school championship event.

One other swimmer competed in Scorpion colours on the weekend, with Peter Hasto swimming in the boys 50m backstroke. After swimming in the first leg with what appeared to be a potential first place split, the unfamiliar pool took its toll, as his turn took place too close to the wall, and a spectacular collision took place. With a very courageous effort, Hasto shook off the collision with the wall and completed the race, but the extra three seconds took him well out of finals contention, and gave him a headache for the remainder of the day.

With a very young team, to qualify what should have been every competing swimmer to swim on championship Saturday was an amazing experience, and a first for our school team. Further to this, with nine out of our 12 swimmers competing at provincials, this was our highest percentile rate swimming at the championship level. All of our swimmers this year had a terrific season, and although there were occasions with some individuals barely missing the cut to provincials, we have the potential to be a top-five school in both boys and girls divisions next year. They did us proud!



PHOTO COURTESY GISS

GISS swim team members set to travel during their fall season.

MASTERS SWIMMING

Masters medal at HYTEK meet

First places for island swimmers

Three Salt Spring swimmers were successful in the 37th annual HYTEK Ebttides short course meet in Nanaimo.

Jane MacKenzie, Joan Gunn-Allard and Susan Huber came back with five first, three second and five third places.

More than 130 swimmers from 22 clubs around B.C. and Alberta competed in the short

course meet (25-metre pool) in Nanaimo.

MacKenzie was a top contender in the 54-59 age group. She won a gold medal in the 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and the 50m freestyle, and finished third in the 100m individual medley.

Gunn-Allard (60-64 age group) brought home two gold medals, 50m backstroke and 25m butterfly, and came in second in the 100m individual medley.

Huber did well in the 64-69

age group by finishing second in the 25m backstroke and third in the 25m butterfly, 25m breaststroke, and 25m freestyle. Huber, who is a member of the Victoria Masters Club, was also part of a women's relay team which scooped up a third place in the 4 x 50 medley relay.

MacKenzie and Gunn-Allard, both members of the Salt Spring Masters Club, and Huber practice several times a week in the Rainbow Row Pool on Salt Spring Island.

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DECORATING CONTEST

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

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- Best Use of Lights
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Photos with Santa Saturday, Dec. 2



SATURDAY DEC. 2

1:00 pm

SANTA ARRIVES

Welcome Santa as he flies into Ganges Harbour with Salt Spring Air. Children can greet Santa on the Ganges float plane dock.

KIDS ACTIVITIES:

- arts & crafts for young & old
- ornament making
- refreshments

Please bring a non-perishable food item or a donation for the Food Bank

SATURDAY DEC. 2

1:15-3:30pm

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT Salt Spring Island Public Library

Santa will ride to the Salt Spring Library in a Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue truck, where he will spend the next two hours posing for photos taken by the Driftwood.

The following week Apple Photo will have the pictures printed ready to be picked up!



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This great event could not happen without the support of all of you, so thank you all!