

GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, December 27, 2017 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 57TH YEAR — ISSUE 52

\$1.25 (incl. GST)

In this issue:



A look back at some of the top news stories of 2017. PAGES 9-16



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
Sailboat in Ganges Harbour on sunny winter's day.

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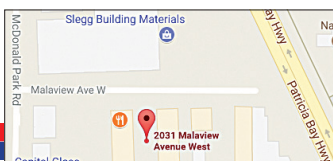
INDEX

Arts.....	17	People & Community.....	19
Classifieds.....	23	What's On.....	18
Editorial.....	6	Year In Review.....	9
Letters.....	7		

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PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

HARBOUR STALWART: The Seahorse tugboat, a much-photographed icon of Ganges Harbour, shimmers with a dab of sunlight breaking through a foggy winter morning.

ISLANDS TRUST

Water issues trickle through LTC files

Housing needs at odds with potable water requirements

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community groups engaged with affordable housing and the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee continue to struggle with how to balance social needs with regulations around potable water supply.

The issue came up at Thursday's LTC meeting in relation to two different rezoning applications and was also referenced to a proposed bylaw that would allow the year-round long-term rental of cottages.

Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove voiced his frustration with the very idea of water scarcity, as he has at many past meetings.

"I just find this whole business about lack of water upsetting. There is no lack of water," Grove said. "The language of the Islands Trust guideline, I think, is too restrictive because there's no lack of water around here. It's just a question of how we capture it and how we use it. So I don't think it holds water."

Trust policy on water was central as trustees considered entering into a cost recovery agreement with the Capital Regional District related to restricting water use for its proposed housing development on Drake Road. The project was denied a hook-up to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District following that body's moratorium on new users, and two attempts to find adequate groundwater since then have had very little success. As a result, the CRD has proposed reducing the number of units and is also looking into the advisability of putting a covenant on title that restricts water use.

Regional planning manager Stefan Cermak observed the project would face issues getting approved, as demonstrating sufficient water

supply is a requirement of the CRD building permit. As well, Islands Trust policy stipulates that "neither the density nor intensity of land use is increased in areas of known water scarcity."

A rezoning bylaw passed by the Salt Spring LTC might therefore fail to pass at the Islands Trust executive committee level if that policy was thought to be contravened, Cermak observed.

The LTC voted to agree to the cost recovery agreement, which will allow Islands Trust lawyers to assess whether the CRD can and should create a restrictive use covenant. If the results are favourable, Cermak said the CRD would go to the next step of drafting what that covenant would entail.

"I just find this whole business about lack of water upsetting."

PETER GROVE
SSI local trustee

An affordable housing project expansion that Island Women Against Violence is planning at Croftonbrook is running into similar problems. Applicants appeared at Thursday's meeting to discuss what they might do to address occupancy guidelines in order to meet the potable water supply threshold.

NSSWD has agreed to supply water for emergency firefighting purposes only. The project also intends to recycle grey water for irrigation and to collect rainwater.

"The applicant is doing an amazing job. I would say they're doing everything for water conservation possible," Cermak remarked.

Again, proving potable water will be necessary to obtain both the CRD

building permits and eventual rezoning approval by the Islands Trust. The expansion proposes to add 54 new units of mixed sizes to the property. Calculations have suggested there would be enough groundwater to meet the needs of 78 people, but CRD occupancy is normally calculated at two people per bedroom, or 144 occupants. Vancouver Island Health Authority calculations are based on 2.5 people per unit, putting the potential occupants at 133 people.

Speaking to the LTC on Thursday, Kisae Petersen, housing director for IWAV, said the applicants hope the Islands Trust can find a mechanism to prove a cap on occupancy without requiring IWAV to produce architect designs before rezoning is approved. An LTC staff report with some options for moving forward is expected to be ready for the next meeting on Jan. 18.

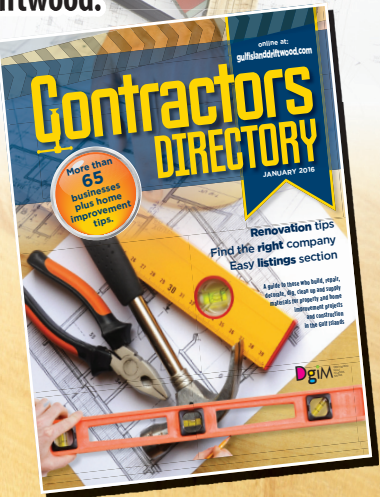
Water is no less an issue when it comes to the LTC's efforts to increase affordable housing on the island. Recent work to create a map of where the long-term rental of cottages would be allowed under a new bylaw excluded areas where water supply is a known issue, such as the Cedar Lane Water District.

Correspondence sent by the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society and received at Thursday's meeting states that stress on groundwater reserves may be greater than is captured in the mapping, however.

"We want to emphasize that when it comes to our water supply, we have to remain in a 'precautionary mode' until water resources (particularly those in the subsurface) are more fully understood. Once over-development has resulted in the supply becoming inadequate, it is very difficult to go back," the letter states in part. "We also question whether Trust executive will approve a bylaw that is so greatly in conflict with Section 4.4.2 of the Trust Policy Statement and Salt Spring Island's OCP."

COMING SOON

The GULF ISLANDS CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.



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NEWSBEAT

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ISLANDS TRUST

Vesuvius Inn site downzoning part of LTC meeting

Harbour House, Salt Spring Commons applications advance

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee business on Dec. 21 included five resolutions necessary to rezone the property and foreshore area at 805 Vesuvius Bay Rd., site of the former Vesuvius Inn, for residential use.

In regard to referral responses from First Nations and BC Ferries, the new shoreline zone is a variant that excludes the owner from building a dock. The bylaws and official community plan amendments will now go to the Islands Trust executive committee for approval.

Trustees also voted to direct the owner to register a statutory right-of-way along the property in favour of the Capital Regional District, which has agreed to cover the costs of the registration to facilitate a future community pathway.

Harbour House

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is hearing concerns about the potential disturbance of archeological remains near Ganges Harbour, and has asked the owners of the Harbour House Hotel to commission an impact report as part of a rezoning application.

"I think it's in the best interest

of everybody to start this process," said LTC member Peter Luckham, who normally chairs the committee but attended the meeting via conference call from Thetis Island on Thursday.

The Harbour House is currently in a rezoning process necessary to increase guest accommodations at the hotel from 42 to 55 units. Referrals were sent out to First Nations with interests in the area after first reading of the rezoning bylaw, with several responses indicating concern about the impact of development to archeological values on the property. Two groups recommended a restrictive covenant be placed on title to limit construction to the existing footprint.

After reviewing the rezoning application at the Dec. 21 LTC meeting, trustees agreed to take a less onerous route toward the same goal by amending the rezoning bylaw to include siting restrictions instead of a covenant. They also decided to request an archeological impact assessment, opening intense dialogue with project architect Bob Irving.

Assessments require a heritage inspection permit issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Archeology Branch. Irving said he was previously told it might take as long as three months to get the necessary permit. The wait could therefore delay rezoning and the owner's ability to con-



Vesuvius Inn site before it was purchased originally for a small condominium development. It will now be downzoned from commercial to residential use.

struct the extra units far beyond the hoped-for opening in the spring.

Salt Spring trustees Peter Grove and George Grams were receptive to Irving's concerns, and said they did not wish the archeological assessment to hold up renovation plans. However, they also took heed of staff's advice that not obtaining the report early on could add even more delay if it became necessary further into the rezoning process.

Luckham said the LTC could take steps to accommodate the applicant if it became apparent that the assessment permit would cause considerable delay,

such as by having staff review the findings after the rezoning bylaw went to public hearing if necessary.

"I think it's reasonable to proceed cautiously now, particularly since one of the First Nations has indicated that they are very concerned about the landscaping. Even just moving dirt from one place to another and piling dirt on an existing place may be of great concern of a spiritual value, as much as a physical value," Luckham said.

Irving argued the owner has no intention of building outside the current footprint at this time. If plans change in the future, planning staff indicated

it might be possible through a development variance permit. Irving suggested the archeological impact assessment could be done at that point.

Regional planning manager Stefan Cermak explained why that might not meet First Nations concerns.

"The conditions are best imposed at the time of rezoning. The only time [afterward] the owner is obliged to go into any sort of assessment is if they dig and find some kind of evidence," Cermak said.

"At the rezoning stage, or any bylaw, we have a referral process and we request feedback from agencies," Cermak continued. "However, when we do a development variance permit it's only to the immediate neighbours ... A variance is seen as minor; a rezoning is significant. And I would say a First Nations referral response is a significant, not a minor issue."

Salt Spring Commons

The LTC also adopted a housing agreement with Salt Spring Community Services to govern affordable housing guidelines at its Salt Spring Commons project, and approved a development variance permit to approve a garage with a second storey to be used as an artist studio on Salt Spring Way.

The next LTC meeting is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2018 at Lions Hall.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Root digs into grant

The Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society has received a new \$35,000 grant from the Victoria Foundation.

A press release from the foundation notes the board has made home-

lessness and food security its top priorities for its Vital Victoria Fund, and has awarded funding to the Farmland Trust's food hub because it supports sustainable local food production.

Better known by its new name The Root, the food storage and processing centre will be construct-

ed on Beddis Road, giving local farmers an affordable location to add value to their various food products.

The project also received a \$100,000 Shaw Family Community Fund grant from the Salt Spring Foundation and a \$100,000 B.C. Rural Dividend grant in 2017.

Driftwood deadlines much earlier

Early press deadlines caused by the holiday season meant this issue of the paper was printed on Friday, Dec. 22.

As well, the Jan. 3 issue

will be printed on Friday, Dec. 29. Anyone with a news item, letter to the editor, or Rants & Roses submission should ideally get it to the Driftwood in person or via email at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by Thursday, Dec. 28 at noon.

Readers can check the Driftwood's website at

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com or the facebook.com/gulfislandsdriftwood page for any breaking news that might occur.

Display and classified advertising deadlines for the Jan. 3 paper are 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

The Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1.

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SOCIAL CHANGE

Student group takes long walk for education fundraiser

Our Roots treks across Salt Spring

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A group of Salt Spring Island students took a long walk across the island to raise funds for education in developing countries on Dec. 17.

The students are part of Our Roots, a student-run fundraising group that raises money for education in developing countries. This year's donations will go to building and maintaining a school in Ethiopia.

Our Roots was created after Gulf Islands Secondary School leadership students attended WE Day in Vancouver in October, an event put on every year by WE Charity to inspire young people to bring about change in the world.

"We just wanted to work on a subject that we could relate to as well," said member Junan Adam-Gordon. "Education seemed like an obvious choice and it is something that everyone needs."

The group, made up of GISS students in grades nine through 12, walked from Southey Point on the north end of the island to Fulford, climbing and descending Mount Maxwell along the way. The walk took just under 10 hours to complete.



PHOTO COURTESY OUR ROOTS

Our Roots group members completing a walk from Southey Point to Fulford on Dec. 17 are from left, Sef Everest, Junan Adam-Gordon, Lila Adam-Gordon, Jessica Pearce, Virginia Pearce and Philipp Klein.

Jessica Pearce, a Grade 12 student and one of Our Roots' members, said, "It was something that we'd be able to do effectively and it was something we could relate to developing countries and children

having to walk to their schools to get their education."

Students around the world need to walk to school.

"I think a lot of the walking idea was to see how it is for a lot of

countries in the world and to realize that you don't really need a car to get from one place to another," said Adam-Gordon. "I think a lot of people value education to such a degree that they will walk a lot of

kilometres to get their education and I think it was really interesting to do that ourselves."

Our Roots also wants to show how reliant people are on cars to get around. Around the world most people travel by foot, often long distances. Walking across Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands will bring attention to car reliance, the group hopes.

Community played a large part in their fundraising efforts. They received the bulk of their donations from Country Grocer, who also donated food for the trip. Donations were also given by other local businesses and from individuals in the community.

The group has other walks in the planning stages.

"In the next few months we are going to be doing more walks around Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands," said Pearce. "We want to kind of do it as many times as possible. We are aiming to do a bigger one in the summer. That's kind of our final goal."

The plan is to work up to a longer walk from Banff to Calgary in July.

"We want to support causes that are fundamental and important to youth in all countries," said Adam-Gordon. "I think education is the root of everything. If you want to give someone the chance to be successful you need education."

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

CRD opens budget feedback

Documents available for review on website

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A preliminary financial plan for 2018 has been approved by the Capital Regional District Board and is now available on the CRD website for public review and feedback.

According to the regional body, the plan reflects and responds to a strong and vibrant economy, as evidenced by a surge of development and population growth in the capital region.

As part of an intensive budgeting process, the CRD Board held two committees of the whole meetings to review details, make suggestions, debate changes and ensure agreement on the process and outcomes. The preliminary financial plan was approved with amendments to reduce overall requisition for regional and some sub-regional services at the board's Dec. 13 meeting.

Based on an average home assessed at \$527,274, Salt Spring taxpayers will pay an average of \$966.24 to the CRD in 2018, or an increase of 2.45 per cent over last year. The portion of the taxes related to Salt Spring electoral area services increased by a flat two per cent.

Residents of the Southern Gulf Islands electoral area will see taxes increase by 4.02 per cent under the proposed budget. The average home assessed at \$386,687 will pay \$417.51 in 2018.

Information supplied by the CRD

explains the operating portion of the financial plan pays for the daily business of the CRD, including labour, supplies, programs, services and repayment of debt for major projects. For 2018, the operating portion includes revenues and expenditures of \$247 million, an increase of \$9 million or 3.7 per cent compared to the 2017 financial plan.

"This increase reflects the scope and scale required for working within complex regulatory and legislative frameworks while managing changes related to environmental monitoring; reporting related to liquid and solid waste management; discharges and emissions; operations and site safety; cyber security; and internal performance measures. It is also driven by board priorities and community needs identified in corporate and service planning," the website explains.

An additional \$48.7 million will go toward the operating budgets of the Capital Regional Hospital District and the Capital Region Housing District.

The CRD has a consolidated capital budget of \$272 million for 2018. Major projects include water and sewer upgrades that will not impact Gulf Islands taxpayers.

The preliminary financial plan is subject to change prior to final approval by the CRD Board in March. Comments and feedback will be correlated and provided to the board as part of the budget approval process.

Residents can email the CRD to request a feedback form. See www.crd.bc.ca for more details.

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ROAD SAFETY

Island drivers challenged by weather



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Traffic is halted on Vesuvius Bay Road Friday morning as emergency service crews attend to two different motor vehicle incidents in the same area of the icy road.

Stay safe on winter roads, advise RCMP and fire chief

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Winter conditions have hit Salt Spring Island just in time for the holidays.

Two vehicles went off the road just before 9 a.m. Friday on Vesuvius Bay Road due to icy conditions. Though the two incidents happened close to each other, they did not appear to be related, said Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George.

Vehicle occupants were treated for their injuries onsite, while crews cleaned up and re-opened the road to traffic.

The incidents took place on the stretch of Vesuvius Bay Road near the intersection of Tripp Road. The cold weather combined with melting water from the snow caused severe black ice to form. It is unknown what exactly caused the crashes, but road conditions are expected to be a factor.

Traffic was backed up to Portlock Park for about 15 minutes. Road maintenance crews responded quickly to salt and sand the area. Many people were stopped on the road while on their way to the Vesuvius ferry terminal.

Conditions on Salt Spring are expected to stay the same for some time. Black ice can form easily on roads, and drivers are reminded to take precautions before venturing out.

"Black ice is prevalent on the island," said Sgt. Ryan Netzer of the RCMP in an email. "Motorists are reminded that even though the roads appear to be clear from ice, often they are not."

Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George said, "We are in winter weather now, and are expecting cold freezing temperatures for the next while. The roads may look clear but any shady areas may catch people by surprise with black ice conditions. During ice and snow periods drivers should take extra precautions and reduce their speed. Good all-season or winter tires

also very important during the winter months."

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, snowfall made roads nearly impassable for most of the day. The RCMP responded to seven calls related to the weather, three of which were collisions. The others were due to people abandoning their vehicles in unsafe locations.

Salt Spring Fire-Rescue responded to five motor vehicle incidents from Dec. 19 to 22. On average the department responds to five incidents per month, but that number increases drastically as the snow and ice get worse.

Personnel from the RCMP's Integrated Road Safety Unit on Vancouver Island set up a series of checkpoints on Dec. 15-16.

Netzer said the RCMP will also be doing regular road safety and impaired driving checks on the island over the holiday period. While safe roads are a priority throughout the year for RCMP, he said, during the holiday season staying safe is especially important.

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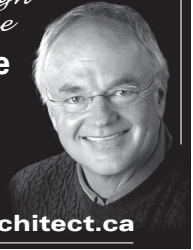
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ALTRUISM

Good deeds paid forward

Salt Spring woman's lost ring returned in Nanaimo

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island woman's lost ring has turned into a story of paying it forward.

Trinda Gajek accidentally donated a diamond ring to a man who was down on his luck when she was in Nanaimo on Dec. 13.

Gajek explained she was motivated to ask the homeless young person how she could help him and ended up turning over the contents of her wallet. She didn't realize until afterward that she had tucked her ring inside for safety and that it had left her possession along with her spare change.

After the story was picked up by news outlets, the ring was returned to Gajek

on Dec. 19. Raymond Ahlstrom, a homeless Nanaimo man, was able to track the ring down and bring it back to its rightful owner.

Gajek met Ahlstrom at a parkade where he turned over the ring on Dec. 19, with less than a week to go until Christmas.

Since he found the ring, Gajek says Ahlstrom has had his good deed paid forward.

"Raymond has got haircuts set up for a year and I think he's found housing," said Gajek.

She also intends to go to the man who originally had the ring and give him a reward for returning it.

The ring was given to Gajek by her children Rylan and Teighan before they left for university. It has sentimental value for Gajek and she said that it was "a complete relief to have it back."

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OPINION



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

2017 BCYCN Awards
Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



EDITORIAL

A year to remember

Compiling the top news stories reported in the Driftwood at the end of a given year is always an illuminating task.

Readers can see what we mean in our annual Year in Review feature, which runs on pages 9-16 in this issue of the paper.

Some subjects return year after year, such as ferry service, road conditions and land-use issues.

Human tragedy of some kind also occurs every year, and 2017 was no exception. We share in condolences expressed to friends and family members of islanders who died too soon or unexpectedly. We tip our hats to individuals who organize fundraisers and other activities that support those suffering from loss or debilitating illness.

THE ISSUE:

The year in retrospect

WE SAY:

Governance topic dominates

Water issues have been a huge topic for the past few years as weather changes reduce Salt Spring's surface water supplies. This year concern about affordable housing took a higher billing, and conflict between the need for housing and water availability

became starkly apparent. Much-needed housing projects are trying to make progress while sources of water for their future residents are not necessarily easy to secure to the satisfaction of government agencies.

But the story that dominated Salt Spring for several months of 2017 was the incorporation referendum campaign. While most such events run for about 30 days, Salt Spring's referendum topic was in the news in some form or other from March through September. While the vote outcome settled what form of governance Salt Spring would not have in the future, it left a fairly blank slate when it comes to potentially changing the current system for the better.

Whether any hoped-for improvements in coordination between local agencies or beefed-up powers for local bodies can occur remains to be seen. It will be interesting to look back in one year's time to evaluate progress made.

In the meantime, we wish all of our readers a Happy New Year and look forward to another year of reporting on and reflecting our amazing community.



VIEWPOINT by LOUISE BRADLEY

Meaningful connections matter

The holidays are a time of heightened emotion. It's only normal. From our expectations to our schedules, everything is ramped up.

Even those of us with our mental health intact find the holidays exceptionally taxing. But for people living with a mental health problem or illness, managing anxiety, overcoming depression or immersed in grief, the glitz and glimmer of the holidays contrast a bleak emotional landscape.

There isn't much worse than watching the hustle and bustle of cheerful revelers, only to feel doubly isolated when our own feelings don't reflect seasonal norms. I have worked as a hospital administrator, and watched families receive devastating news while standing next to the facility's sad approximation of a Christmas tree. I have seen inmates living with mental illness endure the holidays alone, the institutional turkey the only reminder that a special day is upon us. Daily struggles or unexpected tragedies often stand in stark relief to the season's cheerful soundtrack.

As for those blessed with conventional challenges, the holidays are a time when it's easy to become weighed down by niggling tasks: choosing the right gift, cooking a perfect meal, finding a flattering dress.

But it's also a time of year when we all have the capacity to do so much good by rising above those material preoccupations, and putting our energy into making meaningful connections with those who might be vulnerable.

There is no better time to take children to shop for the local food cupboard, to choose items to donate to a women's shelter,

to volunteer at your neighbourhood retirement home. When we need to replenish our own mental health and wellness, one of the most important things we can do is serve others.

When I was a young professional, I had a mentor who modelled servant leadership. He taught me that vision without compassion is as useless as a wagon without wheels. I have tried to bring his teachings to bear in my own life, both as the leader of a pan-Canadian health organization, and as a person wanting to connect with my colleagues, peers and those people living with mental health problems we work so hard to support.

One of the most important things we can do is serve others.

There is no place for complacency this holiday season. With one in five people living with a mental health problem or illness, we do ourselves a disservice to pretend that this is a time of year free from complications.

If anything, it's a time of year when complications become harder to bear.

The next time you're frustrated by a too-long-line or cursing a batch of scorched cookies, remind yourself that tis the season — not only to be jolly — but also to extend kindness and share the warmth of meaningful human connection.

When you need a balm for your frayed nerves, consider putting your talents in service to others this holiday season. It's a gift that means more than any beautifully wrapped bauble under the tree.

The writer is president and CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you optimistic about the coming year? Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Website gremlins & early press deadline made results unavailable for this paper.



Driftwood

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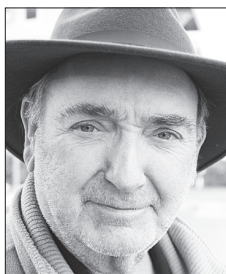
ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I think education is the root of everything. If you want to give someone the chance to be successful you need education."

JUNAN ADAM-GORDON, OUR ROOTS GROUP MEMBER

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What is your wish for Salt Spring in the New Year?



ALISTAIR SIM

To keep its existing character. It is a bit heavy on development. I want it to stay the way it is. That's why I came here.



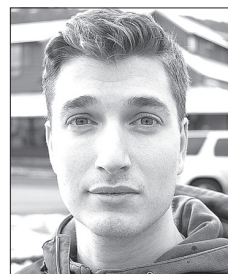
GAIL EYLES

It would be nice if there was more parking. It would also be nice to have a wider bike lane and more bus routes on the south end.



KAJIN GOH

We've had some terrible things happen this year, so I wish it would be more peaceful.



QUINN TEMMEL

It would be nice to see everybody get along, or at least to see more productive arguments.



SASHI NARAYAN

More transit. It is so difficult because we have to wait so long. Especially when coordinating with the ferries. I also think we need more sidewalks.

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

Help for Kinder Morgan

Gotcha. It seems that the new Kinder Morgan pipeline will be subsidized by those most opposed to it.

Who? You and me.

B.C. residents will be paying \$100 million per year in higher gasoline costs as a direct consequence of this pipeline being built. Pipeline tariffs will be increased from the current level of \$2.20 per barrel to \$5.64. We currently use about 4.7 billion litres of fuel annually. Get your kid to

do the math.

Who says, you say? Robyn Allan says in an article in the National Observer in March. Who's she? A B.C. economist/executive who has presented to the National Energy Board. They are the ones that declared the information not relevant in their pipeline review process.

Who benefits? Some combination of Kinder Morgan, Alberta tar sands companies, and offshore buyers.

Again, who pays? You and me.

RON MACKENZIE,
SALT SPRING

Voice snow clearing concerns

The first snowfall of the year has highlighted the abysmal winter road maintenance we have come to expect on Salt Spring Island.

If you feel that Mainroad Contracting has not and is not providing adequate winter road maintenance, you have two choices. Either buy a four-wheel-drive vehicle or contact Ryan Evanoff, who is our

governmental link to Mainroad Contracting, at Ryan.Evanoff@bc.ca.

Last year I finally got fed up and bought a four-wheel-drive truck so I could make work calls after a snow. I went out at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning and the Fulford-Ganges Road was blocked both at Lee's Hill and near the Ganges Hill because the road had not been properly maintained.

Unless you are happy to sit around the house for a couple of days after every snowfall I encourage you to

e-mail Ryan early and often and maybe we can effect some change.

BOB ELSEA,
DUKES ROAD

Magical Ganges

I put up a few Christmas lights on my boat last week. I was a bit disappointed that only the water taxis seemed to have lights up.

I drove downtown that evening and was stunned to see first a long hedge all lit up. Then I saw GVM had a huge light display complete

with Santa on a sleigh on the roof. Once I got downtown I was blown away.

All of Ganges seemed to be lit up. Moutat's, of course, Thrifty's, the fire hall and then Centennial Park was wonderful, an absolute fairyland. Everyone seems to have done a wonderful job of lighting up the town. I am sure I have missed lots, but it is worth a drive downtown and a walk around.

It is magical, just magical.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Yuletide transformation of Brother Ebenezer

BY PAT GOULD

It was nearing Christmas and my husband and I were on our own, our grown children and their offspring having gone in differing directions.

I was feeling sorry for myself, so we decided to head to Palm Springs where the warmth of the California desert would perhaps lift my spirits. Besides, my spouse had long ago declared that Scrooge was right — Christmas is humbug.

We settled into our comfortable condo, a stack of books at hand, and my husband looking pleased. On or around Dec. 22, he surprised me by suggesting, not without considerable vagueness, that we "maybe volunteer at some charitable organization . . . do something on Christmas Day. You know," he added lamely, "help serve dinners to the needy . . . or something."

Needy? In this mecca of haute couture, Jaguar convertibles, liposuction?

"Great," I replied testily. "We can take some apples out to the polo grounds and feed the ponies."

He returned to his paper with the smug look of one who has tried.

Still, I was intrigued with the idea. I scoured the local newspaper, looking for charitable organizations. There was nothing, except one small insertion: "Desert Gospel Mission's annual Christmas Dinner, December 25. Donations needed." I telephoned the number, ignoring my spouse who had turned pale.

Yes, the Desert Gospel Mission was indeed looking for volunteers. We were directed to the mission's address, a forlorn building in a part of the town we had never

seen. By now it was clear my husband's enthusiasm was in remission. He followed me in, reluctantly, muttering something about "damn fool idea . . ."

Having stated our business we were asked to wait in the austere narrow office for a few minutes. "Look at these," my spouse said indignantly in a stage whisper, pointing to the shelves. "These" were religious paperbacks and tracts.

"You expected Playboy maybe?" I hung on to his sleeve as he edged toward the door. "You got us into this. Now sit."

A somewhat nonplussed but pleasant woman soon arrived and assigned us to our tasks. We would be on the first shift, serving hot turkey dinners and helping where needed, and we would have to be at the church at 11 a.m. sharp on Christmas Day.

I wasn't sure how my spouse would react. Long retired, he was known as the curmudgeon's curmudgeon . . . with a heart of gold, to be sure. Although not quite an atheist, he was, shall we say, ecumenically challenged. I viewed his upcoming role with trepidation.

On Christmas Day we arrived promptly to take up our duties. "Smile, for God's sake," I told him as we entered. "This was your idea, remember."

We were greeted on arrival by Brother Arnold and Sister Emilie. "Praise the Lord," they chorused in unison, each in turn pumping our hands with alarming vigour. My heart sank.

My husband was eyeing the emergency exit. He mumbled something barely intelligible — our names, as it turned

GUEST COLUMN

out, which he gave as Ebenezer and Patsy. No one blinked. Our new friends appeared oblivious to my spouse's sarcasm and unaware that I was holding him firmly by the arm. Beaming, they introduced us to our fellow workers — Brothers and Sisters all, each of whom seized our hands and shook them up and down to the accompanying chorus of "Praise the Lord." We were now officially Brother Ebenezer and Sister Patsy. I avoided my husband's eyes.

It was raining and unseasonably cold. A line was forming outside the steam-shrouded glass doors, which were flung open promptly at noon.

They entered quietly, the desert's invisible poor, one by one, most with small children, most Hispanics. Some shepherded elderly relatives, a mother or a father, an aunt or a cousin — a family affair. Ten long trestle tables were covered in red crepe paper, each table neatly set for 20 diners. Taped carols played in the background.

My task was to pick up the filled plates in the kitchen and place them on large trays, ready to be distributed by others, all apparently from the mission's congregation. The four volunteer cooks had been there since early morning. I watched in admiration as they removed browned turkeys from the ovens. A mountain of potatoes was being mashed, a sea of gravy prepared, carrots and Brussels sprouts buttered and stirred, while another worker began preparing more of the same.

The kitchen was cramped and stifling, yet a joyous camaraderie pervaded

the steam room. It was infectious. Even "Praise the Lord" sounded right amid the laughter.

Occasionally I was able to glimpse my spouse. He poured coffee into cups and juice into glasses. He exchanged Feliz Navidades with the less timid diners, showed his pleasure at a shy youngster's lisped "gracias," accepted an old man's proffered hand. Charles Dickens would have loved it.

At about 3 p.m. we took time to sit down and sample the Christmas feast — surely the best ever eaten — but with an eye to the next lineup waiting patiently outside. Our replacements had not arrived. We didn't need to confer with one another; we simply resumed our roles.

At 5:30 we were able to leave, waved away by a bevy of enthusiastic church members who assured us we would be made welcome at their Sunday gospel service. Now my husband had *me* firmly by the arm.

We returned to our comfortable condo, the heated pool warm and soothing to our tired bodies. My husband, contemplative, lay floating in the warm water, gazing up at the stars. He hadn't volunteered a "Merry Christmas to all" at the mission, but he hadn't said "Bah! Humbug!" either. I took that as a victory of sorts.

But the best was yet to come: As he climbed out of the pool, Brother Ebenezer was beaming.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident who has had stories published in a variety of publications, including the Driftwood and Reader's Digest.



PHOTO BY GAIL SUIJBERG

READY TO EAT:

Set to enjoy a hot turkey dinner and chocolate cupcakes from the Core Inn kitchen on Dec. 21 are, from left, Core Inn staff Angela Koetzle and Martin Mongard, and youth Tyrel Domingo and Koah Barstead. The Core Inn youth centre has offered a Christmas dinner for the past few years, and has monthly dinners for youth as well.

MORE LETTERS

Join the marimba band

Ruwadzano Marimba Band performs joyous Zimbabwean marimba music in the Saturday Market. We love this music; we love the way people instantly know this music is something very special, and we love that our songs compel small children to dance wildly.

At the end of our performances we're often approached by people who want to know more about the music and the instruments, and how they can be part of the band.

This is the time of year we invite new members to try out, so if you've always wanted to play with us, our 2018 teaching season starts in early January.

Zimbabwean music is rhythmically and melodically complex and we don't have sheet music. There is initially a somewhat steep learning curve, but you will be supported by patient friends. Playing marimba is physically demanding, so you'll need stamina, and strong hands and wrists. Our instruments are acoustic, human-powered, un-amplified and non-electronic.

On a serious note, Ruwadzano is a performance-oriented group. Making marimba music is a significant team investment and our success depends on attracting dependable people. Your ability to understand this and to make a firm commitment to yourself, to the other band members and to rehearsal and performance schedules is absolutely mandatory.

We rehearse twice a week in Ganges, and we perform at the market approximately every second Saturday from early June until late September. We also play for various community events and benefits, the occasional wedding, and for fun, we book the Lions Hall for a winter dance.

There is no cost to be a band member, and kids are welcome at practices. Our band culture requires that the practice space must remain safe, and tobacco, drug and alcohol-free. Individual player evaluations are formalized sometime around the end of February.

For more information please call me, Chris Dixon, at 250-537-2840 or email cw.dixon@shaw.ca.

CHRIS DIXON,
SALT SPRING

Don't blame post office

In reply to Ann Heeley-Ray's unkind Rant in the Dec. 20 Driftwood, this is what's with the Ganges Post Office.

The Ganges Post Office is not allowed to have a separate drop box for Salt Spring mail only. All mail, even local for Salt Spring, must go to Vancouver to be sorted.

This may be crazy, but don't blame our post office and its hard-working staff. You probably did have to "line up for quite a long time" to hand in your letter. It's Christmas, remember?

JANE HORSBURGH,
SALT SPRING

RANTS and Roses

Roses

It's Sunday afternoon and we just finished sorting out for each child the gifts delivered today; the food boxes are all put away. Our gratitude is indescribable but here goes. Wishing a huge wreath of Christmas poinsettias to Santa's Workshop, for all the toys and gifts for our children and teens, who will be thrilled. It's going to be Christmas stockings stuffed full, and no room left under the tree. Thank you to the Salt Spring Toy Run and the merchants who have donated so generously. To the indefatigable volunteers of the food bank; sorry we missed you when you came to drop off everything, and so here is the thank-you and hugs we wanted to give you. When we saw the wonderful array of gifts for the children chosen by a special group of volunteers just for our kids, we could not help getting tears in our eyes. They're just beautiful gifts! Thanks to Salt Spring Community Services who organized gathering the ages of everyone's children through the food bank volunteers, so that the best Christmas comes to the kids. It's a joy to look forward to Christmas morning now, not worried at all. With the food bank donations we can get busy with Christmas baking!

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

Fitness Expert

What Can I Do Over The Holidays To Reduce Stress?

With the Christmas Season upon us, we can all feel a little more stress in our day to day life. You start to put things off or you say I'll miss just one fitness class then another!! THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA!

Exercise improves blood flow to your brain, bringing additional sugars and oxygen that may be needed when you are thinking intensely. When your neurons function more intensely, a toxic waste can build up, which fogs our thinking. Exercise speeds the flow of blood through your brain, moving the waste through faster.

After swimming a few laps in the pool or participating in an Aqua Fit Class you will have more energy, feel calmer and be better focused.

Keeping your regular exercise routine or starting a new one, can give you the fitness and stamina to make it through the demands of the festive season and beyond for a healthier you all year long.



BRENDA AKERMAN

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Financial Advice

What should I do about my holiday debt?

After the holidays many people are left with some debt. If you spent more than you planned for you can get back on track with a few simple tips:

Give yourself a realistic deadline to pay off expenses. Review your monthly budget and cut out unnecessary expenses for a while, such as going out for meals and entertainment.

When the bills arrive, make all your minimum payments. Then direct any extra money to paying off your highest interest debts first.

Take a break from using credit cards. By using cash or debit you will be more aware of how you are using your money.

Finally, use a savings account to begin stashing money away for gifts and celebrations next year. Make a monthly deposit and you won't have to worry about any IOUs next year.



TANYA STEEVES

IslandSavings

A DIVISION OF FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

Tanya Steeves
Financial Advisor
Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union
250-538-5005 tsteves@islandsavings.ca

Mechanic

Holiday trips in cold weather may require more than a well prepared vehicle

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>



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Real Estate

A Time For Thanks

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change.

In 2017 it is my hope that our sense of world community depens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

*Peace, Good Will, Prosperity,
And Good Health To All !*



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A YEAR in REVIEW

A month-by-month look back at 2017 through the pages of the Driftwood.

JANUARY

• The Salt Spring Squash Club was successful in its mission as its new squash court opened Jan. 1 in a purpose-built facility on the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club property.

• Gulf Islands property owners were carefully perusing their property tax bills with residential home assessment increases ranging from five to 25 per cent. The typical single family residential property in the Southern Gulf Islands saw an increase in value of nearly 11 per cent, going from \$385,500 in 2016 to \$426,000 in 2017.

• Salt Spring's RCMP detachment changed its criminal record check policy by making the process available every day the detachment is open for regular business. In the past the checks could only be done on Wednesdays. With up to 20 applications coming in every week, backlogs were occurring and hampering groups that rely on volunteers needing the criminal record checks done.

• Islanders were coping with unprecedented snow and cold weather. While skaters were enjoying the ability to skate and play hockey on frozen Cusheon Lake, which had not occurred since January of 1993, driving conditions were horrific.

"I had a million phone calls but couldn't do anything because there was nothing you can do," said tow-truck operator Ron Dewar of Me & Ron's Towing. "It was just solid ice."

• Four individuals stepped up to serve as fire trustees, eliminating the need for a Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District election. Chris Budd, Mary Lynn Hetherington, Howard Holzapfel and Per Svendsen were elected by acclamation to fill four of the fire district's five vacant seats. Incoming members joined chair Mitch Forest and Howard Baker, who were the only trustees remaining after four others resigned suddenly in October.

• Salt Spring's school community was mourning the sudden death of basketball coach Diane Weatherby following complications from surgery in Victoria, and former SIMS music teacher Mitch Howard, who died due to multiple myeloma, which he had suffered from for several years. Weatherby died Jan. 4 and Howard died Jan. 6.

• The Capital Regional District was successful in getting control over the Manson Road area outside of the Tree House Cafe. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure granted the local government body a five-year licence of occupation for the small stretch of laneway located beside the cafe. The area had been the subject of controversy and a power struggle with the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island.

• Salt Spring Islanders were part of a global movement recognizing the importance of protecting women's rights on Jan. 21, with a crowd of 600 gathering in Ganges to support the Women's March on Washington.



PHOTO BY MELINDA DIVERS

A hockey game takes place on Cusheon Lake in January for the first time since 1993. A prolonged cold spell through December and January produced the unusual conditions for the lake.

• Take-home naloxone kits were made available through two Salt Spring health-care outlets as Island Health attempted to respond to the province-wide opioid crisis. Island Health had distributed more than 4,100 publicly funded kits through the Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands region and trained more than 600 staff members at nearly 60 sites on how to administer them. B.C. paramedics responded to nearly 20,000 overdose calls in 2016, up from 10,667 in 2014. There were 914 overdose deaths in B.C. in 2016; 155 of those were in the Island Health region.

• A recent pattern of summer drought and above-average precipitation in the fall and win-

ter was suspected as the cause of the "Fernwood Reek," a strong, sulphuric swamp gas that was noticeable on a short section of North End Road.

• Crime Stoppers posted a video appealing to the public to assist with solving the murder of Joseph Bernie on Salt Spring Island in October of 2015. Titled "Who would kill the B.C. man known as the 'Gentle Giant?'" the segment outlined what was known about Bernie and how he died in an abandoned Fulford home.

• Preliminary work began on the newest Partners Creating Pathways project. A 15-member volunteer work party began clearing brush from the north side of Atkins Road.






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2017 A YEAR in REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY SSIFR

A van is engulfed in flames on Channel Ridge soon after the driver and three dogs got out of it on March 10.



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN NEWTON

The road bank at 310 Isabella Point slid away in mid-February. A repair would not be completed until September.

FEBRUARY

- The Canada 150 for 150 Volunteer Challenge was launched Feb. 1 by Volunteer and Community Resources on Salt Spring. The nationwide program encouraged volunteers to track the hours of volunteering, with those achieving 150 by July 1 — Canada's 150th birthday — receiving special recognition.

- The Japanese Garden Society presented a month-long commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the removal of all people of Japanese ancestry from the B.C. coast called The Uprooting. An exhibit in the library's program room opened on Feb. 7, and special presentations took place throughout the month.

- Salt Spring residents spent more days shovelling snow, skidding into ditches and coping without power as snow fell off and on from Feb. 3-6. Islanders reported receiving between 12 and 20 inches (30-50 cms) of snow, depending on their location. Properties at higher elevations had maintained some amount of snow cover since Dec. 4, 2016.

- Proportional representation fans in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding were vowing to keep pressing for electoral reform, despite a federal government announcement that no change to the current system would be pursued.

- The first batch of 2016 census data revealed growing population trends for Salt Spring and some of the Gulf Islands, with Galiano and Mayne islands' populations both declining since 2011. Salt Spring's population jumped

to 10,557, up from 10,234 in 2011, for a 3.2 per cent increase. South Pender grew to 235 residents from 201, and Saturna also saw its population grow to 354 from 335. North Pender's population grew slightly from 2,039 to 2,067. Galiano's 2016 population was 1,044, down from 1,138 five years earlier. Mayne Islanders dropped to 949 from 1,071.

- The Parks and Recreation Commission approved a long-term master plan for Centennial Park, with a new washroom facility and preliminary site work getting top priority. The first \$400,000 phase was fully funded, reported PARC manager Dan Ovington.

- Drivers were advised to proceed with caution on Isabella Point Road after part of a high-bank cliffside slid into the ocean. Mainroad Contracting sent out an advisory about the washout near 310 Isabella Point Rd. on Feb. 16.

- GISS hosted its first Wellness Summit on Feb. 16, with a full day of events devoted to supporting mental health in students put together by the school's Leadership Class. The school-wide forum included an opening keynote address for the entire school followed by a vast set of workshops for which students registered according to their individual interests.

- The campaign to save an historic Beaver Point area farmhouse came to an end on Feb. 15 with the home's destruction and removal by the strata community that owned it. South-end resident Brenda Guiled had led the fight to protect the house and believed she had found a way to have the structure moved to nearby Ruckle Park to become an interpretive centre.

MARCH

- The Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee was set to get down to work. The committee was created by the Capital Regional District to help facilitate completion of a seaside boardwalk between Rotary Park and Peck's Cove Park, which was halted in 1992. The committee had representation from the CRD, Islands Trust, Chamber of Commerce and community.

- A surge in Salt Spring cougar sightings was reported to the Ministry of Environment's conservation office in February and March. Reports came in from North End Road, Epron Road, Rainbow and Booth Canals roads, and the Ford Lake area. Approximately 10 farm animals were believed to have been killed. A calf was also injured on a farm owned by Mark Hughes. Conservation officers set a live trap for the cougar at the Hughes farm on March 21.

- The Salt Spring community wasted no time in stepping up for Darcy Ross MacLean and his family, following news the active 15-year-old faced intensive surgery as the result of a rare bone cancer. A GoFundMe fundraising campaign brought in \$13,000 in just a week, with donations exceeding the initial target.

- Gulf Islands residents were invited to contribute their ideas on how to connect their communities through an active transportation network, with a series of planning forums hosted by the Capital Regional District. The CRD was developing a regional trails plan for the Gulf Islands as part of the 2012-21 Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

- A Salt Spring woman was counting herself lucky after she and three dogs got out of her vehicle not long before it was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of March 10. Diane Clarke was on her way to meet a friend for a walk at Channel Ridge when the incident occurred.

- Sightings of Rufous hummingbirds came in later than usual, not surprising in light of the harsh winter endured by the west coast of B.C. Patricia Robitaille of Sky Valley Road was the first to report seeing a male Rufous on March 16. Roland Road resident Jean Brouard saw his first hummer on March 22, when the previous year's arrival date was March 5.

- Islander Oona McQuat made a presentation to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee asking the LTC to put a stop to microcell transmitters before they reach the island. McQuat explained that small cells are antennas that can boost the range of major cell-tower infrastructure, with a range between a few metres up to several kilometres. McQuat said communities should be concerned because of microcells' threats to human health; interruption of bees' navigational abilities and the resulting impact on food security; the high carbon footprint of wireless technologies; and cyber-security and increased vulnerability to computer hacking.

- The provincial government announced \$4.5-million in capital funding for a two-phase expansion of affordable housing units at Croftonbrook, as planned by Island Women Against Violence, which runs Croftonbrook. The announcement was made by B.C. Transportation Minister Todd Stone when he visited the island on March 28.

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2017 A YEAR in REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Members of the Salt Spring Sneakers don ultra-bright clothing to draw attention to their #SeeMe campaign launched following a serious collision between a cyclist and a car on Fulford-Ganges Road.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJURBERG

Major party candidates for Saanich North and the Islands at an all-candidates meeting at GISS are, from left, Stephen P. Roberts (Liberal), Adam Olsen (Green) and Gary Holman (NDP). Olsen won the riding by a large margin.

APRIL

- Steffich Fine Art celebrated 25 years of doing business in Ganges with an April 1 event. Gallery owner Matt Steffich said his enterprise was the first local gallery of work by multiple artists to run for 25 years with a single owner. He opened his first Grace Point Square space as Thunderbird Gallery, specializing in Indigenous artwork.

- A 65-year-old Salt Spring cyclist was severely injured in a collision with a car in the 400 block of Fulford-Ganges Road on

April 3. The man was travelling toward Ganges in the northbound lane just after 4 p.m. when a southbound '80s-model Toyota Camry driven by a 55-year-old Salt Spring woman made a left turn into the path of the cyclist. In response, the Salt Spring Sneakers running group launched a #SeeMe campaign to raise awareness of the need for safer conditions on roadways. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders were all meant to be involved in the initiative in which people took photos of themselves wearing high-visibility outfits and posted them to Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag #SeeMe.

- The body of Andrew Norman DeMarsh, who was reported missing on March 17, was found in waters off Salt Spring on Saturday, April 8. An extensive search of the northern part of Salt Spring and nearby waters took place at the time of his disappearance but did not result in finding the 36-year-old, who was a recent arrival to Salt Spring. A search resumed after personal items belonging to DeMarsh were found on a trail in the Southey Point area on April 7.

- Mary Lynn Hetherington and Rollie Cook were the newest fire trustees after an April 22 election. Hetherington topped the polls with 262 votes, with Cook close behind at 260. The third candidate, Michael Jaeger, earned 99 votes.

- The North Salt Spring Waterworks District board had two new faces following an April 25 election. Robert Steinbach and Michael McAllister won the two available seats against third nominee Bryce Chapman. The NSSWD AGM was a contentious one, with a large contingent of Brinkworthy Place residents attending. Although they are not allowed to vote on NSSWD matters because they are not property owners, they were the ones expected to suffer financially from a proposed major parcel tax increase for the modular home park.

- Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse released a needs assessment report called Consent and Sexual Assault in the Southern Gulf Islands - Prevention and Response. Some 450 individuals had completed a survey in 2016, and 37 people working in agencies that have direct experience with sexual assault victims also contributed their knowledge and observations. The report made 25 recommendations, ranging from developing new educational materials to involving men and boys in more prevention events to hiring of a sexual assault advocate.

- The Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission launched a new Opportunity Salt Spring website aimed at providing useful information for entrepreneurs who live on the island and those seeking to relocate from elsewhere.

MAY

- The 2017 provincial election in Saanich North and the Islands was a rematch of the 2013 race, with the same three candidates doing battle. This time Green party candidate Adam Olsen beat both incumbent Gary Holman of the NDP and Liberal candidate Stephen P. Roberts. Independent candidate Jordan Templeman also threw his hat into the

ring. Final results were: Olsen, 14,775; Holman, 10,765; Roberts, 9,321; Templeman, 364. Olsen also won the student vote conducted at 20 high schools in Saanich North and the Islands with 55 per cent support.

- Province-wide, election night was a nail biter, with final results not immediately determined. In the end, the NDP had 43 seats, BC Liberals 41 and the Greens 3. Lieut. Gov. Judith Guichon gave the NDP and leader John Horgan the chance to form a government with support from the B.C. Green Party and its leader Andrew Weaver.

- The longstanding conflict about outdoor seating at the Tree House Cafe was resolved for the year, resulting in live music being able to take place at the cafe every summer night in 2017. Cafe owners Mark and Terena LeCorre had to make arrangements with various government authorities in order to set some tables in the Manson Road laneway and serve alcohol at those tables. The cafe had to restrict its musical offerings the previous summer, due to a Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island ruling.

- Swimmers at four popular lakeside beaches would have extra safety equipment on hand this summer thanks to a partnership between the Salt Spring Lions and the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission. Life rings were installed at St. Mary, Cusheon, Blackburn and Stowel lakes. The effort followed the tragic drowning of two young off-island men at Weston Lake the previous summer. A private donation saw a life ring installed at that lake.

- The Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island celebrated the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St. Mark's at Central. A festival Eucharist was held under the leadership of Bishop Logan McMenamie at All Saints and Evensong at St. Mark's Church on May 14.

- Salt Spring's Community Economic Development Commission was taking on the island's affordable housing problem with new research and advocacy work. Commission member Laura Patrick had interviewed 18 employers representing more than 900 permanent workers and spoke at a mini-forum about the impact a low housing stock was having on the island's economy.

- A cougar was blamed for the death of 10-year-old donkey Farley at Caroline and Andy Hickman's Gander's Hatch Farm on Wright Road on the evening of May 20. Tracking and surveillance efforts made by conservation officers had not managed to apprehend the cougar(s) that had killed a number of livestock since February.

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PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Community members gather at the foot of Ganges Hill at a popular hitchhiking spot to protest RCMP and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure plans to stop it from being used.



PHOTO BY SEAN HITREC

Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue volunteers comb the Ganges Harbour shoreline for signs of a man seen falling into the water.

MAY cont'd.

• Some 105 sailboats competed in the 44th Round Salt Spring race on the Victoria Day long weekend. While a brisk northerly breeze at the start of the race allowed all boats to clear the line for the anti-clockwise excursion, the wind disappeared at the south end of Wallace Island. Only a few of the faster boats managed to get through Sansum Narrows before the change to a large flood tide. Eric Jespersen's Melges 32 Mischief crossed the finish line first at 1 a.m. Only 10 boats finished the race by the 10:30 a.m. cut-off time on Sunday morning.

• Mouat's Trading Co. marked 110 years of doing business on Salt Spring in May. The original Mouat's store opened next door to the present-day main store building, which was constructed in 1911.

JUNE

• Protesters demonstrated against plans to discourage hitchhiking outside of Embe Bakery. The protests were in response to a Salt Spring RCMP and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure decision.

A barrier was reportedly to be installed on the side of the road at the popular hitchhiking stop. Residents expressed their concerns by protesting outside of the bakery and cheering when cars stopped to pick up travellers.

• Salt Spring Fire-Rescue crews could not save a waterfront home on June 5. The home, owned by Michael McAllister and Lisa Spitale, was completely destroyed by the fire. Firefighters responded to the blaze at 856 Sunset Dr., but were unable to save the structure. There were no injuries reported. The couple was not at home when the fire broke out.

• Salt Spring Search and Rescue and Coast Guard crews were deployed to Ganges Harbour on June 12 after a man was witnessed falling into the ocean during a storm. RCMP confirmed that the man's body was recovered the following afternoon near Powder Islet. The missing man's dog also went into the water and was recovered by animal control officer Wolfgang Brunnwieser near Churchill Beach on Wednesday, June 14.

• Community members pulled together to finish Phoenix Elementary School's new water catchment system. The school, which operates a school garden for students to learn how to grow their own food, benefitted when members of the community helped finish the project.

• The issue of affordable housing came up at meetings for the Dragonfly housing project. The goal of the project is to provide affordable housing for those in the workforce on Salt Spring Island. An info session for the housing project attracted a full house. Fernando dos Santos, who owns the property with his wife Tami, explained that the idea with the project was to meet the need for "owner-occupied" worker housing for the 21-40 age range. "We want ideas from the community," said dos Santos. "We want you to be our partners."

• Galiano Island Community School won a new school playground after coming in fourth place in the Play Here competition against far larger communities in B.C. The \$100,000 prize was awarded by BCAA to the school after receiving support from other



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

First car disembarks at Long Harbour on the June 21 inaugural run of the Salish Eagle vessel set to serve Route 9 along with its sister ship the Salish Raven.

communities in the Gulf Islands, beating out Marion Schilling Elementary School in Kamloops. The playground had its grand opening on Oct. 10.

• BC Ferries' Salish Eagle entered its first day of service on Wednesday, June 21. The Eagle was the second of three new Salish Class vessels. The Salish class ships are dual-fuel and capable of running

either on natural gas or ultra-low sulphur marine diesel. The new fuel system will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 9,000 metric tonnes, which is approximately the same as removing 1,900 passenger vehicles from the road each year. The vessels soon experienced teething problems, ranging from elevator and door issues to an overheating galley.

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2017 A YEAR in REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges Thrifty Foods store front-end manager Sandra Crandall is set to welcome customers to a 40th-anniversary celebration event at the store.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring residents Kelly-Ann and Hue Haslauer set to embark on the Cycle of Life bike tour from Victoria over the Malahat to Salt Spring and back to Victoria.

JULY

• A woman whose home was robbed while she slept urged islanders to not be complacent about locking their doors and windows. The thief or thieves entered through an unlocked window. They entered sometime between midnight and 6:30 a.m. They took her laptop and two purses but left her cell phone. RCMP warned about crimes of opportunity.

• On July 1, the fire department imposed a ban on all backyard burning, use of incinerators and machine piles. Camp fires were still allowed, but only with a valid fire permit. Fire crews were called to put out a small grass fire that started the day before in a Maliview Drive backyard.

• Thrifty Foods celebrated its 40th anniversary as a company with special events at its stores, including the Ganges location, which had opened in 1993.

• The Salt Spring Island chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice announced that doctors Hala Aljuburi and Manuela Lowo would be leaving Salt Spring and moving their practices to the Cowichan Valley area effective Aug. 1. The doctors, who came to Salt Spring through the Practice Ready Assessment program, had been practising out of Dr. Magda Leon's Lancer Building office until their departure

from that space in the spring. Since leaving Leon's office, they had been taking shifts at Lady Minto Hospital, but were unable to schedule appointments.

• A Salt Spring-based organization's proposal to develop a regional response to derelict and abandoned vessels found support from local government, with a motion from the Capital Regional District adding to the momentum. The motion called for the CRD to work with other governmental bodies on a coordinated response to abandoned vessels. The joint venture is key to coordinate the removal of derelict vessels.

John Roe from the Veins of Life Watershed Society said, "Everybody's complaining but the reality is we as a community have to go out to do the work. Otherwise it ain't gonna happen."

• BC Ferries crews were kept busy with six separate ocean rescues, including three by ferries that serve Salt Spring Island and the Gulf Islands. The Queen of Nanaimo rescued seven people whose power boat had run aground near Galiano Island. That was followed by a rescue of a boat in distress by the MV Kuper and Howe Sound Queen. The MV Kuper had to respond to a third incident of a boat experiencing motor problems. Finally, the Queen of Nanaimo launched a rescue boat near Tsawwassen ferry terminal to rescue two canoeists. BC Ferries apologized to their customers for the delays in service, but said that "it is the rules of the

road that we're tasked with responding to a mariner in distress."

• The Cycle of Life bike tour came through Salt Spring. Two residents, Kelly-Ann and Hue Haslauer, participated in the event, which is an annual fundraiser for Vancouver Island-region hospice societies. The pair rode as "Team Bill" in memory of Kelly-Ann's father, who received end-of-life support at the Salt Spring Hospice Society. The tour went from Victoria, through Brentwood Bay, across the Saanich Inlet to the Cowichan Valley and again across the water from Crofton to Salt Spring, stopping for the night at the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. It continued the next day to Fulford, across to Sidney, through Saanich and ended again in Victoria. The tour raised \$136,000 for hospice societies around Vancouver Island.

• A brush fire near Yeo Point was quickly extinguished by three emergency crews. Salt Spring Fire-Rescue, the province's Wildfire Management Branch and the Canadian Coast Guard combined forces to fight the fire in a remote part of Ruckle Park.

AUGUST

• BC Ferries brought the Salish Raven on early to replace the ailing Queen of Nanaimo on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route. The Salish Raven is the third of BC Ferries' three new Salish Class ships. The first sailing departed Tsawwassen at

2:45 p.m. on Aug. 3. The Queen of Nanaimo had been in service for over 50 years. She experienced a mechanical problem with the starboard controllable pitch propeller.

• Salt Spring Island resident Basil Franey put 2.15 hectares (5.3 acres) of his Isabella Point property under permanent protection. A conservation covenant held by the Islands Trust Fund and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy protects the area from human development and habitat loss.

• A young family living in a floating dwelling in Ganges Harbour were handed an eviction notice the day after their first child was born. The notice came because Salt Spring's Land Use Bylaw 355 states that floating structures are not allowed in the harbour. Boats, however, fall under federal jurisdiction. The couple intended to fight the claim and sought legal counsel.

• A series of images that speak to the uniqueness of place on Salt Spring launched on Aug. 11. The show was presented by ArtSpring as a celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. The images involved visual narratives that photographer Greg Klassen produced by layering new photographs with historic ones.

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

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

From left, Chloe Haigh, Ezra Daws-Knowles, Summer Hildebrandt and Adina Hildebrandt take in the Aug. 21 eclipse from the Island Escapades beach with special viewing glasses.

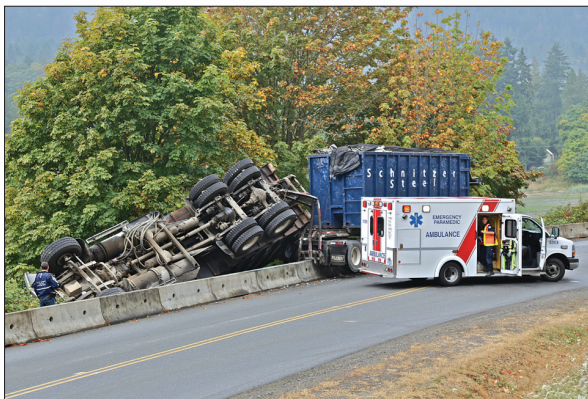


PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

A truck and trailer bound for metal recycling off-island lies flipped over the concrete barrier in the 2800 block of Fulford Ganges Road on Sept. 8

AUGUST cont'd.

• Salt Spring's local Trust committee made a step towards cracking down on short-term vacation rentals. Enforcement was slated to begin in the fall. Enforcement letters went out to STVR owners in September, letting them know about the new regulations and how to be compliant. LTC chair Peter Luckham said vacation rentals are part of a perennial cycle of complaint across the entire Trust area.

• A partial solar eclipse made headlines across North America on Aug. 21. Salt Spring Islanders were able to get a partial view of the celestial event. The partial eclipse dimmed the sky over Salt Spring, and created crescent-shaped shadows that filled social media in the days following the event. All messages about safe viewing practices sunk in. People used pinhole cameras, welding goggles and certified viewing glasses to observe the historic event.

• BC Ferries was the first on scene after a boat carrying four people sank on Aug. 27. Two kayakers tried to initiate a rescue, but also ended up in the water. The 9 a.m. sailing of the Spirit of Vancouver Island responded to a distress call near Georgina

Point on Mayne Island. The four passengers of the sunken boat were all in the water. Two people on Mayne Island saw the boat sinking and attempted to help the passengers. They too ended up in the water. BC Ferries sent a rescue craft to help the group. The four from the sunken boat were taken to Tsawwassen and recovered from mild hypothermia en route. The two kayakers were uninjured and taken ashore to Mayne Island.

• A family of Syrian refugees who called Salt Spring Island home for the past year moved to Calgary to be closer to family. Samer and Rayna Khaldi, along with their children Serina, Adam and Mimi, left the island on Aug. 22. The Khaldis were on the island thanks to the Salt Spring Refugee Sponsorship Action Group, who arranged a private sponsorship for the family. While the group announced the departure of the Khaldis with heavy hearts, they noted the purpose of sponsorship is to give refugees a chance to get out of danger and find a safe home while they make the transition to life in Canada.

SEPTEMBER

• A cabin on Rainbow Road was destroyed by fire on the Labour Day weekend due to a lithium bat-

tery malfunction. Resident Hugh Pomeroy had been working on his electric bike inside the home when the batteries sparked, with flames quickly jumping to the nearby bed. Pomeroy burnt his hands and lost most of his possessions to the blaze.

• A two-trailer truck full of metal recycling went over the barricade on Fulford-Ganges Road near Fulford Harbour, causing traffic delays and rerouting for several hours on a busy Friday afternoon. Further delays resulted when heavy rescue equipment from Victoria arrived to remove the wreck.

• Salt Spring Island voted "no" in the incorporation referendum on Sept. 9 by a significant margin. The final vote count was 3,930 to 2,419 — or 61.9 per cent rejection of incorporation. See our separate Story of the Year feature about the referendum saga on Page 16.

• Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue crews said thanks and goodbye to longtime search manager Chuck Hamilton, who left the volunteer organization after leading it for 27 years.

• Families on Galiano Island and the Gulf Islands Board of Education struggled with ques-

tions of water taxi boarding policy after an unprecedented number of students from the island registered at Salt Spring Island Middle School, causing several students and staff members to be left behind. The board agreed to review the policy, among others, before the next school year.

• Minor issues on the new Salish Raven and Salish Eagle ferries advanced to more serious trouble with a temporary shutdown of the Raven on a Friday afternoon. An extra, unscheduled sailing of the Skeena Queen left Swartz Bay at 10:30 p.m. to ensure no passengers travelling through-fare were stranded on Vancouver Island overnight.

• Residents of Isabella Point finally had a full roadbed to travel over after the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure repaired damage from a major wash-out that occurred in February. The long delay was attributed to weather, time needed for a geotechnical study and difficulties with sourcing local materials.

• The second biennale Salt Spring National Art Prize finalists exhibition opened at Mahon Hall to a full-capacity crowd on Sept. 22, beginning a month of special events, art talks and satellite shows.

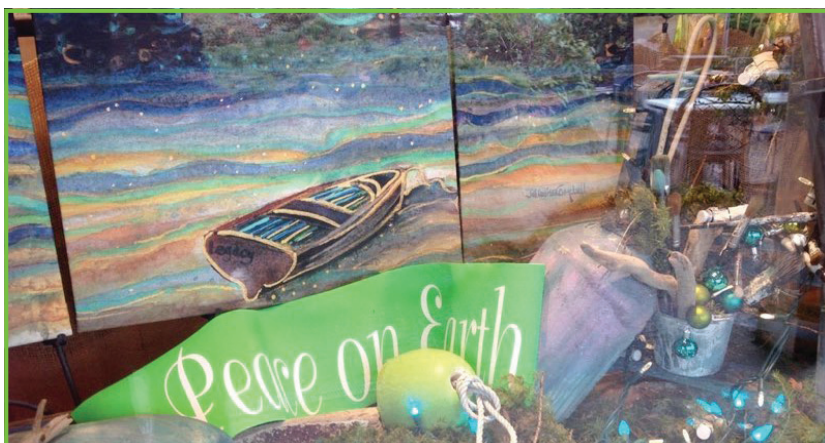
• Gulf Islanders joined past and present BC Ferries crew in bidding farewell to the Queen of Nanaimo during an on-board ceremony held in Tsawwassen. The 53-year-old vessel had served the islands route for 31 years, spanning entire careers and lifetimes for some crew and passengers. The ship was bound for a new identity as Princess Lomaiviti V and a new service area in Fiji.

• The Salt Spring community was shocked to lose a popular teenager when Alistair Hayne died after an accidental shooting at a party. The 16-year-old Gulf Islands Secondary student was remembered as a happy-go-lucky character who made friends across all social groups. As of December, the case was still under investigation by the BC Coroners Service and no details had been released about the type of gun involved or how the incident occurred.

• The Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association announced plans to expand its offerings with a new seniors' residential complex beside the Kings Lane Medical Clinic. Board members said need had outgrown available space at Meadowbrook, which GISRA opened 14 years ago.

• An over-capacity crowd turned out to Lions Hall for a post-referendum meeting to explore options for moving forward together on island governance issues. The organizers took on the temporary name Salt Spring Community Forum and later settled on Salt Spring Community Alliance.

• The delivery of between 30 and 50 recycled shipping containers interrupted ferry travel on the Vesuvius-Crofton route over several days at the end of the month. A title search revealed the containers' destination of 1867 North End Rd. was registered to Good Buds Company Ltd., but the listed contact declined to talk about the potential marijuana facility for the time being.



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2017 A YEAR in REVIEW

OCTOBER

• A North Salt Spring Waterworks District water audit revealed 25 per cent of the system's treated water is lost to leaks in aging pipes. NSSWD environmental manager Meghan McKee reported that hundreds of small leaks likely existed throughout the system, with major upgrades and replacements expected to be needed soon. NSSWD meanwhile agreed to hold off on deciding whether to dissolve the improvement district into Capital Regional District administration.

• A Sarah Way residence was destroyed by fire after a car on fire crashed into the structure. Firefighters who responded to the incident were taxed by three other calls while the blaze was still underway, including a kitchen fire on Devine Drive.

• Members of the arts community and the disability community were equally shocked when photographer Greg Klansen died suddenly, just four days after his major project involving both groups was installed. The photo banner We are Salt Spring ... We are Canada portrayed more than 150 diverse islanders and stretched more than 200 feet. It could be seen along Lower Ganges Road for the month of October.

• Oak Bay Police Chief Andy Brinton was seriously injured during a cycling trip on Salt Spring after being charged by a deer on the road, prompting island biologist Tara Martin to propose the time had come to cull the over-abundant species.

• Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee made steps toward increasing affordable housing by more than 100 units in the space of one business meeting, approving first reading to rezoning applications for Dragonfly Commons and the Croftonbrook expansion project, and to a housing agreement for Salt Spring Commons on Oct. 6.

• A group of islanders with experience in the health and service sectors released the Salt Spring Residents Health Care Report. Pointing to shortcomings in health care provision — particularly in the area of seniors health care, mental health and substance services and primary care for the vulnerable sector — the report called for the establishment of a community primary

care centre similar to the non-profit society run facilities on Mayne, Pender and Galiano islands.

• The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission was divided over whether to enter into long-term leases for its Portlock Park office space and portable with two proposals raised by non-recreation-related organizations. Split votes on each decision ended with no lease agreements approved. The matter of leasing offices to Salt Spring Emergency Services would come back to the table in November and produced the same result.

• The Salt Spring Farmland Trust found provincial support for its community produce centre project on Beddis Road as the recipient of a \$100,000 Rural Dividend grant.

• A community activist group called Save Our Shoreline reactivated after a 20-year hiatus in response to rezoning plans for Ganges Harbour, which the LTC had proposed as a way to facilitate completion of the Ganges boardwalk. The group and other concerned community members would overwhelm a public engagement session held at the Lions Hall in early November, sending the message that commercial rezoning was the wrong way to achieve boardwalk completion.

• The Canadian icebreaker Polar Prince visited Salt Spring as one of the final stops on a 150-day journey from Toronto to Victoria via the Northwest Passage, a project celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary.

• Fernwood Dock and the surrounding area was the site of a massive marine emergency exercise involving BC Ferries, Canada Coast Guard vessels, Canadian Armed Forces, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue, BC Ambulance and volunteer search and rescue units. Several hundred people including civilian volunteers took part in the operation, which simulated a ferry disaster at sea and evacuation onto the shore.

NOVEMBER

• The Ganges post office was closed to most services for several days due to a computer motherboard failure and then difficulties getting parts and repair people to the island. Local mail delivery



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Fire Chief Arjuna George takes stock of the situation during a major fire that hit a Sarah Way home on Oct. 4.

was not impacted.

• The Capital Regional District decided to close down the little used Feasibility Study Reserve Fund and return unused amounts to the three electoral areas, sending \$53,336 into Salt Spring's coffers for 2018.

• The Salt Spring Fire Protection District decided to look at second-hand sources to replace an outdated engine. The board accepted the recommendation of the facilities and physical plant committee to leave off acquiring an aerial truck until a later piece of equipment needs replacing in 2023.

• PARC voted to explore a reconfiguration of Portlock Park as a solution to the island's lack of baseball fields. The commission had failed to secure non-farm use of a Brinkworthy Road property in 2016 that it planned to develop as playing fields, and learned in November the Fulford property it leases for slo-pitch was up for sale.

• The Gulf Islands were hit with the first major windstorm of the fall on Nov. 13, with about 20 boats pushed up onto the rocks across the area. Eagle Eye Marine Services, which dealt with many of the problem boats, helped prevent

a fuel spill in Fulford Harbour when it retrieved a large sailboat that had slipped its mooring across the water, before it could be smashed further by the next day's wind and waves.

• Greenwoods Eldercare Society found support from all the government bodies required to seek interest relief and refinance its mortgage on its care facility building. Interest savings under a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation program were expected to amount to somewhere between \$1,300 and \$1,600 per month, and would be invested into infrastructure as per program requirements.

• The Gulf Islands Board of Education announced Lisa Halstead had tendered her resignation as superintendent of School District 64, to be effective Aug. 1, 2018. The board would decide in December to cast its search for a replacement to all qualified professionals throughout B.C., rather than looking just within the district.

• North Salt Spring Waterworks District agreed to give Brinkworthy Place residents the right to vote in trustee elections and referenda, recognizing they had a "substantial interest" in a property where they own homes but not the land.

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2017 A YEAR in REVIEW

DECEMBER

• Steelhead LNG confirmed it was no longer exploring the idea of building a liquefied natural gas processing and export facility at Bamberton, a former industrial site on Saanich Inlet owned by Malahat First Nation. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen was just one person in the community who had opposed the project on environmental concerns and celebrated the news.

• The Salt Spring LTC received confirmation that a contested foreshore lease giving Ganges Marina rights to the harbour had yet to be renewed by the province, opening new possibilities for local consultation and negotiation relating to boardwalk access and completion.

• Salt Spring went into mourning after longtime islander Heather Jones was found dead in her Maliview home. Her 22-year-old son Martin Vandenberg was arrested by RCMP on the scene and then released and apprehended under the Mental Health Act the following day.

• Elections BC disclosure statements that were made public in December showed the two major campaigns for and against incorporation together received more than \$100,000 in community contributions, although the Positively NO side received 40 per cent more with \$60,985.52 donated compared to \$43,528.64 for Yes Empowers Salt Spring Island.

• Salt Spring Fire Protection District finance reporting showed a surplus of \$118,000 for the 10-month period ending on Oct. 31, while CAO Andrew Peat predicted the number would reach close to \$250,000 by the end of the year when funds received for the deployment to B.C. Interior wildfires were factored in.

• The Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society launched a plan to purchase the land once occupied by the Fulford Inn to be used as an interpretive centre and park. Fundraising and public assistance was envisioned as a way to repair the Fulford Creek ecosystem and stabilize the region's coho salmon population.

• A heavy, wet snowfall caused mayhem in the final week before Christmas, with multiple motor vehicle incidents and power outages across Salt Spring reported. Ganges Hill was closed to traffic for part of the morning after a sliding delivery truck blocked the road.

STORY OF THE YEAR: Salt Spring votes 'no'

The Sept. 9 referendum and events leading up to it dominated the 2017 news cycle. Below are some key moments that occurred in the months and days before voting day.

March

• The referendum date was set for Sept. 9 in a press release issued by the province on Monday, March 13.

• The Many Islanders Opposed to Incorporation, a coalition of like-minded people set to campaign against incorporation in the referendum, stepped out into the public realm and invited people to join them.

• Islanders involved in the annual Salt Spring Pride festival pressed for a change of referendum date. The festival's parade, a huge community event, was also set for Sept. 9. The provincial government refused to change the date, although it did move the planned-for polling station out of the library in Ganges.

April

• The pro-incorporation side introduced its official campaign to the island as YeSS! or Yes Empowers Salt Spring Island! and invited the sharing of information, opinions and studies.

May

• The North Salt Spring Waterworks District's board of trustees voted unanimously in favour of endorsing incorporation as being in the best interests of the NSSWD's ratepayers, setting into play controversy over whether improvement districts and commissions should take political positions.

June

• YeSS! asked the Salt Spring Fire Protection District's board of trustees to follow NSSWD's lead and endorse incorporation. Positively NO members had their turn in July, but asked the board to take no position at all. The latter was the ultimate outcome since the board never advanced the matter to a vote.

• Citizen journalist Brenda Guiled opened questions about the true cost of taking over Salt Spring's road network from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. She gave two public presentations that challenged the figures in the incorporation study's final report, based on freedom of information requests she had obtained.



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Members of the Positively NO group celebrate at Lions Hall after referendum results were announced on the evening of Sept. 9.

July

• The locally elected officials issued a press release stating Guiled's report contained "false assumptions and material inaccuracies" and amounted to defamation of consultant Urban Systems. They also said they would request an addendum roads report from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, a request which did not produce results. Consultants James Klukas and Dan Huang would issue their own response in August, stating they stood by their professional analysis based on the data available.

• Campaign advertising began in earnest, while the Driftwood's Opinion pages started a summer-long trend of being almost entirely filled by long columns and letters from islanders arguing both for and against incorporation. Online commenting on other platforms meanwhile heated up to an uncomfortable level, with many users citing personal attacks.

August

• Robert Birch and Nomi Lyonns hosted a Twisted Town Hall in Centennial Park, in which they attempted to get people from both sides of the question to lighten up. Events included small group exercises meant to get participants to see things from the other perspective, three-legged races with "yes" and "no" pairings and a tug-of-war with clown noses.

• The Positively NO campaign asked locally elected officials to refute a claim made by YeSS that an island municipal council would be "legally bound to support [Islands] Trust aims." The anti-incorporation group felt the difference between that statement and wording in the Islands Trust Act that requires municipalities to "have regard to the object of the Trust" was substantially different.

• A large crowd turned out for the official panel debate hosted by the elected officials at the Gulf Islands Secondary School gym at the end of the month. Former BC Liberal cabinet minister George Abbott found his second calling as moderator, adding a healthy dose of humour to the tense proceedings.

September

• Salt Spring trustee George Grams and CRD electoral area director Wayne McIntyre went public in the final week of the election campaign as supporters of incorporation as the best way to improve local governance. Salt Spring's other trustee Peter Grove declined to take a public stance.

• The Sept. 9 vote and two advance poll dates produced a decisive victory for those opposed to incorporation, with 72 per cent voter turn-out and 61.9 per cent of participants voting against creating an island municipality. Various people involved in the campaign immediately vowed to work together for better governance by other means.



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Wishing you all a happy and safe 2018.

Should you be thinking of a change of address in the new year please contact me.

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arts&entertainment



ARTS RESIDENCY

Guest curator Regan Shrumm taps into women's art

Historical island artists and contemporary community in focus at library show

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An independent curator from Victoria will be shedding light on some of Salt Spring's early women artists during a month-long exhibition in January, while also gathering information on contemporary creative communities.

Regan Shrumm will be on the island through the Salt Spring Arts Council's curator in residence program. Part of her work while here will be to create a self-published publication and an exhibition at the library that centres on female artists from the pre-1960s period.

Shrumm completed her master's degree in art history and visual studies at the University of Victoria in 2015. While at university she received a number of prestigious awards and completed an internship at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History. Her recent work includes a position as senior assistant curator at Open Space, an artist-run facility in Victoria, and a fellowship at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner, Wash.

The arts council's Artist in Residence (AiR) program provides an opportunity for artists to work on Salt Spring. The program is open to all professionals working in the arts, in any genre or medium, at any stage of their careers and is also open to curators. The program aims to provide an extraordinary venue for individual artists and artist collaborations to create new works, explore new creative horizons and interact with both the local community and visitors to the island. AiR provides workspace for people accepted into the program, negotiates reduced rates for off-season accommodation and provides social and cultural support.

Preparation for Shrumm's residency began last June and has included lots of time with the Salt Spring Archives. She also dove into Charles Kahn's history of the island with relish; she was intrigued to learn in that book the island's transformation into an arts com-

munity didn't really begin until the arrival of outside artists in the 1960s.

"I thought that was interesting and I wanted to see if it was true," Shrumm explained.

Her research did identify a few people who were creating art before that time. She entered her residency proposal intending to focus on Florence Walters, Sophie Purser King and Gwen Ruckle. Since then Shrumm has learned about Jessie Beryl Weatherell and added her to the project.

"I was interested in all four women because they kind of built community in all different ways," Shrumm said.

King created sculptures. Ruckle painted and also made installations that Shrumm said were "way before her time." Walters belonged to the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire and was part of a group that bought a machine gun for the troops with proceeds from their knitting sales. She also participated in an early market that was held in Fulford Harbour.

"Way before the Saturday market they built this community out of art — and all four women are kind of like that," Shrumm said.

One of the challenges, Shrumm found, is the Salt Spring Archives may have reference to the women's works but does not have the works themselves in its collection. The library exhibition will therefore include some images of the artists' works and archives, but also adds an integrated, collaborative element with works commissioned by other artists based on their stories. Shrumm also intends to record new arts stories from island residents, to be interpreted by artists in different mediums and manners.

"As a frequent visitor it seems like something is always happening in the contemporary scene, so I'm hoping to interview artists and people involved in the arts community to talk about what makes the Salt Spring arts community special," Shrumm said.

The interviews need not be restricted to traditional arts — anyone who makes something, from canning to crafts, is welcome to participate.

The library exhibition opens on Jan. 3 but Shrumm would like to have some interviews done before then if possible. She can be reached at 250-896-8266 or rshrumm@gmail.com.



From top, a painting by Iris McBride featuring the images of historic Salt Spring artists, from left, Jessie Beryl Weatherell, Sophie Purser King and Gwen Ruckle, commissioned by Regan Shrumm for her curator-in-residence project; an untitled painting by Gwen Ruckle.

NEW YEAR'S

Island venues host parties

NYE events and Vesuvius Polar Bear Plunge

People looking for a fun night out on New Year's Eve have several options to choose from involving live music, with ticketed parties planned for Moby's Pub, Mahon Hall and the Salt Spring Legion.

The Legion gets things rolling early — those who don't like to stay out late can join in spirit with friends on the opposite coast with the annual "Newfie New Year's" with Alan Moberg starting at 6 p.m. Music with Moberg goes until 8 p.m. when Happy Daze takes over. Dancing shoes are suggested. Party favours and snacks are part of the evening.

Another option for the 19+ crowd is

to celebrate with Everyday People and special guest Ocie Elliott at a Mahon Hall music and dance party. The event will include a cash bar and champagne countdown.

Moby's Pub is holding what it considers to be "The Best New Year's Eve Party on Salt Spring" featuring Stephanie Rhodes and Run For Cover.

Entrance time is 9 p.m., and the night features party favours, a champagne toast, midnight snacks and dancing until 2 a.m. An optional dinner is also offered, with service beginning at 7 p.m.

After all the New Year's Eve festivities, kids and adults alike can wake up with the annual Polar Bear Plunge on New Year's Day.

Jump in is scheduled for 12 noon at Vesuvius Beach.

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what's on this week



Wed. Dec. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Carols for Christmastide. Community carol sing at All Saints By-the-Sea will take place, weather permitting, at 2 p.m. By donation fundraiser for the food bank. This event was postponed from last Wednesday, when it was cancelled due to weather, power outages and illness.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.

Fourth annual event has community societies and businesses decorate trees, and members of the public for favourites with a food bank donation. Harbour House Hotel meeting room (rear entrance.) Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to Jan. 1, with judging at 10 a.m. on Jan. 2.

SongJam.

Pub-style sing at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.



Thu. Dec. 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic. Thursdays at Moby's. 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.

Fulford Hall Rollerblading.

Special date during winter break. 2 to 4 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 29

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.

Sat. Dec. 30

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.

Sun. Dec. 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

New Year's Eve at the Legion.

Celebrate Newfie New Year with Alan Moberg at 6 p.m. followed by Happy Daze till 12:30 a.m. Tickets include party favours and snacks.

New Year's Eve with Run For Cover.

New Year's Eve at Moby's. Tickets for evening with dinner or just for the show. Late night snacks included. 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

New Year's Eve With Everyday People & Ocie Elliott.

New Year's Eve party at Mahon Hall. Doors open at 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.

Eve of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

5 p.m. vigil mass at Our Lady of Grace.

Mon. Jan. 1

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday's listing.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

10 a.m. mass at our Lady of Grace.

Polar Bear Plunge.

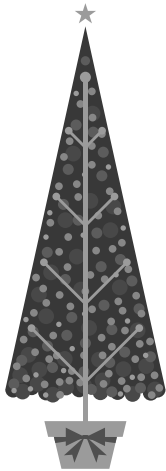
Start the new year with a bracing dip at Vesuvius Beach. 12 noon.

Tue. Jan. 2

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.

Winning organization for best decorated tree announced. Harbour House Hotel meeting room (rear entrance). 10 a.m.



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<p>JUSTICE LEAGUE FINAL 2 SHOWS 1hr 50 min. Rating: PG Dec. 27 - 28 Wed + Thurs 7pm</p>	<p>Ferdinand 1hr 48 min. Rating: G Dec. 29 - Jan. 4 Fri + Sat 7pm Sun 3pm matinee ONLY Mon. to Thurs. 7pm Closed New Year's Eve</p>	<p>National Theatre Live EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? One day only Thurs. Jan. 11 3pm matinee and 7pm. All tickets \$22 Email: thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.</p>
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CINEMA

- Justice League** — Batman and Wonder Woman recruit a team ... Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and The Flash to stand against a new threat, but it may be too late to save the planet.
- Ferdinand** — The story of a giant bull with a big heart, who is captured and torn from his home. To return, he needs help from a wisecracking goat and three hedgehogs. Inspired by the book The Story of Ferdinand.
- National Theatre Live: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** — One day only on Thursday, Jan. 11. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. show. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.

EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8** holds its annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works daily through Dec. 31.
- Jill Louise Campbell Art Gallery** showcases Magnetic North and celebrates 25 years. Winner of Most Creative Window in the Driftwood decorating contest. Open Wed. through Sat., 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Volunteer and Community Resources** wraps up Canada 150 with their 150 Days, 150 Volunteers, 150 Organizations exhibit running in the **Library program room** through December.
- Gabrielle Jensen** shares new work at **Gulf Island Picture Framing**.

gulfislandsdriftwood.com/events/

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people&community



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

IN FULL VOICE: Members of the Lost Chords Seniors Choir sing carols at the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society annual Christmas party on Wednesday at the seniors centre.

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OUTDOOR REC

New Year treks outlined for trail club

Special whale researcher club guest at the library on Feb. 1

Hikers

Jan. 2: For those not quite ready to leave the holidays behind but keen to get a bit of exercise, we'll begin 2018 with something a little different. Beth Hall will lead a moderate hike up and down through the Channel Ridge trails, with some steep, slippery sections, covering 8.5 km and finishing at her house in time for lunch. Bring your own sandwich (or ??) and Beth will provide mulled wine (or soft cider) and dessert. That way, we can ease into the new hiking season and ease out of the holiday season at the same time. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the Canvasback entrance to the Channel Ridge trails at 10 a.m.

Jan. 9: Climb from the end of Mereside Road up to the Bryant Hill trail, then take the connector to Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve. We will have lunch with a lovely view to the south, hopefully. Then it is all downhill. Susan Fussell will lead this easy to moderate hike. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the parking area near the end of Mereside Road at 10 a.m.

Jan. 16: Hike some Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve trails with Jean Attop. Moderate uphill hiking before lunch; downhill after lunch. Depending on the weather leading up to mid-January, there may be some tricky creeks to cross. Meet at

ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. Carry on from Drummond Park to the end of Maxham Road to meet leader Jean.

Jan. 23: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderately strenuous hike from Mount Maxwell to the Shepherd Hills and back. There are some sections off-trail and a bit rough. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the corner of Fulford-Ganges Road and Cranberry Road at 9:50 a.m. If we get snow in the interim I can switch to a lower location.

Jan. 30: Hike in and around the Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve with Ashley Hilliard. Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. South-enders can join at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

Walkers

Jan. 2: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. and pick a leader and a walk.

Jan. 9: Lorrie Storr will lead a walk in the Andreas Vogt reserve and Bryant Hill area. Meet to carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at the top of Sarah Way (off Jasper) at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 16: Join Wendy McClean walking along the trails of Mouat Park and up to Bishops Walk. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m.

Jan. 23: Kees Visser will lead a moderate walk at the Peter Arnell Park plus a part of the Linear Trail. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or at Stewart Road behind the concrete barrier at the Peter Arnell Park trail head at 10:15 a.m.

Jan. 30: Yvonne Gibbon will lead a walk through Duck Creek Park, then along the road to Vesuvius beach

where we will stop for lunch. This is an easy pleasant walk in the forest alongside the creek. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool or the Duck Creek trail entrance on Sunset Drive at 10:15 a.m.

Ramblers

Jan. 2: No Ramble.

Jan. 9: Ramble with Harold Page along the new pathways around Ganges. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Lunch or coffee at Barb's Buns.

Jan. 16: Sterling McEachern will lead a ramble in Vesuvius area. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Lunch at Seaside Kitchen.

Jan. 23: Kathy Darling takes us up to Channel Ridge. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Lunch at Vesuvius Café.

Jan. 30: Ev Pringle takes us to the Churchill Road area. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Lunch at the Harbour House.

Special presentation

Thursday, Feb. 1: Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club welcomes Janie Wray, the lead researcher for the North Coast Cetacean Society for B.C. Whales located in the Great Bear Rainforest.

She will give a presentation at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room from 7 to 9 p.m. Wray and her team have been monitoring whale songs and fluke/tail markings on humpback whales for over 12 years.

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This Week's Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor
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TIP OF THE WEEK

Over the course of 2018, significant astrological cycles will unfold and new ones will begin that will activate measurable changes for us all. Jupiter in powerful Scorpio as of October 2017 and Saturn in its own powerful sign of Capricorn as of late December 2017 will lead the charge. They will introduce new leaders on the world stage stimulating new social policies and important economic trends.

In mid-April, the maverick planet Chiron will enter bold and pioneering Aries inspiring us all to be more pro-active regarding authentic self-actualization. Then, in mid-May, mover and shaker Uranus will make its debut in Taurus to begin a 7-year cycle ploughing ahead with the finesse of a bulldozer. Finally, late in the year in early November, shortly prior to Jupiter's entry into visionary, philosophical and adventurous Sagittarius, its own sign, the Moon's Nodes will leave the Leo/Aquarius sign axis and enter into that of Cancer and Capricorn, which are Cardinal signs and which symbolize fresh starts and bold new initiatives.

When added, the numbers in 2018 = 11 the meaning of which includes clearing the old to make way for the new. 2017 was a Universal 1-Year marking the start of a new 9-year cycle and was like a rocket launching. 2018 will be as when it must break through the atmosphere, so get ready the many dramatic trends initiated in 2017 will likely escalate.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

New levels of authority and responsibility are on the rise. These come on the heels of a rather sharp turn in your public and professional life. Financial returns appear to be leaning in your favor and with Mars in Scorpio you have likely been ambitiously negotiating for this result. This process of change will continue well into 2018.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

The winds of change are blowing hard for everyone. Fortunately for you, in many respects they appear to be flowing in your favor. Looking back upon the past few years you will notice that you have changed significantly and not solely in appearance. Now a new revolutionary momentum is building.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Some rather deep and complex currents are influencing you. These may not yet be entirely apparent. They can be understood to be occurring both within, perhaps subconsciously, and behind the scenes as well. Positively, your energy levels and stamina have increased over the past several months and will continue through January.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Some important shifts are occurring that will affect your public and professional life and, subsequently, some of your most important relationships. New levels of commitment and responsibility are implied. Fortunately, there are indications that you are in a playful and sporting mood. Use the momentum to make wise 'investments' for the future.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

The time has come to build new foundations. These are especially linked to your employment and lifestyle. A strong theme of learning and of improvement is indicated. Circumstances will guide you to cultivate latent talents and potentials. In the shorter term, a process of emotional clearing and even of renovation is indicated.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

An important and powerful series of cycles have begun. These will lead you to fortify your position in the world. Your essential philosophy of life and subsequent attitude and approach is destined to change accordingly. Already circumstances are guiding you to take new leads and on a variety of fronts.

Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

You have entered a time cycle that may be interpreted as sobering. Positively, it will make you strong and challenge you to build more depth of character. Deciphering directions that will amount to more income or secure your investments is especially important now. To these ends you will gather important facts and information.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) An important cycle indicative of completion of important chapters has begun. Slowly but surely prior commitments are dissolving. Positively, you feel inspired regarding the future prospects implied. Important changes on relationship fronts are brewing and could well amount to increase and the realization of long cherished dreams.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Getting down and dirty can have a variety of interpretations. Among them is a sober, grounded and determined approach to secure your material foundation. This could, of course, include key career moves. Yet, the health and quality of your lifestyle is also indicated. In the short term, it may be best to design a plan and get emotionally ready for new assertions.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

By now you should be feeling the gravity of this time. It could amount to weighted emotions or it could be experienced as a breakthrough inspiring new leads and initiatives. In fact, you may feel strong, like you could walk through walls, or at least you would if you could. Implied here is an attitude comprised of revolutionary resolve.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The time has come to take time out. A retreat would suffice, but simply staying home might prove most satisfying. It is not a matter of not being able to meet the time, it is one of desire. Yet, you may be fine and if could even prove satisfying to have high quality but minimal time shared socially. You may also feel the need to rest deeply at every opportunity.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Some positive momentums are underway. These are inspiring an adventurous mood. Returns for past efforts combined with aspirations to increase and expand are contributing to your resolve. Yet, circumstances may be pressuring you, as well, producing at least some background anxiety. The strength and quality of your stance in the world is a core theme.



PHOTO BY DOUG WAHLSTEN

BUSY ELVES: From top, Salt Spring author Roger Brunt reads from his new elf-themed book for youngsters at the Salt Spring Public Library's program room on Dec. 16 while attendees make their own fairy doors, some of which are seen above. Imp the Elf in the Valley of the Kings is the fourth story about Salt Spring Island's Erskine the Elf and his progeny.

Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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If you would like to be part of the POD program as a Neighbourhood or POD Leader, please contact Laurel Hanley at ssidppc@rd.bc.ca or leave a message at 250 537-1220.



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Heather Laura Jones
APRIL 7, 1970 - DECEMBER 6, 2017



Heather entered into eternal peace on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. She is now walking with her Dad (Galen). Heather will be lovingly remembered by her mother Betty, sisters Penny (Darren), Tammy (Paul), and Chelsea (Forrest), daughter Jessica (Jason), son Martin, 12 nieces and nephews, granddaughter Zelda and her entire family and friends.

You are greatly missed and forever in our hearts. We will love you forever and always. Rest in peace our dear Heather. Until we meet again.

Our family would like to thank all the emergency services, Dr. Reznick and the Community as a whole for all the love and support.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at the Community Gospel Church at 11 am.



Salt Spring Hospice

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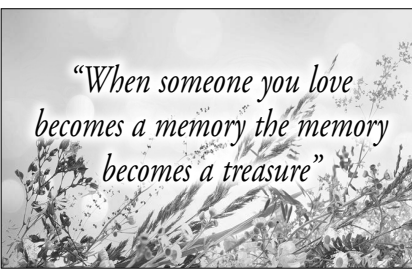



The Konig's have been married 50 years Dec. 29, 2017

Val, my gift to you, today and always, is my great love for you my precious treasure!

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CALL BOB'S Computer Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please back-up your important data now!

CONCRETE & PLACING

GULF COAST MATERIALS

Serving the Gulf Islands

- Concrete
- Concrete Pumps
- Sand/Rock
- Rebar
- Bagged Cement
- Colour & Sealers

Small Load Pick Ups Available at Yard

345 Rainbow Road
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EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION! In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareerStep.ca/MT or 1-855-768-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

EDUCATION/TRADE SCHOOLS

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Online-based 43 wk program incl 8 wk practicum. Regulated Pharmacy Technicians earn \$25-\$28/hr in hospitals & \$20-\$27/hr in community pharmacies. Accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). www.stenbergcollege.com Toll-Free: 1-866-580-2772

bcclassified.com

HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

DRAFTING & DESIGN

LET'S GET STARTED

Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

HELSET DESIGN
250.537.1037
Ask for Jim

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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SOLID MAHOGANY Drop-leaf Table 4x4 feet \$500. OBO Call: 250 537-9774

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE: \$0.99/each for a box of 180 (\$178.20). Also full range of tree, shrub, and berry seedlings. Free shipping most of Canada. Growth guarantee. 1-866-873-3846 or TreeTime.ca.

RENTALS

SAWMILLS from only \$4,397 - MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill - Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com/400OT 1-800-567-0404 Ext:4000T.

RENTALS

HOMES FOR RENT

COZY 600 sq.ft. south end Cottage, suitable for responsible/tidy single person or a couple. Avail. Jan. 1st, \$1,200/mo. Call: 1 604 671-3444

RENTALS

STORAGE

STORAGE

- All units heated
- Humidity control
- 9 foot height
- 24 hours access

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RENTALS

STORAGE

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS	FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
IN MEMORIAM	IN MEMORIAM

Nairn Howe
April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005 (48 years)

12 YEARS AGO
CANCER IS NOT SO POWERFUL!
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IT CANNOT DO...

*It cannot cripple love.
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot destroy peace.
It cannot kill friendship.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot steal eternal life.
It cannot conquer the spirit.*



NAIRN HOWE

*Beautiful memories silently kept
Of one that we loved
and will never forget*

ISLAND EXPLORER

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PROTECT OUR PLANET...



RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

This Week's **Horoscope**

ON PAGE 23

by Michael O'Connor
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1.250.352.2936

Firstborn of 2018 Contest

We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!

Several community sponsors are set to shower the first baby of 2018 with many generous gifts. Salt Spring Island's first tiny new resident of the year will enjoy these wonderful offerings, presented in a basket:

A \$25 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**. A \$50 Smile Card from **Thrifty Foods**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Natureworks**. A free sign-up package from **Happy Island Diapers**. A \$25 gift certificate and a toy from **Pharmasave**. A \$100 gift certificate for any department at **Mouat's Home Hardware**.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: a 1/8th page, colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!

Congratulations!



We are excited to offer a \$50 Smile Card to the first New Salt Spring Islander of 2018.

THRIFTY FOODS

Eat happy 🍌

Salt Spring: 114 Purvis Lane • 250.537.1522

Congratulations to the family of Salt Spring's first baby of 2018!

LIVE WELL WITH
PHARMASAVE

Salt Spring
natureworks
Congratulations!

We are very happy to donate a \$50.00 gift certificate to the new baby and parents.

\$100
Gift Certificate
for the proud parents to be used in any department.

MOUAT'S
Here's How.
SHOP 7 DAYS A WEEK
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