



Clambake time
Gulf Islands host APTN shows
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First issue of the year!
INSIDE



GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 58TH YEAR — ISSUE 2 \$125 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN FRANCIS

WET AND WILD: From left, Sarah Cordes, Jade Watson, Jill Malcolm, Yael Wand and Josie Fletcher towel off after taking the Go #Wild-4Salmon Challenge plunge into Burgoyne Bay waters on Sunday (with Sandra Leckie seen in the background). See story on page 18.

CRIME

Murder charges laid in Jones case

Memorial service held Saturday

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Martin Galen Vandenberg has been charged with the second-degree murder of his mother Heather Jones.

According to an RCMP press release, he was arrested without incident by members of the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit on Friday, Jan. 5.

Vandenberg, 22, of Salt Spring Island was taken into custody on Dec. 6, 2017 when Jones' body was found at her home on Maliview Drive. He was subsequently released and then apprehended under the Mental Health Act and taken to a mental health facility in Victoria. He was at Royal Jubilee Hospital at the time of his arrest Friday.

"We would like to thank the community of Salt Spring for their assistance and support throughout this investigation," stated Sgt. John Ferguson of the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit.

Vandenberg made his first court appearance in Duncan on Tuesday where the judge ordered he be sent to a Lower Mainland facility for a psychiatric assessment.

Jones' memorial service was held Saturday at Community Gospel Chapel.

Paul Large, who Jones' mother Betty has designated as family spokesperson, said the service saw a large turnout and much-appreciated community support.

"There's no such thing as a good funeral, but it was such a good way that she was honoured."

As for the charge laid against Vandenberg on Friday, Large said the family hopes any mental health issues he is facing are dealt with in an appropriate manner.

"Are they giving him the help he needs or are they just sweeping it under the rug?"

TRANSPORTATION

Inter-islands ferry idea floated

CRD advances study on Gulf Islands water connection

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District is getting ready to launch a study of passenger ferry service between CRD docks on the Gulf Islands and Sidney, an idea that locally elected officials have been floating for a couple of years.

A request for proposals issued last week seeks to find an experienced professional to develop the Gulf Islands Inter-island Passenger-only Ferry pilot project business case.

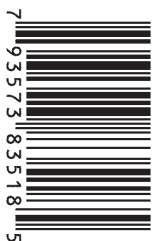
According to CRD materials, the consultant needs to assess five specific ferry routes and confirm the pilot project route. The project requires the completion of a short-term business plan that would outline expected costs, regulatory and operational requirements for a contracted operator, and provide a public involvement strategy to ensure residents and visitors become aware of the service.

CRD electoral area director Wayne

McIntyre observed that interest in inter-island connections has been proved through three years of Tour des Îles festivals. That three-day event also demonstrated the vast difference between taking a quick jaunt between Salt Spring and Galiano on a private boat and making the same trip using existing BC Ferries schedules via Swartz Bay.

FERRY continued on 2

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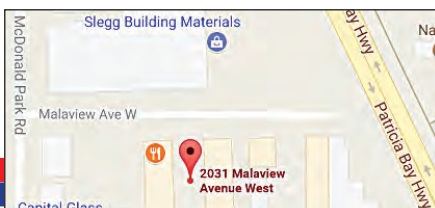
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FERRY TRAVEL

BC Ferries goes smoke free in new year policy change

Transition to coincide with National Non-smoking Week

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries is going smoke free this month.

As of Jan. 22, no smoking will be allowed on BC Ferries decks or at ferry terminals.

The change was announced in August to give people time to get used to the idea, and will affect vessels across the coast. The change comes in time to coincide with National Non-smoking Week. The policy will also apply to e-cigarettes and medical marijuana.

Not only will this affect passengers, but there will be an effect on ferry crews as well. The company says the rules were announced last summer to give employees a chance to prepare for the change.

Deborah Marshall, the executive director of public affairs for BC Ferries, said they have been "working with employees who current-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salish Eagle in port at Long Harbour. Smoking will no longer be allowed on any BC Ferries vessels or at terminals as of Jan. 22.

ly smoke and would like to take advantage of smoking cessation programs."

The policy will affect all BC Ferries vessels and terminals. BC Ferries is offering transfers for employ-

ees who smoke to an onshore position if the employee chooses not to quit smoking. Longer sailings like the trip from Port Alberni to Prince Rupert could prove difficult for smokers, so BC Ferries is also

offering nicotine gum for sale in the gift shops to help with cravings.

For employees of BC Ferries who do smoke, the company is working with each individual to help find solutions to fit their needs.

"We have given our customers and our employees a good six months notice about the policy that will be going into effect on Jan. 22," Marshall said. "Exposure to second-hand smoke is harmful to people's health and we want to be able to offer a smoke-free environment."

According to a study released by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer released in 2013, B.C. has the lowest smoking rate in the country.

"Information stats tell us that 85 per cent of British Columbians do not smoke," Marshall said. "We do get complaints from customers about second-hand smoke so we believe that this policy is going to be well received."

The policy does not just concern itself with tobacco, but all smokeable products, including

vapour products, e-cigarettes and marijuana.

If customers do smoke on the ship, BC Ferries will treat it as an educational opportunity.

"We would just explain to the customer that we are offering a smoke-free environment and that we would want them to cease smoking," Marshall said.

This is not the first policy change for BC Ferries concerning safety. In the summer, Transport Canada introduced regulations prohibiting passengers from occupying lower vehicle decks while the ships are in motion.

Marshall said, "If there was a need to evacuate a vessel it is much quicker to do with all of the passengers up in the passenger accommodation area."

Passengers who want to spend the voyage in their cars can request to be on an upper car deck.

Implementing the new regulations has gone well, said Marshall.

"We have been explaining the policy to some customers who are not familiar that it has recently gone into effect."

HEALTH

Influenza reported in Island Health area

Residents advised to take precautions

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anecdotal reports are that many islanders have been sick over the holiday season, but Salt Spring may have been spared the worst scenario.

Influenza outbreaks have been reported at institutions in Nanaimo, Parksville and Victoria, while Lower Mainland hospitals have been hit by double outbreaks of flu and norovirus. The situation is a little better locally for the time being, although the influenza season has yet to hit its peak. Island Health says Lady Minto Hospital has reported having "a very typical flu year for both patients and staff so far."

That being so, residents are strongly reminded not to use emergency services for health-care needs that aren't urgent or acute. It's also not too late to get a vaccination to avoid this year's flu season, according to Island Health.

HealthLink BC explains that influenza, often called the flu, is an infection of the upper airway caused by an influenza virus. Getting sick with influenza also puts the patient at risk of other infections such as viral or bacterial pneumonia affecting the lungs, which can be especially dangerous for vulnerable sectors.

Most people recover in seven to 10 days, but thousands of Canadians are hospitalized with flu each year.

"The risk of complications, which can be life-threatening, is greater for seniors 65 years and older, very young children, and people who have lung or heart diseases, certain chronic health conditions, or weakened immune systems," HealthLink BC states.

Ways to reduce the risk of getting the flu or spreading it to others include regular hand-washing; promptly disposing of used tissues in the waste basket or garbage; coughing and sneezing into your shirt sleeve rather than your hands; staying home when ill; and getting an influenza vaccination.

Economics and routing to be considered

FERRY continued from 1

With Tour des Îles tickets ranging from free in the first year to \$5 per leg in 2017, the festival's novelty and affordability may not translate into sustainable commuter runs, which is what the study aims to discover.

"I think the fact is it's conceptually a great idea, and what we have to do is prove the economics," McIntyre said. "The business case will look at what, if any, routes are feasible to do it."

The proposal to include a CRD dock in Sidney as a hub follows on previous expressions of interest shared between McIntyre and Sidney mayor Steve Price that date as far back as the 2014 local elections. With Price now serving as CRD Board chair and McIntyre vice-chair of the regional transportation commission, the good working relationship could deepen.

More recently, the Inter-Island Passenger-only Ferry Charrette was conducted in November 2016 by a team from the Seattle

office of KPFF Engineering. Led by Mike Anderson, a former CEO of Washington State Ferries, and organized by CRD staff, it saw representatives from Sidney, the major Gulf Islands and Penelakut Island participating.

"The stakeholder group was enthusiastic about moving the concept forward because it could build stronger community and cultural connections, encourage more visitation by pedestrians and cyclists (who don't contribute to parking and traffic problems) and enhance employment opportunities within the archipelago," Salt Spring Economic Development Commission chair Darryl Martin reported after the charrette.

The winning RFP applicant will produce a business plan and seek public involvement/outreach to provide data and comments on the service in an effort to eventually create a long-term multi-route service.

Proposed routes for Salt Spring would connect Ganges Harbour to Sidney, as well as a loop with Montague Harbour on Galiano and Miner's Bay on Mayne. Southern

Gulf Islands routes would connect Saturna, Mayne and Pender in a loop, and connect Pender with Sidney. One non-Gulf Islands passenger link is also proposed, connecting Mill Bay with Patricia Bay on Vancouver Island.

Service on existing water taxis, including the potential for employing vessels used by the school district during their idle hours, is one of the ideas that will be looked at.

BC Ferries has stated it has no interest in exploring passenger-only service for the Gulf Islands at this point, and McIntyre agrees Salt Spring residents are fairly well connected when it comes to travelling to Sidney or Victoria since there is transit at both ends and frequent ferry sailings between Fulford and Swartz Bay. It's more difficult for Pender residents, however.

"I think the study will prove out some ideas and at least answer some questions," McIntyre said.

The deadline for submitting RFPs is Jan. 22.

GISRA

GULF ISLANDS SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

The Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association (GISRA) is a charitable non-profit institution on Salt Spring that provides residential accommodation for seniors as well as programs that enrich and enhance their lives. For 15 years, our facility at Meadowbrook has, and continues to provide 37 affordable housing units for the community. We are in the process of planning to add another facility – the 36-unit Meadowlane Residence.

Currently, we have a vacancy on our Board of Directors and would welcome a letter of interest from individuals who are passionate about their community, seniors housing, and expanding the independent living opportunities for the people who built this province and country.

If you want to be part of an active and committed Board of Directors, please send a short note to:

Ms. Janet Smith, GISRA President
100-121 Atkins Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2X7

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NEWSBEAT

Heads up!
Peter and the Starcatcher:
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PROPERTY VALUE

Gulf Islands home valuations go up by 12 per cent

BC Assessment notices sent out

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Assessment figures released on Jan. 2 reveal an upswing in value for residential properties across most of the Vancouver Island region.

The typical non-waterfront Salt Spring residential property value increased 12.8 per cent, with the average value of 4,088 properties going from \$479,313 to \$540,670 in 2018. Waterfront properties on Salt Spring saw value spike by just over 13 per cent during the same period, from an average of \$770,702 to \$872,248.

Assessors set values according to property sales in the surrounding neighbourhood as of July 1 each preceding year. BC Assessment's Vancouver Island region includes all communities located within the Gulf Islands and Powell River.

Overall, Vancouver Island's total assessments increased from \$192.7 billion in 2017 to \$223.1 billion this year. A press release issued by BC Assessment states that nearly \$3.2 billion of the \$30.4 billion jump is from new construction, subdivisions and rezoning of properties.

The region's highest val-

ued property is James Island at \$54.43 million, followed by two Oak Bay residences on Humber Road, each valued at just over \$15 million. Once again a single prized Salt Spring residence made it onto the list of Vancouver Island's 100 highest valued properties, although it saw a tiny drop at value of .75 per cent. The waterfront acreage at 466 Scott Point Dr. was valued at \$8.668 million and reached number 16 on the list, after taking 12th highest spot for the two previous years.

While the real estate market on Salt Spring seemed to pick up briskly over the past year, the Gulf Islands area as a whole had a slightly lower percentage increase compared to nearby communities in the capital region, southern and central Vancouver Island.

The majority of homeowners within the Vancouver Island region saw assessments increase from 10 to 25 per cent, with the southern Vancouver Island area averaging between 15 and 20 per cent. Hotspots for 2018 were Metchosin at 25 per cent and Langford at 21 per cent value increases. The biggest jumps were found a little further afield, with residential properties in Ucluelet and Powell River both seeing an average increase of 26 per cent.

Deputy assessor Gerry Marolla said it is difficult to attribute the Southern Gulf Islands' more modest increase to one specific trend, because the subarea is much less homogenous than other districts in the region. The differences between islands and types of communities can be obscured by averaging. For example, significant increases in value were seen across the Pender Islands, ranging from 30 to 35 per cent, while waterfront properties on Mayne and Galiano went up by 20 to 25 per cent. Salt Spring values have increased by around 30 per cent when taking the past two years combined.

BC Assessment figures are used to calculate property taxes, but the agency says an increase in property value does not automatically mean a substantial increase in tax. Local government and service providers set their budget and determine their tax rates for each property class based on the annual need. For example, the Capital Regional District's draft budget for 2018-19 proposes a tax increase of 2.45 per cent for Salt Spring.

"Everyone's share is apportioned accordingly," Marolla said.

"But if you dramatically improve your property by building additions or doing something that might improve the value of the land, and the assessed value

Area Code	Area Name	Neigh Name	Prior Value - Avg	Working Value - Avg	Folio Count	Avg - % Chg
01	Capital	Salt Spring	479,313	540,670	4,088	12.80%
01	Capital	Salt Spring Wf	770,702	872,248	1,393	13.18%
01	Capital	Gulf Islands	272,167	309,461	3,485	13.70%
01	Capital	Gulf Islands Wf	543,340	605,898	2,287	11.51%
01	Capital	Small Islands	474,634	452,903	344	-4.58%

SOURCE: BC ASSESSMENT

Property valuation changes for Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands.

increases much above the average, that's when you might see an increase to your property taxes."

Similarly, someone with a property that has become dilapidated and has not seen their valuation meet the trend may see property taxes drop.

The rural tax rate is similarly calculated by the province in terms of its budgeted need, except it takes into account and averages all B.C.'s rural regions.

Anyone who feels their assessment does not reflect their true situation should contact BC Assessment to discuss. Disputes may go to hearing if warranted.

"Property owners can find a lot of information on our website, including answers to many assessment-related questions, but those who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2017, or see incorrect informa-

tion on their notice, should contact BC Assessment as indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January," said Vancouver Island assessor Tina Ireland.

Property owners who are still concerned about their assessments after speaking to an appraiser must submit a notice of complaint by Jan. 31 to schedule an independent review by a property assessment review panel.

Homeowner grants that ease the burden of property taxes will continue to be accessible to people with higher valuations this year. The provincial government has raised the threshold valuation to \$1.65 million to ensure the same percentage of British Columbia homes are below the threshold as in 2017.

The basic homeowner grant is \$570, while owners who are 65 years or older, or have a disability, are eligible for \$845.

ISLAND ISSUES

SS Community Alliance poised for big year ahead

Fulford Hall meeting set for Jan. 22

The Salt Spring Community Alliance continues to evolve as islanders carry on with the process of identifying Salt Spring's most pressing issues.

A busy year ahead kicks off with a community meeting to be held at Fullford Hall on Monday Jan. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. Doors

open at 6:30 p.m., and light refreshments will be available.

"Everyone's input is wanted. There will be an opportunity to voice your ideas and concerns at every meeting, but now is the time to make sure that your issue is on the table and that there is a working group willing to take it on," a message from the group states.

To get caught up before that date, participants are invited to

read the report from the group's Nov. 14 meeting. It is available at www.sscommunityalliance.org or in hard copy at the public library.

The alliance hopes the community will get active this local election year by signing up for a working group, having online participation and attending regular monthly meetings.

Working group themes to date are infrastructure (includ-

ing water, transportation, liquid waste, community spaces); housing (including affordable housing); environment; health; governance; economic sustainability and micro business; vision and values.

To join, people can go to the next meeting or sign up on the website after Jan. 15.

For more information, visit the website or email ssispeaks@gmail.com.

FOR THE RECORD

The dates for Regan Shrumm's curator-in-residence exhibition at the Salt Spring Library are Feb. 6 to 28, not January as reported in our Dec. 27 paper. Anyone who would like to submit oral histories on their creative practices as part of the show should contact her this month at rshrumm@gmail.com or 250-896-8266.



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REAL ESTATE

Market 2017: Low supply, big demand and rising prices

Salt Spring's 2017 real estate year in review

BY SUSAN DE STEIN*

REALTOR, PEMBERTON HOLMES,
SALT SPRING - *PREC (PERSONAL REAL
ESTATE CORPORATION)

The year 2017 was all about supply (low) and demand (high). The year's real estate market reflected that most common of all economic truisms: a very low number of listings of both homes and land for sale coupled with high demand resulted in increasing prices.

Overall sales for all MLS-listed properties (homes plus bare land) in 2017 were \$160 million, down 20 per cent from 2016 total sales of \$203 million. Some 277 real estate transactions were consummated in 2017 vs. 362 in 2016, a decline of 23 per cent year over year.

The number of single family dwellings (SFD) listed for sale on Salt Spring during 2017 was about half of what an average year's inventory of listings (in the past decade) would be. The drastically narrower selection coupled with a lot of interested buyers caused prices to rise over the year, with the price of an average SFD up about 11 per cent on average over prices seen in 2016.

(Bear in mind that with half the inventory to choose from, even a 20 per cent decline in total sales dol-

lars represents a strong performance when we compare the number of sales to the number of listings.)

Of the \$160 million of sales in 2017 on Salt Spring, 62 represented bare land transactions, accounting for \$18.5 million or 12 per cent of total sales. In 2016, 86 bare land transactions accounted for \$30 million in sales.

The average price for a non-waterfront (NWF) SFD in 2017 was a little over \$660,000, compared to \$605,200 in 2016. Some 162 NWF SFDs were sold in 2017 compared to 201 in 2016. At the high end, 27 homes sold for over \$1 million in 2017, compared to 24 in 2016.

For those interested in comparing this past year's stats to the similarly buoyant 2007 market, this year's activity level was similar to that of 2007, when 283 transactions took place for a total of \$151 million in sales. The average NWF SFD in 2007, however, sold for \$543,000 based on a total of 159 transactions in that category. According to the statistics, waterfront prices in 2007 were above 2017 average sale prices, although it is hard to generalize from limited numbers. Anecdotally, if you try to compare apples to apples — i.e. an average WF sale in 2007 to 2017 — WF prices are ahead of what they were 10 years ago by a similar percentage as non-waterfront.

Of the 277 MLS transactions that

occurred in 2017, over 50 sold for asking or over-asking. Some of these were the result of an unusually high number of competitive bid situations; others were buyers simply wishing to pre-empt others. Well priced properties with frequently sought-after features (ocean views, for example, in quiet and private locations) didn't last long in this market. The lucky buyers of these sought-after properties were either local residents or they happened to be on the island when the property was listed. Sometimes it's just plain luck that a property comes on the market, which perfectly suits an eager buyer who had been looking for some time and is well informed about values and our market conditions — and is ready to offer.

According to the statistics, waterfront prices held steady year over year, averaging approximately \$1.2 million in both years, with the lack of supply constraining sales in 2017 (23 compared to 31 in 2016). The small sample doesn't give us a truly reliable base from which to analyze the numbers. On an anecdotal basis, comparing relevant properties with similar characteristics that sold in 2016 and 2017 — my estimate is that waterfront prices were higher in 2017 by 10 to 20 per cent over the previous year — depending on the property, of course.

Townhouses were in demand and short supply throughout the past

year, resulting in a number of sales occurring at or above the asking price (six out of 12 townhouses sold at or above their list price). Record high prices were set in most of our townhouse neighbourhoods.

Brinkworthy prices strengthened notably in 2017, in part due to constrained supply, with eight sales occurring through MLS.

The highest-priced property selling through MLS in 2017 was an oceanfront 16+ acres in two parcels on King Road in the south end. A 20-acre working farm in the north end sold for \$2.35 million, while a four-acre St. Mary lakefront property on North End Road sold for \$2.3 million.

In the past 12 months, buyers looking for their ideal property frequently had to make decisions to offer quickly and thus to offer close to asking price. With often fewer than 100 SFD properties for sale in total on the island, in all price ranges and categories (when 200+ has been normal for the past several years), buyers had much less to choose from than they would have had in previous years. With prices rising, buyers needed not only to be nimble but also to show flexibility with their wish lists!

This is a small marketplace, so no matter what the budget, it's very rare for buyers to find the perfect match to their criteria. The best strategy is to

focus on the key attributes (location? quiet? private? views? garden? etc.) and make it your own. The reward is that you'll be living on Salt Spring!

What's ahead? For the foreseeable future, Salt Spring's reputation, our enviable location, amenities and natural beauty will continue to be appealing to an increasingly wide audience. Whether or not more sellers decide to list their properties in 2018 may dictate the direction of prices. Predictions are for a slight increase in supply in 2018 and relatively stable prices.

But please don't extrapolate headlines or news stories about real estate in Vancouver, or indeed, across Canada, to what's going to happen here. We are truly a market that dances to its own drummer, and much of our market is less affected than many other markets by mortgage rule changes (the jury is out on how much it will affect us) or the prospect of interest rate increases.

It's difficult to draw hard and fast conclusions based on the small sample of transactions involved in the Salt Spring market. These are my opinions and don't represent a consensus among realtors. I've calculated the stats as best I can, consolidating MLS data from both the Victoria and Vancouver real estate boards. Private sales occurring outside of either board's postings are not included in these numbers.

VICTIM SERVICES

Sexual assault victims' court system experiences wanted

Next phase of SWOVA study gets underway

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

SWOVA's Consent and Sexual Assault project is entering its final year with an examination of victims' experiences with the criminal justice system.

The first phases of the project surveyed Gulf Islands residents about their experiences with consent and sexual assault, and gathered input from people working in the social services and criminal justice fields. It made several recommendations for preventing sexual assault and improving responses for victims.

“What we are hoping is to interview victims who have gone through the court process in the last 10 years.”

SHARYN CARROLL
SWOVA Consent and Sexual Assault
Project coordinator

The project now seeks to connect with victims of sexual assault who have had experience with the court system in Canada in the past 10 years.

“We've looked at barriers and gaps in terms of entering into the [criminal

justice] service, but we haven't looked at barriers and gaps within the services themselves,” said project coordinator Sharyn Carroll last week.

“What we are hoping is to interview victims who have gone through the court process in the last 10 years.”

Victims can be of any gender, including trans or non-binary, but must be at least 14 years of age.

“We will look at the police work, going through the court system, writing your victim impact statement and all the way up to sentence hearings to see where people get dropped off the map or where those gaps are,” said Carroll.

People wanting more information or to participate should call Carroll at 250-537-1336 or email her at sharyn@swova.org between now and mid-March. She will ask individuals some preliminary questions to ensure participation is appropriate for them.

“We don't want to retraumatize anyone,” she explained.

Katie Watters, of Victim Services at Salt Spring Community Services, added that if individuals appear to need support related to their assault or legal experiences then they can be referred to available services.

Participation in the survey is completely voluntary and confidential. No names will be attached to the feedback or information provided.

Interviews will be done by a trained social worker in a safe, contained and private setting.

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If you have questions or want more information, contact us at 1-866-valueBC or online at bcassessment.ca. The deadline to file an appeal for your assessment is January 31, 2018.

For more property information, assessment highlights and videos visit

bcassessment.ca



BC ASSESSMENT

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HEALTH CARE

Health society launched

Residents' group sets out primary care as top goal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new organization dedicated to bringing more health-care services to the island has gained official recognition, with the provincial government approving the name Salt Spring Community Health Society.

According to founding member Curt Firestone, the society was born out of the need for every island resident to have access to primary health care. The need for improved services both for seniors and for the island's most marginalized and vulnerable community members has also been identified.

The society's mission statement states the aim is to promote community health by "seeking to expand local access to primary health care on Salt Spring Island and to support an inter-professional community health centre."

Firestone noted there will be many more steps before the group can achieve its top

goal, but it has started the process it determined was needed after releasing the Residents' Report on Health Care last October.

"We are at the stage that the name of the society has been approved. This month we'll be submitting our application to be a not-for-profit society," Firestone said. "Everything takes time, but we have a pretty dedicated group of people. We're slowly getting things checked off to get things formalized."

The SSCHS says it will be working in close cooperation with local health care providers, Island Health, the B.C. Association of Community Health Centres and the Ministry of Health as it goes forward. A meeting with MLA Adam Olsen has been scheduled and other groups will be consulted later this spring.

Firestone said there are a few different examples of primary clinics already at work within the Island Health region that can be considered.

"We'll be looking at the different models and talking with all the different authorities so everyone is comfortable with the direction we're taking forward," he said.

MARINE RESCUE

RCMSAR crew aids boater

Vessel loses power off Vancouver Island

Salt Spring's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue unit assisted a sailor whose vessel had lost power on New Year's Eve.

An RCMSAR crew was tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria at approximately 11 a.m. to assist a vessel adrift with one person aboard near Grave Point on Vancouver Island. Grave Point is near the northern entrance of Sansum Narrows.

RCMSAR Station 25 media officer Mike Murphy said a crew arrived on scene to find a vessel without power drifting towards the shore.

"Our crew was able to tow the vessel away from the rocky shoreline, and kept the vessel under tow until Eagle Eye Marine arrived from Ganges to take over the tow and provide assistance."

RCMSAR volunteers also participated in safety patrol for the Jan. 1 Polar Bear Swim in Vesuvius Bay.



PHOTO COURTESY RCMSAR STATION 25

RCMSAR Station 25 coxswain Tom McKeachie tows a sailboat that had lost power near Grave Point.

LOCAL POLITICS

Challenges and rewards continue for trustee and vice-chair

Salt Spring trustee and Islands Trust Council vice-chair George Grams answered the following Driftwood questions to acknowledge the transition from one year to the next.

Q. How would you evaluate the year 2017 for Salt Spring? What was encouraging? What was discouraging? How did we grow as a community?

A. 2017 saw some failures and some successes.

Failures include the ball park for our youth. Whether or not one favoured or opposed the Brinkworthy site as an appropriate location, providing a ball park has been on the island's wish list for decades. It's frustrating for the community and for our youth in particular that all attempts to make it a reality have been unsuccessful.

The inability to see the CRD housing project on Drake Road advance was another major disappointment.

I count the conclusion of the island's exploration of our form of governance a success. That's one less contentious issue that we have on our agenda for 2018.

The increasing engagement that we have seen from provincial ministries in the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority is also tremendously encouraging. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in particular has been a wonderful participant and study partner. We were pleased that the Ministry of Agriculture chose to take a seat on the steering committee. The agricultural land use survey which they undertook will help inform on current and future

water usage and water needs for our farmers. We have expressions of interest from other ministries that we hope bear fruit, particularly in relation to climate change issues. The additional energy and effort that North Salt Spring Waterworks District's board of trustees has committed to the steering committee is also bringing benefits.

Trust Council's embrace of the proposal to conduct an internal review of the Islands Trust Act is pleasing. I'm grateful to Lee Middleton of Saturna and David Critchley of Denman for working with me to advance that initiative.

Q. What do you see as the biggest challenge for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee for 2018?

A. One of the major challenges and frustrations I face

as a member of the LTC is our inability to meet schedules that are set for processing projects.

Q. What do you see as the biggest challenge for the island as a whole in 2018?

A. I believe the biggest challenge is, and will remain, the absence of coordinated and integrated governance.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of being a trustee?

A. Engaging with staff, with other agencies and with islanders is stimulating, productive and rewarding.

Q. What is the most rewarding part of being on the Islands Trust Executive Committee?

A. I enjoy working on behalf of Trust Council with my fellow

colleagues on executive: chair Peter Luckham and vice chairs Laura Busheikin and Susan Morrison.

I also enjoy the deeper involvement that being on executive brings with staff in Victoria. Chairing meetings on other islands is also gratifying, seeing how different communities and the trustees they elect respond to issues, some of which we on Salt Spring share, that are of concern to them.

Q. What would you like to accomplish before your term is completed in October?

A. I'd like to see our current projects completed without further delays or postponements and the applications currently before us successfully processed.

SPEAKERS SERIES

Indigenous rights examined

UN declaration in focus in library talks and display

This January the Salt Spring Public Library will engage the public on the potential of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for redress and positive change, sponsoring an Indigenous Speakers Series that starts Jan. 17 with a talk by MLA Adam Olsen.

"UNDRIP fundamentally changes the way government relates with Indigenous people," Olsen said. "It establishes a new baseline for moving from an era of denial to one of recognition and respect. It represents the words of truth, and now it is up to government to take the bold action of reconciliation."

During the month, the library will display

the entire text of the UN declaration in its lobby. In addition, a set of photo panels celebrating the successful protection of Grace Islet by First Nations and their Salt Spring supporters will be mounted permanently inside the library.

According to a library press release, the speakers series focuses on several key articles in the UN declaration relating to Indigenous peoples' cultural and economic rights and resources. Olsen's opening talk is called Implementing the UN Declaration and will address some of the possibilities and implications involved. The event starts at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming events take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20 and at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 and 30. Topics include Gulf Islands elders and knowledge keepers, the Xwaaqw'um Project at Burgoyne Bay and fish farm occupation in Kwakwaka'wakw territory.

Jim Pattison
Subaru victoria

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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 BCYCNA Awards
 Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



EDITORIAL

Ideas to explore

An idea that's drifted onto Gulf Islands wish lists in recent years is about to get its first test ride.

Last week the Capital Regional District issued a request for proposals related to a passenger-only ferry service to connect the Gulf Islands with each other and Sidney. The RFP asks for consultants to assess five specified routes and create a short-term business plan for such a service.

It might be a pie-in-the-sky, on-paper-only idea at this point, but then it could be the beginning of a successful venture from a variety of perspectives.

The Gulf Islands are a natural region in so many ways: socially, culturally, geographically and environmentally. The Town of Sidney is also a strong commercial connection for both residents of and visitors to the islands.

THE ISSUE:

Proposed Gulf Islands ferry service

WE SAY:

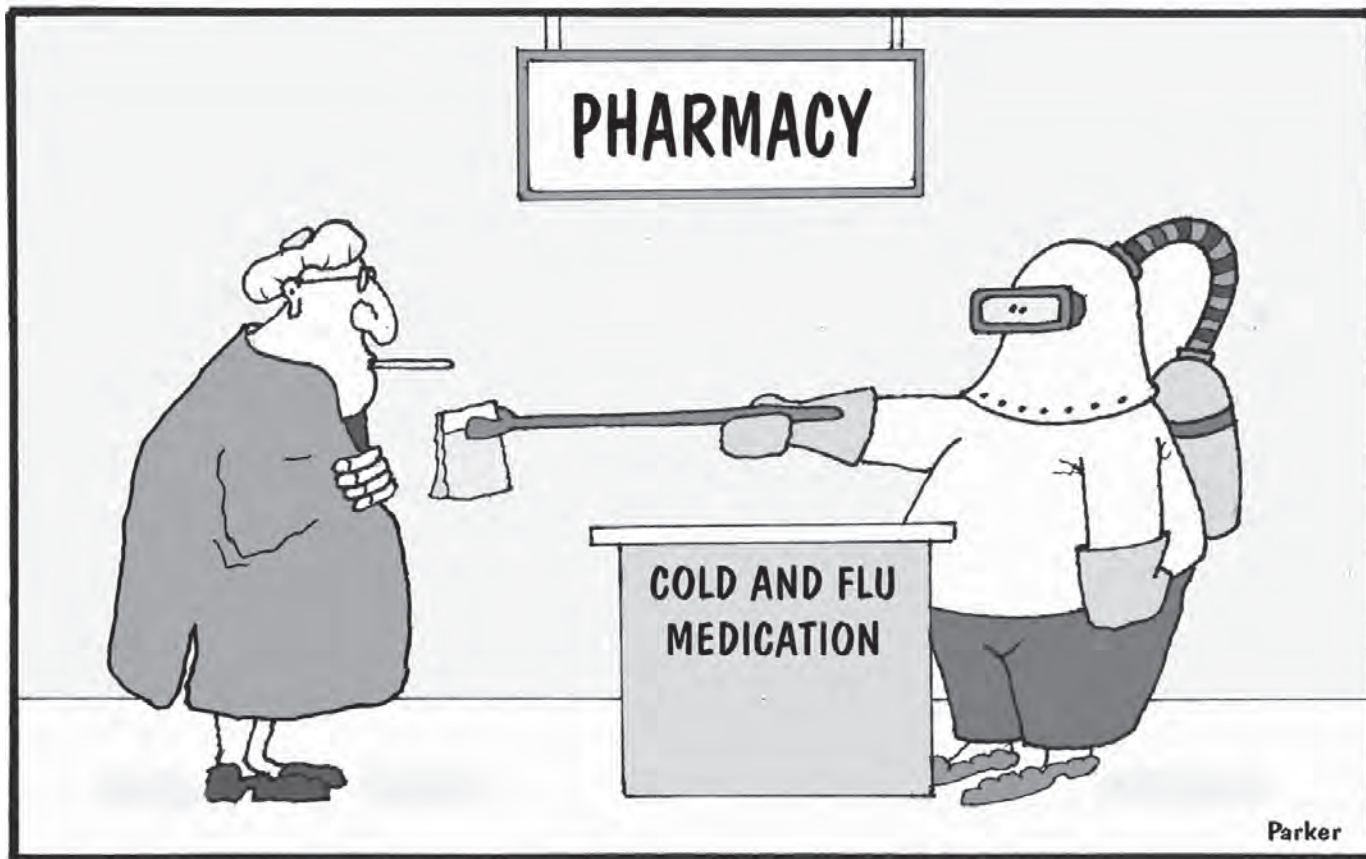
RFP is a welcome first step

Unfortunately, erosion of ferry service that occurred decades ago reduced the ability of islanders to mingle with ease. Gulf Islands Water Taxi has provided some means of connection through its school district contract and a limited summer Saturday service, but there is clearly an appetite for more ways to get around the islands without a vehicle and using BC Ferries.

Three years of Tours des Îles festivals — held in June of 2015, '16 and '17 — proved even more popular than anticipated. Organized with support from the CRD, its Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands economic development commissions, and the islands' chamber of commerce and tourism bodies, the festivals provided a tangible view of "what could be" if some vessels were available for hire on a more regular basis.

The big questions for any regular passenger-ferry service are related to costs: How much people would be willing to pay for their rides, how much local government would be willing to kick in, if anything, and whether any vessel operators would be willing to offer a service for the compensation available.

The CRD's RFP is admittedly a baby step towards creating a new way to get around the islands, but anything that attempts to bring Gulf Islanders together more frequently is a welcome effort.



VIEWPOINT by Julian Paquette

Youth want radical world change

There are more than 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24 on Earth presently, which is the largest youth generation in history. This is also the generation most affected by climate change.

In partnership with the student council at the Gulf Islands Secondary School, the Salt Spring Forum is presenting more events that will inspire, engage and empower young people to lead.

The first GISS Student Council-Salt Spring Forum event features Geoff Dembicki, an internationally successful 31-year-old climate journalist and author of the new book *Are We Screwed? How a New Generation is Fighting to Survive Climate Change*. Dembicki will speak on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. in the GISS Multipurpose Room.

Through his journeys to places like the tar sands, Wall Street and the Paris climate talks, Dembicki has learned that millions of youth want to radically change the world. In fact, youth are now leading the resistance to the politicians and CEOs who have been steering our planet towards disaster.

Most importantly, Dembicki argues that a safer and more equitable future is more achievable than we have been led to believe.

Dembicki is the Bill McKibben of his generation, combining a deep understanding of climate science with a rare ability to explain and motivate people into action rather than despair. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Vice*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Guardian* and, most recently, *Penthouse* — as part of a deliberate strategy to reach and educate new audiences about climate change.

Most importantly, Dembicki argues that a safer and more equitable future is more achievable than we have been led to believe.

During Thursday's event at GISS, Dembicki will give a firsthand account of this movement, the shift in generational values behind it and what we all can do to create positive, lasting, climate-friendly change.

By attending this event, you will encourage and show solidarity with local youth. You will also gain insights into their views and values, and take those insights — along with those in Dembicki's book — back into your lives.

Former Salt Spring Forum youth volunteer Sky Losier will moderate the discussion. Losier is the current Premier of the British Columbia Youth Parliament and a student at the University of Victoria

studying political science and human dimensions of climate change.

The writer is manager of the Salt Spring Forum.

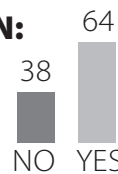
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you intend to appeal your property assessment? Yes No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you optimistic about the coming year?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "How do you feed yourself if the trucks aren't coming through Fulford Harbour every morning?"

DAN JASON, SEED SAVING PROPONENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: What do you think about BC Ferries' new no-smoking policy?



LISA SAYER

I think it's a reflection of where we're headed culturally with smoking; the slow phasing out of smoking in general.



MELISSA LOVINGIT

It would be nice to see BC Ferries with a designated smoking area. Then everyone's happy. You can avoid it, but smokers can still smoke there.



BRYN KING

I think it is good. I feel sorry for the folks who smoke. I wish there was somewhere they could go so they weren't smogging everyone else out.



BARBARA BENNETT VENSEL

If it is a safety issue I'm for it, but if it is a way to infringe on travellers' rights I'm not for it.



BRYAN DUBIEN

It's lovely that they are creating a rule that makes the air clearer, but it would suck to be a smoker without a place to go.

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

Catchment not feasible

In response to the Dec. 27 comment by trustee Peter Grove that "there is no lack of water" on Salt Spring, with more than 35 inches of rainfall per year there is no doubt that there is no shortage of water falling on Salt Spring Island.

However, there is the clear potential for island-wide/local water shortages, triggered by a number of events. These events (not mutually exclusive), include low rain-

fall years, impacts of climate change, inappropriate development, etc.

Mr. Grove's "no water scarcity" statement would only be applicable if all island properties had appropriate water catchment/supply in place. As of today this "ideal" remains largely a challenge, both for property retrofits and for all new property builds. In both cases installation costs and site suitability may create significant obstacles to effective water capture, both for individual properties and for developments.

Peter Grove asks the ques-

tion, "How do we capture it?" Creating appropriate levels of water storage for the island's properties will require consideration of a number of actions along with appropriate implementation plans to put these in place.

Water catchment infrastructure installation costs could be reduced by increasing the availability of appropriate funding (grants, property tax relief?), though in some cases site suitability (topography, geology, site footprint, etc.) will remain an issue.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's ongoing review

of the availability of water resources needs to develop answers to the question, "How do we capture it?" to avoid a "no shortage of water" turning into a "water shortage."

For further information on typical costs and requirements for a reasonable level of water catchment (residential property, family of two), see the November 2016 newsletter on the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society website at www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
FOR THE SSIWPS BOARD

Potable water limited

Sure, Peter Grove, we have lots of water on Salt Spring; just watch it falling and running to the sea ("Water issues trickle through LTC files," Dec. 27 Driftwood).

But unless we have the millions of dollars to store, process and maintain the rain in huge tanks, or to repair all the current leaky pipes, or dam the lakes to draw down lots of water and damn the known consequences, Salt Spring doesn't have potable water for

many more people, especially with the lifestyle of most of us.

When my husband and I bought in 1977, realtor Harvey Henderson said the 10-acre lots above Cusheon Lake were not dividable, being watershed land, which suited us. He also said Salt Spring lacks much excess potable water. We are far beyond the barely 4,000 population in the 1970s.

Can we now live within our means to maintain a healthy, sustainable community?

EILEEN WTTWAALL,
BRINKWORTHY ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Trustee foresees busy year ahead for island

BY PETER GROVE

Coincidentally, as I sit down to write this piece at the request of the Driftwood, the CBC is reviewing 2017 on the radio. They talk of floods, fires and hurricanes that devastated North America during the year, clear results of climate change which can surely no longer be denied by even the most skeptical. They note uncertainties in Europe, Asia and North America and, in particular, political chaos unfolding in the U.S.

But there is good news too. The economy is thriving; there have been amazing breakthroughs in medicine and technology; Canada is a beacon of hope to the rest of the world as a stable, multicultural country.

So where does that leave us on Salt Spring? Our island is one of the most desirable parts of the country in which to live. In addition to its natural beauty and relatively mild climate, we are blessed with a supportive and caring community.

Local farm production is increasing; the arts are thriving; our schools are second to none; the Lady Minto Hospital provides us with superb health care; we have the fastest growing rural transportation system in the province; the IT community is thriving with more people working from home; we have more electric cars per capita than anywhere else in Canada; tourism is at record highs.

However, we have some harsh realities to address. We are feeling the effects of climate change with colder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Water management must be a priority. We should follow Gabriola Island's example and legislate rainwater catchment systems for all new-builds; we must lobby the provincial government and change our

building codes. There is no shortage of water on our island. Our needs can be addressed through improved storage, accessibility and distribution of rainwater.

Climate change is already affecting sea levels. BC Ferries is addressing the issue at its terminals. We can no longer afford to ignore vulnerable parts of our island. We must also strengthen our defences against forest fires.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's recent Vital Signs study is illuminating. We can expect the island's population to continue to increase. It is also aging rapidly. We must ensure housing for seniors and young families alike. It is essential that we make it possible for those who provide services to live here.

We must care for those who are less fortunate. We have a serious need for more mental health support and help for the homeless. Community Services provides essential services and needs our continued support, together with the island's countless volunteer groups for which we are endlessly grateful.

And there are significant projects underway: close to 200 units of affordable housing are at various stages of development; working with the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, the provincial government is considering improvements to our hospital; North Salt Spring Waterworks is developing a plan, together with the CRD, Islands Trust and Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority, for future water services; Harbour House Hotel will soon complete its enhanced facilities; Ganges, Salt Spring and Fulford Marinas are at various stages of improvement.

GUEST COLUMN

I am hopeful that 2018 will see the long-awaited new fire hall. In the perfect world this building would house a number of services, reducing costs

and increasing efficiency. This could include the ambulance centre, emergency services, the Islands Trust and the CRD offices. Improving coordination and communication among agencies is one of the clear messages from the recent incorporation referendum. Shared space would certainly help.

And that brings me to some of our 2017 highlights. Without a doubt the incorporation referendum was a major event for our island. For months, islanders were passionately engaged in debates, social media exchanges, articles and letters in the Driftwood, gatherings and discussions. The community was alive with the issue of whether to incorporate or not. It was stimulating and valuable to be a part of it. I say valuable because we all learned a great deal about ourselves, our values and our community.

With a few exceptions, we were respectful and tolerant of one another's views. We turned out in record numbers to vote. The result was clear — a strong mandate to consider what we can do to improve our local government — not to incorporate.

Community groups are already discussing governance issues and how to improve what we have. The Islands Trust is seeking ways to strengthen our mandate through changes to the Islands Trust Act, and to serve as the coordinator for local government services.

The need for affordable housing has reached crisis point. In addition to supporting and encouraging projects noted above,

the local trust committee is considering legalizing seasonal cottages for full-time rentals to residents. We must address STVRs and B&Bs, to ensure they are not detracting from the full-time rental market.

It is time to take a fresh look at our official community plan. It was last reviewed in 2008. It is the closest thing we have to a long-term plan for the island, but it does not include services provided by other agencies, such as the CRD.

Within the next few months your LTC will complete a review and update of industrial zones and a project to protect rural watersheds. I hope we will complete a plan, with the CRD, for the harbour walk along the Ganges seafront. It is clear the majority of those who participated in the debate so far do not want additional commercialization of the waterfront and support a simple pedestrian walkway.

And we must never forget that, whatever we do and whatever we plan, needs to be done in consultation with First Nations, who are fittingly playing an increasing role in island life.

As this is an LTC election year — the current term ends in October — it would be good to conclude these projects in a timely, practical way. We are drawing to the close of another successful year in the life of Salt Spring Island. I am optimistic that 2018 will be equally positive, but it won't happen by itself. We must all work together in whatever way we can to support and enrich our community.

The writer is an Islands Trust trustee for Salt Spring Island.

Croftonbrook housing project has water solutions

BY IWAV CROFTONBROOK TEAM

It seems puzzling to the proponents of the Croftonbrook affordable housing expansion project that our ability to provide an adequate water supply for those who will live there still has its doubters. Or that there is some erroneous impression we might house 135+ residents!

As lead agency for the project, the last thing IWAV wants for the low-income seniors, small families in need and the vulnerable singles who will be living there is a shortage of drinking water.

IWAV's civil engineer and hydrogeologist have clearly reported that there is enough water for Croftonbrook's new tenants. The barrier is that traditional measures for water supply that Islands Trust normally applies are based on standards that are not appropriate or reasonable for the program's mandate. IWAV will not be housing two or 2.5 people in the studios or small one-bedroom units, so why should the organization have to prove water for that many people?

We are fully aware that water supply is a problem in Ganges, so we have taken a number of steps to ensure that our tenants' needs will be met.

First, both IWAV's and the Province of B.C.'s hydrogeologists have

confirmed a sustainable water supply from Croftonbrook's well and a water licence has been issued on that basis.

Second, the IWAV development team has negotiated with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District for water to be supplied to meet any firefighting needs on the site. This is typically a large part of water that must be demonstrated, and as such, NSSWD participation will significantly minimize any demand on the groundwater supply should this need arise.

We are fully aware that water supply is a problem in Ganges, so we have taken a number of steps to ensure that our tenants' needs will be met.

Next, our architect and engineers are designing systems for rainwater collection for landscaping and garden purposes as well as grey water recycling for toilet flushing. Green space and the chance to grow fresh

IN RESPONSE

food is something many prospective tenants are eager for. Every water-saving design feature will be considered in the carefully sized and designed units.

Most importantly, we can and we will limit the number of residents living in the new units so that their personal needs for potable water can be fully met by the proven groundwater supply from our drilled well.

So let's look at the numbers. The new building will add 54 units of different sizes and layouts to the number already built on the Croftonbrook site.

Based on the latest needs assessment of Salt Spring's most urgent housing needs, we will be putting our emphasis on single-person units, with 36 planned. An additional 18 units will be designed for two to three occupants each, of which the majority will be limited to two. This produces an estimate of 78 residents.

Our engineers have confirmed that there is at least enough groundwater on site to meet the drinking water needs of 78 new residents, maybe even more if their rates of

water usage mirror the usage of Croftonbrook's current residents.

Both CRD and Island Health, who are among our partners in this project, have their own typical occupancy numbers. Both would permit higher occupancy than what is planned for by IWAV.

Of course we would love to provide shelter for more people in need than 78, but water security has to be a governing factor. Everyone agrees on that.

And we can achieve the occupancy numbers we are promising. What follows are several examples of mechanisms for assuring the occupancy numbers we have pledged in our submission to the Islands Trust are maintained:

- IWAV could put a cap on occupant numbers, registered in a covenant on title for the new building, thereby creating a legally enforceable occupancy limit. This mechanism could include penalties for non-compliance.

- The Croftonbrook manager would ensure that tenants are made fully aware of the requirement in their lease agreements that they must abide by the occupancy limit for their unit. The manager could also submit annual reports on tenant numbers to the Trust.

- IWAV will ensure that our well

is metered regularly to ensure that water consumption does not exceed the licensed amount, with a report available to tenants and interested agencies alike.

We are excited by the innovative approaches to water conservation that we are developing for our urgently needed affordable housing project. And we will remain open to other good ideas during the current planning period.

We believe our plans and ideas will not only meet the Islands Trust's water policy goals but inspire innovative practices in other projects, thus driving greater conservation of water on Salt Spring and in the Islands Trust region as a whole. This is an ecologically sound and rational direction, and helps support a solution to one of our most pressing social issues — housing for those in most need!

What is needed now is for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to grant the rezoning permission we need to move the project forward.

Let's get going!

IWAV's Croftonbrook team consists of IWAV board chair Susan Dann, executive director Dana Peace, director of housing Kisae Petersen and project manager Janis Gauthier.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

Push road line agenda

I was really impressed with the editorial titled "Lines of safety" in the Jan. 3 issue.

In addition to the points raised in the editorial, visible road lines are particularly important in communities like Salt Spring where most roads do not have street lights. Also, like many seniors, my nighttime vision is not what it used to be, and this compounds the problem for a growing proportion of our citizens.

The editorial concentrated on the poor upkeep of lines that are already in place. But there are numerous roads here that have no lines whatever. Understandably, there is no point putting a centre line on a street narrower than some specified value. But then it becomes really important to have white lines along the mostly ill-defined borders. The same goes for any road deemed wide enough for a centre line. Just two examples: Broadwell Road

and Atkins Road. One reason why the centre lines there probably don't last long is because they are driven over frequently because of poor visibility of the road edges, especially after dark.

As we are not a municipality, responsibility for our roads rests with the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. One of our main links to MoTI is the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. Perhaps the Positively Forward group that emerged following the referendum might collaborate with SSITC to push this agenda forward with MoTI. Of course the issue then becomes who should pay for upgrading the lines, because that will probably be a pushback from MoTI. I think that it's not unreasonable that at least some proportion of the upgrade be paid for through local taxes.

I hope we don't need to wait for a major traffic accident attributable to poor lines in order to get MoTI to address this problem.

REUBEN W. KAUFMAN,
SALT SPRING

Peace promoted at Jan. 15 event

For the most part, I prefer to ignore the nutty tweets from President Trump. The threats between Trump and Kim Jong-un are pretty appalling, like this tweet: "I too have a Nuclear Button but it is a much bigger and more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

That tweet makes it pretty clear that sexism is a threat, not just to women, but to all living things. Writing in the New York Times, Carol Cohn shows how this type of thinking is by no means just a Trumpesque phenomenon. "Embedded ideas about gender in nuclear strategic discourse . . . act as a deterrent to more realistic thinking about nuclear weapons and the holocaust that would result from their use," she writes.

Canada and the U.S. are co-hosting a meeting of foreign ministers from nations that share their concern about North Korea's

nuclear weapons program. As a signatory to UN resolution 1325, requiring countries to include women in peace-building efforts, Canada's department of global affairs is inviting women from all over the world who have amazing experience in peace-building, especially between North and South Korea. If you are in Vancouver on Jan. 14-16, you're invited to participate in a vigil and teach-in; I'm happy to provide details to anyone who's interested.

Here on Salt Spring, but all over the world as well, people are learning a lot about how to overcome hate, how to promote peace and justice in our local communities. We need to scale up that learning. To this end, people are working to inform the media about civilian efforts to build peace and to hold solidarity vigils. Ours is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Jan. 15 (Martin Luther King Day in the U.S.) on the sidewalk by Centennial Park.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

RANTS and Roses

Roses

A fare-box full of perfumed winter roses to Don Conley, driver of our peripatetic bus, who delighted the heart of Juliana Sandi-Matte by a kind act of extra service upon her return from a sojourn in Victoria during our recent icy weather. Not only did he return her promptly from the visitors centre to the Brinkworthy stop but he took her right to her door! She was overwhelmed by such a kind gesture and radiated warmth and happiness for days after.

Choices sends Brett Jollimore a big bouquet of roses for painting the main room and the computer room at Choices. Thank you for donating your time and for your patience in doing such a wonderful job.

A wheelbarrow full of red poppies to Upper Ganges Liquor Store for their generous donations of door prizes at our New Year's Eve event. Thank you so very much. Legion Branch 92

Congratulations to Barry and Kelly Kazakoff on their first year at The Local. Thank you so much for preserving our culture! (P.S. Staff are awesome.) WD & ST

Giving a hall full of red roses to all the people who made this year's Christmas Freebeedo possible. With all our love, Michael and Helga

A bouquet of roses to Slegg Lumber for their support to Neale Smith in painting sections of our Thrift Shop. Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary

Town Hall Meetings

Pender Island
Monday, January 15
7:00 - 8:30pm
Pender Island Community
Hall
4418 Bedwell Harbour Road

Salt Spring Island
Tuesday, January 16
7:00 - 8:30pm
Multi-Purpose Room
Gulf Islands Secondary
School
232 Rainbow Road

Saanich
Wednesday, January 17
7:00 - 8:30pm
Bob Wright Centre
Room B150
University of Victoria

Saanich Peninsula
Thursday, January 18
7:00 - 8:30pm
Bodine Family Hall
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Avenue

Galiano Island
Friday, January 19
7:00 - 8:30pm
Galiano Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Road

Mayne Island
Saturday, January 20
3:30 - 5:00pm
Mayne Island Community
Centre
493 Felix Jack Road

Saturna Island
Tuesday, January 23
7:00 - 8:30pm
Saturna Island Community
Hall
109 East Point Road

Saanich
Wednesday, January 24
7:00 - 8:30pm
Our Lady of Fatima Church
4635 Elk Lake Drive



Elizabeth May, O.C., MP Saanich-Gulf Islands

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TELEVISION

Gulf Islands make star appearance in APTN food show

 Episodes air on
 Jan. 18 and 25

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The food culture of the Gulf Islands has become one of the region's biggest selling points in recent years, with local chefs making the most of ingredients sourced at produce markets and farms.

Television has started to take notice of the bounty: Salt Spring memorably became a star player on the Food Network's Chuck and Danny's Road Trip show last year. Recent filming for an Aboriginal Peoples Television Network program called Moosemeat & Marmalade now shifts the focus to ingredients that can be sourced in the wild as hunted, foraged and cooked by "odd-couple" hosts Art Napoleon and Dan Hayes.

Moosemeat & Marmalade, which kicks off its third season on Jan. 18 with an episode filmed partly on Russell Island, has the pair travel to different locations, prepare locally sourced foods and share their creations with the resident community. Recipes are provided on the show's website for every dish, allowing viewers to try beaver and bison when it's an episode led by Napoleon, or lamb and Devon cream in a trip back to Hayes' home turf in the U.K.

Hayes and his wife own the Victoria business The London Chef, which combines a culinary school, catering business, restaurant and fine ingredient commissary. Hayes may have grown up attending English boarding schools and sum-

mering on the Spanish islands, but he is a keen lifelong hunter and fisher.

Napoleon shares writer and producer credits as well as hosting the show. His multi-faceted career includes Cree singer-songwriter, teacher, hand-picked chief and activist. Now based in Victoria, he grew up in Saulteau First Nation in the northeastern corner of B.C. His grandmother, a full-blooded Dane-zaa woman, taught him the ways of the bush, including hunting and cooking.

After several years working together, Napoleon is willing to admit that his ways are rubbing off on his TV partner, who was trained in Europe's fine dining establishments.

"He's trying to copy my style," Napoleon joked in an interview with the Driftwood. "I notice he's trying to get more rustic with his dishes."

Napoleon has also learned some techniques from Hayes. He finds it interesting that Western chefs have a very different way of butchering animals into cuts of meat than traditional First Nations methods, for example. But it's safe to say much of the education is centred on Napoleon's knowledge of the Canadian wild and the best ways to prepare food outside over a fire.

"Everything is controlled in a kitchen. You can just set the oven to the temperature that you want and it's consistent, and same with the burners," Napoleon observed.

With a wood fire outdoors, it's a much longer process that starts with knowing what type of wood to use and how big the pieces should be. Many hours



of burning might be necessary to bring it down to coals.

"You have to know how to handle the flame. And if you're good at it, you'll probably get some burns on your hands and smoke in your eyes," Napoleon said.

Knowledge of types of meat and the cuts that work best for each animal is also essential. That carries back right to the field dressing process after a hunt. As Napoleon notes, "How it's going to be cooked determines how you cut it."

Bison works well for grilling a Western style steak, but moose requires something cooked for a longer time with liquid, such as a stew or slow

cooker.

One of the causes that Napoleon is active in promoting is Indigenous food sovereignty, which essentially means ensuring that First Nations people have access to Canada's native plants and animals. First Nations cultures are centred around food, and often a single animal was crucially important.

For the people of northeastern B.C. that was the moose. Napoleon said it was not just the main food source but also provided material such as sewing thread from sinews, and ropes made from thicker tendons as well as hides. Even the hair was used.



PHOTOS COURTESY APTN

Above: Finished Fireside Clambake dish (recipe below). At left: Art Napoleon of Moosemeat & Marmalade.

Indigenous plants are less well-known to Canadians but were also important to First Nation cultures. Many species have since disappeared or are endangered, such as some varieties of berries and the camas plant. Napoleon says it is important to protect and preserve what's left, from an environmental perspective as well as a cultural one.

"It's important that we restore some balance. We need to find ways to enhance the growth of our natural food source — and we think that's good for everybody," he said.

Napoleon points out that First Nations have been careful managers of food resources — in contrast to the passive "gatherer" concept. The season three premiere of Moosemeat & Marmalade filmed on Russell Island highlights that fact well, as it delves into the history of the Coast Salish clam gardens. Napoleon and Hayes visited the area with Parks Canada staff and First Nations elders involved in a

clam bed restoration project. Their final feast with clams harvested in the local waters took place on Tsartlip First Nation.

Hayes takes the reins for the second island episode, which airs on Jan. 25. Although the production team had considered hunting fallow deer on Mayne Island, complications sent them to take a feral goat on Saturna instead. Their final meal, with Hayes' goat curry recipe, was filmed in the narrow confines of Wild Thyme's double-decker bus cafe.

Napoleon said that whether it's his or Hayes' turn to lead an episode, the focus is always primarily on the cultural aspects of food rather than a cooking tutorial. Viewers in turn have welcomed the opportunity to educate themselves about traditional practices.

"Indigenous food is a big subject and a very interesting one. So we're just happy to create awareness," Napoleon said.

Fireside Clambake Recipe

- Equivalent to 6 cups fresh clams, well rinsed
- 1 side or large filet of salmon
- 1 small packet smoked or candied salmon
- 5 medium potatoes, cubed
- 3 ears fresh corn cut into 2-inch sections
- 1 medium white or red onion
- 1/2 cup shallots, green onions, or chives
- 2 litres vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1/2 package butter
- 2 bulbs garlic
- Handful dried seaweed
- Handful fresh parsley or oregano
- Salt & pepper to taste

This is a one-pot dish designed to be cooked on an outdoor fire in a Dutch oven, but will also work in an indoor oven using heavy-duty oven wear.

Heat up Dutch oven against the

flames of your fire and add 3 Tbsp. of the butter, stock, onions, garlic and potatoes. Cover with lid and allow to steam until potatoes are half cooked (about 10 minutes, depending on heat).

When spuds are ready add corn, place lid back on Dutch oven and cook ingredients for 5 mins. Add more stock if liquid is running low, as the vegetables have to steam.

Then add the clams, raw salmon filet, wine, salt and seaweed and allow to cook until clams begin to open and salmon starts to turn pink.

Remove from heat, add the smoked or candied salmon as a topping, place lid back on and keep the clambake warm at the fire's edge.

Just before serving, strain the liquid from the pot into a saucepan and add 1 cup of butter, the fresh herbs and whisk over medium heat.

Pour the sauce into small serving bowls and use as a dipping sauce for the clambake. Serve hot.

Spirit of Salt Spring



The Salt Spring Island Branch of Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, capped off 2017 with a donation of \$5,432.85 - equivalent to 16,298 meals - to the Salt Spring food bank. Community support of the branch's Full Cupboard Program led to more than \$10,000 being donated to the food bank in 2017. From left is Full Cupboard champion Lulu Kanters, Community Services operations manager Rob Wiltzen and Full Cupboard champion Tanya Steeves.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits.
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CONCERT PREVIEW

Baroque sound soars at ensemble concert

Group leader known for showmanship and virtuosity

An ArtSpring audience can look forward to a dynamic, personal and engaging performance of music by Italian baroque masters on Sunday, Jan. 14.

That's when Victoria Baroque, led by one of the world's leading baroque violinists — Kati Debretzeni from the U.K. — will present a varied program of concerti for baroque instruments by Vivaldi, Torelli, Locatelli, Dall'Abaco and more. The show begins at 2:30 p.m.

As ArtSpring's marketing manager Jessica Beck explains, the 13-member ensemble brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works.

"Playing on instruments of the 18th century, the ensemble brings audiences closer to the sound world of that period, embracing the dance-driven era," she said.

Victoria Baroque is now in its seventh season. The group's debut CD, *Virtuosi of the Baroque* on Marquis Classic, was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award in 2014.

Since 2000, Debretzeni has led the English Baroque Soloists under Sir John Eliot Gardiner, and since 2008 has been one of the leaders of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in the U.K., Europe and the U.S. under Ivan Fischer, Sir Roger Norrington, Stephen Isserlis, Robert Levin, Robin Ticciati and others.

Debretzeni features as soloist on two ver-



PHOTO BY JAN GATES

Victoria Baroque performs in concert. The group visits ArtSpring on Sunday, Jan. 14.

sions of Bach's Brandenburg concertos, with the European Brandenburg Ensemble under Trevor Pinnock (winning a Gramophone Award in 2008), and again with the English Baroque Soloists.

She has directed the violin various ensembles in Israel, Poland, Norway, Iceland and the U.K., and teaches baroque and classical violin at the Royal Conservatory of Music in

The Hague.

"Lead-violinist Kati Debretzeni was the outright star, infusing the dance movements with crackling energy, delivering a ravishing cadenza in the fourth concerto," stated The Independent in Britain about one of her performances.

Show tickets are available through ArtSpring.

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PHOTO COURTESY ADAM DOBRES AND PIERRE SCHRYER

LIVELY TUNEMAKERS: Adam Dobres, left, and Pierre Schryer will team up once again for an intimate night of Celtic music at Beaver Point Hall this Saturday, Jan. 13. Dobres and Schryer are a world-class guitar and fiddle duo, performing music from around the world that includes traditional and original tunes. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert at 7:30. Tickets are available at Salt Spring Mercantile, Salt Spring Books or the door.

CREATIVITY

Art class programs for all ages get going

In House Workshops at Mahon Hall

The Salt Spring Arts Council is presenting a new season of workshops for creative types of all ages.

Presented under the title of In House Workshops, some sessions are multi-generational, so that adults, children and teens can learn together. All take place at Mahon Hall.

Sessions are:

Jan. 27: Assemblage Painting with Stefanie Denz for ages eight and up.

Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10: Painted Canvas Floor Mat with Janet Cliffe for ages 10 and up.

Feb. 2: Connie Morey, a practising Victoria artist, offers a Soft Beast Sculptures workshop.

Feb. 3: Morey offers Sculptural Felting.

Both of Morey's sessions are for ages 12 and up.

Feb. 2, 9 and 23: Printmaking Intensive with Johanna Hoskins for ages 11 and up.

Feb. 2-March 23: Six sessions of Mask Making - Flora and Fauna with Kaya Reiss for ages seven to 12.

Feb. 10, 17 and 24, and March

3: Knitting with Reclaimed Yarn with Charlotte Holmes for ages 10-plus.

Feb. 17-March 24: Six sessions of Drawing Your Emotions with Cam Novak for adults.

Feb. 24-March 17: Four sessions of Art Makers Laboratory with guest artists for ages five to 105.

March 2-4: Apparel Pattern Making - Basic Bodice and Skirt Block with Alexandra Morgan from Victoria

Mar. 2-23: Four sessions of Mural Painting for Teens with Cam Novak.

Spring break workshops

have also been organized for children. They are:

March 19-21: Tracy Harrison will teach a course called David Hockney Portraits for ages 10 to 14.

March 19-21: Tracy Harrison will offer a Me & My Pet Portraits class for ages six through nine.

March 26-28: Musician Marta McKeever offers Rhythm & Play classes for ages five through eight.

For more information, including how to register, see www.ssartscouncil.com/workshops/.

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what's on this week



Wed. Jan. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter and the Starcatcher. GISS's Second Story Theatre production of the Disney musical about the backstory to Peter Pan. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Historical Society. Usha Rautenbach gives a presentation on the fascinating history of the Harbour House Hotel. Central Hall. 2 p.m.



SongJam. On hiatus until further notice.

Thu. Jan. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Peter and the Starcatcher. See Wednesday's listing.

ACTIVITIES

National Theatre Live: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf. At The Fritz. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.

Salt Spring Forum Presents Geoff Dembicki. Journalist Geoff Dembicki speaks at Salt Spring Forum on Are We Screwed? A New Generation Fighting Climate Change. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 10 a.m.

Thu. Jan. 11

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch for Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home by Toko-pa Turner. Launch event at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

Have Fun Learning Squash. Drop-in introductory sessions at the new squash court at the golf club (805 Lower Ganges Rd) every Thursday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Info at www.saltspring-squash.ca.

Fri. Jan. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter and the Starcatcher. See Wednesday's listing.

ACTIVITIES

Games Night at the Library. Bryan Dubien hosts games night in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room every Friday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Folk Site C! Luke Wallace, musician and singer, co-hosts a meeting and concert about the government's go-ahead for Site C. Put on your dancing shoes, roll up your sleeves. Adam Olsen is scheduled to speak. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.



Sat. Jan. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Pierre Schryer and Adam Dobres Concert. Pierre Schryer (fiddle) and Adam Dobres (guitar) team up once again for an intimate night of Celtic music at Beaver Point Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. Concert at 7:30 p.m.



Arcadian Suns. Live indie folk/rock/reggae at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch for The Chocolate Pilgrim: A Journey to Self-Discovery & Transformation on the Camino de Santiago. Author Marie Maccagno presents selected readings, photos and a Q&A at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 3:30 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Victoria Baroque – Applausi Festivi. A riot of fiery and virtuosic works by Italian baroque masters, full of energy, drama, passion and drive. Led by Kati Debretzeni. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m. (Bar opens at 1:30 p.m.)

Sun. Jan. 14

ACTIVITIES

Art Reception for How a Dream Became a Book: 7 Billion Angels Whispering We Love You. Event with Kim Tebbutt (author) & Sarah Penhale (illustrator) at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 3:30 p.m. Learn about the steps it took Kim and Sarah to imagine, illustrate and self publish a children's book.



Mon. Jan. 15

ACTIVITIES

Peace Vigil. Peace vigil in solidarity with de-escalation efforts over threats between the U.S. and North Korea. On the sidewalk in front of Centennial Park. 5 p.m. Info: 250-537-5251

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Commission meeting at the Portlock Park portable. 5 to 7 p.m. Public welcome.

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Meeting. Public welcome to attend meeting of the board of trustees. SS United Church lower hall. 7 p.m.

Music Bingo. Every Monday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Tue. Jan. 16

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Probus Club. Guest speaker is Ed Ishiguro from the biochemistry and microbiology department of the University of Victoria. The title of his talk is Genetically Modified Organisms: Frankenfood or Cornucopia? Lions Hall. Doors open at 10 a.m. and meeting starts at 10:30.

Have Fun Learning Squash. See Thursday's listing, except Tuesday's time is 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Town Hall With MP Elizabeth May. Green Member of Parliament for Saanich and the Islands meets with constituents in a town-hall session at GISS Multipurpose Room. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Women's Journalling Circle. Free drop-in circle co-facilitated by Claire Sicherman and Coreen Boucher. Tuesday evenings at 158A Fulford-Ganges Rd. (SS Foundation office). 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: call/text Coreen, 250-202-9642 or email info@lucentedits.com.

Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild Gathering. Bring your wheel or drop spindle. All spinning skill levels welcome. Help available to beginners. GISS careers room. 7 to 9 p.m. See saltspringweaver-sandspinners.com.

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

Wed. Jan. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Dance: Diversity. Term-end show for the GISS dance program. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. (Also showing on Thursday, Jan. 18.)

ACTIVITIES

SD64 School Board Meeting. Public welcome. Fernwood Elementary School. 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Digital Meeting. Community group of digital media professionals in communications, marketing, digital design and development who live and/or work on Salt Spring. At the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. Central Hall. 7 p.m. Public welcome.

Wed. Jan. 17

ACTIVITIES

UNDRIP: A Step Forward With MLA Adam Olsen. Discussion on how the B.C. NDP government committed to adopting and implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and issues such as land settlements and resource allocation that will need to be addressed. Led by Adam Olsen. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7:30 p.m.



Victoria Baroque performs Sunday at ArtSpring. PHOTO BY JAN GATES

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CINEMA

- **Star Wars: The Last Jedi** — The Skywalker saga continues in an epic adventure that unlocks age-old mysteries of the Force and revelations of the past.
- **National Theatre Live: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** — In the early hours, Martha, to her husband's displeasure, has invited a professor and his wife for after-party drinks. The evening reaches its climax in a moment of devastating truth-telling. One day only on Thursday, Jan. 11. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. show. Email thefritz@hotmail.ca to reserve tickets.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art display for How a Dream Became a Book, "7 Billion Angels Whispering We Love You," by Kim Tebbutt (author) & Sarah Penhale (illustrator) runs at the Salt Spring Library Program Room until Feb. 2. Reception is set for Mon., Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m.
- Show of Salt Spring Island watercolours by Edith Lettner exhibits at the Salt Spring Gallery until Jan. 17.
- **Judy McPhee** has photographs hanging in TJ Beans through January and February.
- **Gabrielle Jensen** shares new work at Gulf Island Picture Framing.

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Dan Mangan to play fundraiser show at Fulford Hall

Juno winner happy to return to island

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dan Mangan is coming back to Salt Spring Island on Jan. 20.

The two-time Juno Award winner will play a small intimate show at Fulford Hall, accompanied by guitarist Gordon Grdina. This is Mangan's second time playing on the island, although he has family ties here.

Mangan is a big fan of small towns and out-of-the-way venues. He has recently played in places like Red Deer and Iqaluit.

"It's certainly easy to get a fairly myopic understanding of the country if you kind of stay in your little bubble wherever you are," he said. "I think it's a pretty healthy thing to travel to the extremities of the country and to understand the different cultures and the different needs and wants of the people, and it is a big privilege, it is a luxury as a musician you have an excuse to go to all of these places."

Mangan is drawn in by the intimacy of the venues.

"What I came to know when

I started out playing smaller shows is that playing to 30 people in a large club that holds a few hundred or more feels kind of heartbreaking, but playing to those same 30 people in the context of a smaller environment, a living room or something, can be life-changingly intimate and magical."

For Mangan, Salt Spring Island is a personal place. With family members on the island, he has many memories of times spent here while he was growing up.

"There are a lot of photos from the '80s of us on Salt Spring," he said.

Being able to play a smaller show without a full band gives him a chance to connect more with his audience.

"As we ramp up towards getting another album together it has been really great for me and Gord to just do the odd little shows on my own too. In those types of environments where you don't have a full band, there's not a big light show or anything . . . it's kind of nice actually, it allows for more story telling and more interaction with the audience."

Since his last release in 2016, Mangan has been a busy man.



PHOTO COURTESY DAN MANGAN

Singer-songwriter Dan Mangan performs a fundraiser for Salt Spring Gymnastics on Jan. 20.

He became a father for the second time in December 2016, and has been focusing on all aspects of his career. Besides fatherhood, he has been working on new material for his next album. He also mentioned his work scoring movies and TV shows.

"It's definitely a different process and one that has involved a lot of learning curves for me," he said. "Just because I am coming at it from a different angle from most people who do that kind of work. So in a way it is a nice disadvantage because it means that I'm often bring-

ing something to the scene that most composers would not, which is nice, a bit of a unique stamp on things."

He wrote the score for the feature film *Hector* and the *Search for Happiness*, which came out in 2014. He is currently working on a new television show for Netflix set for release later this year.

Mangan won Juno awards for best new artist and alternative album of the year (*Oh Fortune*) in 2012.

Fans of Mangan will be excited to learn that there will be new music in 2018. His last release was an EP entitled *Unmake* in 2016. It was a drastic change from his previous work *Club Meds*, which was an experimental and complex album.

"I think it's sort of more classic and it is kind of impossible for me to write without having some sort of opinion-based sociopolitical discussion involved," he said. "The songs themselves are a little bit more visceral and immediate."

Proceeds from Mangan's show will benefit Salt Spring Gymnastics.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the ArtSpring box office and online.

TRADITIONS

Club reels out Burns Night fun

No experience required to attend

Salt Spring's Scottish Country Dance Club marks a quarter century of Burns Night celebrations on Saturday, Jan. 27 at Fulford Community Hall.

"Table displays suited to a Scottish Hall and heather corsages for the ladies will complement the visual effect, with audio accompaniment by piper Jamie Orr," explains a club press release. "In addition to a catered meal and dancing to live music, ceremonies will include a Grand March (led this year by Pat and Russell Spencer), Address to the Haggis (Harvey Moore), toasts to the Queen (Gina McMahon) and to the "Immortal Memory" of Robert Burns (Clayne Conings). The Toast to the Lassies will be offered by Richard Bennett, with Reply from the Lassies by Catherine Bennett.

Club members will display several dances under the direction of teacher Richard Bennett. Music for the evening will be provided by Mary Ross on accordion and Janette Polson on fiddle.

The Salt Spring Scottish Country Dance Club is a social organization, with the goal of encouraging and promoting traditional Scottish



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Catherine Held, left, and Nancy Holcroft dance at the first Burns Night event held by the Scottish Country Dancing club in 1994. The 25th edition runs on Jan. 27.

country dancing.

"It is not necessary to be Scottish to be a member or to attend functions. Nor is it necessary to be an experienced dancer or to be accompanied by a partner for the social dances, with steps called."

Many who traditionally attend Burns Night are not members of the Salt Spring club and visitors from off-island are known to arrive.

"It is not necessary to wear a kilt or other traditional apparel, although kilts and

other traditional apparel are welcome. It is not even necessary to dance in order to enjoy an evening of colour, music, entertainment and socializing."

For those planning on attending, doors at Fulford Community Hall open at 5:30 p.m., with "happy hour" from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing until 10:30 p.m.

Information about tickets is available from club treasurer Charlene Beaudette (mychiquita.56@gmail.com).

Introducing a Smoke-Free Environment

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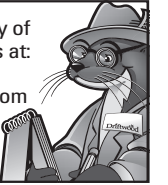
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D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

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ISLANDERS' FEATS

Salt Spring Island woman part of historic expedition

Centennial year expedition still largest in the world

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In July 1967, Salt Spring Islander Andrea Rankin was part of the biggest mountaineering expedition in the world: Expedition Yukon, a two-week mountaineering trip put on by the Alpine Club of Canada as part of Canada's centennial celebration.

She was a member of one of 13 teams whose goal was to climb and name 13 different peaks in the Yukon's Saint Elias mountain range. Teams of four were tasked with making first ascents of the treacherous mountains.

Rankin, then 31, was a member of the only all-women's team — something that was almost unheard of at the time. She and three other women made an attempt at the still unclimbed 3,500-metre peak named Mount Saskatchewan. After long days of climbing in the high alpine and a hard overnight bivouac at 3,000 metres, the team was forced to turn around and wait for better weather. Unfortunately, high mountain weather is unpredictable and they were unable to try again. Mount Saskatchewan remains the only unclimbed peak from the centennial expedition, with four other attempts having been made on the mountain.

The centennial Yukon expedition is still the largest mountaineering expedition in history. It involved more than 250 climbers and was a remarkable feat of planning and logistics. Feeding and housing that many people in a remote location in 1967 was incredibly challenging, and the whole thing was done completely within budget and on time.

"In some ways it was a kind of pioneering thing for organization on that scale," said Rankin. "These were volunteers! They were people who just donated their time."

Rankin said that something like that could never be accomplished again, due to the environmental impact.

"The world of mountaineering too has changed, with smaller expeditions being more common."

Rankin has made Salt Spring Island her home for



PHOTO COURTESY ANDREA RANKIN

Above: The Mount Saskatchewan team on the Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition of 1967 consisted of, from left, Wendy Teichmann, Andrea Rankin, Gertrude Smith and Helen Butling. Below: Women's team on the Mount Saskatchewan climb.

over 20 years and hasn't lost her adventurous spirit. She continued climbing throughout her life, feeling most at home with crampons under her feet or rocks under her hands. Most of her other expeditions and climbs took place in the Rocky Mountains in Alberta. She has completed hut to hut ski trips in Banff and Jasper national parks, as well as multiple climbs and hikes all over western Canada. Now in her 80s, she still gets outside on Salt Spring, with kayaking and hiking being her focus.

"When I moved here I immediately started kayaking. These last years right up until two years ago I've been kayaking in the summer. I didn't necessarily choose that, it just kind of happened."

She has also climbed Mount Baker.

"I was 72 when I climbed Baker," she said. "It felt great packing up and everything. We got up to the glacier and I put on the crampons and thought, 'Wow! I know this terrain! I'm at home!'"

In recent years, many of the most successful climbers have been women. Outside Magazine called 2017 the "Year of Women's Climbing." Fifty years ago women were a large part of the climbing scene, but it was rare for women to lead routes or to be a part of expeditions on their own.

The Mount Saskatchewan team of the centennial expedition was one of those rare women-only teams. It was led by Gertrude Smith, with Helen Butling, Wendy Teichmann and Rankin making up the rest of the team.

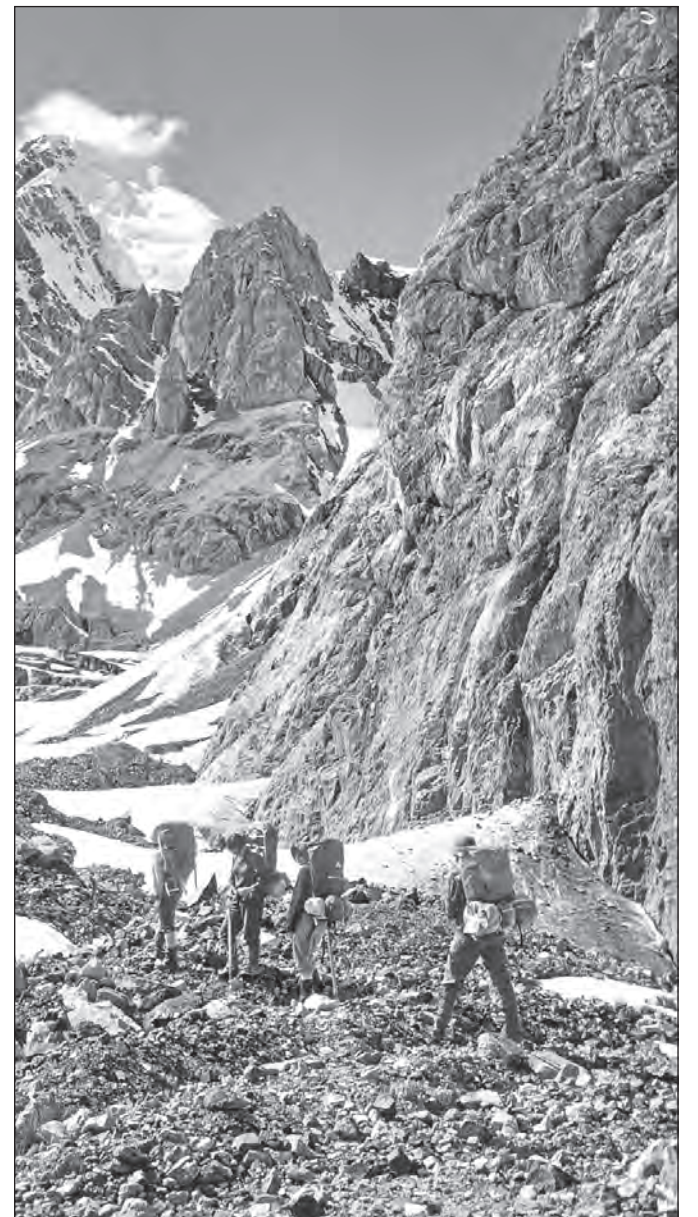
"It's funny I suppose that we were surprised that we were the only women, but we didn't feel that overshadowed or anything because we'd been climbing with guys. It seemed perfectly normal," she said. "We climbed pretty much with guys only, so it seemed fairly natural."

There are a lot more women climbers now than there were in 1967.

"I'm not surprised, because in my experience with rock climbing in particular, women always did well," Rankin said. "I was aware of that when we were climbing. We were more delicate, and that is proven by some of the female climbers."

In 2017, A Belgian woman named Anak Verhoeven became the first woman to complete a 5.15a grade (considered one of the most difficult rock climbs in the world). However, when she finished her route, a debate started about whether the route was indeed as difficult as she said.

The climbing world still has a long way to go, but groups like Rankin's were pioneers for modern women's climbing.



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Your story will help improve the process of reporting. All identifying information will be removed and stories will remain confidential. We appreciate all those who are willing to share their story, yet not everyone prescreened will be interviewed.

For more information or to become part of the study please call Sharyn at 250-537-1336 or sharyn@swova.org

FOOD SECURITY

Seed bank and allotment gardens in sanctuary plans

Two initiatives from the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A local non-profit group is launching two new initiatives to boost food security on Salt Spring Island.

The Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary, started by Dan Jason in 2002, is committed to saving, storing and sharing seeds. Jason also owns Salt Spring Seeds, a company that sells and distributes heirloom seeds all over the world.

This year the sanctuary will be launching two new initiatives to secure Salt Spring's seed resources and educate people about saving seeds. The group will build a seed storage facility and bank at The Root, and starting community allotment gardens for gardeners who do not have access to their own land.

In addition to storing seeds, the storage facility at The Root will function as a seed library, so growers can come and borrow seeds to plant in their gardens. Once the vegetables are harvested, the growers will be asked to save some of the seeds and return them to the facility for future years. Sanctuary staff and volunteers will help teach people how to save seeds on site. Eventually, the seed bank will build up enough seeds to safeguard against any threats to food security on the island, as well as maintain heirloom varieties of seeds.

The seed library is not the first of its kind. They have been popping up all over the country and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Clockwise from top left: Dan Jason of the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary at a barn/storage facility at The Root; some seed bank containers; Ruckle bean seeds — a unique Salt Spring variety.



"People are starting to realize that it's the heart and soul of agriculture and you've got to have good seeds if you want to be able to grow your own decent food," Jason said.

The seed library used to be housed in the Salt Spring Public Library, but with the new facility going in on Beddis Road, it made sense to move. There are currently over 40 different seeds at the site, many of them Salt Spring Island heirloom varieties like the Ruckle bush bean.

To complement the new seed bank, the sanctuary will also be creating seed allotment gardens.

"The seed allotment gardens are for people who don't already have their own places and want to grow [plants for seeds]," said Jason. "They'll have the opportunity of growing not only for themselves but for the community."

The only prerequisite to use one of the gardens is to be a member

of the seed sanctuary, which has a \$20 registration fee.

Gardeners who use the allotment gardens are expected to give 25 per cent of the seeds back to the seed bank in order to bump up supplies and to maintain current levels in the bank. The first allotment gardens will be at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga property on Blackburn Road.

"This has never actually been done before, where you have allotment gardens that are actually allotment seed gardens," Jason said.

He expects the community to benefit in the long run since it will have the seeds to grow more local food.

Saving seeds is a big step towards sustainable eating. Putting seeds in the bank is investing in the community's future and is especially important when food security risks are high.

"We've really seen it this past

year with all of those fires that happened in the interior of B.C.," said Jason.

In emergency situations, being able to feed people over the long term becomes difficult.

"How do you feed yourself if the trucks aren't coming through Fulford Harbour every morning?"

Being a part of the local food system is a good way to eat sustainably. It is an investment in local food security and is a more

environmentally friendly way to eat.

"B.C. is more amenable to a smaller-scale agriculture," said Jason. "We have lots of really groovy communities that are into self-reliance."

Jason will be speaking at this year's Seedy Saturday event on Feb. 10. The seed bank will be in operation starting then, and the allotment plots will also be available.

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Mechanic

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



GYLE KEATING

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

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?



JAN MACPHERSON

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in January and February that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"

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Fitness Expert

Helpful Hints For 2018



BRENDA AKERMAN

- Take time for yourself
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Do not skip out of your workout
- Eat a well balanced diet
- Stay hydrated - drink 8 glasses of water a day. At a cellular level you "burn more calories" if you are well hydrated
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Lets get moving, try swimming or a Aqua Fit class both are a great way to get or keep you in shape. It's a total body workout without any impact and easy on the joints
- Do something fun for yourself everyday
- Everyday is a fresh start, so make every effort to live in the present and make it count
- So for 2018 eat right, exercise often and enjoy life

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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

THAT'S A WRAP: Lynda Turner, left, and Mollie Colson stand in front of the Friends of Kenya tree at the closing day of the Festival of Trees at the Harbour House Hotel on Jan. 2. Hundreds of items were donated to the food bank and Copper Kettle Community Partnership at this year's event, where the Friends of Kenya tree was deemed the winner for attracting the most donations.

BOOKS

Island authors help fill winter days

Nowick Gray double book launch set for Jan. 31

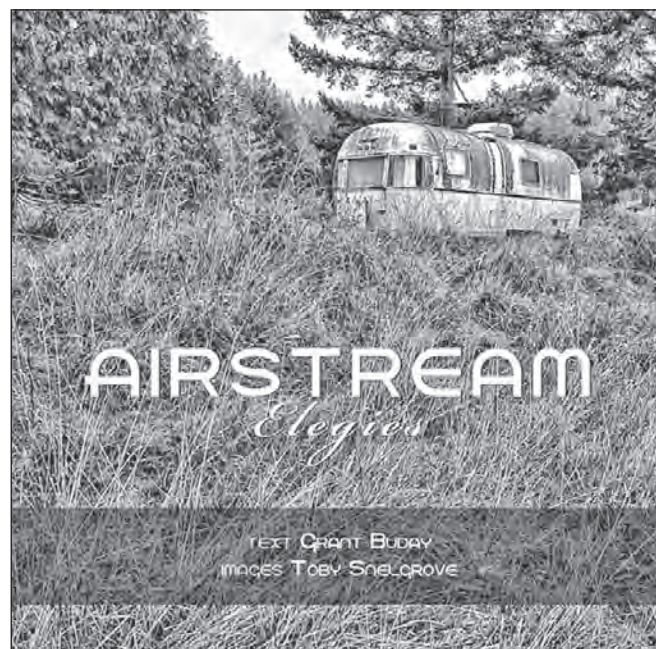
BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands residents tend to be a creative bunch, and with a little extra time on our hands during those first quiet weeks of January, now is the perfect time to get acquainted with some new voices.

Grant Buday is probably not new to some readers — the Mayne Island author has penned 10 books and was a finalist for the Vancouver Book Prize for two of them — but his latest offering is a change in direction. Last fall saw the release of a collaboration with accomplished photographer Toby Snelgrove called *Airstream Elegies*. Buday's poetry and Snelgrove's black and white images face each other in a beautiful paperback edition. High-quality printing on cream-coloured archival paper captures a depth of tone and texture usually found in the silver gelatin process.

The book's creation involved Snelgrove taking photos of old decaying trailers found on Mayne Island and Buday writing a poetic response to each image. The artists began by finding "the beauty and intrigue in these homes being claimed by the forest." Other related images and ideas soon emerged, such as mushrooms, ferries and islanders themselves.

The combination of two such strong talents is a happy one. There's a strong sense of humour to be found in this book — perhaps not surprising given the *Airstream* is the muse, with its dual status of tacky materialist object turned nostalgic icon. There's a similar duality at home in the forest. As Buday writes in *Bushed*, "I have begun to



resent trees/ and their blind upward mobility/ their constant eclipsing of my view."

One lovely snapshot of island life is an unnamed portrait simply called *Vinegar*. Snelgrove's photo is of an older man with a baseball cap sitting in the cab of a windowless truck, a field of crisp tall grass seen through the rear frame. The subject may be from Mayne, but he is recognizable as a longtime islander with homegrown skills and quirks who just might ready to tip over the edge.

Nowick Gray novels

Over on the novel side of things, a new Salt Spring resident will make his introduction to the community with a double book launch and reading at the library on Jan. 31. Nowick Gray is a recent arrival from Victoria, and is the author of "an eclectic range of literary fiction and creative nonfiction, playing with genre conventions using innovative structure and style."

His upcoming book launch will feature two genre-bending books. *Red Rock Road*, *Light Blue Sea* is a "nonfic-

of persuasion and faith in a charmed destiny."

Gray came to Canada in 1974 and has taught in the Arctic and homesteaded in the Kootenays. He has published eight works of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Nexus: Harry Bradford

Harry Bradford is a first-time author who released his self-published novel *Nexus* last fall. A sequel is already in the editing phase and will be ready for printing by February.

Bradford has made his career as a home inspector and continues to practice on a part-time basis even though he and his wife moved here to "retire" six years ago.

He said that while many people are known to take five years to write their first novel, he had an idea come to him in a flash and got it all down within a few months. Though not formally trained in creative writing, Bradford is a voracious reader. He figures he also has a leg up on the grammar end, at least, since he was educated in England.

Bradford's imaginative tale centres on Michelle, a young woman in her mid 20s who has been partially paralyzed ever since a childhood accident. A mysterious download on her phone allows her to start healing. Even more mysteriously, it permits time travel under the right conditions. While these fantastic occurrences are happening, the heroine is also navigating real life issues, from first love and sexual experience to dealing with a father who goes from being absent to insanely abusive.

The unique storyline tackles some interesting themes such as technology, disability/ability and misogyny, and there's charm in the time travel bits. It will be interesting to see where Bradford's sequel takes things next.

RECYCLING

Christmas trees travel to the chipper



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Cam Proudfoot feeds a Christmas tree into the chipper set up at Central fire hall on Saturday. The annual by-donation service coordinated by Salt Spring Fire-Rescue raised \$335 for the island's food bank this year.

Best turn-out yet for annual fundraising event

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders' Christmas trees got turned into wood chips on Saturday.

The Salt Spring fire department organized a Christmas Tree Chipping Day

to help islanders get rid of their trees and raise money for the Salt Spring Food Bank at the same time.

The event was held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Central fire hall.

"We saw a lot of trees crammed into cars and a lot of people with pick-ups helped out their neighbours," said Lt. Mitchell Sherrin, one of the firefighters on scene at the event. "One gentleman even dragged his tree to the fire hall on foot."

Sixty trees were brought to the site. "It was a great success, our best turnout since we started doing this," said Sherrin. "I found it to be a pretty fun event. People were keen to donate to the food bank."

He said \$335 was raised for the cause.

Firefighter Cameron Proudfoot runs Salt Spring Wood Chipping and was on hand to provide equipment and haul away wood chips.

CONSERVATION

Galiano calls for Cable Bay park purchase

Parks Canada lobbied to protect coastal acreage

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A campaign to protect 65 acres of Galiano Island as federal parkland is finding its legs with hundreds of residents and other interested parties signing on to a grass roots petition.

Galiano resident Andrew Loveridge spent his New Year's Eve constructing the change.org petition, which asks Parks Canada to purchase Cable Bay North. As of Monday it had reached nearly 1,200 signatures — which is around the same number as the island's permanent population. The special nature of the property has brought wide interest that ranges beyond Galiano's shores.

"Please . . . do not allow the destruction of this beautiful property. Buy it and save it for the generations to come," wrote Cynde Fetherston, a signer from Courtenay, B.C.

The property on the northern shore of Cable

Bay has an asking price of \$2.1 million. According to the real estate listing, it boasts scenic 180-degree ocean views stretching from the Sechelt Peninsula to Birch Bay in Washington State, with a backdrop of the North Shore mountains and Mount Baker. In addition to nearly one kilometre of coastline, it has sheltered sandy and pebble bays, creek-side trails and lush rainforest. It's also located right next to the Pebble Beach Reserve, a property the Galiano Conservancy purchased in 1998 and is in the process of reforesting, as well as adjacent Crown lands further to the west.

Shirlene Raines, who is listing agent for the property, explained it has been owned by just a few people for the past three-quarters of a century, and they have kept it in rare undeveloped condition. Two friends purchased the land together in the 1940s and then each left their portion to their heirs. One family then bought out the other and has since put the property up for sale.

"It hasn't been touched for all those years," Raines

said, adding it is one of the last such big properties left on the island.

The risk of development and multiple private homes being constructed there is real. The zoning permits subdivision of up to six lots, each permitting a main dwelling plus cottage.

"There is enthusiasm out there — we just have to figure out how to continue that."

ANDREW LOVERIDGE
Petition organizer

Loveridge has corresponded with Elizabeth May's constituency office and will be asking the Saanich-Gulf Islands MP to deliver the petition to the House of Commons. He's also sent preliminary feelers out to Parks Canada. Though he's heavily involved in the Galiano Green affordable housing project and hopes someone else can take the lead

on the campaign, he does have a lot of experience to share. He headed the successful Matthews Point campaign and was also part of the movements that ended in protecting Bodega Ridge and Mount Galiano.

Loveridge said the idea around approaching Parks Canada as a community partner first is because that agency wasn't involved in any of the former projects, while BC Parks and CRD Regional Parks have already helped out. As well, Galiano has so far been left out of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, which includes parts of Mayne, Saturna and Pender islands among its borders.

While it's very early days, Loveridge hopes the campaign will gain both substance and momentum in the coming weeks.

"There is enthusiasm out there — we just have to figure out how to continue that," he said. "The more of this stuff gets preserved anywhere, the more credit there is to the Gulf Islands as a whole."

Find the petition by searching for Cable Bay on change.org.

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This Week's

Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

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TIP OF THE WEEK

As 2018 gets underway, a powerful line-up of planets in Capricorn is a significant sign of our times. Sun, Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Pluto are featured in this gathering. Like a meeting for CEO's only, all present are rather serious and controlling types. Mars and Jupiter in Scorpio meanwhile represent a pairing of another kind of power, call it private interests.

The synchronicity of this portrait can be recognized in the global economy and the rise of Bitcoin and other financial mediums rising to challenge a quiet revolution of monumental might that is and will affect us all.

Finally, as of January 11th, Mercury cleared its retrograde shadow leading up to the 29th degree of Sagittarius and entered Capricorn shortly thereafter followed by the Moon on the 14th. On January 13 and 14th respectively, Venus then the Sun will form hard aspects to Uranus in Aries serving to give us all an extra push to act upon our goals, ambitions, and responsibilities.

2018 is off to an exciting start but brings with it a series of sobering realities. The first New Moon of the year will take place on January 16, in Capricorn and will serve to spur us into action.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Circumstances are pushing you to exercise your executive. Your ambitions are flowing strongly and you want to get an early start. You are more fully aware that you simply cannot please all the people and you must draw clear lines. Returns for prior efforts are flowing in inspiring you to add to the list of your life goals.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

Seeing a bigger picture and doing something about it is a current theme for you. Your sights are set on the future. Financial considerations are highlighted. Investments of one kind or another are on your mind. Higher education is a distinct possibility. Whatever you do, you are determined to expand and increase your leverage.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Many deep and powerful changes are brewing. These are pushing you to make extra efforts including exercising faith. By month's end, you will be more fully aware of these changes. In the short term, financial responsibilities such as taxes and/or wills and inheritances are likely areas of focus. Investigation and research are implied.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Big changes on relationship fronts are featured now. These are linked to your employment status, career and social roles, in general. The stellium of planets in Capricorn indicate a theme of grit and grace in your dealings with others. Yet, you are likely to go the extra distance to ensure that you have made every effort to meet demands.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Measurable changes in your daily routine, habits and lifestyle rhythms are underway. These are linked to your health and quality of life, in general. Whether by inspiration or necessity, you are digging deep and exercising more discipline than you might usually to achieve your goals. Making sacrifices feels easier than expected.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Your creative powers are on the rise. Diversity is likely as you attend to a variety of fronts and projects. A learning curve is implied and circumstances are pushing you to be more disciplined than previously. Yet you remain determined to do it your way. This week's New Moon will serve to activate your focus.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A good deal of energy and focus on the home front is likely now. The situation is likely to be sober and serious, perhaps even a character building ordeal. At best, you are able to take a mature and responsible approach. Repairs and renovations are possible scenarios. Financial interests and investments are featured.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You are in an industrious mood and are determined to get a lot done. This is an expansive time for you with Jupiter in your sign. Mars is also in your sign giving you the strength, courage and the resolve to take pioneering leads. There are indications that you need this extra boost to tackle the challenges you must overcome.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Paying extra close attention to the material realities of your life is in the spotlight. Taking stock of your assets is keeping you busy. Your self-esteem and sense of self-worth may also be under pressure. One way or another, you have some work to do. It can also be described as dues you must pay. These may be financial but they could come in the form of disciplined effort.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

This is a powerful time for you. You are determined to forge ahead. Your focus is sharp and your ambitions are rising. Before the month is out and perhaps even within the week, you will begin to push your way into new territory. Yet, making full use of the influence of friends and the benefits of making friends, as opposed to enemies, is the wise guide to follow.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Making some serious efforts behind the scenes for the sake of future dreams and goals is a central theme now. This will prove especially true for the next 2-3 weeks. In some respects, this represents a point of departure. Reaching for new skills and opportunities is likely and involves taking calculated risks such as writing proposals and applying for new jobs.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Identifying what makes you the individual you are is an important theme now. You want to break through and rise to new heights, but first, you have to determine what they are. You are willing to do what it takes yet may feel uncertain about your desired outcome. It could be described as something of a soul-searching process.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

BRRRR!: Polar bear swimmers head out of the water as fast as they went in during the Jan. 1 plunge at Vesuvius Bay. Water temperature was recorded at 6.6 degrees Celsius.

SPIRITUALITY

Session explores 'bhakti' path

Gabriola's Pandit Tejomaya at Star of the Sea

Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice begins a new year with the offering of a daylong program on Saturday, Jan. 20 in St. Mary's Church, Fulford, which is the home base of the newly established spiritual centre.

Titled Bhakti: The Spiritual Path of Devotion, the day will be led by Pandit Tejomaya from Gabriola Island. He is a priest in the Bharati lineage of yogis, which is a 5,000-year-old Vedic tradition originating in the cave monasteries of the Himalayas.

According to press material from Star of the Sea, Tejomaya aspired to a spiritual life from an early age and, in the lineage of his upbringing, became a Roman Catholic monk in the Dominican Order of Preachers.

"He later experienced the spiritual Truth of Vedanta: non-duality, which sparked a quest for spiritual truth, which continues to define his life. He took the vows of pandit (priest) in 2012, and the vows of a vanaprastha (forest dweller) in 2017.

"Tejomaya teaches that all spiritual traditions have at least one thing in common: devotion. In spiritual life, indeed in all of life, devotion is what holds us together and that devotion is the most essential component of every relationship."

In the Sanskrit-speaking spiritual traditions of the east, devotion is known as bhakti. The path of bhakti has been well described in the Vedic scriptures as a roadmap which leads the sincere spiritual traveller to the highest state of consciousness: self realization. While the written guidance may be from the east, the application of bhakti spans all cultures, all religions, all genders, all people.

The Jan. 20 day will be one of spiritual exploration, which will include some teachings of bhakti from the ancient Vedic texts, times for discussion and sharing stories of devotion, as well as time to explore how devotion manifests in our lives. The session will also include devotional singing, or kirtan, and guided meditation. Weather permitting, the event will conclude with a sacred fire offering ritual known as a havan.

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

For information and registration contact starofthesea@gmail.com. People should bring a bag lunch and wear warm, comfortable clothing.

ACTIVISM

Wild dip lends eyes to fish farm fight

Salt Spring challengers brave Burgoyne Bay

Salt Springers who want to protect wild salmon got "wild" at the government dock at Xwaaq'w'um (Burgoyne Bay) on Sunday in order to raise awareness for the Cleansing Our Waters and Swanson Island fish farm occupations.

A group of 26 islanders attended the Jan. 7 event, with 21 taking the plunge as part of the Go #Wild4Salmon Challenge.

"Much like the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, the Go #Wild4Salmon Challenge is a way to support and show solidarity for the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw Cleansing Our Waters and Swanson Island campaigns to remove open net-pen fish farms from the ocean," event information states.

Participants can join in by fol-

lowing some basic rules, according to the official campaign page.

"1. Grab some wild salmon loving friends and find the nearest and coldest body of water near you. 2. Record your #WFS Plunge (or enlist a friend to film it)."

Challengers must be sure to include in the video their names, what they are doing, and a challenge to three friends to take the WFS Plunge Challenge within 48 hours, or else donate \$50 to the cause to skip the plunge.

Step 3 is to post the video to social media.

Local organizers plan to do another group plunge later this month, with Sunday, Jan. 28 a potential date. See the Salt Springers go #Wild4Salmon Facebook page for details. They will also be discussing the campaign during a talk at the library on Tuesday, Jan. 30. (See page 5 for a related story.)



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN FRANCIS

Josie Fletcher holds a Life Blood of Our Coast sign before Sunday's plunge.


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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
DEATHS

Dorothy Eunice Shardelow
 SEPTEMBER 8, 1920 - JANUARY 4, 2018



It is with heavy hearts and happy memories that we wish to announce the passing of Dorothy Shardelow, on January 4, 2018, at the age of 97.

She is survived by her children Donald (Venessa) in South Africa, Jeff (Hilary) in West Kelowna, Valerie Hutton (Trevor) on Salt Spring Island, and Errol (Elizabeth) in Black Creek.

Loving grandmother to 13 grandchildren and great grandmother to 20 great grandchildren.

Dorothy was born in South Africa, and immigrated to Canada in 1998. She lived on Salt Spring Island for 9 years.

Many thanks to Dr. Beaver and his staff, and all the nurses, care aids, support staff and friends on the Island, for making her last year's happy and comfortable.

A celebration of her life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

NOTICE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the
Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association
Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 2pm
At Meadowbrook Lounge, 121 Atkins Rd.

There will be a vote on the new Constitution and Bylaws.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
CELEBRATIONS



January 12th, Happy 58th Birthday Leigh!

Now Gimme my Rollo Back!

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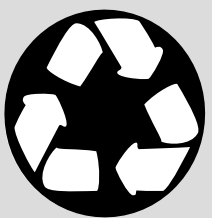
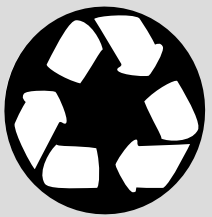
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WHAT'S ON
 page 12

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
CELEBRATIONS

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
IN MEMORIAM

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

Women's Journaling Circle
 Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30pm
 January 16 to February 6
 158A Fulford-Ganges Rd.
 (SS Foundation office in Ganges)
FREE DROP-IN CIRCLE
 Co-facilitated by Claire Sicherman and Coreen Boucher

If you're interested, call/text Coreen 250-202-9642 or email: info@lucentedits.com

INFORMATION

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
COMING EVENTS

THERE WILL BE A MEETING
 of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday
 17th January, 2018 at
 7.00 pm in the lower hall
 at 901 North End Road.
Public welcome.

Retired? Thinking About It?

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 see: **www.probus-ssi.ca**

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This Week's Horoscope
ON PAGE 18

by Michael O'Connor
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