



# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 58TH YEAR — ISSUE 6 \$1.25 (incl. GST)



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, BC Ambulance Service dispatcher Rachel Wardale, Salt Spring ambulance station acting unit head Jazzi Griffiths, Luanne Katz, her husband Ken Katz and Salt Spring paramedic Sean Davids. The group was reunited during a Feb. 1 presentation of a Vital Link award to Luanne Katz, who administered CPR to her husband through Wardale's instructions on Nov. 11, 2017.

**LIFE SAVING**

## Vital Link award given to Salt Spring woman

Responders gather for ceremony and talking circle

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Luanne Katz is a well-known name in the North American classical music scene as a skilled percussionist on the marimba and vibraphone.

The Salt Spring resident is capable of sustaining full concerts with power and artistry, but last fall she was called upon to find new reserves of strength in a physical and emotional endurance test she never imagined taking. She administered life-saving CPR for nearly 20 minutes after her husband Ken suffered a heart attack in November.

Katz received the rarely given Vital Link medal from the BC Ambulance Service in recognition of the event during a short ceremony held at the Salt Spring ambulance station on Thursday. The ceremony was followed by a gathering and open discussion that included many of the people involved during November's events.

"I didn't really have a choice. I really had to do something. So you do it, and to have this reward from it — it is exceptional that we have this happy ending," Katz said, pointing to her husband seated next to her.

Ken Katz is still adjusting to the idea that cardiac arrest can be a positive experience rather than a negative one, but he is happy to be alive and well, and to learn how many other people appreciate that too.

"Everybody talks about how when they die they would love to be at their own memorial to hear what people have to say. I kind of got to do that," he said. "I didn't realize how many people like me."

KATZ continued on 5

**COURT**

## Vandenberg assessment delayed

Ruling on fitness to stand trial pushed to March 6

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Legal officials, family members and accused murderer Martin Galen Vandenberg are still waiting to hear whether the young man is fit to stand trial after a court-ordered psychiatric assessment failed to take place in the last month.

Vandenberg has been charged with causing the death of his mother Heather Jones, who was found dead in her Salt Spring home on

Dec. 6, 2017. Vandenberg was arrested that day at Jones' home and then released and hospitalized two days later under provisions of the Mental Health Act. He was taken into custody when charges were laid on Jan. 5.

Then on Jan. 9, a Duncan Provincial Court judge ordered that a psychiatric assessment of up to 28 days take place at a forensic psychiatric hospital to determine Vandenberg's mental fitness. Since that did not occur, a new assessment order was issued Tuesday

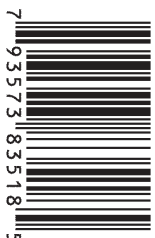
with results to be ready for a March 6 court date.

The delay has left Jones' grieving family members feeling unsettled and unsafe.

"We want the assessment to happen for Martin's well-being and for the community's safety," said Heather's sister Penny Jones, who attended Tuesday's court proceedings in Duncan.

VANDBERG continued on 5

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PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

**FIRST BLOOM:** This Lionel Crescent daffodil photographed on Feb. 2 could be the first of the year.

COMMUNITY

# Island teen gets good news

Cancer checks reduced for Darcy Ross MacLean

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community members who have been following the progress of Darcy Ross MacLean will be happy to hear the island youth is starting to walk on the leg he nearly lost to bone cancer last year.

Ross MacLean, who turns 16 this month, underwent intensive surgery to treat adamantinoma at BC Children's Hospital last March. It involved a mass resection, taking healthy bone from his right leg to rebuild his damaged left leg. A previous surgery with bone grafting in January 2017 was required to remove the tumours that were at first believed to be benign bone cysts, but the pain started before that.

"He has not walked on his left leg free of cast

or air cast since Sept. 8, 2016," his mother Ellen Ross wrote in an update to the Driftwood.

Ross MacLean's healing journey included nerve damage to his right leg sustained during the surgery. His family has gotten used to taking him to Vancouver every six weeks for cancer checks. Ross said they are happy to say their next appointment at the Children's Hospital is not until July, and that checks will now take place every six months. There will also be a yearly lung X-ray. In the meantime, there is a lot of physiotherapy on the teen's horizon.

Ross, husband Will MacLean and their daughters Aunabeth and Mariah are sending "a million thanks, love, hugs and wild roses" to the Salt Spring community for its support over the past year.

A GoFundMe campaign raised nearly \$18,000 to help the family with travel, loss of work and other costs, while donations in other forms were also contributed.

MARIJUANA

# Pot dispenser optimistic about future

Legalization should end raids and charges

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Kyle Cheyne does not look worried about facing charges of marijuana trafficking.

His passion for the product has kept him at it, through police raids and opposition. Now coming up to legalization, the owner of Leaf Compassion on Salt Spring is hopeful for the future.

Once legalization comes into law, Cheyne does not expect too much to change. Existing dispensaries and growers will most likely be grandfathered into the system, he said. The main change he expects is to the sale of edible products. Victoria locations have received letters from Island Health making sure that edibles were not for sale in the dispensaries leading up to legalization. However, Cheyne does not see any danger of that happening on Salt Spring.

"I called the Island Health guy who has been

here for 10 years and explained the truth of what's going on. . . He said that he was going to wait until legalization and for his boss to force us to stop. So we're one of the only people on this side of Canada that still has edibles."

However, after legalization that will no longer be the case. On Monday, Feb. 5, the B.C. government announced plans for retail licensing in the province. They state that edible sales will be illegal for the time being, with the intention being full legalization within the first 12 months.

"I really hope in the next five years that whole edible thing will be gone. Anybody that is born five years from now is going to be so comfortable with cannabis that they're not even going to realize how crazy it was being banned."

Cheyne's main hurdles for now are ongoing raids and cooperation with municipalities. The Chemainus location of Leaf Compassion was raided in 2017.

"When we got raided they took my staff in and held them for 13 hours and

they held me for nine," said Cheyne. "I was not at the location at the time and I went up. They kept telling us that if we were going to continue to open up we were going to get charged again. We've been open for over a year now since that happened and nothing's happened other than that one raid."

**"They kept telling us that if we were going to continue to open up we were going to get charged again."**

KYLE CHEYNE  
Owner, Leaf Compassion

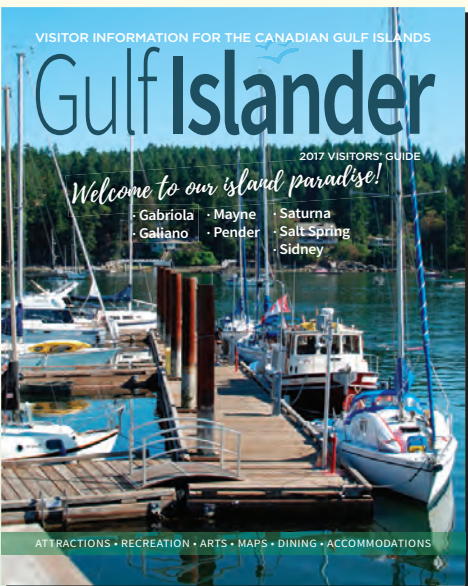
Cheyne is currently facing charges associated with the raid. To help with the case, the company sent out a plea on social media for members to send stories of difficulties related to access to medical marijuana ahead of a court date scheduled for Feb. 20.

"The charges got passed

through the Crown recently. I was very shocked to actually find that out," he said. "If I get charged with it, I'm not going to be sad, it's not going to slow me down. I don't plan on leaving the country anyway, so it's like 'you can keep me here and I'll keep working hard.'"

Looking to the future, Cheyne hopes for a stable base of micro growers to keep quality and care in the plants. The federal government has proposed allowing micro growers to work on a smaller scale than licensed producers, much like craft breweries. However, the distribution system in B.C. could make it difficult for micro growers to have viable businesses. According to the BC Liquor Distribution Branch, who will be overseeing the distribution of marijuana, all producers will need to be federally licensed to operate.

"Being in B.C. we're pretty far ahead of the game," Cheyne said. "In the next five years a lot of things are going to be changing and I can't wait to get over that hump and be like — alright we're finally here."



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# NEWSBEAT

**Heads up!**  
**Salt Spring Local Trust Committee:**  
 Thursday, FEBRUARY 8  
 Lions Hall, 9:30 a.m. Town hall at noon.

## GOVERNANCE

# Talk gets islanders thinking about electoral reform

Public feedback open until Feb. 28

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Electoral reform may be on the horizon for British Columbia.

To inform island seniors about the options presented by the province-wide referendum slated for this fall, the South Salt Spring Seniors OAP held an information session presented by the vice president of Fair Voting BC at Fulford Hall on Jan. 31.

The presentation was made by Bob MacKie, a member of a non-partisan group that is working to promote fair voting systems in British Columbia.

Until Feb. 28, the public can complete an online questionnaire at [www.engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/](http://www.engage.gov.bc.ca/howwevote/) to provide feedback on electoral reform topics.

Fair Voting BC, meanwhile, wants to make government more representative of voters, and more inclusive, transparent and accountable. To do this, they propose that B.C. adopt a system of proportional representation after the referendum.

"It's looking better all the time," MacKie said. "The biggie is that if we can keep it in the news until the federal election in 2019."

According to MacKie, electoral reform and proportional representation are important because PR forces politicians to work together. More proportional

results mean that more parties are elected to the legislature. It also decreases the likelihood of big majority governments.

"For me, the biggest [reason] is forcing the politicians to work together. I've seen what's happening in the U.S. and the polarity is scary," he said. "It does not make sense to try to run a country with an antagonistic race between two parties."

Proportional representation is different from our current electoral system in that it more accurately reflects what voters actually voted for. In the first past the post system Canada has now, the party with the most votes wins the election. However, it can also mean that sometimes more people vote against the party than for it. It can also lead to a party getting a vast majority of seats with a minority of the vote. According to proponents of PR, first past the post is not representational of the views of voters.

The referendum will give B.C. voters the chance to choose between a few different options. Understanding the ways those options work is a daunting task, but MacKie boiled it down to the basics. He explained that to make proportional representation work, the system must change to either a multi-member system in which ridings are combined and more people are elected to the legislature from each riding or a "top-up" system in which MLAs are elected by either the party or the people



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Bob MacKie, a Salt Spring resident and vice-president of Fair Voting BC, answers a question at a South Salt Spring Seniors event last Wednesday.

to top up missing seats and make the system more representational.

The multi-member system would be the easiest to understand on a ballot. Automatically, according to MacKie, electing more representatives would create proportionality. Simply having more people elected would make seats available to more parties.

On the other hand, the top-up system would be a two-part ballot. The first part would be for people to vote for their representative like normal. The second part would be to either vote for the party that they prefer, to rank

their preferred candidates or to choose a list put forward by the party to fill the additional spots. This option seems more complicated but allows for more choice. As well, keeping ridings small makes local representation more possible.

Electoral reform has been difficult because it must be mandated by the party in power. However, the party who is currently in power is often there as a result of first past the post and it does not make political sense to change the way they won the election. In the B.C. NDP party's case, they won

the election because of a vote of non-confidence in the Liberals, and were only able to defeat the Liberals with the help of the Green party. For the Green party, electoral reform can be a good thing because it allows smaller parties to have a greater chance of being elected.

"When you look at leaders from political parties, they're talking about how they're going to get a majority government, because of course they want to get as many of those guys in play so they can get their agenda going."

There have been other referenda in the past on this issue. In 2005, 56.16 per cent of voters voted in favour of reform, according to results published by Elections BC, but the ruling Liberal party at the time had set the bar for passing the law at 60 per cent, so the referendum failed. Prince Edward Island also had a referendum where the majority of voters chose to change systems, but low voter turn-out caused the results to be overturned by the government.

MacKie is optimistic about the future, saying that further cooperation between politicians will help make British Columbia a better place to live.

"It does not make sense to try to run a country with an antagonistic race between two parties," he said. "They're just not used to working together . . . which is not a good thing."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New roof for post office

Ganges Post Office was closed Friday morning and through the weekend for installation of a new roof on the Ganges Centre Building.

Last week's heavy rains no doubt exasperated weaker points in the lower roof, with leaks observed

at the far left overhang beside the Waterfront Gallery and a portion near the post office's customer mailboxes.

David Toynbee, president of Mouat's Trading Co., which owns the building, reported Friday that a HAZMAT company had been in to test the air quality and that mould had not been detected.

Waterfront Gallery manager Barb Arnett and Canada Post also had no reported concerns after the testing.

"We continue to work with the landlord to ensure a quality environment for our employees and customers," Canada Post media relations officer Darcia Kmet said in an email to the Driftwood.

### Improv team wins regionals

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior improv team members successfully defended their 2018 title as Vancouver Island champions in regional finals at Vic High on Saturday.

The team will now head to Ottawa on April 18 to

defend their title as 2017 national champions.

Details on fundraising and performances will be announced soon.

Team members are Amelia McCluskey, Kane O'Scalleigh, Calla Adubofour-Poku, Jo Gaffney, Kahlila Ball and Philipp Klein. The team is coached by teacher Jason Donaldson.

### Email scam

Islander Jim Linklater reported a new scam attempt he received via email last week.

The email message purported to be from Revenue Canada sending the recipient a \$458 refund via interact e-transfer. It stated the deposit link would be live for 24 hours.

Such messages are scams, confirm anti-fraud sources.

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## AGRICULTURE

# Public input sought for land reserve updating process

Agriculture minister sees opportunity to strengthen farming

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

British Columbians have been asked to submit ideas that could guide changes to the regulatory framework governing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission.

A public engagement package released by the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday provides a 13-page discussion page to get things started. Citizens are asked to read the legislation and the paper, and respond to a survey and/or submit comments by mail or email.

Speaking to the Driftwood from the Okanagan on Monday, Agriculture Minister Lana Popham said she's looking for significant participation from Salt Spring and from other rural communities in every region.

"I'm just hoping people will give us their most thoughtful thoughts about

how to make the ALR better than ever," Popham said. "I'm very excited about this process, and people I'm talking to all around the province are as well. We have an opportunity to make farming strong."

Popham's handpicked advisory committee overseeing the process comprises experts on small-scale and large-scale farming, academics and people who have worked with the Agricultural Land Commission. In order to suggest legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the ALR and ALC that will encourage and protect farming, they are seeking views on 10 themes.

These include "a defensible and defended ALR," the efficacy of dividing the ALR into two zones with different rules, residential use, farm processing and sales, and resource extraction in the ALR, among others.

Revitalizing the ALR and ALC was listed at the top of five key priorities for Popham's ministry in the mandate letter from Premier John Horgan dated July 18, 2017. Popham noted the ALR is nearly unique in the world, and said other jurisdic-



LANA POPHAM

said she feels Barrett, who died last week, would have been pleased to see the work that's now going ahead to strengthen its abilities. The update is timely and necessary, since the B.C. Liberals made changes allowing new uses to take place in the ALR and divided the province into two zones with fewer restrictions for some parts of the north and the interior.

Some of the general issues Popham listed include the fact that local governments can regulate the size of primary residences within ALR lands, which has led to a serious issue of mega-mansions of 10,000 square feet or more on Richmond farmlands. Medical marijuana production was added as a permitted use in 2015

tions are looking to employ similar measures to protect farmland from development pressures. The enacting legislation was introduced by the Dave Barrett NDP government in the 1970s. Popham

but does not take into account the fact that arable lands may be covered with concrete bunkers, so how agriculture is happening and what types of soil should be protected could also be discussed.

Another topic that has often been raised on Salt Spring and one Popham said is a problem everywhere is the need for farmworker housing, which restrictions against secondary dwellings make difficult to provide on ALR properties. Incentives for farming will also be explored and potentially improved. Currently it's possible to get a property tax break if the owner can prove at least \$2,500 of farming income in a given year. Popham said maybe it's time to revisit that figure to ensure bona fide farming is taking place and to look at what other incentives might be possible.

These are just some of the issues that the committee will look into and that public feedback could address.

Saanich-North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen has encouraged constituents to get involved, writing a plug for the public engagement process on Facebook on Monday.

"Many people in my riding have a passion for agriculture and have shared their thoughts with my office about how best to effectively manage the Agricultural Land Reserve," he said.

The special advisory committee will host regional stakeholder meetings with invited representatives to hear directly from the local farming and ranching communities and organizations in Abbotsford, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Quesnel and Richmond.

As of Friday the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute had not received any information from the ministry and did not know whether they would be invited to attend. Popham noted that feedback on the other platforms is open to anyone.

Public input is due by April 30 at 4 p.m. The advisory committee will provide a final report to the minister this fall. Legislative changes are targeted for late 2018 or early 2019.

For more info, visit [www.engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve](http://www.engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve).

## INFRASTRUCTURE

## Multi-use pathway gets Shaw grant

Partners Creating Pathways to build trail along Lower Ganges Road

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A local organization has received funding to add to the pathway connecting Ganges and Central.

Partners Creating Pathways is the 2018 recipient of the Shaw Family Community Grant. The grant is one of five \$100,000 grants awarded by the Salt Spring Island Foundation from the Shaw bequest over a five-year period. This year's grant will help construct a stretch of path along Lower Ganges Road from Booth Canal to Baker roads. It is part of Partners Creating Pathways' plan to connect Ganges and Central by a multi-use cycling and walking path by 2020.

"It's an important community infrastructure project," said Lesley Reynolds, vice chair of the Salt Spring Island Foundation. "It addresses safety issues because that area of road is quite dangerous. We

do know people who say they don't walk or ride their bicycles into town because of some of these issues."

The plan is to eventually extend the current pathway from Ganges village to Portlock Park. The final Baker Road to Portlock Park section is estimated to cost \$86,000.

**"This new section of pathway is an important addition to community infrastructure."**

KEES RUURS  
SSIF chair

The pathway will allow people to travel along Lower Ganges Road safely and be a part of the proposed CRD Regional Trail route. Planning is currently underway for the pathway, and construction will hopefully begin this spring, according to a Salt Spring Island Foundation press release.

"This new section of pathway is an important addition to community infra-

structure. It will improve pedestrian safety along a dangerous section of road and encourage more people to walk," said Kees Ruurs, chair of the foundation's board of directors, in the release. "The existing [PCP] pathways have been a great success and are used by residents and visitors of all ages, from babies in strollers to the elderly."

The pathway will also create a walking loop by connecting Baker Road, an existing PARC trail, Booth Canal Road and back to Lower Ganges Road.

PCP chair Jean Gelwicks said, "The Salt Spring Island Foundation has been a huge supporter of community pathways on Salt Spring from PCP's beginning. We heartily thank them for this support and all they do for our community. We could not be more pleased."

The grant is part of a bequest left to the foundation by May Cree Shaw to help benefit the community. Last year's award went to the construction of The Root, a food processing, distribution and storage facility.

The foundation will be accepting applications for next year's grant starting in the fall.

## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 12 - Family Day statutory holiday - and will reopen for usual business hours on Tuesday, Feb. 13.



**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday February 14 edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising deadline:

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 2pm**

Classified Display Deadline:

**Friday, Feb. 9, 2pm**

Classified Word Deadline:

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 9am**

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## MARINE SAR

## Nic Futter hits 50-mission mark

Peers cheer local RCMSAR unit leader

A Salt Spring marine search and rescue stalwart has completed the 50th tasking of his volunteer career.

Coxswain Nic Futter, who is the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Unit 25 unit leader, went on his 50th tasking on Jan. 30 in response to a vessel ending up on the rocks.

According to RCMSAR Unit 25 communications officer Mike Murphy, Futter is the first Salt Spring coxswain to clock 50 missions.

"Once you reach the level of coxswain there is no more advancement within the unit, so the 50-mission mark is a great accomplishment," said Futter.

To mark the achievement, Futter retired the original ball cap that he has worn since he joined the

unit back in 2010. He was also presented with a celebratory cake from his unit members.

Murphy said another milestone was achieved during the same tasking for newer crew members. It was the second tasking for Tamika Schilbe and the first for Rod Martens.

Coxswain Per Svendsen has 49 missions under his belt and will join Futter in the "50 club" in the near future.

# Forensic hospital trip did not occur

## VANDENBERG

continued from 1

"We want Martin to know we love him," Jones added. "We've always loved each other — the whole family."

Speaking before a Duncan courthouse presided over by Judge Parker MacCarthy, Vandenberg's legal counsel Tybring Hemphill voiced concern that his client had not spent time under psychiatric care as ordered.

"He has not left VIRCC," Hemphill said, adding his client left Royal Jubilee Hospital with the understanding he would be going into a forensic psychiatric hospital next.

"Well, that didn't happen," Hemphill said. "He was merely warehoused like any

other offender with mental health issues."

Hemphill received his first report from a doctor about Vandenberg's condition on Friday. A Dr. Miller recommended the 22-year-old be transferred to a psychiatric hospital. Another doctor must see Vandenberg and

**"Given the serious nature of the charge I would have thought priority would have been given to this matter."**

JUDGE MACCARTHY  
Duncan Provincial Court

concur with the request in order to effect the transfer.

"It's clear from the brief report from Dr. Miller my client is suffering. He's afraid. He's not where Dr. Miller thinks he should be," Hemphill said. "In my submission there is real reason for concern."

Hemphill noted that Vandenberg was referred to the correctional facility's psychiatrist but has not yet gained an appointment there, either.

Judge MacCarthy commented that bed availability can be an issue, and that flight security is another reason that suspects with mental health concerns sometimes don't make it to the psychiatric hospital as planned.

"The problem is probably one of resource availability; however, given the serious nature of the charge I would have thought priority would have been given to this matter," MacCarthy said.

MacCarthy observed there is no mechanism to require the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission to appear in court and explain themselves if the assessment does not proceed as intended, but he ordered that the matter return to Duncan court on Feb. 13 to ensure it is happening. Vandenberg will not appear on that date.

The new order requires the assessment be ready for Hemphill to review by March 2, with the court appearance to determine mental fitness set for March 6.

# Caregivers share in positive outcome

## KATZ

continued from 1

"And are inspired in so many ways," Luanne added.

As many of the responders pointed out, having the experience of speaking with the Katz couple Thursday was unique and welcome. Most of the time firefighters, paramedics and medical teams never know what happens to a patient after he or she has passed beyond their individual stage of care.

The event took place on Remembrance Day: Nov. 11, 2017. Ken — who is a yoga teacher and kayak racer — and Luanne had been out for a paddle on Weston Lake that morning and then took a relaxing soak in their hot tub. Ken mentioned he wasn't feeling well and then collapsed in their bedroom shortly after.

"The thought of it being a heart attack didn't even register as he had taken a stress test a few weeks earlier and had sailed through that," Luanne Katz said.

After being put through to the ambulance team by the Westshore call centre, she was connected with BC Ambulance dispatcher Rachel Wardale. Recognizing a serious event was taking place, the dispatch centre reached paramedics Sean Davids and Jazzi Griffiths just as they were about to arrive at another, less urgent call. They were immediately redirected, starting the 15-minute ride that would be needed to take them from Ganges to the far south of the island on Isabella Point. Wardale talked Luanne through the motions of CPR and encouraged her to keep going until help arrived.

"This is the reason bystander CPR can make a huge difference in the chain of survival," Davids said while presenting the award. "In order for patients to have the best chance of surviving an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, CPR and early defibrillation are key links."

Wardale had only been on the job for nine months when the incident occurred and had no prior medical experience before her BC Ambulance training, although she says talking someone through CPR is drilled into people in that program, and it's something she often does in her work.

Luanne continued CPR for 18 to 19



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

BC Ambulance Service Vital Link medal presented to Luanne Katz.

minutes before a crew of three first responders from Salt-Spring Fire Rescue arrived. Patrick Byrne, Campbell Jackson and Cody Akerman had been at Remembrance Day ceremonies in town and were returning to the south end.

"I just happened to be near Hall 2 when the call came out so it was very fortunate," Byrne said.

The firefighters administered one shock to Katz with an automated external defibrillator device before Davids and Griffiths arrived a minute or two later and Davids took command as the attending paramedic. At that point Katz had just enough pulse activity to notify staff at Lady Minto Hospital to be ready for the patient.

BC Ambulance dispatch was also working out how and where to transport Katz. There are just three air ambulance helicopters in service for the entire province; hospital options were either Vancouver or Victoria. In the end, it was vehicle travel by ferry to Victoria.

Israel Cohen and Karen Pritchett are two registered nurses who worked to stabilize Katz at Lady Minto Hospital with intubation and medication when he arrived.

"Typically we don't see the after-effect of our interactions. We don't get to come together to celebrate," Cohen said during the group conversation. "It's a funny business — we go from one person to the next, one person to the next. So to have the two of you here to reaffirm why we do it, and together as a team, is amazing."

Before the ambulance to Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, nurses and paramedics ensured that Luanne was supported and had snacks to take with her, as her ongoing participation was critical to bringing Ken back, long after her CPR duties had ended.

Griffiths noted the experience of having a heart attack has been described as akin to throwing a laptop hard against a wall. After that happens, it's not clear whether the device can be saved, or whether some parts have to be replaced or can just be rebooted.

"It's an assault to your body and your brain," she said.

In Victoria hospital the initial prognosis was not good, and Luanne was told to prepare for a loss. One doctor told her that even if Ken came back, he would be a different person. He wouldn't be doing things he loved like paddling or boat building.

Maybe because he is such a healthy person, Ken beat the odds and woke up without brain damage from lost oxygen flow. He will paddle and get back into finishing his boat, although racing might be an issue.

Presentation of the Vital Link award fittingly occurred during Heart Month. It's a good time for islanders to get acquainted with tips for good cardiovascular health and to learn how to use an AED and where the devices are located on Salt Spring. Since the incident, Ken and Luanne have both taken CPR courses and have encouraged friends to do so as well.

"Everything we do, we couldn't have done it as well without everything that you did," said Salt Spring paramedic Jason Grindler. "And without bystander CPR and dispatch-aided CPR, things may have gone a different way. But because you started, because you maintained it, because you actually acted, everything down the line, the survivability went way up."

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## Notice of Annual Water Main Flushing Highland Fernwood Water System

Water main flushing is planned as follows:

- **Fernwood System:** February 12-16, 2018, between hours of 8am and 4pm  
(areas likely influenced: Maycock Road, Howard Road, Langs Road, Fernwood Road, North Beach Road)
- **Highland System:** February 19-23, 2018, between hours of 8am and 4pm  
(areas likely influenced: Fairway Drive, North End Road, Southbank Drive, Fairway Crescent, Le Page Road, Ensilwood Road, Whims Road, Maliview Road, Fer de Lance Road, Westcott Road, Walker's Hook Road)

During the flushing, you may experience low water pressure and/or periods of discoloured water at your tap. It is recommended to run your tap until the water clears. For inquiries, please contact the Adam Hliva, Field Supervisor, Saanich Peninsula & Gulf Islands Operations Cell: 250.883.5602

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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**

## Double standard?

**A**ccusations of workplace harassment and bullying levied against Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May seemed to fall out of nowhere on Jan. 27.

The allegations came from three former federal Green party staff members made public in a Toronto newspaper.

While acknowledging not everyone she meets will like her, May has denied the allegations. Both she and the Green party have characterized the accusers as “disgruntled former staff.”

It's easy to speculate that a double standard and political motivation could be in play. May's leadership was endorsed by 93 per cent of her party after the 2015 election, but not all members are happy with how May dominates the Green party image. Recall the bizarre display during the summer of 2016 when party

**THE ISSUE:**

Workplace accusations

**WE SAY:**

Shouldn't be gender bias

members voted to support a controversial Palestinian rights policy, something May disagreed with. Some residue of that conflict could remain and help fuel discontent.

As for the double standard, our culture expects women to be angelically

even tempered and “nice” in all circumstances. The only allegations of bullying and creating a toxic work environment on Parliament Hill are so far levied against an assertive woman — May.

Have no male politicians in Ottawa been critical of employees' performance, been upset or sarcastic? Or is that not considered bullying or toxic behaviour — or news — when exercised by a man in Ottawa?

Recent harassment accusations have proven that much work needs to be done to change political workplace culture and expectations in Canada. Some action is now visible. Bill C-65, the workplace harassment legislation introduced by the Liberals in November, should make Parliament Hill a safer place for all employees to work.

And the Green party has done the right thing in ordering an independent investigation into the May allegations to be conducted by Toronto lawyer Sheila Block. We trust the investigation will uncover the context of the alleged incidents involving May, come to valid conclusions and make recommendations that will be instructive for all political parties.

We live in a time where there should be no place for gender bias.



**VIEWPOINT** by Irene Wright

## Dave Barrett legacy remembered

I was quite young 50 years ago when I moved to Salt Spring with my husband Tom and the kids — Hal, Sandy and Penny. Tom and I moved here via Simon Fraser University with an immense life change ahead, out of the oil patch and into teaching.

But that is not the point of this letter.

For any who remember and for most of your readers who are too young, let me share with you what a difference Dave Barrett made to Salt Spring (and not coincidentally to the rest of the Gulf Islands and B.C.).

Dave came here to an outdoor summer event at Beaver Point Hall, together with our NDP MP, Tommy Douglas, to give us a vision of the future. If memory serves, it was during the summer of 1971. It was a wonderful afternoon with the joy of listening to two incredible men. On election night of August 1972, friends danced in the streets of Ganges.

So many people say that politicians are all the same. Not true in the case of Dave.

Consider some of the changes that Dave Barrett and his caucus brought:

- Within the first 10 days or so of the new government, the strap and all forms of physical correction were disallowed from the school system.

- Soon after, federal funding was made available for the teaching of French beyond the normal years in high school. Tommy Douglas helped make the point in the House of Commons for us. Until then, Premier W.A.C. Bennett had “allowed” school districts to accept federal funding, but they were required to reduce their provincial contribution by an

equivalent amount, rendering the choice realistically impossible. After Christmas, children on Salt Spring had 20 minutes of French each day from grades 4 to 7. The following year this was expanded to all the elementary grades, creating a major change in my teaching life. (Thanks to the courage of parents, the school board and the administration and to available funding, in about 1980 SD 64 introduced a Late French Immersion Program. Today it is thriving with a significant impact on the lives of many students.)

- The Agricultural Land Reserve was born and continues to help preserve us from endless suburban sprawl while it creates possibilities for would-be farmers.

- The Islands Trust concept was researched, implemented and continues with the object of preserving and protecting our islands. I remember Rosemary Brown and three other NDP government MLAs coming to a public meeting in Mahon Hall to present the concept to us.

- The Insurance Corporation of BC was introduced to keep vehicle insurance affordable. (Don't blame the NDP for the current fiasco left to us by premiers Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark.)

Those are the ones that come to mind without looking anything up.

As I consider the changes he helped bring about, I am so pleased that Dave participated in our summer event at Beaver Point. Then, the future was theory. Look what his work wrought! Bless you, Dave.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident and retired teacher.*

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Do you like the national anthem wording change?**  Yes  No

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

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

**Are #MeToo type allegations losing impact?**

NO	YES
21	26

### Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3  
 Ph: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613 Toll Free: 1-877-537-9934  
 Email: [driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)  
 Website: [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday  
**Subscription Rates per year:**  
 In the Gulf Islands \$55.00  
 Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$75.00  
 Elsewhere in Canada \$100.80 Foreign: \$248.00  
 Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

**Editorial:** Elizabeth Nolan, Marc Kitteringham  
**Front office:** James Burton, Johanna Walkner

**Advertising:** Drew Underwood, Shirley Command

**Amber Ogilvie**  
 PUBLISHER  
[aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:aogilvie@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**Gail Sjuberg**  
 MANAGING EDITOR  
[news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**Lorraine Sullivan**  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER  
[production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



Funded by the Government of Canada



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

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



# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "He was merely warehoused like any other offender with mental health issues."**

TYBRING HEMPHILL, ON HIS CLIENT MARTIN GALEN VANDENBERG

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What do you think is the first sign of spring?



**MELANY BURANT**

*A little bit of sunshine and some flower buds.*



**NADINE BROWNING**

*There's lots of birds singing and the buds come out. There's just a feeling in the air.*



**JEREMY MILSOM**

*Daffodils. They're already out at our place.*



**JACOB COOPER**

*I think of all the little bulbs peeking their heads up, and Seedy Saturday.*



**CAROL BURANT**

*This is my first spring here. I'd say flowers.*

## 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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### Clean the shoulders

If Salt Spring's road maintenance company was able to clean the shoulders of the roads on a much more regular basis, the Fulford-Ganges and Vesuvius Bay roads in particular would be considerably wider and safer for cyclists and walkers.

If one looks carefully you can see just how much pavement is covered in debris and mud, making that expensive shoulder pavement unusable for safer cycling in particular.

A lady wiped out on her bike just in front of us last summer when her wheel skidded on some debris. Luckily we were able to avoid hitting her and got her to hospital.

**MARY MACLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### More parking problems?

Like everyone else, I am thrilled to see the old Shell site in use. El Loco Taco has done a great job adding vibrancy, colour and life to what was a terrible eyesore in Ganges. However, the proposed extended business use, along with the proposed variance from parking requirements, has very serious consequences for the entire community.

Approval of this variance is subjectively granting preferential treatment to one (for profit) business over all the other businesses that have spent considerable money providing parking as required by the established and prudent parking bylaws.

Arguably the largest problem and complaint

about Ganges is the lack of parking. Approval of the variance to waive nine of the 15 required parking spots would clearly exacerbate the parking problem in Ganges.

Approving the variance creates an unfair business advantage over neighbouring and competing businesses that are paying the ongoing expense of parking compliance.

Approving this variance directly increases the value of the property, significantly benefitting an individual property owner. Subjectively creating wealth for some property owners is an inequitable and inappropriate outcome for a Trust decision.

The business is a very welcome addition to the subject property, and Ganges. I fully support the business at a level of operations

that is in compliance with established regulations and bylaws. Approval of the parking variance requested will fail to provide the consistency and fairness we require to be an effective and functioning community.

**DAVE TOYNBEE,**  
MOUAT'S TRADING CO.

### Gone forever

Thanks for last week's item on the rejuvenation of the old Vesuvius Inn ("Vesuvius Inn property getting a residential makeover"). It's nice that it's not going to be demolished and I'm happy for both the seller and the purchaser.

However, I find it sad that the rest of us will no longer ever be able to enjoy a good meal and warm summer sunsets on the deck overlooking Stuart Channel.

And while I agree with the statement that "Drinking

and driving is over with ..." the Vesuvius Inn was perhaps best known as an award-winning restaurant, not simply a drinking establishment. Surely we could use more good restaurants here.

But it and the once thriving Fulford Inn are both now gone forever, done in I suppose by the curse of "new management."

**MARK PERRY,**  
SALT SPRING

### Treat all with respect

The "Homage to moderation and balance" Viewpoint by Douglas A Reid demonstrates a major problem facing women and girls in our culture.

The writer compares school girls (children) in uniform to women covered from head to toe for religious and cultural rea-

sons. Children and women of all cultures are not sex objects and do not design their lives and wardrobes to encourage sexual assault. Victims — even attractive victims — are not at fault for the crimes committed against them.

Discussing levels of criminal behaviour while suggesting that minor infractions are overstated will not help the overall problem of women and girls being abused while people with power make excuses and turn a blind eye.

I hope that boys and men will not take the opinions in his article to heart. We, all of us, deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

**PATRICIA DONNELLY,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 9

# Electoral reform: expect a political firestorm

**BY FRANTS ATTORP**

Sometime this fall, barring unforeseen circumstances, there will be a referendum in BC to decide if we should dump our antiquated first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system and adopt some, yet to be determined, form of proportional representation (PR). Many are hoping for a rational, informative debate to guide them in their decision, but they will likely be disappointed as the issue promises to ignite one of the nastiest political battles in B.C. history.

The inevitability of such an outcome lies in simple arithmetic. Since 1956, when W.A.C. Bennett was still in office, there have been 17 provincial elections under FPTP. Of those, the Social Credit, or the Liberals as they now call themselves, have won all but four. And, of the 13 they won, an amazing 12 resulted in false majorities. In other words, throughout recent history, the party on the right has, with surprising regularity, won 100 per cent of the power with less than 50 per cent of the vote.

The implications of this math are not lost on the Liberals. They know that if PR — with its 50 per cent threshold for forming

government — is introduced, they may be spending a lot of time in the political hinterland. This is especially true since the

burgeoning Green Party, with 17 per cent of the popular vote, has just demonstrated a tentative preference for working with the left rather than the right.

The New Democrats have also benefited from FPTP. On three occasions they have won 100 per cent of the power with just 40 per cent of the vote, but they know that, in the long run, it is the party on the right that has benefitted most from the distortions and hidden machinations of our current voting system. They are, with some exceptions, willing to gamble that PR will give them power more often, even if that means forming coalition governments with another party or other parties.

Only once in the past 62 years has a single party garnered more than 50 per cent of the vote. That happened in 2001 following the NDP's fast ferry fiasco. So, unless the NDP makes another monumental blunder, or deeply ingrained voting trends are magically reversed, Liberal prospects under PR look grim. The Liberals know they are staring into the abyss.

## GUEST COLUMN

Perhaps the Liberals' greatest advantage in the upcoming referendum is voter confusion. The full extent of this confusion is evident in the results of the past two referenda on electoral reform. In 2005, British Columbians voted 58 per cent in favour of adopting Single Transferable Vote, a form of PR recommended by the Citizens' Assembly. That vote failed because the Campbell Liberals cynically and arbitrarily insisted on a super majority of 60 per cent. A do-over in 2009 saw support for STV drop to a miserly 39 per cent.

The wild swing in support for STV shows the electorate is struggling to understand what it's all about . . . and no wonder! Electoral reform is complicated — so complicated entire books have been written on the subject.

FPTP may look simple because it requires nothing more than a single "X" on a piece of paper, but that simplicity is deceptive as it hides a wide range of serious flaws, including false majorities, wasted votes (about half), limited choices and voter apathy.

The complexity of voting systems is

reflected in the amount of time allotted members of the Citizens' Assembly to study and understand systems used around the world. In 2004, after the NDP won a majority with fewer votes than their arch rival, the Liberal government brought together 161 people from across the province to recommend a new electoral system for B.C. After almost a year of listening to experts, consulting with the public and debating the pros and cons of the various systems, the assembly voted almost unanimously in favour of STV. But, alas, it was not to be.

As the 2018 referendum draws near, we can expect a lot of hyperbole ("It's a disaster!"), misinformation ("Fringe parties will take control!") and scaremongering ("Just look at Italy!"). There will be glossy pamphlets, flashy billboards and the bleating of panicky politicians on the airwaves, but I shan't pay much attention to any of it. Guided by my democratic heart, I will fill out the government survey, write my letters and hope that FPTP will be consigned to the dustbin of history before the next election.

*Frants Attorp is a Salt Spring writer.*

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# Watershed management is ecosystem based

BY RON HAWKINS

David Rapport has been advocating for improvement in the manner in which the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance functions, advocating for an ecosystem approach to watershed management (Jan. 17 and 31 opinion pieces).

Mr. Rapport criticizes the Salt Spring Island Water Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) for not better showing what they have done. SSIWPA chair George Grams has responded, promising further detail is forthcoming. Why not wait for it?

He claims SSIWPA appears to be unaware of "a gold standard (approach) for such undertakings," called "the ecosystem approach." This implies SSIWPA is not aware of or embarked on such a course. He criticizes SSIWPA for resorting to "old school thinking, treating water as a 'resource' rather than as a part of a living system" without illuminating exactly what he means by this. I find such oblique criticism less than fully forthcoming.

Mr. Rapport criticizes SSIWPA's "in house research as not meeting scientific standards," citing their study of phosphorus loading from septic fields on St. Mary Lake being statistically weak due to the small number of sampling sources used. When this report was released approximately two years ago this was a dramatic revelation to me and I was impressed by its quality of work. I

would have to review these premises again now, or better yet invite a third-party scientist to comment.

Mr. Rapport claims that "well before SSIWPA came into existence, several highly qualified off-island senior scientists with in-depth knowledge of St. Mary Lake told us repeatedly that until we take an ecosystem (watershed) approach, we will be going nowhere with managing drinking water on the island." I agree. These scientists were Rick Nordine and Azit Mazumder, whose work I have read and whose public presentations I have attended on Salt Spring. And I feel SSIWPA has since embarked upon a watershed approach!

Being an alliance of local and provincial agencies managed and mandated by various provincial departmental water-related acts and regulations, SSIWPA was formed and is committed to collaborate in a coordinated approach to Salt Spring's pursuit of an integrated freshwater management plan.

Islands Trust Council is supportive of SSIWPA's program, with the hiring of a freshwater specialist to help foster drinking water initiatives across all Trust islands.

Salt Spring CRD director Wayne McIntyre is

SSIWPA's vice-chair and, together with Vancouver Island CRD staff, continues to support SSIWPA where he can.

Watersheds are an integral part of the approach. With the complex history now of 10,000 human footprints each living in one Salt Spring watershed or another, our 100-year-old provincial drinking water legislation has finally been revamped (2016) as recurring summer drought appears to be the new norm across parts of the province.

The federal government also plays a part, addressing such things as toxic element limits (e.g. arsenic) in treated drinking water for lifetime human health, and in regulating electric-powered-only boats on St. Mary Lake.

Within their agreed-upon umbrella, SSIWPA partners seek commonalities of purpose within their respective mandates for best possible sustainable drinking water practices, standards and management for Salt Spring Island. It is and will remain a challenging, methodical, step-by-step progress.

The old paradigm of cheap, abundant water dies slowly, as we grumble into this reality and process of unparalleled change. The most challenging species of the ecosystem, I am sure, will continue to remain homo sapiens.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Not rational

It is my understanding that Trust staff are recommending that the variance application by El Loco Taco be denied because it fails to meet the development permit criteria regarding "landscaping and parking." The application falls short of the landscaping requirements and allows for six parking spaces and not the required 15. (15!?)

I spent many months on a committee during the latest official community plan review and appreciate the need for a clear community vision. However, the variance process is established to allow for some flexibility and creativity as applied to a specific proposal. In this

case, the very central Ganges site has been a dark, closed paved gas station behind a high silver chain-link fence for many years: neither a functional nor aesthetic asset to the village. It has been a prominent site more evocative of a depressed inner city than a popular tourist destination.

The applicant's proposal for an operational commercial venture could easily involve some colourful planters. Further, one of our planning goals continues to be creating a more pedestrian-friendly village core by increasing public transit, pathways and bicycle paths.

A community expects its governance system to be clear, fair and consistent. However, it is also expected to be a system that allows for thoughtful re-evaluation in specific circumstances.

A denial of this variance application is contrary to the economic and aesthetic interests of our island community. It would be blatantly irrational.

**SHARON MCCOLLOUGH,**  
SALT SPRING

### Proud of Junan

That was a great article in last week's Driftwood about GISS student Junan Adam-Gordon being chosen as a Loran Scholarship finalist.

There are only 88 finalists from more than 5,000 applicants from all across Canada. Having a finalist from Salt Spring speaks volumes to the quality of education and life experiences we have here on our island.

Well done, Junan, and accolades to all his teachers and mentors as well. As Salt Springers we can all be proud.

**LARRY BLACKMAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Community Health Society launched

It's now official. Following the Jan. 17 story in the Driftwood about the Salt Spring Community Health Society, the society has been granted incorporation status.

SSCHS was incorporated under the Societies Act of British Columbia on Jan. 24, certified by Carol Prest, Registrar of Companies for B.C. The constitution, bylaws and list of founding directors — all required items when applying for incorporation status — have been certified.

SSCHS now looks forward to interacting with the community to garner ideas and work on a wish list of ways we can improve the health-care system

on Salt Spring Island. SSCHS has already begun to hear from, and talk to, Island Health and health-care providers on our island. The Ministry of Health has indicated willingness to share ideas and suggest solutions.

One of the eight founding directors, Curt Firestone, told the Driftwood, "We at SSCHS are buoyant about the future of health care on our island; it can be improved and we want to help achieve that."

One of the first tasks of the new society will be the development of methods for Salt Spring residents to share ideas for health-care system improvements and to ask questions.

**JANE HORSBURGH,**  
SALT SPRING

### We Are Salt Spring

As one of the 160 models for Greg Klassen's We Are Salt Spring banner, I was happy to learn that the project received Canada Council funding and that each model can receive a fee of \$25 ("Klassen legacy project wins Canada Council support," Jan. 31 Driftwood).

I have chosen to donate my fee to a project that Greg supported, the GIFTS Arts Program that he founded. I hope that other models will feel the same way.

If you do, send your mailing address to Andrea Locke at [tworavensfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:tworavensfarm@yahoo.com) to receive an income tax receipt for the \$25 from GIFTS, a registered charity.

The plan is for the donations to be used to renovate the existing carport of the GIFTS building into a small shop, which will be a social enterprise run by program participants to sell their arts and crafts.

**ANNA HALTRECHT,**  
ST. MARY LAKE

*You're at home here.*



## Official Notice of the Annual General Meeting for MID ISLAND CONSUMER SERVICES CO-OPERATIVE

Meeting will be on Wednesday May 9th, 2018  
at the Cavalotti Lodge, Nanaimo at 7:00PM.

Any Special Resolutions regarding the rules of the association must be submitted in writing before March 23, 2018.

c/o Resolutions Committee

Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative

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*Members as of the date of record "April 13, 2018" will be eligible to vote at the AGM.*

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**SEARCH & RESCUE**

# Salt Spring SAR rope crew performs high-slung rescues

Salt Spring team specializes in vertical rescues

**BY MARC KITTERINGHAM**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There are a lot of cliffs in the southern Gulf Islands. The rocky and mountainous terrain combined with some amazing hiking and wilderness adventures means that people sometimes need to be rescued.

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue's rope team is a group of eight highly specialized rescuers who use ropes, slings, rappelling and climbing to perform rescues all over the Gulf Islands.

"If you were to collapse here and the ambulance was out there we'd put you on a stretcher and carry you through the door," said Tudor Davies, a member of the ropes crew since he joined SAR in 2012. "If you're at the bottom of a 100-foot cliff with serious injuries and you want to come back up that cliff, you want to be reasonably confident you're not going to come out of the stretcher."

To become a member of the squad, SAR members join regularly held training sessions. Eventually, if there is enough interest, they can take a basic ropes course. The course is a full weekend long and takes place on Vancouver Island. Standards are put in place by Emergency Management British Columbia to ensure the safety of everyone involved. The course teaches knots, rappelling, edging (the edge-person is one of the most important people on the squad, communicating with the leader and the rescuers who are over the edge of the cliff), handling the stretcher and removal of the victim from the area.

trains together twice a month, and also meets regularly inside the SAR building. Saturday training sessions are scenario-based, mimicking real-life rescue situations. The crew also trains at the rock climbing wall at Salt Spring Community Services across the street.

When team members aren't doing scenarios, they do have HQ-based training sessions. These might include re-checking the equipment bags, doing theory-based learning and other club-based learning. They also do training with other Salt Spring Search and Rescue members as well as other rope teams in the area.

"We also train on a reasonably regular basis with Cowichan, which is our closest team. They've got a bigger rope team there, because they do swift-water rescues and everything over there," said Davies.

When the team does go out on a call, the person in charge is the team leader. Salt Spring's leader is Bill Griffiths, who directs everything that goes on during the rescue. He is the point person on all things from the type of rescue that needs to be done to whether or not it is time to retire old equipment.

"He's the main man. He says what is to be done and he makes the decision. If he says 'there should be a station set up on that tree,' it's set up on that tree," said Davies. "Like all team leaders, they're supposed to be hands-in-pockets all the time, but he chips in and helps if he needs to."

Inside the Search and Rescue headquarters is a room dedicated to equipment storage. Each of the rope crew members has their own pack with harnesses, ropes and other climbing gear. Besides the personal packs are the rope bags. A few different rope lengths are available, depending on the type of rescue. The bags are exceedingly heavy at about 20 kilograms. Rescue team members who aren't qualified to go over the edge help by carrying in the heavy bags of equipment.

The most important aspect of the rope team is that everybody brings something different to the table. It is one of two specialized rescue disciplines that Salt Spring SAR uses. The other is human tracking. Both of these attract a certain kind of person and nobody does anything alone.

"There are some people that are pretty good at that. They can really follow that sign through whatever," said Zeke Blazeka, SAR search manager and a rope team member. "It's unbelievable . . . I'm too impatient to be a tracker. But some people are [natural trackers]. That's what they like and that's what we try to encourage."

"I'm probably more up there with ropes and first aid than anything else," agreed Davies. "You wouldn't give a pig a rifle, so they won't give me a GPS."

"This is what I like about the team," he added. "The first thing you have to remember is that it's a team. I used to be a cop in the U.K. We had a saying: 'you kick one of us and we all limp.'"

Salt Spring SAR always welcomes people from the community to take part. They are all volunteer and on call 24/7. They are responsible for ground searches in all of the Southern Gulf Islands and regularly help other crews in the Vancouver Island region.



PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY/SALT SPRING SAR

Salt Spring Search and Rescue rope team leader Bill Griffiths is at the top of a cliff while Tudor Davies is brought safely up a rock face during a training session on the island.

**"I'm probably more up there with ropes and first aid than anything else. You wouldn't give a pig a rifle, so they won't give me a GPS."**

TUDOR DAVIES  
*Salt Spring SAR rope team member*

After taking the course, 20 hours of experience is required before a person can come back to take the evaluation. The evaluation starts with a written exam that determines whether a person can stay the rest of the weekend. The Saturday is full of skill demonstrations and Sunday is full of scenarios.

"At the end of the day you queue up and wait for the good or bad news," said Davies.

While cliff-based rescues are not too common in the islands, rope team members assist with other duties. Tasks like carrying a stretcher through muddy trails often need a bit more leverage that team members can provide.

Keeping up to date on training is important to the rope crew. The crew

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<b>TUDOR DAVIES</b> Active Ground Searcher  7 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>BRYAN CROWDER</b> Active Ground Searcher  5 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>DEREK CAPITAINE</b> Active Ground Searcher  6 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>DARRYL GREEN</b> Active Ground Searcher  4 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>JORDAN STRATFORD</b> Active Ground Searcher  4 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>SARAH GRINDLER</b> Active Ground Searcher  4 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>ERIC ELLIS</b> Active Ground Searcher  2 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>SUSAN FUSSELL</b> Active Ground Searcher  2 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>KELLY GRAVES</b> Active Ground Searcher  2 YEARS OF SERVICE	<b>MARK HALL</b> Active Ground Searcher  1 YEAR OF SERVICE	<b>MARC MUNRO</b> Active Ground Searcher  1 YEAR OF SERVICE	<b>BEN VELTHUIZEN</b> Active Ground Searcher  1 YEAR OF SERVICE	<b>MEMBERS IN TRAINING</b> Laurie Clark, Patrick Frissch, Kurt Gierlich, Brent Goertzen, Jane Lizotte, Dave Marshall, Kylie Van Horne.		

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**THEATRE**

## Community revisits The Laramie Project after 10 years

Important themes at Feb. 17 show

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In 1998, on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming, a 21-year-old gay college student named Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten, tied to a fence and left to die in the frigid night.

The shocking events ripped through the social fabric of the university town and around the world. Shepard's name became a tragic reminder of everything wrong in society and an emblem for change. His story was immortalized

by New York's Tectonic Theatre Project, who created The Laramie Project based on more than 200 interviews they conducted with residents, family members, police and others. The resulting play with its multi-layered perspectives gives audiences the opportunity to take a tough look at local acceptance and discrimination.

Salt Spring Island is just one place across North America where the Laramie Project has been performed, with the WordPlay theatre group, members of the queer community and Gulf Islands Secondary School students com-



PHOTO COURTESY THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER

The Laramie Project cast. Back row, from left, Kevin Gray, Bob Twaites, Lisa Dahling, Bill Turner, Shellyse Szakacs, Corrie Hope Furst, Jesi Pearce, Kane O'Scalleigh, Jason Donaldson (director). Front row, from left, Joi Freed-Garrod, Lynda Jensen, Wendy Judith Cutler, Metta Rose with baby Rica.

ing together for a performance directed by GISS theatre teacher Jason Donaldson in 2006.

A similar collaboration with Donaldson at the helm will bring The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later to ArtSpring for one night only on Saturday, Feb. 17. The staged reading asks what has really been learned from the murder and its aftermath, based on interviews the original theatre troupe did one decade after their first trip to Laramie.

Wendy Judith Cutler and her partner Corrie Hope Furst were part of the 2006 reading as newcomers to the island, and Cutler has been key to staging the upcoming companion piece. She says the key question the second play attempts to answer is how a community responds to violence.

"It's important to remember

what occurred and also to apply that to where we live and to our community," Cutler said. "How do we respond? What does that mean? How do we function when things happen? And things always happen, and there's no easy answers."

Speculation circulated around the true motives of Shepard's two killers, but their original defence included their disgust that Shepard was gay. Their convictions eventually led to much-needed hate crime legislation and new conversations across society, but as the Tectonic Theatre troupe learned on their return visit, a strange tendency to disavow a hate crime had edged into Laramie. After 10 years, many people wanted to let it go and move on, while others insisted drugs were the only factor.

Kevin Gray, a Grade 12 student from Pender Island who appears in the Feb. 17 reading, was not yet alive when Shepard was murdered. Gray said no one he knows who is his age had even heard Shepard's name. For Gray, just bringing awareness to the murder and its context in history is an important aspect of the reading, as well as the opportunity to work with people from other parts of the community who do have personal memories and knowledge of those events.

"It is really hard material

and dark material to find the motivation to tell the story," Gray said. "But the collaboration's been awesome and everyone's really supportive."

Metta Rose was drawn to the project after recent appearances in musicals such as Cabaret and Spamalot. She was living away from Salt Spring when The Laramie Project was staged in 2006 but saw another version at UBC that has stayed with her.

"I was drawn to it and wanted to be a part of it, and being part of the community and the collaboration between the high school students and everyone else. It's just a really great way to do theatre, so I didn't want to pass it up," Rose said, despite having a nine-month-old baby in her arms at the time.

To Rose, Salt Spring seems a bubble of love with few haters, but she feels it's still important to have conversations and bring difficult ideas into the light rather than have them fester unnoticed.

"It's hard to imagine something like that happening here, but I'm sure they thought the same thing [in Laramie]," Rose said.

The wide cast of characters involved in The Laramie Project presents the opportunity to relive events from a wide range of perspectives. Gray plays an out-and-proud friend of

Shepard in some scenes, and one of the convicted killers in others.

It's the second role that has proved the most difficult to relate to.

"To play someone who did something like that — it's a challenge to get into that mindset . . . I can't even comprehend the pure hatred they had for people. It's scary," he said.

Cutler said ArtSpring's near-capacity crowd in 2006 appreciated having the staged reading rather than a full theatrical performance, as the words of the people involved were allowed to be the focus. She also feels that bringing people together in person is a powerful mechanism for change, which is what the social justice theory of theatre is all about.

The evening will conclude with a talk-back session guided by Robert Birch. The cast is just as excited to hear what comes out of that experience as they are to present the material that will inspire the conversation. They hope to get a full crowd to make the conversation a good one.

"It never seems like there's enough being done to facilitate any type of change. Even 20 years later, we still haven't seen the change that most people want to see," Gray said. "We all just keep living our daily lives and forgetting about all of these things that happen everywhere."

### WINTER STORMS

**Can be deceptive killers**

The National Weather Service (NWS) refers to winter storms as "deceptive killers" because most deaths are indirectly related to these storms.

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FILMMAKING

# Film series about island gets nominations

Naturally Ours highlights islanders

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A documentary web series about Salt Spring Island has been nominated for four awards at this year's Vancouver Web Festival in April.

The series is called *Naturally Ours: Salt Spring Island* and was produced by Erica Hargreave. Broken up into nine parts, each segment follows islanders and the diverse creative nature-inspired things that they do. Briony Penn, Cornelia Krikke, Fred Roland and Mike Lane are some of the people interviewed. The film has been nominated for best documentary series, best of B.C., best pilot for films under 30 minutes and best cinematography.

Hargreave said the idea was based on her experiences as a child, and memories of time spent in natural places on the coast.

"I guess what originally sparked me on the idea of doing a series on parks and how they inspire is that I myself grew up wading through tide pools and exploring them as a young kid. We spent all of our weekends in parks," she said. "It was a great place to do a first season of the series because it was closer to home, but at the same



Filmmaker Erica Hargreave in a clip from *Naturally Ours: Salt Spring Island*.

PHOTO COURTESY NATURALLY OURS

time we were able to share some of what we love closer to home."

Hargreave started her career working as a naturalist in various parks in Canada. She eventually turned to storytelling as a way to foster creativity in young people. One of her earliest projects was the children's science movie *The Magic Backpack*. Since then she has been a part of Ahimsa Media, a digital storytelling company from the Vancouver area. Being able to tell people's stories and how people relate to each other is important to her.

"With everything that's going on in the world right now and the

'us and them' mentality that is going around, I think the more we can show the beauty of humanity and how we're all connected and shine a spotlight on that, that's something I personally want to do through my storytelling," she said.

Hargreave is happy that the film community has recognized *Naturally Ours* with the awards. People tend to get pigeonholed in the film industry, she explained. Her previous work in children's programming could have made it seem like that was all she could do, but the nominations have proven otherwise. She is especially proud of the cinematography

nod for Kelly Conlin, the project's videographer. Hargreaves was particularly impressed by Ruckle Heritage Farm footage that was simply beautiful.

"My favourite [episode] for the cinematography is what we shot with Mike Lane out at Ruckle farm," said Hargreave. "The light was just incredible when we were there. Kelly said to me that it didn't matter which way she turned the camera, there was just so much beauty every which way."

The film series is available on YouTube. The awards ceremony for the Vancouver Web Fest takes place from Apr. 18-21.

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**WHAT'S ON  
CALENDAR**  
ON PAGE 14.

VISUAL ARTS

# Syrian artists' work in focus

Arts council hosts special event

A powerful art exhibit exploring the harsh reality of life in Syria is on display at Mahon Hall this month.

The Salt Spring Arts Council will present *Behind The Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art*, consisting of artwork made by 17 young Syrian artists.

Curated by Paul Crawford of the Penticton Art Gallery and Humam Alsalim with the Cyrrus Gallery in Damascus, the exhibition is a first for Salt Spring in bringing a

show from another institution to the island.

It opens on Friday, Feb. 16 with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. and continues to Sunday, Feb. 25.

Two notable events are planned during the run of the show. On Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., artist in residence Greg Constantine will give a presentation. Constantine is a documentary photographer who has travelled the world extensively, focusing his lens on displaced and stateless people.

Closing day features two events. Curator Crawford will speak about the exhibition

from his view as lead curator, including the motivations, the logistics and the art. Afterwards, a panel on the profession of the curator will be held. Moderated by Anthony Matthews, panelists Crawford, Regan Shrumm and Margaret Day will discuss what a curator does and the curator's role in the dissemination of art and its presentation to the public.

Shrumm is a curator from Victoria with a show currently on exhibit at the library in Ganges and Margaret Day is a respected gallery director and curator of the Point Gallery on Salt Spring.

YOUTH PROGRAM

# Harris leads youth art sessions

Free Friday program at ArtSpring


Young artists are invited to grow their skills and passion for art through a free youth art enrichment program with local Salish artist Quentin Harris.

Running at ArtSpring for four Fridays beginning Feb. 9, 15 students in grades 5 to 7 can enhance their imaginations and love of art through traditional Salish carving, painting, storytelling, directed drum-

ming and making small button blankets. "While empowering students with an inspired imagination, Harris aspires to intersect First Nations arts and culture with positive values and truth," explains information about the program. "Connecting the power of storytelling with visual art, his intent is to touch the hearts and minds of learners."

Interested students should contact ArtSpring.

A special gallery show of the work created will run on the final class day.



**INDUSTRIAL LANDS PROJECT**  
Proposed Amendments to the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw to Implement the Outcomes of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Industrial Lands Project Review and Consultations  
Bylaws No. 488, 489, and 490

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

**Have Your Say**

Public Hearing  
Friday, February 16  
10:00 a.m.

Meadow Hall,  
Salt Spring Legion  
(downstairs)  
120 Blake Road

Who should attend?  
Anyone who desires  
their interests to be  
affected by  
the proposed  
bylaws.

What are the bylaw changes about?  
Bylaw No. 488 amends the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan by introducing a new definition of "General Employment" as a basis for zoning changes in Land Use Bylaw No. 266 (LUB 266). Proposed policy changes will allow the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee to consider future zoning applications in specified areas of Salt Spring Island and will modify development permit guidelines to address new uses not included in Bylaw No. 488 including the addition of new guidelines for the protection of farming.

Bylaw No. 489 amends LUB 266 by replacing Section 9.7 with a new "General Employment" zoning structure which revises the existing industrial land use framework by adding permitted uses, amending site coverage and setback regulations, as well as adding new zone variations.

Bylaw No. 490 amends LUB 266 by converting the zoning classification of some existing Waste Management Facilities to more accurately reflect the uses and siting of these community facilities.

How do I get more information?  
Copies of the bylaws and other information is available at the Islands Trust office at 571-500 Laura George Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8E 2N8 from the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays from January 21, 2018.  
Visit the project webpage at [www.islandstrust.bc.ca](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca)

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# MONEY MATTERS

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## RETIREMENT PLANNING

# Survey finds anxiety among those who will retire solo

Outliving retirement savings a concern for single people

**Life expectancy in Canada has greatly increased, leaving many Canadians at-risk of outliving their retirement savings.**

According to TD's Retiring Solo survey, nearly half (47 per cent) of Canadians 40 years of age or older planning to retire solo share this concern. Many are fearful of rising daily living expenses (63 per cent), not having enough money for necessities (41 per cent) and increasing health-care costs (39 per cent).

"Facing retirement alone is becoming increasingly prevalent, but what is striking in these findings is the high level of anxiety that comes with this trend," said Rowena Chan, senior vice president, TD Wealth Financial Planning. "Canadians planning to retire solo are acutely concerned about whether they are saving enough to meet the wide spectrum of costs they will encounter in their older years — from day-to-day living expenses, to provid-

ing enough for their own care in the event of illness."

Nearly two thirds (65 per cent) of Canadians 40 years of age or older, and currently single, separated, divorced or widowed, feel they will most likely be living "solo" when they retire. This finding corresponds with the 2016 Statistics Canada Census, which found that the percentage of one-person households is at an all-time high and is now the most common type of living arrangement.

Whether by choice or circumstance, retiring solo is arguably more difficult than for a couple. In fact, nearly four in ten (39 per cent) Canadians planning to retire solo believe they are at a disadvantage compared to dual-income couples when it comes to saving for retirement.

With a single income, those polled (46 per cent) say they struggle to save for retirement while managing day-to-day bills as they have to cover all their

expenses alone — housing, car ownership, utilities, etc.

"For those relying on a single income to fund their retirement, it's critical to think beyond day-to-day financial obligations and plan accordingly for the future," said Chan. "Meeting with a financial planner to put a financial strategy in place can help solo Canadians juggle their current financial demands while building resources for retirement."

To help solo Canadians become retirement ready, TD offers the following tips and advice:

### YOUR RETIREMENT, YOUR WAY —

If you think you'll be retiring solo, establish a plan that will get you that much closer to your retirement goals — whether it's travelling, volunteering or starting a new venture. A plan may

identify your sources of income, estimate expenses, implement a savings program and manage your assets.

### BE A 'SOLO SAVER,' NOT A SPENDER —

Keeping your finances in order, especially when depending on a single income, is critically important. An easy way to ensure you're actively saving for retirement is to set up an automatic authorized payment on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. Also, mix RSPs, pensions (where relevant), TFSA's and non-registered investment accounts to target tax-efficient income-stream options for retirement.

### EDUCATE YOURSELF AND CONTRIBUTE EARLY —

Take the time to educate yourself and start your retirement planning early to maximize the benefits time provides. For example, longer term investing gives you a longer period of potential investment

growth and can help mitigate shorter term fluctuations in the market.

### PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Regardless of how much we plan, inevitably the unexpected happens. When relying on a single income, the financial impact can be even greater. Preparing ahead for unexpected life circumstances, such as an illness or job loss, can reduce the impact on your retirement savings plan and can help you avoid dipping into your nest egg.

Retiring solo makes sensible financial planning necessary. Financial planners can leverage different strategies to help you take the steps needed to target your retirement goals.

### ABOUT THE TD SURVEY —

TD commissioned Environics Research Group to conduct an online survey among a total of 2,500 adults from October 26 – November 3, 2017. Of those, 699 indicated they were 40 years of age or older and stated that they were single, never married, separated, divorced or widowed. Of those 699 respondents, 456 indicated that when they retire, they will most likely be living alone. All respondents resided in Canada.



## REVENUE CANADA

# Tax form changes for 2018

Liberal government has both taken and given

(NC) With the income tax deadline approaching, there are some significant changes that have rolled out this year that will affect many Canadians.

Here are some that can help make filing quicker and easier.

### Public transit reimbursement

Early last year, the government announced the elimination of the public transit reimbursement, citing the credit wasn't effective enough in encouraging the use of public transportation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead of the individual tax credit, the federal government has announced that it will invest \$20 billion over the next 11 years to improve transit across the country.

"Though the credit ended mid-year, you can still claim a 15 per cent non-refundable tax credit for transit passes purchased between January 1 and June 30 on your 2017 income tax and benefit return," says Lisa Gittens, senior tax professional at H&R Block.

### Children's activities

The Children's Arts and Fitness tax credits, including the special supplement for disabled children, will no longer be available. In previous years, par-

ents and guardians were able to receive credits for such activities as art classes, piano lessons, hockey and soccer.

### Small business

Good news for small business owners: the government is moving forward with a plan to lower small business taxes from the current 10.5 per cent to 9 per cent.

### Military credit

In recognition of the commitment and sacrifice members of the Canadian Armed Forces make, it was announced that military salaries of all deployed personnel would be exempt from federal income taxes.

### Education

Back in 2016, the federal government eliminated the federal education and textbook tax credits, to come into effect Jan. 1, 2017. This means 2016 was the last year students were able to make these claims.

"The silver lining here is that the carry-forward rules apply, so any unused education tax credits that arose prior to 2017 are still available to be claimed either this year or subsequent years moving forward," explains Gittens.

Depending on where you live, you may also still be able to claim a provincial credit.

If you have questions about changes to tax laws, contact a local tax expert to ensure you're getting the greatest return possible.

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# people & community

## FAMILIES

# First island baby has dramatic start

Early arrival prompts journey in windstorm

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Leah Weir and Graham Guenther were not expecting to have Salt Spring's first baby of 2018 with a birth on Jan. 23. Indeed, they were not expecting their third child at all for another five weeks.

Weir has a condition that means she can only give birth by Caesarean section. Ironically, she had tried and failed to book time at B.C. Women's Hospital in Vancouver before emergency labour saw her end up there anyway.

"The wild thing is it was the night of the big storm [on Jan. 20] and they couldn't get a helicopter up," Weir said.

There was also a question of holding a ferry and which hospital to go to since all of them were full. In the end, Weir took a very bumpy water taxi ride to Sidney, an ambulance ride to the Victoria airport and a small twin-engine plane to Vancouver, all through the storm.

"I've never had so much gratitude for the Canadian health care system as in that moment," Weir said.

Baby Wren held on for four days after that and then decided he was ready to come out. Guenther and their two older sons Finnegan, 9, and Jude, 6, were already on their way



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

First baby born to a Salt Spring family in 2018 is Wren Liam Lightning Guenther. Parents are Graham Guenther and Leah Weir, with siblings Finnegan, left, and Jude.

from Salt Spring and made it just in time. The family was put up at Ronald McDonald House, which they described as a fun castle.

Wren was a little over five pounds when he was born and has since gained around a pound and half. His brothers chose his two middle names. Finnegan chose Liam as a combina-

tion of their parents' first names. The boys are excited to have their new baby at last.

Weir, Guenther and the kids were overwhelmed to receive a basket of gifts from local businesses through the Driftwood's first baby celebration and passed on sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

## FILM

# Myanmar film shares struggles and strengths

Film fest volunteer compares film with visit to Myanmar

BY JIM MCCLUSKEY  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Venerable W, showing at this year's Salt Spring Film Festival, is a disturbing portrayal of Burmese monk Wirathu. In numerous interviews Wirathu reveals himself to be anything but venerable as he calmly espouses his brand of anti-Islamic vitriol, especially against the ethnic Muslim minority group in Rakhine State known as the Rohingya.

In 2012 my wife and I spent a month travelling in Myanmar, our second visit. Coincidentally we went to Wirathu's monastery in Mandalay. We learned the head monk was anti-Muslim, but nothing more. Later that year, violence in Rakhine State, inspired by Wirathu's sermons, left scores dead and tens of

thousands homeless.

The risk for casual viewers is in thinking this is a documentary about Myanmar, rather than a report on this particular situation. The area that is now Myanmar has had a complex and turbulent history. The century of British occupation (1824-1948) and wars fought there has left a troubling legacy.

The situation the Rohingya find themselves in is not unique in Myanmar. There are other conflicts in remote areas with semi-sovereign ethnic tribes, some of which have standing armies.

As mentioned in the film, in 2015 a number of armed ethnic groups signed a ceasefire, but not all did. Fighting continues in the north, along the Chinese border, with the largely Christian Kachin Independence Army.

Much is made of the idea that the Rohingya have been in Myanmar for a long time, but the majority

there today are just a few generations from labourers who migrated from what is now Bangladesh during the British occupation.

In a country where other ethnic groups can trace their roots back a thousand years, the Rohingya are perceived as not only recent, but "apart." They are religiously, ethnically, culturally and linguistically distinct. None of that excuses the treatment of them, of course, but it provides some rationale for the impact of the clearly bigoted, nationalistic monk, Wirathu.

Part of the puzzlement about this situation for those of us in the West, is that the behavior of Wirathu and his followers is not what we think of when we think of Buddhists. They are supposed to be pacifists and spend their time meditating. Monks stirring up genocidal attacks seems very strange.

Leading monks, some interviewed in the film, have spoken out against Wirathu. His intolerant views are counter to what Buddhism teaches, they say.

Though the film may leave some viewers in despair over the situation, Myanmar in general is a remarkable country with a great deal of drive and optimism. The people remain our favourites of anywhere we have been, for their kindness, open curiosity about the world, and self-sufficiency.

In just a few short years Myanmar has gone from a military totalitarian government to one that is taking cautious steps towards democracy. It is a process, and it will take time.

Photo-journalist Greg Constantine, with more than a decade of experience documenting the stateless condition of the Rohingya, will lead a Q&A session after the screening of The Venerable W on March 4.

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DEATHS	DEATHS	IN MEMORIAM	IN MEMORIAM	INFORMATION	EDUCATION/TUTORING	CONCRETE & PLACING

**JEAN LILLIAN BARNES**  
July 23, 1923 - December 17, 2017

Our family is sorry to announce that our Mom, Sister, Nana, Aunt and Cousin, Jean Barnes, passed away peacefully on Dec. 17 in Duncan, BC at the age of 94. We're going to miss her deeply, but are so grateful that she lived such a full and long life. She is survived by her loving children Leslee Quesnel and Dave Barnes, her sister Joy Cunningham, and their families.

Thanks to the staff at Selkirk Seniors Village and Sunridge Place for taking such good care of her for the past couple of years. An informal celebration of life for family and friends to gather will be held on Sat., Feb. 10 from 1-3pm at 1221 Sutherland Drive, Cowichan Bay.



**IAN LOUDEN DROST**  
Nov. 6, 1930 - Jan. 27, 2018

Ian was born in Vancouver, B.C., on November 6, 1930, the only child of Helen and Herbert Mason (H.M.) Drost. He attended Prince of Wales Elementary School in Vancouver, and, later, Brentwood College School on Vancouver Island. In 1954, Ian graduated from UBC with a law degree, and joined his father in the family law firm of Drost, Drost, Coultas and Standfield, which eventually became Drost, Affleck and Knott.

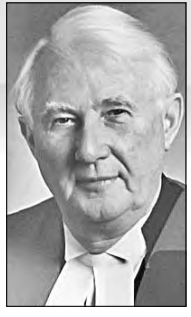
In 1985, Ian was appointed as a judge, first to the County Court of New Westminster, then to the County Court of Vancouver, in 1987, and finally to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, in 1990, where he served until his 75th birthday in 2005. Ian lived and worked mostly in Vancouver, but moved to Salt Spring Island with his wife Catherine in 2003, and then, last year, to Victoria.

As a young man, Ian was actively involved in politics at the provincial and federal level. He loved British Columbia, and often remarked how fortunate he was to be able to travel to so many towns and places in the province, both as a circuit court judge, and as a political campaign strategist during some of the federal and provincial elections in the late 50s and early 60s.

A life-long sailor, he was a sea cadet in high school, and was later commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve. He enjoyed cruising and racing in the Pacific Northwest with his family and many friends. Family was always Ian's primary focus, and he managed to balance family life with heavy work demands and responsibilities. Ian's friendliness, wisdom, consideration, compassion, and good sense of humour were always in evidence, and highly appreciated by his family, friends, colleagues, and many associates.

Ian passed away peacefully on January 27, 2018. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Catherine, their three children, John (Rose), Anne (Jacques), and Helen (Simon), and their three grandchildren, Emma, Audrey and Flora.

Ian's family would like to extend a warm thank you to the entire homecare team and staff at his retirement home, who provided so much care and support. There will be a private Funeral, and, at a later date, a public Memorial Service will be held for Ian Loudon Drost. For more information on the date and location of the Memorial Service, or any other inquiries, or to offer condolences, or share photos and memories of Ian, please contact McCall Gardens at 250-385-4465, or visit their website at [www.mccallgardens.com](http://www.mccallgardens.com).



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**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

DEATHS

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

DEATHS

**Elwood, Catherine Freda**  
April 24, 1925 - January 24, 2018

Catherine Freda Elwood lived in Qualicum Beach B.C., and died January 24, 2018, at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

Born April 24, 1925, in Parksville B.C. to Rev. Charles and Edith (Park) Popham, Catherine grew up on Salt Spring Island. She was a Wren during the war stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She married Hank in 1958 and they soon made their residence in Qualicum Beach. Catherine worked for School District 69 from 1963 until her retirement in 1984.

From an early age drawing and painting were one of her passions which had to be fit in around life. Later on she became an enthusiastic landscape gardener, creating a visual painting with plants and a restful solitude from the outside world. In recent years when her body started to protest tree planting and rock path making, she started to paint avidly. We are left with many images of things she held dear in her paintings. Her personal library is vast, a testament to her love of reading and learning.

She was predeceased by her husband Henry Elwood and her parents. She is mourned by her son Christopher (Linda), of Qualicum Beach, and grandchildren James (Emily) and their three girls of Lethbridge, Thomas (Jenna) of Port Hardy, H. Elizabeth of Toronto, and Hank's children Richard (Sheryl), Lois (Robert) George, Maureen Elwood and grandchildren.

She will always be remembered for her unwavering faith, meaningful conversations, spunk, fierce independence, her bright mind, and her love of wildflowers. At her request there will be no formal service. She will be cremated and interred at St. Mark's, Qualicum Beach.

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## SENIORS CENTRE

# Active Learning topics excite seniors centre crowds

Monday and Tuesday editions ongoing

Active Learning is a program started three years ago at Salt Spring Seniors. It is peer learning. That means we don't bring in "experts" or lecturers but rather tap into your personal interests and ask you to share research, concerns and opinions with others.

Each study group at Active Learning is made up of people who have interests in common. For instance, the first study group was Canadian

Art. It was very extensive and interesting and, eventually, the group wanted to go further so they expanded to the History of Art. After two years the group has decided to go on to the History of Architecture. And that is Active Learning, the Monday Edition. It happens at 2 p.m. every Monday and you're welcome to join. It's free.

There's another study group at Active Learning. It is on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the Dawson Lounge, hence the Tuesday Edition. Its focus is on Global Issues in Historical Perspective. It started in the fall with The Flight from Rationality in Contem-

## SENIORS CENTRE NEWS

porary Politics, and progressed to the controversy over sexual abuse and harassment that continues to dominate our news and change our world.

Now the group is delving into Drowning in Our Own Waste, an in-depth look at how plastic, specifically, and other wastes, have come to rule every aspect of our lives from our

food, to our waterways and oceans, even the clothes we wear. Is it possible to redeem the earth from plastics? How can we do this on Salt Spring? Do we need to ask governments to mandate this as a major concern? That is Active Learning, the Tuesday Edition. It happens at 2 p.m. every Tuesday, and you're welcome to join.

The basics of Active Learning are simple: respectful dialogue is the norm, everyone gets to speak and the sky is the limit. Members decide when to meet and the topic. One peer learning group in the Okanagan was so interested in astronomy that they

bought telescopes and helped to raise money for an observatory.

Love travel? What about a study group that researches a country or region, then packs up the members and goes on a trip there? Is cooking your passion? You could set up monthly or weekly dinners, or group visits to ethnic restaurants.

If you want some help starting your own Active Learning study group, call David Counts, 250-538-8595, or Neva Hohn at 250-537-6426, or leave a message at the Seniors Centre, 379 Lower Ganges Rd., or 250-537-4606.

## DUPLICATE BRIDGE

# Shakespearean verse makes for merry bridge reporting

Rainy day games

BY JILL EVANS

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Rain, rain, rain and more rain plus fog — this has been a winter of our discontent.

But never mind — there's bridge, and our stern alarms

are changed to merry meetings. All the clouds that lour'd upon our house are made glorious summer for themselves by these sons of guns, namely Jeff Bell and Prem Margolese,

who on Jan. 22 were well ahead of the other pairs of duplicate players — four and a half tables-worth.

Second place went to Oleh Mycyk and Brent Vickers, with Trinlay MacPhee and Ted Bartrim coming third. Fourth place was occupied by Bob Ripley and, at last, a lady: the

ambling nymph of his wife Judy.

The idle pleasures of these days continued on Jan. 29 when plots were laid and inductions dangerous occurred among the four full tables, resulting in brows bound with victorious wreaths for Bell and Margolese yet again. Runners-up

were George Laundry and Terry Clement complete with his new knee. Patricia Hewett and Bob Morrisette were in the third spot and Trinlay MacPhee partnered this time with Don Nemeth came fourth.

If you are shaped for sportive tricks and would like some

delight to pass away the time and fright the souls of fearful adversaries on another day, contact George Laundry at [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca) or 250-653-9095.

And please forgive the distorted phrases supplied here and borrowed willy-nilly from Shakespeare's Richard III.

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# Noroscope

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A historical Lunar Eclipse in our rearview, the implications of which linger like a large Tibetan Bell for those destined to receive its powerful impulse, the first of 4 Solar Eclipses fast approaches. Few assume that 2018, the Universal 11-Year, the root Master Number in Numerology, is destined to be anything less than extraordinary and pivotal. The biggest impact stands to be on our perceptions and interpretations of what we call reality, both individually and collectively. Many people are likely to reach for tradition as paradox steadily emerges as a new norm. Currently and at the time of the Solar Eclipse on February 15th, Mercury and Venus on either side of the Sun from our vantage here on earth will produce an anchoring theme until the next Solar Eclipse in July. Mercury as the scout planet serves be leading with information rather coldly, and can be described as calculating, alert, observant, pragmatic, factual, cold, callous, independent, self-sufficient, committed to self especially, non-sentimental, decisive, leader, indifferent, dictatorial. Fortunately, Mercury in Aquarius is in an auspicious sign placement usually manifesting as open-mindedness and is also quite future-oriented. Uranus rules Aquarius and therefore is the disposer of this intellectual transference. Since Uranus is in Aries, the tone and probably action will include an added measure of pioneering assertion and pointedness. Mars is the ruler of Aries so it, in turn, will transfer the energy and with it in Sagittarius, we get another dose of fire. Jupiter, the ruler of Sagittarius in Scorpio, co-ruled by Mars, will increase this overall impulse in a deep way, like an underground explosion. Exciting times! How are these energies destined to impact you? [sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com)

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Sometimes you want to go big, while at others you want to dive deep, and sometimes you want both, like now. How to achieve this goal is for you to decide. At worst, you are feeling a push-pull stress factor going on inside you. The solution to the riddle is available regardless of your circumstance. Ask how and be open to receive an answer.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)

Your ambitions continue to steadily rise. You are inspired by the prospect of revealing yet another layer of what makes you unique and special. Yet, you also feel like ducking out of the limelight these days. This is a call within to lay claim to what makes you special to you yourself. It likely has to do with enjoying creative expression, as an end in itself.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Big shifts are shaking and they may be leaving you feeling a bit insecure. Yet, these can be interpreted as representing an invitation to expand your perspectives. Doing so may require courage, so add that to the top of your objectives. Consider that over analysis and excess imagination are the instigators of fear.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You are undergoing a mini-cycle of change. Your usual self-concept and mode of perspectives is under review. Strange and inexplicable events may be prompting you to question things, perhaps everything. This can be the source of anxiety. Keep breathing and allow the process to unfold. Enjoy entertaining concepts and perspectives you have not before considered.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

The world is your oyster. Now, why don't others quite recognize that? You are willing to share it... Playing with wild ideas and concepts has everyone talking these days. For your part, you want to dive right in and deeply too. Engaging with others to share the experience is a source of excitement and inspiration. But first, you want to make it clear whose oyster it is...

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Talk about multi-dimensionality! Okay, perhaps you are simply multitasking. Either way, you are digging deeper than you have for a while. This is producing a process of change in your attitude and usual lifestyle rhythms. Exercising more discipline with time management could prove helpful, even necessary. Play with time and break free of repetitive patterns.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Gadzooks Picasso, you are feeling creative these days. Whether playing, dancing, performing, inventing, expressing, creating, making love..., you are in the mood to try new approaches. Your ambitions are strong and your energy levels are high so the time is right to take the initiative. Think beyond usual perimeters and parameters then ride that thought wave.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Reaching beyond existing limits continues. A financial increase is featured. Yet, you feel determined to do it your way. While you want more, you are extra reluctant to settle for average or ordinary. This resolve may be pushing you, therefore, to be inventive. Brainstorming for ideas is likely too. Go crazy and get outlandish to stretch your mind.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Sometimes we expand without and sometimes within and sometimes both. This is one of those times when inner and outer reaching is important, perhaps necessary. The outer reach is to open your mind to new perspectives and interpretations. The inner reach is to access hidden reserves of faith. Help is available in both domains, but you have to ask for it.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Many changes over the past year continue to produce waves both within and without. Although it is likely that your scope of friends and alliances has likely grown, you find yourself having to access courage and face some fears. Knowing your best direction is extra important now and this is a core motivation behind your process.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Are you ready to take new initiatives? Well, ready or not, the time has come for you to do so. This will become increasingly apparent over the next 2-3 weeks and will linger throughout spring too. The main thing now is an attitude of willingness. Once it is securely in place, your focus and determination to succeed will come to the fore.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

A concentrated, creative focus is underway. You are determined to make positive changes in your overall life flow. Financial increase is likely to be a central theme. A learning curve is implied and may require that you share knowledge and skills development as much as receive it. The time is right to entertain new methods and strategies.

# sports & recreation



## BASKETBALL

# SIMS team earns top mid-island spot



Back row, from left: coach Annette Wright, Cody Pursell, Reuben Wright, Koah Barstead, Sel Patterson, Hans Hu, Eli England, Luca Curcio and coach Jude Shugar. Front row, from left: Korin Kikuchi, Ben Shugar, Thomas Schulze, Om Decosas and Sebastian Stratford.

Grade 8 boys undefeated so far

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring Island Middle School's Grade 8 boys basketball team won the mid-island championship title on Friday. "They have had a stellar basketball season," said SIMS

teacher and team co-coach Jude Shugar.

As the number-one seed in the tournament, the boys had a bye in the first game played at Islands Savings Centre in Duncan.

SIMS won handily against Cowichan in the first game, said Shugar.

The boys then faced Frances Kelsey in the final, which proved a tough battle.

"We pressed them from the tip-off and had a lead of 20 points at the half," said Shugar. "Kelsey battled back in the second half with some strong outside shooting and made it close but we ended up winning a high-scoring game 66-56."

The team now waits to hear if they will play the top team in either the north or south island championships for a

potential berth at provincial championships at the beginning of March.

The boys had an undefeated regular season and are an impressive group, said Shugar. "They have really progressed incredibly quickly and are a very dynamic, fast-paced team. They are exciting to watch."

Annette Wright is the team's other coach.

## FITNESS

# Advice for all levels of runners offered

Sneakers club holds free open houses

Both seasoned runners and beginners can benefit from a Salt Spring Sneakers program taking place this month.

Every Thursday in February from 10 to 11 a.m. at Portlock Park, Sneakers coach Susan Gordon will be available to answer any questions about training, improving running, starting a program, selecting gear, finding races and any other running-related topics.

Gordon is a NCCP trained coach and world masters-ranked runner.

The free open house information sessions take place during the Sneakers' Thursday long interval workouts at the park.

"While we do have a competitive and successful race team among club members, not everybody is out there running for points and medals," said Gordon. "In fact, we highly encourage newcomers to the sport, and hope to inspire, not intimidate, those who have an interest in running or

race walking."

The social aspect of being part of a group is extremely helpful for those who need structure and motivation to stay with a fitness program, she added.

"The coach is there to ensure that different levels of runners and walkers are correctly supervised for their current fitness level and monitored as they work toward achieving new personal goals."

Besides the past 10 years as a top competitive runner in a variety of track and road distances, Gordon draws on 25 years as a professional trainer of horses and riders in equestrian sport disciplines. This background with exceptional athletes and highly respected mentors, both two-legged and four, has supplied her with a unique perspective along with her passion for teaching others in areas of her own sport success.

"It has to be a joyful experience for everyone," said Gordon. "Yes, there is hard work, and muscles will ache, but there's always a reward to be had. In my program, you leave the track or arena happy, or I'm not happy."



Susan Gordon, Sneakers member and coach, at the 2017 BMO 8K in Vancouver.

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**D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,**

**Streets of Salt Spring Island**

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250-537-9933 or  
dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com

# Salt Spring's first baby of 2018

*Wren Liam Lightning Guenther was born on Jan. 23, 2018, at 11:04 p.m. weighing just over 5 pounds. Happy family members are parents Leah Weir and Graham Guenther and brothers Finnegan and Jude. (See story on page 16).*



### Congratulations!

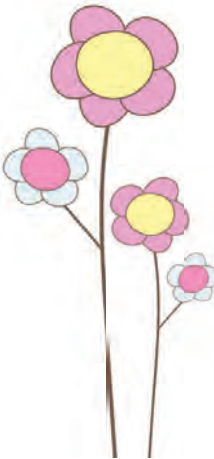


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Congratulations to the family of Salt Spring's first baby of 2018!

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