



GULF ISLANDS  
**Driftwood**

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 58TH YEAR — ISSUE 8 **\$1.25** (incl. GST)



PHOTO COURTESY SD64/JOHN CAMERON

GISS English teacher Ray Colleran, left, receives a Teachers Building Leaders Award from nominator Cole Smith, a 2013 GISS grad and Loran Scholar, at a surprise presentation at the high school last Wednesday.

**EDUCATION**

**GISS teachers earn Loran awards**

Former student nominates Smith and Colleran

**BY MARC KITTERINGHAM**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two Salt Spring Island teachers were honoured by a former student on Feb. 14.

GISS teacher Ray Colleran and former principal Judy Smith were awarded the Loran Scholarship's Teachers Building Leaders Award after being nominated by Cole Smith, who graduated from GISS in 2013 and was a Loran Scholarship recipient.

"The Loran Teachers Building Leaders award recognizes teachers that have been integral to the development of our young leaders . . . who serve our Canadian communities," said schools superintendent Lisa Halstead in presenting Judy Smith's award at a school board meeting at Salt Spring Elementary School.

Judy Smith was principal at GISS when Cole Smith was a student. He moved to Salt Spring Island in his Grade 11 year and attended GISS until graduation. He remembered Smith's influence and impact on his education, saying that she "played an absolutely life-changing role in my development as a leader. She would pop in to see classroom presentations, attend performances and challenge students about their myriad pursuits in the multi-purpose room. She was the most directly active in student lives of any administrator I'd encountered until this point."

Colleran was Cole Smith's English teacher in his senior year at GISS. Though the former student nominated Colleran specifically, he mentioned other teachers as well in his speech on Feb. 14. Colleran received his award at the GISS honour roll presentations.

**LORAN** continued on 4

**PARKS**

**Park users react to tree cutting**

Policy draft recommended after Mouat Park uproar

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has asked staff to bring back policy options for tree removal in parks following an unexpected backlash against one of its key projects for 2018.

Select tree felling and marking that took place in Mouat Park last week in the area where a family bike park is planned alarmed many islanders. An alert that

Mona Fertig posted on the Salt Spring Community Alliance Facebook page provoked hundreds of comments.

"As a long-time user of the park, it was a shock to see so many marked and felled," Fertig wrote. "Mouat's is a public park and there needs to be public consultation before a bike park, camping area, bird sanctuary, pitch and putt, or whatever is okayed."

The situation prompted a last-minute

agenda item at PARC's regularly scheduled business meeting Monday night. Commissioner Brian Webster observed it is the second time that tree removal has stirred conflict in the recent past, and said having a tree policy of some kind is usual for other local governments.

"I think it is a gap and I think it leaves us vulnerable," he said.

**MOUAT PARK** continued on 2

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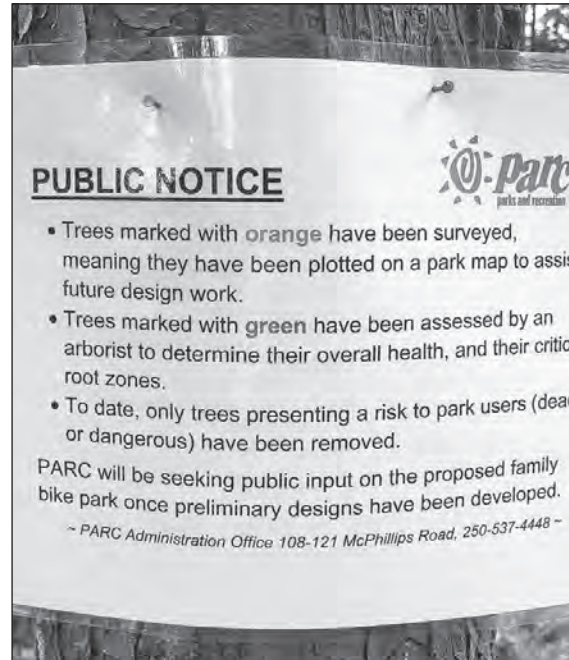
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# Design process to prioritize tree preservation



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, trees felled in Mouat Park after being identified as dangerous or unhealthy by an arborist, not to facilitate bike park plans for the area; PARC sign explaining orange and green markings on trees and an update about bike park consultation plans.

## MOUAT PARK

continued from 1

“And it puts staff in a difficult position when something like what happened in recent days takes place and a fuss ensues, and staff are not able to say, ‘There’s a clear policy on how we deal with trees and we have followed the policy in this way and that way,’” Webster said.

Parks manager Dan Ovington reported Friday that only dead and dying trees that had been flagged as dangerous by an arborist were removed, and that work was done independently of the bike park project. At the same time, other large trees were marked so they can be part of the upcoming design process.

“Tree preservation and ecological conditions will drive the site planning and design of the bike park — not the other way

around. Tree preservation is paramount and considered desirable by all stakeholders, including bike park proponents,” Ovington explained.

PARC first publicly entertained a Salt Spring Bike Club proposal to create a family bike park in September 2016. According to project information, a family bike park is defined as “a dirt surfaced, outdoor recreation space with technical features professionally designed to facilitate and develop bicycle skills among children, youth and adults.” The bike park has been proposed for a .8-acre section of Mouat Park’s 60-plus acres but the design plan has yet to be drafted.

The Salt Spring Lions Club offered provisional funding in 2017 and made an official announcement of \$150,000 for the project in January. PARC also received support from the Capital Regional District, with

\$33,000 from the Community Works Fund granted for environmental and archeological studies and other assessments.

With tree surveying now done, a draft design is expected to be ready for public consultation in March. But some people saw the tree removal as a possible sign the bike park is progressing without the appropriate procedure.

“If there is a proper process for this, fair enough. If not, it’s a dangerous precedent, whether or not you like the trees or the path felling them makes possible,” Peter Levitt wrote in the Facebook discussion.

Ovington agreed the optics were awkward, because dangerous trees were marked in green spray paint while the surveyed trees were marked in orange, making it appear that all trees were slated for something. At least one tree that was marked with orange was taken down. As

well, signs explaining the situation went up only after people started to take notice.

“In hindsight that maybe wasn’t the best idea, but hindsight is 20-20,” Ovington said.

Ovington said PARC and the bike club have already met with park user groups, including the surrounding schools and preschools, School District 64, ArtSpring, the disc golf club, and park neighbours, with additional meetings planned for March.

The bike park’s draft conceptual plan will include recommendations for environmental protection and mitigation. Community and stakeholder feedback will be solicited once the conceptual plan is ready, with revisions to be made based on feedback. Construction is hoped to begin in May and to be completed within two months.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 64

# School enrollment affected by attendance policy changes

Drafts available leading up to overall rewrite

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Enrollment for Gulf Islands schools has opened, with some changes to two policies. Parents with students who are looking to register for classes in 2018-19 are invited to do so using the registration form that can be found on the school district’s website.

Policies that are changing are the attendance areas policy for kindergarten to Grade 8, and the transportation/water taxi policy.

The changes come as the school board is launching a complete revision of their policies. These two are notable because they pertain to school enrollment, which begins before the new document can be finalized.

“We are in the process of revising our entire policy and procedure manual and that we hope to have that out for consult by the end of February or early March at the latest,” said superintendent Lisa Halstead. “As we go into registration for the 2018-19 school year we want to make sure that we are working towards our new policies that are going out for consult, so

if there are glitches in the policies we’re actually working so the long-term policies that we adopt work well for our families.”

Parents are encouraged to enroll their children in the schools that serve their community. Enrolling students in the schools closest to them also ensures accurate enrollment numbers across the district.

Halstead explained that keeping students within their communities “keeps communities vibrant. In small rural communities the school quite often is the hub of everything that happens. You hear across the province

about lots of small neighbourhood schools closing and that impacts everything else in the community.”

Permission may be granted to enroll in other schools depending on availability and space at each school. Requests should be in by March 15 in order to secure a spot. This applies for students who want to enroll in particular schools or programs like French Immersion or Phoenix Elementary School.

The plans for the new policies include combining the water taxi and the existing transportation policy into a catch-all to

avoid complication. The re-write of the policies is because of the aging document and the fact that many policies refer to others. The board’s policy committee has found it is just simpler to rewrite the entire document.

Anyone who is looking to register in a school that is not their local catchment area is asked to refer to the documents posted on the school district website for information on cross boundary schooling and transportation.

The two policy changes are expected to be enacted at the next school board meeting on March 14.



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# NEWSBEAT

## Heads up!

### SSI Transportation Commission Meeting:

Monday, FEBRUARY 26

SS Public Library Program Room, 4 p.m.

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Value of Trust's industrial lands project questioned

Residents request LTC take a step back

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

About 35 residents turned out for a public hearing on industrial land bylaws Friday morning, with the majority of speakers asking the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee for better communication and more time to understand the implications.

Participants attending the 10 a.m. session at Meaden Hall made comments on various aspects of three related bylaws that are proposed to ease pressures on industrial land by transforming zoning to categories of "general employment." Aside from concerns related to individual properties, many voiced frustration about how information was shared. As well, there was much confusion about the term "industrial" being replaced, the value of the project itself, and whether the LTC's intention was to increase or decrease places where industrial uses are permitted.

Salt Spring trustee George Grams explained the six-year process began shortly after he and fellow trustee Peter Grove were elected to their first term in 2011. Two significant zoning controversies that made the issue prominent to Grams were the former LTC's decision against rezoning property for the Salt Spring Coffee Company on Fulford-Ganges Road and a similar decision against Salt Spring Metal Recycling on Rainbow Road.

"The situation with industrial lands on the island was simply that we inherited the zoning that existed



From left: recording secretary Sarah Shugar, planner Rob Milne, LTC chair Peter Luckham and trustees Peter Grove and George Grams listen to comment on industrial land use bylaws during a public hearing on Friday.

when the Islands Trust was born in 1974, when the population of this island was perhaps three and a half thousand. We're now three times that," Grams observed, noting island service had likewise grown in sophistication and volume to meet the population's needs without new industrial lands to house them.

Grams reported the industrial lands review project started with a needs analysis and included a community commission, oversight by a consultant and a comprehensive report before the new bylaws were drafted in response to the findings.

"Now maybe we haven't gotten it right. But I can ensure you the intention was absolutely right, to resolve the situation of Salt Spring," Grams said. "The reason we changed from

industrial to general employment is because of the stigma that attaches to the word 'industrial.' We thought we were helping the island.

"There are no smokestack industries on Salt Spring, they're all kind of small craft industries, and that's one of the reasons we thought it would soften the impact of having industry next to you if the term was not as inflammatory as the industrial zoning suggest it might be."

During the public comment session, Patri Janyk said she felt permitted uses are not being applied fairly or consistently among properties that are currently in industrial zones. Beyond that, she said the real problem is the "spot zoning" that developed over time. Janyk said the proposed bylaws do nothing to cor-

rect that issue because the question of where industrial lands should be located is still not resolved.

John Quesnel of Salt Spring Metal Recycling has registered concern about the term "general employment" on several occasions through the project's process, as well as the way public notification has been issued.

"I'd like to respectfully request you guys back up a step or two and go back to the second reading and actually notify all the people and give us the proper opportunity to digest this, to submit and have time, because there's a lot of people here that have spoken and said 'Look, I've just found out about this,'" Quesnel said.

Others request that information

be shared in easier packages, rather than a binder full of 30-page staff reports and technical jargon.

"I don't have time to read that great big manual. What I do is get up in the morning and I serve the community, and I go to work," said Kurt Irwin, owner of Irwin Collision. "And now you're proposing to make a change to my property, that we've paid for, that we've had since 1970. I think in consideration the Trust should be coming and asking me about how I feel about my property and the changes ... I need plain English. I need someone to come and speak to me as a business owner."

The question of how the new bylaws interpret marine industrial uses was raised by Pete Davidson, the owner two of former "tank farms" for petroleum storage. He said the proposed bylaws that permit only boat building and storage don't consider the past 15 years of non-petroleum use and therefore need to be looked at.

All responses on the bylaws made prior to the end of Friday's hearing will be part of the public record. Staff will take into account the new information received and suggest next steps. The report will most likely be ready for consideration at the end of March.

LTC members Grams and Grove acknowledged that perhaps too much time has passed since the project started to keep information fresh in mind, and that another approach may be needed.

"I appreciate the views today, and maybe we do need to take a step back," Grams concluded.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Thefts from cars reported

Salt Spring RCMP are reminding islanders to lock their vehicles and remove valuables from them following incidents of thefts in the Ganges area.

Between the dates of Feb. 14 and 17, RCMP received sev-

eral complaints of items being taken from inside unlocked motor vehicles. Items were taken from the parking lots of Country Grocer and Lady Minto Hospital. Suspicious activity was also reported in downtown Ganges.

Anyone with information regarding the thefts or any other incidents is urged

to contact Salt Spring RCMP at 250-537-5555 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

### Pot shop raided

A local cannabis dispensary was raided by Island Health and RCMP on Feb 6.

According to Leaf Compassion dispensary owner

Kyle Cheyne, he was ordered to take edible cannabis products and pour bleach on them. Cheyne said he also received a letter stating that if he continued to sell edibles the store would be shut down permanently.

Island Health environmental health officer Christopher Laughlin ordered the removal and destruction of

edible marijuana products.

Island Health informed all dispensaries in 2017 that marijuana sales in the form of edibles was not allowed under the Public Health Act Food and Premises Regulation.

Meribeth Burton, who works in communications at Island Health, explained that "every operator of a

food premises must ensure the food they are selling is obtained from an approved source and has been prepared in accordance with the regulation."

Island Health's environmental health officers are advised to destroy food products that are not compliant so they cannot be repackaged or resold.

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## TECHNOLOGY

# Gulf Islands robotics team to compete in Victoria

Student-led competition builds skills and teamwork

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School robotics team is gearing up for a competition in Victoria in mid-March.

For the second year in a row, the Cyber Scorpions will compete in the Canadian Pacific Regional F.I.R.S.T. robotics competition. F.I.R.S.T. is a program that lets high school students build skills and experiences that will eventually lead them to careers in science, technology and engineering. A series of competitions are held across North America where students design robots to fulfill certain tasks.

"It's a student-led activity," said Hannah Lawson, GISS student and head of the business team for the Cyber Scorpions. "The adults are mainly only there because for one we need teachers to be involved so that we can actually do it . . . and two we need teachers to be involved so that they can teach us how to program, how to fabricate and how to write out a budget."

Not only do teams build an industrial-sized robot with limited resources, they must also raise



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
GISS robotics team adult mentors, from left, Doug Chapman, Kenn Danner and Greg Slakov assist student Thomas Boland with a project.

funds, design a brand for their team and complete the goal of building a robot from scratch in six weeks.

Teams from across Canada all get their information packs at the

same time, which for the Scorpions was at 7 in the morning. F.I.R.S.T. sends teams a few parts that are specialized to robotics, but the rest must be sourced from the commu-

nity and put together with the help of professional mentors. The build process leads up to the competition in Victoria, where the Cyber Scorpions will face other teams in a challenging field game.

Tom Boland, a GISS student and the lead programmer for the team who also competed at last year's event, explained that the process is designed much like a video game would be.

"On the field there are three balance scales, two lower ones on each end and a taller one in the middle, about five or six feet high. The idea is that we have to pick up the cubes and put them on the scales. Depending on which side each balance is tipped, either your team gets points or the other team gets points. Each second that you own one of them you get a point."

There is also a final round, in which teams work together in two groups to get robots to climb and hang onto a ladder rung. The team whose robots spend most time off the ground wins.

"There's a little rung about 14 inches wide and somehow all three robots on your team have to climb at least 12 inches on that rung," he said. "The robots are big, so they don't really fit on the rung, so that's one of the challenges to solve. We get points for however many robots are able to climb."

While the program is run by the students, teachers and community volunteers play a big role with the team. Local mentors are Greg Slakov, Doug Chapman, Kenn Danner, Lochinvar Roome, Dan Perry and Rachel FitzZaland, who have given their time and expertise to help the students succeed. The team also depends on community businesses. Windsor Plywood and Bellavance Welding have both donated materials.

"This program really wouldn't exist without [the volunteers]," said FitzZaland, lead mentor for the team and a GISS teacher. "They've spent many long nights in the GISS shop and computer lab."

This will be the second year that the Cyber Scorpions get to compete in the event. Last year, the team qualified for Western Canada regional championships in Calgary. They were defeated in the semi-final round.

The competition takes place on March 15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Save on Foods Memorial Centre in Victoria. Everyone is encouraged to come watch.

The team is currently fundraising for their trip to Victoria. Funds are needed for transportation and accommodation. Anyone who would like to support the team can donate at <https://fundrazr.com/cyberscorpions>.

## Recognition appreciated



PHOTO COURTESY SD 64/JOHN CAMERON

Past GISS principal Judy Smith and GISS alumnus Cole Smith, who nominated his former principal for a special award.

### LORAN

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"They kind of called me out as a special thing at the end," Colleran said. "It was a nice surprise. The students all got to their feet and that was really heartwarming. I was saying afterwards that everybody should be given an opportunity at some point to be given a standing ovation for just coming to work and doing what you do."

Colleran said GISS' supportive environment is extremely helpful to students.

"I've had a number of my colleagues from the school, teachers and staff, say that they felt like they were all sharing in it," he said. "I think that you can feel

unappreciated at times. You can go long stretches without knowing what kind of job you're doing here. To be reminded of that is really nice."

In addition to the awards, the two educators were given letters from former Governor General David Johnston.

The Loran Scholarship is Canada's largest four-year undergraduate award. Valued at \$100,000, up to 34 students are chosen each year from over 5,000 applicants. The award covers a full four years of tuition as well as mentorship opportunities and a summer internship.

Cole Smith used his scholarship to attend Queen's University in Kingston to take his undergraduate degree in math and philosophy.



Islands Trust

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### Bylaw No. 509

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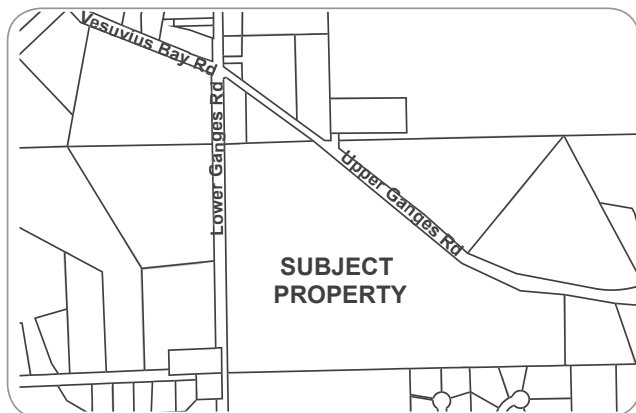
## PUBLIC HEARING

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are the bylaw changes about?

Bylaw No. 509 amends the Parks and Reserve 3(a) zone of the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw to:

- Permit two indoor tennis courts
- Permit outdoor tennis courts
- Remove the cap on number of permitted buildings for these additional uses.



How do I get more information?

Copies of the bylaws and other information is available at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays from February 14, 2018. Written submissions are welcome up until the conclusion of the Public Hearing.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) to answer any questions about the proposed bylaw amendment will take place at 9:30 a.m. The Public Hearing will commence immediately following the CIM.

PARKS AND RECREATION

# PARC narrows in on Centennial washroom upgrade

Disc golf expansion plans also discussed

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Centennial Park washroom project has taken a small step forward.

Plans to build a washroom with some basic water-saving features like waterless urinals and low-flow toilets have been approved, pending an updated cost estimate, the Parks and Recreation Commission heard at its Monday night meeting.

The design is based on an existing CRD facility, with some modifications to meet the needs of Salt Spring Island. Bigger green features like solar panels and a green roof were determined to be too expensive.

To have every feature of the washroom would cost upwards of \$750,000, whereas the original plan would be closer to \$500,000. PARC members voted to follow through with the staff recommendation to approve the preliminary designs of the washroom and to follow up with a more detailed cost estimate.

The board is applying for a grant from Co-op Community Spaces Funding that would cover 20 per cent of the cost of the washroom building, if approved.

## Disc golf

A new disc golf course for Salt Spring was also on Monday's agenda.

Built in Peter Arnell Park, the course would be more difficult than the one that exists

in Mouat Park. The new course would also be certified with the Professional Disc Golf Association and would attract sanctioned tournament play from around the region.

Before construction can begin, an environmental assessment that would cost approximately \$7,500 needs to be done.

PARC chose to wait until the strategic plan update has been completed.

## Tree House Cafe

The Tree House Cafe is re-applying for a licence to occupy the undeveloped portion of Manson Road under PARC/CRD jurisdiction as an outdoor patio.

The land in question was acquired by the CRD in 2017 to

be used as a pedestrian corridor to the boardwalk along the harbour and to be leased by the Tree House Cafe for outdoor seating.

The lease covers 350 square feet at a value of \$23 per square foot. Under the new lease agreement, which will run until March 2021, part of the road must remain a pedestrian walkway and allow emergency access to the boardwalk.

Liquor sales will be allowed with a special occasion licence and meeting proper insurance requirements.

## Dragonfly cash

Dragonfly Commons' subdivision referral was approved subject to a five per cent cash in lieu of parkland dedication

of the market value of the property.

The cash in lieu amount will be calculated after the removal of a parkland environmental covenant registered to the Islands Trust Fund.

Project lead Fernando dos Santos had requested the donation be in the form of a protective covenant or parkland rather than cash.

PARC members said they support the housing project, but maintain that the five per cent cash in lieu is needed to fund necessary recreational activities and facilities on the island.

With 30 new housing units at Dragonfly Commons would come 30 new families that will be using recreation services on Salt Spring, they said.

BC FERRIES

# Howe Sound crew rescues fish boat

Thirty-minute sailing delay

The Howe Sound Queen responded to a marine incident in Sansum Narrows on Monday.

BC Ferries public affairs manager Darin Guenette reported that a distress call was received around 11 a.m. while the Howe

Sound Queen was berthed at the Crofton terminal. A fishing vessel located midway between Crofton and Salt Spring had lost its steering ability. The Canadian Coast Guard tasked the ferry's crew to respond.

Two crew members deployed the ferry's rescue boat and then towed the fishing vessel back to Crofton. Guenette said no one

went into the water or was injured in the incident.

"It's a good example of how we're always on the water, and of our trained professionals on board," Guenette said.

The rescue operation took about 30 minutes. Guenette said the crew made up the lost time during afternoon sailings.

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PARKING

# Unauthorized signage found

MoTi to remove rogue materials by Centennial Park

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island can engender a do-it-yourself attitude, with locals taking it upon themselves to repaint fading road lines, build speed bumps and install the downtown busker's seat in recent years.

The latest stealth infrastructure improvement appeared last week on Fulford-Ganges Road in front of Centennial Park, where an unknown individual or organization decided to assist with parking. Signs explicitly allowing "vehicle and boat trailer" parking Sunday through Friday were attached just below official signs from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that ban parking on Saturdays.

A question regarding the new signs sent to MoTi last week produced a determination that these were not installed by the ministry and therefore would be removed. Who put them up remains a mystery.

With a parking lot maintained by the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island just adjacent, HASSI manager Jim Heath acknowledged his organization was the prime suspect. He said Friday he had nothing to do with the matter, though, and hadn't even noticed the new signs.

"I applaud whoever took the initiative, but it certainly wasn't me," Heath said.

Heath said parking is a continuing issue in the area and theorized the signs may be intended to discourage motorhomes, which can take up much of the short block of street parking beside the park.

The HASSI lot is itself under pressure and Heath said problems usually come from locals



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Mystery sign that appeared on Fulford-Ganges Road last week.

parking long-term rather than visitors. Tickets are available for a nominal hourly charge (which is directed back into community charities), or it's possible to purchase a long-term parking decal. Heath said HASSI is looking into getting a tow company contract to remove the vehicles of those who don't follow the rules.

A proposal to get a parking study underway will be on the business agenda at the next Salt Spring Transportation Commission meeting, which takes place this Monday, Feb. 26 at the library program room starting at 4 p.m.

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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 BCYNA Awards**  
 Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



**EDITORIAL**

## Meeting madness

**H**as campaigning for the fall local elections already begun?

Is holding a joint CRD and Islands Trust public meeting about 2018/19 budgets really an urgent matter, as suggested in a letter to the editor in last week's paper?

Positively Forward, a group that evolved from the successful Positively No movement in last fall's incorporation referendum, on Jan. 31 asked elected CRD and Islands Trust officials to hold a joint public meeting about their groups' respective budgets.

Among reasons that CRD director Wayne McIntyre and Islands Trust trustees Peter Grove and George Grams gave for not holding a meeting is that the request came too late in the budget-making process, and that it takes time to add another meeting into an already busy schedule. (Whenever two Islands Trust trustees get together to discuss governance matters, a formal Trust committee meeting must be held.)

**THE ISSUE:**

Late request for budget meetings

Grove suggested Trust staff could consider holding a special budget meeting for next year.

**WE SAY:**

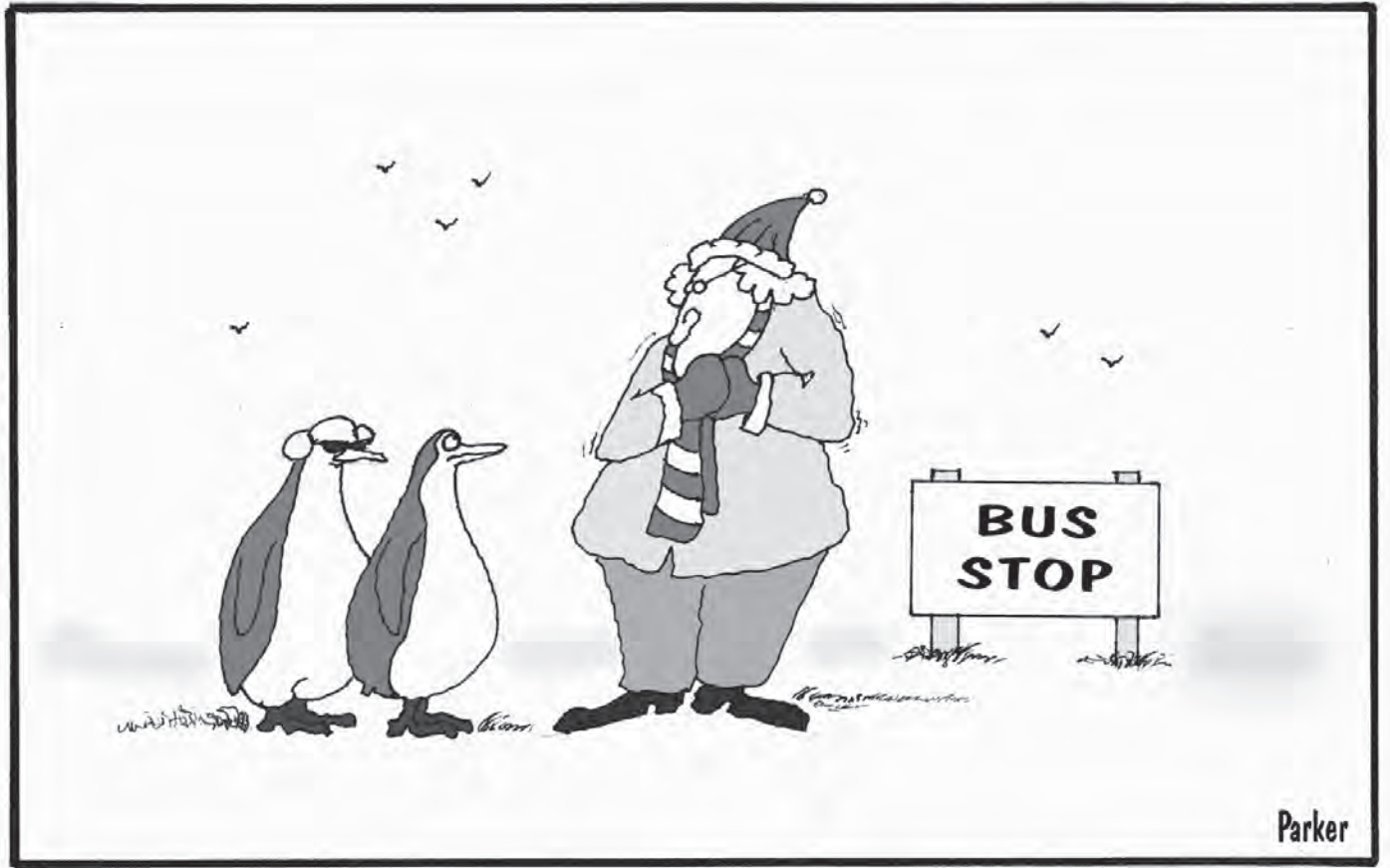
Group's actions hint of politics

In light of reasonable responses given to Positively Forward, turning this into a public issue makes it look like Positively Forward may already be gearing up for October's local elections. Campaigning is not scheduled to begin until September.

Here is a quick reflection about some past meetings referred to by Positively Forward in their letter. Joint local Trust and CRD budget meetings were held in 2005 and 2008. Then-CRD director Gary Holman held a CRD-only meeting in 2006. Three members of the public attended that event. In 2008 the number was a more encouraging 11, but public meetings to discuss local government spending did not appear to have a lot of takers.

By all means get the ball rolling to ensure more budget information and input can be meaningfully exchanged next year, but to imply it's an urgent matter the elected officials should be acting on is just silly. As reported in the Dec. 28, 2017 Driftwood, the CRD intends to get 2.45 per cent more property taxes from the average homeowner in 2018 than it did last year. The Islands Trust proposal is to raise 1.76 per cent more from Trust Area requisitions. This is not a hot-button issue.

Coincidentally, Islands Trust Council will discuss and pass its annual budget at a meeting on Salt Spring from March 13-15. Should a full house be expected?



**VIEWPOINT** by *Jeremy Milsom*

## Minimum wage and opportunities

Yes, higher minimum wages are coming to some employees and businesses, and conversations on the subject will predictably quote both extremes.

Any change in life or business can be either a challenge or an opportunity, depending on perspective. Here are some win-win possibilities for addressing this latest change from someone who has survived both sides of that equation.

In every transaction there is a buyer and a seller, and when the price changes, behaviour changes! With both parties seeking a "best value" outcome through a price increase; may I suggest that realistic planning is more likely to make this change provide mutually positive outcomes for employees and employers.

**Employers**

- Understand your needs for employee assistance and create an employment plan if one does not exist. Keep it simple, specific, measurable and specify a financial budget or limits. In the plan, define 1) the needed accomplishments, 2) the specific tasks in a "daily checklist" for each/every employee or function.
- Explain the checklists to every employee and use them and review them every day.
- Ensure that opportunities for multi-tasking and multi-accomplishing are included details.
- Include steps for training or employee progression to a "next level" of responsibility and provide pay incentives for measurable, value-added accomplishments.
- Grow the value, contributions and future of your employees. (You may want to retire someday!)
- Build in feedback and communication mechanisms to ensure

that expectations may be fully communicated, understood and later evaluated.

**Employees**

- Understand that your employer is your customer and is seeking the same "best value" as the final customer of the business does.
- Having a "returning customer" for the employer equates to "keeping your job" for the employee.
- Exceeding your customer's expectations means doing more than what is asked and required.
- Mirror the traits and behaviours of others who demonstrate what the employer and the final customer want most.
- Strive to be a "value-added" example for the business; it brings that customers back!
- Examples and key-words for "value-added" are: punctuality, reliably completes tasks, positive attitude, smile, eager, well groomed, motivated and eager to learn more.
- Be willing to ask for guidance, support and ways to do more and better.
- Be eager to become more knowledgeable about the business and suggest improvements to benefit employer and final customer.

The workers and employers who will fare the best through any change and challenge will be those who face them "head on," with creative strategies and the quest for mutually beneficial outcomes. It might be time to plan for the desired outcome. Planning will never let you down!

*The writer is vice president of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and a local business owner.*

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

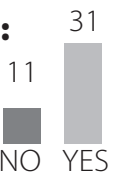
**Are you watching the Winter Olympics?**

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:**

**Do you agree with the 2019 Family Day date change?**



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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "I need plain English. I need someone to come and speak to me as a business owner."

KURT IRWIN, RE ISLANDS TRUST'S INDUSTRIAL LANDS PROJECT

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** What is something new that you're growing in your garden this year?



**BRENT TALBOT**

*Chickpeas, because they last well over winter and I love hummus.*



**SUE EARLE**

*We're trying milky oats as a cover crop.*



**DAVID PAINE**

*I'm replacing my strawberries, and Yukon potatoes.*



**JACKIE SOMERS**

*I'm growing double-flowered daffodils.*



**PETER HEHL**

*We're getting into wildflowers to attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.*

## 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)

### Cycling hypocrisy

I was struck by the multiple comments in last week's paper about the need for islanders to get out of their vehicles (even the electric ones I assume) and get on their bicycles.

A few years ago I parked my car and began riding my bike. I thought it would be good for the environment and good for my health. I had a romantic idea of "a man at one with nature."

It's amazing how quickly I could set aside all concern for the environment, my health or romance of any kind when I was pedalling from Ganges to Vesuvius with as little as a litre of milk in my backpack.

For the average person, riding a bike is difficult, dangerous and basically not much fun. So when I hear our trust-

ees and other well-meaning souls advocating bikes over cars I am almost certain that they have never actually done it. In fact, for the week or two that I spent with my bike (sometimes on it but often pushing it) I never once saw Peter or George on theirs. Indeed, during my various commutes I don't know that I saw another bicyclist at all.

This brings me to the recent LTC meeting at Lions Hall where both of our trustees acknowledged the not insignificant parking problems in Ganges and then decided to, shamefully (I know this makes me sound like a sore loser), compound the parking problems rather than fix them. Both trustees expressed a desire for fewer cars in Ganges and more walking, biking and transit. There were a whole host of audience members who echoed (or at the very

least supported) this notion.

Now I am not saying that there wasn't a bicyclist or a pedestrian at the LTC meeting, but I didn't see any. What was very much in evidence, however, was the upper, middle and lower parking lots of Lions Hall full of those dastardly cars.

This appears to be one of those "do as I say not as I do" situations. Of course, I could be wrong — but I doubt it.

**KEVIN BELL,  
VESUVIUS**

### We could have had it

I was very taken aback by the letter in last week's Driftwood advocating joint CRD/LTC budget meetings to be held on Salt Spring rather than local citizens having to travel to Victoria.

During the referendum

debate it was often pointed out that the current governance on Salt Spring Island is a semi-colonial and uncoordinated model. Many local decisions affecting us, including budgetary decisions, are made in Victoria rather than here on the island and each local authority on our rock does their own thing. In spite of this, the "no" group unreservedly advocated we keep the system we now have.

Now, according to last week's letter, the "no" group is advocating more coordination of local authorities and more local dialogue and input.

I would like to point out that the vast majority of Canadians already have the facility to enjoy and participate in these benefits. It is called municipal government.

**HAROLD SWIERENGA,  
SALT SPRING**

### Call for transparency

I hear that our elected officials (both LTC and CRD) have declined a request coming from the community for a public meeting to present their respective proposed budgets for the coming year and to take questions and comments from the public.

That apparent disregard for the interests and wishes of the community is all the more perplexing in that it comes in the wake of a governance referendum vote in which a large majority of the community did vote against incorporation, while at the same time sending a strong signal that we do wish to see significant improvements in our existing governance system.

In other words, we definitely did not vote "no" to incorporation with the intention of giving our trustees a free pass to be unresponsive and unaccountable, especially on matters of budget! And we certainly made it clear that we also want to see better coordination and more cooperation between the Trust and the CRD.

Meeting with Salt Spring Islanders to discuss Trust and CRD budgetary plans and requests for 2018 is an obvious way for our elected officials to show the transparency that we have been calling for. Elected officials should take a good listen and set up that meeting now.

**LUISA MAFFI,  
BAKER ROAD**

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

# Beautiful bicycle joins relics in mausoleum

You won't have seen my bicycle. It is a thing of pristine beauty, so far entirely unmarked by the severities of Salt Spring roads, or indeed of any Canadian road. It is round of wheel, firm of frame, its chrome still unsullied by dust or sweat, a saddle sharp enough to put a smile on the face of any proctologist, two dozen gears at last count and brakes to stop on a dime.

Unfortunately, it's also hanging idle on a hook in the garage like a Dadaist sculpture, a Marcel Duchamp still-life, lovely and unloved at the same time.

I bought it some eight years ago in the first flush of early retirement and for one short summer rode it through the English countryside, a bottle of water and a Scotch egg in the saddlebag, my head above the hedges, my knees nut brown, the blonde-haired, blue-eyed embodiment of one of those German Naturist documentaries, but with my clothes on, of course. A gentleman who rides a bike naked is unlikely to keep his gentlemanliness intact for long.

And then we moved to Salt Spring. If there is a single word that describes our little island it is "unflat." It may defy the laws of physics, but EVERYWHERE on Salt Spring is up a hill. And if it IS down a hill, it simply means it will be uphill when you come to

leave.

Personally, I could cycle down to Ganges from my home in fewer than five minutes. It would take me the rest of my life to cycle back, since I would quite likely expire somewhere along the route. Where I once rode with bottled water, I would need bottled oxygen simply to get home.

I decided some time ago that I am too old to sweat. It is unbecoming and quite probably deleterious to the health for a man of my advanced age and weight to exert himself much beyond lifting a knife and fork.

For a while I took to putting the bike in the back of the car and driving around looking for somewhere flat to cycle, but soon grew tired of riding up and down the same stretch of grubby, rutted lane by St. Mary Lake.

And so, I retired it, as I also retired the exercise bike which, like the actual bike, also rests in the garage, which is fast becoming a Mausoleum of Abandoned Resolutions. The exercise bike was state of the art, if inducing coronaries in portly, elderly men can be described as "art." It is also mind-bogglingly tedious but comes with a computer which sets you tasks of vary-



**Paul  
McElroy**

AND  
**ANOTHER THING**

ing degrees of torment and has some sort of infernal magnetic system that generates virtual hill climbs. So instead of struggling up an incline at least with the wind at my back and the sun on my face, I toiled with a chest freezer at my back and the garage door in my face. I tried virtual cycling while reading a

book propped on the handlebars, but it is hard to focus on a line of print through a veil of sweat.

The very latest exercise bikes, I see from the TV ads, have video screens and you can pretend to cycle while a virtual gym teacher shouts at you from somewhere in cyberspace. Imagine that, a muscled bully of your very own. Or you can virtually join a bunch of New Yorkers at an upmarket gym in Manhattan and pretend you have an entire garage full of straining, sweating millennials with cannonball buttocks and thighs that could crack coconuts. If I WERE to fill my garage with young people, I would simply want them to tidy it, not humiliate me on an exercise bike.

Another item in my Museum of Abused Muscles is a skipping rope. Not a skipping rope that would have once graced school-

yards where small girls in pinafores and pigtailed bounced cheerfully to:

"Janey and Johnny, sitting in a tree  
K-I-S-S-I-N-G  
First comes marriage,  
Then comes Janey  
With a baby carriage . . ."

While I admire the innocent morality of the skipping ditty, my own rope needs batteries to power the irritating little voice in the handle that counts the number of jumps and urges you to do more. It now rests in a drawer alongside the swingball, a vicious tennis equivalent that is liable to attack from behind or wrap rope and ball around the neck of anyone with reactions slower than Ivan Lendl. There are also shuttlecocks, skates, a tube of tennis balls, a couple of baggy racquets, lawn darts, horse shoes (nope, I have no idea either), a baseball glove and a croquet set, all of them trophies to good intention brought down by indolence.

So, come the spring, and having not so far given calisthenics a run for its money, so to speak, I shall be erecting a vaulting horse in the yard — and moving it to the garage later in the year.

[paulmcelroy@shaw.ca](mailto:paulmcelroy@shaw.ca)

# Today's viewing habits mean we miss 'J.R. moments'

BY LINDA STARKE

I miss the J.R. moments we used to share. Who was J.R., you ask?

J.R. Ewing was a character in the nighttime TV soap opera Dallas, played with a devilish grin by Larry Hagman. In March 1980, in the last scene of Season 3, J.R. was shot. Who could have done it?

Viewers considered the pros and cons of the many suspects. President Jimmy Carter joked that he could easily get financing for his next campaign if only he could reveal who shot J.R. We had all summer and half the fall to debate who did it. The answer was revealed in November in what was at the time the highest-rated TV episode in U.S. history, entitled Who Done It? It was a nationwide unifying topic.

We live in a very different world now. A fractured world. We are swamped by dozens of new television options, hundreds of cable

channels, thousands of podcasts to listen to on a computer or through headsets as we dash through life. People watch whole movies on the tiny screens of their smart phones — something I find hard to fathom. And they can watch the latest riveting episode of their favourite show anytime, anywhere.

Does anyone watch a TV show with a plot when it is actually broadcast these days? No, we set our recording devices and pick our viewing times. Binging now can mean drunk on Breaking Bad, not alcohol.

Funny, but this form of binging can actually save us money. In a recent New York Times article, Danny Hakim proudly declares himself a life-long Trekkie. But he refused to pay US\$5.99–\$9.99 a month (with versus without ads) to watch Star Trek: Discovery when it became available on the CBS streaming service. He

## GUEST COLUMN

plans to wait until Season 1 finishes in mid-February and then sign up for the free trial week. Binge away, Trekkies.

Over the holidays I enjoyed brunch one Sunday with a dozen friends. People enthusiastically exchanged the names of TV series they enjoyed online. Netflix, HBO, Amazon Prime, Crackle, Hulu, Vimeo, Roku, Crave TV, YouTube, and on and on. There's something for everyone. But there's no one thing for all of us. No shared television show experience. Nothing to compare notes on the next day at school or at work.

Back in "the good old days," it felt important to watch certain events live, in the here and now. There was no little red "record" button on a remote control. One famous

example was the live appearance of the Beatles on Ed Sullivan in February 1964, watched by 73 million Americans — three quarters of the adult viewing audience. What a lot we teenagers had to talk about in school the next day!

Equally famous is the final episode of M\*A\*S\*H, entitled Good-bye, Farewell and Amen, which aired on Feb. 28, 1983. According to Wikipedia, 125 million Americans tuned in, at a time when just over 83 million homes had a TV. Sounds like there were lots of M\*A\*S\*H parties.

Now the times many of us tune in together and live are restricted to important sporting events, federal and presidential elections, maybe some glitzy award shows, national disasters and international terrorist attacks. I bet you remember where you were when you saw the first horrific televised images on Sept. 11, 2001. Just as I remember watch-

ing President John F. Kennedy's funeral procession on TV.

As our exposure to news, fake or real, and to the entertainment industry becomes more and more individualized, perhaps our sense of living in a shared community is disappearing. Is this a cause of the divisiveness we see in numerous nations? Of course not. But is it at least a symptom of it?

I did waste some time trying to remember who shot J.R. Suddenly a name popped into my head — J.R.'s sister-in-law and mistress. A quick Google check confirmed I was right. (Sometimes I wish I had a delete button in my brain; there is far too much trivia rattling around there.)

It was Kristin.

*The writer is a freelance editor/writer. She moved from Washington, D.C. to Salt Spring in April 2016.*

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Natural areas valued in park

With hundreds of users every day, Mouat Park is important to everyone on Salt Spring Island.

As the years go by there is less green space for more population. Since this park is in Ganges it is the most accessible area of forest left that represents the type of forests that I played in when I grew up in Ganges. It means a lot to many people and I am sure that everyone has their own vision of what groups they would like to see helped out with services and amenities. For example, the area was a campground with a shower set-up and toilets until it became a disc

golf park. There is still a need for that type of plan near Ganges. But that idea won't be going on in the park. However, it is now a walking area and it works well that way.

I think that most people enjoy the tranquillity of the park with its natural conditions and it is also a good place for children to observe nature.

Recently some plans were initiated to take down certain trees. I would like to know if any of the trees will be removed for the new bike park?

In a natural forest without worries about trees becoming unstable and falling on people or houses, trees that fall rot and provide material for flowers and fungi.

I lived all along Rainbow Road as a child and we played in that forest area and observed fallen cedar logs allowing new life to

begin. That is the natural forest. Mother Nature is an arborist with the best technique.

However, as it is now a recreational area, perhaps some trees need to be removed as an unstable tree can hurt someone.

However, the more that the natural areas of Salt Spring are turned into managed recreational areas, the less that children can see how nature really works. It is not a given that those who want to have a forested play area are against children and those who want a structured play area are in favour of children.

Childhood and learning involve the freedom to observe nature and to learn how this amazing earth works to manage itself.

JENNIFER MCCLEAN,  
SALT SPRING

### Community circles lead to compassion

In The Laramie Project play that ran at ArtSpring on Saturday night, a policeman reflects on how it took Matthew Shepard's death for him to recognize and heal from his own homophobia. I wondered, "What are the sparks that help us change and learn?"

In the post-performance discussion, we got to hear from people who kept their sexual orientation secret, to keep a job or to keep from being judged. Even now, even on Salt Spring, there are reasons why people avoid coming out.

Of course, it is not just people who aren't part of the dominant sexual paradigm who face judgement and violence. One student suggested that

compassion is the key to outgrowing damaging biases and hatred — the compassion that allows us to listen with respect to anyone, even those whose actions we object to. I was warmed by the applause she got. Warmed also by a participant in community circles speaking up about how, here on Salt Spring, people are working to create spaces where diverse beings and perspectives are welcome.

That is one of the things Restorative Justice Salt Spring is working to do. In partnership with our public library, we are offering a chance for people to learn about circle processes and how this tool can be useful in all kinds of settings: families, NGOs, workplaces, etc.

The theme of our first circle is "change." In sharing and especially listen-

ing to stories about how people change, we are sure to learn from and to grow in appreciation for each other. All are welcome: Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. till noon at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room.

JAN SLAKOV,  
SALT SPRING

### Bike park supported

I want to commend the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and the CRD for providing the island with more recreational options, with the addition of the new bike park.

Having it centrally located will mean it will be quite accessible to young families and their children.

Thank you.  
GREG ALLEN,  
SALT SPRING




## Before an Emergency

Disasters cannot be prevented, and if something happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least seven days.

CHECK OUT THE 3 STEPS YOU NEED TO TAKE:

1. Know the Risks
2. Make a Plan
3. Get a Kit

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/prepare-yourself/get-prepared>  
[www.prepareyourself.ca](http://www.prepareyourself.ca)





## RANTS *and* Roses

### Roses

Armfuls of fragrant roses to chef Leann and the amazing Fulford Hall crew that put on a lovely 2018 Robbie Burns dinner for 130 Scottish Country Dancers. Such a pleasure to be a part of this great haggis team. It was a magical evening with fabulous food. Thank you all.

To the gentleman with the very cute little one in tow who gave me a beautiful bunch of yellow tulips outside of Thrifty's one afternoon last week, thank you. You cheered up what could have been a very grey day.

A sombrero filled with hot and spicy tomato-coloured roses to the Islands Trust for approving the El Loco Taco restaurant permit application.

A bouquet of stunning red roses delivered to the Driftwood in appreciation of the great article in the Jan. 31 edition about the Community Alliance. And, a welcome to the island's newest reporter, Marc Kitteringham — good job! If you want to work together to help make our

community even better, come to the Community Alliance, Lions Hall next Monday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

The second annual Come As You Are event was a roaring success, and we couldn't have done it without the support of the amazing Salt Spring community. We'd like to give a bushel full of roses to Ella Bronstein, Sue Earle, Kya Dalton, Meghan MacFarlane and Evran Fraser for being a part of the planning committee and set-up crew, Tim Kempe and Aron Dalton for taking care of our AV needs, Lawrence Shone for DJing, and The Wet Spots, Draco Muff-boi and Ginger Femmecat and Khya Skye for their entertainment. Thanks to our fantastic MC Julie MacKinnon for hosting us with humour and keeping us on track, to James Wood for manning the door and providing security, to Ben Velthuizen for providing our designated driver service, and to Dave Vollrath for donating the lights. Last but not least thank you to the sponsors who donated for this fundraiser. We were able to raise \$1,500 for sexual health initiatives in our community for the OPT clinic and for the Men's Violence Prevention workshop. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

# Removing vacate clause won't shrink rental market

BY JO-ANN FERRIMAN

I was astonished to read the Feb. 14 article about the current provincial government's plan to do away with a longstanding and contentious loophole called the "vacate clause" in the Residential Tenancy Act ("New restrictions complicate critical rental market").

Actually, I feel the headline that alludes to this action as complicating the rental market is misleading. Advocacy groups have been lobbying against this clause for years and deemed its removal a step in the right direction. Even Rich Coleman, the former Liberal housing minister, has been quoted as referring to this "loophole" as "gaming the system" and comparing it to commercial leases that contain zero protection for renters. It is also referred to as "skirting the law restricting rent increases to limits fixed annually by the province."

What is most disturbing, though, is the ignorance that surrounds its use, and one which I only found out about by accident. For those tenants desperate for a fixed-term rental agreement to attain a sense of security (instead of coming on board on a month-

to-month basis) too many people have signed up unwittingly if a "vacate clause" box was checked off on their lease

application. And which — unbeknownst to the renter — allows for huge rent increases at the end of the lease far and away above those allowed under RTB guidelines.

While I'm sure that most landlords are honourable people, we are in a zero vacancy rental situation, and a time when it is especially tempting to artificially escalate rents just because you can. To imply that the removal of this clause would shrink the rental market is simply not true. For those who haven't been paying attention over the last year, the shortage of rental housing on Salt Spring is due to 1) restrictive rules governing who can or can't rent space in their homes, and 2) the shortage of water!

But for any landlord who has had a negative experience with a tenant I would strongly suggest that landlords ask for bona fide references before renting out their apartments, and make sure to collect first and last month's rent. There is an abundance of people to choose from in

## IN RESPONSE

the current near zero vacancy market. B.C. also allows for landlords to recoup unforeseen expenses such as extraordinary increases in taxes and eligible capital expenses, including significant renovation, repair, replacements, etc. There is even a special application form made available to do so. You just have to apply.

If you're a landlord, you're also "in the business" of renting apartments. Being in any business brings with it responsibilities for knowing the regulations governing same. And any business involves risks. I'd also bet the farm that the number of people on Salt Spring who have been ousted because "someone in the family, or the landlord is moving back into the apartment" far outnumbers the negative example written up in the Driftwood. I've met too many of them over the years.

As well, a need exists for a form of mediation on the island where landlord/tenant disputes can be resolved without having to go through a formal Residential Tenancy Branch arbitration hearing. If we have a

restorative justice process for criminals and their victims, why not tenants and landlord situations?

RTB hearings can be especially onerous for those who don't have the means or sufficient understanding of the process, which can get convoluted. It is also a far-from-perfect process which is done over the phone, lasts two hours — even for complex cases — and can be readily abused. For anyone seeking more information on the process I would suggest reading the online article by The Tyee entitled Inside B.C.'s Secretive Landlord-Tenant Dispute Process.

For Norman Rothwell to refer to the removal of this notorious clause "as being a sledgehammer" is deemed a red herring. It's simply bringing B.C. into the 21st century. To allow any landlord to arbitrarily and/or unnecessarily increase a tenant's rent to a level where they're forced to move or suffer monetary consequences is deemed unconscionable. Let's be fair, folks.

*The writer is a Salt Spring renter experienced with the Residential Tenancy Act.*

# Let's get creative with Ganges parking solutions

BY CHRIS DIXON

It happened again this week! My personal conceit is that everyone on Salt Spring Island knows and loves the marimba band. Not so. I just met someone who has lived here for years and didn't know we had a marimba band.

How could that be? He told me his family avoids Ganges on summer Saturdays. I'm no longer surprised when I hear this; I too avoid Ganges on summer Saturdays if we're not performing. Hundreds, (thousands?) of locals feel the same way. It is unpleasant and unsafe walking or driving in town on Saturday in tourist season.

The perception is that visitors strapped into cars have more priority than locals on foot. Our anthem is that there are not enough parking spots, but go to town every day in April and you'll see that there is clearly enough parking to satisfy all local demand.

If we want more parking spaces, where would they be? North and south of Ganges are uphill and away, east is the ocean and west is a curious brew of schools, recreation and heavy industry. Fill in the bay? We don't do that anymore. Increased parking space is not the answer.

Last spring, this paper reported on a Community Economic Development Commission-meeting attended as well by Chamber of Commerce reps and the PARC manager where parking issues were discussed and other CRD commissions referred to.

The result of that meeting — absolutely nothing. A year wasted. We're learning the hard way. I wish we could hire Elon Musk for 15 minutes to figure this out for us.

There was no voice at the

## IN DEPTH

meeting to advocate for local residents who feel unwelcome in their own town on a summer weekend. Our business community wants more customers and more transactions; local residents subsidize the merchants' success with personal discomfort.

The CRD currently holds the responsibility to respond to this issue, so we may as well abandon all hope. I can't imagine how this group — clear about their fee though vague about their product — whom we do not elect and which has a long and costly history of disappointing its clients — has been granted so much responsibility for and authority over so many critical aspects of our life.

Four points: Since we have limited ability to increase our parking opportunities, the problem is more accurately described as too many cars, rather than not enough parking. Existing parking space meets local demand.

Online advertising from our business community commodifies every aspect of our island home; commercial interests are directly responsible for attracting the seasonal vehicle overload.

This isn't an adversarial situation. All of us would benefit from a safer, more human-friendly town.

Understandably, businesses who have already invested hard cash to provide parking spaces may be slow to support an initiative to radically improve the retail experience.

If the vehicle overload is ever going to decrease, every business, including cottage industries and the B&B and vacation-

rental operators, will be part of the solution.

By 9 a.m. on Saturdays, the Saturday market blocks about 50 prime-time parking spots, and 150 vendors park a vehicle. A portion of the fees the CRD extracts from the vendors could legitimately be diverted to fund alternative parking schemes.

Businesses in Ganges that don't or can't conform to current parking requirements could pay a fee in lieu into the alternative parking pool. The rest of us could contribute through a very modest rise in our property taxes. It might provide the most enjoyable outcome we'll ever see from our tax dollars.

User-pay has potential here: visitors' repurposed ferry fares and fuel costs could pay for shuttle rides and/or off-island parking, and the payback for our local merchants' contribution would be a happier retail customer experience. (FYI, London's congestion charge is a sobering CDN \$20 per day.)

And what are we funding? Car-free visiting. Maybe a park 'n ride lot, leased or partnered with BC Ferries or a private owner? A car-stays-home program that provides strong incentives to use a transit system to ride from there to here and back? We could feed part of the revenue into our local bus system.

If we're creative, we might find ourselves not needing all the parking spaces we have today. We could think about repurposing areas for safe, dedicated freight loading zones, for human spaces and for (gasp!) additional retail development. How cool would that be?

It is important to include members of the community at large in the process of conceptualizing and manifesting this transition. The single-

focus agencies currently tasked with informing our relationship to visitor vehicles clearly needs help, because what needs changing is our culture.

Every one of us would benefit from a more human-friendly village core. It's hard to imagine Ganges without the chaos

of tourist cars, but it's not hard to imagine ways that we can improve all aspects of our situation. I hereby volunteer to join any results-based team that takes this project on.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident and marimba band member.*



### SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 (GULF ISLANDS) REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2018/2019

Registration for all schools in School District 64 will take place from February 15 to March 15, 2018.

#### NEW REGISTRATIONS:

**Kindergarten** – For children who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2018, i.e., born in 2013, please register your child at the school in your residential catchment area.

Please bring the following documentation when you register your child for kindergarten:

- Verification of the child's birth date and citizenship status (birth certificate, passport or Landed Immigrant authorization)
- Care Card, and
- Immunization records

Students currently enrolled in the district's Strong Start programs are required to complete a Kindergarten registration form.

**Grade 1 to 12** – Please register your child in the school in your residential catchment area.

Expressions of interest in specific programs can be found on the registration form available at: <http://sd64.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/student-registration1819.pdf>.

Please note that additional application information is required for admission to:

- French Immersion & MYSEEC at Saltspring Island Middle School
- SEEC program located on Saturna Island

Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to School District Policies and Procedures 530 and 700 available at: <http://sd64.bc.ca/district/policies-and-procedures/>. Program placement is subject to the availability of space in specialized programs.

#### STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED:

Expressions of interest in specific programs at your child's school should be made to the school principal.

For additional information about high school programs available through Gulf Islands Secondary School contact the school's principal.

#### CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS:

Should you wish to enroll your child in a school outside of your catchment area, a cross boundary transfer request form must be completed **annually** (Policy and Procedure 530). The request form can be found at: <http://sd64.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/sd64-cross-boundary-request17-18.pdf>.

Prior to submitting the form to the School Board Office, parents must obtain signatures from the principal of the catchment area school and the principal of the receiving school. Upon receipt at the School Board Office the form will be time and date stamped. The deadline for accepting cross boundary request forms is **March 15**. Placement is subject to the availability of space.

**Normal grade transitions to the next level at another school within the prescribed catchment area do not require a cross boundary transfer request.**

# arts&entertainment

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## CONCERT

# Foothills Brass set to thrill at All Saints and schools

Islander Derrick Milton hosts colleagues

A concert by one of Canada's finest brass ensembles — the Foothills Brass Quintet — promises music to suit every taste.

Set for Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at All Saints By-the-Sea, the concert will include music by Handel, Penella, Ewald, Jelly Roll Morton, Gershwin, Ellington, Shostakovich and Miles Davis, among others.

During its 36-year history, the Foothills Brass Quintet has performed up to 200 concerts a year across North America, Europe and the Middle East. In addition to theatre concerts, the players have performed for about one million students in Canadian schools. The group will also give two school concerts while on the island.

"The Salt Spring Middle School's new music teacher and trombonist, Keith Ollerenshaw, is hoping that Foothills will work their magic, helping him to re-launch the band program at SIMS," said the group's one Salt Spring member: trumpeter Derrick Milton.

Trumpeter Chris Morrison and



PHOTO COURTESY FOOTHILLS BRASS QUINTET

Foothills Brass Quintet, from left, Derrick Milton, Chris Morrison, Rosalee Morrison, Carsten Rubeling and Keith Hartshorn-Walton, who will perform at All Saints this Saturday night.

Rosalee Morrison on French horn, the founders of Foothills Brass, met Milton at the Banff School of

Fine Arts in the early 1970s where the three were studying with the original Canadian Brass. They

then met up again when they played together in the Thunder Bay Symphony. The friends went

on to have independent musical careers for a while, playing with such entities as the Canadian Opera, and the Stratford Festival, the National and Winnipeg Ballet orchestras, the Winnipeg and St. John symphonies. In 1981, Milton was asked to leave his musical career in Toronto to join the newly formed Foothills Brass, but a veterinary career and family commitments prevented him from touring until 2012.

Tubist Keith Hartshorn-Walton teaches music at Carleton University. With a PhD in tuba from McGill, he plays a variety of instruments. Not only an accomplished jazz and classical tubist, he also plays piano, organ and string bass and is a successful composer and arranger.

Trombonist Carsten Rubeling took up trombone after hearing the Foothills Brass at his school when he was in Grade 3. Rubeling went on to get a masters degree in music, studying in New York City, where he later carved out a successful freelance career as a jazz trombonist. Rubeling now lives in Calgary where he is one of the most sought after jazz trombonists in that city.

## MUSIC COMPETITION

# Salt Spring's Ashton Bachman on CBC Searchlight roster

First voting round open until Feb. 28

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island musical talent is once again represented in the CBC Searchlight Contest for undiscovered artists, and this year it's Ashton Bachman who could use community support to advance his dreams.

Bachman may be a third-generation member of one of Canada's most famous

rock families, but he's been making his own way as an island-based singer-songwriter. Community members have been deeply impressed by his energy and talent whether it's playing acoustic sets at local venues or belting out soul tunes during musical productions like Peter on the Brink.

The opening round of Searchlight voting began on Feb. 13. Bachman is currently just one of a wide pool of more than 2,000 artists nationwide looking for the support necessary to get to the next stage of the contest, with voting open until 9 a.m. Pacific time

on Wednesday, Feb. 28. The next round with the national top 100 opens March 1.

Fifty artists will make it there by popular vote and the other 50 will make it through by internal judging from a team of CBC music producers.

The top 10 finalists will be announced on March 8 and the winner declared on March 19.

The winner will receive a huge amount of artistic development and exposure, starting with a week in Calgary at the National Music Centre with access to more than 300

musical instruments, a recording studio and a recording engineer. Another trip will take that person to Toronto to perform alongside Canada's best artists at the 2018 CBC Music Festival at Echo Beach in May.

The winner will also be part of the 2019 Juno Awards in London, Ont., performing at JunoFest and taking in all the Juno festivities.

To help Bachman get to the Junos, people can visit CBC Music under the Searchlight tab, go to Round One voting and search for Ashton Bachman.

Salt Spring FOLK CLUB  
 www.saltspringfolkclub.com

**Lennie Gallant**

Opening: Sarah Osborne

Monday February 26  
 Fulford Hall  
 Door opens 6:15 (Pass holders 6:00)  
 Show starts 7:00

Tickets \$25  
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**Best sound on the Island**

## FOLK CLUB

# Artist-of-the-year at folk club Monday

Lennie Gallant brings PEI passion

The Salt Spring Folk Club's next guest performer brings some East Coast culture to the island on Monday, Feb. 26.

Lennie Gallant hails from Rustico, Prince Edward Island but his acclaim stretches much further.

According to his website, Gallant has recorded 11 albums — nine in Eng-

lish and two in French — which have won him a host of awards and nominations from the Junos, East Coast Music Awards and Les Prix Eloizes.

He was recently honoured with the Canadian Folk Music Award for Artist of the Year.

He is the 2017 East Coast Music Awards Entertainer of the Year and also won the 2017 ECMA Folk Recording of the Year for his live album Searching For Abegweit. It contains

22 songs from the hit multimedia musical called Searching For Abegweit - The Island Songs & Stories of Lennie Gallant.

"Over 30 artists have recorded his songs, including Measha Bruggersoman, Ode de L'Acadie, and Jimmy Buffet and his songs have appeared in feature films, television series and numerous theatrical productions," states his website. "A recipient of the Order of Canada, Lennie is an international touring

artist who has represented Canada on songwriter events in Nashville, London and Texas, entertained our troops in Kandahar, performed at Canada Day events in Washington and London, and on the world stage at the Vancouver Winter Olympics."

Monday night's show at Fulford Hall begins at 7 p.m. with opening act Sarah Osborne.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., or at 6 p.m. for season's ticket holders.

## FINE ART

# Syrian art exhibit and events at Mahon



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS COUNCIL

Part of the Cultural Beheading Series by Humam Alsalim and Rami Bakhos, forming part of the Behind the Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art exhibit on display at Mahon Hall through Feb. 25.

## Examination of curator's role begins

Behind the Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art continues to impress visitors this week with the work of 17 young Syrian artists, most of them under the age of 40.

Curated by Paul Crawford of the Pentiction Art Gallery and Humam Alsalim for the Cyrus Gallery in Damascus, this exhibition is a first for Salt Spring in bringing a show from another institution to the island.

The Salt Spring Arts Council has organized two events

this week to help give some context to the exhibition and enhance understanding of the art as well as the production of an exhibit such as this.

On Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., Artist in Residence program recipient Greg Constantine will give a presentation of his ongoing Nowhere People project with a slideshow and a discussion of his work and encounters he has faced in his quest. An award-winning documentary photographer who has travelled the world extensively, Constantine points his lens on displaced and stateless people, and the Syrian art exhibit provides a poignant backdrop to

his important and fascinating work.

The final day of the exhibit, Sunday, Feb. 25, will see a pair of events. First, Crawford will speak about the exhibition from his view as lead curator, including the motivations, the logistics and the art beginning at 2 p.m. He will be joined via Skype by Alsalim, the Syrian co-curator now living as a refugee in Germany. Afterwards, there will be a panel discussion focused on the profession of the curator. Moderated by Anthony Matthews, the panelists include Crawford, Regan Shrumm and Margaret Day, who will be discussing what a curator is and

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 Salt Spring Public Library in Ganges, and Day is a respected gallery director and curator of the Point Gallery on Salt Spring. The curators panel has been generously funded by the David Cook Memorial Fund, and is the first of three events planned over the next 18 months dedicated to examining the profession of the curator.

Behind the Lines continues until Sunday, Feb. 25. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## CONTEMPORARY DANCE

# Acclaimed Italian dance company on stage

## Bolero and The Rite of Spring

Salt Spring Islanders get a rare opportunity this week to see an internationally acclaimed high-calibre Italian dance company renowned for innovative and spell-binding choreography.

The esteemed MM Contemporary Dance Company's North American premier is an elaborate stage production in a form rarely seen at ArtSpring.

"The audience will be in for a surprising and shocking feature that uses theatrical rigging systems intended to leave the audience aghast," said Jessica Beck, ArtSpring's marketing manager, about the show, which runs Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The Italian dance troupe will perform two universally known 20th-century pieces: Maurice Ravel's Bolero, with integrated contemporary composition from Stefano Corrias, and Igor Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring.

According to Beck, in creating a new choreographic version of Bolero, Michele Merola has focused on the evocation of sensual images that the music arouses by exploring the inexhaustible range of human relationships, especially those of couples. The choreography reflects the variety of moods that circulate around and inside a couple's relationship, resulting in many different shades of dance and revealing entire universes of fears and desires.



PHOTO COURTESY MM CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

Members of MM Contemporary Dance Company from Italy in a scene from the Bolero and Rite of Spring show they will perform at ArtSpring on Tuesday night.

In the Merola version, Bolero is told as a non-story, fantastic but possible. The dance, closely related to the music, carries an abstract bitter fairy tale, an allegory of the pain of living and of incomprehension among humans. Bolero becomes a metaphor of our existence, that each one of us experiences in our life, between contrast and dialogue, seduction and disillusionment, surprise and bewilderment.

"In the Rite of Spring, choreographer Enrico Morelli works with the powerful message of the need to sacrifice in order

to heal," explains Beck. "He has profound respect for the score, which has inspired some of the greatest choreographers of the 20th century, and in his choreography, the frantic dynamism of our time is reflected."

In addition to performing on Tuesday night, Merola will run a dance workshop for Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts students, sponsored by ArtSpring. There will also be a post-show talkback.

ArtSpring is grateful to Vancouver's Chutzpah Festival for collaborating on this project.

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## FUNDRAISER

# Friday Affair returns as The Sequin Shines

Variety event benefits  
Mama Priscilla show

Community members who were disappointed not to see an edition of A Friday Affair at last year's Pride festival can be despondent no longer, with a special revival of the edgy variety show scheduled this Friday, Feb. 23 at ArtSpring.

A Friday Affair - The Sequin Shines is a fundraiser that will partly benefit production costs associated with the upcoming show Mama Priscilla - The Sequin. The other half of the profits will be gifted to a long-time friend of Salt Spring's performing arts community who has been dealing with serious health issues this past year.

The event is suitable for mature audiences aged 16+ and features burlesque, drag, music, comedy and more. A press release notes the lineup includes "the thoughtful and compelling poet/writer Julian Paquette, Queer As Funk keyboardist/singer Luis Pablo Melgar, Vancouver drag queen extraordinaire Symone Says, seductive burlesque siren Patrice Bowler, local burlesque icons Draco Muff-Boi and Ginger Femmecat, Vancouver Island's slick drag king Sir Ryan Real and the drag kings and queens from Mama Priscilla - The Sequin."

Salt Spring's Lisa Dahling is host, with cash beer and wine courtesy The Thirsty Islander.

The show starts at 7:30 and will run until approximately 10 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY SYMONE SAYS

Vancouver drag queen Symone Says will be at ArtSpring as part of A Friday Affair on Feb. 23.

## DANCE

## Square dancers meet up

Sunday afternoon event

The Salty Wheels Square Dance club is hosting a square dance on Sunday, Feb. 25 at the Salt Spring Elementary School gym.

"Because of the ferry schedules, we hold a dance once a year on a Sunday afternoon so the dancers belonging to clubs on Vancouver Island can attend and get back home the same day," explains club spokesperson Marilynne Cunningham. "We usually have dancers from Victoria to Campbell River, and sometimes from Powell River."

Because the dance takes place close to Pink Shirt Day (Feb. 28), which raises awareness of bullying issues, dancers are encouraged to wear some shade of pink.

Spectators are welcome to watch from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

"We would also like to promote square dancing as a form of physical, mental and social work out. Square dancing is not only a lot of fun for all ages, it gives you a physical work out that requires you to use your brain. We encourage anyone interested to come and watch just to see how much fun we have."

## MUSICAL THEATRE

# John Lennon tribute show visits Salt Spring

One night only, this  
Saturday

Sooke-based musician and promoter Phil N Rossner (aka Boz Roz) will visit Salt Spring this weekend while touring his acclaimed one-person show Remembering John to audiences across the Pacific Northwest.

The event at Lions Hall on Saturday, Feb. 24 is a musical/theatrical presentation of the music and persona of one of the great musical icons of our time — John Lennon.

"It took me a long time to resolve how to effectively present the show," Rossner explains in a press release. "I've been wanting to put together something in this regard for a very long time

and have done a couple of shows just featuring John's music, but I wanted to take it an extra step by adding a theatrical take on his persona as well."

As such, Rossner appears in the first person as Lennon during the show and imparts short introductions for each of the songs using direct quotes from the artist (implementing the appropri-

ate Liverpool accent), along with reflections on what was happening in Lennon's personal life at the time of his songwriting.

Audience comments from past shows call Remembering John "an interesting and entertaining experience" and a "great show! Very entertaining."

The show starts at 8 p.m., with doors open at 7:30.

**Jim Pattison**  
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**U.S. TAX LAWS**

## American tax changes make for complex situation

Average person with U.S. ties could be affected

**BY SHEILA C. HENN**  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

U.S. tax reform has been in the news. What does this mean for Canadian residents? Maybe nothing to the average Canadian, unless you own a U.S. rental property. Maybe you inherited U.S. 401ks or other investments? What about the U.S. citizen living in Canada? Are you a shareholder in a private Canadian company? The effect of the U.S. tax changes varies. Foreign tax credits generally offset to avoid double taxation, but these changes are extensive. There may be more or less tax if you have to file in the U.S. The bottom line is it is complex, and the average person may be affected with this tax reform.

We prepare both Canadian and U.S. tax returns and take equal care for both. We are here to help ease the complexity and make it simple for you.

*The writer is a CPA and CA with Paterson Henn CPA.*

**TAX FILING**

## Income tax forms out Feb. 26

Last year's paper filers will receive forms in the mail

and benefit return without the inconvenience of having to find a printed tax and benefit package at a bank or post office, says CRA.

Do you paper file your taxes? Here's how to get an income tax and benefit package.

People who filed tax and benefit returns on paper last year will automatically receive the 2017 Income Tax and Benefit Guide and forms book in the mail from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Paper filers should have everything they need to file their 2017 income tax

Those who need to file on paper and haven't received a guide and forms book from the CRA by Feb. 26 can order what they need by going to [canada.ca/get-cra-forms](http://canada.ca/get-cra-forms). The most you can order is nine packages. This order limit ensures all Canadians will have access to what they need this tax season.

When ordering a tax and benefit package, individuals should allow up to 10

business days for delivery so they don't miss the April 30 filing deadline.

In the future, paper filers will only get tax packages directly from the CRA. However, to ease the transition to this new service, a limited quantity of tax packages will still be available in both official languages at Canada Post and Service Canada outlets starting Feb. 26.

Canadians will also find information to order these products by phone or online in the language of their choice in case packages are no longer available.

**PERSONAL FINANCES**

## How to make more money

Increasing income means more flexibility

You may have some ambitious plans for building your nest egg or making a big purchase such as a second home. Conventional wisdom says to sock away more you need to cut back your expenses. Then there's the option we often forget when we have an established career: you can make more money.

If you're already working hard, that might seem tricky. But there are some fairly easy ways to bump up your pay. Here's how to do it.

If you want to make more money in your current job, ask for it — you may be pleasantly surprised. However, job placement experts say you need to be prepared before you request a raise. Have a hard number going in. Base your request on research by finding out what others in your field are paid. Make a list of your accomplishments and practice to get your pitch right.

One nearly surefire way to get a salary boost is to switch jobs. According to one study, you can get an 18 to 20 per cent increase in pay by taking a new job, versus what you'd get through an internal promotion.

Professional

development can lead to new skills or give you a piece of paper to confirm your excellence in existing ones — both might lead to a pay hike over time. Also, consider taking management and leadership courses.

Joining an industry organization can get you access to those professional development opportunities and connect you to networking events that could lead to a new, better-paying job. Volunteering with a professional group, meanwhile, looks great on a resume and can help develop new hard and soft skills.

Being multilingual will increase your earning power by an average of two per cent, depending on the language you learn. That may not sound like a lot, but over the long term, factoring in compound interest, that one-time raise could add up to six figures over a lifetime. As a bonus, such skills can lead to on-the-job travel.

When you earn more, you can do more with your money. So, it makes sense that earning more should also be a part of your financial plan. Put it

all together in a financial and career plan that works for you. A good place to start is by talking to your professional advisor.

*The above article is provided by Investors Group.*



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# what's on this week



## Wed. Feb. 21

### ACTIVITIES

**The Tree of Life: Ancient Mystical Approaches to Understanding the Torah's Vision for Humanity.** A Star of the Sea Centre workshop led by Jonathan Shefa, who is an experienced speaker on the Hebrew bible and the Jewish tradition in which the Torah is seen as a living, breathing document, meant to be understood anew in each generation. St. Mary's Church in Fulford. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is required at staroftheseasi@gmail.com.

**ToddlerTime at the Library.** Wednesdays at the Salt Spring Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Best suited kids under 4 and their caregivers. Older siblings are welcome.

**SS Film Fest presents Clive Davis: the Soundtrack of Our Lives.** Chris Perkel's riveting profile of legendary music man Clive Davis spans a remarkable five-decade career, providing an incredible tour of the most sensational music of the '60s to the rise of hip-hop. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

## Thu. Feb. 22

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Sneakers Open House.** Salt Spring Sneakers running club holds an open house every Thursday in February. All ages and abilities of runners and walkers are invited to join coach Susan Gordon and the Sneakers at the Portlock Park track for a free information session from 10 to 11 a.m.

**Green Drinks.** Transition Salt Spring event at Penny's Pantry on the Green. 5 to 8 p.m.

**The Beautiful Gulf Islands.** Presentation by Charles Kahn, author of Hiking the Gulf Islands, at SS Public Library. 7 p.m. A SS Trail and Nature Club event open to the public.

**Artist in Residence Talk with Greg Constantine.** SSAC Artist in Residence speaks on his travels and images documenting displaced people. Greg Constantine is a documentary photographer who works almost exclusively on projects that focus on human rights, injustice and equality. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.

## Fri. Feb. 23

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Jessie of Arcadian Suns.** Indie, folk, rock and reggae at Woodley's at the Harbour House Hotel. 7 to 10 p.m.

**A Friday Affair - The Sequin Shines!** An evening of burlesque, drag, music, comedy and more raises funds for the Mamma Priscilla - The Sequin production in March. For mature audiences (16+) at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

## Fri. Feb. 23

### ACTIVITIES

**Acrylic Silhouette & Collage Seascapes Art Class.** For kids aged 9-12 at Ocean Art Studio & Gallery in Merchants' Mews. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**StoryTime at the Library.** Fridays at the Salt Spring Public Library in the library children's corner. Best for kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers. 11 a.m.

**Art Opening: Greg Constantine.** Opening reception for Greg Constantine documentary photography series Nowhere People and Seven Doors at conclusion of four-month residency, with exhibition continuing to March 4. Fault Line Projects. 5 to 8 p.m.

**Karaoke With Drew.** Karaoke at the Legion. 7 p.m.

**Butterflies, Bees & Other Pollinators.** Local entomologist and gardening expert Linda Gilkeson gives photo presentation at Lions Hall, plus info on citizen science project needing volunteers. 7 p.m.

## Sat. Feb. 24

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Patrick Zelinski.** Instrumental music featuring shades of jazz, classical, folk and soul. Woodley's at the Harbour House Hotel. 6 to 9 p.m.

**Foothills Brass Quintet Concert.** Calgary-based group, including Salt Spring trumpet player Derrick Milton, performs all-ages concert of classical, jazz, movie music and even a little country. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.

## Sat. Feb. 24

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**John Lennon Tribute Show.** A musical/theatrical presentation of the music and persona of one of the great musical icons of our time - John Lennon - presented by Phil Rossner. Lions Hall. 8 p.m. (doors at 7:30 p.m.)

**Interchill Records DJ Night.** At Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Puccini's La Boheme.** The world's most popular opera returns in Franco Zeffirelli's classic production, with a series of exciting casts. Livestreamed at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m.

**Community Circle to Explore Change.** Circle to explore what we can learn from each other, sharing & listening to stories of change, personal and collective. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: 250-537-8804

**Art & Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon.** Led by SSAC artist in residence Regan Shrumm. SS Public Library. 2 to 4 p.m.

## Sun. Feb. 25

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Death Cafe.** Hosted by community engagement facilitator Anna Haltrecht and facilitated by Jaya-Lynda Cole and Genevieve Martini, Salt Spring Hospice volunteers. ArtSpring lobby. 2 to 4 p.m.

## Sun. Feb. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**A Love Affair with Colour.** Five-Sunday workshop taught by Daina Deblette at Ocean Art Studio & Gallery from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Channeling and Sound Healing.** Internationally acclaimed channellers Brad Johnson and Tina Louise Spalding are joined by sound healer Adam Huber for an afternoon of channelled teachings for The New Earth. Salt Spring Island Wellness Centre. 1 to 7 p.m. Info: Brad Johnson - 236-882-3305.

## Sun. Feb. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**Square Dance.** The Salty Wheels Square Dance club hosts a square dance with visiting dancers at SS Elementary School gym from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Spectators welcome.

**Role of the Curator Talk & Panel.** Paul Crawford, co-curator of Behind the Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art, will speak about the exhibition from his view as lead curator. He will be joined via Skype by Syrian co-creator Humam Alsalm. A panel on the role of the curator with Crawford, Regan Shrumm and Margaret Day will follow. Mahon Hall. 2 p.m.

## Mon. Feb. 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Salt Spring Folk Club: Lennie Gallant.** Award-winning PEI singer-songwriter is the Salt Spring Folk Club performer at Fulford Hall. 7 p.m., with doors open at 6 p.m. for season's ticket holders and 6:15 p.m. for others.

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Transportation Commission Meeting.** Regular monthly business meeting. Public welcome. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 4 p.m.

**Salt Spring Community Alliance Monthly Meeting.** Everyone welcome to meeting at Lions Hall. 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments. www.SSCommunityAlliance.org

**Salt Spring Toastmasters All-Speech Night.** Public welcome to watch Toastmasters all-speech night at Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m. sharp.

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

## Tue. Feb. 27

### ACTIVITIES

**Shut Up and Write.** Silent focused writing in 25-minute intervals, with 5-minute breaks. Facilitated by Jane Eaton Hamilton at the Salt Spring Public Library in Room 106 (by the computers) every Tuesday through May 29. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Tech Cafe: Libby Online Books with Conrad.** Learn how to use the new app from Overdrive to download thousands of library eBooks and audiobooks to your favourite device. Libby is designed to be user friendly, with streamlined controls for easy downloading and reading, or listening. Salt Spring Library. 12 to 1:30 p.m.

**Goose In Ganges.** Songs, rhymes and finger plays for ages 0 to 6. Come join Andrea and Janice at the Salt Spring Elementary Elf Room from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays.

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

**MM Contemporary Dance.** Italian dance company presents Bolero and The Rite of Spring. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Plus post-show talkback.

## Wed. Feb. 28

### ACTIVITIES

**Collaboration & Building Community Breakfast.** Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and library-sponsored event at the Salt Spring Public Library. 8 a.m.

**Mary Lou Bompas Retirement Celebration.** Say goodbye to Mary Lou after 39 years at Old Salty and meet new manager Karen Stanley. Old Salty. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Salt Spring Garden Club - Brian Minter.** Renowned horticulturist Brian Minter is the garden club's guest for a special event at Meaden Hall that begins at noon with an informal meet and greet (bring your bag lunch), followed by a short garden club meeting at 12:45 p.m. and Minter's presentation - titled Dramatic Changes in the World of Gardening - at 1:15 p.m. Q&A session follows. Non-club members welcome.

**Speakers to Enlighten and Entertain.** UVic professor emerita Patricia Roy speaks on B.C.'s Ambiguous Relations with the Rest of Canada. Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 2 p.m.

**ToddlerTime at the Library.** See last Wednesday's listing.

## Thu. Feb. 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

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<p><b>The Post</b> 1 hr 56 min Rating: PG FINAL SHOWS Feb. 21st - 22nd Wed. and Thurs. 7pm</p>	<p><b>Lady Bird</b> 1hr 34 min. Rating: 14A Feb. 23rd to 25th Fri. Sat. 7pm Sun. 3pm matinee &amp; 7pm</p>	<p><b>HARRY DEAN STANTON is LUCKY</b> 1hr. 30 min. Rating: PG Feb. 26th to Mar 1st Mon. to Thurs. 7pm</p>
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### CINEMA

- The Post** — Final two shows. The Post publisher and editor race to catch up with The New York Times to expose a cover-up of government secrets that spans three decades. Starring Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep.
- Lady Bird** — An outspoken teen must navigate a loving, turbulent relationship with her strong-willed mother over the course of an eventful senior year of high school.
- Lucky** — With Harry Dean Stanton. A 90-year-old atheist has outlived and out-smoked his contemporaries, and as he comes to terms with his own mortality, he searches for ever-elusive enlightenment.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Behind the Lines:** Contemporary Syrian Art continues at Mahon Hall through Sunday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two special events also take place at the hall this week: Artist in resident **Greg Constantine** gives a presentation on his Nowhere People project on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.; and a presentation by Syrian art show co-curators **Paul Crawford** and **Humam Alsalm** for the Cyrrus Gallery in Damascus takes place on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m., followed by a curators panel with **Crawford, Margaret Day** and **Regan Shrumm** and moderated by **Anthony Matthews**.

- Greg Constantine** presents **Nowhere People** at **Fault Line Projects** gallery from Feb. 23 through March 4, with an opening reception on Friday, Feb. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Erotica** is a tasteful fine art show about love, pleasure, sexuality and the body, with 25 local artists sharing their ceramics, paintings, textile, sculpture, glass, jewellery and photography at **Salt Spring Gallery**. Runs to March 11.
- Forgotten Females of Salt Spring Island**, an exhibition featuring self-taught female artists, such as **Florence Walter, Sophie King, Beryl Weatherell** and **Gwen Ruckle**, and how they built community through their artistic practice, runs in the library program room through Feb. 28. Curated by **Regan Shrumm** through the Salt Spring Arts Council's Artist in Residence program. Shrumm holds an Art & Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m
- Long-time Fernwood-area resident **Bruce McPhee** holds an art show at Fernwood Road Cafe through March 17.
- Looking Up** is a display of art by **Suzanne Prendergast** and photographs by **Bill Underwood** hanging in the **ArtSpring** lobby through February.
- Judy McPhee** has photographs hanging in **TJ Beans** through February.
- Tina Spalding** shows her work at **Barb's Bistro**.



## The Beautiful Gulf Islands

A presentation by author Charles Kahn

### Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

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# people&community

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

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



## NATURE

# Beautiful wasp nest hangs out in Brinkworthy carport



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

From left, Phyllis Wakelyn with hutch and large wasp nest inside; close-up shot of the nest.

Phyllis Wakelyn wants nest removed but not destroyed

**BY MARC KITTERINGHAM**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What some consider to be a nuisance can also be seen as a work of art.

Phyllis Wakelyn has a rather large and beautiful wasp nest inside her Brinkworthy Estates carport. She discovered the nest after noticing little holes in a blanket covering a piece of furniture in her garage. When she looked closer, the holes were being used by wasps that had built an intricate nest inside the hutch.

“It was about four months ago when I first saw the little holes appearing. They were getting settled in for the winter, I guess. When they first began they were babies, with no colour. Slowly but surely as I saw them come and go I realized they were developing stripes,” she said.

“In the winter I checked it

out to see what was happening there. A few of them would fly out, but not many. There’d be two or three. They didn’t bother me, they were just checking to see who was bothering their nest.”

The nest does not have any living wasps in it at present, and Wakelyn is looking for a way to remove it from the drawer it is

attached to.

“So many of the neighbours have been saying to people to come and see it,” she said.

She would like to keep it but not inside the piece of furniture.

“[It would be great] if we are able to get it taken off there without ruining it, but I don’t know who to go to for that . . . It’s so gorgeous.”

## GARDENING

# Garden club hosts Minter

High profile guest at Feb. 28 afternoon event

Well-known horticulturist Brian Minter is the Salt Spring Garden Club’s Feb. 28 meeting guest.

Rather than being the usual evening meeting, the event at Meaden Hall begins at noon with an informal meet and greet with Minter. People are welcome to bring their bag lunch.


A short club meeting takes place at 12:45 p.m., and then Minter’s talk, *Dramatic Changes in the World of Gardening*, begins at 1:15 p.m. It will be followed by a question and answer session.

With his wife Faye, Minter co-owns Minter Country Garden, an innovative destination garden centre and greenhouse growing operation in Chilliwack. An Order of Canada recipient, he is also well known from his magazine articles, syndicated newspaper columns and TV and radio programs. He is in demand internationally as a speaker for gardening, tourism and industry groups.

In 2014 he was awarded the highest honours given by the Perennial Plant Association and by the Garden Writers Association. Minter has sat on and chaired many boards and served two terms as the first chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley.

The public is welcome to join garden club members at next Wednesday’s event.

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## SELF-DEVELOPMENT

# Toastmasters rise up at speech night

Public welcome to  
Monday evening  
events

SUBMITTED BY SSI  
TOASTMASTERS

February is Toastmasters  
Month in B.C.

The ability to speak clearly and effectively is a powerful and important skill that can help individuals overcome barriers to effective performance in virtually every endeavour and line of work.

A non-profit organization dedicated to making effective oral communications a national and international reality for all persons was founded in 1924 as Toastmasters International. The first Toastmasters club outside of the United States was chartered in 1935 in Victoria, B.C., and today, after 90 years, Toastmasters in B.C. has grown to serve more than 11,500 members in over 300 clubs.

Did you know that there is a very active Toastmasters club right here on Salt Spring Island? Chartered in May 2004, the club's mission is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members



PHOTO COURTESY SSI TOASTMASTERS

Salt Spring Toastmasters member Paul McElroy entertains his peers at a recent meeting.

are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Because the Salt Spring club wished to be more accessible to all Salt Spring residents, the meeting location is now the Salt Spring Public Library each Monday night except on statutory holidays. Here, members draw on the resources and structure of the Toastmasters program to develop skills in speaking, listening, giving feedback, decision-making, effective meeting management, delegating and mentoring, all vital skills that promote

self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding and contribute to the betterment of humankind.

For members, the weekly meetings are a great motivation to get out of the house and connect with other people united in a common interest in becoming better communicators. Meetings generally follow a standard agenda structure, however, thematically cover a vast diversity of topics as selected by each Meeting Toastmaster. Recent meeting themes have featured Automation, Letting Go, The ART of Speaking and Achiev-

ing a World-Wide Happiness Crisis. Where else might you experience impromptu two-minute mini-speeches on a prompt such as "What is the difference between living and existing," "If your life is a work of art, what would that look like" or "Tell us about your life as a proud owner of a robot cat!"

On Feb. 26, the club will run an "all-speech" night at which club members will present speeches they have been working on over the past several weeks. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The bigger an audience the better!

Toastmasters International is now rolling out a completely new learning program tailored to the interests and technologies of today's population mix, and the Salt Spring club will be welcoming a guest speaker to the Monday, March 5 meeting to explain this new program. It's a good opportunity to hear what's going on at the Salt Spring Toastmasters club and consider whether connecting to communicate might be an important priority in your life at this time.

For more information, visit the club's website at [www.saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org](http://www.saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org).

## CITIZEN SCIENCE

# Pollinators promoted by Gilkeson

Butterfly recorders needed

On Friday, Feb. 23 at Lions Hall, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy will host Linda Gilkeson, PhD, a local entomologist and gardening expert, author and trainer, who has a particular interest in pollinators.

She will give a photo presentation at 7 p.m., sharing facts and entertaining stories about butterflies, bees, pollinator flies and the plants they visit.

According to Gilkeson, over 85 per cent of flowering plants rely on pollinators, mostly insects, to be able to reproduce. Without pollinators,

much of the food that humans and wildlife rely on would disappear and ecosystems throughout the world would be in trouble.

In her presentation, Gilkeson will also talk about this year's citizen science project at the conservancy. Last year, Gilkeson trained 10 people to become butterfly citizen scientists and she'll be training volunteers again this year.

Beginning March 24, interested people with various degrees of knowledge and experience will be able to participate in a training to learn butterfly identification and in data recording. Once a month, citi-

zen scientists will venture to different locations on the island and in ideal butterfly conditions to collect data that will help inform the Conservancy's ongoing work to conserve wildlife habitat on the island.

Some long-running citizen science projects, such as bird counts and butterfly counts, have yielded valuable information over the years that supplements and sometimes stimulates research by scientists. Gilkeson's Feb. 23 presentation will provide valuable information to anyone interested in becoming a butterfly citizen scientist.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

## DUPLICATE BRIDGE

# Club mourns loss of charming player

Feb. 5 was last game  
for Oleh Mycyk

## BRIDGETRICKS

BY JILL EVANS  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Tennyson said, "A sorrow's crown of sorrow is remembering happier times." And so we must do that.

Our sorrow is that the genial gentle giant, Oleh Mycyk, died peacefully three days after coming fourth at bridge on Feb. 5. Happier times were his frequent wins

and remembering his charm and humour, as well as his helpfulness in teaching bridge to others. He will be missed by many more than just the Salt Spring Duplicate Bridge Club.

Results of that Feb. 5 game were happy for Ian Thomas and Zelly Taylor, who came first out of four full tables. Second were Trinlay

MacPhee and Don Nemeth. Bob and Judy Ripley were third, and it was Jeff Bell who partnered Oleh Mycyk for his last game, coming fourth.

Feb. 12 was the Family Day holiday in B.C., as well as PyeongChang's Olympic Games on TV and, for canine fanciers, the Westminster dog show's also on TV, so that may have caused the fact that there were only three full tables for bridge. This time the Ripleys were triumphant,

Ted Baldwinson partnered Trinlay MacPhee and they came second. George Laundry and Terry Clement were third and Gisela Welsh with Jill Evans occupied fourth place. Next Monday we hope to see some more players, with several returning from the warmth of Mexico.

If you are tempted to have a go at duplicate bridge with a friendly group and need info, please contact George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or [pastorale@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorale@shaw.ca).

FUNDRAISER

# Tables ready for Scrabble challenge

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign hosts 10th annual event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Grandmothers to Grandmothers group is taking pledges and dusting off their Scrabble dictionaries for their keystone annual fundraising event.

Scrabble enthusiasts and people who rarely play but always support the grandmothers campaign will gather for drop-in games at the Salt Spring Inn on March 6 and 7 this year, with the final event and silent auction set for Penny's Pantry on the Green on March 10.

The events will mark the 10th year of local fundraising activities for families that have been devastated by HIV/AIDS in Africa, with returns going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. The island group is hoping that even more people than usual will turn out to celebrate the milestone and make sure this year's donation is a big one — and they'd also like to attract new members to help their efforts.

Beth Gessinger is just one of the eight or nine islanders who have been there since the start and remain committed to the campaign. She was in Toronto for the first international Grandmothers Gathering in 2006, when Canadian grandmothers made the commitment to support their African peers who were left raising orphaned grandchildren.

"The motto is 'We will not rest until they can rest,'" Gessinger said. "That's what keeps us going. And we're so well off here. We have so much we can share with our African sisters."

Salt Spring participants have contributed more than \$150,000 to the \$27 million raised nationally during the campaign's first decade-plus in operation. Funds go to self-directed initiatives in Africa, based on what the local people say they need. Projects can include medical care, HIV counselling and testing, school fees, uniforms, books and materials, community education, support groups, food baskets, school feeding programs and community gardens.

"Our philosophy is firmly rooted in the notion that if anyone is going to turn the tide of AIDS in Africa at the community level, they will be found in the community themselves,"



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Grandmothers to Grandmothers members Beth Gessinger, left, and Oni Freeman display some favourite items from the history of the group, which hosts its 10th annual Scrabble fundraiser games for the grassroots campaign in March.

states the Stephen Lewis Foundation. "We've worked to create a model that is responsive and flexible, and reflects the needs and priorities on the ground."

Oni Freeman, another member who has been with the Salt Spring group since its inception, said the grandmothers campaign is successful in part because it upends the regular hierarchy between donor and recipient.

"It's going to the people who need it and it's empowering," Freeman said. "And it's an older feminist model, showing what can be accomplished with love."

A book aptly called *The Power of Love* released last year tells many inspiring stories of African women powering through loss to rebuild their communities with the campaign's help. Situations like the woman who was raising 19 grandchildren after all her children died of HIV/AIDS are at the extreme end of an all too common situation.

As the AIDS epidemic has passed 30 years, the sense of urgency in western developed countries has evaporated along with much of the funding. But while North Americans with health plans may overcome the disease with drugs, there are still a million people dying every year.

The women that the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign supports are working to transform their situa-

tion. Gessinger said since they no longer have to focus on getting the bare essentials to survive, such as food and medicine for their families, they are starting to push for things like justice, education and inheritance rights for women.

"Ten years is a long time, and a lot can happen on the ground. They're now starting to demand changes be made. I think that's really exciting," Gessinger said.

"They're branching out into healthy entitlement," Freeman agreed. "And it really benefits us as well. Here we are, older women, and we're revolutionaries."

The Salt Spring Grandmothers to Grandmothers group has a core base of around 15 people and 30 members in total, but numbers have diminished over the past few years. Anyone can participate regardless of gender or grandchildren status. Meetings take place at the Salt Spring Seniors Centre at 3 p.m. on the first Monday of the month.

"We want to invite and inspire our community to join us. If you have ever thought of joining us in this effort, the time is now," Freeman said.

Everyone is also urged to come out for the Scrabble games and play a round, or just watch for fun and drop a donation into the jars. Games at the Salt Spring Inn run from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 6 and 7. The finale event at Penny's goes from 6 to 9 p.m. on March 10.

MEDITATION

# Musician leads contemplation session

Elvira Clare brings spiritual perspective

Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice is offering a day-long program on Thursday, March 1 titled *From Song to Stillness: A Contemplative Meditation*.

Facilitated by singer/songwriter and contemplative Elvira Clare, the day will focus on meditative singing as a means of experiencing

"contemplative stillness." Singing with intention, purpose and feeling is a simple and effective way of softening and opening the inner heart to deeper levels of awareness and presence. Singing and repeating a sacred musical phrase begins as an external form of spiritual expression, gradually deepening to subtler dimensions of the soul's outpouring, where the singing merges into silence.

During the day's ses-

sion, each participant will be given a handout, which will include the words from inter-spiritual and spiritual sources. Each session will include periods of singing followed by periods of contemplative silence and meditation. Walking meditation will also be included.

Clare is a writer of songs and chants that are descriptive of the spiritual journey. These songs reflect the meeting point of music and the contemplative experi-

ence. She has not only facilitated retreats worldwide, but also brought much pleasure to audiences with her pure voice and heartfelt singing.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Mary's church in Fulford. People of all backgrounds and traditions are welcome. A knowledge of music is not necessary.

Registration is required at [staroftheseassi@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com).

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This Week's

## Horoscope

by Michael O'Connor

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## TIP OF THE WEEK

Pisces time is well underway with five planets in the slippery and elusive sign of the fish. Supported by powerful currents triggered by the recent Solar Eclipse in the late degree of Aquarius, 2018 is really beginning to roll. That eclipse also unleashed the barking Earth Dog. You get bet what it is up to; digging for bones and other treasures, of course. Saturn in Capricorn and Uranus entering Taurus in May corresponds well to this theme.

The Dog is known to be black and white in their attitudes. Are you friend or foe? Decide quickly. Well, the Dog might decide for you, actually. It could amount to whether they consider you to be worthy of friendship. Loyalty to those they love, often linked to those who feed them, is without question.

Meanwhile, Sun, Mercury, Venus, Chiron and Neptune in Pisces is a very noteworthy stellium of focus. It brings inspirations and the invitation to dream. Yet, it also implies brainstorming to generate ideas and outline plans, even. Mercury conjunct Venus comes into wide orb by about February 22 and actually become conjunct on March 4th and will remain closely aligned all the way until Spring Equinox due to Mercury turning Retrograde in Aries. More on that later...

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)**

Ducking out of the limelight for a while will prove rewarding. Getting away or going on some kind of retreat would be ideal. Yes, travel is indicated. If you can't get away literally, find another way as with a good book perhaps. Meanwhile, settling accounts and attending to various financial interests and responsibilities is featured.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)**

Sometimes the waters are choppy while at others smooth and calm yet the waves can prove to be large and powerful as well. This metaphor describes what is indicated now. Your passions are high as well and you want to engage. Joining with friends of like mind and shared interest is likely. Will you enjoy reverie together or actually ride? It's all good.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**

A series of complex interactions are keeping you busy. Some of these are linked to your public and professional life. Some edgy interactions are likely and pushing you to be faithful and positive, but you have to work at it. These setbacks may also be linked to others close to you undergoing personal challenges. Persevere faithfully.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**

Stepping back to see a bigger picture to reassess who you are at this stage of your journey and what you want is a central theme. It does require some extra effort, yet it may amount to creative thinking more than physical effort. Taking time to reflect on what is important and what you truly feel you need beyond outer pressures could save you time and effort.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**

You are mid-way through a potentially deep and difficult cycle. Positively, you are purging and releasing things from your life that no longer serve a meaningful purpose. This could include certain relationship involvements. But, it could include some of your own attitudes and approaches to things. Amidst it all, clarity breeds confidence.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**

Dealing with others of late brings a rich blend of results ranging from the extraordinary to the utter dismal. The negative end may not be devastating, but at least annoying and disappointing. It may seem as though people and situations are not as reliable as they used to be. It may seem that much is simply disintegrating. Trust the process and keep on moving on accordingly.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**

Making Changes and adjustments in your daily rhythm and routine is likely now. Your choices are linked to financial goals and interests. Serious consideration of new employment is a distinct possibility. Your ambitions continue to climb and your energy levels are too supporting you to answer the call.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**

A feature of being the most complex sign of the zodiac is that you are very proud and protective of your unique sense of individuality. In other words, others may find you to be quite an enigma. Asserting your sense of power feels important now and this comes with a rebellious spirit. Yet, situations call for humility and cooperation.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**

A journey within to lay claim to your deepest truths and your heart's true desire continues. If you move beyond guilt, attachment, fear and such and can simply identify what you feel you need and want, you will be more than halfway there. Where the results are mixed and involving others, a process of dialogue will bring you closer to your dreams.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**

Due to a series of changes and endings in your life, you find yourself making new connections. Some of these are relatively obvious and outer while others are directed to access your truth. A process of critical analysis is implied. What you are quickly discovering is that your entire scope of perceptions is also steadily undergoing changes causing you to make new associations.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**

Your perceptions and priorities are steadily changing. Each is activating the other and it is difficult to know which started first. The result is a push to enter the public arena with a new sense of resolve. At this point, a spirited assertion balanced by a sober appreciation of the existing outer realities should produce satisfactory results.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**

Inspirations to take new leads are yours to enjoy and act upon now. Seeing a bigger picture is featured. This can include long-term considerations but also exploring new arenas, markets and locations altogether. As well, forging new alliances is also likely. The main goal now is that you prepare the ground for more creativity and diversity.

## HEALTH CARE

## Health-care provider wins award

Sarah Reiter honoured  
in Victoria Monday

Sarah Reiter, a licensed practical nurse supervisor who lives on Salt Spring, was honoured as BC's Home Support Care Provider of the Year on Monday.

The BC Care Award was presented by the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) in Victoria at a special ceremony attended by B.C. Lieutenant Governor General Judith Guichon and Health Minister Adrian Dix.

The award honours a front-line care provider employed by a BCCPA member for going above and beyond in delivering care to B.C.'s seniors.

Reiter works for Beacon Community Services, a not-for-profit social services organization that serves about 10,000 clients in the Greater Victoria and outer Gulf Islands areas. She began as a community health worker care aide and then moved into a nursing leadership role.

In response to the honour, Reiter said she finds enjoyment in her career by "helping people live their lives to the fullest; being capable of making a difference in a person's day, week, year."

"Sarah works in a rural part of the province, where staying late



PHOTO COURTESY BCCPPA

Salt Spring-based LPN supervisor Sarah Reiter, who works for Beacon Community Services and won a Home Support Care Provider of the Year award on Monday.

to help a client or a co-worker might mean missing the last ferry home," said Bob Boulter, Beacon Community Services' CEO. "But she's unstintingly generous with her time and skills, and team members recognize her as a 'go to' person and praise her dedication and commitment."

Boulter said that perspective nicely parallels Beacon's mission of helping people and improving lives.

"We're proud of what Sarah and her colleagues bring to the job every day," he said.

Saanich North and the

Islands MLA Adam Olsen passed along comments congratulating the award recipients in advance of the ceremony, in particular mentioning the two from his riding: Reiter and Shauna Appleyard from the Sidney All Care Residence.

"Every day front-line workers, staff, and care providers work tirelessly to support seniors in our community. Tonight the BC Care Providers Association will celebrate their dedication, innovation and excellence within the continuing care sector across the province," Olsen said.

## FILM

## Screeners get to witness the world

Previews of  
upcoming  
documentary  
films

BY MAGGIE ZIEGLER  
SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

The nomads of the Tibetan Plateau, the first female Sharia judge in the Middle East, and Congolese survivors of sexual violence are just a few of the planet's peoples that I encountered while screening films for the documentary film festival on March 3-5.

In today's interconnected and interdependent world, our future is shared. Climate change, environmental destruction, war and oppression have different impacts in different places. Some migrate while others struggle to build something new. Whatever their situation, the people in these films want us to listen.

Dropka: A tribute to the last of Tibet's

nomads took me inside the great visual beauty of the Tibetan Plateau and the kind of silence one finds only in open spaces. I felt part of an elegiac song to a way of life disappearing because of environmental change, politics and the fencing of the commons. I was reminded that the drying up of the plateau's rivers, the source of water for millions of people downstream, will have an impact on all of us.

Through individual stories of struggle and hope, this thoughtful film reveals challenges and hardships of both the traditional life and modern adaptations, including the roles of women.

Far from the Tibetan Plateau, in the law courts of Palestine, women also struggle against patriarchal constraints. The Judge follows Judge Koloud Al-Fagh's journey to becoming the first female judge in Palestine's Sharia courts

and takes us into courtrooms where she is challenging anti-female interpretations of Sharia.

Not only the inspiring presence of Al-Fagh has stayed with me, but also the portrayal of everyday Palestinian life in the communities she is connected to. Families argue about women's rights and domestic violence in a way familiar to anyone who has worked in this field in Canada.

This diversity of opinions offers nuance and complexity within a culture and a religion that the western world too often simplifies, and misunderstands.

Koloud Al-Fagh wants to encourage women everywhere to take leadership. And that is happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo, at a residential centre called The City of Joy, founded in 2011 by Congolese Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Denis Mukwege,

American writer and activist Eve Ensler and Congolese human rights activist Christine Schuler Deschryver.

The City of Joy is a place where women who have suffered horrific abuse come together to tell their stories, develop leadership skills and become powerful voices of change.

The survivors at the heart of this story face themselves, each other and the camera with a stunning honesty; their traumas, desperation, hopelessness and their innumerable losses that brought me to tears.

Then their slow determined steps, their resilience and laughter, and their transformation to a new place brought the realization that the City of Joy is a wondrous and unique place offering to the world the possibility that for even the most wounded amongst us, the human spirit can be restored to a place that includes joy.

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March 28, 1952 - February 5, 2018

Stephen passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

A true Family Man, Stephen will always be remembered through all the love, knowledge and wisdom he passed on to us.

No service by his request. Special thanks to Dr. Crichton and Dr. Trouton, and all the friends and community for their love and support.

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*Nancy Evelyn Stout (nee Larnder)*

Nancy passed away peacefully, on her own terms, on February 8, 2018 in Surrey, BC at her retirement residence.

Born in Vancouver and she lived in Kerrisdale, Cowichan and Victoria. Nancy is predeceased by husband Edward Mural Stout in 1998.

She worked at Sauder Industries, Bourne & Weir and retired from C. Davis Manufacturing (Vancouver) in 1986. Nancy moved to Salt Spring Island, BC where she enjoyed living by the ocean. Her passions were swimming, boating, playing bridge and travelling. Nancy will be lovingly remembered and missed by daughters Lauren (Don), Gail (Wayne) and grandchildren Dana, Tyler and Evan and friends.

As per her wishes, no service will be held and her ashes will be scattered in the ocean. In lieu of flowers, donations directly to the Royal Canadian Legion Br. #92, 120 Blain Rd. SSI, BC V8K 2P7 would be most appreciated.

To share memories and condolences, please visit [www.firstmemorialsurrey.com](http://www.firstmemorialsurrey.com).

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

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

COMING EVENTS

**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**MEETING NOTICE**  
2 March 2018 beginning at 4:30pm

Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have scheduled a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held March 2, 2018 at the Training Room Fire Hall No. 1 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The business of the meeting will be conducted in an In-camera session as it concerns appointment of public members to Board committees and Human Resource matters.

Board of Trustees  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

*You left us beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
and though we cannot see you  
you're always at our side.*

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

COMING EVENTS

**SPEAKERS TO ENLIGHTEN AND ENTERTAIN**

Location: Seniors Centre  
379 Lower Ganges Rd.

Wednesday, Feb. 28  
at 2pm

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# sports & recreation

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

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



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

# Island swimmers clean up at Crystal Pool competition

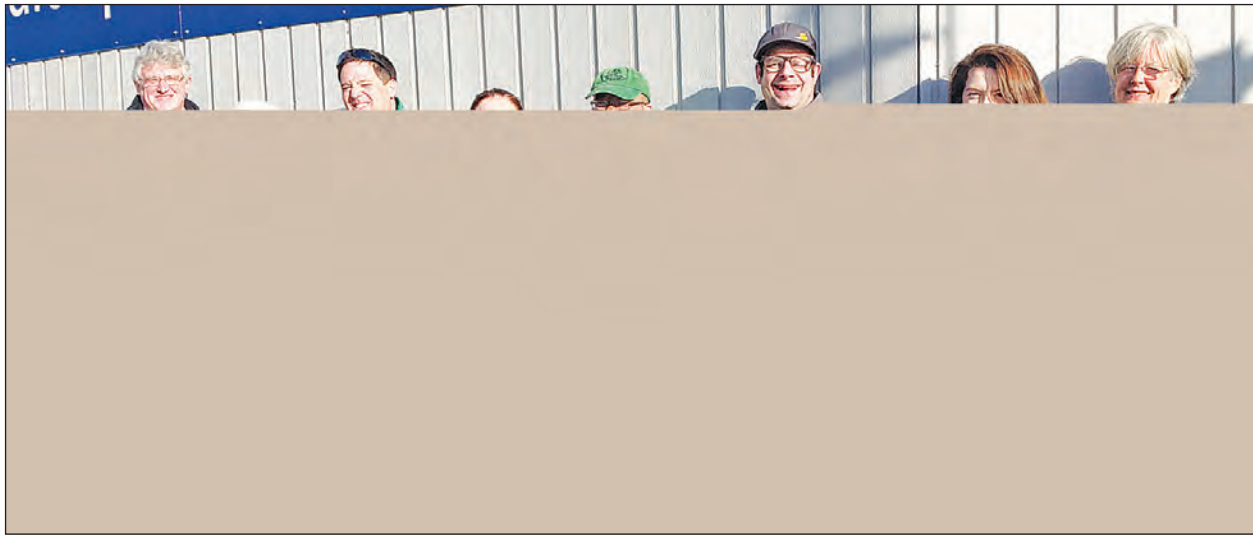


PHOTO COURTESY SS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Salt Spring's Special Olympics swim squad, from left, SO district coordinator Merv Anderson, support staffperson Meaghan McKillop, swimmers Carlos Manzano and Mahjor Bains, coach Joan Gunn-Allard, swimmers Jason Newport and Chris Joynson, and coaches Madison Wesley-Plambeck and Kim McKay at the Fulford ferry terminal.

Salt Spring and Vancouver Island athletes converge in Victoria

Four Salt Spring swimmers competed at Crystal Pool in Victoria on Sunday at the first Victoria Special Olympics swim meet.

Mahjor Bains placed first in the 25-metre breaststroke with a time of 45.84 and came fourth in the 25-m freestyle with a time of 34.41.

Chris Joynson was second in the 50-m freestyle with a time of 1:17:87. He also finished third in the 25-m freestyle (33.32) and fourth in the 25-metre backstroke (57.41).

In the 25-m backstroke event, Carlos Manzano's time of 32.25 earned him a first-place finish. He came second in the 50-m freestyle with a time of 1:03:22 and third with a time of 26.11 in the 25-m freestyle.

Jason Newport swam in four events, starting with the 50-m backstroke, where he placed first with a time of 1:14:81. Newport earned two seconds: one in the 25-m freestyle (21.62) and another in the 25-m backstroke (33.90). In the 50-m freestyle, his 48.23 time was good for fourth place.

Salt Spring Special Olympics coaches and support staff also attended and helped make the day a success.

## RUNNING

# Snow, ice and wind challenge runners

Sneakers finish in top 10 of age groups

### SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

Just as there has been a fair amount of weather drama this winter season, so has there continued to be an unusual amount of drama to the Vancouver Island Race Series.

Dawn on Sunday morning found a little bit of snow, a fair amount of ice, dropping temperatures and escalating winds topped off with gusts in Colwood, the venue for the Hatley 8K on the grounds of Royal Roads University. People coming from Nanaimo and further away

spoke of eight or more inches of snow.

The Hatley 8K is unique in the configuration of its course. The first 3.5 kilometres has two of the steepest climbs in the entire race series, and if you survive them, the last half is a full-blown trail run through the forests — mud, roots and all. Many find the climbs daunting and more than a few find reasons to avoid running it.

By race time, open parts of the course exposed to the sun had lost their ice and while the majority of the course was protected from the full-force of the north winds, it was nevertheless cold enough to merit the -5 windchill rating. Some 321 runners made it to the start line

as well as five Sneakers, and after warnings about the spots most likely to still have ice, the crowd gratefully got off to a quick start, if only to warm up.

The Sneakers again acquitted themselves well with all the team present finishing in the top 10 of their respective age groups. Pat Peron led the way with a personal best finish for the course, one minute and 22 seconds better than his finish last year, earning him a fourth of 20 in his 60-64 age group, 57th of 158 men and 69th of 321 runners.

The second Sneaker across the finish line was Eric Ellis, finishing first of 11 in his 70-74 age group, earning a gold medal. He was 94th of 158 males and

138th of 321 runners. Next across the line was Catherine Bennett earning a fourth of seven in her 65-69 age group, 82nd woman and 198th overall. Following Bennett was Julie van Soeren at eighth of 14 in her 60-64 age group, 112th woman and 248th overall. Finally, Doreen Peron, in her first year of road racing, finished ninth of 14 in the 60 to 64 age group, 114th woman and 251st overall.

This team performance earned the Sneakers 78 points, maintaining their position of sixth place of 46 teams in the Island Race Series or first place among the small teams.

Next, it's off to Port Alberni for a new course, a 15-km race on March 4.

## MASTERS SWIMMING

# Salt Spring women fly at masters event

Ten podium finishes achieved

### BY MARCIA JANSEN DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Joan Gunn-Allard, Jane MacKenzie and Susan Huber had a successful appearance in the 40th annual Victoria Masters Club swim meet on Feb. 4.

Together the three Salt Spring women were good for 10 podium finishes.

Swimmers from all over British

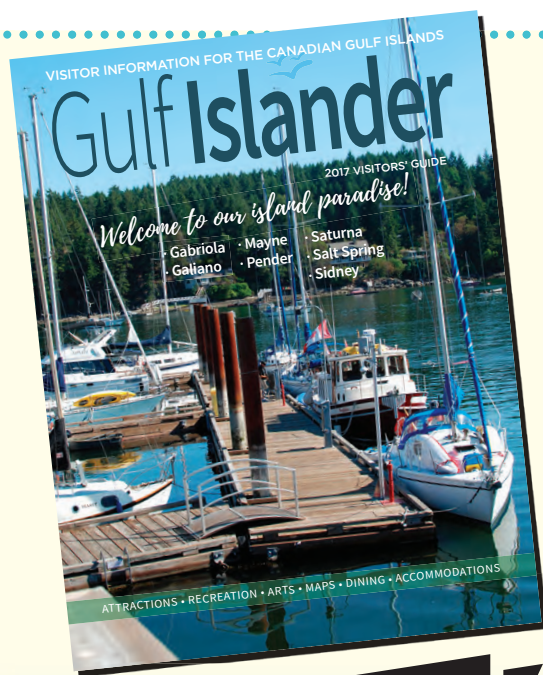
Columbia and even Toronto and Florida participated in the swim meet in the Commonwealth Pool in Victoria.

Gunn-Allard (60-64 age group) brought home four medals. She won the 200-metre backstroke, finished third in the 100-m backstroke and was — together with MacKenzie and two swimmers from Victoria — part of the Salt Spring Island Masters Club 4 x 50 freestyle and 4 x 50 international medley relay that made it to a third place twice. Gunn-Allard also finished fourth in the 50-m back-

stroke and fifth in the 50-m freestyle.

Next to her bronze medals in the relay, MacKenzie was the fastest woman in her 55-59 age group in the 50-m freestyle event and ended up fifth in the 50-m breaststroke.

Huber did well in her 70-74 age group by finishing second in the 50-m breaststroke and the 50-m backstroke and fourth in the 50-m freestyle. Huber was also part of a freestyle mixed-relay team with the Victoria Masters swim team. The Victoria team came 0.3 of a second short of first place.



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