



GULF ISLANDS
Driftwood

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PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

REUNITED: Tara MacLean-Grand of Salt Spring sings with Lennie Gallant, a family friend and multi-award-winner from Prince Edward Island, who was the Salt Spring Folk Club's headliner on Monday night at Fulford Hall.

ISLANDERS

Arthur Black signs off on his own terms

Salt Spring icon dies six weeks after cancer diagnosis

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Arthur Black, well-loved Canadian humourist, author, CBC radio personality and Salt Spring Islander, died last Wednesday at the age of 74.

Black was diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer on Jan. 2, 2018. He chose to die with medical assistance at Lady Minto Hospital, surrounded by family and friends.

In announcing the death on a Basic Black website that contained a recent cancer-journey blog written by Black, the family expressed gratitude "for the overwhelming messages of support and good wishes received during his struggle with pancreatic cancer." Black's close friend and Basic Black producer Chris Straw added, "It will come as no surprise to those who have been fans of Arthur's work that he faced it all with his own unique combination of defiance and good humour."

Black first worked for CBC radio as a farm market reporter in Thunder Bay in 1972, but became a household name across Canada through his CBC radio program Basic Black, which ran nationally on Saturday mornings from 1983 to 2002. After retiring from Basic Black his voice could still be heard for about a decade on the CBC Victoria All Points West show with a segment called Planet Salt Spring.

He told the Driftwood in 2015 that he enjoyed the CBC Victoria gig because "I got to talk about Salt Spring Island and almost nobody on Salt Spring could hear it, so I never had to defend myself from people in the check-out line at Thrifty's."

ARTHUR BLACK continued on 2

BUREAUCRACY

Tree request results in stress

Ministry orders fence move after woman asks for help

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A simple request for permission to remove a dangerous tree located on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure right-of-way has led to an ordeal for a Salt Spring woman.

Ministry staff finally approved the tree removal for Tuesday, but LePage Road resident Susan Cox feels she was ignored for many weeks and then punished for her

request, as she was ordered to move a fence after the tree is felled.

"I don't feel like I deserved three months of no conversation and when I do have conversation it's petty and I'm left feeling I did something wrong," Cox said. "I did not do anything wrong."

Last fall Cox decided she needed to take down two dangerous trees that were riddled with fist-sized woodpecker holes. When contractor Gord Lee arrived to do the

work, he informed her one of the trees was actually located over her property line and that permission from the ministry would be needed. Lee trimmed the tree that did belong to Cox, but could not take it down on its own because it was holding up the other tree.

Cox said several calls to the ministry's local agent Mainroad Contracting in November achieved no response.

TREE continued on 4

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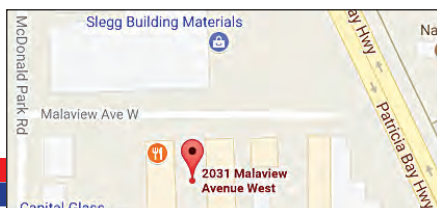
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Black remembered for generosity and humour

ARTHUR BLACK

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The Planet Salt Spring radio pieces were the basis of a 2009 book and audiobook by the same name put out by Harbour Publishing.

Black also hosted popular *Weird Homes* and *Weird Wheels* TV shows in the late 1990s.

He had written 19 books and won the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour three times. Only Eric Nicol and Stuart McLean also had three Leacock medals to their name.

Black began writing a weekly newspaper column in 1976 in Thunder Bay for a paper called *Lakehead Living*. As a syndicated column most recently called *Wit & Whimsy* it was read across the country and around the world for the next 40 years. He also met his partner Lynne Raymond in Thunder Bay when she was producer of a radio show he hosted.

After he and Raymond moved to Salt Spring

in 1995, Black contributed his time and talents to countless fundraisers on and off the island. Most recently he was seen on Knowledge Network, helping promote regular fund drives for the public television station. This past December he read the humorous *A Child's Christmas* in Scarborough by Howard Engel at a Grandmothers to Grandmothers fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation at the Salt Spring United Church.

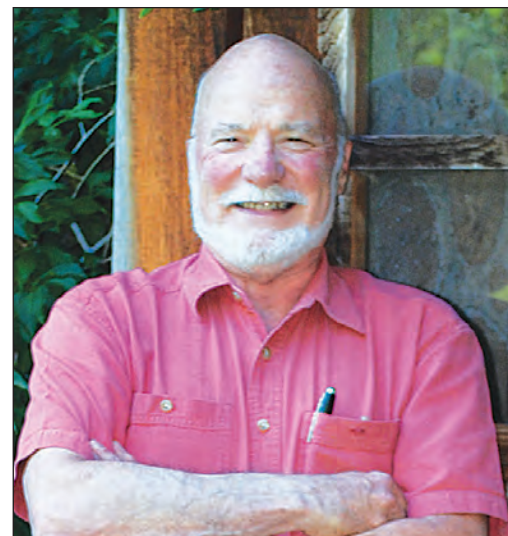
Jan Rabson became a close friend of Black through forming a Salt Spring book club many years ago. Rabson is a voice actor and the pair did readings for charity and collaborated on radio-play productions. He said Black is "one of the most generous men I've met."

"Art always sent my boys a postcard, with a picture of him smiling broadly wearing his black fedora, whenever they graduated or achieved something special . . . On the outside Art has a smile, looks gruff and seems

gregarious. You might not realize, if you don't know him, but Art is somewhat reserved and reclusive. He's a private person who also drove meals to seniors, accepted almost every charitable cause and even helped carry a table up to my snooker room when I broke my foot."

Black had been a Meals on Wheels volunteer driver for about 10 years. Program coordinator Catherine Bennett said he delivered "meals, charm, hugs and a warm smile to many Salt Spring seniors residences. Such a simple, low-profile piece of community service, and you know what, I think he really enjoyed it and the people and looked forward to his regular delivery days."

In his *Basicblack.homestead.com* blog, Black stated he was given from one to six months to live following his diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer is difficult to detect, with symptoms often not occurring until the disease has reached an advanced stage.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Arthur Black in 2015.

INFRASTRUCTURE

New path suggested for completion of harbourwalk

CRD assessments underway

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Securing public right-of-way to a key section of Ganges waterfront is being recommended as the best way forward for completing gaps in the boardwalk, while a number of studies now underway will provide information on whether any of the existing structure can be salvaged.

The Ganges Harbourwalk Steering Committee, which reports to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission, had little business to advance at its second meeting on

Feb. 20 beyond hearing that several different assessments of the upland area have now been tendered.

Committee chair Matt Steffich said the consultant on the last of the four reports is being finalized, and results of the structural, geotechnical, archaeological and environmental studies are expected to be ready by the end of June. The group will then know whether parts of the existing boardwalk, constructed in sections from 1985 to 1989, can be retained and refurbished or if the project would have to start again from scratch.

"It's just a formality now of waiting it out," Steffich said. "Any forward motion, no matter how small,

is still forward motion. The project has been a source of frustration, and we're actually somewhere we've never been in 27 years."

The LTC will meanwhile reconsider how it can help advance the project through land use tools at its business meeting this Thursday, March 1. The approach so far has been to create incentive for private landowners to grant public access to the shoreline through increased development potential in a new commercial zone. Trustees will now consider whether to abandon the proposed C7 zone and instead attempt to secure the right-of-way by intervening in Ganges Marina's foreshore tenure renewal application, or

by some other means.

According to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the ministry can consider agency referrals and "matters of public interest that need to be addressed, including any land use objectives that may have come into effect since the original tenure was issued" when granting new tenure to the same applicant.

Trust planning staff are recommending the LTC take the alternate route on the heels of significant public opposition to development voiced last fall, in addition to water supply issues and local First Nations' positions against foreshore development. The marina property covers nearly 10

acres of the shoreline and three of the six properties in question. (Only one lot would be part of the new C7 zone.)

"The recent expiry of the Ganges Marina's 30-year Crown lease appears to present a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the local government to solicit the province for public use of public land (water surface) that for the past three decades has effectively been privatized through the previous lease arrangement," planner Jason Youmans writes in his staff report for Thursday's meeting.

The CRD stated that it defers to the province in asserting rights to public access and supports the LTC's original plan of creating new zoning in exchange for a statutory right-of-way.

HOUSING

Housing changes could affect island

B.C. budget looks to cool market with new taxes

BY MARC KITTINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The B.C. NDP presented their first budget on Feb. 20, with some inclusions that will affect Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands, particularly when it comes to housing.

Housing was a big part of the budget, with many announcements made that will benefit affordable housing projects and make housing more accessible for people across the province. One of the hoped-for housing crisis remedies is a new speculation tax that will take effect in April 2019 for properties owned by people who live outside of B.C. According to a study published by Islands Trust in 2009, the amount of non-residential ownership on Salt Spring Island was 22 per cent. An additional tax on non-residential ownership, which is now estimated to be between 20 and 30 per cent, could make it difficult for the non-residents to maintain their properties.

Scott Simmons, a Salt Spring realtor, said in an email that "If someone owns a home worth \$2 million they will pay \$40,000 per year plus their property tax of approximately \$15,000 they are already paying . . . \$55,000 per year is a lot of money to pay out because contrary to popular belief most summer residents from off island are not fabulously wealthy. Most will probably and regrettably have to sell."

"I already have some new listings coming on as a result of it," said realtor Jan Macpherson. "I think people in Alberta who have cottages and recreational property in B.C. will be badly affected and will feel that they are being discriminated against as non-residents of B.C.

being that they are Canadians. I don't think it's going to make housing per se more affordable. I don't think it's going to meet the goal."

Other taxes will include the expansion of the foreign buyers tax — which is now set at 20 per cent — to the CRD, and allowing online platforms to take part in the hotel tax. This will allow platforms like Airbnb to charge eight per cent PST and up to three per cent "municipal and regional district tax" on short-term rentals. Revenue will go to both federal and regional governments and be used for other services.

The foreign buyer's tax is supposed to stop foreign investors from buying homes for the purpose of making more money, but Macpherson said she knows of "at least two young families that are in the process of trying to immigrate here, specifically to Salt Spring, who will make wonderful Canadian citizens and who have now put their purchases on hold because of it."

The government also promised new funding to tackle the issue of affordable housing. They will be investing \$6.6 billion into affordable housing, which translates to 114,000 new homes across the province. Since it is early into the process, the way this will apply to Salt Spring is still unknown, but Fernando and Tami dos Santos, developers for the Dragonfly Commons and Coastal House projects, are optimistic about the changes.

"The biggest problem remains the regulatory hurdles, locally and provincially, that make it incredibly difficult, expensive and time consuming to rezone/subdivide a property for affordable housing," they said in an email. "We remain optimistic that this will help but we will have to see, particularly for work force housing which we believe is one of the biggest areas of need and does not appear to be getting much love or money from the government."

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Gulf Islands Secondary School

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

BC Lions members deliver anti-violence message

Healthy relationships in focus at school event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Lions members have asked local high school students to “Be More Than a Bystander” when it comes to violence against women through an education program that pairs professional football players with the Ending Violence Association of B.C.

The Gulf Islands’ Violence Against Women in Relationships Committee sponsored the Feb. 20 whole-school event featuring Jeremiah Johnson and Rolly Lumbala at Gulf Islands Secondary School last Tuesday.

Johnson is a running back from Los Angeles who was signed to the Lions three years ago. Lumbala was born in Gabon, Africa, attended the University of Idaho and has been playing fullback for the Lions since 2008. He’s the longest-serving player on the team’s current roster and signed a two-year extension the day after his Salt Spring visit.

As walking symbols of male power and status in today’s society, the players successfully brought home the message that males must work together with females to change deeply the ingrained system that normalizes violence against women.

“If anything I need you guys to understand you are a community, and communities get strong from within,” Johnson said at the conclusion of the event. “If you take anything from this experience, be more. Be more than a bystander.”

According to the EVA BC website, Be More Than a Bystander launched in 2011, developing a public awareness campaign and teaching materials based around positive messaging that it is “cool” to respect women and the importance of bystanders speaking up to prevent violence against women and girls. Tuesday’s presenters acknowledged it’s tough for boys to hear they bear the burden of responsibility, but emphasized



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Community members working in violence prevention and BC Lions football players join forces for a presentation at GISS on Feb. 20. From left are Katie Watters, Sharyn Carroll, Kiran Dhingra, Rolly Lumbala, Jeremiah Johnson, Charlie Barteaux, Angela Huser, David Norget and Jenny Redpath.

that statistics prove relationship violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women.

Lumbala started off the presentation by breaking down the figures in an easy way to understand, asking the audience how many people had three women they cared about in their life. Every person who said yes, which was everyone, then realized that statistically one of those three women would experience physical or sexual violence. In Johnson’s case, his wife is the survivor who motivated him to participate in the campaign.

Johnson spoke later on about the far reaches of the problem. Although the incidents of relationship violence trend downward the older one gets, women’s shelters are treating women into their 90s. And perhaps more shockingly, 83 per cent of women living with disabilities have been

sexually assaulted.

Recent statistics collected by Discourse Media document police-reported rates of violence against women in 600 different Canadian communities from 2008-2015. The data collected for Salt Spring shows a decreasing trend after a spike of reported incidents in 2009 and 2010. In 2015 there were 266 incidents per 100,000 people — or 26 reported incidents given the island’s actual population of 10,500. That appears to be a huge improvement over the 100 incidents reported in 2009.

However, Discourse warns that police-reported data is a controversial unit of measure, as the majority of incidents are not reported to police.

“There are many reasons victims would not report the violence they experience. Sexual assault, a common form of gen-

dered violence, is one of the most underreported crimes in the country,” the report states. “According to Statistics Canada, this is due to ‘shame, guilt and stigma of sexual victimization, the normalization of inappropriate or unwanted sexual behaviour, and the perception that sexual violence does not warrant reporting.’”

A graphic that Lumbala and Johnson included in their presentation showing the pyramid of rape culture put the most horrific crimes such as rape, murder and molestation at the pinnacle. But the acts that provide the necessary foundation for such outrages include seemingly innocuous things like “locker room banter” and jokes. The next level up includes non-consensual photos and obsessive, unwanted texting.

The presenters therefore urged local students not to engage in

any of those behaviours and to be more than a bystander at the most basic level: to refuse to laugh at sexist jokes and to talk with friends about why they are doing it. They also stressed the importance of continually given consent for any sexual activity or even just basic touch.

An important part of the presentation was the connection with the professionals in the community who young people can turn to if they are experiencing violence. The football players gave a hero’s welcome to representatives from SWOVA, IWAV, Island Health and Salt Spring Community Services, whom they introduced on stage.

Founding partners of the Be More Than a Bystander initiative are Status of Women Canada, the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and Encana Corporation.

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Two trees create tricky scenario

TREES

continued from 1

With January's storms, Cox felt the situation was getting too risky and she visited the Mainroad office in person.

"This has not been a bad winter, compared to last winter, but the tree is still just 25 feet from my house," she said.

After a couple of visits to the office and a tree inspection from Mainroad, Cox said she finally heard back on Thursday the ministry had okayed their tree's removal. But although the two trees were intertwined, Cox said the ministry told her they would not permit Lee to do the work on their land because they only use their regularly contracted tree faller. At the same time, that person could not take down trees on private property, leaving two problem trees without a coordinated falling schedule.

Cox said the ministry's area manager left a message for her on Monday that the ministry tree would come down the following day. Cox has in turn told Lee he can take down her tree whenever he has time this week and just hopes there won't be problems as a result.

To make matters worse, Cox said she was informed that her fence is intruding over the right-of-way, by what she says is a matter of just six inches, and that she must move



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN COX

Two trees and fence involved in dispute with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

it within four weeks of the tree coming down. Speaking on Friday in the midst of an all-day snow storm, Cox didn't see how this would be possible.

"In all of this, all I wanted was permission to take down one dangerous tree," Cox said. "I feel like they threatened me after I got upset: 'If we take down your tree you have to move your fence.'"

In response to a request for more information from the Driftwood, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure said it "will continue to work with the property owner on the relocation of the fence at a reasonable time when the weather has improved this spring."

BC FERRIES

Island routes get fare rollbacks

Seniors discount also restored

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

British Columbia's provincial government has responded to coastal residents who say BC Ferries rates have become unaffordable, offering several avenues of relief in the NDP's first full budget since assuming power in 2017.

The 2018 budget package handed down on Tuesday, Feb. 20 acknowledges that "Ferry costs have skyrocketed, putting coastal communities at a disadvantage that is costly and unfair. Businesses that use ferries to transport goods are feeling the pinch too."

A commitment of \$27 million will accordingly allow BC Ferries to freeze fares on all three major routes, offer a 15 per cent fare rollback on minor routes and restore the full Monday-Thursday senior passenger fare discount as of April 1.

"B.C.'s ferries are part of our highway system, and they should be affordable," the budget package states.

The decision follows up on NDP campaign promises made in April 2017. A review of the ferry company's operations, which was also promised, is underway with results expected in June.

Previous action on fares included the independent BC Ferry Commissioner placing a 1.9 per cent cap on increases starting in May 2016. At the

time, the chairs of B.C.'s ferry advisory committees said "cripplingly high existing fares" were an underlying problem that still needed to be addressed.

"We watched traffic fall away as fares escalated for the past decade. Our experience tells us that ferry traffic and coastal communities will not and cannot recover until the excessive fare burden is removed," Brian Hollingshead, chair of the Southern Gulf Islands FAC, said in May 2015. "This means a fare roll-back, not a modest increase."

News that a rollback would take place at last was duly welcomed, but brought new worries for the FACs. Harold Swierenga, who chairs the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee, said the committee chairs were happy to hear a government funding contribution would support the fare relief.

"Before Christmas we were not sure whether the province would kick in revenue to cover the loss or if they would expect BC Ferries to make it up," Swierenga said.

BC Ferries' CEO Mark Collins also supported the fare announcement in a news statement attached to the corporation's third-quarter earnings, which were released on Friday.

"Fare affordability is important to BC Ferries and we share the government's commitment to making travel more affordable for coastal communities," Collins said. "With increased traffic, BC Ferries has had two strong years financially and the company is pleased to contribute to

government's fare initiatives."

The company's third-quarter statements show that in the three months ending Dec. 31, 2017, BC Ferries' vehicle traffic increased 5.2 per cent and passenger traffic increased 5.1 per cent compared to the same quarter in the prior year. The increase follows on a more robust trend from the summer. Route 9 serving Tsawwassen-Gulf Islands saw vehicle traffic jump by nearly 13 per cent and foot passengers by 11.5 per cent in August and September 2017 compared to the previous year.

The FAC chairs are predicting the fare reduction will only add to the rebound, with traffic levels expected to increase again by at least three per cent this year. With ferry overloads and sailing waits experienced on multiple routes over the past summer, including Gulf Islands ports, they say BC Ferries must now ensure capacity meets the need — either by introducing bigger ships or by adding more vessels to the fleet.

"Our next big issue is what's going to happen with Route 6," Swierenga said, referring to the upcoming retirement of the Howe Sound Queen from the Crofton-Vesuvius route.

While BC Ferries' current plan is to bring on the smaller-capacity Quinitsa for a trial run this spring, Swierenga hopes that Salt Spring will inherit the larger Quinsam from Gabriola Island before too long.

GOVERNANCE

Community Alliance meeting reveals areas that need work

Trust CAO addresses meeting

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Community Alliance met on Monday night at Lions Hall to discuss the progress of their working groups and look at its future direction.

The event was well attended, with many working group members and members of the public participating.

The meeting's purpose was to inform the public on the progress of the alliance, with presentations from each of the working groups, and from Russ Hotsenpiller, chief administrative officer of the Islands Trust.

After a recap of the purpose of the

Community Alliance, Hotsenpiller spoke to the crowd about the role of the Islands Trust in the post-incorporation era and where Salt Spring is headed from here. The Islands Trust has looked into the current state of affairs concerning Salt Spring and other Trust Area islands, and has realized there is work to be done.

"We went over all the service agreements we've ever had between the regional district and the Islands Trust and we did that on every other island and every other regional district to see the health of all of those agreements," said Hotsenpiller. "The health could be better is the short way of putting it."

Though the agreements could use some work, there have been strides made in the right direction. The

Islands Trust met with Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson to discuss how to maintain the momentum caused by last fall's incorporation referendum, and how to truly figure out the needs of Salt Spring.

"All during the incorporation debate, issues were coming up where other islands thought 'we have that same problem. We might not work with our neighbours quite as well or other agency providers and how can we do a better job?'" he said.

To tackle this, Islands Trust created a working group that will look at Salt Spring's governance issues and apply them to the entire Trust Area. Since the referendum was only a few months ago, the parties involved are still finding their feet, Hotsenpiller

said. More specific progress will be discussed at the Trust Council meeting on Salt Spring in mid March.

"One of the key questions is ... should we stay wide and talk about comprehensive challenges and all sorts of things, or should we take something and be successful with it and see whether that model can lead to other things we fix?" he said.

The rest of the meeting was dedicated to the working group reports. This was the first meeting since the working groups were established, and many of them are still in the reconnaissance phase.

Though so far there has been a lot of talk about what the issues are on Salt Spring, there is a need for actual engagement and action. The alliance's next step is to create a steering

committee that will lead the working groups towards real change.

Ruth Waldick, one of the organizers of the Community Alliance, said, "We've had a lot of comments from people saying 'but what are you doing, what's happening.' This has been a lot of discussion about what people are doing as a group, and what groups are doing individually... Now we're launching into the next step, where the steering group is going to come up with concrete actions and plans about how we work as a community alliance."

More information is at www.saltspringcommunityalliance.org and on their Facebook page. Public meetings are scheduled on the fourth Monday of every month at Lions Hall.

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TRANSPORTATION

Walker Hook transit return requested as repairs lag

Parking also in focus at commission meeting

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of the Walker Hook area are looking for an alternate solution to bring transit service back to their neighbourhood with no target date in sight for repairs to a problem roadbed.

New warnings signs went up at Central last week warning drivers that Walker's Hook Road is closed to vehicle traffic except for residents. That appears to be the extent of what the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will commit for the time being to the massive washout that saw parts of the roadside slump into the sea on Jan. 29.

The ministry confirmed this week it is in the process of assessing a geotechnical fix.

"While assessments are underway, there is currently no timeline on the estimated reopening of this road," the ministry stated in an email to the Driftwood.

BC Transit has previously threatened to remove bus service from Walker's Hook Road because of its dangerous ill-repair and was forced to do so after the recent slides.

"The problem is it doesn't seem to be a temporary problem. MoTI said it might be a year," Salt Spring Transportation Commission chair Robin Williams reported at the group's meeting on Monday afternoon.

Fort Street-area resident Dave Phillips attended the meeting to request transit return. He said he enjoys using a service that serves a working-class community in his neighbourhood, along with people who are on welfare, and have disabilities or other needs.

Phillips proposed the bus turn around at Fort Street and take an alternate route to Fernwood via Stark Road.

"The school buses can do it. I know comparisons are odious, but they seem to manage," Phillips observed.

BC Transit reviewed detour options at the request of the Capi-

tal Regional District but has ruled out a turn-around at the base of Fort Street for now. BC Transit safety and training staff and Salt Spring Island Transit took a bus on the proposed route on Thursday. They determined there is currently no place to turn around safely in the Fort Street intersection without having to reverse the bus, which contravenes the Motor Vehicle Act.

Karla Campbell, senior CRD manager for Salt Spring, reported the transit company is willing to entertain the idea if improvements can be made to the roadside, such as with gravel fill. She said they will try to work with MoTI to accomplish this, although it's not clear whether the ministry will cover such an expense.

Parking task force redundant

In other business Monday, SSITC commissioners took preemptive action against a motion proposed for Thursday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting.

The motion calls on Salt Spring CRD director Wayne McIntyre to use his powers to establish an "interagency task force" to review vehicular parking in Ganges village and create a long-term action plan. The idea stems from conversation around the LTC's recent approval of a parking variance for El Loco Taco restaurant and the limitations of parking downtown.

Williams said he believed the intention behind the proposed motion was to be helpful rather than to pick a fight.

However, he pointed out that parking falls within the commission's authority under its bylaws, and that it has \$20,000 reserved for a parking study this year. He also said the LTC could have helped by requiring the restaurant owners to contribute funds to a parking solution in lieu of the nine spaces they were permitted to give up, and complained the commission had been asked to comment on the application with only four days notice before the hearing.

"I don't think establishing a task force is going to solve anything.

We should be working in a coordinated manner, but I don't think this is the manner," Williams said.

Campbell noted the CRD is investing in multiple infrastructure improvement projects in Ganges, but said, "There's no downtown plan to feed them all into."

She added the LTC has its own tools to manage parking under Salt Spring's land use bylaw, but had failed to use them.

"Basically you are the task force," she told the commission. "That's why you're established, is to make this happen."

The commission unanimously approved a three-part motion stating that SSITC needs more notice for important referrals; that it declines to establish an interagency task force; and invites the LTC to develop a downtown plan with emphasis on parking, to be forwarded to the commission for consideration.

Williams or McIntyre is expected to deliver the message in person at this Thursday's LTC meeting at Lions Hall.

FAMILY SERVICES

Foster care homes needed

Information meetings set for March 6

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands region is in critical need of homes to foster children within their own community, and two upcoming presentations on Tuesday, March 6 will provide all the information necessary on how to get involved.

The Foster Parent Support Services Society, a nonprofit organization that supports the fostering program in British Columbia, is hosting the recruitment sessions on Salt Spring in a bid to bring the number of available homes up to a sustainable level. Ministry of Children and Family Development resource worker Praven Pather will give one-hour talks at 12 noon and 5 p.m. at the library to lay out the basics and answer any questions prospective foster parents might have.

The ministry is aware that Gulf Islands Secondary School has successfully established a home stay program for international students. With desperate need at hand, workers and advocates are hoping that bedrooms can also open to children who already live on the islands and need help. Pather said there is currently just one approved foster home on Salt Spring, and the island serves the Southern Gulf Islands as well. There is no latitude for emergency events, and no guarantee that location will continue to be available.

"We know that people move around, they don't have the space and they can't commit to having foster children," Pather said. "So we need to act or we might be without any home in the next month or two."

That means if an incident were to happen in which the ministry must remove children from their parents, they would have to be transported to somewhere on Vancouver Island, possibly late at night.

And after that they would be separated from their school, community and other family members, removing those important sources of support.

Dan Malone, who is the executive director of FPSSS and himself a foster parent, said the importance of finding homes for children within their own communities can't be over-emphasized.

"That's what is needed most, so that for children who do have to come into care, there's a space that's loving and caring nearby," Malone said.

Pather said that children removed from their families may need a safe space for a night, a week, a month or up to a year or more. During that time, social workers are working with the parents to help them resolve the problems that led to the removal so they can bring the children back into their care.

"Our goal is we would like to release children to their biological families," Pather explained.

People who are willing to care for a child during that period must be over 19 years of age and pass a criminal record check. They must have a stand-alone bedroom available with adequate light and a lockable door.

Foster parents can have jobs that take them outside the home, but they must be available to take foster kids to medical and counselling appointments. They should also ideally have some sort of experience that goes beyond being parents of their own children. Pather said a medical or social services background would be best for understanding what children in care need, although it's not a requirement by any means.

The ministry provides free training, with initial classes conducted live but remotely via online workshops guided by a facilitator. Some knowledge of computers and the internet is therefore also recommended.

More information on becoming a foster parent can be found at www.fosterhope.ca or <http://fosteringconnections.ca>.



NOTICE OF NOMINATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT THREE TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for three trustees will be received between:

**9:00 A.M. Tuesday March 6th, 2018
and 4:00 P.M. Friday March 16th, 2018**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Ganges Fire Hall or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Thomas Moore at (250) 472 0059.

The Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 16th, 2018. If the Trustees are elected by acclamation or upon completion of Election by Voting the term of office shall terminate at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2021.

The Election to be held on Saturday, **April 14th, 2018 at the Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Ave. from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Advance-Voting opportunities will be held at the Salt Spring Public Library, 129 McPhillips Ave. on Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 and Wednesday April 11th, 2018** between the hours of **10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.** Candidates shall be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Fire Hall or from Thomas F. Moore, Returning Officer (250)472 0059.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election
4. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land then those owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, B.C.
this 23rd day of February 2018

Thomas F. Moore
Returning Officer

OPINION



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

2017 BCYCNA Awards
 Gold - Best Cartoonist (Dennis Parker)



EDITORIAL

Bike tricks

People on Salt Spring often express concerns that young families might leave the island.

But it also seems that forces often unite to discourage providing play space for children. That occurred last week when furor over tree work in Mouat Park turned to talk against plans by the Parks and Recreation Commission to construct a bike park in that same area.

According to research, projects likely to attract the “not in my backyard” attitude include industrial parks, oil wells and prisons, but also bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. This may be understandable when such infrastructure is slated to interrupt established traffic flow or parking. It’s somewhat harder to take when the infrastructure should be something most people would want in their backyard: recreation opportunities in nature.

THE ISSUE:

Bike park proposal

WE SAY:

Embrace opportunity

It’s not like PARC and the Salt Spring Bike Club are proposing to clear-cut a swath of forest for riders. Trees are very much a desired part of the design plan (which has yet to be drawn). So aside from not wanting to see even a few

dangerous and unhealthy trees leave the thicket, other objections seem to be in place.

Some people in the community have said they like to walk their dogs in that part of the park, which occupies less than one-sixtieth of total Mouat Park acreage. Some have questioned why kids need to ride bikes in a park at all, saying the street is a better option.

Dogs are an important part of island culture and no one wants to take away their opportunity to exercise and socialize in a pleasant setting away from the road, but island kids deserve the same consideration. As most Salt Spring residents know, island roads aren’t exactly up to patch for many would-be adult cyclists. They certainly aren’t the place to send small children or those learning new skills, and they don’t offer fun jumps and other features.

With suitable parkland and a generous \$150,000 grant from the Salt Spring Lions Club already in place, the bike park proposal is a terrific chance to add new outdoor activities at a low cost to the taxpayer. We should feel lucky to find it in our neighbourhood.



VIEWPOINT by Dan Dickmeyer

Unclear park process a concern

Having been away from Salt Spring I did not get a chance to visit the area of the tree cutting in Mouat Park near or in a proposed bike park until Saturday. I did follow and participate in community concerns on a Facebook discussion.

My initial shock from reading about it in that discussion turned to grief and anger when I saw the site. This was not simply a few trees in an area I love, but a lot of trees. Consultation with the public of course is not necessary every time a tree is taken down in a park, but this example appears to be a lack of concern for process, particularly since we all want to see a family bike park somewhere and have it be a happy thing for all.

I think it is incumbent upon PARC management to not just say that this incident might have not been the best approach “in hindsight.” I would like to know who in the PARC administration, PARC commission or CRD knew about this at all and who made the final decision and when.

By reading the notice sign it is obvious that the unclear gobbledegook about coloured dots, “critical root zones” and explanation of why trees were cut indicates it was posted after the cutting. Why were there any mistakes made in cutting trees that had dots indicating a tree would not be cut?

Most importantly, there was no mention on the sign that the dots indicated anything but an “assessment.” None

of these trees were in immediate danger of falling, in my opinion. In fact, what I saw was a healthy grove of trees — trees that had branches, no trunk rot and stood straight as an arrow or served as wildlife trees.

Why did a couple of the trees felled have pink ribbons and others only orange or green dots? There are many trees in the park in far worse condition and starting in this area just creates skepticism of a motive to jumpstart the bike park before the public at large has spoken.

I was a PARC commissioner in 2009-10 and I assure you this would never had happened under my watch. That is because all plans for projects for new public areas were carefully examined, or should have been, by the commission and staff prior to and upon completion. I know that much is going on to assure this for the bike park but now it is blatantly clear that is not enough.

So I am asking that the PARC department, in conjunction with the proponents of the bike park, hold a public open house at the site before the planned formal meeting to seek the public’s input. Prior to that I would like to see PARC immediately circle the area of the proposed park with plastic tape and post a large weather-proof artist’s conception diagram of the bike park and its features.

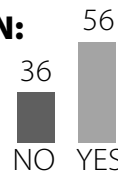
The writer is a Salt Spring resident, Mouat Park user and former PARC member.

THIS WEEK’S QUESTION:
Is Mouat Park a good bike park spot?

Yes No

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

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:
Are you watching the Winter Olympics?



Driftwood

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ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "I need you guys to understand you are a community, and communities get strong from within."

JEREMIAH JOHNSON, BC LIONS PLAYER, BE MORE THAN A BYSTANDER PROGRAM

SALT SPRING SAYS

We asked: How will the BC Ferries lower fares affect you?



ELEHNA DE SOUSA

I think it's very cool because I'm a senior now. It's quite exciting!



SYLVIA SPAYNE

All those changes are good. They will definitely benefit our household.



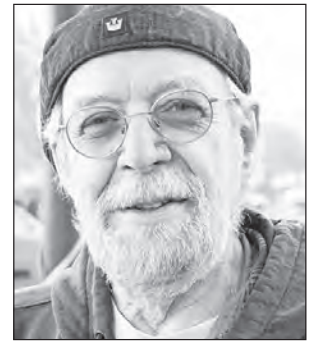
DEBBIE CADE

It'll be wonderful for me because I turn 65 in May. Lower fares are always good, especially since the ferries are our highways.



TOM MITCHELL

As a senior, any drop is good for me. It's also good for the island, tourism and other visitors.



RON COOKE

I welcome them, but they won't send me back and forth more often. I try to leave the island as little as possible.

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

Support for bike park

This is a quick note of support for the bike park to be located in Mouat Park. I'd like to thank all those involved, who have donated countless hours to the bike park project. Notably, Sean Mulligan, CRD and of course the Lions for supporting yet another youth-friendly project.

Family-friendly, youth-oriented facilities benefit the whole community socially and economically, especially when located in an already central relatively urban park.

It's my sincere hope for the sake of the community at large

that this project doesn't go by the wayside as a result of a narrow demographic desperately trying to hold time still.

BRUCE STENSTROM,
SALT SPRING

Disabled spots needed

Your Feb. 14 issue gave a half-page to the issue of Ganges parking and how to restrict overflow cars from downtown, yet did not once mention island citizens with disabilities who require far more parking access than the meager amounts currently allotted.

Even in the winter months, it can be impossible to access a space. In the summer,

though, when our spots are always filled, sometimes by insensitive tourists, we often have to forego our business in town and return home. Please, folks, who make decisions on parking, tell us how to petition to triple our number of spots. It's the able-bodied who can walk from a distance — we can't.

JANE EATON HAMILTON,
SALT SPRING

Not silly

Meeting madness? Silly? (Feb. 21 Driftwood editorial.)

So let's get this straight. Asking to expand opportunities for community engagement is "madness?" It's "silly" to want more effective ways to com-

municate than online questionnaires and some emails? It's not "urgent" that an invitation for the online public comment for the Trust budget was Jan. 22 and had a deadline of Feb. 12? Wouldn't you say that this narrow window of opportunity required haste?

The Driftwood's perverse interpretation turns its back on a community newly awakened to the possibility of change. If nothing else, the incorporation debate sparked a massive renewal of interest in how our unique form of government works. Our elected officials failed to recognize this.

For those who see the request for a public budget

meeting as a yearning for a municipal council, please shake your head. We are talking about better ways to communicate and cooperate that can improve things now.

RUTH TARASOFF,
DUKES ROAD

Black & white

One day, while I was visiting a Salt Spring family, the mother of the energetic crew of children said that one of her sons (then about five years old) wanted to ask me a question.

The child happened to be of African descent, as am I. Mindful of my surname, the youngster sheepishly asked why my last name was White.

Unsaid but understood was

that my skin colour did not match my name.

Instead of going into a long drawn-out explanation about Africa, the slave trade, blah, blah, I simply evoked the name of my then Beddis Beach neighbour. I told the quizzical child that there was a very nice man on Salt Spring named Arthur Black who happened to be white. And that I was the opposite — a woman named White who happened to be black. The child smiled, went back to the action figure toys he was playing with and that was that.

Farewell, Arthur.

EVELYN C. WHITE,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Why can't ferries be a commercial-free zone?

There's nothing wrong with change. Quite often, a few modifications in the way we usually look at our world give us a whole new perspective of life. On the other hand, sometimes it's good to resist change, especially if we suspect that the alterations are merely the thin edge of the wedge for what may develop into future headaches.

A recent foray to Vancouver by my wife and me aboard one of the newer ferries, the Coastal Celebration, may help to illustrate this point. You may remember this particular ferry because of all the publicity she received when she first set sail. Built in Flensburg, Germany, she was photographed on May 12, 2008, sailing by the Tower Bridge on the Thames River in London on route to her destination as an update to the ferry fleet here in B.C.

What was the Coastal Celebration doing punting down the Thames? Was she on a secret mission for CSIS? Did she take a wrong turn in Active Pass, or was she hijacked by Somali pirates with a bad sense of direction? The answer to all these conjectures is a firm "no." In actuality, she had been sidetracked to England to promote the upcoming 2012 Summer Olympics. The photo op of her floating by the Tower of London made headlines in newspapers across the globe.

Anyway, getting back to our ferry ride, as we walk down the aisle on the way to the cafeteria, we can't help but notice there are now a few changes that we had not really noticed before. For starters, there used to be an honoured place in one of the

many lounges where there was a large photo of our dear Queen Elizabeth II smiling down beneficently at her loyal subjects who had decided to take a royal cruise on one of her fleet of B.C. ferries.

Well, not only is the picture of the Queen no longer there, but it has been replaced by a large poster with the smiling face of a Victoria realtor beaming down at us. The poster has his face superimposed over a Victoria nightlife skyline and is highlighted with the question "BUYING IN VICTORIA?" At the bottom of the sign, there is a box depicting, in large red letters, the word "SOLD."

What in tarnation is going on here? A realty ad? On the walls of the ferry? I know, I know, advertising is everywhere these days. The side panels of city buses and the inside boards of hockey arenas have been affronting our visual senses for a long time now, so why the big surprise that BC Ferries wants to get in on a little bit of the action?

As we walk on, we start noticing more and more of these commercial ventures into the world of free enterprise. Another large poster welcomes us "Home to Travino Gardens," which is in its final phase of selling in beautiful Royal Oak. A simple click on the TravinoLiving.com website informs us that Travino is surrounded by nature and just a hop, skip and jump away from shopping, dining and recreation. In their own words, Travino asks "What could be better than a home that offers the perfect balance



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

of beautiful surroundings and the convenience of a location that's ideally located for easy travels to downtown, up island, to the airport or BC Ferries?"

What indeed? Unless it's Sooke Point Ocean Cottages, which has staked its claim on another part of the ferry wall and purports to "have special approval to build three to six times closer to the water than other developments in British Columbia." Talk about your front-row experience!

The business opportunities seem endless. Now that they have eliminated printed ferry schedules, why not just stock the racks with official realty listings? Another possibility that springs to mind is to designate some of the ferry sailings specifically and exclusively for realtors and prospective clients.

Don't think that it's just real estate ads that are making an incursion into ferry land. One of the other services being flogged is something called "Pathway to Canada Immigration." This private enterprise offers to fulfill all immigration needs by selling the foreign ferry traveller expertise in immigration procedures, business opportunities and student placement programs. According to the large poster ad, "this is where dreams become a reality."

Is there a limit to how far BC Ferries is willing to go in this blatant move to raise capital by diversifying revenue from beyond

just moving passengers from point A to point B? Nobody asked me, but it wouldn't come as a big surprise if what we are witnessing is only the tip of the iceberg (and you know, of course, that ships and icebergs are not compatible with each other).

The possibilities seem endless. Instead of just having the first mate on the bridge encouraging us to stampede for the amazing sales in the on-board gift shop, why not leave the announcement loudspeakers (the ones they purposely garble so you can't understand the emergency safety instructions) on for the entire ride while pumping out ad after annoying ad hawking the benefits of useless weight-loss programs and hair-restoration products.

How about installing exercise machines throughout the boat and getting passengers to pay extra for a fitness regimen that would have them "going for the burn" on the rowing machines, stair climbers and treadmills that would then propel the vessel through the waters, thereby saving a fortune on fuel costs?

As I said earlier, change can be a good thing. Sometimes, however, it may be more than some of us can handle.

Maybe it's best that they've done away with the picture of our royal monarch. The rapid commercialization of her ferry fleet might bring tears to her smiling visage and make her thankful that our Coastal Celebration did not remain a permanent fixture on the Thames.

Positively Forward disagrees with Driftwood editorial

BY DONALD MACLENNAN

Last week's editorial "Meeting madness" deserves a response.

Local government budgets do not grab the headlines the way provincial and federal budgets do, but it is irresponsible to suggest that a public meeting to discuss how taxpayers funds are to be spent is "just silly."

Anyone who has ever prepared a budget for personal spending, for a business, or for a non-profit group knows that a budget is about setting priorities and allocating available dollars accordingly. Each year there is a window of opportunity for the public to ask questions about and have input into the Islands Trust and CRD proposed budgets. Meetings enable a community conversation on public spending, a very different concept from submitting comments to a website.

The Driftwood suggests that the request for a budget meet-

ing was politically motivated. Quite the opposite is the case. Positively Forward's objective is to support and promote changes to improve governance on Salt Spring. This was a commitment of the "no" side during the incorporation referendum campaign — a commitment that we hope is shared by everyone with an interest in governance.

Holding a public budget meeting is a simple step that can be taken immediately, not just to explain local tax increases (which we agree are modest), but to review changes in the budget over time that reflect spending priorities. Far from being political, it would provide our elected officials an opportunity to explain the rationale for these priorities. Topics might include the Trust's Salt Spring Island Water Protection Alliance, priorities for Salt Spring's unspent \$1.9 million federal gas tax ("CommunityWorks")

IN RESPONSE

funds, and funds available under the CRD director's grant-in-aid program.

Other items in the editorial are puzzling. The meeting request was not too late in the budget process; our request to the elected officials was sent at the end of January — a month and a half before the Trust and CRD budgets are finalized. We also offered to organize and promote the meeting. To suggest that such a meeting could not happen anyway because both trustees (which form a quorum) could not attend is nonsense. The trustees already divide up their attendance at events in recognition of this issue. Trustee Peter Grove, who is chair of the Trust Finance Committee, would be the logical

choice to represent the LTC at a public budget meeting.

The Driftwood comments that public budget meetings held in recent years by previous elected officials were poorly attended and therefore a waste of time. Budget meetings may never attract standing-room only crowds but the current resurgence of interest in local governance — surely a positive result of the incorporation referendum regardless of which side one supported — suggests reasonable attendance. The recent well-received town hall meeting held by the Salt Spring Fire Protection District is evidence of this.

Perhaps we can all agree that public budget meetings represent a "best practice." There are many examples, at all levels of governance, of important meetings that are poorly attended, but legally required. We believe that

locally elected officials should be expected, and perhaps even required, to hold annual public budget meetings.

There is still just time to organize a public budget meeting before mid-March and our offer to help with logistics and promotion remains open. While Positively Forward is disappointed in the responses to date from the CRD and the Trust, we will continue to advocate for joint CRD-Trust public budget meetings, and other measures that could improve governance on Salt Spring.

We hope that our newspaper of record will in future be less dismissive of these initiatives.

The writer is a member of Positively Forward.

Editor's note: The Driftwood stands behind the statements in its Feb. 21 editorial.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Review

2018 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel

Notice is hereby given that the annual sitting of the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, pursuant to Sections 204 and 205 of the Community Charter will be held.

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: CRD Headquarters, Room 651
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

The panel will consider any complaints respecting the parcel tax roll and authenticate the roll in accordance with legislation for the following services:

- ▶ North Galiano Island Fire Protection & Emergency Response Service
- ▶ Sticks Allison Water Service (Galiano Island)
- ▶ Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Southern Gulf Islands)
- ▶ Fernwood Dock Small Craft Harbour Facilities (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fernwood Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Ganges Sewerage Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Highland and Fernwood Water Service
- ▶ Beddis Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Fulford Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Service
- ▶ Cedar Lane Water Service (Salt Spring Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Water Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Water Second Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Magic Lake Estates Sewer Service (Pender Island)
- ▶ Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Service (Saturna Island)
- ▶ Surfside Park Estates Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Skana Water Service (Mayne Island)
- ▶ Gossip Island Electric Power Supply Service

The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel will hear only those complaints or appeals filed in writing with the undersigned at least 48 hours in advance of its sitting.

A copy of the complete roll will be available for inspection at the Capital Regional District, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm M-F; the Ganges Building Inspection office, #206 - 118 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (above the post office), Ganges, BC, from 8:30 am to noon and 1 - 4 pm M-F; commencing February 28, 2018.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia, this 28th day of February 2018.

Nelson Chan, MBA, CPA, CMA; Chief Financial Officer
Capital Regional District

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

More respect for parks, please

My daughter came from off-island to visit me and we decided to take a walk at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. We parked at the high school and walked into Mouat Park.

What did we encounter? Large dogs off-leash running around with no owners in sight. Who is cleaning up after them?

We continued on into town but could not walk through the Heiwa Japanese gardens because more than 20 people were drinking and smoking pot and cigarettes there.

After getting a coffee in town we went to Centennial Park to walk on the boardwalk. There we came upon half a dozen people drinking and smoking, laying around with their dogs. We headed out to Grace Point and found the same thing: Five guys drinking and smoking pot.

It was a beautiful day and I enjoyed the time with my daughter. Just wondering if this is the Ganges we want for the citizens of the island and the tourists we encourage to come here.

Time for a change. Time for more respect in our parks.

BILL HARRIS,
SALT SPRING

Empathy for riders

I just read Paul McElroy's And Another Thing column about his "beautiful bicycle" in the Feb. 21 issue of the Driftwood. His article had me in stitches. What a fun read!

I am one of those cyclists who straps a bunch of crap to my bike and pedals ungodly distances. My most "epic" trip thus far was a three-month bike trip through the wilds of Patagonia.

Though I am based out of Seattle, I am currently housesitting on Salt Spring. I brought my bike with me, with the greatest intention of taking some rides. Though I've been here for nearly a month, my bike has been sitting in the corner, staring at me. For some reason, I just can't get myself psyched to ride the roads of Salt Spring. Like Paul wrote, the island is indeed "unflat." I'm pretty sure you couldn't lay a 10-foot level across the ground anywhere on the island

and have it give a truly level reading.

It's funny, really, because I typically have no problem pedaling an 80-pound bike (fully loaded), plus my 135-pound body, over mountain passes. I can definitely empathize with Paul.

Thanks for a good laugh!

SARAH BURCH,
SALT SPRING AND SEATTLE

Mobility is diverse

A big thanks goes out to Kevin Bell ("Cycling hypocrisy" letter) and Paul McElroy (And Another Thing column) for the spin they put on cycling in your last issue. First, they remind us that we shouldn't wait until retirement to hoist our bums onto saddles. Resilience, whether it's the physical fortitude to climb hills or the mental resolve to share narrow roads with courteous, distracted or speeding motorists, is nourished by experience and sustained by repetition.

Second, form often trumps function. The automotive design of Salt Spring reduces everyone's chances to safely gain experience cycling. Thus, Mr. McElroy's "pristine . . . firm of frame" bicycle is consigned to life on MARs (mausoleum of abandoned resolutions) and Mr. Bell's romance with velocipedalism unrequited.

By envisioning a pedestrian-rich Ganges our Islands Trust trustees are simply acknowledging a longstanding post-industrial contradiction. Human mobility is diverse. Our opportunities to express it are not.

JOHN ROWLANDSON,
FULFORD HARBOUR

Cycling tips

Re: Paul McElroy's column about his "beautiful bicycle," cycling on Salt Spring Island is not easy, and I am for one glad it's not.

I commute by bicycle daily, and I love the workout and fresh air. Rain, snow, sun . . . I ride. If I lived in Sidney, it would be no workout at all. The Salt Spring hills keep my heart pumping, my legs strong, my weight down and my cardiovascular system in tip-top shape.

A recent study in the U.S. showed that regular cycling to work can cut the risk of cancer by up to 45 per cent. Jan Slakov may be to be the first islander to live to 200 due to her unwavering cycling habit.

These are my tips for those strug-

gling on Salt Spring hills: 1) Are you riding an older mountain bike? Consider a modern hybrid or road bike instead. 2) Inflate your tires towards their maximum required pressure to ease the pain. 3) Double down and just get through the first month of regular riding. It gets easier. After two months, you will feel strong and see very real health benefits . . . then you'll be hooked.

If it's still too much, consider saving for an electric bike. It's not cheating on Salt Spring.

SEAN MULLIGAN,
SALT SPRING

Going positively forward?

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers at the library, we can now access www.saltspringarchives.com and research the Driftwood all the way back to March 1960 without visiting the newspaper office, wearing silk gloves and thumbing through the bound copies of old issues.

As I researched the June 2002 incorporation debate, I was able to share in the post voting euphoria that followed the very successful "vote no campaign." That campaign had assured voters that a no vote would trigger a new political will and momentum that would sharpen and upgrade the existing semi-dysfunctional status quo. As we all remember, that did not happen.

Fifteen years later, during the recent 2017 referendum, the vote no campaign suggested that "A no vote is not necessarily a vote for our semi-dysfunctional status quo." We were assured that after the referendum, if successful, its Positively No initiative would somehow morph into "going positively forward" and address the island's water management, affordable housing and fire protection issues over which our CRD director, one of our two Islands Trust trustees, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board and the Driftwood had all expressed concerns during the campaign.

I am reminded of Alice in Wonderland, as this Positively Forward initiative seems about to enter a dystopian fog in the company of the "Boardwalk to Nowhere" and all the other Salt Spring mysteries.

KEN LEE,
VESUVIUS

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Consultations now underway on the future of the ALR

I get a lot of questions as your MLA and some of the most challenging have been on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). In recent weeks we have received a high volume of letters to our office about two ALR issues: the Creating Homefulness Society on Woodwynn Farm and a proposed cannabis production facility at Stanhope Farm.

These are two very different projects but they highlight some of the difficulty our community faces in how the ALR is understood and managed in our region and province.

The ALR is a provincial zone governed by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC); "an independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in British Columbia."



Adam Olsen

MLA REPORT

From the letters and meetings I have had, it is clear that people in Saanich North and the Islands place a high value on increasing local food security. People want their local and provincial governments to protect and enhance our ability to grow food here, and for good reason. Over the last few generations we have become increasingly reliant on food products from far away. The range of concerns on this reality cover economic, social, environ-

mental and health aspects. In addition, Vancouver Islanders are particularly vulnerable by the real possibility of a natural disaster interrupting our food supply.

The ALR, for the most part, protects agricultural land and through the definition of "agricultural land" it also protects land for "food production." However, there are a number of ancillary and non-farm uses allowed on ALR land that have little to do with food security.

Farming is not an easy business, costs are increasing on the land and in the industry. It is important not to underestimate the effort and love the farming community puts into their craft. Food security cannot be achieved on the back of hobbyists or part-time farmers.

The ALR and the ALC are cur-

rently under review by our government. Agriculture Minister Lana Popham has appointed a nine-member panel who have lived and worked in all aspects of the industry. They have prepared a discussion paper and there is an online consultation survey open till the end of April. They want to hear from the public on a wide range of issues such as the role of food security in the ALC's mandate, the controversial exclusions we have seen at the airport, failed applications such as Woodwynn, and the emergence of a new industry like cannabis production, which the federal government will legalize in July.

I encourage you to participate in the consultation. Once the panel's work is complete they will make recommendations to Minister Popham and

we will be debating the issues in the legislature this fall or next spring. To participate, please visit www.engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve.

Please feel free to get in touch with me or my staff by dropping into our office in Sidney or by emailing me at adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca. You can also see what your MLA has been doing and see our upcoming community events by visiting my website at www.adamolsen.ca. This spring I'll be focusing on the challenges of transportation in Saanich North and the Islands. Our next community dialogue on this topic is on March 24. I hope to see you there!

Adam Olsen is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saanich North and the Islands.

Arthur Black: Kindness, authenticity and humour

BY JOHN POTTINGER

The night nurse tiptoed into Art's hospital room at 3 a.m. on the day he had chosen as his last. For Art, that time couldn't come quickly enough — the cancer, its toxins and its pain, were goose-stepping through his body.

Art stirred as she took his hand and said to him, "It's time for your pain meds. You're going to feel a little prick." A sleepy-scratchy version of Art's famous voice said, "What did you call me?"

Though it wasn't his normal voice it was his normal humour. Even this horrid intruder called pancreatic cancer couldn't take that from him.

Arthur Black and I have been friends and confidantes for about 20 years. That sleepover on his last night wasn't our first. Along with a couple of other wacky friends, we once isolated ourselves in a log cabin deep in the Cariboo mountains of B.C. for a few days: no power, no phones, no internet. It was bliss. There aren't many people one can be cooped up with like that and the result is a closer relationship, but that sums up Art in a way that explains why his friends, family, readers, listeners and Canadians in general loved this guy so much. It was impossible not to.

Here's the deal: He was kind and genuine. It's that simple; those are the traits that foreigners use to describe what they like about Canadian culture. He personified what we aspire to (or should aspire to). The fact that he was funny was a bonus that came with the original package.

Some excerpts from recent email exchanges will give you a feel for who Art was, all the way to the finish line:

Jan. 10 (in response to whether he would be playing snooker the next day): "Can't think of a Trudeauvian way to gild this, so here goes: pancreatic cancer with a side dish of Type Two diabetes. My doctor's lips say he's optimistic, but his body language says 'don't buy any green bananas.' We'll see what's down the road. It could be chemotherapy and you know what that means. . . . It means I could lose my hair."

Jan. 27 (in response to a question about whether a few of us might get away for a "boys weekend"):

"I think it was William Saroyan who, near the end of his career through life, wrote 'I'm falling apart . . . and it's INTERESTING!' 'Tis too, you know. The human body is a real clown cupboard of tricks and foibles (and betrayals) never dreamt during the first 70-odd years, when every-

thing ran tickety-boo. Knowing your days are numbered serves to remind a body of what really matters. Like the chattering of juncos on the bird feeders. The smell of wood smoke on the wind. The way a chunk of dark chocolate explodes and disseminates through the mouth, the flavour rolling out like the tongues of a tsunami or the opening chords of a symphony.

"Speaking of great sensations I would LOVE to try to re-create that magic lost weekend in the Cariboo, but I fear the window of opportunity has passed. I am embroiled in medical appointments that whisk me, with little advance warning, to fluorescent-lit, stainless steel-heavy locales in Victoria, Cowichan and Saanich. I've also lost a step or two. Energy levels are down. Mountain-climbing would be out."

Feb. 9 (in response to a question about whether he feels up to lunch or snooker): "I'm no good for lunch (and probably snooker as well) but why not drop over after you get a bite? I'm currently in residence at the Lady Minto Spa and Retreat (valet parking)."

We spent much of those last days talking about love. Especially about how men (at least men in our culture) have difficul-

ty expressing and showing love for each other. When we do rouse up the courage to tell a male friend how we feel, we do it in an awkward ultramasculine way — as if we're throwing an uppercut to the face: "I love you man."

Girls hold hands, women hold hands, little boys hold hands — but not men friends. So Art and I started holding hands, and sitting beside each other on his bed, reading emails from his laptop with our arms around each other's shoulders. We should have done it years ago.

At one point during the wee hours of that last sleepover I woke to hear Art groaning a bit. He was frowning as I moved closer and asked, "Art . . . what's the matter?"

He replied: "I can't get that asshole Trump out of my mind."

Kindness, authenticity and humour. That was Arthur Black. A fitting tribute to him would be to simply keep those three notions in mind whenever you interact with another human. And don't be afraid to hold hands.

The writer is a former Salt Spring resident and Driftwood columnist who was a good friend of Arthur Black's. Black died on Feb. 21.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

E-bikes help islanders get around

I was interested to see a letter and column in last week's Driftwood regarding the difficulties of riding a bicycle on Salt Spring.

I am happy to say that many of the problems that the two writers complain of have been solved. The solution, you ask? Electric assist! E-bikes have really matured over the past few years: this is due, to a large extent, to the rapid improvement in lithium batteries.

No longer do you have to fear those hills, you just zip up them with ease. That's cheating, you say! Are you in a race? No, you just want to get to the market and back without the pain. You still get the exercise of pedalling, you just don't have to pedal as hard, a nice easy cadence does it, keeping you warm and healthy, not sweaty

and tapped out.

In fact, e-biking is an ideal way to get back into some physical activity and lose weight. I see it all the time.

Of course road safety is still a big factor, and we have a long way to go on Salt Spring, but the e-bike can even help there. It gives you the power to get across an intersection quickly, and up a hill quickly without wobbling. By increasing your speed, fewer cars are passing.

Folks are increasingly choosing to live without a car on Salt Spring, whether for the financial freedom or the environment, and an e-bike is a logical choice to replace car trips.

What about the environmental cost of the batteries and electricity usage? Yes, there is of course an impact from manufacturing batteries, but they are recyclable, and compared to a 700 to 1,000-pound battery in an electric car, we are talking about five to 10 pounds on a bike.

DAVID ELDERTON,
SALT SPRING

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Ganges parking issues: Now what, Islands Trust?

BY DAVID TOYNBEE

The decision has been made and hopefully El Loco Taco will be successful in their new business. Without question it is terrific to see vibrancy and activity at that location. But now what?

A quick recap: The Islands Trust recently approved a major (60 per cent) reduction in El Loco Taco's required parking, giving the business a competitive advantage over other businesses in the village. The decision resulted in a significant financial benefit to the property owner (this idea has been challenged, however, it's indisputable that increasing permitted usage increases property value).

The decision dismissed the Islands Trust planning staff (trained professionals), and also dismissed the established rule book guiding our community — the Salt Spring Official Commu-

nity Plan.

Comments such as “we must think differently,” “perhaps no parking at all should be required” and “the official community plan is outdated” were declared.

There is now talk about Ganges becoming a carless town. Is this possible? Salt Spring is a sprawling rural community. We don't have the population density, topography, climate, nor the demographics to make us a biking, or carless, community.

ICBC statistics show 5,948 vehicles licensed on Salt Spring at the end of 2015, a 6.4 per cent increase over 2010, which in turn was a 3.3 per cent increase over 2005. And driverless cars are coming. We have plenty of folks who don't drive and that new technology may very well give them an opportunity to get out and about, in cars.

INDEPTH

Will parking offsite somewhere and shuttling to town work? Maybe for some, but I'd wager most will still try to find a parking spot in the village first. Biking to do grocery shopping or go to the hardware store is difficult to imagine.

It is a reasonable assumption that some of the El Loco Taco staff (10?) and customers (perhaps 40+ when the patio is open) of the new restaurant will park in parking spaces owned by other businesses. The consequences are not just restricted to adjacent businesses and restaurants. Nearby are Thrifty's and Mouat's. Grocery stores and hardware stores need customer parking close by. How far will a person carry their groceries

or a couple of gallons of paint? Not far at all. If our customers can't find a parking spot reasonably close by, they'll likely drive to the competitors outside of the village, or perhaps off island. Was this impact considered?

Do all existing businesses in town now receive a reduction in their parking requirement? That would be fair, equitable and consistent with the desire to “think differently.” Land-use decisions should be based on established guidelines, sound planning and reasoning. If the OCP is in fact outdated as suggested, what is the basis of current trustee decision making? Do others similarly go ahead with projects via the “ask for forgiveness not approval” strategy? The community has a reasonable expectation of knowing exactly what to expect, not the considerable uncertainty that now exists.

Parking is an issue, as are parking expectations. The environment is an issue. Safety is an issue. So is the viability of the grocery store and hardware store in the village. Having Thrifty's and Mouat's designated, and privately owned, parking lots as de facto parking for all of the village will without question drive more of their customers to competitors.

A parking study may be useful, but it won't change behaviours. Some certainty for the village is needed, before any more land-use decisions are made. A thoughtful, thorough study by a professional in community planning is the first step. Leadership by the Trust, being in charge of land use, and the Chamber of Commerce, being the “voice” of business, would be welcomed.

The writer is president of Mouat's Trading Co.

Disc golf club supports bike park

BY BEN CORNO

On behalf of the Salt Spring Disc Golf Club, I wanted to clear up a few things arising from last week's bike park article (“Park users react to tree cutting”).

Perhaps six months ago we first became aware of the bike park plan through a petition that was moving among the walking path users. Someone was gathering signatures opposing the bike park. The thought at the time was that it might be constructed inside the walking path loop and disc golf course. Many of our members signed the petition in support of the walking path users, many of whom are of lessening mobility and were concerned for the safety of the walking loop.

We were later enlightened by

one of the supporters of the bike park that the bike park would all occur within the east side of the park, a largely unused and small chunk of the park that we do not use, and most of the “walkers” don't really use either. It mostly serves as access to the larger park from the ArtSpring parking lot. The petition was the last we as a group heard about the bike park before the orange and green dots went up on the trees.

If I could speak on behalf of our largish membership, I would suggest that we saw little reason to oppose the bike park as we are also users of the park, and love our special place and are grateful to have it. The bike park is going to be used by kids primarily, and anything that gets the kids outside and burn-

ing calories, and getting better at something that makes them proud of themselves is a good thing relative to some of the other activities that may absorb their time.

We were not consulted on the tree removal, nor did we specifically support the tree work that happened. We support the establishment of the bike park. We regard the work done by the arborist contracted to do the removal as good work, and also understand that the bike park as an idea has been on the table for a long enough time that anyone who wanted to know about it had a chance to learn more.

The speed with which the trees went down was meaningful, but we trust that those involved were informed

enough to make good decisions about what trees to keep. If trees were removed that had more life in them, that is unfortunate. We value trees in our park as they provide all of the difficulty we have inside our small disc golf facility, and it is always sad when dead-tree removal alters our beloved routing. If communication between those who want it is improved by this situation, then a better end has been met.

We are happy to see more outdoor sports finding a home in Mouat Park, and hope that the bike park group can have a great time in their new home. Welcome to the neighbourhood.

The writer is president of the Salt Spring Disc Golf Club.

Next steps for Ganges Harbourwalk

BY RICHARD KERR

Do members of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee have the wisdom to choose a better course toward completion of the Ganges Harbourwalk? Their decisions at the LTC meeting on Thursday morning will answer this question.

Trust planning staff have recently recommended that the LTC direct them to explore using Ganges Marina's request to the provincial government for a foreshore lease renewal as an opportunity to help secure a statutory right-of-way for harbourwalk completion. Staff point out that the marina's previous 30-year lease expired in April 2017 and that renewal of this lease is at the discretion of the province. Staff suggest this could present a “once-in-a-generation opportunity for the local government to solicit the province for public use of public land (water surface) that for the past three decades has effectively been privatized through the previous lease arrangement.”

Provincial policy provides that the terms and conditions of a renewed lease tenure could be modified based on con-

sultation with First Nations, referrals to the Islands Trust and other agencies, and consideration of land use objectives that have come into effect since the original tenure was issued. The Salt Spring Official Community Plan, developed since issuance of the previous marina foreshore lease, identifies the foreshore adjacent to the three properties owned by the Ganges Marina as an important link in the Ganges public pathway system. This link requires construction of a waterfront boardwalk with a statutory right-of-way — likely to be held by the CRD.

First Nations have provided support in principle for completion of the Ganges Harbourwalk, but advise against increasing shoreline development as the means to achieve this. That was also the view expressed by the overwhelming majority of participants in the Trust's Nov. 4 public meeting.

Two other points are worth noting. The almost 10 acres of public foreshore currently occupied by Ganges Marina are far in excess of what would be required

to satisfy the riparian rights of their half acre of upland property. Secondly, a boardwalk along the edge of the marina property would be a significant benefit to the marina business — as the existing boardwalk is for other businesses in the Ganges core.

Trust staff note that the LTC could also consider communicating with local MLA Adam Olsen and other individuals who may exert influence over the lease renewal process. That is an excellent suggestion that could also be taken up by local residents who wish to see the harbourwalk brought to successful completion.

Recent statements by trustee Peter Grove suggest he may be open to a new approach based on the staff recommendations. Residents who support the approach recommended by Trust planning staff should contact LTC members before the Thursday LTC meeting to express their support.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident who has been researching Ganges Harbourwalk issues.

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LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Local community supported agriculture on the rise

Farming model supports sustainable farms and community

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community supported agriculture (CSA) is growing on Salt Spring Island. Demand for high-quality produce and food coupled with people's desire for more involvement in the food production process has pushed the small community farm into the spotlight.

CSA is a subscription-based model of farming that allows the eater to have a closer relationship to the farmer. Subscribers pay at the beginning of the year for access to the food, which the farmer uses as start-up costs for the year's work. In exchange for this, the subscriber gets a portion of the farmer's harvest. This portion is either delivered weekly, or can be picked up at the farm, depending on the type of CSA.

The farmers benefit by sharing the cost of farm upkeep and labour with the consumer, while the consumer benefits by having access to fresh organic vegetables and other food products. CSAs build a sense of community by allowing people to engage with and get excited about the food they are consuming.

Zack Hemstreet and Molly Smith run a CSA farm on Salt Spring Island. They are going into their ninth season at Bullock Lake Farm, and have been running a CSA program for the entire time they've been here. Theirs is what Hemstreet calls an "east coast" style, where people pick up their portion at the farm once per week. This allows people to meet their farmers and experience the farm.

"For us, bringing people there and engaging with them is kind of the point of the whole thing," he said. "I don't know that I would want to run a CSA that did delivery or decentralized that process. For us that's not very appealing."

By engaging with the people who are supporting their farm, CSA farmers have a chance to get to know people on a one-to-one basis. Chef Sadhana Berkow works on Singing Bird Farm with her husband Clayton Houghland. They get to know their neighbours, can teach them about the foods they're eating and make food be a part of a community again.

"A lot of people are going more towards this because they're knowing where their food comes from and then they get to develop a personal relationship with the farmer,"



PHOTO BY STASIA GARRAWAY

Zack Hemstreet of Bullock Lake Farm picks tomatoes in his farm's greenhouse on Salt Spring. Bullock Lake Farm participates in a CSA model of agriculture on the island.

Berkow said. "This helps them be more connected to the food and when you're more connected to the food, the land and the farmer, there is a funny thing that happens. That food ends up nourishing you more."

Feeding oneself has become a solitary act, with many meals being eaten in cubicles and in front of the television. Instead of the anonymity of the grocery aisle, CSA members get to form personal relationships with the people who feed them.

"Getting to know who is growing your food is essentially like getting to know who is caring for your family," said Hemstreet. "People want to have that."

Getting food from a CSA is healthy. Since CSAs run throughout the growing season, the crops people get change depending on what is in season at that time. Instead of bigger factory farms that grow one crop for the whole year, a CSA farm's harvest has to be ready weekly.

"It really allows us to grow a huge diversity of crops. We try to tailor that every year with what

CSAS continued on 13

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SOUTHEY POINT

AGRICULTURE

FARMING

Seed trial project helps farmers enhance growing

Local grower benefits from mentorship program

BY MICHAEL MARRAPESE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

As soon as days begin to get longer and the winter cold starts to fade, gardeners, like the over-wintering plants, get restless.

Seedy Saturday on the Feb. 10-11 weekend served as a re-opening of the gardening season on Salt Spring Island and a way for farmers and gardeners to reconnect after a winter's rest. Seedy Saturday organizers Kaleigh Barton and her partner Ben Corno of Heavenly Roots Farm took on the challenge of organizing the event three years ago. The process put them in touch with other seed growers and seed resources.

In 2016 Barton signed up for FarmFolk CityFolk's Seed Mentorship Program and worked with local seed grower Rupert Adams to get her seed production up and running.

"We wanted to supply our own seed needs," she says. "One reason is that it's nice to have a big huge bag of seed in case something goes wrong — you can just re-seed right away. I'm just loving that."

Barton has honed her skills by participating in the BC Seed Trials project, a collaboration between the Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, UBC Farm and FarmFolk CityFolk. The project has growers throughout the province conducting vegetable variety trials to identify which perform best in each region as well as those which can be scaled up for bulk seed production. A central part of the seed trials project is observation and evaluation.

Barton explains: "I count the number of seeds I start with and then count the seedlings that sprout so we get a germination count. We also evaluate the seedlings based on what they look like — are they tall, are they wimpy. With the beets, we're looking at insect and disease damage. We'll be looking at other qualities: can they withstand frost, do they store well."

Even though the project can be a bit daunting at times, Barton has gained confidence in her seed-growing ability. The skills she gained in crop observation and record keeping are extremely valuable. Good records can make all the difference when the season gets hectic.

"It really makes a difference when you've got good records to help you remember what you did," she says.



PHOTOS COURTESY HEAVENLY ROOTS FARM

Above, Heavenly Roots area at the Burgoyne Valley Shaw Community Gardens. Below, Heavenly Roots' Kaleigh Barton, who participated in FarmFolk CityFolk's seed trials project.

"Crop rotations can be a bit of an organizational nightmare at the best of times. It was a big challenge to get the trial crops planted on the right dates, to get the isolations done properly, and ensuring our market crops aren't going to flower and cross with the seed crops. It's good to have the experience of doing observations and record keeping in a more regimented way. This process has really helped."

This year they're kicking their seed production up a notch.

"We're in our third year and we've been doing a little bit more every year," Barton said. "We have designs on starting our own small seed company in the next few years, and are working out how to fit seed growing into our growing market farm business."

Go to www.bcseedtrials.ca for more information about the BC Seed Trials project.



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CSAs foster talents

CSAS

continued from 11

our members say they want. Then I try to insist that they are going to learn to love puntarelle [a bitter variety of chicory] and some of them will and some of them won't," he said. "We do have quite a lot of people who really want fresh vegetables, unique vegetables, things that you can't get at the store. A lot of people, for whatever reason — be it health or wellness — want organic food."

Having a diverse choice of crops also does wonders for the farm itself.

Berkow explained that Singing Bird Farm is "really looking to expand the diversity as far as pollinators go. We want bees and insects to be able to pollinate these short crops and then also for these short crops to provide nutrients back in the soil. When we're harvesting the radishes, baby kale and the snap peas . . . it also provides nutrients down into the soil."

The main effect a CSA farm has is the community building. By supporting a local farm, money is kept in the community and goes towards building a stronger food

base that can continue to support people for years.

Rob Pingle is a long-time CSA member. He thinks that being able to put his money into a system that fosters farming talent is one of the biggest draws to CSA agriculture.

"If we're supporting people that have the skills to grow food, then if there is ever an issue in the future that makes it hard to get food brought to us from our fabulous grocery stores then we're keeping that talent of farming alive on our island," he said. "I've noticed that it seems like almost every neighbourhood has a farm that they could potentially be supporting through CSA.

"There's enough Salt Springers who know that a local carrot tastes better than any other carrot in the world," said Pingle. "When you can get it within four hours of it being picked, you won't taste anything better than that."

Every CSA operates differently, and those interested are encouraged to look up the different options and choose something that suits their needs. Many CSAs also operate market stands and are often involved in the community, and have an online presence.



PHOTOS BY MATT HOUGHLAND

From left, Clayton Houghland of Singing Bird Farm holds a freshly picked head of broccoli, while a basket full of produce shows the variety available through a community supported agriculture program.



PHOTO BY MATT HOUGHLAND

Freshly shelled peas from Singing Bird Farm.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

Renowned artist shows human story



PHOTOS COPYRIGHT GREG CONSTANTINE

At left, Rohingya refugees on truck being transported into Bangladesh, and below, photo taken in the Ukraine of a former Soviet citizen who is now a stateless individual. Constantine's work can be viewed at Fault Line Projects through Sunday.

Greg Constantine images at Fault Line Projects to March 4

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Documentary photos by Greg Constantine are on exhibit in a "pop-up show" at Fault Line Projects through Sunday, March 4, wrapping up four months with the Salt Spring Arts Council's Artist in Residency program.

Constantine is an independent documentary photographer, author and researcher based in Bangkok who has dedicated his career to projects that focus on human rights, inequality, identity and the power of the state. The award-winning artist spent 11 years working on the acclaimed project *Nowhere People* (2006-2016), a global exploration documenting the lives and struggles of individuals and ethnic communities who have had their citizenship denied or stripped from them by governments.

He's now working on *Seven Doors*, a long-term project exploring how governments are increasingly using detention as a significant component of immigration policy, and the resulting trauma to asylum seekers, refugees, stateless people and migrants around the world. His black and white photos often take the form of searing portraits, although he also captures moments of protest, unrest and refugees in motion.

Constantine started photographing the Rohingya in 2006, many years before most Westerners were aware

of their plight. He is now banned from Myanmar (Burma) for his work documenting the state's treatment of the Muslim minority group, which lately caused their violent expulsion and flight into Bangladeshi camps.

As he explained at Fault Line Projects on Friday, Constantine envisioned *Nowhere People* as an "embedded project." He felt the problem of statelessness was far too large and complex for a two-week assignment, but didn't realize what he planned to do over a year and a half would extend to nearly a dozen years. He made his name as a photographer in the process, being the first person to try to show what the issue of statelessness looked like visually, just at the time NGOs and academics were recognizing it as a major problem.

Fundamental themes of statelessness — whether expressed in Kenya, Nepal or the Dominican Republic — are discrimination and intolerance. Constantine argues the manifestation of those things into state policy as a denial of citizenship is what makes the issue so unique. In most cases statelessness is not caused by poverty or the inability to pay for documentation alone; it's systemic racism or "othering."

"Most stateless people know where their home is because they've lived there for generations, but the state says, 'This is not your home and we're going to deny you your home,'" Constantine explained.

Almost everyone Constantine has met in his work has wanted their story told; they are used to being forgotten, abandoned and pushed



aside, so they welcome a chance to be seen at last. Sometimes they are too vulnerable to share their image or identities, including people Constantine spoke to in more developed countries for the *Seven Doors* project. Two pictures he took in the UK, for example, tell the story through other means than portraiture because the subjects were terrified of what the Home Office might do. One became a beautiful layered reflection taken through the glass of a bus shelter. In another, Constantine captured his subject pushing his hands through his hair. He's seen via his shadow, cast against the heavy institutional architecture of a bank.

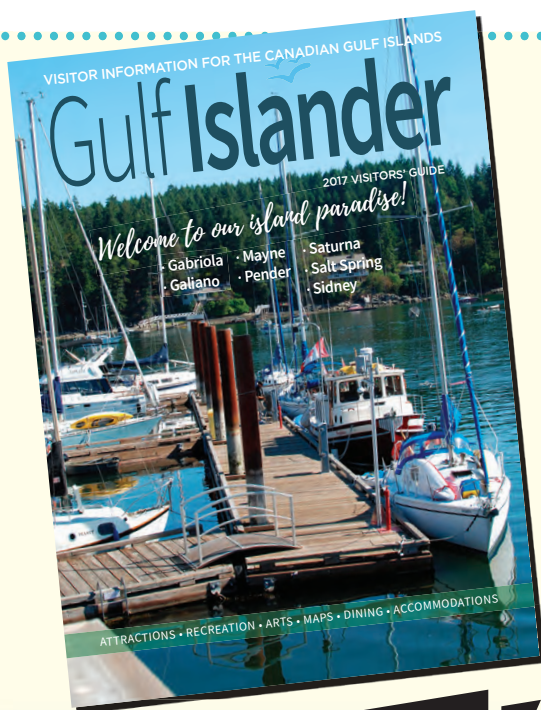
Constantine said that although one image can sometimes inspire societal change, most of the time people's attention spans are too short. His publications in major media outlets and his awards aren't enough to make a difference. That's why he prefers exhibitions that are connected with opportunities to engage with audiences. During his four-month residency on Salt Spring, Constantine was able to commit

time to the research his work demands and launch the website for *Seven Doors*, but also prepare for important exhibitions in London and Washington, D.C. where powerful people can be expected to be present, and hopefully take notice.

Speaking engagements like the presentations he's done on Salt Spring, and ones coming up in Vancouver next month, are the other side of the coin. Local connections have helped Constantine secure dates as keynote speaker for two UBC events and the Asia Pacific Foundation next month, where he will spread the word about current global human rights issues even further.

"It's an extension of my residency, which I'm really excited about," Constantine said.

Constantine's final events on-island will include a talk about his career and life trajectory for GISS multimedia students. He will also facilitate a Q&A session after a screening of *The Venerable W* at the Salt Spring Film Festival. The film explores extreme Buddhism and its role in targeting the Rohingya in Myanmar.



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MUSICAL THEATRE

Drag queens and kings in for Mamma Priscilla sequel

ArtSpring run opens March 9 with more shows March 10, 15-17

Audiences are advised to get ready to be entertained when Mamma Priscilla: The Sequin! hits the ArtSpring stage starting Saturday, March 9.

Back in 2013, the Salt Spring-written and produced ensemble piece Mamma Priscilla's Cagey Revue arrived at ArtSpring. The unique mashup of iconic drag queen shows and queer cult classics quickly sold out shows, with an added performance that also saw all of its tickets sold in one hour. Most of the original cast is back for chapter two of the saga, along with several new talented additions.

"For The Sequin we have not only beautiful drag queens but also stunning drag kings as well," a press release from the community theatre producers explains. "We are back at Florida's Cagey Revue, where two of our favourite Australian queens have joined the fun, bringing their dance expertise, their outrageousness and their ongoing queen suspicions, hostility, envy and insecurities to this new show.

"As the revue goes on, rivalries continue, insecurities blow up, crime infiltrates itself, and the senator is once again embroiled in a salacious scandal. Mostly, it's a play about family — a family that dances, dresses up, adds makeup and sometimes disses each other. And certainly, about love."

Anyone who is open to a scintillating tale including eyelashes, a multitude of wigs, men stumbling in heels, women with beards, and fabulous music from the 1940s to the present is invited to join the fun. Audience members are encouraged to dress in drag as a king or queen, or just dress up in some crazy costume. Those seated in the aisle or up front should be prepared to interact with cast members.

Tickets are on sale at ArtSpring, with a special price for opening night on March 9, and premium tickets for closing on March 17. Regular prices apply for shows on March 10, 15 and 16.

The show is rated 14a for language, suggestive scenes, brief nudity, and general naughtiness.



PHOTO COURTESY MAMMA PRISCILLA CAST

Some of Mamma Priscilla's fabulous cast members glam it up in rehearsal for next week's show. Clockwise from bottom are Scott Merrick, Dave Milutinovic, Michelle Nadon, Wendy Beatty and Brian Box, with Daniel Squizzato at centre.

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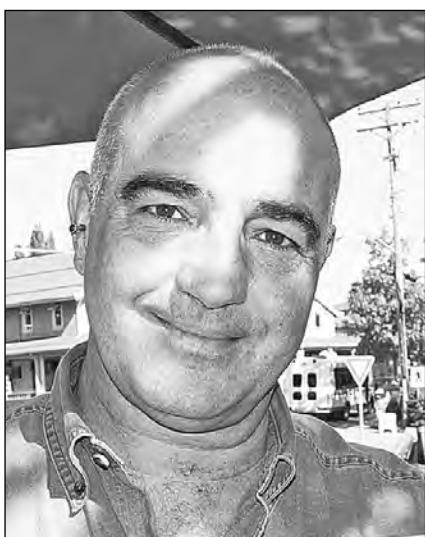
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GULF ISLANDS

RECITAL

Sanchez and Miller play Latin music

Tea à Tempo music takes South American tour next week



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Alvaro Sanchez, who plays with Dick Miller at All Saints on March 7.

On Wednesday, March 7, the music series Tea à Tempo offers music lovers the opportunity to be surrounded by the warming sounds of music from South America.

Taking the stage is Alvaro Sanchez, well known on the island for his skill as both a craftsman in the art of jewellery making and as a talented musician.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sanchez studied classical guitar in that city with Francisco Aletti. He also travelled extensively in South America between 1980 and 1990, interacting with the different cultures and exploring their varied musical styles.

He arrived on Salt Spring in 1990 and continued his studies of classical guitar on the island with Peter Taschuk for over 15 years, becoming an accomplished member of several local groups, the first of which were the classical guitar trio Ma Non

Tropo and jazz quartet Sweetwater. Since 2006, Sanchez has been the leader of Chamigos, a local quartet (with Laurent Boucher, Dick Miller and Derrick Milton, and on occasion, José Sánchez) that plays traditional and contemporary South American music.

In 2017 he started a new project, Noche de Tango, which is dedicated to the music of his birthplace. With Don Conley on piano and Dick Miller on bass, the complex and enticing rhythms of this new group makes them an exciting new addition to the music of the island.

Sanchez recorded his first album at Daryl Chonka's Old Growth Music Studio in Burgoyne Bay. It was released in 2010. He is currently working on a recording at José Sánchez's Magic Lamp studio.

For this appearance, Alvaro Sanchez will be accompanied by Dick Miller on bass. Well known on the island, Miller has more than 25 years of experience performing bluegrass and jazz, and has embraced the rich and complex Latin rhythms he has played with Sanchez since 2006.

They will be presenting a collection of songs in Spanish and Portuguese from different parts of South America.

Music begins in All Saints By-the-Sea at 2:10 pm, followed by tea and treats. Donations are gratefully received for the musicians and towards the running of the series.

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what's on this week



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.

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.

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 emeritus Patricia Roy speaks on *B.C.'s Ambiguous Relations with the Rest of Canada*. Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 2 p.m.

Thu. Mar. 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic.

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring LTC Meeting.

Regular business meeting at Lions Hall starts at 9:30 a.m., with recess for public hearing on 805 Lower Ganges Road rezoning application (SS Tennis Association) scheduled from 9:45 to 10 a.m. and town hall session at noon.

From Song to Stillness: A Contemplative Meditation.

Program facilitated by singer/songwriter and contemplative Elvira Clare that will focus on meditative singing as a means of experiencing contemplative stillness. At Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice at St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration required at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.



Fri. Mar. 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jessie of Arcadian Suns.

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

Fri. Mar. 2

ACTIVITIES

Youth Art Enrichment: Salish Art with Quentin Harris.

Students will work with carving, painting, storytelling, directed drumming (pow wow drum) and small button blankets. The free workshop is for grades 5-7 and is limited to 10-15 students who have a particular interest in art. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-registration required.

World Day of Prayer.

This year's program is written by the women of Suriname, South America, and is titled "All God's Creation Is Very Good!" Participants invited to stay for refreshments following the program. Salt Spring United Church. 1:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Film Festival – Opening Gala.

The 2018 festival opens with gala and screening of films *Lucy and Jane*. GISS. Doors open 5:30 p.m., screening at 7 p.m.



Sat. Mar. 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Patrick Zelinski.

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

Sat. Mar. 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marimba Spring Dance.

Marimba band plays Lions Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7.

The Costners.

Live folk/rock band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Film Festival.

Film screenings, plus great food and coffee at the Intermission Cafe. GISS. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

5Rhythms Movement Workshop for Women.

Weave & Mend with Shauna Devlin. Stowel Lake Farm. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: shaunadevlin.net

Salt Spring BC SPCA AGM.

Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 3 p.m.



Sun. Mar. 4

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Film Festival.

See Saturday's listing.

Mon. Mar. 5

ACTIVITIES

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



Tue. Mar. 6

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.

Foster Parent Support Services Society Info Sessions.

Presentation by Ministry of Children and Family Development resource worker Praven Pather for prospective foster parents. Salt Spring Library program room. Two one-hour talks at 12 noon and 5 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.



Elvira Clare leads *From Song to Stillness: A Contemplative Meditation* workshop at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice at St. Mary's Church in Fulford on March 1. Info/registration: staroftheseassi@gmail.com

Tue. Mar. 6

ACTIVITIES

10th Anniversary Scrabble Fundraiser. SSI Grand(m)others to Grandmothers event in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Games at Salt Spring Inn. 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Salt Spring Improv Workshop. Hosted by Jan Rabson every Tuesday night (except Mar 20 & 27) from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Salt Spring Elementary School Multi Purpose Room. Everyone age 15 and up is welcome.

Wed. Mar. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Alvaro Sanchez and Dick Miller. Guitarist Sanchez and bassist Miller present a collection of songs in Spanish and Portuguese from different parts of South America. Music begins in All Saints By-the Sea at 2:10 pm, followed by tea and treats. Donations are gratefully received.

Wed. Mar. 7

ACTIVITIES

10th Anniversary Scrabble Fundraiser.

See Tuesday's listing. **Salt Spring Calligraphy Group.** Starting this Wednesday and continuing every first Wednesday afternoon of the month in conjunction with the Painters Guild. The group will learn some fun lettering styles and decide upon future classes and workshops. ArtSpring. 1:30 p.m.

Tech Cafe: How to Publish Your Writing.

Four sessions on March 7, 14, 21 and 28 teach how to prepare poetry, novel, short stories, children's books, stage and screen play for publication. Pre-registration required. Library Program Room: 7:30 to 9 p.m.



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National Theatre Live - Angels in America
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CINEMA

- Lucky** — Final two shows. 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.
- Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle** — Four high school kids discover an old video game console and are drawn into the game's jungle setting, literally becoming the adult avatars they chose.
- National Theatre Live - Angels in America Part 1** — New staging of Tony Kushner's multi-award winning two-part play, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. One day only on Thursday, March 8 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reserve tickets at thefritz@hotmail.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

- Greg Constantine** presents *Nowhere People*, a documentary photographic exhibition of human rights-related images, at **Fault Line Projects** gallery in Grace Point Square through March 4.

- 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.
- The Salt Spring Island Painters' Guild** hosts its annual display of art work in the lobby of **ArtSpring** through March. Twenty-four artists display a wide variety of paintings and drawings from workshops, collaborative activities or drawing sessions hosted by the guild.
- Wednesday, Feb. 28 is the last day to see **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, in the library program room.
- Long-time Fernwood-area resident **Bruce McPhee** holds an art show at **Fernwood Road Cafe** through March 17.
- Tina Spalding** shows her work at **Barb's Bistro**.
- Judy McPhee** has photographs hanging in **TJ Beans** through February.
- Tina Spalding** shows her work at **Barb's Bistro**.

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MONEY MATTERS

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INCOME TAX

Real estate sales should be disclosed on personal taxes

Seek advice when property has been sold

BY SHEILA C. HENN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Selling your home in Canada? Most people know that

you do not pay tax when selling your principal residence. What is new is that you must disclose this sale on your personal tax return even though there may not be taxes on this sale.

There are complex rules behind this disclosure and other factors should be con-

sidered. Do you own another home or cottage? Have you rented out your house in the past? If you file a U.S. tax return the exemption limits are different for the U.S.

What is important is that you seek advice. Inform your accountant of a sale of your real property. The cost of

having a professional prepare your tax return may save you both taxes and potential penalties. We help ease your tax filings so you can focus on the other changes in your life.

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



SENIORS' FINANCES

Benefits for seniors outlined

Tax-filing considerations for people over 65

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) wants to make sure that seniors are receiving the benefits and credits they are eligible for.

Here are some of the most common things that seniors could claim on their income tax and benefit return at tax time:

Pension income splitting

As a pensioner, you may be eligible to split up to 50 per cent of your eligible pension income with your spouse or common-law partner to reduce the amount of income tax you may have to pay, if your spouse or common-law partner is in a lower tax bracket. This may save you tax as a couple.

Registered retirement savings plan deduction

Deductible contributions to your plan can reduce your tax owing. You have until Dec. 31 of the year in which you turn 71 to contribute to your plan.

Medical expenses

You may be able to claim eligible medical expenses you or your spouse or common-law partner paid in any 12-month period ending in 2017. This period is extended to 24 months in case of death.

Age amount

If you were 65 years of age or older on Dec. 31, 2017, and your net income was less than \$84,597, you may be able to claim up to \$7,225 on your return.

Disability tax credit

If you, your spouse or common-law partner, or your dependant have a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions, you may be eligible for the disability tax credit. To apply for this credit, you must have Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate filled out and certified by a medical practitioner. Once the CRA

approves your form, you can claim the disability amount on your return.

Canada caregiver credit

This credit replaces the family caregiver credit, the credit for infirm dependants age 18 or older, and the caregiver credit. If you have a spouse or common-law partner or a dependant with an impairment in physical or mental functions, you may be able to claim this non-refundable tax credit.

Pension income amount

You may be able to claim up to \$2,000 if you reported eligible pension, superannuation, or annuity payments on your return.

Also, filing a tax return is the easiest way to access credit and benefit payments that may assist seniors, such as:

Guaranteed income supplement

If you live on a low-income and receive the guaranteed income supplement or allowance benefits under the Old Age Security Program, you must file your taxes by April 30 to make sure your benefits get renewed.

GST/HST credit

You may be eligible for tax-free quarterly payments that help individuals and families with low and modest income offset all or part of the GST or HST that they pay. If you have a spouse or common-law partner, only one of you can receive the credit. When you file your taxes, the CRA automatically determines your eligibility.

Registered disability savings plan

This type of plan helps Canadians with disabilities and their families save for the long-term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit. Contributions to such a plan are not tax deductible, but you can make them until the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 59.

Go to canada.ca for more information about seniors programs and services from the CRA.

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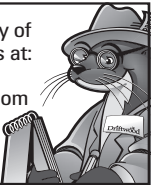


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people&community

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



FUNDRAISING

Ometepe Coffee partners facing challenges in future



PHOTOS COURTESY OGIFA

From left, coffee growers in Nicaragua tend to Ometepe's organic crops; donkey packs coffee bound for Salt Spring through the Carlos Dias Cajina Co-op.

Group still optimistic

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After 30 years of partnership, the Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friendship Association is looking to the future.

Though they've had a strong history, the group is facing new challenges going into the future. Started in 1988 by a group of Gulf Islanders who noticed a need for fresh water on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua, OGIFA has been providing aid for the small island by selling fair trade organic coffee to fund various aid projects. The trials of Sandinista-era Nicaragua are largely gone, but have been replaced with 21st-century issues like climate change, agricultural

disease and the struggle to keep momentum going with a new generation.

Nedjo Rogers, the chairperson for OGIFA, said that it's "really important that we maintain that engagement and knowledge here about what's going on. A lot of people know about Ometepe coffee and it's important that our community here knows something about the current challenges and struggles."

Though coffee is one of the most profitable crops in the world, much of those profits go to the distributors and not to the producers. Fair trade coffee changes all of this by partnering closely with the farmers to give them a greater share of the profits.

Ometepe Coffee is a certified fair-trade organic coffee import-

ed, roasted and sold by volunteers on Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands. Over the years, OGIFA has brought many improvements to Ometepe Island, including clean water, health care, infrastructure and rehabilitation for street kids.

OGIFA relies on coffee every year to help with their fundraising. Most people know of the Ometepe Coffee brand and are used to seeing it in the Saturday market through the summer and at local coffee shops all year round. However, this year the coffee plantations have been stricken with coffee rust, a fungal infection that is devastating to commercial coffee plantations.

Since Ometepe Coffee is fair trade, the harvest is paid for in part before the growing season begins. This will help the coffee

producers cover their short-term costs, but the low harvest will affect OGIFA's ability to help. Part of the fair trade agreement that OGIFA has is that it is considered to be more of a partnership than a traditional supplier-distributor agreement.

"Our contract to buy the coffee is a pre-payment," said Ron Pither, one of the founding members of OGIFA.

"If a crop fails, we don't get our pre-payment money back. That's what we did this year. Plus it is expensive to do organic certification, it's one more cost . . . Those are things that build trust. They know we're in it through thick and thin with them."

While coffee sales have been averaging at about \$25,000 per year, which adds up to almost \$1

million over the past 30 years, they are facing a shortage this year due to the disease. To recover, the coffee co-ops will have to cut back their existing plants and replant almost 23,000 seedlings over 25 acres.

One challenge facing the group is maintaining community engagement on Salt Spring Island. The Ometepe Coffee brand is strong on the island, but they are completely volunteer driven and are looking to recruit younger people to help out.

George Harris, who was one of the founders of OGIFA, has a daughter who has been living part of the year each year down on Ometepe. He sees the value of getting young people involved in the organization.

"Her friends' houses have dirt floors and they don't have refrigeration and she never has any sense that people are less fulfilled as human beings," Harris said.

"Getting some youth from here down there as part of the future of the organization is so important to us. When you're there you see it's an incredibly wonderful place. We learn so much from being there, because we're bombarded by consumer insanity in the culture that we live in here."

A proposal for a tour of Ometepe Island later this year, which will focus on youth, inter-generational and international co-operation, is in the planning stages. There will also be a delegation to the island in 2019.

"We look forward to these challenging circumstances as a chance to replant and renew our own engagements and commitments that have carried us for 30 years and we hope will go on for another 30 years," said Rogers.

FAITH

World Day of Prayer on Friday

United Church hosts event

Island church groups will once again gather for the annual World Day of Prayer.

This year the event is hosted by the Salt Spring United Church on Friday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the program written by the women of Suriname, South America. Titled All God's Creation Is Very Good, the women invite everyone to express their care for creation in concrete ways.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

The first World Day of Prayer was held on March 3, 1922, when millions of church women throughout Canada and the U.S. "met as a great sisterhood for a day of prayer," explains press material. "Today,

that day of prayer is observed by women and men around the world in 113 languages."

The World Day of Prayer has impact, organizers say.

"Informed prayer and prayerful action has provided over half a million dollars in grants to justice projects over the last five years alone."

The day also "connects people in authentic, meaningful ways across social, geographic and political barriers by amplifying the voice of women who inform our prayers by sharing their concerns and their context."

An estimated 1,200 Canadian communities will celebrate the World Day of Prayer.

In Canada, the World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. More information is available through www.wicc.org.







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WORKPLACE ISSUES

Human resources primer offered by island expert

Larry Shetzer gives tips at library presentation

A human resources expert is providing a free talk with tips for employers at the Salt Spring Public Library next week.

Larry Shetzer is a Salt Spring resident who has a PhD in industrial/organizational psychology and industrial engineering and has been a human resources consultant for more than 20 years. He will present his talk, with a focus on island-based small business operations, on Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m.

Human resources or the "people" side of the business is not normally the first priority for entrepreneurs, says Shetzer.

"HR is often managed by the 'seat of the pants' with the belief that it is just common sense, and those attitudes can be detrimental to success," he said. "But

with a little planning and knowledge you can have the best workforce possible while anticipating problems before they happen."

Shetzer offers the following small business HR tips in advance of his presentation.

- A good place to start is with an HR handbook with resources on the major HR functions and issues, including recruitment/selection, training, sexual harassment policy, compensation, substance screening, performance feedback and employee termination.

- Island employers must deal with a restricted labour force. Consider multiple recruitment sources and remember that geographical restriction can be an advantage (e.g., potentially excellent employees who could work off island but don't want to travel).

- When using job interviews for selec-

tion, devise a systematic procedure based on objective job behaviours and requirements. Consider selection tools beside the traditional job interview, e.g., work sample or job knowledge tests, biographical tests (leadership, teamwork skills), integrity/honesty tests and substance abuse screening. These can be cost effective and greatly improve the chances of choosing the best and screening out potential problems.

- Employers across North America are facing a sea change in attitudes towards workplace sexual harassment. Entrepreneurs must be ahead of the curve on this issue with a sexual harassment policy to avoid a poisoned work environment and costly legal or human rights claims.

Employee training should be planned and systematic, and performance feedback should be constructive while documenting deficiencies.

The entrepreneur should be aware of the range of pay systems that can maximize productivity, such as merit-based pay and incentives.

Finally, succession planning deserves attention and, if it is necessary to terminate an employee, there are procedures as to the best way to proceed.

According to Shetzer's website, he spent eight years with the behavioural sciences group at Bell Canada in Montreal, working primarily in developing employee selection and performance management tools.

"At Virginia Tech he did a year internship at the Virginia Productivity Center, implementing quality improvement programs at a local textile plant. He has taught upper level HR managers in China during several visits to that country with the United Nations International Trade Commission."

expert ADVICE

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

Financial Advice



TANYA STEEVES

TFSA or RRSP, how do I know which to choose?

RRSP and TFSA are amazing financial planning tools, but what's better for your retirement savings? The investment options under both are similar but their different tax treatment will help guide your decision.

If you expect your retirement income to be lower than what you earn today, you're likely better off with an RRSP. An RRSP contribution reduces the taxes you owe today or provides a refund of the taxes already paid.

If you expect to earn a meaningful pension, the combination of the RRSP/RRIF withdrawal could drive you into a higher tax bracket, making a TFSA a more suitable option as any withdrawals of income or contributions are tax free.

We recommend speaking to an advisor before this year's RRSP contribution deadline of March 1st.

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Mechanic



GYLE KEATING

Winter does seem to be holding on

With the recent return of colder weather and snow it is setting our regular maintenance back a bit.

Let's be optimistic and say we will probably only be a couple of weeks behind last year by the time we are into the last week of March.

So take your snow tires off the middle to end of March along with your spring check over and plan for any major work to be done in time for summer holidays.

If your vehicle is due for an oil change don't put it off just to fit the weather. If you are hearing odd noises or feeling something different in your car get it checked out before it becomes a major problem.

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Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 1

How you live in a house, is not how you present a house! "Less Is More!" Thinking strategically means creating inviting space in your home for the potential buyer with fewer furnishings and uncluttered surfaces specifically bookcases and kitchen counter tops. Consider renting a storage space, or prepacking and storing belongings in basement not used everyday.

No need to delay listing your house if you have a few things "to do". Time is needed to create marketing brochures while you start your "Honey Dew List". When one party sees your home, they are not the entire market. There are fewer houses for sale "sooner" (hence less competition), since supply expands greatly in springtime.

As each project is completed your home looks better!
Think & plan strategically.

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2017 (VREB)

TOP SELLER ON SSI for 2017 based on highest number of listings & sales - Victoria Real Estate Board statistics.



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Health



JONATHAN DAMONTE

What is a Homeopathic Medicine

The medicines used by a Homeopath come from many varied sources ranging from minerals like the calcium from an Oyster shell, plants like the common English Daisy, and even animal products such as a secretion from the intestines of a Grey Whale commonly known as Ambergris. Plus, many more plain and seemingly exotic substances have been utilized and successfully utilized as homeopathic medicines.

What's important to note is that Homeopathic medicines affect our health because they are capable of causing the very conditions and the characteristic symptoms expressed by those conditions. In fact, that is how they are chosen. The homeopathic practitioner selects a medicine because it can similarly produce the nuanced characteristics of that person's own symptoms. The best medicine chosen stimulates the body's response mechanisms because of a heightened susceptibility to that medicine as a consequence of its symptomatic similarities. The best results for homeopathic medicines come from carefully selected and individualized prescriptions.



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Marketing



AMBER OGILVIE

It's a Conversation with your Customers

If you own a business on Salt Spring Island you might have discovered that getting the word out and enticing people through your doors or to purchase your product isn't exactly easy.

In fact, reaching your target audience might sometimes seem daunting. But it shouldn't. There are a lot of benefits to being located in a small community.

One of the great things about doing business on Salt Spring Island is that you're probably not competing with dozens of similar businesses to stand out and get noticed.

Establishing yourself as an expert in your industry, and a trusted source of information, is a very effective way to stand out, get noticed and create a positive reputation for your brand.

Once you're ready to own your expert status it's time to get the word out.

A great way to share your knowledge and establish your expertise is to book a spot here in our "Ask the Expert" column. Call me for details.

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Fitness Expert



BRENDA AKERMAN

Excuses, Excuses !!!

1) I don't have time! You have numerous appointments, yet somehow you manage to fit them into your busy schedules. Fitness should also rate high on your list of priorities. Exercise can promote feelings of psychological well-being and can supply energy to use time more efficiently.

2) I'm too tired or tense! We live in the times of high intensity jobs and stressful environments. Problems with sleeping may increase stress. After a good workout you will sleep better and feel stress-free.

3) I get enough exercise during daily activities! Most likely not. Housework, gardening, or hobbies are repetitive movements that can work specific areas. The water can train muscles that are not frequently used on land, creating more overall balance throughout the body. This can help prevent injury in fall and increase self-confidence.

So no more excuses get up and start moving.
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SERVICE GROUPS

Founders Day unfolds at Fulford Hall



PHOTOS BY DREW UNDERWOOD

Above, Salt Spring Women's Institute members Bev Cartwright, left, and Audrey Cottrell at a regional WI event at Fulford Hall on Saturday. At left, Ruth Fenner with flowers after receiving the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Award.

Salt Spring Women's Institute honoured to host visitors

BY LISA DAHLING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

The Salt Spring Island Women's Institute (known affectionately locally as "the Pie Ladies") hosted a Founders Day celebration at Fulford Hall on Saturday, Feb. 24.

In attendance were members from all over the Southern Vancouver Island District of Women's Institutes.

The SSIWI were proud to present the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Award to esteemed district member Ruth Fenner, for her years of dedicated service. Fenner is a member of the Somenos WI.

The event included a brief business meeting, award presentation and a hot lunch followed by entertainment.

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless is the Canadian who founded the world-wide Women's Institute movement in 1887 in Ontario.

Did you know?

- The SSIWI built Fulford Hall? (Look for the plaque near the door.)
- The WI is responsible for getting the children's hospitals in Vancouver and Victoria built?
- The BC WI initiated 132 health units in 1930?
- The WI brought about the yellow lines painted on roadways and the stop arms on school buses?
- And that on Salt Spring Island our WI

supports charities and funds four GISS bursaries from the pie sales?

In 2017-18 the Salt Spring WI made donations to the Greenwoods Foundation, Copper Kettle, food bank, Royal Canadian Legion, BC Children's Hospital, Centre for Children's Health on Vancouver Island, Fulford Community Hall, Farmers' Institute, Santa's Workshop, Salt Spring Island 4-H, Island Comfort Quilts, Therapeutic Riding Association and a broader WI water project, in addition to the GISS graduation bursaries.

All that from the sale of our homemade pies at Heritage Day, the Fall Fair and Apple Festival. As always, we owe a debt of gratitude to our community for all your support.

For more information on the Women's Institute, contact me, Lisa Dahling, at coastaldahling@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

March trail and nature club outings set

Hiking Presentation

SSTNC welcomes Liz Bicknell, the current president of the Outdoor Club of Victoria, on Thursday, March 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Salt Spring library. She will be speaking about the "All Over Ireland Trip" she organized for 20 people in September 2017. Being Irish herself, she knows the best hikes. She will also speak about the Vancouver Island Spine Trail the Victoria club is building.

Ramblers

March 6: Leader's Choice Ramble with Deborah Miller. Lunch at Auntie Pesto's. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

March 13: Ramble with Sterling at Burgoyne Bay. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. Lunch at the Rock Salt Café in Fulford.

March 20: Off-island trip to Hemer Provincial Park near Nanaimo with Frauke. Lunch at the Crow and Gate Pub. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling. We will take the 9:25 ferry.

March 27: Ramble with Kathy Darling in Channel Ridge. Lunch at the Seaside Kitchen. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Walkers

March 6: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to pick a leader and a walk.

March 13: Donna Way will lead the

Daffodil Walk in Burgoyne Bay. Meet at ArtSpring to carpool at 10 a.m. or at Burgoyne Bay parking lot at 10:20 a.m. This is a relatively easy walk with some hilly sections.

March 20: Lorrie Storr will lead us on an 8-km walk from Beaver Point Hall to Kings Cove. There are a few rocky bits, but they are short and we will take it slowly. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Beaver Point Hall at 10:20 a.m.

March 27: Dick and Patsy Tipping will lead a walk up Mount Erskine from Trustees Trail. There are some rocky steep sections but we will take it slow and easy, and enjoy the incredible viewpoints along the way. Carpool from ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at the trail head at 10:20 a.m. Take Rainbow Road, turn on Juniper Place and follow it up to Spring Gold Way. Follow that up to Trustees Trail where you turn right and continue to the end of the road and the trail head.

Hikers

March 6: Jan and Larry McIntyre will lead a moderately strenuous hike with lots of ups and downs from Peter Arnell Park to Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve via the Bryant Hill linear trail. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or Stewart Road at Peter Arnell Park behind the concrete barrier at 10 a.m. This will be a one-way hike so we'll send a few cars up to the Andreas Vogt parking area to

facilitate a shuttle at the end of the hike.

March 13: Dave and Amy will lead a hike up Mount Erskine from the Toynbee Road side. The trail is steep at times and can be slippery. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at 10 a.m. at the three-way intersection where Cranberry, Mount Maxwell and Toynbee roads meet.

March 20: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderately strenuous hike from Mount Maxwell to the Shepherd Hills and back. There are some off-trail sections. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or the corner of Fulford-Ganges Road at Cranberry Road at 9:50.

March 27: David and Gale Buffett will lead a hike that explores several trails as we ascend the south side of Mount Maxwell from Burgoyne Bay, taking advantage of several look-outs. There are steep sections on the trail and it will be a steady climb prior to lunch. We plan to have lunch either at or near the summit before the afternoon descent. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the parking lot at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park at 10 a.m.

Interested in joining us? Contact Barry Spence (membership) at 250-537-2332 or come on Tuesdays to the meeting point for the activity you are interested in.

Participants need to bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing.

More information can be found at our website at www.saltspringtnc.ca.

ISLAND HISTORY

Driftwood uploading project complete

Archives ensures papers searchable from 1960 to 2017

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A 10-year project of the Salt Spring Archives has nearly drawn to conclusion with the complete scanning of more than 3,000 issues of the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

The project, overseen with great patience by archivist Frank Neumann, puts 67 years' worth of newspapers into an easily accessible and searchable database. With a few notable exceptions the organization soon hopes to fill, the collection bridges every weekly edition from the paper's inception on March 24, 1960 to Dec. 27, 2017.

The daunting task of scanning and digitally collating so many papers involved running individual pages through a specialized large-bed scanner and then use of the optical character recognition software that transforms photographed images into searchable text.

Neumann became an expert in how to do all that efficiently. During that time the library moved from the basement of the former house on McPhillips Avenue to a temporary location before resting in an upstairs aerie that overlooks the new building's main floor, and the scanner had to be replaced twice.

The prize is that now anyone with an internet connection who wants to find a story they remember from 10 or 30 years ago has the tools at their fingertips.

"Frank believes history should be accessible to everyone. It's been his life's goal to make Salt Spring history accessible to the public, and now they don't have to come here to do it," said Gail Neumann,



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Archives' Frank Neuman holds an early copy of the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper in the archives' location at the Salt Spring Public Library. Neumann has spearheaded a 10-year project that has most Driftwood issues accessible and searchable online through www.saltspringarchives.com under "Our Collections."

Frank's wife and a fellow archives volunteer. "They can access it anywhere in the world."

"He's like a superhero up here," agreed volunteer Christina Marshall. "The Driftwood is sort of like a receptacle of the social history of the island for the years it was published."

Way back in the early issues, this was explicitly the case, as details about islanders' summer visitors and trips abroad were carefully recorded and published. Birth notices and obituaries often provide helpful clues about lives that were only partly spent on Salt Spring.

"People come here and want to know about their Uncle Henry. We can look in the Driftwood and get some clues," Frank Neumann said.

The archives' Driftwood database can be searched by a person's name or a topic. Advertisement text also comes up in a search.

A warning though: It's easy to get lost in island history once accessing the articles in question, as one fascinating tidbit invariably leads to another. A random search for "log dump," for example, ends up uncovering an unintentional gem from Aug. 8, 1979, when the Driftwood advised readers that papers were now available on most local ferries.

"Some people feel that riding on the ferries is a tedious and boring experience while others find it quite enjoyable. If you're in the first category, some reading material might help," the story starts, while concluding: "It is common knowledge that not even a 2 1/2-hour ferry ride is sufficient time in which to read and digest the contents of Driftwood every week."

The same paper featured still faithful reader Bruce Fiander on the cover, holding his prize-winning

24-pound fish at the Legion Salmon Derby.

Another interesting fact to note is the optical character recognition system is not foolproof, so minor interpretation might sometimes be necessary. There is at least one result for photos by "Dank Undy" — or as we usually call him, Derrick Lundy. But there's no doubt the archived material will be a boon to everyday readers as well as genealogists and other researchers.

Support for equipment over the years has come through the Salt Spring Foundation and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Young Canada Works also provided help in the form of summer students, although Frank Neumann did 90 per cent of the scanning and all the technical work.

Uploading the final nine years of Driftwood issues was easier, however, as digital copies of the pages were available.

CRAFT SKILLS

New calligraphy group makes its mark

Anyone welcome to join once-a-month sessions

Calligraphers and anyone interested in calligraphy are invited to join a new group to explore this art and craft.

"Faced with the decline of handwriting, calligraphy gives us the chance to continue our legacy of thousands of years of beautiful handwritten work," explains group co-founder Delaine Faulkner.

Starting this Wednesday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. and continuing every first Wednesday afternoon of the month, the new group will meet at ArtSpring in conjunction with the Painters Guild.

The group will learn some fun lettering styles and decide upon future classes and workshops.

A long-time member of the Fairbank Calligraphy Society of Victoria and the Salt Spring Painters Guild, Faulkner gave an introductory class as part of ArtSpring's two-day Cel-

ebration of the Arts event last October.

Then Ida Marie Threadkell, who is a member of the Warmland Calligraphers' Guild in Duncan, contacted Faulkner and suggested the pair start a guild here on Salt Spring.

Twelve people learned the basics of uncial hand through a course Faulkner led in January.

For further information about the new group, contact either Threadkell at bthread@shaw.ca or Faulkner at delainemaple@gmail.com.

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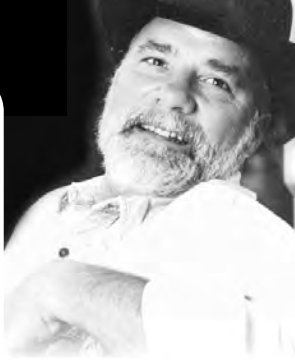
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ARTHUR RAYMOND BLACK

August 30, 1943 - February 21, 2018



Thank heavens we've lived in this wonderful, supportive community of Salt Spring for 21 years. My sweet boy Art, left us on Feb 21st, 2018 after a six week struggle with pancreatic cancer.

Facing this huge loss without the love and support we received from friends and family would have felt unbearable. Art died peacefully at Lady Minto Hospital surrounded by loved ones; his partner of 41 years Lynne Raymond, his step son Daniel McClain, his brother Jim and sister-in-law Jane Black and their girls, Ruby and Molly, his friends John Pottinger, Judy Mitchell, Chris Straw and wife Margy Gilmour, and his excellent medical support team.

There was a lot of love in that room!!

Art was certainly his own man and fearlessly so! In the outpouring of messages of support, many others seemed to appreciate the multi-faceted, complex person that he was... some perhaps in spite of it. Most of all he could make us think and laugh at ourselves.

After a few years of odd-jobs and meandering through Europe, Art started his career as a farm reporter at CBC Toronto in 1972, and later moved to Thunder Bay to host a Radio Noon show with partner Lynne as his producer. He also wrote a weekly column for Lakehead Living from 1976 to 2016 which later expanded to about 50 newspapers across Canada. In 1983, Art began hosting a national radio show from Thunder Bay and continued to do so after we moved to southern Ontario in the Elora/Fergus area from 1985-1995. In 1995, we moved to Salt Spring Island (best move we ever made) and he continued Basic Black until 2002. During these years he also hosted television shows, Weird Wheels and Weird Homes, and later made regular appearances on CBC Radio's All Points West in Victoria. Over his lifetime, Art also managed to write 19 books and was awarded the Stephan Leacock Medal for humour 3 times.

Art's producer on Basic Black, Chris Straw said "It would come as no surprise to those who have been fans of Arthur's work that he faced it all with his own unique combination of defiance and good humour".

There is a large hole in our lives now and we will miss him more than words can say.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful, caring nurses who helped us immeasurably and kept Art's last weeks as comfortable as possible. Special thanks to Drs. Ron Reznick and K.J. Trouton for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wanting to make a charitable contribution in memory of Art, please consider donations to the Wildlife Natural Care Centre or the Salt Spring Conservancy.

STUART GREIG ELLIOTT

November 15, 1966 - February 20, 2018

Survived by his loving parents, Norman and Diane, brother Stephen (Candace), and nephews, Samuel and Keil.

Stuart spent his early years growing up in North Vancouver and the majority of his adult life on Salt Spring Island where he led a very happy life. Stuart was a passionate Vancouver Canucks hockey fan. He enjoyed preparing, cooking and consuming food and loved making salsa with his brother, Stephen. Stuart was the king of splitting wood, he also could complete large puzzles in short order and he was known to enjoy the odd rum and coke from time to time. He was well travelled and had a robust awareness of the world. Recently he was living in Colwood (Victoria) at Tamarack House.

The family would like to thank all Stuart's caregivers who cared for him over the past several years.

Stuart was a very special man who touched all those who knew him. He will be deeply missed.

A Celebration of Life for Stuart will be held in the spring.



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Application deadline is March 31, 2018.

Your Community Your Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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SENIORS' RESIDENCE

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Please forward your resume to **Maureen O'Brien at 100-121 Atkins Road Salt Spring Island.**

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

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Revering life, honouring its endings.

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INFORMATION

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting OF THE

salt spring arts council

Sunday March 18, 2018 at 10 am will be held at Mahon Hall 114 Rainbow Road, Ganges

Everyone Welcome. Memberships available. Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

Join us find out about SSAC accomplishments in 2017, and plans for 2018.

250-537-0899 • www.ssartscouncil.com

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Journeyman Sheet Metal Worker/Gas Fitter

Visit: www.sd27.bc.ca for full position details and how to apply.

Please attach a copy of relevant certification with your application.

HELP WANTED

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Now is your opportunity to join SS Transit! Must have at least a Class 4 Unrestricted Driver's Licence. Clean driver's abstract. Good interpersonal skills and teamwork ethic important. Must have flexibility to work any shifts, any day of the week including split shifts.

Call: 250-537-6758 or Email: sstransit@telus.net



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6 Week Session March 13 - April 20

Immerse yourself with individual lessons twice a week.

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HOME/BUSINESS SERVICES

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DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Veterans offer guide to the Salt Spring Film Festival

Annual event runs March 2-4 at the high school

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

The annual Salt Spring Film Festival is just around the corner, and if you aren't already an aficionado, you may be wondering exactly what to expect. Well, judging from previous years, you can count on a terrific array of documentary films and as a bonus, some great island food.

The festival runs at GISS (the

high school) this weekend. It includes a gala on Friday evening and 45 films over the weekend. You can buy your pass in advance at ArtSpring or at the door, though you'll need cash for the latter as the Wi-Fi reception at GISS is unreliable.

Although programs will be available at the school, it's a good idea to pick one up ahead of time at local businesses or the library and decide which films you want to see and which pass you'll want to buy. Then on the day you're going, be sure to give yourself lots of time.

Get to GISS early so you can

find a parking place, buy your pass, locate the classroom where your first film is to be shown and grab yourself a good seat at least 15 minutes before the film is to start. As many films are very popular, have a second choice ready in case you can't get in. Of course, some films are shown more than once, giving you a second chance to see the ones you prefer.

When you arrive at the school, you will find the main floor multi-purpose room full of refreshments to purchase, as well as information booths for many island organizations. This

is also where you can grab a cuppa and talk to others about the films they've seen.

Although hot and cold drinks will be available in the multi-purpose room, you may want to bring your own water bottle with a tight lid and fill it at one of the school's fountains. Water in a tight container is the only ingestible allowed in the classrooms.

In addition to your water bottle, some people like having their own coffee mugs and cushions to sit on if their personal seats are not well padded. Alternatively, cushions are

available for rent from Grandmothers to Grandmothers. And if you have problems with stairs, an elevator is available. If you have any questions while you're there, one of the 100 festival volunteers will be able to answer them at the hospitality desk. This is also the place to vote for your favourite films.

The festival's terrific website, saltspringfilmfestival.com, has lots more info, including information about the program, film trailers and photos, and subsidized passes.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

SCAMS

Shaw bill and Revenue Canada scams target island residents

Islanders advised to be wary and suspicious

Salt Spring resident Maggie Gabel is warning islanders to beware of an attempted scam via email.

Last week she received an email from what appeared to be Shaw Communica-

tions, advising that the company hadn't been able to apply her last monthly payment because something was wrong with her bank account.

Gabel contacted Shaw and was told that her last payment had in fact gone through.

"I will never do anything over email without checking first," she said.

Also in the past week, island resident Raymonde Vachon reported receiving a telephone scam call from someone pretending to represent Canada Revenue. The phone number used was 1-778-608-3119. After the Driftwood posted this incident on its Facebook page, other people stated they had received a similar call as well.

People are advised that Revenue Canada would not phone citizens and threaten arrest, or demand payment in gift cards, which is part of this particular scam.

The Canadian Anti-fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca is a good source of information about scams.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES TUESDAY 9:00 AM

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STORAGE

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WANTED: recently cut or fallen arbutus branches. Please call either: 250-537-0710 or 250-931-2027.

RENTALS

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MARINE

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CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 4PM

This Week's Horoscope

TIP OF THE WEEK

by Michael O'Connor
www.sunstarastrlogy.com
sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
1.250.352.6871

READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Month 3 of this Universal 11-Year is now underway under the light of the Virgo Full Moon. It is having a strong influence and will throughout the week. Mercury in Pisces conjunct Venus is especially inspiring. Chiron is right in there supporting a focus on healing and is directing us to better understand karmic lessons and subconscious sources of our ailments.

The Sun also in Pisces is fast approaching its annual conjunction with Neptune which has been in Pisces since 2011 and will remain there until 2026! The function of this new cycle, which the conjunction indicates, is twofold: to inspire our dreams and to activate our powers of creative imagination. It is also a reminder that we are co-creators.

Neptune in Pisces is symbolic of the deeper themes at play in the world yet. Essentially, Neptune in Pisces refers to our individual and collective spiritual essence, on one hand, and the mass deception and denial on the other. In this Aquarian Age, an information war is raging and the main tactic is to persuade or dissuade with knowledge.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A tug of war between taking flight to distant lands or to simply slip away into sweet dreams for a while is underway. Maybe you can have both by either going and laying low or seeking sanctuary then soaring on the wings of imagination, perhaps via a good book. Meanwhile, thoughts about wealth, abundance and what constitutes good investments lingers.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 21)

How sweet are your dreams? There are indications that you are asking this kind of question. If sour is in the mix, you may be seeking the blended balance or to do away with it once and for all. Your ambitions are raging like a horny bull in springtime and you intend to be met. If you can't get what you want obviously, you are likely to venture out.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) You tend to teeter and totter back and forth between fantasy and reality. The fantasy twin is ever dreaming of pleasurable possibilities in their fullest splendor. The reality twin is ever focused on securing the base and while not needing opulence does aspire to simply solid. This range of scope can prove dizzying for you and others. Yet, reach for this balance, you must.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) Some dreams are sweet; some are big, while others are kaleidoscopic. Then there are dreams that weave all three and it is this latter category that is trying to pry its way down to your conscious mind. This is also a creative time as the designs to achieve this vision are also necessary downloads, unless you are happy to leave these visions in your dream vault.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

The 5-planet stellium in Pisces is occurring in your solar 8th house, Scorpio's den. Ever a complex region to navigate, it includes digging for gold but requires removing the larger volumes of debris. This manifests as a purging process and can be experienced as something of a crisis, a healing crisis of some kind, perhaps.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Your relationship life is getting a lot of attention of late. It features dreams and ideas and possibly deceptions, delusions, and fantasies too. Deciphering what is real and true and healthy and wholesome is part of the plot. To this end, destiny is directing you to dig deep to decipher what is true for you; often a laborious process.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

The quality and health of your daily rhythm are up for serious review. Are you overtaxed or perhaps not challenged enough? Asking such questions is the first step to receiving answers. Balance is ever the goal, yet it is helpful to remember that it is dynamic. In other words, balance requires action and motion as is true of everything in existence.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

A highly creative impulse is a source of inspiration now. Your ambitions continue to run strong and you feel more courageous than usual to take risks. In some respects, you may feel like it is now or never. With Jupiter in your sign, 'now' is a good answer. Expect that all your choices and actions now include a rather steep yet steady learning curve process.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A deep submersion into subconscious realms is an invitation to dream, meditate, contemplate and perhaps also to pray. You may want to venture forth, yet as in a dream, progress is not easy or obvious. This cycle too will end, but not yet. It will take a few weeks anyway before you fully feel the ground again. Patience with this process and that of the universe's, too.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Many new modes of perception are making their way into your mind, like floodwater seeping through the bottom of the door. These are pushing you to exercise courage and resolve to investigate further. Meanwhile, reaching out to enjoy the company of friends and to perhaps learn from their skills and experiences, will likely prove uplifting.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Sometimes we push, while at others we are pushed and, at other times altogether, we feel carried forth by the currents of destiny. In any case, you feel inspired to push and climb to ascend to new heights. As though immersed in a cloud, the way forward may be foggy and unclear. Yet destiny is organized now for you to keep climbing anyway.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Entering into and exploring new territory is likely now. Circumstances are leading you to try new approaches and to learn new skills. You are willing yet you also want to step back and see the bigger picture so you can feel more confident about what you are getting into. In as much as you have been diligent and on track over the years, opportunities are coming forth.

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



SOCCER

Salt Spring United youth clubs earn league trophies

Registration open for spring leagues and 2018/19 season



Malcolm Legg

SOCCER ROUND-UP

It is silverware time for the Salt Spring United soccer club as the playing season is winding down, but the club's agenda is full, as you will see.

Salt Spring United has already claimed league trophies with Jude Shugar's U-15 boys and Mark Nor-dine's U-16 boys teams. Cap that with Mark's team also winning a LISA Cup last week, and the silverware collection is growing. Starting on March 3, our five full-sided teams will also try to bring some district cups to Salt Spring.

And that is not all, as our Div. 3 women and Div. 4 men's teams are also involved in cup play. Really, the only question is whether or not our trophy case is big enough!

Watch the saltspringsoccer.com website for cup games being played on Salt Spring and come out to watch the excitement.

Portlock Concession/Building

Salt Spring United has just completed negotiations to get the south end of the Portlock building for an office and a concession, soon to be named "Maggie's Place." The executive is very excited to get this space for registrations and club meetings as well as a great cuppa of Maggie's Special Blend. We are also hopeful that the changing rooms will be available for the club starting in the 2018/19 season.

Start-up will be during the first week of April and hopefully the House Program will benefit on April 10. Anyone interested in helping with this program should contact Maggie.

Windsor Plywood Spring League

Yes, the very popular Windsor Plywood Spring League will be back, every Wednesday from April 11 to June 13 at Portlock Park. It's 10 weeks of fun games, concession, music and a great finale. Registration is now open on our website. Don't delay, register right away. You do not want to miss out on the fun. For info, contact me at mallegg@shaw.ca.

Wrap-up Tourney

The tourney is on Saturday, April 28 at Portlock Park. We plan the following:

- House Program goes at usual time with its wrap-up.
- U-10 to U-16 teams will play a five-a-side format in groups across the day.
- Women's Div. 3 exhibition game.
- Salt Spring Old Boys versus Salt Spring Div. 4? (Maybe.)
- Concession, skills contest, prizes, draws, store supplies available and more.

AGM

The AGM is on Saturday, April 21 at 12 noon to 1:15 p.m. at Portlock Park portable.

Salt Spring United will run its annual AGM so that it can pass its budget for the 2018/19 soccer season, elect new officers, present its 2018/19 program and get feedback from the public.

And remember, you can win a free registration if you attend (one off-island and one house can be won), aside from all the great information you will get at the meeting.

This year we are trying to add three positions to the board (treasurer, sponsorship and a third officer), so if you are interested, please contact me at mallegg@shaw.ca.

Schedules

- 11-a-side teams start cup play on March 3 (with finals on April 7-8).
- Small-sided teams: league play ends March 10. Tourneys are in March.

- House Program: starts outdoor session on March 3, ending April 28, all at Portlock.

Referees

Fifteen youths graduated from our small-sided referees course on Feb. 11 under instructor Bob Hope's guidance. Congrats to all and you will see these youngsters on a field near you.

Registration for 2018/19

Yes, registration for the Salt Spring United soccer club's 2018/19 season begins on Feb. 28. Maggie reminds you all that there is a saving of \$50 to register before April 30, so do it now!

You can register at www.saltspringsoccer.com under "registration." If you have questions or need help, contact Maggie at maggiemayrn@shaw.ca or you can find her at the concession on Saturdays in April and also Wednesday afternoons from April to June. There's no reason to not get it done.



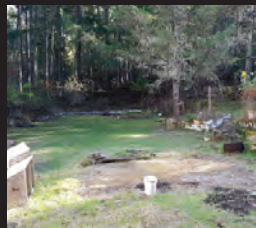
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If you're a home seller, it is important to select the right real estate agent. Sometimes renovating to increase your property value and sell faster may be important. You must have good pricing strategies, prepare your home for presentation to potential buyers, and make sure you have a solid marketing plan.

KINGS LANE - Four bedroom home on 0.6 of an acre. This is a project home with good structure to start with. Roof is 16 years old. Water supply to the home is currently from a dug well on the property. Municipal water is at the street but not connected. Meter already in place. Property is bright and flat and there is abundant garden space. Close to all amenities in town including hospital and shopping.

\$375,000



201 WHIMS ROAD - 3+ acres in a quiet rural setting close to St. Mary Lake. A great combination of open field and forested area with numerous options for uses. Guest cottage allowed on this small acreage. This 4 bedroom home needs work but the structure is sound and waiting for your design inspiration. Property sold as is.

MLS #384775 - \$495,000

190 MUSGRAVE PLACE - High bank waterfront on the west side of Salt Spring. Ample consideration was given to designing this solid built 2750 sq. ft. home to take advantage of the views and natural light. A warm and inviting open main floor has 2 bedrooms, laundry and a large kitchen with 2 ovens (gas and elec) and granite countertops.

MLS #386737 \$895,000



WRESTLING

Wrestlers off to B.C. finals



PHOTO COURTESY SSI WRESTLING

From left, Salt Spring wrestlers Danny Villa-Gomez and William Rithaler and coach Leon Esquivel after the two boys qualified for B.C. championships.

Danny Villa-Gomez and William Rithaler qualify

Two Salt Spring wrestlers participating in the Vancouver Island High School Wrestling Championships have qualified for provincial championships.

Danny Villa-Gomez earned a gold medal in the 66-kg weight class and William Rithaler came fourth in the 48-kg class at the Zone 6 finals on Feb. 16-17 in Chemainus. Both will now compete at the B.C. finals in Port Alberni on March 1-3.

Villa-Gomez blazed through three matches, defeating opponents from Cowichan Valley, Port Alberni and Welling-

ton by PIN, or technical falls, placing him in the finals.

"Danny's fourth match was one of the most exciting of the day, against a first-seeded opponent from Cowichan Valley," said a tournament report from the club. "Danny's confidence shone as he brought the audience to their feet, and wrestled his opponent, defeating him with a technical fall at the two-minute mark."

Rithaler wrestled challenging matches with opponents from Port Alberni, Campbell River and the Cowichan Valley, where they had to work hard to defeat him. His winning match saw him wrestle a second opponent from Port Alberni, who Rithaler defeated by PIN at the 44-second mark.

Paul Zolob
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