



# GULF ISLANDS Driftwood

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 — YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1960 58TH YEAR — ISSUE 17

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(incl. GST)



PHOTO BY BOB MACKIE

**CLEAN SWEEP:** John Hobbs and Christine Mauro wield a shovel and broom to help clean up Ganges village Sunday during a volunteer blitz organized by the "local village committee" of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce. More on pages 3 and 6.

**FERRIES**

## Modified ferry schedule in use after training incident

Disruptions expected until May 2

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries sailings will continue to be affected by an incident that occurred during a safety training exercise last week, with a modified schedule expected to last until at least May 2.

On April 18, Queen of Cumberland crew members were conducting safety training drills. While the ship's rescue boat was being retrieved back on board, the davit — the crane mechanism that raises and lowers the boat — failed, causing the boat to fall back into the water.

"One employee is still in hospital and he does have serious injuries," said Marshall. "The other employee was obviously shaken up by the incident, but didn't have any physical injuries."

With the Queen of Cumberland pulled out of service, its route will be covered by the Salish Eagle and the MV Bowen Queen until May 2, when the Mayne Queen returns from refit. That vessel will cover the route until the Cumberland is back.

Deborah Marshall, executive director of public affairs for BC Ferries, said the schedule for this week will "look similar to how the service has looked Monday to Friday over the past week and then the weekend where we're focusing more on Tsawwassen to the Gulf Islands."

The disruptions to the schedule will have an effect on regularly scheduled sailings from Long Harbour. People with reservations on the cancelled sailings will be contacted by BC Ferries.

There will also be an additional stop on sailings aboard the Skeena Queen from Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour in the evenings through this Friday. This will cover some of the traffic demand to and from Pender Island.

"Aside from Salt Spring, Pender tends to be one of the higher demand routes in the islands," said Marshall.

FERRIES continued on 2

**ISLANDS TRUST**

# Housing struggles shared

LTC town hall devoted to islanders' experiences

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lions Hall was filled to capacity Thursday as a standing-room-only crowd turned out to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting to share thoughts on the island's dire lack of housing.

The unusually large turnout for the town hall portion of the meeting came as a result of a call from a group called

Islanders for Housing Action. Regular trustee reports, delegations and the town hall format itself were set aside to allow those attending to speak.

"We really appreciate you taking the time to be here to share your thoughts with us, because as a community we can make things better," Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove said in an opening statement.

Participants were given two minutes each to speak, and testimony filled an hour of time.

Noting the hall had reached its maximum crowd of 110 participants, LTC chair Peter Luckham suggested that some might leave after speaking in order to allow more people to participate.

HOUSING continued on 5

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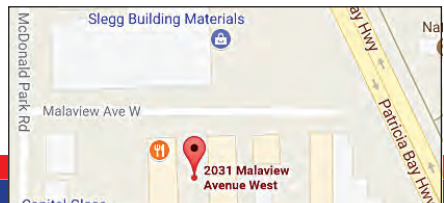
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**PR FANS:** Supporters of electoral reform gathered at the Centennial Park boardwalk to show support for change at the Day of Action on Proportional Representation on Saturday. Fair Vote Salt Spring was one of 29 grassroots groups taking part. FVSS volunteers will be at Country Grocer every Tuesday from 2 to 6 p.m. to hand out information and answer questions. A May 12 info event is also set for the library. The B.C. government has promised a PR referendum this fall, with the question to be released soon.

**HOUSING**

# Trust enacts STVR enforcement plan

Letters to go out this week, says bylaw officer

**BY ELIZABETH NOLAN**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents calling for action to protect the island's supply of rental housing stock have been heard by the Islands Trust, with bylaw enforcement officer Miles Drew announcing that promised proactive enforcement of short-term vacation rentals is set to begin.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee voted to make its enforcement policy on STVRs explicitly proactive and approved new policies, including an enforcement timeline, in August of 2017.

"Approximately 140 STVRs currently operate on Salt Spring," Drew reported in a letter to the Driftwood. "The LTC requested proactive enforcement; not just because STVRs are unlawful in most residential areas, but because

of a real concern that they are a major contributing factor to the affordable housing shortage on Salt Spring."

**"Unlawful STVR property owners must cease their STVR operation."**

MILES DREW  
*Islands Trust bylaw enforcement manager*

use permit or ceased use by the end of November were to receive warning letters by the end of the year.

But Drew said the first round of letters is just now going out after the program was delayed. The enforcement branch was short-staffed for several

months last year after the departure of Thomas Loo.

According to the policy approved last August, conditions under which proactive enforcement will apply include any of the following: STVRs that are advertised on the internet, newspapers or other media; STVRs that are not managed by a person on Salt Spring; more than one dwelling on a lot is available as an STVR; rental guests stay in tents, trailers or RVs; there are issues related to health or safety; there is a written complaint regarding nuisance issues; and/or the owner uses more than one property on Salt Spring as an STVR.

"Unlawful STVR property owners must cease their STVR operation. Some STVR operators might consider the possibility of applying to rezone the property to permit commercial guest accommodation or to apply for a temporary use permit, although there is no guarantee of success," Drew wrote.

**PROTESTS**

# Legal fund in works for protestors

'Salt Spring Nine' face charges

A GoFundMe campaign has been set up for nine Salt Spring residents who defied a court injunction at the Kinder Morgan site on Burnaby Mountain last month.

While the individuals were charged with civil contempt of court, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Kenneth Affleck has recommended that the more serious charge of criminal contempt be applied to the 168 protesters who blocked the gate at the site.

"Now, the Salt Spring Nine need help to cover unexpected and extensive legal bills," states the campaign page. "Can you pitch in to support those who took a stand to protect our home?"

The individuals are Murray Reiss, Myna Lee Johnstone, Briony Penn,

Jean Wilkinson, Marcelle Roy, Tom Mitchell, Lucille Lamarche, Jan Slakov and Brenda Guiled.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the campaign had reached \$1,900 of its \$5,000 goal. It can be found on the GoFundMe site by searching for "Salt Spring Nine."

# One ferry employee still in hospital

**FERRIES**

continued from 1

The dangerous cargo route for the Southern Gulf Island will be covered by the Quinitsa, a smaller vessel brought down from the northern Gulf Islands on Wednesday to lessen the stress on travellers.

The Queen of Cumberland has been taken out of service pending an investigation, which will

be followed by the installation and certification of a new davit. They do not expect the vessel to be back in service until May 5 at the earliest.

The cause of the malfunction is unknown, and is under an investigation by BC Ferries and WorkSafe BC. Davits on all other BC Ferries vessels will be inspected to ensure their safety.

"We want to make sure that the

experts doing the investigation get a chance to fully assess the situation and tell us what their findings are," she said.

The Queen of Cumberland is based in Swartz Bay and services all of the Gulf Islands except Salt Spring.

Updated schedules can be found at <https://www.bcferries.com/schedules/southern/index.html>.

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# NEWSBEAT

**Heads up!**  
**Salt Spring Island Job Fair**  
 Friday, APRIL 27  
 Lions Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## ENVIRONMENT

# Cleanup campaigns win huge community support

Islanders involved in Driftwood and Chamber Earth Day efforts

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Driftwood would like to thank everyone in the community for giving such tremendous support to DW Salty's Greening Salt Spring litter campaign.

We haven't heard from all of our participants yet, so we don't know the total amount collected, but we can report that Rosamund and Patrick Dupuy with Caroline Hickman and friends brought in an amazing 10 bags or equivalent from the Fulford Harbour/Fulford Hall area alone. They were treated well for their effort: Salt Spring Garbage staff at the Blackburn transfer station refused to charge them when they heard the garbage was being dropped off for the campaign.

Salt Spring Sneakers running club also felt the community love while picking litter during their regular run this week.

An email from Janice Dickie sent Saturday afternoon explains: "One of the best parts of the morning was experiencing the reactions of drivers as they passed our group of runners... Drivers aren't always patient with runners, cyclists and pedestrians on Salt Spring's narrow roads. Today, however, many drivers slowed down and gave us friendly waves and thumbs up. A few even stopped and offered to take our trash bags to the garbage facility. Some neighbours in the area also welcomed us to leave bags at their homes, and a BC Transit bus driver paused the bus to thank us."

Many people in the community were inspired to take a bag out with them even if they didn't officially sign onto the campaign. GISS dance teacher Sonia Langer makes it a habit to pick up five pieces of litter every time she takes a walk; she arrived in Ganges on Saturday with a full bag attached to the back of her baby stroller. Meghan Howcroft and her kids Fern and



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

The entire Fernwood Elementary School student body presents the results of their beach and roadside cleanup, which was done on April 23.

Finn took a similar approach to a wagon ride along Beddis Road last week.

Others are just quietly cleaning up all the time, like our reader Norman Stanfield, and Island Pathways must be thanked for their continuous litter pickup on the Ganges Pathway Network, taking pride in their work long after the construction is complete.

Perhaps most excitingly, many of the people who participated in the campaign have said they intend to continue with their adopted sections indefinitely. The work is certainly ongoing — new beer cans appear daily — but many hands might light work and the island is looking noticeably better already.

Final thanks are to the Salt Spring Lions for keeping the island litter-free with the help of youth sports teams for so many years.

The full list of people who signed on is as follows:

- Viv Nielsen and son Noel: Vesuvius Bay Road from ferry terminal to Chu An Drive, plus side roads to beach.
- Salt Spring Sneakers: Upper

Ganges Road from Central to Robinson Road.

- Tour Salt Spring: Upper Ganges Road from intersection with Lower Ganges Road to intersection to Mansell Road, continuing on Mansell.

- Patrick and Rosamund Dupuy, Caroline Hickman and friends: Fulford Hall to Fulford-Ganges Road/Isabella Point Road intersection, and from the bridge over Fulford Creek to Drummond Park plus the beach.

- Nick Hunt and Celia Duthie: Churchill Road and part of Long Harbour Road.

- Lucy Austin and daughter Bronwyn: Booth Canal Road (entire).
- Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg: Cranberry Road from intersection with Fulford-Ganges to Blackburn Road.

- Driftwood publisher Amber Ogilvie: Channel Ridge Drive and trails.

- Bishop Green residents: Fulford-Ganges Road from SAR building to town.

- Lloyd-Jones Family: Park Drive, Lakeside and Kanaka loop.
- Bill Goddu: North End Road

from Central to Stark.

- Peter Grove: North End Road from Stark to St. Mary Lake.

- Brook Holdack: Charlesworth from Fulford-Ganges to Reid, and both wings of Reid Road.

- Gretta Hildebrandt and Adina Hildebrandt: Long Harbour Road between Eagle Ridge Drive and Quebec Drive.

- Norgard Family and the Hikebabes: Cusheon Lake Road/Stewart Road area.

- Jim Beck and Rosalind Wallace: Lower Ganges Road between Blain and Brinkworthy.

- Kit Lewis: Atkins Road.

- Patricia Calvert and Brinkworthy residents: Lower Ganges Road from Brinkworthy to Central.

- Salt Spring Elementary: Ganges Harbour beach cleanup with SS Adventure Co., plus ongoing green initiatives on school grounds.

- Fernwood Elementary School: Fernwood Beach cleanup, school grounds cleanup and roadside on the way to the beach.

- Salt Spring Middle School: Annual Earth Week activity cleanup of Ganges Village/Rainbow Road.

## Ganges Village Clean-up Makes Major Difference

More than 30 volunteers answered the call for help to give Ganges village and the beach areas a serious cleaning on Earth Day weekend.

An ad hoc committee of the Chamber of Commerce formed to take on the massive task of sprucing up Ganges streets — removing weeds, sweeping and shovelling up dirt, and more — while a beach clean-up effort was spearheaded by Yvonne Poirier. A street sweeping machine was also brought to the island.

Donations of tools, supplies, services, food and beverages from local businesses made it all possible.

Jeremy Milsom, one of the main organizers, gave a big "bravo" to everyone involved.

"For me at the [Salt Spring] Inn, today was so satisfying as the compliments rolled in with our guests who have recognized how much of our island was cleaned, freshened, tidied and brightened by so many dedicated community members."

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ISLANDS TRUST

# Croftonbrook project moves on to APC for comment

Water/occupancy issue remains unresolved

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Croftonbrook's affordable housing expansion project will go to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's advisory planning commission for comment as the next stage in a rezoning application.

Local Trust Committee members heard about recent updates to the project during Thursday's business meeting at Lions Hall. The two-phase plan to build 54 new units requires rezoning for the final phase, which involves a multi-family unit on a portion of the lot currently zoned for agriculture. Another 20 units in townhouse

complexes is planned first for the portion already zoned as rural residential.

Project leads from Island Women Against Violence, who asked for advice on how to expedite the process on Thursday, received unqualified support from Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove.

"We've heard from the community today we are in desperate need of housing here," Grove said. "This Croftonbrook plan is one of the key developments we've been talking about forever and a day. We have a huge demand for it. I say we knock down the barriers as fast and as quickly as we can and get on with it."

IWAV consultant Janis Gauthier reported the organization has made concession to one significant community concern by scrapping plans

for a three-story building, but their innovative plan for water supply continues to test regulatory norms. Currently there is no precedent for serving a multi-family building via their proposed combination of well water, grey water for toilets and rainwater for irrigation. As well, IWAV's proposal to limit occupancy to the water supply via a housing agreement has posed problems for the Trust, since there is no mechanism for enforcement.

Potentially good news for IWAV is new information that there is no legal regulation against the Islands Trust including occupancy caps in a housing agreement. However, the Trust's legal opinion and advice from other regional planning managers has been "don't do it," according to planner Susan Palmer. Her

staff report therefore recommends against considering the approach.

Trustee George Grams voiced caution about the LTC's responsibilities on Thursday in light of these concerns.

"I am very much behind this particular project as well. As far as I'm concerned it's not 'if it's built,' it's 'how it's built,' and it has to be built in a way that satisfies multiple interests in the community," Grams said. "The easiest thing to do when under pressure for one particular issue such as housing is to relax standards... and if you dump your standards, then I think that's a very dangerous path to take."

"We know we have a water crisis on the north end of the island. We know there is a community well within a few hundred metres of

this particular development that's already drawing sediment in April, so I think we can't be too careful in assessing this."

The Croftonbrook expansion has received funding through a partnership between BC Housing and the Capital Regional District's Housing First program. Malcolm McNaughton, BC Housing's director of regional development for Vancouver Island, was at Thursday's meeting to assure the LTC that innovative solutions can meet both housing and regulatory needs.

"This an opportunity for leadership, it's an opportunity in a crisis to be solution-oriented," McNaughton said. "Even though things haven't been done before, if we put the proper checks and balances in place then we can move forward."

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JAN MACPHERSON

### Health

#### Discovery of a New Organ

The interstitial space is the primary source of lymph and is a major fluid compartment in the body. It is more dynamic than previously thought.

A recent discovery of fluid within the body's Interstitium led by Dr. Neil D. Theise of Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine. The discovery describes macroscopically visible spaces within tissues – dynamically compressible and distensible sinuses through which interstitial fluid flows around the body. These findings necessitate reconsideration of many of the normal functional activities of different organs and of disordered fluid dynamics in the setting of disease, including fibrosis and metastasis.

Observable and similar structures in numerous tissues that are subject to intermittent or rhythmic compression, including the submucosae of the entire gastrointestinal tract and urinary bladder, the dermis, the peribronchial and peri-arterial soft tissues, and fascia. Suggesting that, rather than being densely-packed barrier-like walls of collagen, they are fluid-filled interstitial spaces and that this interstitium is in fact an organ.

The science that proposes this discovery of a new organ system was in relation to the forms of treatments we provide at Be Well Now the findings provide affirmation of the wholistic response to the treatments that are at once gentle yet facilitate systemic benefits observed in complex disorders.



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Antifreeze or oil leaking onto hot components give off very unique odours.

Hot brake smell may or may not indicate problems. Braking continuously down a long hill will heat your brakes enough to give off a noticeable odour.

The cost of repairs can only be determined after a diagnosis has been completed.

If you notice a change in your vehicle's feel, noise or smell, a test drive and in-shop inspection should be performed before a small, easily repaired problem turns into a major repair. *Drive Safe, Gyle*



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### Marketing

#### It's a Conversation with your Customers

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The contract part involves meeting the expectations set by your "conversations." In a nutshell, did you deliver what you said you would? Is the product as good as you promised? Was the service? Did the customer experience meet the expectations created by you?

Businesses in this area operate in a very competitive market that includes all the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and to a lesser extent, the Lower Mainland. It's really all one market. To stay on top, it's important to manage every aspect of your conversations with your customers.



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AMBER OGILVIE

### Financial Advice

#### Spring clean your finances

As we say good-bye to the clouds and enter into spring, now is a great time to do some 'financial spring-cleaning'. Here are a few tips.

#### Connect with your local financial advisor

Now is a great time to check-in with your advisor to see how you're progressing towards your financial goals. If you haven't made any, make this the year to plant those seeds.

#### Get your taxes filed

Make sure to file your taxes before the deadline of April 30th.

#### Dispose of your old financial documents

If you have any outdated, confidential documents, it's very important that they are securely shredded. On Tuesday, May 15th, from 10 a.m. – noon at Lions Hall, we've partnered with the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island for their annual Shredder Day. Be sure to stop by!



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TANYA STEEVES

# 'Strong leadership and emergency action' urged

## HOUSING

continued from 1

Rhonan Heitzmann, one of the key organizers of the housing action group, laid out the basics of the situation as the first to take the microphone.

"The housing crisis is extremely severe and is affecting not just low-income workers but middle-income workers, seniors and farmers and businesses as well," Heitzmann said. "The situation has been building for years, documented by the LTC's own reports going back at least to 2003, yet few of the recommendations of those reports have been acted upon... There is no sustenance of island character, or healthy community, if working people filling essential services are living in cars, shacks with no running water, and seniors that were born here, been living here for 40 years, are forced to leave the only place they call home."

Heitzmann concluded the crisis requires strong leadership and emergency action "beyond the status quo."

Many participants spoke to their personal difficulties finding and keeping rental housing. Some asked the LTC to shape its land-use policies in a way to facilitate more legal dwellings, such as by increasing density, to pull back from the enforcement of illegal but long-term living arrangements, and to conversely step up enforcement of short-term vacation rental situations.

Others spoke to the need to protect vulnera-

ble groups and the negative impact of housing instability on seniors, people with disabilities, and health issues and children, in particular. Salt Spring's potential for becoming a leader in innovative policy that would permit safe housing and also promote ecological values was another common theme.

"I understand that we want to protect our island from pollution, from looking like a dump or a trailer park, and that the environment needs to be respected, but I also want to point out there are a lot of water-saving technologies that have been proven all over the world. There's so much science out there, and so many green sciences and practices, that we can easily adapt it here and actually be an example of environmental stewardship," said Freya Skye.

Molly Murphy described how she used her skills at natural building to illegally build a small house on a friend's property 10 years ago when she was a single mother with few options.

"I think overall I feel the rules regarding density are rules based on an economy that is about resale value, and not about people actually living on their properties," Murphy said. "I don't feel like those rules that are supposedly there to keep us safe, to keep us healthy, are truly used for that.

"And I think part of it is based on this complaint-driven process, and that is also a problem with our community," she added. "If we could understand what other people are going

through and what other people's lives are like, we might not be so eager to jump into someone else's life, because they're so worried about their property being devalued by riff-raff living on the neighbour's property."

Ron Cooke thanked the LTC for providing the venue for islanders to air their hopes and frustrations, and for being responsive to affordable housing initiatives.

"I wish today, though, to remind you that our housing crisis here on Salt Spring is just that — it's a crisis. It requires more than just positive reactions from you. We desperately need proactive and innovative thinking from you," Cooke said.

Trustee George Grams gave the concluding remarks after the town hall session, and said he supported working toward solutions where possible, although he noted the LTC has only a part of the jurisdiction impacting housing. He agreed there is a need to review Salt Spring's official community plan, and to see what is possible within the legal framework.

"It may well be as a consequence that we do revise standards and we do increase densities," Grams said, but warned that at some point, enforcement will still have to come into play.

Grams called for a complete end to illegal and unsafe dwellings if densities do increase. He also suggested that more immediate issues be explored thoroughly over a weekend or three-day forum, with all relevant agencies involved.

LTC chair Peter Luckham thanked the partic-

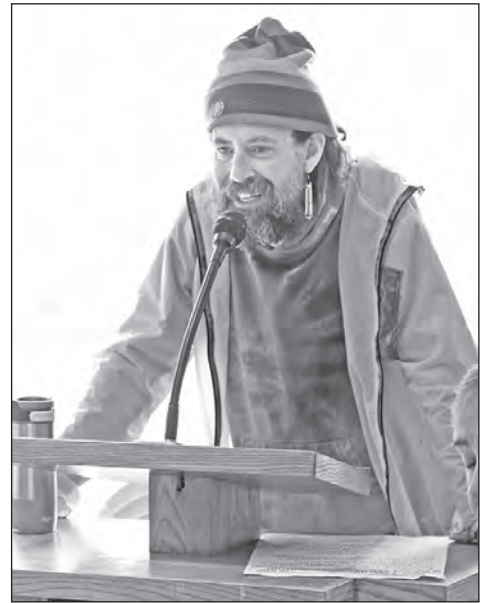


PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Brent Talbot addresses Salt Spring LTC trustees at Thursday's town hall.

ipants for attending and noted the Islands Trust is planning to address the matter of affordable housing Trust-wide through its strategic planning process. The Trust is currently conducting housing needs assessments as part of that work.

See [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for video footage from the meeting.

## THEATRE SPORTS

# GISS Improv team earns silver medal at national competition

Young team excited to keep playing

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School's senior improv team returned home from Ottawa on Monday with some extra weight in their baggage, having earned silver medals at the Canadian Improv Games national championships.

Advancing all the way to the final competition and gaining a place on the podium was an impressive feat for the team, even though two of the members had received gold medals there just last year.

"I think that our team is pretty unique in that we all grew up

together, we're pretty young, we're an all-girls team and we only have five members — most teams have eight," explained Amelia McCluskey, who was part of the 2017 champion roster along with Kane O'Scalleigh.

Like McCluskey, teammates Calla Adubofour-Poku, Jo Gaffney and Kahlila Ball are in Grade 10, but unlike her they are new to the senior division this year. A sixth member, Philipp Klein, was part of the GISS group's regional victories but has since returned to his home in Germany. With only two veteran members, the team has built on solid friendships to create a winning dynamic.

"I think we stand out because we have a lot of heart in everything we

do, rather than being sheer competition-based," Gaffney said. "Competition is part of it, but the reason we want to do well is so we can keep playing."

The team's experience in Ottawa included educational components and a lunch date with Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, with a visit to question period at the House of Commons to follow.

GISS approached their first night of competition in the semi finals last Wednesday with excitement as well as some nervous energy and apprehension. After they performed, though, the team felt they had done well. They were therefore surprised and disappointed in how the scoring turned out, with GISS ranked third for the night.

The girls were in their hotel room going over every scene and getting notes from coach Jason Donaldson when a judge came to the door and informed them the scoring had been miscalculated. Instead of third, GISS was now ranked first with a lead of 60 points.

"It was a total shift in the lens of how we looked at those scenes and how we felt about them," McCluskey said.

After a few nights of rest while other teams performed their semi-final runs, GISS still had a place in the final competition on Saturday night. They went in with the motto "nothing to lose and nothing to prove," although as one of the returning champions, O'Scalleigh said she had high expectations of

her own performance.

She was not disappointed in the outcome.

"I was just super excited to be there and play. I think it's really cool that we went back and we made it to finals again," O'Scalleigh said. "We went to the final stage, which was peak performance, and I think that was awesome."

Gaffney said one of the highlights of the tournament for her was becoming friends with other teams, both from B.C. and across Canada.

"It's really awesome to get to know people from all over the country doing the same weird activity," Gaffney said. "It just feels amazing to represent our community and join a whole new community of people you love so much."

## NSSWD

# Howell, Dixon elected at AGM

Updated St. Mary Lake study talk set for May 4

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District board of trustees will look a little different for the next three years after challenger Chris Dixon was elected to the board at the annual general meeting on Saturday.

Dixon and incumbent Les Howell earned 70 votes, while Jeff Thompson, who had served on the board for the past 12 years, got 35 votes. Ninety-six ballots were cast over a five-hour voting period beginning at 10 a.m. at Community Gospel Chapel.

Some of those attending and voting for the first time were residents of the Brinkworthy Estates modular home community, who had last year pressed the NSSWD to give them vot-

ing rights even though they did not own the property served by the water district. NSSWD bylaws had stipulated that only property owners can vote on district matters.

A motion to raise trustee remuneration for the year, from \$100 to \$150 per month for four of the five trustees, and from \$150 to \$200 for the chair, was moved and passed by ratepayers at the meeting.

Attendees were also introduced to the NSSWD's newest staff member, Ken Roggerman, who replaces Anne Williams as the organization's office manager and financial/corporate officer. Roggerman comes to the island from Whistler, where he was the director of finance for the municipality.

Environmental manager Meghan McKee reported that an updated study of St. Mary Lake water availability has been completed and will be shared at a meeting at Lions Hall on Friday, May 4 at 10 a.m.

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# OPINION



2017 CCNA Awards  
 Gold - Best All-Round | Gold - Best Editorial Page | Silver - Best Front Page | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
 Silver - Best Coverage of the Arts | Silver - 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**

## Dream team

**S**alt Spring Islanders expressed sparkling community spirit in recent weeks by stepping up to clean up the island they love.

Activity culminated on Earth Day weekend, with a small army of volunteers toiling to remove a few years' worth of dirt and weeds from Ganges village streets, and others hitting the shoreline of Ganges Harbour to clear up garbage of all kinds.

Generous contributions from local businesses and the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce facilitated all aspects of the activities, and volunteer labour was of course the essential cog in the whole operation. Despite the potentially odious nature of the task, participants were smiling and clearly having fun while hard at work. With so many people enjoying the exercise, the outcome and the community building that resulted,

**THE ISSUE:**

Island cleanup campaigns

**WE SAY:**

Job well done

it's tempting to make it an annual event.

Meanwhile, the Driftwood's Greening Salt Spring campaign had mobilized individuals and community and school groups to remove garbage from roadsides and ditches

across the island in the past three weeks. Two schools also included beach areas in their efforts: Fernwood Elementary School tackled Fernwood Beach, and Salt Spring Elementary joined the Ganges Harbour clean-up effort.

Plastic in various states of decay appeared to be the material most in evidence everywhere, which illustrates that the push to reduce single-use plastic bags and containers is being made with good reason.

We send hearty kudos to everyone who participated in our campaign, those who already clean up island byways and beaches, and everyone who has committed to continuing to look after their corner of the rock.

One area of island cleaning that cannot realistically be done by volunteers on a regular basis is the sweeping of our roads and streets. While it's always difficult to pinpoint who might be responsible for making such an activity happen, it's a service our roads contractor should be providing at least once a year. Perhaps we could task the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission with being the watchdog on the road-sweeping file.

The island cleanup campaigns proved that volunteer effort can definitely get things done, but a bit of help from government doesn't hurt sometimes.



**VIEWPOINT** by Miles Drew

## Unlawful STVRs must shut down

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC) has requested that bylaw enforcement officers take action on unlawful short-term vacation rentals (STVR) operating on Salt Spring.

A short-term vacation rental is a dwelling unit that is occupied — other than by the owner — for less than a 30-day period. The SSILTC considers this form of rental to be "Commercial Guest Accommodation," which is not permitted as a home-based business.

Approximately 140 STVRs currently operate on Salt Spring. The LTC requested proactive enforcement; not just because STVRs are unlawful in most residential areas, but because of a real concern that they are a major contributing factor to the affordable housing shortage on Salt Spring.

The housing situation on Salt Spring has recently been described — in the Driftwood and elsewhere — as a crisis. The Salt Spring Island Affordable Housing Needs Assessment (December 2015) outlines how the impact of the housing shortage is felt across the island. Renters have trouble securing long-term accommodation, often being forced to move numerous times over short period of time, while employers have trouble recruiting staff because there are no viable housing options for them. In addition, the reduced rental housing stock drives up rents and takes money out of the local economy.

It is worth stressing that STVRs are unlawful. Bed and

breakfasts and other lawful home-based businesses have a series of requirements that must be met to remain compliant with zoning bylaws. Many of these regulations are designed to minimize impacts to neighbours, including parking, noise and signage. Local business owners go to great lengths to comply with relevant bylaws, and reasonably expect that competing tourist accommodations should also comply with bylaws and other regulations.

This week, the Islands Trust bylaw enforcement team will begin proactive enforcement on Salt Spring property owners that operate unlawful STVRs that meet criteria set out by the local trust committee's enforcement policy for STVRs. These include any STVRs that advertise on any platform or site, including Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway.

Unlawful STVR property owners must cease their STVR operation. Some STVR operators might consider the possibility of applying to rezone the property to permit commercial guest accommodation or to apply for a temporary use permit; although there is no guarantee of success.

The Islands Trust bylaw enforcement team will encourage STVR operators to comply with the land use bylaw. As a last resort, unlawful STVR operators and persons renting unlawful STVRs may face enforcement actions, which include bylaw violation notices up to \$450 per day.

*The writer is the Islands Trust's bylaw enforcement manager.*

**It is worth stressing that STVRs are unlawful.**

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:**

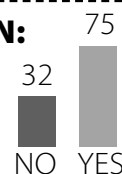
### Does Ganges need a 'village plan'?

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

Yes  No

**LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:**

### Should the LTC make housing its #1 priority?



## Driftwood

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# ISLAND VOICES

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** "It's really awesome to get to know people from all over the country doing the same weird activity."

JO GAFFNEY, GISS IMPROV TEAM MEMBER, ON CANADIAN IMPROV GAMES

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**We asked:** How has the housing crisis affected you?



**NAOMI JASON**

*It hasn't directly, but it has thrown me into a deep contemplation about the local and global situation. I've watched the population grow since I was a kid. I'm curious how we will address the influx of people.*



**BLAIR FRANCIS**

*The housing crisis puts me in a position where I don't have any options to move from a place that is illegal. It removes the sense of home, which affects the relationships I have. This is my community.*



**MARK COULTER**

*Personally it hasn't. I live on a sailboat. I hate to see people who work here not be able to afford to live here.*



**NATE POETKER**

*With rent being so high and wages remaining low, it puts significant pressure on working class families to make the ends meet.*



**NICHOLAS JEWELL**

*I live in a tent in an undisclosed location.*

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### Stop-gap measures needed

Regarding Salt Spring's housing crisis, it's such a pity we didn't vote "yes" in the incorporation referendum . . . maybe we would have had more tools at our disposal in this regard.

What infuriates me is that The Powers That Be will insist on a set of minimal criteria, based on existing zoning regulations, building codes, minimal lot sizes, maximum overall lot coverage, minimal unit sizes, parking

stalls, etc., . . . in short, the "counsel of perfection," when what we need here and now is a hierarchy of needs from dog kennels (a roof is better than no roof); clean, surplus pigsties/garages/sheds; trailers, tiny homes, yurts; through to that completely compliant unit of housing.

In Calgary winters, I strove to get the city to commandeer empty warehouses, etc., to accommodate the warmth-and-shelter-seeking overflow from the Salvation Army shelter on -30 nights, when sleeping under the CPR tracks was the only option. Throw in a couple of portaloos, and an industrial propane heater,

mattresses, etc., from Value Village and it was five-star accommodation by comparison. They could go to SallyAlly for a shower.

Why can't we do the same here as stop-gap measures? What is wrong with an albeit temporary ATCO hut commune (which gets phased out as people move on to compliant housing) a la tarsands encampments? (There's probably a lot of surplus ATCO huts from same.) I have stayed in an upscale extension to a cat ski lodge in the Selkirks with all modern conveniences.

**ROSS KING,  
BEDDIS ROAD**

### Proud moment to come

The Lions Club Commemorative Bike Park will indeed be a valuable piece of cycling infrastructure for families and children on Salt Spring.

If you do a little Googling, you will discover that communities all around us have embraced bike parks as a means to increase outdoor recreation opportunities for young riders. Victoria, North Saanich, Saanich, Cobble Hill, Nanaimo, Parksville,

Tofino and Ucluelet are all communities with bike parks for families.

Children will have a safe space to learn riding fundamentals: balance, cornering, braking and brake modulation, etc., all skills transferable to road riding. (Yes, there will be some jumps — this is what makes it fun!)

Bike handling skills are especially important on Salt Spring and in urban environments. Riders must always be ready for the unexpected and those that know how to handle their bike will be better off in an incident than those who

do not. For example, I was forced into a ditch a year ago by a driver who cut me off. The average rider would have gone over the handlebars and landed head first. I knew to keep my weight back, relax on the brakes, and keep my front wheel up. I landed in the ditch on two wheels unharmed.

I look forward to seeing hundreds of smiling kiddies' faces at the park on ribbon-cutting day. It will be a proud moment.

**SEAN MULLIGAN,  
SALT SPRING**

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## Coping with lost passwords needs guide

What is/was your mother's maiden name? Name of your first pet? Your favourite subject in school? If these questions seem vaguely familiar to you, then you've probably had to go through the annoying and usually frustrating experience of retrieving or resetting your computer password.

Why would anyone want to inflict this kind of mental cruelty on themselves? Let's face it; going through the often futile exercise of getting back a lost or forgotten secret identification code ranks high in favourite activities (NOT) (somewhere between pushing bamboo slivers under your fingernails and soaking your feet in hydrochloric acid).

The only reason you even contemplate the process of password reset is because, if you didn't, your life as you know it would lose all meaning and your very existence would come to a complete standstill. It's painful to admit it, but we have become so dependent on our digital devices that the loss of a tried and true password pretty much slams the portal gate shut on 99 per cent of the activities that give us organization, livelihood or satisfy our entertainment cravings.

Usually, in the process of replacing a forgotten password, there are a number of bizarre hoops through which you must jump. The one that really gets to me is when you are asked to click a checkmark into the dialogue box declaring "I am not a robot." What are you supposed to do if you indeed are a robot? Leave it blank and go on to the next question?

Another weird method used to authenticate your identity and make your password request more secure is the appearance of a few squig-

gly numerals and letters of the alphabet that look as if they are reflections in those warped mirrors you find in the House of Horrors at the circus. You're supposed to recognize these mutated symbols for the numbers and letters they are and retype them using your keyboard. Half the time I'm wrong, mistaking a "7" for a "W" and leaving myself wondering if perhaps I truly am a robot.

Another trick in the bag for securing password resets is coming up with one or more questions to which only you will know the answer. When it comes to choosing quality questions in order to authenticate that you are actually you, there are five principles you need to guide your choice. Your questions must have answers that are safe, stable, memorable, simple and have many possible answers with which to confuse a potential hacker.

How can your question be unsafe? Consider your mother's maiden name. You may correctly assume that there are very few people (outside of your immediate family) who would be party to this information, but what you are forgetting (besides your password which got you into this predicament in the first place) is the fact that the answer is almost certainly on public record and can easily be researched by any hacker worthy of his criminal stripes. You might as well ask "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" for all the difficulty it would take to research the correct answer.

The second guideline on which to judge the merits of a retrieval question is stability. Will



**Shilo  
Zylbergold**

### NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

the answer to your question stay the same over time or is it likely to change from year to year or moment to moment. You can see why "Who won the Stanley Cup last year?" would not pass the stability test because the answer could change with each successive hockey season. On the other hand, "Will the Vancouver Canucks ever win the Stanley Cup?" would pass with flying colours since we all know that some things never change.

Is the correct response to your question memorable or will you forget it as quickly as you've forgotten the password itself? Using the name of your first dog as a question will not be much use to you if you can't really remember whether it was a dog or a pet chinchilla you had as a child (or was it just a potted philodendron because your mother didn't want any animals shedding all over the upholstery).

Another criteria for a good question is that the answer must be simple, precise and consistent. The value of pi to 23 decimal places is precise and consistent, but not exactly simple. On the other hand, Trudeau's policy on fossil fuels and climate change can be viewed as low on the consistency scale (although it scores high in simplism).

A question such as "When did you get married?" would also fail because of the variety of ways you can write a date. Nov. 30, 1957 can be written 30/11/57 or 11/30/57 or 1957-11-30 and dozens of other permutations of the same letters and digits. It also doesn't take into

account the fact that you may have had multiple marriages over the years.

In order for an authentication question to be useful and powerful, there have to be many answers possible but only one can be correct. This makes it extremely difficult and virtually impossible to guess the right response. "What year was your father born?" may seem, at first blush, to be a good question, but closer inspection reveals there are a limited number of possibilities and the answer could be guessed in less than 20 attempts. If you want to use a query involving birthdates, try "What number do you get if you multiply the year of your father's birth by the year of your mother's birth and then subtract your own year of birth?" Any depraved hacker who is willing to spend the time and energy guessing the correct solution probably deserves to break into your account and watch Netflix movies on your nickel.

Nobody asked me, but there must be a better system for maintaining security in this digital universe we have created. How many more times am I destined to waste precious hours of my life resetting passwords I already know I will forget the next time I need to use them?

And why is it that when I finally do get my reset password and type the characters into the proper dialogue box, I inevitably get a return message telling me that although I have now entered my correct password, I no longer can supply them with the proper User ID and therefore am banned from the login procedure. When it comes to choosing the best authentication security question to help me retrieve my password, maybe mine ought to be "What is your favourite lost password?"

# MLA encourages people to share their salmon stories

I tell salmon stories often. I am a Brentwood kid who grew up on the water; just one in a long line to fish the Salish Sea. We come by it honestly. Descendants of the Coast Salish reef-netters, the Pacific salmon are part of our family.

So many of us who live in Saanich North and the Islands have fished these waters. Salmon are a vitally important renewable resource and have been nurturing our coast for thousands of years.

The Saanich Inlet was once a plentiful salmon spot. Whether you are a



Adam Olsen

## MLA REPORT

multi-generational British Columbian or you have just arrived on the west coast, you likely have salmon close to your heart. But with every passing day, and each new generation of British Columbians, the power of the wild Pacific salmon is quietly diminishing. Our

shifting baseline of what is normal for wild salmon returns to our rivers is slipping from millions to thousands, thousands to hundreds, hundreds to dozens.

Salmon runs in our area are crashing. The Chilcotin and Thompson steelhead fishery is on the brink of extinction. The threats to fish stocks are many — habitat and ecosystem degradation, poor management, fish farms and climate change.

Over the course of the spring legislative session I have dedicated a large portion of my work in

the Legislature to salmon policy. I have learned that six ministries all have a “leading role” in addition to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. From a provincial perspective, we need much better coordination.

So, I have made it my mission to speak for the salmon in the B.C. Legislature; raising their challenges in question period and canvassing the ministries with salmon jurisdiction in estimates. Nearly every minister’s answer has been some version of . . . “I care about wild salmon too,

but, unfortunately, that’s not my job.”

Amidst the finger pointing and confusion about who is doing what, I have found a possible path forward: B.C. needs to establish a Wild Salmon Secretariat or commissioner to streamline all the work being done within the B.C. government and — importantly — be a strong defender of wild salmon in negotiations with the federal government. After all, good salmon policy is good environmental, social and economic policy.

I will continue to tell

my salmon story and talk to people about theirs, so we don’t forget how our coasts and rivers used to run deep with salmon. We cannot let decimated salmon stocks become the new normal.

If you want to share your favourite story about salmon with me, feel free to do so on my website, [www.adamolsen.ca](http://www.adamolsen.ca), or connect with me on social media and tag it with #MySalmonStory.

Please don’t hesitate to get in contact with me on this or any other issue, at [adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca) or call 250-655-5600.

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## Let’s work to ban single-use plastics

BY MARTIN ADAM

Congratulations to Country Grocer for taking a small step in the direction of sustainability in its recent program of distributing reusable shopping bags.

Small gestures often have the effect of catalyzing change in others; let’s hope that Salt Springers take this moment to pause and reconsider our daily habits — as well as what we can do more generally.

The issue is not as simple as changing one’s shopping bag, helpful as this is. The situation is urgent. Our oceans are literally choking on plastic. A high percentage of this refuse is of the single-use, disposable kind (Google “plastic, oceans”). We are talking about drinking straws, plastic water bottles, stir-sticks, disposable razors, cling wrap, dish and laundry soap bottles, nut butter containers, soft drink bottles, milk containers . . . the list goes on.

Although plastic in general is now integrated into our very way of life, when it comes to day-to-day shopping the real issue is “single use.” What can we do to change our collective ways in this area? First of all, before purchasing an item we can pause to ask: do I really need this?

Plastic water bottles, for example, take 400 years to completely disappear from an ocean environment. Is the convenience really worth this price?

Second, we can try to avoid purchasing from companies that package their products in plastic containers. Often enough, there will be an alternative choice in glass (e.g. mineral water, nut butters, honey . . .)

Third, if one’s favourite item is not available in glass, we can take a moment to write to the company. Being guided by the profit motive, many businesses will react to such messages, particularly if one mentions their more environmentally responsible competitors.

Fourth, we can shop in bulk. This is often the cheaper route anyway.

Fifth, we can talk to local management. We have just witnessed the receptivity of Country Grocer; we can be certain that both they and their main island competitor would lend an ear to further requests from the public — for example, for more product options in glass and aluminum, or indeed, eliminating plastic bags altogether. (Thrifty Foods has already done this.) At the same time, we can request that biodegradable garbage bags be prominently

displayed and regularly sold at the lowest possible price. These are just a few ideas; no doubt there are many other creative strategies that might be employed.

As consumers and citizens, we do have choices. In many cases, we can reduce, reuse and recycle. It would be a mistake, however, to think the solution lies only in changing our shopping choices or in recycling.

The other side of the problem lies in the production of single-use plastics in the first place. We need to bring economic, moral and legal pressure to bear on those corporations whose products are wrecking our planet. In addition to writing letters and talking with our local grocer, we can spread the word within our communities, organize product boycotts and start online petitions. Letters sent to government, including our ever-vacillating PM, could be worthwhile as well.

We need to demand decisive legislation aimed at banning the production of the most damaging of these single-use plastics. Our planet is in serious trouble. We are both the cause and the solution.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident.*

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## MORE LETTERS

continued from 8

### Not our rulers

PARC staff triumphed over affordable housing on the evening of April 16 by convincing the commissioners at their monthly meeting that after minutes of a previous meeting have been approved, any motion written up in those minutes cannot be reconsidered if more than a month has passed and staff have already begun to take action.

Thus a well-reasoned and impassioned plea by Fernando dos Santos, including a letter from a nurse who is currently living out of her car because she can find no housing, failed. Fernando and Tami are making every effort to keep costs down in their plan to build affordable houses on a property near Mouat Park known as Dragonfly Commons. They were hoping PARC commissioners would reconsider an earlier demand

of \$15,000 in cash as a zoning amenity in lieu of an offer of five acres of Commons land to be used as a park. This time they offered to place a covenant on the land and maintain it as a park themselves.

The commissioners seemed moved and wanted to reconsider their earlier decision, but staff told them doing so was procedurally impossible. So the commissioners voted almost unanimously to create a policy using as a criterion the greater good of the community when determining whether to accept park land instead of cash. Immediately, staff stated they couldn’t possibly find time this year to draft such a policy, but offered to include time to work on it in next year’s budget.

This community is experiencing a housing crisis right now, but PARC staff appear to value a growing cash reserve as more important than supporting the commissioners in doing what they can to help keep Dragonfly development costs

as low as possible. PARC staff are supposed to be our servants, not our rulers. They should be ashamed of themselves and so should the PARC commissioners who let them get away with it.

**HELEN HINCHLIFF,  
BRINKWORTHY**

### Try circles

So, we’re learning that with “big data,” parties can micro-target ads and even people living in the same household can end up getting different ads, tailored to sway their vote.

Meanwhile, we know that various web services track our choices and adapt what comes up on our “feed” accordingly. That means it’s becoming increasingly difficult for individuals to get a sense of what others in their community may be exposed to, in terms of media. There is a real danger that people can end up living in different “bubbles” with differing facts and value systems.

It’s hard to imagine how democracy can work well under such conditions. But maybe this can become an opportunity. As people recognize the dangers inherent in the way our media works now, they can see the need to connect with people in different ways.

One way that has roots in virtually all Indigenous cultures is circles. Restorative Justice Salt Spring is keen to share this approach. Our next circle is this Thursday, April 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Salt Spring Library Program Room.

This circle will focus on building positive connections between people with differing political perspectives. We won’t be “discussing” issues; instead we’ll explore the roots of our political values and how beliefs and values evolve over time.

Circle processes are pretty simple; there’s no need for prior experience to get a lot out of a circle. Why not give it a try?

**JAN SLAKOV,  
55 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**



**OUTDOOR PROJECTS**

# SSE puts time into outdoor learning environment

School community gets traction on multiple initiatives

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Earth Day saw a flurry of activity taking place at Salt Spring Elementary School, as parents and kids worked to advance a number of projects that are bringing learning outdoors and creating beautiful new features to the school grounds at the same time.

The April 21-22 weekend work party had a lot on the menu for volunteer crews, who were out sanding and installing cedar boards for the outdoor classroom's new floor, among other tasks.

"This is something the teachers have been wanting for a long time," parent Toby Carson said, indicating the flooring platform.

The school's Parent Advisory Committee provided volunteer labour and paid for the flooring materials, with wood sourced from an island mill. The remarkably long, clear planks were made from trees that had to come down anyway.

Waiting nearby were large cedar boxes that will double as seating and equipment storage. They were designed by the students in Katharine Byers' Grade 3/4 class and built by parent Steve Bevan.

Members of the school community may have been out during spring's first exceptional weekend, but they have also been hard at work during monthly sessions over the past two years. Accomplishments have included clearing and



Robin Jenkinson checks out potato plants growing in Salt Spring Elementary School's upper garden, left; volunteers put a floor on the outdoor classroom during an Earth Day work party. Rear from left are Markus Poerschke, Mia Poerschke, Ella Carson, Katharine Byers and Toby Carson, with Mia Hopp and Dan Logan up front.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

re-booting garden space between SSE and the Salt Spring Middle School driveway, construction of the outdoor classroom structure and establishment of a separate fenced garden beside the playground area.

Other projects accomplished with assistance from teaching staff include helping students create a pollinator garden with plants to support caterpillars in their crucial growth stage. A mosaic project that is bringing much beauty to bare cement retaining walls connects to the theme.

"We upcycled cast-off crockery and broken mirrors into shimmery art, guided by artist Luba Polouvytnova, and supported by a Salt Spring Arts Council community

arts grant," PAC's Robin Jenkinson explained.

The upper garden also received attention over the past weekend. The space was created in 2010 but then became overgrown with blackberries and gorse. PAC volunteers led by Carson and Jenkinson started pulling out the invasive plants around a year and a half ago and then went to work building boxes for raised beds, straw bale seating and a three-bin compost system that accepts school waste and is also a teaching tool.

"It's kind of a bit of a rough space but that's part of its charm," Jenkinson observed. "The kids love running up here, and there are so many neat little nooks."

Every SSE student helped plant

seeds on a recent "Seedy Tuesday" this spring. Much of the produce — which includes things like chard, kale and potatoes — will go into a school-wide harvest lunch in June.

A beautiful rammed earth retaining wall went in with help from Joss Krayenhoff of SireWall and some 30 workshop volunteers. It is adorned with pieces of blue glass donated by The Glass Foundry, just one more of the countless island businesses that have contributed to the venture.

PAC plans to put in another rammed earth wall soon.

"It holds the slope in place and collects the soil so we can plant, so it's a nice way to do it," Carson said.

Despite its steep incline and rough edges, the upper garden is a

popular place to relax. Jenkinson said teachers like to sit in the sun on their breaks, and they even staged a play from the top edge with the audience seated on the lower pathway. Preschool-aged kids who participate in the Strong Start program also benefit. One of the garden features is a sand box, located just outside the program room door.

More projects are also in the works. PAC has funds from four different granting agencies in hand, and intends to install a greenhouse on the upper level with some of it.

"It's taken many community family work parties to get to this, and we probably have another couple of years in our work plan to get where we want to be," Carson said.

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# SPRING + SUMMER FIXUP

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

# FireSmart gardening practices heartily encouraged

Reduce fuel, use fire-resistant plants and other tips

**BY LT. MITCHELL SHERRIN**  
SS FIRE-RESCUE

Gardening can actually help save your home from wildfire.

Selecting the right plants for the right locations can make all the difference. Yard clean-

up, irrigation and pruning also contribute to improved fire safety.

The FireSmart program is designed to help homeowners take simple, common-sense steps to reduce the risk of wildfire around their own home.

Research studies have demonstrated that even minimal individual efforts can make a dramatic contribution toward protecting homes.

Fire moves inconsistently and sporadically. But, like water, fire also travels predictably along the easiest path as it moves from one area to another.

Removing a convenient path for fire to reach your home could make all the difference.

One key FireSmart concept is to reduce the fuel in the immediate area around your home (10-

30 metres) so that embers will not start a house fire.

Some plants are highly flammable (such as broom, cedar, juniper and pampas grass), while other plants are actually fire resistive (such as salal, maple, Garry oak). Planting fire-resistive gardens within 30 metres of the home instead of more flammable plants will reduce risk significantly.

Simple yard cleanup actually has the greatest impact for reducing fire risk.

Dry branches and leaves are the best kindling for fire growth. If these flammable items are cleared away from your home, fire has less chance to spread from plants to the structure. In addition, pruning trees of lower branches (below two metres) will help pre-

vent fire from climbing into the forest canopy and producing a more dangerous fast-moving fire.

Sprinklers are the tools firefighters use to protect homes in the event of rapid fire growth. A watered greenspace around your home could become a fire barrier.

For more FireSmart information, see the [www.saltspringfire.com](http://www.saltspringfire.com) website.

## BUILDING THEORY

# Ancient Vastu Shastra can be used in every home situation

Indispensable tool for homeowners and more

**SUBMITTED BY SAMYA HOME CONTRACTING & DESIGN**

Vastu Shastra (also known as Staphya Veda), meaning the "Science of Building" is a well-documented scientific and proven system of structural, environmental and functional design established in ancient India and refined to modern

standards.

As with many ancient systems, Vastu is often misinterpreted and misrepresented as an esoteric system fraught with religious superstition much like its spinoff in the East, Feng Shui. The actual functional principles of Vastu are based in physics, geology, geometry, human biology and physiology.

Vastu knowledge, carried through spice routes through millennia, influenced the architectural design

of historical monuments around the world. The Taj Mahal, the Roman Coliseum, the Greek Parthenon, the Egyptian and Mayan Pyramids precisely follow Vastu measurements and techniques. These techniques are mostly attributed to cosmological and geological phenomena; the Sun's path, the rotation of the earth, seasonal fluctuations, geopathic stress, magnetic fields, surrounding ecosystems, etc.

Vastu Shastra is documented

in the ancient texts of India called the Vedas, specifically the Atharva Veda, which deals with methods of improving the quality of life. This body of knowledge also includes Ayurveda, the science of medicine, yoga and meditation.

From architectural design using sacred geometry, symmetry, space and material conservation to colour and light therapy, the art of placement, correct air and energy flow throughout the house and much


more, the knowledge of Vastu is an indispensable tool for any homeowner, developer, contractor, designer or builder.

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# SPRING + SUMMER FIXUP

## VEGETATION

# Gorse the focus of Salt Spring invasive species fight

Now's the time to remove it from property and roadsides

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy's Stewardship Committee is this year taking aim at one of the more noxious invasive species on the island: gorse.

It's easy to confuse gorse and broom as their leaves, stems and flowers look similar. But gorse is a spiny shrub and blooms before broom, so what people are seeing on the water's edge in Ganges right now, for example, is gorse, not broom.

Gorse not only pushes out native vegetation and wildlife that relies on it but is an extreme fire hazard. The plants are very oily, which makes them extremely flammable, and they drop a large amount of leaf litter.

"What we are hoping is that if the community takes this on as an issue, we could still stop gorse from spreading any further," said stewardship committee member Jane Petch. "If everybody took a bit of an area near them or saw a plant on

their street and pulled it up and then went back and monitored that spot, there's a chance that we could stop it."

Committee member Cathy Young is mapping all the known gorse spots on the island. She points out that because it's classified as a noxious weed by the provincial government, "legally, people are supposed to take it off their property."

Like broom, gorse spreads easily, with a mature plant able to disperse up to 18,000 seeds, which then travel with the help of insects, birds, humans, machinery and water.

Because pulling out mature plants disturbs the soil around them, making it easier for seeds to germinate, the best way to deal with gorse is to cut it at its base, and to monitor it and cut again as needed. Some success has been found with capping of stems with black plastic or similar material. Seedlings can be easily pulled out each year.

The stewardship committee hopes to do some educational presentations at the library about gorse control and members are happy to speak with interested community members. Call Petch at 250-537-0880 for more information.



PHOTO BY CATHY YOUNG

Gorse plants at top of a bank in Ganges Harbour.



PHOTO BY CATHY YOUNG

Close-up of flowers, spines and stem of a gorse plant.



PHOTO BY DAVID DENNING

**SUCCESS STORY:** Blue-eyed Mary wild flowers flourish on a Long Harbour hillside once covered in broom. The site is a Salt Spring Conservancy Stewardship Committee demonstration project that shows broom can be controlled and native vegetation restored. People should "cut broom in bloom" before it sets seed. Cut plants at the very base so the photosynthetic stem cannot re-sprout. Avoid disturbing the soil, which results in a forest of new seedlings.

## Invasive plant drop-off days

### SS CONSERVANCY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This year Salt Spring islanders will have two opportunities to drop-off non-native invasive weeds like Scotch broom, gorse, blackberry, holly, spurge laurel and others.

The first drop-off is at Central Fire Hall on Sunday, May 6, and the second is at Fulford Fire Hall on Saturday, May 12.

Volunteers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to collect a small donation to cover the chipping costs and to offer information on how to identify, remove and dispose of specific invasive weeds like broom and gorse.

Cam Proudfoot of Salt SpringWood Chipping asks that dirt be removed from plant roots to avoid chipper damage. Leafy plants like lamium, periwinkle and ivy are not accepted as they are too soft to chip and the particles re-sprout.

These leafy plants can be solarized in a black garbage bag. Ivy can be taken to EcoReality Farm for the goats, along with broom. Phone ahead and arrange with Jan Steinman to drop the plants off.

Giant hogweed is very toxic and not accepted at the drop-offs. For information on removing hogweed and spurge laurel check out the advisories on the WorkSafe website.

Originally sponsored in 2010 by the Salt Spring Conservancy and PARC to reduce the amount of Scotch broom on Salt Spring, this annual event now includes other invasives like gorse, which is starting to spread exponentially across the island.

For more information on the drop-offs, or the stewardship committee, or to volunteer for a two-hour shift, call Jane Petch at 250-537-0880.

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# ECO FRIENDLY FIXUP

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

# CRD helps residents make their spring clean greener

Clean Green Cookbook and hazardous materials guide available to CRD residents

The Capital Regional District is promoting two campaigns to educate people about environmentally sound cleaning and renovation practices.

On Monday, the CRD issued information to help educate residents about the environmental impact of chemical-based cleaning products and promote home-made alternatives with a new book of easy-to-make recipes.

“Every chemical we put down the drain has the potential to impact our ocean, streams and shorelines,” said CRD director Judy Brownoff, who is chair of the region’s Environmental Services Committee. “Wastewater treatment prevents some — but not all— chemicals from entering the ocean, so keeping household hazardous waste like cleaners and solvents out of our region’s drains and toilets will always be an important first step in protecting the environment.”

Released as part of the CRD’s Earth Day celebrations, the new Clean Green Cookbook offers residents 14 effective, low-cost and easy-to-make recipes for everything from all-purpose cleaners and degreasers to hand scrubs and liquid laundry soap.

“Clean water begins at home,” says Brownoff, “and giving our residents the information and tools they need to help them take action — including eco-friendly alternatives that protect our region’s natural resources — is the number one priority of this campaign.”

Residents interested in making the switch to natural products should dispose of any unused or expired chemical cleaners free-of-charge through Hartland Landfill’s household hazardous waste program.

The Clean Green Cookbook can be downloaded at [www.crd.bc.ca/cleangreen](http://www.crd.bc.ca/cleangreen) and a series of videos showing the recipes being made and used will be posted to the CRD’s Facebook and YouTube pages this month.

## Asbestos awareness is vital

Given the increasing volume of “do-it-yourself” home renovation waste across the Capital Regional District region, the CRD is educating homeowners about the health risks associated with asbestos and promoting the safe removal and disposal of renovation waste.

“Exposure to asbestos and

other hazards pose a real risk to families across the region who choose to take on home renovations themselves,” said Brownoff in a press release. “In an effort to protect these residents as well as our staff and visitors at Hartland Landfill, we’re asking homeowners to hire qualified professionals to test for asbestos and remove it safely.”

Prior to 1990, asbestos — a mineral fibre resistant to fire, heat and electricity — was used in thousands of building products, including vinyl flooring, plaster, ceiling tiles and stucco. There is little risk when it’s left in place, but disturbing asbestos during a demolition or renovation can lead to the inhalation of its fibres, a known cause of lung scarring and cancer.

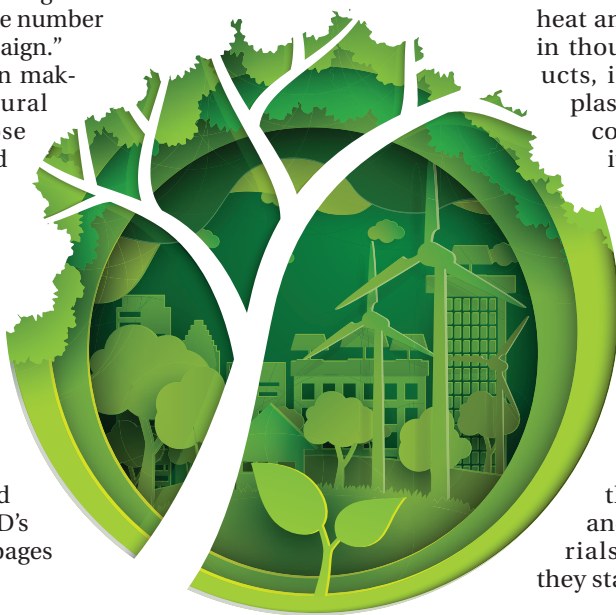
“As a colourless, odourless substance, asbestos is hard to detect, so it’s vital that homeowners identify the presence of asbestos and other hazardous materials in their home before they start any demolition work,”

said Brownoff. “At the same time, it’s important that do-it-yourself renovators learn how to properly dispose of this waste to avoid being turned away at either Hartland Landfill or private facilities.”

Hartland accepts properly packaged asbestos for disposal by appointment only. As of March 31, all renovation waste must be pre-approved for disposal. To get pre-approved, residents must complete an online application via [www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste](http://www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste) and provide asbestos-free test results. This process mirrors the existing commercial procedure that complies with WorkSafeBC regulations.

Protecting the safety of residents — including within CRD-operated facilities — is the priority of the campaign, said Brownoff. As Hartland Landfill also accepts asbestos waste from outside the region, the CRD will make these new educational materials available to municipalities across the island.

Step-by-step guides, checklists and a list of qualified HAZMAT professionals are available at [www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste](http://www.crd.bc.ca/renowaste).



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PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** Claire Lawrence, left, and Bill Henderson, who were two original members of The Collectors band, founded in 1966 (and which later became Chilliwack), jam like they can at the Gumboot Gala at Fulford Hall on Monday night. The concert marks the end of another fantastic Salt Spring Folk Club season.

FOR MORE SALT SPRING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT HAPPENINGS, SEE OUR WHAT'S ON CALENDAR ON PAGE 14.

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**SINGING**

## Choral community gathers for SchmeckFest

Second annual event

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

All of Salt Spring's many choral groups had the rare chance to sing together and hear each other during the island's second annual SchmeckFest, which took place at the Salt Spring Middle School gym on Tuesday, April 17.

An event just for choir members and limited family members, the one-night festival coordinated by Viva Chorale music director Caroni Young creates a space where islanders share their mutual love of signing in an appreciative environment.

"The whole point is not singing for an audience, but for each other. It's a chance for people to sing a couple of songs for other people who know exactly what it's like, because they're going to be doing it in a few moments," Young explained.

Young borrowed the SchmeckFest concept from Larry Nickel, director of Vancouver's Jubilate Vocal Ensemble. He first started the unique festival as a high school music teacher in 1996, and the festival continued until he left teaching in 2003 to earn his doctorate in composition. Nickel brought the festival back as a community-wide program in 2012. Young, who is a member of Jubilate, loves SchmeckFest so much she imported the idea to Salt Spring last year.

According to Nickel, a "sad fact" is choir members are so busy that they rarely have time to go and hear other groups — even at festivals, which tend to be tense and competitive rather than festive. It's especially sad because Nickel believes there is much to learn from listening to other singers.

During SchmeckFest, choirs are the ones sitting



PHOTO BY BARBARA BENNETT

Music teacher Mary Freeman introduces a piece by the Fulford Elementary School choir, one of several choral groups performing at last Tuesday's SchmeckFest.

in the audience until it's their turn to sing, instead of coming from backstage and then leaving once done. In Vancouver, 10 choirs are invited each year and sing two songs each. The entire event has no formal adjudication and takes just two hours. Singers leave "enlightened and encouraged."

As for the interesting name, Nickel's webpage explains "schmeck" is a term German Mennonites once used to describe beautiful singing: "To sing with schmeck meant to employ the full body and mask of the face — all the resonators — to create a resonant tone." Since schmeck literally means "taste," the name also signifies how the festival offers choirs a quick taste of what other groups are up to.

"It's definitely inspiring hearing other groups perform and learning what other types of repertoire they are working on, that you might not have heard before," Young said. "And for young students it's wonderful to see choir is something you can

do your whole life — it's not just in elementary school."

Over 200 singers in 11 groups were confirmed for Salt Spring's second annual SchmeckFest as of the previous week. They included the two big community groups — Viva Chorale and the Salt Spring Singers — plus Fulford Elementary School choir members and the Lost Chords seniors' choir, bringing the age range from around six to 90-plus.

"I love that they're still singing. I think it's so cool," Young said of the latter group.

In addition to varying sizes and constituencies, the choirs involved all have differences in performance styles, staging and repertoires. Young said the festival provides a chance to try new things out in a friendly environment, and even to perform together for one song at the end.

"As a singer, it feels so good when you finally get a piece with the chords and rhythm all lined up — and when the whole group does, it's amazing."

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**LIVE THEATRE**

## Neverland journey promises delights

Year-end show for Stagecoach students

Stagecoach Theatre School is gearing up for its year-end production at ArtSpring this weekend.

"Our classes are full of bright and enthusiastic kids who make teaching such a pleasure," said Stagecoach artistic director Adina Hildebrandt. "Join us to giggle with the Intermediate class and guffaw with and at the Improv class. Then travel to Neverland where we find out whether Peter Pan's life will entice the Darling children who love stories of magical places."

Showtime is 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 27

and 28, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 29.

Audience members will fly with Tinkerbell and swim with the mermaids, cross swords with Captain Hook and meet a misunderstood crocodile.

Christina Penhale of exit StageLeft Productions is the school's music director this year, and Hildebrandt says she loved her time with the Onstage program children.

Karen Arney is once again leading the group in wonderful music, which is a mix of classic songs and fabulous originals composed by Sue Newman.

The production features an amazing coincidence as well. J.M. Barrie, the author of Peter Pan, was Corbin Roome's great, great grandmother's cousin and Roome is one of the show's Peter Pans.

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# what's on this week



## Wed. Apr. 25

### ACTIVITIES

#### Bye-Bye Back Pain Blues — Movement, Mindfulness, Music and Meaning.

Greg Augustine from SOMA 4 LIVING presents a workshop on how to deal with back pain. Lions Hall. 10:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Info/registration: greg@soma4living.com or 250-748-6626.

#### Hula Hoop Event.

Beginner hoop event led by Gravity Addict Khya at Mahon Hall. Kids and families are invited to come from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Adults, teens and seniors are invited for 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Welcome circle at 7 p.m.

#### Salt Spring Golf & Country Club AGM.

Annual general meeting at the golf club. 5:30 p.m.



#### Book Reading: Writing the Coast.

Featuring Yvonne Blomer, Johanna Streetly and Chris Smart. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

#### Scott Point Waterworks District AGM.

Annual general meeting of the Scott Point Waterworks District at the RVYC Pavilion. 7 p.m.

## Thu. Apr. 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### PitchFork Social - Black Hen Roadshow. SOLD OUT.



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

### ACTIVITIES

#### Birding in Burgoyne.

Peter McAllister leads a birding walk in Burgoyne Bay Park beginning at 6 a.m. Meet at the road, near the barns. Wraps up by 8 a.m.

#### Library Book Club.

This month's pick is *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham. The Salt Spring Island Public Library book club, open to all and free of charge, meets from 1-3 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month.

#### Green Drinks.

Transition Salt Spring event at Penny's. 5 to 8 p.m.

#### From Paper to Puppetry: Shibori Doesn't Cover it.

Artist's talk by Karen Millson at Mahon Hall. 6:30 p.m.

#### Restorative Justice Community Circle.

Peace Begins With a Smile. This circle will focus on building positive connections between people with differing political perspectives. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Laura: 250-537-8804

## Fri. Apr. 27

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Peter Pan.

Youth theatre production at ArtSpring. 7 p.m.  
**Soul Shakedown.** Live at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Salt Spring Island Job Fair.

Beacon Community Services Employment Services holds its second annual Salt Spring Island job fair at Lions Hall. Employers will represent an array of industries, including tourism, hospitality, homecare support, health care and construction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Family Movie Matinee.

Kids movies shown every Friday in the Salt Spring Public Library program room except for statutory holidays and school-in-session days. 2:30 p.m. See event site for schedule.



## Sat. Apr. 28

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Peter Pan.

See Friday's listing.

#### Buck Dodgers Stringband.

Appalachian old-time fiddle tunes from Salt Spring's south end at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

## Sat. Apr. 28

### ACTIVITIES

#### Saturday Market in the Park.

Local artisans and farmers set up at Centennial Park. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Salt Spring United Soccer Season Wrap-up.

Portlock Park. All day starting at 9:30 a.m.

#### Salt Spring Toastmasters Open House.

Drop by the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room to meet club members and learn more about the club and the brand-new Toastmasters International Pathways learning program. 1 to 3 p.m. Members will present demonstration speeches at 2 p.m.



#### Climate Change, Clean Energy and First Nations: Dr. Judith Sayers in Conversation.

The Salt Spring Forum and the Canadian Federation of University Women co-host Dr. Judith Sayers. GISS. 7:30 p.m.



## Sun. Apr. 29

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Stagecoach Theatre Presents Peter Pan.

See Friday's listing, except time is 2 p.m..

#### Too Much Guitar Jazz Duo.

Acclaimed musicians Bill Coon and Oliver Gannon play jazz guitar and are joined by long-time collaborators Dave Robbins on drums and Darren Radtke on bass. All Saints. 2 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Fabrics & Dance Workshop.

Dancers from Co.ERASGA dance and choreographer Alvin Erasga Tolentino offer an exploratory movement workshop. No dance experience necessary. Antler Ridge Studio. 4 to 6 p.m.

## Mon. Apr. 30

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Tracing Malong: Dance Performance.

Vancouver based Co.ERASGA dance company performs work centering around the "malong," traditional tube-like printed fabric. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Salt Spring Transportation Commission.

Public welcome to attend regular business meeting. SS Public Library. 4 to 6 p.m.

#### Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Trustees

Special Meeting. Ganges fire hall training room. 7 p.m.

## Wed. May 2

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

#### Tea a Tempo: Aki and Pierre.

Classical guitar duo performs at All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats after the recital.

#### Vetta Presents Ludwig and Friends.

Final Vetta concert of the season features the delights of Debussy, the melodies of Mendelssohn and the nobility of the Archduke performed by three of the best chamber musicians in the West. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

## Wed. May 2

### ACTIVITIES

#### Salt Spring Seniors Services Society AGM.

Annual general meeting at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 p.m.

#### Pioneers of Hospice Film.

Free film presented by Salt Spring Hospice at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m. Part of Hospice Month.



Celloist John Friesen performs with Vetta Chamber Music in a May 2 concert titled Ludwig and Friends.

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<p>Tom Hanks Meryl Streep</p> <p><b>The Post</b></p> <p>1 hr 50 min Rating: PG</p> <p>FINAL 2 SHOWS</p> <p>Apr. 25 &amp; 26 Wed. Thurs. 7pm</p>	<p><b>Isle of Dogs</b></p> <p>1 hr 40 min Rating: PG</p> <p>Apr. 27-May 1 Fri.- Tues. 7pm Sun. 3pm matinee &amp; 7pm</p>	<p>National Theatre Live</p> <p>BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE</p> <p><b>JULIUS CAESAR</b></p> <p>Thurs. May 17th Only. 3pm matinee &amp; 7pm Tickets \$23</p>
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS LISTINGS**

Stagecoach Theatre Presents

**Peter Pan**

Fri-Sat, April 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 pm

Sun, April 29<sup>th</sup> • 2 pm

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### CINEMA

- **The Post** - Final two shows. The Post owner and editor join a battle between the press and the government about a cover-up spanning four U.S. presidents.
- **Isle of Dogs** — The beautifully stop-motion animated Isle of Dogs finds Wes Anderson at his detail-oriented best. Set in Japan, it follows a boy's odyssey in search of his lost dog.
- **National Theatre Live: Julius Caesar** — Caesar returns in triumph to Rome. Alarmed by his popularity, the elite conspire to bring him down. After his assassination, civil war erupts on the streets. One show only: Thursday, May 17. 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- **Imprints 2018** print show continues on at **Duthie Gallery** through April.
- **Fault Line Projects Gallery** presents Graphics: a group show of works in the print medium. Runs through May 5.
- **Gallery 8's** Symbolically 8 show featuring all gallery artists runs to May 8.
- **Swish. Whisper. Click.**, a show of new works by **Norma Hoepfner**, is at **Salt Spring Gallery** until May 2.
- **Venter Gallery** exhibits work by **Kathy Venter, Deon Venter** and **Wim Blom**.

### EXHIBITIONS

- **Kizmit Galeria and Cafe** hosts an exhibit of paper collage works by **Bly Kaye** and pottery by **Erin Morris** throughout the month of April. Open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Bob Fenske** shows street photography in the **Salt Spring Public Library** program room through April.
- **Erin Cleal** holds a Things Made exhibit in the **ArtSpring** lobby through April.
- **Vivienne Challandes** shows her artwork of all-recycled materials in **Island Savings** through April and May.
- **Country Grocer Cafe** is showing original oil paintings by **Alunia** through April.

## VISUAL ART

# Young artist's work picked in contest

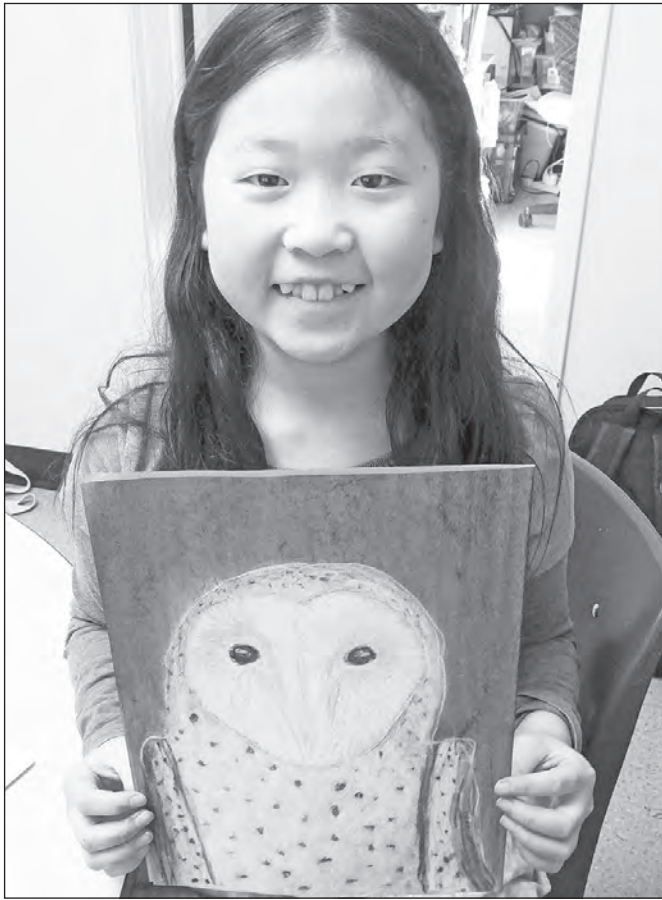


PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

Anika Otsu with her prize-winning Midnight Barn Owl artwork.

Owl image to be made into postcard

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A young Salt Spring artist is a B.C.-wide art contest winner with the Wild Postcard Project.

Ten-year-old Anika Otsu, who is in the Learning Partners program at Phoenix School, is one of 12 students aged five to 18 whose artwork will be printed on postcards to help promote biodiversity.

Otsu's soft pastel painting is called Midnight Barn Owl.

"We received hundreds and hundreds of entries, so you should be very proud of yourself for this accomplishment," states a note to Otsu from the organizers.

"The winning artworks are of a very high standard — and the printed postcards are going to be amazing!"

A formal award presen-

tation takes place on May 12 at the University of British Columbia. The event will also include a reception and exhibition featuring the winning artworks.

The visual arts competition was initiated by a non-profit organization called the Wild Postcard Project, aiming to increase children's awareness of local biodiversity through art.

B.C. students were invited to submit any type of artwork of their choosing, from painting to drawing and sculpting, as long as it represented B.C. biodiversity in some way.

Two previous competitions have been held: one in Ireland in 2016 and another in the Philippines in 2017.

The postcards are sold across B.C. and online to "help local biodiversity go global," said organizers.

"All of the earnings from sales are used to fund the following year's competition."

## CONCERTS

## Premiere jazz musicians play Salt Spring

Sunday afternoon concert at All Saints

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders will have the opportunity to hear a couple of the best musicians of their genre this Sunday when the Too Much Guitar jazz duo plays a show at All Saints.

Bill Coon and Oliver Gannon are both based in Vancouver but have studied and played all over the world, rising to the top of their game. Salt Spring is fortunate to have a connection to the artists in Caroni Young, who studied under Coon at Capilano University in big band arrangement

and ear training. She arranged the island concert after performing with her former mentor last fall.

"It's nice to have more jazz groups coming to Salt Spring. We don't have too many jazz concerts, so it's nice to have more relatively local musicians coming over and having that style represented," Young said.

The two musicians perform as a duo that may have "too much guitar" for some people, but is a sublime experience for jazz aficionados with an ear for strings.

Press material explains Juno-nominated guitarist/composer/arranger Coon "is one of Canada's most highly respected and sought-after musicians." He has worked with numerous jazz artists

throughout his career as well as diverse talents such as hip-hop artist K-os and the Vancouver CBC Radio Orchestra.

Gannon is a Juno winner who is active on the international circuit, was named Guitarist of the Year at the National Jazz Awards in 2002 and played the opening set for Oscar Peterson's final appearance in Vancouver in 2004.

Coon and Gannon will be joined by long-time collaborators Dave Robbins on drums and Darren Radtke on bass to form a quartet for part of Sunday's concert. All four musicians participated in recording the critically acclaimed Too Much Guitar album.

The concert starts at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at Apple Photo or at the door.

## MUSIC SERIES

## Classical guitar artists share duo program

Aki and Pierre at Tea à Tempo

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

One of the many charms of Salt Spring Island is the creative energy that emerges in sometimes surprising ways.

This is true of the featured classical guitar duo, Aki and Pierre, slated for Wednesday, May 2, in this season's monthly Tea à Tempo recital series in All Saints By-the-Sea. Akihisa Otsu and Pierre Boies first met at the Saturday market nine years ago, where they found themselves as neighbouring vendors, Otsu with his tasty traditional Japanese

Roly Poly Rice Balls and Boies with delicious home-made pies.

They had both learned to read music as teenagers and started playing guitar during those years. Otsu was soon playing an electric guitar with various bands, which continued as a hobby for 20 years, and included his role as drummer and bass guitar player. He learned to play classical guitar in Vancouver after moving to Canada from Japan, though he still enjoys listening to pop, rock, and jazz as well as classical music.

Boies leaned more towards the finger picking

style and was quickly learning to play classical pieces. Although he neglected to play for long periods of time during a career in carpentry and construction, the guitar has remained a good friend. Following further classical guitar lessons on Salt Spring, he was a member of a guitar trio for a time, which performed several years ago at Music and Munch under the leadership of Peter Taschuk.

Side by side at the market, the two musicians soon discovered their shared musical interests, were excited to learn of their backgrounds in classical guitar and mused on playing together for a long

time. It was not until a year later that they both appeared at the market with their guitars. Boies brought along sheet music for a classical guitar duo. Despite their very busy lives they made a point of practicing as much as possible and have acquired a repertoire that holds appeal for such venues as restaurants and small fairs.

Wednesday's program is perfect for the intimate ambiance of All Saints where music lovers will be treated to music from South America, as well as a savouring of pieces by J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel and Jean-Philippe Rameau.

Music begins at 2:10 p.m.

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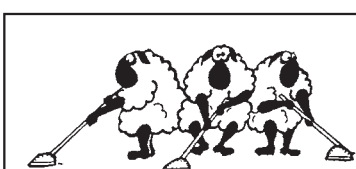
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**D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, Streets of Salt Spring Island**

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## PETS

# Rabbit owners advised to protect pets

RHD virus spread  
began in Nanaimo

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC SPCA officials are recommending erring on the side of caution for rabbit owners concerned about the spread of a deadly virus to their pets.

A vaccine for the virus that causes Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease became available in B.C. on April 16, after being ordered in from the manufacturer in France.

Emilia Gordon, the senior manager of animal health at BC SPCA, said that the vaccine was "brought in on a special permit. It is not licensed for use in Canada at this time. The vaccine has been distributed to the 50 veterinary hospitals who ordered it on the first round. There's another round of ordering that is going on right now. Even vets who don't have it yet can order it so they have it by May."

Though Salt Spring Island has not had a case of RHD reported, rabbit owners should exercise common sense when it comes to securing their home from the virus. The virus is transmitted either through direct or indirect contact and only affects European breeds of rabbits. It does not affect native North Ameri-



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Marvin, a five-year-old mini Holland lop living on Salt Spring, whose owners hope will not be exposed to the RHD virus.

can rabbit species, but can affect feral populations.

"We don't really know how it's spreading between the island and the mainland, but because we know that it can spread indirectly, it can spread on humans and vehicles, shoes and clothing, that sort of thing," said Gordon. "There is a risk just based on the fact that it has spread between the island and the Lower Mainland so far. Unfortunately, if a rabbit does get exposed, there's a very high risk of that rabbit becoming infected and dying."

The SPCA recommends that rabbit owners talk to their veterinarians about vaccinating their pets.

Gordon does not recommend isolating pet rabbits,

since the species needs time and space to socialize and play. However, taking some basic precautions to minimize the risk is a good idea.

"If you're just trying to protect your pet rabbit in your home, the most important thing is to use common sense and to walk through all of the ways the virus could enter your home and try to address each of those," she said.

The virus cannot be eliminated by regular household cleaners. If rabbit owners do leave Salt Spring and visit places like Nanaimo, Richmond or Vancouver, the SPCA's recommendation is to disinfect shoes with a cleaner like bleach, hydrogen peroxide or potassium peroxy-monosulfate. They also rec-

ommend running any clothes that may be exposed through the laundry before handling any rabbits.

"If you drive a vehicle off island and you go to a place like Richmond where we know there is a lot of contamination you might consider spraying down the tires of your vehicle with disinfectant as well," she said. "Anything you can do to stop the spread to places where it hasn't been reported, and small places like Salt Spring where it hasn't been detected you definitely want to be as careful as possible."

Jerry Lewandowski, the director of the Salt Spring BC SPCA branch, said that if rabbits do start exhibiting symptoms that owners should take them to the vet immediately.

"Runny nose, runny eyes are the two most common [symptoms]," he said.

RHD, RHD2 and RHDV2 are different names for the same disease. There is another strain of the virus that has not been identified in B.C.

"There isn't really any standard nomenclature," said Gordon. "If you hear RHD2 or RHDV2 they're just referring to the virus that has been identified here."

Vets have not seen any major side effects of the vaccine, and are confident that the benefits outweigh any risks there might be.

## TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

# Hikers, walkers and ramblers set outings

May activity schedule

### Hikers

May 1: Lynn Thompson will lead a moderate hike on Mt. Tzouhalem, taking in the flower reserve and summit. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:45 a.m. to carpool on the 9:25 a.m. Vesuvius ferry.

May 8: Trail building with Gary Quiring on the south side of Burgoyne Bay. Bring a lunch and wear work gloves. Saws, loppers, rakes etc. can all be put to use. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the parking area by the barns at Burgoyne Bay at 10 a.m.

May 15: Dave Secord and Amy Adams will lead an intertidal adventure covering lots of ground, but also focusing on ecology of the foreshore, especially natural history of and human interactions with marine invertebrates. Taking advantage of one of the lowest tides of the year, we will meander from the head of Fulford Harbour to more than halfway to Isabella Point. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at the head of Fulford Harbour (across from the old Fulford Inn site) at 10 a.m. sharp.

May 22: Join Ashley Hilliard for a hike in and around the Alvin Indridson Nature Reserve, which straddles Musgrave Road.

Carpool from ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or join the group at Drummond Park at 10 a.m.

May 29: Ron Hawkins will lead a Blackburn loop hike. Lunch at Barb's Buns. Meet at ArtSpring, 9:45 a.m. or just above Salt Spring Way on Old Divide Road at 10 a.m.

### Walkers

May 1: Join the hikers on an off-island, guided visit to the Mount Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve with our guide Genevieve Singleton, who will lead a slow, easy walk to view the spring flowers. To limit impact on this fragile ecosystem, the group will be limited to 15 members. To confirm your spot, email Rob at [robwmason@shaw.ca](mailto:robwmason@shaw.ca) by April 30. Meet at Portlock Park to carpool at 8:40 a.m. for the 9:25 a.m. Vesuvius ferry. Likely return on 3:35 p.m. ferry or earlier.

May 8: To replace the broom-pulling for this year, we join the hikers in clearing the existing trail and building a new trail in Burgoyne Bay. More details to come.

May 15: Join the hikers for an intertidal beach walk.

May 22: Sharon Sullivan will lead the walkers to Ruckle Park from the top of Meyer Road to Yeo Point to Cusheon Cove

and back. All downhill until after Cusheon Cove to the trailhead. We will have a short shuttle up to the top of Meyer Road. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at the Chris Hatfield Trail on the Meyer Road turnaround at 10:20 a.m.

May 29: Join Jenny Meyer and Patsy Tipping for a road and beach walk in the Price Road area. Lunch on co-leader's deck overlooking the water. A few uphill stretches on the road and perhaps wet and slippery on the beach. Meet at Art Spring at 10 a.m. to carpool the short drive to co-leader's home.

### Ramblers

May 1: Leader needed.

May 8: Sterling and Maureen McEachern will lead a walk on the boardwalk in Crofton. Take the 9:25 a.m. ferry to Crofton as foot passengers.

May 15: Betty Ball takes us to Ruckle Park. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Bring a lunch or if cold, lunch in Fulford.

May 22: Kathy Darling will lead to Walker Hook. Meet at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park. Lunch at Fernwood Café.

May 29: Ann King will take us to the Chris Hatfield trail. Lunch in Fulford.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** Aquafit instructor Brenda Akerman, left, and PARC recreation program assistant Kara MacKay promote PARC programs at Saturday's Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre open house event. The pool reopened with free swims and more after being shut down for maintenance since April 1. The facility is also now operated by PARC and the CRD, which owns the property but had contracted out pool operations for the first 10 years of its life. The pool will now be open seven days a week and will be the base for all PARC recreation programs.

**VOLUNTEERING**

# Doggy Daycare needs helping hands

BC SPCA program is shelter's largest fundraiser

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's BC SPCA branch is looking for volunteers for this year's Doggy Daycare at the market.

The day care is the local SPCA's largest fundraiser. Last year the group raised \$6,300, which helped cover costs of looking after animals at the shelter on Sharp Road.

"It was a response to Centennial Park and the Saturday market not allowing dogs," said Jerry Lewandowski, the island's SPCA director. "We don't want dogs left in hot cars. There was no solution, so in Centennial Park we got permission to use the fenced-in area and basically provide a one-on-one

dog-sitting service for anybody who wanted to go to the market but had pets."

Since it was established in 2012, it has been beneficial to people visiting Salt Spring who are unaware of the Centennial Park rules about dogs.

The service will begin on May 12 this year and run until at least the Labour Day weekend, depending on the weather.

Dogs are given one-on-one treatment with a volunteer for up to two hours. The cost for the service is \$10 per hour and all of the money goes back into the shelter.

"We take in as many dogs as we have volunteers . . . Once the dog is picked up we can take another," said Lewandowski. "Depending on the time of day determines whether you can drop your dog off right away or be put on a wait list."

Generally the volunteers can take around

30 dogs per day, with the potential for more depending on the number of volunteers they have. The busiest they've been was having between 12 and 15 dogs at a time.

The SPCA asks that dogs are up to date on their vaccines and it's preferable if they are spayed or neutered. Intact dogs can be taken, but only one at a time.

"We don't want the responsibility of puppies," Lewandowski said.

Lewandowski said a good core of 20-plus volunteers is returning for the 2018 season.

"All they have to do is one to two hours. If they want to stay longer they can, but we don't hold them to it. It also doesn't have to be every Saturday either."

Those interested in volunteering can fill out an application on the BC SPCA website. They will be contacted by Lewandowski.

**EMPLOYMENT**

# Job seekers invited to fair at Lions Hall

Employment group hosts second annual event

Beacon Community Services Employment Services is holding its second annual Salt Spring Island job fair on Friday, April 27.

Running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lions Hall, it will

see employers representing an array of industries, including tourism, hospitality, homecare support, health care and construction.

"We had such a positive response from the community and those who attended last year's job fair that we saw fit to host another for Salt Spring this year," said Suzanne Archer, client

advisor for Beacon Community Services Employment Services projects. "Our goal is to support the Salt Spring Island community by bringing together job seekers and employers so they can meet face-to-face and discuss employment opportunities," she adds.

The event is free for all ages. Guests are encour-

aged to come dressed for success with resumes in hand, and to be prepared for on-the-spot interviews with employers.

Beacon Community Services is a community-based charity that provides a wide range of care and support to thousands of people on southern Vancouver Island, Salt Spring and the outer Gulf Islands.

**FUNDRAISING**

# Book and jewellery drop-off schedule set

First Thursday of each month at Country Grocer

People whose spring cleaning includes getting rid of books can look forward to Salt Spring Literacy's first drop-off donation day on Thursday, May 3.

Volunteers will be at the north side of the Country Grocer parking lot from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to accept donations of both books and jewellery that will be cleaned, sorted and sold at the Salt Spring Literacy Society fundraising sale in the fall.

This year the society will be holding drop-off days on the first Thursday of each month until Oct. 4. The location is around the corner of the building, just past the Upper Ganges Liquor Store.

Bank bins, which have been used to collect books for several years, will come into use later in the summer, but organizers hope the bulk of donations can be received through the drop-off days. Home visits for large quantities of books can also be arranged through the Salt Spring Literacy office at 250-537-9717, or by emailing administrative assistant Inma Segura at info@

saltspringliteracy.org.

As always, donated books should be in good condition — so not ripped, dirty or mouldy. Magazines, outdated reference books, textbooks, National Geographic and Reader's Digest publications are also not accepted.

Jewellery of all kinds can be dropped off at the same spot.

Salt Spring Literacy expressed thanks to Country Grocer for providing the regular drop-off spot.

The 2018 Giant Book and Jewellery Sale will be held Nov. 16-18 at the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute.

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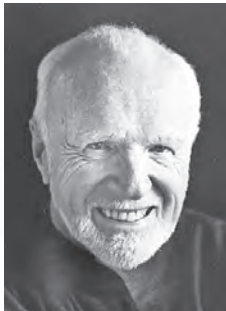
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**DAVID IAN WILLIAM BRAIDE**

February 23, 1928 - April 12, 2018



David Braide died on Thursday April 12, 2018 at Lady Minto Hospital in Ganges, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. In his 91st year he took to the road in his beloved 1994 Subaru SVX, had a heart attack while underway, made it home, and was then transported to the hospital where he died with his wife Joan at his side. While he wasn't ready to leave this earth, it is doubtful he could have scripted a better end.

David was born on February 23, 1928 in Liverpool, England (mother. Laura Davida Braide, nee Ker) where his father Reginald William Braide was posted with the British Army. In 1933 his father's regiment transferred to India and David spent the next six years at St. Piran's School in England. After joining his parents in India he, his sister, mother and governess left at the outbreak of the Second World War, and the family relocated to Victoria to live with his mother's relations. David was educated at University School in Victoria BC, Trinity College School in Port Hope ON and the University of British Columbia, and received a Master of Arts in Economics at the University of Toronto. During his time at U of T, he met Janet Harbron, who would become his wife, until her death in 1987. David was a gifted student and had a lifelong love of economics and world affairs. He liked to tell the story about the time he took sticky tape and a razor blade into a microeconomics exam to construct a pop-up demand curve in the exam booklet.

David had been preparing himself for a career in the diplomatic service but having graduated at 20, didn't make the age minimum. He accepted what he thought would be a brief posting with Canadian Industries Limited (CIL). That brief posting turned into a 36-year career with CIL culminating in his retirement in 1985 as Vice-Chairman. David took on increasingly senior roles in Montreal, New York and Toronto, including Vice-President of ICI North America Ltd., and made significant contributions to Canada's international business standing as Chair of the Task Force on Canada-U.S. Trade Policy, Chairman of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Institute for International Peace and Security and on the Executive Committee of the Canadian-American Committee. While David advanced in his career, Janet obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree and became a successful curator, author and lecturer on Canadian art history. They travelled extensively, often as part of Janet's art history research, or repaired to the family country place on the St. Lawrence River near Iroquois where David kept a wildly over-productive vegetable garden that no doubt benefited from the output of CIL's agricultural chemicals laboratories. David was a lifelong maker and fixer of things and would rather have repaired something five times than replace it. He was a talented woodworker and made several pieces of furniture, the first family TV and hi-fi units that are now family treasures.

David retired from CIL to lead the Niagara Institute in Niagara-on-the-Lake where his devoted Schnauzer Heidi was a constant companion.

As important to David as his professional career, was his lifelong dedication to volunteer leadership and contributing to the communities in which he lived. In board roles that included The Montreal and Westmount YMCAs, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, The Canadian Equestrian Team, The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation and Meadowbrook Seniors Residence in Ganges, David was known as a compassionate and principled leader who tended not to draw attention to himself but rather to help others shine. He was an early advocate for the advancement of women into leadership at CIL and a dogged supporter of Canadian art through growing the CIL art collection. These principles of giving back to the community live on in his children who have all made significant commitments to volunteer leadership in their professional lives.

In 1989 David met Joan Farlinger on an Art Gallery of Ontario trip to Thailand and Bali, and soon they were building a life together that included shared loves of travel, music, tennis and equestrian sport. In 1996 they de-camped from Toronto to Salt Spring Island where they built a classic West Coast house perched on the rocky Pacific shore. For David it was a welcome return to the West and the chance to be closer to his sister Penny and the Ker, Hibbard and Helmcken families.

David was a private man who enjoyed the peaceful quietude of his home life. Since purchasing the first Macintosh in 1984 he was a dedicated Apple enthusiast and always had the latest gear. As Chief Technology Officer of the household - and to some degree the family - he had an active presence on Apple forums and chats and was a willing tech trouble-shooter for anyone who would ask (and even some who didn't).

One of David's greatest pleasures was making (and consuming) his own marmalade, which he did for longer than anyone can remember. Even after decades of perfecting his recipe he still had the occasional disaster batch which was generally attributed to a bad season for oranges or the damp weather. He railed against the annual injustice of the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair. His marmalades never won ribbons and - to his dismay - were routinely disqualified for being "too chunky".

David was a voracious news reader and stayed in close touch with world affairs and contemporary economics. At 90 he still had a powerful mind and was eager to debate big questions about the future, frustrated that he wouldn't be around to "see how it all works out".

While age did not erode his faculties it did soften his soul. Anyone lucky enough to know David in his later years will know he became a peacemaking and affectionate man who was deeply moved by the love and support of his family and friends. He persevered through innumerable health challenges with great stoicism and never took his eye off the possibilities for the future. His plan for the coming summer was to do some body work on the Subaru to get her looking herself again.

David is survived by his second wife, Joan Aileen Farlinger; son Robbie David Braide of Montreal (Marie Saint-Amour); daughters Martha Janet Braide of Zurich, CH and Mary Jane Davida Braide of Toronto (John Hanna); step-daughter Margot Withun of Dartmouth; step-son Stephen Molz of Toronto; grandchildren Vicki Braide, Ian Braide, Laurent Crevier, Jason Kurth, Kennedy McKee-Braide, Katie Burchert and Zach Withun; sisters-in-law Florence Kristjanson (nee Harbron) and Lillian Dyson-Babcock (nee Harbron); nephew Mark Teare of Calgary (Irene deBruin) and their children Hugo and Emily; niece Alexandra Teare of Nanaimo and; brother-in-law Peter Farlinger.

David was predeceased by his first wife, Janet Grace Mills Braide (nee Harbron, dec.1987); his sister Penelope Ann Teare (nee Braide, dec.1998) and brother-in-law John Harbron (dec.2015).

A gathering for family and friends will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 in the Veranda Room at Hastings House, in Ganges.

Those who cannot attend are asked to remember David in their own way. He would probably suggest that in lieu of flowers or donations each of you back up your hard drives, update your security software and change your passwords.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm, in the Shaughnessy Heights United Church 1550 W. 33rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC. with a reception to follow.

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**APPLY NOW:** A \$2,500 Penny Wise scholarship is available for a woman entering the Journalism Certificate Program at Langara College in Vancouver. Application deadline April 30, 2018. Send applications to [fbula@langara.ca](mailto:fbula@langara.ca). More information: <http://bccommunitynews.com/about-our-people-products-services/>

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COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**Salt Spring Island Golf & Country Club**  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 • 5:30 p.m.

Upstairs at the Clubhouse,  
805A Lower Ganges Road

**50th Anniversary artcraft CALL FOR NEW APPLICATIONS**

ArtCraft 2018, B.C.'s longest running, juried, arts and crafts show, representing the best of the Gulf Islands runs from June 8th-Sept. 16th.

Registration deadline for returning exhibitors is May 11th, and those new and to be juried is May 7th. This year all wood, metal, glass, paper, baskets, sculpture and miscellaneous (books, cds, toys etc) will be juried as well as anyone not in ArtCraft 2017.

Registration and information forms are available on the "ArtCraft" page at [www.ssartscouncil.com/artcraft/](http://www.ssartscouncil.com/artcraft/) or please phone Richard Steel, ArtCraft manager on 250 537-0899 for more information.

**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
30 April 2018 beginning at 7:00pm

Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District have scheduled a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held April 30, 2018 at the Training Room Fire Hall No. 1 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Board of Trustees**  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

**Salt Spring Hospice**

**HOSPICE MONTH FREE Film Series**

**"Pioneers of Hospice"**  
May 2, 7 pm  
Salt Spring Library

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**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

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**May 12th Restaurant Equipment Auction**  
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PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

**EARTH DAY IN THE PARK:** Salt Spring's Earth Day Festival in Centennial Park featured activities like yoga, left, and the bestowing of several Earth Hero Awards. At right, Myna Lee Johnstone speaks after accepting her award. Other recipients were Cherie Geauvreau and Jewel Eldstrom, Jade Snow Rosen and Maia Beauvais, and Rama de la Rosa.

**YOUTH**

**Activities on tap for BC Youth Week**

Film and photo contest, free swim and more

Community partners across Salt Spring Island are once again joining to support local youth during the 24th annual BC Youth Week, running May 1 to 7.

Salt Spring Community Services with the Core Inn, along with PARC and the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre and the Salt Spring Public Library, are joining to sponsor the week's activities geared to build solidarity in youth, and to reinforce

connections between youth and the broader community.

"An exciting new aspect to Youth Week this year is our newly formed Salt Spring Youth Council," said Johanna Stiver, program coordinator of Salt Spring Island Community Services. "It's an opportunity for our youth to come out and meet once a month, plan events and collaborate on a vision of Salt Spring Island for youth of the future."

Thirteen young people sat down over pizza on April 8 for the second council meeting

at the Core Inn building on McPhillips Avenue, partially under the sponsorship of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which provided some seed funding for the formation of the group.

The current project for the Youth Council is a film and photo contest showcasing youth work. Public viewing of submissions will be possible at an open house at the Core Inn building on Thursday, May 3 between 3 and 7 p.m., where winners will be announced and prizes awarded.

Rainbow Road pool is hosting a free youth swim at Friday Night Madness on May 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., while the Salt Spring library will be drawing for and donating a mystery box of books for youth.

The new Salt Spring Youth Council is seeking creative and motivated youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who are looking to make a difference in their community. Council participants will help create, organize and support various youth-centred activities, projects, events and more.

**Ganges Village Clean-up Day of Action Thank You!**

From all of us who organized and participated in the **Ganges Village Clean-up Day of Action**, we send a huge "Thank You"! On behalf of our community, we warmly recognize those businesses who generously provided tools, refreshments, snacks, facilities, materials, signs, and the disposal and recycling services.

These contributions demonstrate true commitment and are a valuable component in our journey to restore and uphold our village to having continuity as that essential "Special Place", and the "Beating Heart" of our community.

**Our hats are off to these Ganges Village Clean Up Contributors:**

- Windsor Plywood
- Laurie's Garbage and Recycling
- Celebrity Accents
- TJ Beans Cafe
- Penny's Pantry
- AK Green Compostable
- Embe Bakery
- Salt Spring Fire & Rescue
- Salt Spring Adventure
- Salt Spring Inn
- Gulf Coast Materials

• The 30+ volunteers who swept, dug, weeded, carried, cleaned and more, to help beautify our village!

Salt Spring Island chamber of commerce

**This Week's Horoscope**

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

by Michael O'Connor  
 www.sunstarastrlogy.com  
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**TIP OF THE WEEK**

The Moon waxes to Full in Scorpio. I remind you that the recent New Moon hosted the Sun and Moon conjunct Uranus in Aries. Mars, the planet of war, is the ruler of Aries and the co-ruler of Scorpio along with Pluto. Mars is the Yang planet symbolic of action, assertion, and aggression too; it is the verb in the sentence. It is also symbolic of all sharp and pointed things like knives, swords, and spears and of surgical instruments and surgery itself. Currently,

Mars is conjunct Pluto! The exact conjunction occurred on April 26. This is not a very rare aspect, however, the larger backdrop of planets or the situation viewed as a whole which is one of the most important principles in any system of astrology must ever be considered.

So, as of April Friday, April 13th... Mars entered into an applying conjunction with Pluto, both in Capricorn. This is a powerful aspect and any planet

applying by aspect to Pluto can be interpreted to be raw, green, inexperienced, impulsive and generally lacking in poise, composure, skill, and wisdom. This is especially true when it is indicated in one's Natal Chart, but is also true by transit or progression (timing factors in astrology). We have been witnessing a good example of the synchronicity of this aspect here in Canada with the battle between Alberta and British Columbia over the Kinder-Morgan pipeline.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 20)** You are in a power cycle and it has been underway for a number of months and will continue. Positively, it is activating your executive. Yet, others may feel you are dominant. Meanwhile, you may feel restless and curious. The prospect of travel or engaging in new interests holds high appeal. You want to add to your repertoire or perhaps get a few new checks on your bucket list.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 21)** A busy cycle has begun. As if suddenly, you have more to do. Your sights are set on the future. Focusing to plan and planning to focus is featured. You are determined to push through inner and outer resistance. Obtaining key knowledge to leverage your position remains important. A big change is coming, soon.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)** Despite a desire to lay low, you are also in the mood to express yourself. You want to share your talents and in doing so you reveal your beauty. To this end, your focus is sharp and pointed. Although ambitious, you are contending with deep changes. These may result in new levels of power and freedom, yet the process is complex.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)** Finding your true place in the world is on your mind. Questions regarding where do you really want to be professionally or in your living situation in general. On the other hand, where do you feel you belong and, more importantly, feel purposeful? Answering this question is important now and could well determine your long-term future.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)** Circumstances continue to push you to assume a visionary perspective on your life. Currently, asserting yourself in public and professional arenas is likely and important. This theme focus will likely continue for another couple of months. Yet, the steep learning curve will be longer and does include making investments in knowledge and skills.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)** A creative, visionary cycle is underway. The perspective is regarding the longer term. One feature of it includes a healing process. This could be due to necessity or simply improving the level of health you currently enjoy. Health can also apply to other aspects such as your attitude or approach or interpretation. Focus to clear what is stale, toxic and/or simply ineffectual.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)** Spring is all about clearing the old to make way for the new and it is an important theme for you now. What level or area of focus you have is open for you to decide. Clearing financial debts do rank highly. However, this is not a common issue for Libra. So, the emphasis could be upon old belongings or could apply to any lingering negative emotions.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)** Big changes on relationship fronts are brewing. The early signs of these may already be evident. The impact will be on your closest personal relationships, your job/career and how these align with your beliefs and convictions. They also include either a process of healing in your personal life and lifestyle rhythm.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)** A creative cycle is underway and is building momentum. By now, it is having an influence on your daily routine. It does include making improvements of some kind. Increasing your earning potential is also a likely area of focus. Either way, deepening your focus and becoming more disciplined and/or making the extra efforts required are main themes.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)** Some major shifts are occurring close to home. Some of these may have come about unexpectedly and recently. They are activating you to take assertive action. Knowing your direction is important but may be a challenge. If so, deciphering it is probably your next best area of focus. This includes knowing who you are perhaps more than ever and what you truly want and need.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)** With each passing day, opportunities to see yourself and the world and in the world in new ways is surfacing both in your own thoughts and in outer circumstances. At worst, you are feeling very uncertain as old lifestyle rhythms steadily dissolve. This can manifest as feeling caught between what has been and what will be.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)** A process of steadily working behind the scenes continues. It includes breaking through traditional attitudes and approaches. It is important that you get organized and be willing to be innovative regarding needed repairs and upgrades. This is especially true while Saturn is retrograde, which it will be for the next 3-4 months

# sports & recreation

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

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



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**KATA DEMO:** Salt Spring Shorei-kan assistant instructor Elias Baleç and student Rachel Hannah were among several giving a karate demonstration at the April 14 Blossom Picnic.

## SOCCER

### Youth soccer wraps up Saturday

Full day of activities

Salt Spring United Soccer club wraps up its 2017-18 season with its Showcase of our Stars event on Saturday, April 28 at Portlock Park.

The schedule is as follows: At 9:30am Boys U12-13 players will start playing a series of games on the main field. At 10 a.m. the House Program runs its usual program on the side fields until 12:15 p.m. At 11 a.m., Boys U10-11 and Girls U10-11 both start their five-a-side games

A special skills contest run by technical director Josip Bratanovic and his staff begins at 12:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., Girls and Boys U14-16 and the Girls U12-13 teams start their five-a-side games.

Spring league teams will play some games at 3 p.m. A full-field exhibition game may take place to wrap up the day.

The Muddy Cleats Cafe will be open for hot dogs, drinks and treats. Registration for next season can also be done at Salt Spring United's new Portlock Park office.

## RUNNING CLUB

# Sneakers spring season begins

Members pick up roadside trash in between special events

### SUBMITTED BY SS SNEAKERS

With the Sneakers having finished the winter road race season on April 8, Khai Foo inaugurated the Spring racing season with his 11th-place, 13-hour, 48-minute completion of the Diez-Vista 100K on April 14.

This was quickly followed on April 16 with Lise Fraser's completion of the Boston Marathon.

The 122nd Boston Marathon was run in the worst weather in 35 years. At race time, the temperature was +4 C or -2 with the wind chill, winds were NE 43 gusting to 65 and the course was positioned to run into that wind. Twenty-three of the elite runners financially supported to run the race dropped out before the end, and 2,300 of those who ran ended up in the course's first-aid centres.

Fraser described the conditions after the race: "I wore four layers

of clothes, three were Merino wool, a waterproof jacket and cap, and I was still chilled throughout. Soaking wet from the waist down. A lot of runners didn't dress warmly enough, and they were literally staggering and blue, still wrapped in their flimsy plastic garbage bags, near the finish. I was completely soaked to the skin and chilled at the end, but not hypothermic. Oh, and did I mention the fierce persistent headwind?"

**"I was completely soaked to the skin and chilled at the end, but not hypothermic."**

LISA FRASER  
*Sneaker at Boston Marathon*

With 26,948 runners who started the race, it took Fraser 20 minutes from the start gun to reach the start line where her race timing started. She persevered to the finish while 1,200 runners did not, finish-

ing in four hours, 20 minutes and 22 seconds in 93rd place of the 368 women in her age group, 8,090th woman of 12,063 women who started and 11,604 women who finished; 19,254th place overall of 26,948 who started the race and 25,746 who finished. Needless to say, it was not her personal best time for the marathon distance.

On April 21, 16 Salt Spring Sneakers turned out on Saturday morning to participate in the Driftwood's Greening Salt Spring campaign. They "plogged" instead of jogged their way along seven kilometres of roadway, collecting litter and recyclables from both sides of the road along Upper Ganges Road (from Robinson to Central), Vesuvius Bay Road (from Central past Portlock Park), Tripp Road and Lower Ganges Road (from Central to past the Golf Club), collecting two extra-large-sized garbage bags of trash and one extra-large bag of recycling.

Meanwhile, two honorary Sneakers, Hannah

and Fiona Munro, graduates of GISS working and studying in England, were completing the Fox 60-km Ultra, a large circumnavigation around Guildford, England, in a time of 10 hours and 31 minutes.

On Sunday, April 22, Sneakers coach Susan Gordon entered the 34th running of the Vancouver Sun Run 10K race, which bills itself as the largest race in North America. With 39,798 runners bearing down on her, Gordon completed the 10 kms in 42 minutes, 37 seconds in second place, two minutes behind her long-term nemesis, Lynn Kanuka, but also almost three minutes ahead of the third-place finisher. Gordon was second of 1,103 women in her age group, 84th of 20,517 women overall and 447th of 39,798 runners who started the race.

Coming up in the next few weeks, small groups of Sneakers will be running the Mount Tzouhalem 13-km and 750-metre vertical climb trail race on Saturday, May 5, and the BMO half marathon in Vancouver on May 6.

## DRAGONBOAT RACING

# Dragons earn bronze in first race

Open paddle event coming up

BY DONNA COCHRAN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Spirit Point Dragons came home with a bronze in their festival season opener, the Inlet Spring Regatta, in Port Moody.

It was the first inaugural dragon boat festival celebrating the 20th anniversary of the local team, the Dogwood Nothin' Dragon Masters. The venue location at Rocky Point Park on Burrard Inlet surrounded by mountains was spectacular. The Kwikwetlem First Nation welcomed the paddlers with an opening smudge ceremony.

Sixteen mixed and 20 women's teams raced four 200-metre races. The short races challenge teams to make every stroke count. The organizers met the unexpected challenge of a changing tide and did an amazing job accelerating the race schedule to ensure all the races were completed before low tide.

Spirit Point raced a respectable 1:01.7 and 1:02.7 in the first and second races against some tough competition. Their combined time placed them in the Osprey/Heron Mixed semi-finals and they placed a solid third with a time of 1:02.7 behind FLCC FORTified (57.90) and Pirates (57.99) and ahead of Spirit of Fraser Valley (1:06.5).

In the Heron finals, the wind picked up so the inlet waters were rough, testing steersperson Tom McKeachie's skills on the tiller. He artfully managed to keep the boat on course then and throughout all four races, twice avoiding a boat veering into his lane as they paddled off course. Coach Mary Rowles, volunteer coaching Spirit Point since 2006, was in great voice as she shouted directions and drummed a fast pace for the short race duration. In a photo finish, Spirit Point nabbed the bronze with their best time of the day at 1:01.44 behind Granddragons (1:00.926) and Spirit of Fraser Valley (1:00.994) and ahead of Century Dragons (1:12.4).

Paddlers for the day included Lorhainne Ekelund, Janet Bright, Donna Cochran, Robyn Huntley, Lynda Brown, Mary Lou Cuddy, Ann Marie Davidson, Lorenn Ekelund, Carmelle Labelle, Christa Wohlfahrt, Carol Spencer, Susanna Helgason, Melynda Okulitch, Wendy Eggertson, Andrew Okulitch and Conner Ekelund. A special shout-out to guest paddlers April Wong and Vy Hong from Dragon Hearts.

To celebrate their 20 years, the host team invited one member from each team to be a VIP on board a luxury boat for a tour of the inlet and lunch. Spirit Point named our Earth Day Birthday dragon, Carmelle Labelle, for the VIP treatment.

New paddlers are always welcome. Contact coach Mary Rowles at [onthewater181@gmail.com](mailto:onthewater181@gmail.com).

Everyone is welcome to try dragon boating at an open paddle on Sunday, May 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. The location is on Long Harbour at the bottom of Ontario Place.



JANE COOP



JOHN FRIESEN



JOAN BLACKMAN

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