



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Dec. 12, 2018
58th year
Issue 50
\$1.25

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust hit with anti-logging petition

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Peter McAllister and Bernadette Mertens-McAllister hold signs at Thursday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting to protest logging of a Beddis Road parcel that is close to their Sky Valley Road property.

'Stop-work order' for Beddis logging not deemed possible

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island residents turned out en masse Thursday for the first public meeting of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's new four-year term, with many there to protest commercial logging and shellfish operations.

LTC chair Peter Luckham noted a number of items of correspondence had been received about proposed shellfish aquaculture at Booth Bay as Penelakut Seafoods' foreshore tenure licence is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Luckham said the LTC shares the community's con-

cerns about the proposed use of plastic predator netting, but the company has not yet submitted a rezoning application, which would be required to make aquaculture lawful.

Even more correspondence was received regarding the clear-cut logging of a 45-acre parcel on Beddis Road, which also inspired protesters with signs to demand a stop work order during the town hall session of the meeting. Trustees and staff maintain the Islands Trust has no ability to stop the work or otherwise intervene with its available tools, except on a portion of the land covered by a development permit area.

"With regard to this one, there is nothing we can do," trustee Peter Grove said at the meeting. "However, with regard to the future there are things we can do."

Those who spoke against the logging operation and continued

loss of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem included four children from the Stowel Lake nature school and their teacher, naturalist and activist Briony Penn.

Penn stated that sensitive ecosystem mapping on Salt Spring was done decades ago but has yet to be implemented as conservation action.

"We've been waiting for 25 years to have these sensitive ecosystems protected. Nothing has happened, and we can't keep waiting — that's a generation," Penn said. "These kids have not been served well by our political process, because we keep getting punched back by the development lobby. It's time that we start protecting these sensitive ecosystems."

Peter McAllister, whose Sky Valley Road property backs onto the Beddis Road site, presented a letter on behalf of many concerned neighbours and islanders. Around

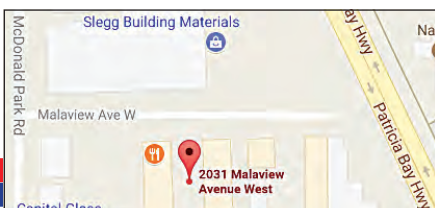
300 people have signed on to date. (See page 8 of this paper for a version of his presentation.)

Rodney Polden said he had placed a conservation covenant on his own forested property on Sky Valley Road and that another neighbour had then followed suit. Polden cited the recent United Nations report that the world has perhaps a dozen years left to turn the tide on cataclysmic climate change.

"You have allowed business as usual to run our agenda, to run what is happening to the natural world, and to humanity. The business as usual of how the Islands Trust and every other level of government operate needs to change, turning on a dime. We do not have time to say we cannot do this. We do not have the time to say everything that can be done is being done," Polden said.

LOGGING continued on 2

BOYD
AUTOBODY & GLASS

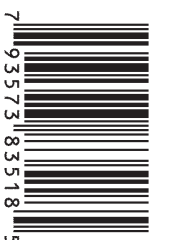


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GANGES HARBOUR

Harbour walk committee considers next steps

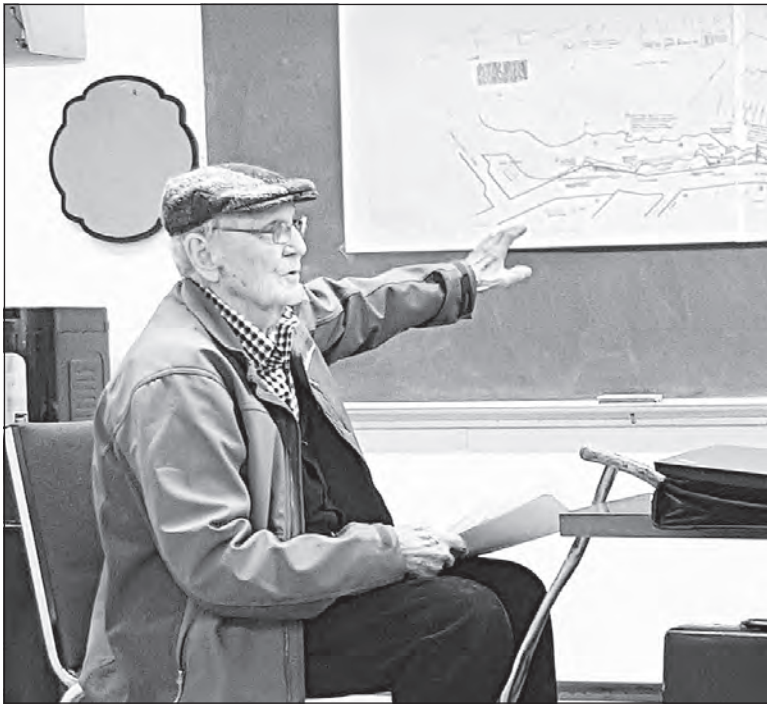


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Long-time islander John Woodward points to a design from the 1980s of what was then known as the Ganges Seawalk project during a meeting of the Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee at the Portlock Park portable on Friday.

Public right of way priority expressed

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

If man can go to the moon, Salt Spring Islanders can complete the Ganges boardwalk project.

That was the inspiring image Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee chair Matt Steffich used to open a committee meeting on Friday morning.

He quoted President John F. Kennedy, who stated in 1961

that his country would send a man to the moon and return him safely "not because it's easy, but because it's hard." Steffich said he remembers that every day when he works on the project.

"I keep that in the front of my mind and it drives me forward . . . I believe we are a lot closer to finishing this project than we think," he said.

Friday's meeting was the first held by the committee, which operates under the CRD's Parks and Recreation Commission, since February. It was waiting for

four technical project studies to be completed and CRD staff to have time to create an accompanying report and recommendations.

Committee members were pleased with the study results, which assessed the existing structures, plus geotechnical, ecological and archeological issues that would need to be addressed.

"There is no deal breaker in this report," said Steffich.

The group then discussed how to proceed. Committee members represent PARC, the Salt Spring Transportation Commission, Harbour Authority of Salt Spring, Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. John Woodward, a member of the Farmers' Institute, which owns a sliver of property on the harbour walk route and served on the original boardwalk/seawalk committee in the 1980s, made a presentation that urged continued work on achieving the vision.

A CRD staff report had suggested that the project "be held in abeyance until the foreshore right-of-way acquisition is determined" and that the committee "recommend to the Islands Trust to pursue continued engagement with the upland foreshore owners and community to develop the vision and community planning goals, objectives, and policies for the harbour area."

"I just don't like this word 'abeyance,'" said trustee Peter Grove, representing the Islands Trust. "It sounds like grinding everything to a halt."

CRD senior manager Karla Campbell said that was not the

case, but stressed it was important for committee members to first engage in discussions with the four upland property owners in the area.

That stipulation was also laid out in letters sent by provincial government staff to both the CRD and Islands Trust this summer, in response to the Trust's application for a statutory right of way (SROW) along the proposed harbour walk route.

"I believe we are a lot closer to finishing this project than we think."

MATT STEFFICH
Chair, Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee

as a community," Holman said.

Steffich pushed for a way to give some indication to the property owners about what benefits they could receive if the harbour walk was built in front of their foreshore lands.

But as Grove and Trust planner Jason Youmans explained, increased land uses cannot be guaranteed. Public support for changes must first be acquired through a rezoning process.

Holman also said it was difficult to make deals in advance.

"There should be discussions that recognize upland owners' rights and maybe there are concessions that can be provided, but to mix it up and make it contingent on upland rezoning . . . has proven unsuccessful in the past. They should be parallel discussions, not one contingent upon the other, and I think that's the way we need to move forward."

The only formal decision made at Friday's meeting was to request one month's extension for providing a response on B&B Ganges Marina's application for renewal of its existing 30-year foreshore lease. The B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is the agency granting foreshore leases. A referral letter to the Islands Trust had arrived on Dec. 6, requesting a response by Jan. 4.

Committee members suggested the response should be to support the lease renewal subject to the right of way being granted to the public via the Islands Trust, but the exact position will be determined later.

Campbell also pointed out that the communities of Ladysmith, Cowichan Bay and Nanaimo had created harbour area plans with full public engagement with positive results.

"I think we have to demonstrate to the province that we are trying to do the same," she said.

CRD director Gary Holman said he felt the most important next step is to engage in a conversation with the provincial government to ensure the SROW is granted to guarantee public access and to prove that all parties — the Trust, CRD, Harbour Authority and Chamber of Commerce — are "on the same page."

"We need to be a lot more clear

Protection report received

LOGGING
continued from 1

Also at Thursday's meeting, the Local Trust Committee considered a comprehensive report by planner Justine Starke that outlines the challenges of protecting trees under the current legislation, as well as some potential avenues that could change that situation.

Protection of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems: An Islands Trust Tool Kit was received by the Trust's local planning committee on Oct. 11. Eight related resolutions were passed by that committee, including a recommendation that protection of the CDF ecosystem be made a priority, both by local Trust committees and under the Islands Trust Council strategic plan.

Some of the possibilities are amending official community plans to include language that prioritizes protection of the CDF zone in land use, creating development permit areas,

and creating density bonus zones in exchange for CDF protection by way of a conservation covenant, among others.

The Salt Spring LTC was the first local Trust committee to receive the report on its agenda. Trustees voted to add Coastal Douglas-fir protection to the long-list of projects.

"I wish I could say 'This is the silver bullet that will solve our issue on Beddis Road today,' but this is more looking forward," commented trustee Laura Patrick.

The project has the potential to move onto the top-five priority list after other projects are completed. The public will have the chance to encourage priority placement during a public session on strategic planning that will take place in the new year.

"If we've got the support to move forward with some of these hard tools, we can move forward. We want to move forward with success," Patrick said after the town hall session.

EMERGENCY preparedness

HOLIDAY SAFETY

DECORATING SAFETY: • Avoid overloading electrical outlets. • Do not place extension cords where they could cause a tripping hazard. • Do not run extension cords under rugs or furniture. • Keep all decorations 3 feet away from heat sources. • Keep young visitors in mind. Place breakables, candles, and other potentially dangerous items out of their reach. • Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or going to sleep. • Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. • Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. • Make sure live Christmas trees are watered daily.

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12	0115	0.8	2.6	16	0401	1.7	5.6
	0943	3.5	11.5		1148	3.3	10.8
WE				SU	1922	1.7	5.6
13	0152	0.9	3.0	17	0112	2.2	7.2
	1016	3.5	11.5		0504	2.0	6.6
TH				MO	1216	3.3	10.8
14	0230	1.2	3.9	18	0246	2.5	8.2
	1048	3.4	11.2		0615	2.3	7.5
FR				TU	1243	3.3	10.8
15	0312	1.5	4.9	19	0349	2.8	9.2
	1118	3.4	11.2		0723	2.5	8.2
SA				WE	1310	3.3	10.8

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NEWS BRIEFS

Grantville request poses problems

Eric Booth will have another opportunity to get his development variance request for a set of Grantville Road properties approved.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee deferred a decision Thursday on an application that has already been before the committee once, asking Booth to find a compromise between his request and staff recommendations.

The LTC issued a development permit in September allowing a complex plan for four adjoining quarter-acre lots, which involved septage being pumped over a creek and easements to allow the septic fields serving three of the lots to be located adjacent to each other on one of the lots.

Booth has requested a relaxation of lot-line setbacks to permit more flexibility in the building sites on two of the lots where the riparian areas regulation is in play. Staff have recommended against any action that could bring the homes closer to the protected area or to the septic fields.

Gift wrapping fundraiser

Islanders can have their Christmas gifts wrapped this Thursday in Ganges while helping Guatemalan villagers access clean water at the same time.

Charles and Lynda Nash of Salt Spring are part of a team travelling to Guatemala in the spring to assist villagers in a remote mountain location install water catchment systems.

They will set up for wrapping by donation at 162 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (across the street from Beachside) during the Shop Late and Social event that sees stores open from 4 to 8 p.m. for shopping on Dec. 13.

FOR THE RECORD

Last week's story on the Christmas Bird Count stated the date as Saturday, Dec. 16. The correct day is Sunday, Dec. 16.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

School board approves turf field study

Proposal would ensure pitch could be used year-round

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association is looking into the feasibility of building an artificial turf field beginning in January.

Last week the Gulf Islands School District board voted to approve in principle the feasibility study, which will examine the likelihood of replacing the playing surface at what is known as the "Hydro Field" with an all-weather turf surface. The new surface would make the field playable throughout the year, giving soccer programs more playing time and more useable fields for games on the island.

It would be similar to fields in Victoria, Nanaimo, Cowichan, Ladysmith and Sooke. The current site has poor drainage, and becomes muddy and unusable from October until April. It is also the only field in Ganges that has lights, but the lights are most needed during the darkest and wettest months of the year.

A Nov. 19 letter explaining the project sent to the school district stated: "Imagine a fully lit, all-season, all-weather outdoor athletic field in the heart of our school district and community. What better way to make the most of our existing infrastructure and create something of significant value to the whole community."

The field, located near Salt Spring elementary and middle schools, was chosen because plans are already underway to increase longevity at other fields at GISS. Instead of focusing on a field that already works, the association wanted to work at improving a third site in Ganges.

SD64 board chair Rob Pingle said



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

School District 64 soccer field known as "the Hydro Field," due to its proximity to the former BC Hydro works yard, which the Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association would like to see transformed into an artificial turf surface for year-round playing options.

in the meeting that "the fields at the high school are already seen as pretty good. It is a better deal to improve a field that is either rock hard in the summer or a bog in the winter."

The fields at GISS are the subject of another feasibility study to use effluent grey water from the Ganges sewage treatment plant for irrigation purposes.

"Just improving the playing quality so that in the winter it's actually useable is the next step in the process of improving our fields," Pingle added.

The feasibility study will be undertaken solely by the Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association, and the findings will be presented to the SD64 board by June 2019. It will look at the appropriateness of an all-weather synthetic playing surface and regulations that impact that kind of surface, analyze potential pitch sizes and options, as well as examine costs, funding and maintenance of the pitch.

The biggest hurdle would be the cost of the turf, though the agreement pro-

posed did not look for any commitments from the school board.

School trustees also noted that the schools themselves would need to be on board for the project, not simply the trustees.

Rod Scotvold, secretary treasurer for the school district, said the district had thought about doing a project like this for years and "the thing that's outstanding is the cost of doing it."

"The Hydro Field needs help, and if they could ever pull this off it would be of great benefit to the students, the district and the community at large."

SHAKLEE LYL EVENT

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FIRE BOARD

Recruit policy set

Strong class for 2019 expected

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Protection District trustees approved a policy for paid-on call recruitment Monday evening that lays out the guidelines for the recruiting process but does not put a firm cap on numbers.

The board had previously discussed whether to establish a maximum size for the recruit class to avoid stretching the training budget beyond its limits. That step was not taken in the end, as it was thought having a set number could lead to unintended consequences or liability.

The new policy states the fire chief will assess the needs for each year's

recruit class size based on current operational requirements, balanced against budgetary and other constraints.

"Optimal roster size will be informed by accepted industry standards such as Fire Underwriters Survey recommendations and those suggested by the National Fire Protection Association for a composite department with both volunteer and career firefighters." The relevant NFPA guideline suggests 15 firefighters per hall.

Fire Chief Arjuna George reported at Monday's meeting this fall's recruitment drive was very successful and will likely lead to a class of 10 people who will start their training in the new year, compared to three in 2018.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 26 PAPER:

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Classified Display Deadline: Dec 18, 4pm
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 19, 10pm

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Tuesday Jan. 1. Open for usual business hours on Wednesday Jan. 2.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE JAN. 2 PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 21, noon
Classified Display Deadline: Dec 21, noon
Classified Word Deadline: Dec 21, noon

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WATER

Future of water group examined

Options for Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The future of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance was discussed during a special public meeting held on Friday afternoon.

The agenda had items concerning the structure and membership of the group, as well as potential future funding models for SSIWPA. Though no final decisions were made at the table, the stage was set for future talks concerning the allocation of the \$98,500 tax requisition from Salt Spring property owners that funds the organization's basic activities.

Consensus around the table was that none present wanted to abolish SSIWPA, nor did they want to reduce the requisition to zero. Rather, the preferred options were to either continue funding SSIWPA with the current model, or to reduce funding from the Islands Trust tax requisition, and bring on other member partners to make up the balance. Having other members fund SSIWPA would essentially give the organization more ability to take action, rather than act only in an advisory capacity.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman said in the meeting that he would be willing to use CRD funds to redistribute the money that goes into SSIWPA.

"One hundred thousand dollars per year for a SSIWPA-like function is a pretty low cost," he said. "I am willing to consider a greater CRD contribution to SSIWPA, either through the gas tax, possibly even through requisition . . . There'll be no more additional cost to the taxpayer,

but we'll reconstitute the sources of the funding so we have more flexibility in how we spend that money."

Ideas floated at the meeting would be to have fewer meetings. Instead of meeting once every month, SSIWPA's schedule could be amended to have quarterly meetings. This would give agencies the chance to work on projects without having to report back every month, and would lessen the budgetary load for the group.

"There's going to be more uptake from the public if there's something that they can see that is a bit more tangible to them."

SHARON BYWATER
Fernwood-Highland water commissioner

Part of the concern about the future of SSIWPA was people's willingness to continue funding it through a tax requisition without seeing a definite benefit.

Sharon Bywater, a Fernwood-Highland Water Service Area commissioner, said, "There's going to be more uptake from the public if there's something that they can see that is a bit more tangible to them. A lot of people are just worried about getting through the summer since it's been so dry. They need to hear different things. They want more education and those sorts of things that aren't really happening through SSIWPA . . . In the time that I've sat on the commission, I've never seen the water districts asked

"What do you need? How do we support you?"

It was agreed that a group of agencies working together towards water sustainability was in the best interest of the community. However, the way those agencies are represented was also under consideration.

Under the current model, the Capital Regional District has one vote, as do the five water service area commissioners who function under the CRD. The Islands Trust Local Trust Committee representative also has one vote. Finally, three votes are allocated to First Nations representatives.

Currently, no First Nations sit on SSIWPA, and only two service area commissioners are in attendance. Under this model, up to six members-at-large act in an advisory position and are non-voting members.

Options include changing the service area commissioners to non-voting seats, which would reduce the amount of actual votes to just two (CRD and LTC), with the potential for three more if the First Nations seats were occupied.

Other options are to create a Water Systems Working Group, which would advise the SSIWPA steering committee, or to amend the amount of participants to reflect current membership, which includes the CRD, the LTC, Fernwood-Highland Water Service Area and Beddis Water Service Area. SSIWPA only votes to make recommendations. Their decisions are non-binding.

A January meeting will be held to further discuss potential changes to the alliance.

The island's largest water-service provider, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, resigned from SSIWPA earlier this fall.

ISLANDS TRUST

New LTC sets course for strategic plan

Trustee proposes including public in process

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee plans to include the public in determining what its priorities for the coming term should be, while committing to completing some of the existing projects already underway.

During Thursday's business meeting at Lions Hall, the newly assembled committee voted to accept the recommendation of regional planning manager Stefan Cermak and focus on bringing some long-running projects to a close.

They also took his suggestion of setting the next group of priorities for the term with help from a strategic planning session to take place in the new year.

"A strategic planning session would help clarify the expectations of the new Local Trust Committee and help staff develop a work plan for the

four-year term. Thus, staff recommend the SSI LTC maintain the status quo for top priorities until deliberation about strategic directions," Cermak stated in his report.

Following a proposal by new trustee Laura Patrick, the planning session will involve the public. Patrick also proposed that in the future the LTC's priorities could be grouped under themes or "buckets" instead of individual projects. For example, one bucket could be "affordable housing" and different projects with discrete goals and deliverables could move in and out of the bucket.

The LTC will continue to fill the affordable housing bucket under the current work plan by moving ahead with a project to legalize cottages for long-term rental. A public hearing is expected to take place in the new year. The committee also voted Thursday to add a new special project in order to get temporary use permits for secondary suites back on the work list.

In regard to other projects now on the top priority list, trustees voted Thursday

to change the name of the watershed management project to "water sustainability." Along with a number of other resolutions, Patrick was voted the LTC representative to the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance. A community information session on SSIWPA and the proposed budget and special tax requisition for 2019 is planned for the new year.

Meanwhile, the industrial lands review is moving ahead with re-referral of the amended bylaws to be sent out to relevant agencies, including provincial ministries, CRD solid waste, First Nations and the Agricultural Land Commission, before a new public hearing is scheduled.

"Otherwise, staff recommend advancing and concluding this top priority," Cermak reported.

A bylaw to regulate agricultural uses in rural watershed zones has recently been approved by the ministry and will likely come back to the LTC for adoption in January, which will free up one top priority slot.

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LAND USE

Heritage status notice to go on Beachside title

Problem apple tree gets the ax

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is requiring Beachside property owners to place a notice of heritage status on their property title as part of an ongoing development permit application.

Work that took place on Jason and Anna Watkin's Ganges Harbour property earlier this year was done without proper permitting, and included disturbance of an archeological area behind the retail shop and kayak rental outfit. LTC chair Peter Luckham noted that authorities had been generous so far, as the B.C. Archeology Branch could have sought heavy fines or even

jail time if it had decided to lay charges.

"The activity that happened on this property apparently happened innocently because there was no information to let [the owners] know they were doing anything wrong," Luckham said. "Placing notice on the title lets the next owner know."

Cowichan Tribes has had personnel on site and indicated that registration on title would help resolve issues they have had with the process as well.

"This is a suggestion they've made, and I think this is important to reconciliation and to ensure it doesn't happen again," Luckham said.

A development permit application and associated variance application are expected to come back to the LTC after the heritage status is registered.

Soil removal permit

Despite misgivings, the Salt Spring LTC issued a conditional soil deposit and removal permit on Thursday to bring a Jones Road mining operation into local compliance. The permit will be issued to applicant Michele Mackie upon receipt of a letter of credit worth \$11,000, which will be held until site remediation takes place.

Staff reported the applicant had received approval from the Agricultural Land Commission for topsoil removal and has a sand and gravel permit from the Ministry of Energy and Mines, but has been operating unlawfully according to local bylaws for some time.

Trustees had deliberated whether they should issue the permit in light of the ongoing unpermitted activity.

"It just smells to me . . . I find it very distasteful," commented trust-

ee Peter Grove.

Regional planning manager Stefan Cermak said the discrepancy between provincial mining permits and local land use bylaws is not confined to Salt Spring.

"This issue of mining is ubiquitous across the province. This is a very small snapshot of a very big problem," Cermak said.

Issuing the permit was advised so the Trust could have some control over the outcome once the operation is finished. Other unlawful operations taking place nearby have not entered the application process.

The property owner will still be in contravention of the zoning bylaw, which does not permit mechanical screening of materials.

Tree cut approved

A heritage apple tree in the downtown Ganges core has been

slated for removal after multiple attempts by the property owner failed to protect it from visiting traffic. Martin Ogilvie sought permission to remove the tree from his Rainbow Road commercial/residential property as it had been damaged by cars and done damage in return.

The tree is close to the parking area but was marked with red snow fencing and several signs in attempt to keep drivers away. Root damage has led to dead wood and decay, according to an arborist's report.

"Unfortunately this particular tree has had a tough life. The tree is located in a very precarious spot prone to being struck by vehicles," the report by George Akerman concluded.

"It's just crazy to have that tree there. It's a nice old apple tree but there are other trees there as well," said Grove.

WATER RESOURCES

Water volunteers needed

Critical mass important, says coordinator

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A freshwater catalogue project, run by the Salt Spring Island Watershed Preservation Society, is looking to build momentum after a successful summer of volunteer watershed monitoring.

The project is a citizen-science initiative where volunteers monitor and collect data from various streams, ponds and other surface water sources on the island. The goal of the project is to raise community awareness of the diversity of water on Salt Spring, as well as build island watershed communities. John Millson, project manager for the catalogue, hopes that the effort will also help inform preservation on the island.

"One of the bigger questions is what is happening to the rainwater that lands on the island. Where does it go? Looking at the surface water bodies across the island may be ambitious, but if we don't know what we have, we don't know what to plan for," Millson said.

The catalogue project is only one of the initiatives looking at water resources on the island. Others include the recently presented Golder report on the island's groundwater budget, and the groundwater well monitoring project coordinated by the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance. These three projects monitoring different water sources will help complete a picture of the availability of water and help plan for future usage.

"In a perfect world, we would have data on all of the watersheds," said Millson. "What we would like to do is have people work in different areas to capture data that informs our surface water volume model and how

that relates to the groundwater recharge model . . . There could be thousands of water features on the island. The question is which are the important ones."

About 16 volunteers currently participate in various ways. Millson wants to add more volunteers to help monitor the less populated areas of the island, and to bring together areas into watershed communities. He is also looking for community leaders to help coordinate volunteer efforts on a more localized basis.

"We have a good number of volunteers who are getting data, but I want to have critical mass," Millson said. "Critical mass to me would be if we could get into schools. I want enough interest and volunteers to be able to engage a school and have a volunteer there with them to get the kids involved."

One of the ultimate goals is to make an interactive online map of the watersheds on Salt Spring Island. His idea is based on a Gulf Islands/Salish Sea atlas that was created in 2000. The maps merged scientific knowledge with a more artistic approach that he hopes will engage more people.

"I think this is something that the island should be interested in . . . I want to draw in the citizen science part and the people on the island who are part of the watershed community and get them to think about it. There's the science element. There's also the artistic side. It would encompass a map that incorporates the different watersheds on the island, gives a bit of the history with the dams that were built, the mills that were there, the creeks that were established and discovered," he said. "I'm quite excited about it."

Those interested in volunteering can contact Millson at jamsiwater@gmail.com. Volunteers can help by monitoring freshwater sources, with project publicity and fundraising or by becoming a freshwater educator.

celebrating SENIORS

Take care to protect privacy

Many of us are whipping ourselves into shape and organizing their lives with the help of electronic devices, such as fitness trackers and voice-controlled personal assistants. Those gadgets, however, come with privacy risks attached.

Increased connectivity offers many benefits, but it also allows your activities to be tracked, measured and analyzed by the manufacturer of the product or the developers of the apps you use. That's why the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada is recommending that Canadians not be too

quick to trade away their privacy rights for innovation, efficiency or someone else's commercial gain.

We can all take steps to protect our privacy and to prevent electronic devices from collecting too much personal information. Simple steps such as checking how your personal information will be used and shared as well as turning off internet-connected devices when you don't need them can help reduce privacy risks.

Before buying an internet-connected device, check how it uses and shares personal information. Check

whether it is possible to not provide some information and still use the product as intended. You might also decide that, for you, the risks out-

weigh the benefits.

Learn about protecting your privacy while using electronic devices at priv.gc.ca/mobile-devices.



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OPINION



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Bronze - Best Local Editorial | Bronze - Best Front Page | Blue Ribbon - Best All-Round

2018 BCYNA Awards
Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best All-Round | Bronze - Best Editorial



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.
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EDITORIAL

Harbour walking

A viable seaside boardwalk in Ganges Harbour has long been considered a desirable community amenity.

Starting with the original vision in the 1980s, the concept gained widespread community, business and government support, but was unfortunately not completed at that time. Creation of a multi-agency committee and \$150,000 in gas tax funding provided by just-retired CRD director Wayne McIntyre in 2016 energized a revival of the boardwalk idea, which is now referred to as the "harbour walk" project.

When some of the funds were spent on technical assessments, it seemed possible the verdict would be that the existing structure should be scrapped, or that other geotechnical, environmental or archeological issues would make it a no-go. Instead the findings by various professionals and summarized by consultant and engineer Wayne Lee were that, except for needing more information about the integrity of a few areas, there are "no substantial archeological, marine ecological or geotechnical constraints" to constructing a harbour walk as originally planned 30 years ago.

THE ISSUE:

Harbour walk project

WE SAY:

Cooperation and a harbour plan needed

What comes next got a preliminary exploration at a two-hour Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee meeting on Friday. Committee members had different ways of expressing their ideas, but they were in the end quite similar. Cooperation and a need for all parties to be working towards a common goal were stressed, and rightfully so.

The community interest in public waters should take precedence over adjacent private interests, and government funds should not be expended on the project if that is not truly the case. But it only makes sense to include upland property owners in all plans and discussions not only because their consent is required but as an integral part of an overall harbour plan, as suggested by CRD staff.

Interestingly, a Ganges Harbour plan was on the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's project list several years ago, and the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island has also undertaken a detailed harbour-use planning process. It's an important step to take.

Consultant Lee puts it another way in recommending the group "promote a locally focused and consensual approach, to the successful completion of this valuable community asset."

While the harbour walk road has been bumpy to date, the current committee is at least on the right track, although with many planks still needed before the end is in sight.



Lumps of coal and pots of gold

By FRANTS ATTORP

What's in a word? A great deal when its interpretation is crucial to land use planning on the Gulf Islands.

The Islands Trust Act and Trust Policy Statement make repeated references to "amenities," yet nowhere in the documents is the term defined. It is in many ways a mystery word.

"Amenities" is sometimes preceded by "unique," "natural" or "visual," and other times by nothing at all. The word lies at the heart of the Trust mandate: "To preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment."

"Amenities" has a dictionary definition as deep and wide as the Pacific Ocean. Technically, it can refer to everything from a lake to a liquor store. Is it any wonder it has been the topic of intense debate and speculation?

In 2011, a special Trust Council committee tried to pin down its meaning by scouring Trust documents, including court judgments. Their puzzlement is evident in their choice of words: "can be inferred;" "this suggests;" "might be meant;" and "could be considered."

Despite a recommendation by the committee to "closely review the language of the Policy Statement to ensure that terms

VIEWPOINT

used are unambiguous and easily understood, adding definitions if necessary," no such steps have been taken.

Furthermore, when the Trust recently drafted a long wish list to the provincial government, it did not ask that "amenities" be defined. This suggests the Trust is content with the flexibility afforded by the undefined word.

The implications of the word are apparent in one of the Trust's major planning tools: amenity zoning. According to the Salt Spring OCP, "amenity zoning is the granting of additional development potential in exchange for the voluntary provision of a community amenity by the land owner." Using its zoning power, the Trust can turn a lump of coal into a pot of gold.

Included on the list of negotiable amenities is everything from playgrounds and affordable housing, to forested areas, bike paths and above-code "energy-efficient building design criteria." Specific guidelines for making a deal are provided.

Amenity zoning can be controversial. In the 1990s, it almost triggered a civil war on Gabriola when Weld-

wood of Canada proposed ceding some 2,000 acres of forest land to the community in exchange for a massive subdivision of 368 lots. Trustees eventually approved the application, but the company, perhaps because of strong public opposition and a brewing legal challenge, decided not to proceed. The land was sold and clearcut, but today has largely regenerated.

Some people object to the Trust horse trading with landowners to secure amenities. They see such deals leading to a gradual urbanization of the islands — high-density residential areas punctuated by pockets of green.

Others believe the benefits to the community are worth the increased density, and that it is best to save what we can now before the islands succumb to relentless people pressure and property speculation.

The extent to which amenity zoning is used will depend largely on trustees' commitment to protecting the rural character of the islands, and how open they are to alternate, possibly risky, water sources. It will also depend on whether Trust staff actively promote the idea, or present it for what it is — a double-edged sword that cuts both ways.

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Funded by the Government of Canada



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

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

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should local government keep pursuing the Ganges harbour walk project? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you like the idea of an island-wide water authority?
 60 YES 17 NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Tuesday at 10 a.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"We do not have the time to say everything that can be done is being done."

ISLANDER RODNEY POLDEN, ON ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What is your favourite local holiday event?

JANINE LUHTALA



I like the craft fairs. It's nice being able to see the art that comes out of the talented people on the island.

JOHN FITZGIBBON



I think the craft fairs are really neat. They're all so different from each other.

JEREMY MILSOM



I would have to say the chilli contest because it brings so many people out for a good time, camaraderie and a bit of competition.

TODD WILLIAMS



I'd say it's Santa's visit because it was so important for my kids for so many years. It always meant the beginning of the Christmas season.

SHEILA ELLIS



Grandmothers to Grandmothers' Stories & Songs for the Season event is always a good time. I'm on my way to get my tickets now.

LETTERS to the editor

Vehicles obscure the solution

What a trove of parked assets the recent CRD study presents. Who knew that nearly 2,250 legal and illegal parking spots are in proximity to greater Ganges with about 1,150 of those spots located within the village core? ("Study finds parking not an issue," Dec. 5 Driftwood.)

Consider for a moment that an average parking space is 2.75 metres (nine feet) by 5.2 metres (17 feet). That means that when all 2,245 spots are occupied, parked cars consume nearly 32,000 square metres or 7.9 acres of greater Ganges. In sum, the study confirms no need for a parking authority.

But, doesn't the parking study really tell us something more important about walkability in Ganges? Doesn't it show us how deeply invested we are with driving improvements for motorists and how infrequently we consider active transportation on Salt Spring? Doesn't the CRD study acknowledge the role pedestrian values should play in our community planning?

On any given sunny summer

Saturday, thousands engage the wheel-of-fortune model of citizen safety in Ganges. Motorists recite "round and round we go . . ." (along Fulford Ganges, over to Seaview, up McPhillips, along Lower Ganges, down Hereford, across Jackson and onto Rainbow Road) . . . "and where we'll stop nobody knows." Otherwise, those travelling by foot deal with the consequences: traffic congestion, distracted drivers, blind corners, confused tourists and an invisibility cloak constituted by thousands of parked cars. These risks obscure our way forward.

JOHN ROWLANDSON,
FULFORD

On another planet

So the CRD in its infinite wisdom (and at our expense) has concluded that parking on summer Saturdays in Ganges is not a problem.

What planet are they on? The only reason parking space is sometimes available on summer market Saturdays is because no local residents go near the area.

JANE HORSBURGH,
BOOTH CANAL

Times have changed

I wish to clarify some of the details in last week's "Hunting practices concern Sunset neighbours."

Firstly, the hunters that have obtained permission from Bryce Chapman to hunt on his land are not the problem, but there are others who take advantage of the remote location of Bryce's far field and the plentiful deer to hunt without permission. These are the "hunters" I am concerned with.

They always drive off immediately if approached, no doubt aware of the penalties should they be caught. When these hunters do not manage a clean kill, they are highly unlikely to linger to finish the job or approach a neighbour to arrange a humane end for the animal. To a hunter, the private properties on the west side of the road present a problem, in the event of a wounded animal, as shooting is prohibited due to the close proximity of residences.

If the meat is to be salvaged, it must be killed by hand or the RCMP called. If the wildlife centre is called, drugs will be used and the animal must be

removed from the island for safe disposal, an expensive and wasteful process.

I do not have a solution to the problem, only a belief that we need to be aware of issues arising from human/wildlife interactions and take steps to minimize unnecessary suffering. If you see or injure an animal, call the RCMP, the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, a vet or the animal control office and make sure someone responds. Please do not leave it for your neighbours to deal with. Nobody wants a smelly carcass or injured animal on their property.

Be aware that not everyone out there with a weapon knows what he or she is doing or cares to follow the rules. Perhaps, with the loss of our historical method of handing down the knowledge of hunting practices from parent to child, we need "learners permits" for new hunters. Just as driving has become more complex in the present, so too have the hazards of hunting in residential areas with growing populations of deer, pets and people.

JANET SIMPSON,
SUNSET DRIVE

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Birth of a book means the bucket list is lighter

"Now that you've launched your book," she said, "you can start slowing down." I just smiled because my bucket list is weighted down with at least three more books I hope to publish.

It was a Monday night in early December and Murray's daughter Janice and I were processing the six-day whirlwind we'd just experienced. Wednesday afternoon she'd flown in from Winnipeg to help me with the launch of my new book, *Aging with Grace: Dispatches from the Front Lines*. Then at 2 p.m., I did another reading at the Brinkworthy clubhouse. On Friday, we began two and a half days at the Fulford Christmas Craft Fair. Her visit culminated on Monday with a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, not only to mark a successful launch but also because Janice wouldn't be returning to Salt Spring again for Christmas.

As Mum-in-chief, it was up to me to do the cooking. "I'm the daughter in charge of entertaining," she announced with a grin. I'd be busy with errands and meetings and choir rehearsals, so I wondered how I could pull it off.

Hooray for potlucks! I invited four good friends to share our turkey. Each brought their pre-assigned side dishes but they also had the generosity — and perhaps the foresight — to bring bottles of wine. Turns out, wine, combined with the cheese and crackers I supplied, saved the first part of the evening.

I have neither the time nor the talent to recount an almost Stuart-McLean-like Christmas turkey dinner, so I'll let you guess how the turkey wound up being an hour and a half late and why I had to send my neighbours running out in relays into the dark



**Helen
Hinchliff**
AGING WITH
GRACE

and frosty night to retrieve from their own kitchens (only a block or two away, thank God!) first a meat thermometer and a turkey baster and later a carving board, knives and fork. Meanwhile, we six found ourselves imbibing almost three bottles of wine before the turkey was ready to eat.

Even though my 12-pound turkey had taken five hours to roast, it was done to perfection. And we all agreed it was one of the best turkey dinners we'd ever enjoyed, laced as it was with fellowship, laughter and forgiveness. The hour was late by the time Janice and I loaded the dishwasher. But before heading for bed, we sat down by the fire to enjoy the first moment of real relaxation we'd had in the past six days.

"Publishing a book is like having a baby," I opined, never having had children of my own, so how could I really know. Maybe it was because we were polishing off the last of a fourth bottle of wine, but I felt compelled to complete the analogy.

Writing books has been on my bucket list for around five decades, but something else always got in the way. Suddenly, I heard the clock ticking, so I got to work. And now, I can say I have produced a book.

But I didn't do it alone. I was assisted by

a doctor (Lorraine Gane, my editor), midwives (Mark Hand and Ursula Vaira, cover and inside page designers), and oodles of doulas (Janice, Angie and Paula, to name my top helpers and cheerers on). And how do I characterize Jim Dickinson, the cartoonist responsible for the caricatures everyone recognizes as me and who, as a therapeutic yoga instructor, has been encouraging and helping me to become more limber?

There is another way in which I'm not alone. Salt Spring authors are giving birth to books this year at an amazing rate. In June and again in November of 2018, our library hosted five launches each for 10 Salt Spring authors. Overall, we locals have been hatching books at the library at a rate of one almost every two weeks. That's more than real babies born on Salt Spring, whether in the hospital or at home.

And, it seems, we're never too old to hatch a book. Carolyn Walton, my friend Mary Fraser's 86-year-old sister, lives in Courtenay, so she's almost a local. She, too, is expecting!

In 2019, Carolyn will publish *Diary of a Mad Travel Writer: Discovery and Misadventure on the Path Less Taken*. A synthesis of her travel stories, which she started writing when she was 52, her book features some 60 "bucket list destinations around the globe." She swims with stingrays in Tahiti and kayaks among bulbous-headed belugas in Hudson Bay, among many other adventures.

I hope she'll come to Salt Spring for a reading. Because here's the rub: the labour of producing our books is only half the job. Now we have to show them off and hope you'll pick them up, smile, and buy them.

Our buckets runneth over with lists.

Parade sends message about low-carbon future

BY DAVID DENNING

"I would say to those who oppose our fight to build this pipeline (the Trans Mountain Expansion Project) that they are being extremely foolish. Maybe on Salt Spring Island you can build an economy on condos and coffee shops, but not in Edmonton and not anywhere in Alberta. Here in Alberta, we ride horses — not unicorns — and I invite pipeline opponents to saddle up on something that is real." — Alberta Premier Rachel Notley at the Alberta Teachers' Association Convention, October 2018

It's pretty crowded in all five Salt Spring Island coffee shops these days. All sorts of people are slurping lattes, dreaming of unicorns, and trying to figure out who's going to start building all those condos we've

INDEPTH

been promised. But one concrete thing most of us have done, something that seems to have been missed by too many Canadians to the east of our province, is that we've read the October 2018 IPCC Report about the developing climate crisis, and the near impossibility of stopping global warming at +1.5°C or even +2°C.

We think a lot about the climate crisis here. We think about our grandchildren and future generations and we wonder how to provide them with the safest and most intact natural world we can. We think about the billions or trillions of dollars in infrastructure, health, emergency relief and adaptation costs that will result from

greenhouse warming of even 1.5° — let alone the +2°C we are already virtually doomed to cause. We think about the beautiful Salish Sea, which, before our eyes, is rapidly degrading with increasing temperatures and ocean acidity, and which is threatened drastically by the outlook of highly increased oil/bitumen tanker traffic.

We think about those things, and we do our best to move our community, our society, and our economy to the low carbon future that all of Canada needs to embrace as soon as possible. That's why we're working hard to increase local farming and food resilience. That's why we're installing walking paths and cycling lanes and why we've got the highest bus occupancy rates of any B.C. rural community. That's why we have the highest small-region den-

sity of personal electric vehicles in all of Canada and why we have citizen groups exploring how to get electric trucks, electric buses, and even electric ferries to be the dominant forms of transportation here.

That's why we celebrated the holiday season in the community here on Saturday, Dec. 1 with a chili bake-off event in the park and Canada's first all-electric-vehicle Christmas lights parade. To the cheers and applause of hundreds of chilimunching kids and adults, a convoy of EVs decorated with string lights, signs, hood ornaments and more snaked almost silently through the few streets of Ganges village. It was a memorable addition to community holiday celebrations, and organizers plan for it to grow in future years as our EV population flourishes.

As the parade wound down, I talked with two couples standing beside a Nissan Leaf decorated with what looked like a large unicorn horn on the front hood.

"We have a message for Rachel Notley," they said. "We've saddled up, they're totally real, they don't need fossil fuels, and after a very short period of paying off the embedded footprint, there is no carbon added to the atmosphere." And then they added: "It would be extremely foolish to ruin a perfectly wonderful world with fossil fuel emissions when we already have the technologies and opportunities to power it 100 per cent with electricity and renewable energy!"

The writer is a science educator, community activist, and 25-year resident of Salt Spring.

Islands Trust urged to take stronger stand

The following is a modification of a presentation made at the Dec. 6 Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting and directed to LTC chair Peter Luckham and signed by 300 people.

BY PETER MCALLISTER

Mr. Peter Luckham, on being re-elected chair of the Islands Trust Council in October, you were quoted as saying, "We remain, as always, committed to preserving and protecting these precious islands in the Salish Sea for all British Columbians." And as chair of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee your lofty words are all too familiar to us.

On behalf of hundreds of angry and fed up residents of Salt Spring who cringe when they hear those words, we invited you to come to the island and see for yourself the latest and without a doubt the most flagrant example of environmental abuse to our private lands, logging destruction on a large scale completely sanctioned and approved by your LTC. You had other business and declined our offer but since you finally got to the island for this meeting at least we have a chance to explain why Salt Spring residents are demanding a halt to this inconceivably outrageous assault on nature.

The property was bought for the sole purpose of clear-cutting a Gulf Islands ecologically rare and endangered older forest type that happens to be worth a fortune at the mill. Once the land is stripped it will be somebody else's naked, degraded 45-acre hillside to deal with. Starting earlier this fall and continuing well into the winter, the steep slopes are being laid bare and exposed to erosion. The integrity of an endangered wetland is being violated as we speak. According to the BC Conservation Data Centre, there were only 102 hectares of this fragile ecosystem left in the Gulf Islands and that was over 15 years ago.

This business of clear-cut logging

for the sake of marketing timber violates the Islands Trust's Land Use Bylaw 355 which defines the principle uses. The purpose of this rural and agricultural zoned land is farming and residential. This misuse of the land is well known to local realtors and of course the timber industry, which covets those increasingly rare and harder to find big old trees. The mills can't thank the LTC enough for gifting this 150 or more logging-truck loads of merchantable timber worth upwards of \$120,000 per hectare and considerably more for all the big ones.

For hundreds of Salt Springers it looks like a scam and this Beddis Road massacre tops them all. Yet the LTC condones the clear-cutting purely for the sake of merchanting timber with the unbelievable defence that this is just a tree-cutting exercise for the purpose of preparing the property for the legitimate use of the land which is farming and residential. As the commercial logger winds up his operation later this winter, he will leave this land so degraded and impoverished that the principal use of the land — farming and residential — will be severely compromised. And he as the proxy owner will be long gone.

Residents of Salt Spring should demand the LTC come up with proof that this logging business conforms to the bylaw. The only way they can ensure it's not a cut and run operation is to have the owner submit a tree cutting plan that is compatible with and enhances residential development. And the LTC better get with it immediately because the logger is clear-cutting as fast as he can.

Mr. Luckham, while you were out of town, potential First Nations heritage sites associated with the wetland and mapped by the Archeology Branch have been pounded into the ground. Clear-cutting down the steep slope from Beddis Road has wiped out the tree cover protecting the bank and exposed the wetland

to erosion and in-filling. And this is supposed to be an Islands Trust designated area for protection against erosion called a DPA 6. Never mind that the wetland is vanishing habitat for species at risk like red-legged frogs.

You've missed the bulldozing of a logging road right through and across the wetland in the logger's haste to get at the big trees. Instead of issuing a cease and desist order you have let him continue logging on the other side. But what the heck, let the logger continue violating the wetland while clear-cutting his way up the steep hill to the edge of the homes along Sky Valley Road, hydrology be damned, erosion be damned, fragile ecosystems be damned, residential use be damned.

There are two more things that the LTC is irresponsibly ignoring, the noise factor and property values. Nearby residents have been subjected to the incessant, intolerable industrial noise of chain saws all fall and as the logging approaches the residential backyards up on Sky Valley the residents can expect the noise to become even more deafening over the winter. Added to that they can look forward to the possibility of property devaluation.

Mr. Luckham, if you and the other trustees really care about our environment, you have more than enough ammunition to put a halt to this logging operation right now before all is lost.

The writer is a Sky Valley Road resident and environmental activist.

Editor's note: Islands Trust bylaw enforcement staff say road development through the DPA was done in accordance with Salt Spring's official community plan, which makes provision for development in a DPA if a geotechnical engineer or engineer's report has been submitted prior to work commencing. The situation is being monitored for ongoing compliance.

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For further information, please visit foodsafety.ca/recertify.html or call 250-370-4781

Recycling group suggests greener holiday path

BY TOM MITCHELL

The Christmas season is upon us and our thoughts turn to the coming together of loved ones and the gifts we are planning to buy for family and friends.

Unfortunately, plastic is often the main ingredient of these gifts, present in many toys and other products. We are beginning to wake up to the reality of the horrendous amount of plastic present in our oceans and in marine life, from oysters to whales. Now micro-plastics are turning up in the food and drinks we ingest and in our own bodies. Sadly, we haven't gotten very far in turning around the tide of plastics entering our oceans.

The practice of giving and receiving gifts is a cultural practice that tightens bonds between families, friends and communities. First Nations potlaches were a way of redistributing the wealth of the tribe and building a sense of inclusion and belonging. It makes us feel good to gift, our spirits rise and we feel closer to the one being gifted.

Unfortunately, our consumer-based society has gone overboard, especially at Christmas. Too much stuff is purchased that is used for a short while and ends up in landfills.

And, plastic or not, the energy needed for the extraction and refinement of materials and the manufacture and transport of frivolous products consumes the world's resources. According to George Monbiot, manufacturing is responsible for more than half of the world's carbon dioxide production.

Does a gift have to be a material object? No, it can also be giving your time, even though, in an increasingly harried world, that can sometimes seem difficult. Memories formed and shared can be precious. Children given real focus, attention and love throughout the year receive the gift of emotional stability and self worth, invaluable in an age of perceived threats and vulnerabilities.

GUEST COLUMN

The choice of a long-lasting gift can be difficult. For a young person with changing tastes and interests, what seems relevant today can be outgrown and left behind a year later. How many of us know children whose bedrooms are choc a block with toys, often made of plastic, that are no longer in favour and destined for the landfill? At the moment there are very few recycling options for hard plastics and here on Salt Spring they currently cannot be recycled.

Children given real focus, attention and love throughout the year receive the gift of emotional stability and self worth, invaluable in an age of perceived threats and vulnerabilities.

But there are some positive signs that as members of the human society we are beginning to change our ways.

Researchers in Britain have found that people are turning away from mindless consumerism, with millions going plastic-free and saying "no" to unethical toys. The same survey showed that over half of those polled were concerned about the impact their choices of today would have on future generations, with over a third believing their children had enough plastic toys and thus they would be looking for sustainable alternatives such as wood.

Here are some choices from our Salt Spring group named SUPER — Single-Use Plastic Elimination and Recycling — on how to reduce the plastic in our Christmas celebrations in the packaging, wrapping and gifts that Santa delivers to our homes.

Decorations

Go natural, with sprigs of holly and fir, twigs and branches, pine cones, and don't forget the mistletoe.

Gatherings

Use real cutlery, plates and glasses and avoid plastic straws and stir sticks. Make your own festive nibbles and dips rather than buying ones that are packaged in plastic.

Wrapping

Use recycled brown parcel paper tied in twine or cloth ribbon, or pages from old magazines, and decorate with seasonal greenery. Use last year's Christmas cards for tags.

And, on Boxing Day, go for a walk and clean the beach.

Gifts

Give an experience, like tickets to a performance, a fancy meal, a spa day, or a membership to a course or activity.

Make your own gifts, like goodies, jams, chutneys, candles, and fancy oils. Buy local. Give island made foods, soaps, artisan products, gift certificates, etc. Many island businesses sell goods without plastic packaging.

Give plastic-free gifts such as clothing made from natural fabrics, like wool and hemp, and toys made of wood. And remember to donate old toys to charities or Christmas toy drives.

Give plastic alternative gifts such as reusable produce bags, beeswax wraps and bar shampoos.

Buy pre-loved gifts from your favourite second-hand store.

Give a donation in the gift recipient's name to a worthwhile cause or even

to an organization that is engaged in turning the tide of the planetary challenge of ocean plastic, such as Plastic Ocean Foundation, Surfrider, Greenpeace or Ocean Champions.

Have a very merry plastic-free holiday season!

The writer is a member of SUPER, a new local group working to reduce single-use plastic in our environment.

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RANTS + Roses

Roses

A huge armful of roses to my great Rambler friends for their huge assistance on Dec. 5. Sincere apologies to Frauke and Theo for keeling over in the midst of their lovely luncheon. Special thanks also for the great care from the paramedics, nurses and doctor at Lady Minto. Everyone was awesome! Thanks so much. Ev

Grade AAA local lowline beef to one of the few real farmers left on Salt Spring. Thank you, Colie Byron, for the expert help moving our livestock to the local abattoir. The Hickmans, Gander's Hatch Farm, The Cranberry

A huge bunch of wildflowers to the Salt

Spring library for hosting the launch of my newest book; to Salt Spring Books for supplying books; and to all my Salt Spring friends who packed the library room and showed their support. What a privilege to live on this wonderful island of book lovers. Margriet Ruurs

Fragrant, grateful bouquets of roses to all those who came to my aid two weeks ago: calm and totally generous good Samaritan Amy (of Ball and Chain Painting), the kind, super-competent ambulance attendants and fire department personnel, the wonderful nurse (Ian, I believe) and Dr. Gummeson at Lady Minto, and dear friend Jerry Lee for all her help. Angels, every one. Thank you! Jane and family

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Sense of dismay arises

It is true that throughout our existence humanity has cleared or burned forests for pasture, agriculture, and building materials, whether for subsistence or profit.

Now we're faced with the fact that since 1970, our species has wiped out 60 per cent of the world's mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. The biggest cause of wildlife losses is the destruction of habitat.

A sense of dismay over logging may arise in face of this reality.

The wildlife crash — terrible in itself — may in future include us.

WENDY HILLIARD,
SALT SPRING

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



EXHIBITIONS

Clay collaborations inspire creative thinking

How to: Make With show at Fault Line Projects

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Artist, educator and recent Salt Spring Ceramics Awards juror Alwyn O'Brien is guest curator at Fault Line Projects gallery this month, bringing a show that uses clay as the jumping-off point for innovative artist collaborations.

O'Brien was born and raised on Salt Spring and now lives part-time on the island, when teaching duties at Langara College aren't keeping her in Vancouver. An award-winning ceramic artist, she completed her

MFA at the University of Washington in Seattle in 2010. Her work is held by museums in Canada and the United States.

A fresh, youthful approach characterizes O'Brien's curating style. She explains in her statement she wanted to create a show where new kinds of conversations would be developed and discoveries could be made, both by the viewers and the artists. The result was four artist pairings and one trio cooperating on new work, "with clay the material that binds the collaborators."

O'Brien's own contribution with Catherine Fairbanks consist of three wall-mounted ceramic platters that are exuberant in their decor. Glaze is applied in the manner of thickly textured oil paint in expressionist paintings. The titles Satyr, Swan and Harpy give the sense of mythology behind the emotion; or perhaps the ancient roots underpinning modern creative acts.

Sarah Coote and Kent Anderson collaborate on a unique series of "salt pigs" — open ceramic pots for storing kitchen salt. Though used to collaborating on daily family life in their 35 years together, this is the first time the pair has worked directly together on their art. They found that required a negotiation between two different styles and feelings that created something new and exciting for both.

"If you're in your own head, that's where you tend to stay, and this gets you out of your own head," Anderson observed.

Coote's salt pigs sit off-kilter and mainly comprise two interlocking components, like a curved section of piping set into another piece. Anderson, a sculptor, has created graceful metal frames for each piece. Industrial designs influenced the shapes of both components,



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Weaving by Mima Preston and River Clay Pile by Cathy Terepocki, one of the collaborations at Fault Line Projects' How To: Make With show.

with items such as a ship-board venting pipe and the framed construction site concrete bucket stepping-off points for form and line.

The pots themselves are mainly made of red clay, which contrasts nicely with glaze in thick cream, glossy black or smooth jade green. (The interiors are left unglazed to draw moisture from the salt.) They are satisfyingly sized so that a chef

could grab an entire handful of salt at once.

Zoe Kreye's clay vessel/sculpture sits atop a low pedestal of industrial foam. The piece becomes the totem in a series of dramatic photos by Luciana d'Anunciacao featuring a female figure. The background installation, also by Kreye, features a jumble of grey and white painted concrete, seen

in extremely shallow depth of field. The model's bare skin provides the only colour amid the strange built environment, where a theatrical or dance-informed investigation of movement is key.

Doing Washing combines three elements: a lithograph print of a concrete riverbank laundry operation in the Philippines, mounted on a wide sheet of yellow manila paper (Christian Vistan); very small stoneware laundry cut-outs finished with "sink glaze" laid out on a low shelf (Jasmine Baetz); and a wet-looking lump of clay on a rock (Anna Gustafson). The components combine for a multi-model exploration of the elements: earth and water most obviously but also air and heat. The materials used themselves enter the feedback loop of modern and traditional, from the paper originally named for the Philippines hemp fibre to the glazed tiles that speak of the laundry sink, and the clay that is somehow agent of both dirty and clean.

Mima Preston and Cathy Terepocki "locate their practice in the immediacy of place and identity." Terepocki's River Clay Pile is a jumble of intact and broken vessels made from clay dug from the Chilliwack River. The collection's placement resembles the river stones left exposed on the banks by receding waters, with chocolate and cream glazing emphasizing the deep earthy connection to the ground. Preston's woven piece is made from wool sourced from Salt Spring alpaca and also utilizes natural/earth tones. A panel of horizontal bars at the top overlaps one of the vertical stripes below, providing an architectural formalism to the supple fibres.

The show continues at Fault Line Projects through Jan. 5.

You Are Invited to Our
Annual Christmas Party
at
Treasures of the Heart

What: Beautiful LIVE MUSIC & SINGING by Adam and Usha - Christmas Snacks & Drinks.

When: Thurs. December 13, 4pm-8pm (during Shop Local Late Night)

Why: To all to come together and celebrate the joys of the season as well as a special THANK YOU, to you our valued customers for your continual support.

Where: 164 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (Next to Ganges Stationary)

See you there!

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Stories and Songs for the Season raises funds

Dec. 22 event pays tribute to Arthur Black

BY DIANE LUGSDIN

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In the lead-up to the holidays, this community remains well blessed with seasonal performances.

For the sixth year, the partnership of the Salt Spring Island United Church and the Salt Spring Island Grand(m)others to Grandmothers (G2G) presents Stories and Songs for the Season. Dramatic readings celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, love, light and life, complete with musical interludes, plus refreshments at intermission.

The program set for Saturday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. includes works both familiar and less so, with well-known performers returning to offer their talents to this fun-

draiser. Their willingness is due not just to the "worthy cause." This year's program also serves as a tribute to our loved benefactor Arthur Black, and features a few of his favourites.

- Chris Humphreys, the renowned actor, novelist and playwright, starts us off, presenting the classic: Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales;

- Jan Rabson, internationally known voice actor, will share family stories of Hanukah, Sonia's Three Birthdays;

- Ann Stewart, who is long active in community theatre, brings another Arthur Black favourite, Stephen Leacock's Hoodoo McFiggin's Christmas, and a child's perspective on the gifting tradition;

- Lynda Jensen, with many community performances among her credits, reads the Nobel Prize winning Isaac Bashevis Singer's tale, Hershele and Hanukkah;

- Clark Saunders — actor, singer and the creator of this fundraising partnership — will bring the performance to a close with Engel's A Child's Christmas in Scarborough, the perfect parody of, and bookend to, the opening number.

These moving, funny, thought-provoking readings connect us to the reason for this fundraiser — a fair response to the injustices facing AIDS orphans and their grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Stories will be interspersed with seasonal music by local musicians. Talented harpist Yvonne Gibbon presents both traditional music and her own compositions.

Singers — a duet and quartet, accompanied by Shirley Bunyan — and members of The Last Schmaltz band, led by composer Joi Freed-Garrod, will perform.

"Goodies" will also provide sustenance at intermission.

COUNTRY GROCER presents

Arrive early for chestnuts & carolling by the fire!

\$25 adults, \$15 kids

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Please bring a donation for the Food Bank

Newman Family Productions

CHRISTMAS with SCROOGE

Musical Adaptation created by Ray & Virginia Newman (with apologies to Mr. Charles Dickens)

ARTSPRING

Wed-Fri, Dec 19th-21st, Shows at 7pm

Saturday, Dec 22nd, Matinee at 1pm

Saturday, Dec 22nd, Show at 6pm

2018

Logos for TWANG & PEARL, gafffish, MOUAT'S, PHARMASAVE, and Driftwood.



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG
WHAT A DEAL: Bob Delion does a Vanna White imitation in urging people to buy tickets for a fundraising raffle for the Gulf Islands Families Together Society. The prize is a beautiful two-sided quilt made by Salt Spring quilter Gwen Denluck and donated to GIFTS. Only 300 tickets will be sold. The quilt can be seen at Island Savings and tickets purchased from volunteers there from 12 to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, from any GIFTS support worker or volunteer, or by contacting GIFTS at 250-537-4744. GIFTS helps individuals with developmental disabilities remain active in the community.

LIONS Santa Ship
Saturday Dec. 15th
 6:45 pm Santa arrives at Coast Guard Dock.
Hot chocolate at 6:15 pm

Follow Santa into Mouat's Mall. Give him your wish list for Christmas. He'll also visit Greenwoods and Lady Minto Hospital.

sponsored by BELLINGHAM & SSI LIONS CLUB

EXHIBITIONS

Winter art display raises library funds



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

From left, Elehna de Sousa's *Someone To Watch Over Me* photo piece and Judy Weeden's ceramic vessel *Avocet* are among works donated by island artists to benefit the library's children's programs.

Multi-artist library show on until Dec. 20

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dream Christmas gifts, talented local artists and a great cause all come together at the Salt Spring Public Library's Winter Show and Sale.

This month until Dec. 20 in the library's program room and lobby showcase, art donated by Salt Spring artists is available to view and purchase. That means shoppers can find a great gift just in time for the holidays and help support an important community hub in the process.

Many islanders have already taken advantage of the opportunity. After Saturday's opening reception, 15 works had been sold and the library was halfway to its \$3,750 fundraising goal.

The show includes special works covering six years of library art exhibitions. Those hoping to see work by local art heavyweights may find it in the showcase — pieces by Ron Crawford and Art Simons exhibited there were snapped up early. As of the opening week one could still collect a lute-shape vessel with peaked lid and shorebird decor by Judy Weeden, a basket in jazzy red, blue and black paper by Donna Cochran, or one of Melanie Thompson's iconic willow

stick lamps.

Sean Goddard contributed a beautiful example of his metal and glass insect sculptures, a beetle with a gorgeous shell in dusky blue with dark red markings.

Inside the program room there was more than one watercolour painting by the late Jack Avison waiting for the perfect home last week. Artworks notable for being alluring to the eye include *Lingering Winter* by Bernadette Mertens-McAllister, who captures the season's crisp blue undertones in a landscape done in shades of pink and carmine.

Elehna de Sousa's *Someone To Watch Over Me* photo transfer onto wood captures a serene sculpted face, surrounded by a nimbus of white fluff and golden thread.

Sam Lightman's *Hommage à Rousseau* photo collage is characterized by warm hues and multi-layered imagery. A buck's face peers out from behind oversized flower stalks and streaks of jungly shades of deep copper and acid green.

Kristin Shoolbraid's "scratch art" piece *Flower Fantasy* is striking in its black and white geometry. Petals and chrysanthemum-type blooms are set into a design that evokes an extremely complex snowflake.

The show and sale is open during regular hours when the program room is not in other use.

See more events and exhibits listed in our **What's On** calendar on **Page 12**

Merry Monday DECEMBER 17, 5:50 - 7:30pm

Complimentary hot chocolate, please bring a mug. **Valdy** will be leading the carolers!

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Savory treats available from the kitchen during Merry Monday.

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what's on this week



Wed. Dec. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Bach on the Rock Messiah Concert.
Michael Jarvis directs four soloists, orchestra, and chamber choir in the second London version of Handel's Messiah. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
View decorated trees in the lobby of the Harbour House Hotel. Bring a food bank or Copper Kettle donation to put under your favourite. Daily through Jan. 3.

Songs and Stories at the Library.

Drop-in program for ages one to three (and older siblings welcome) at the Salt Spring Public Library. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Snacks provided.

Burn it Smart Workshop.

Learn tools for heat efficiency and safety when using a wood stove. Salt Spring Island Public Library Program Room. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Thu. Dec. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic at the Legion.
Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Open Mic Night.
Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Thu. Dec. 13

ACTIVITIES

Shop Late & Social.
Stores in Ganges stay open late for Christmas shopping and special events. 4 to 8 p.m.

Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser.

Gifts wrapped by donation aid Salt Spring project for water catchment system installation in Guatemala. 162 Fulford-Ganges Rd. 4 to 8 p.m.



Fri. Dec. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

A South-end Christmas.
Celebrate the season with readings, carols & special music with Women of Note. St. Mary's Church in Fulford. 2 p.m.

RainWood Winter Dance Recitals.

At ArtSpring. Younger students at 6:30 p.m. and older students from 7:30 p.m.

Viva Chorale! Carollers Sing Christmas.

Share in the Christmas spirit with song, apple cider and treats. By donation to the SSI Food Bank. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

The Wanna Beatles.
Live band at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

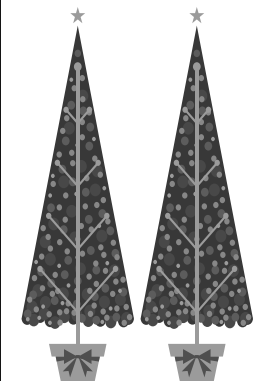
Buck Dodgers String Band.

Bluegrass-folk band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 14

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.



Holiday StoryTime at the Library.

This special Holiday StoryTime features stories about winter and the holidays. Everyone welcome, but best suited to kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers. 11 to 11:45 a.m.



Book Signing: Reef Creatures – Weird and Wonderful.

Author Ann Donahue signs copies of her new children's book about underwater creatures, with photography by Ken Sutherland, at Wintercraft at Mahon Hall. 2 to 3 p.m.

Family Movie Matinee: The Polar Express.

Salt Spring Public Library Program Room screening includes free popcorn. 2:30 to 4:10 p.m. Children under 6 must have caregiver present.

Youth Games Night.

Weekly drop-in games night is a great chance to meet up with friends over a board game. Salt Spring Public Library. 6:30 p.m. until late every Friday (except holidays).

Sat. Dec. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Wannabeatles.
Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Christmas Market in the Park.

Locally produced goods and crafts. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Met Opera: La Traviata

Met Opera live screening at ArtSpring. 10 a.m.

Holiday Cheer.

Patron appreciation event with discounts and treats at Salt Spring Gallery. 2 to 4 p.m.

Death Cafe.

International phenomenon Death Cafe tea and discussion held at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

Lions Santa Ship.

Santa and his entourage arrives at the Ganges Coast Guard Dock aboard the Victoria Star from Bellingham. 6:45 p.m. approximately, but hot chocolate available from 6:15. He then meets with children in Mouat's Mall. Presented by the Bellingham and Salt Spring Lions Clubs.



Sun. Dec. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sing Along Messiah.
8th annual sing along to Handel's Messiah presented by Bach on the Rock. Fulford Hall. 2:30 p.m. Bring a score if you have one!

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Christmas Bird Count.

Join North America's largest citizen-science initiative by counting birds on Salt Spring Island. Email Kathleen Maser at khmaser@shaw.ca or Peter McAllister at pbmcallister@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.



Our Roots Fundraising Walk.

Our Roots will be tackling a 42-km walk across Salt Spring Island starting from Southey Point at 9 a.m. The walk is open to anyone who would like to join the GISS students organizing it. Funds benefit the WE Charity. Info: our-roots@sd64.bc.ca

Mon. Dec. 17

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Island Infants Discussion Group.

A drop in for parents and babies with weekly speakers. Family Place. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Book Club.

Salt Spring Public Library. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Merry Monday.

Carol singing with Valdy in the parking lot of Salt Spring Mercantile. 5:50 to 7:30 p.m.



Music Bingo.

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

Tue. Dec. 18

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See Wednesday's listing.

Tue. Dec. 18

ACTIVITIES

Stay and Play Drop-In.
Parents, caregivers and children 0-6 yrs welcome. Family Place. 12 to 3 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday.

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

Wed. Dec. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas With Scrooge.

Opening night for Newman Family Productions' famous-on-Salt-Spring musical rendition of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.



Carols for Christmastide.

Community carol sing with All Saints choir and soloists at All Saints By-the-Sea. Plus refreshments. 2 p.m. By donation to the food bank.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Songs and Stories at the Library.

See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **The Grinch** – The green grump hatches a scheme to steal Christmas and silence the Whos' holiday cheer once and for all. Friday to Thursday, Dec. 14 to 20 at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 16 there's a 3 p.m. matinee and 7 p.m. show. Rated General. 1 hr. 29 mins.

EXHIBITIONS

• **How to: MAKE WITH** is a group exhibition curated by Alwyn O'Brien at Fault Line Projects gallery and continuing through Jan. 5. Artists include Mima Preston and Cathy Terepocki; Zoe Kreye and Luciana D'Anunciacao; Jasmine Baetz and Christian Vistan with Anna Gustafson; Sarah Coote and Kent Anderson; Catherine Fairbanks and Alwyn O'Brien.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Gallery 8** holds its 10th annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works by all gallery artists until Jan. 1.

• **The Winter Art Show & Sale** with work donated by Salt Spring artists runs in the library program room and lobby display case from Dec. 1-20. Sale proceeds benefit children's services at the library.

• **The Salt Spring Arts Council's Wintercraft** holiday season exhibition and sale runs at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22.

• **Artists From the Fringe** exhibition and sale runs in the side room at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22.

• **A Celebration of Light: Solstice Show** of work by Salt Spring Gallery members & special guests runs until Dec. 29.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Haiku Holiday Pop-Up Shop** opens Dec. 1 to 23 with work by multiple artists and designers in the Big Bear and Wolf space in Ganges Alley.

Seasonal Stories & Songs

Sixth annual celebration at SSI United Church

Sat., Dec. 22nd at 2 p.m.

A fundraiser for

SSI Grandm(o)thers to Grandmothers

THIRTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522

LIVE THEATRE

Christmas With Scrooge looks to past and future

Cast of thousands involved in island tradition

BY SUE NEWMAN

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Last year, the Newman Family Productions Christmas With Scrooge show found itself in such a wonderful state: sold out a full two weeks before opening night. So people should get their tickets now for the Dec. 19-22 shows at ArtSpring, where they will be immersed in the wonderful world of a Dickens Christmas, Salt Spring style.

Here's some of what's going on here at my house and the home of Newman Family Productions: On my right, there's a tinsel wrapped hoop for the Spotty Dogs, all the way from Dalmatia! On my left, an array of top hats and bonnets I'm building. Costumes are also hung with care, like stockings for Christmas, but the bulk of them are sewn, pressed and labeled at Maureen Mackay's house with Susan Paynter's helping hands. Props and furniture, some that my dad Ray Newman had built and then salvaged by Al Lehmann, have left the premises and are continually schlepped to rehearsal by Sue Lehmann, stage manager, and Susannah Devitt, head of props.

The show that had its beginnings on an island that only had 2,500 inhabitants in 1971 has become a tradition of sorts. Since my mother Virginia Newman's death in 2013, long-time locals were wondering, every year, just when — and if — they'd ever get to hear those lovely songs or see all the familiar characters again.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. I'm Sue Newman, producer



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Patrick Cassidy as Scrooge in the Newman Family Productions musical called Christmas With Scrooge, which runs Dec. 19-22 at ArtSpring.

and director of Christmas With Scrooge, and here's how it started.

The idea of living on a little island appealed greatly to my parents, Ray and Virginia Newman, musicians and teachers from southern California. Especially with the expanding "rat race" and political climate of the Vietnam War, they, as pacifists and newly acquainted with Canadian socialistic views and governance, decided that this was the place to be. Strong advocates for social justice, heroes and heroines included the usual suspects . . . and Charles Dickens was one of them.

As soon as my family arrived, in 1970, my parents wrote a musical history of the island, called Salt

Spring Madness. They immersed themselves into the community in other ways, too: helping to form a nuclear disarmament group, a Dixieland band, opening a music and hobby store . . . but it was the show that got all ages involved, including some new friends from school.

On the heels of the successful run and fun of that show came Christmas Madness, a short musical adaptation of the classic Dickens story of the redemption of old miser Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol.

As my dad always liked to say, we boasted a "cast of thousands!" One member of the original cast, a Cratchit child, was Kathy Ramsey, who has returned to live on Salt Spring. She has been a huge help in developing our community outreach and sponsorship campaign, setting up visits with residents at Meadowbrook, Greenwoods, Braehaven and Lady Minto, and with students at SIMS.

Lots of families grew up with the show, and Cratchit children ended up as ghosts and other characters as they grew up.

Both of my folks have died: my father, in 1999. We'd always performed in community or church halls, but ArtSpring had just opened that year. Many of us island performers had fundraised for our new theatre home, and Dad had planned to present the show there. So, Mom decided to go ahead with it.

Christmas With Scrooge, as it was now called, grew in numbers and length, and she wrote several new songs. I created an opening street scene for Mom's glorious overture and we continued to build the show over the next few years until Mom began to decline. She continued to play

the show, as she truly loved it (she never missed a cue!), but I knew things were about to change.

In 2007, after our 20th production done since 1971, we laid it to rest, indefinitely. Then Mom died in 2013.

Last year, after years of being stopped in the street hundreds of times and asked, "Will you be doing Scrooge this year?" I finally decided . . . yes! And really, the only way I could remount this production was due to the foresight of a musician friend of mine.

Around 2009, Karen Arney brought her keyboard and computer into my mother's living room. Mom played the whole show, while Karen's computer program notated. This was a brilliant and kind thing to do, because Mom and Dad wrote the score like a lead sheet, which means that only the melody is notated with chord symbols over the top of the staff line. So now, we have Mom's exact accompaniment captured.

Christmas With Scrooge now has around 85 people involved, with about 50 onstage, representing an age demographic spanning single digits (starting at a year old), to octogenarians. We dance, we sing, we move through the aisles in an effort to bring to life each and every character. We create an outdoor scene and concession, with carollers, hot apple cider, mince tarts and roasted chestnuts over a fire . . . all in costume, and this allows for a semi-immersive feel for our audience. We also showcase some archival material for perusal in the lobby, and onscreen for viewing at the top of the show.

We're committed to carrying on the Christmas With Scrooge

tradition for at least a few more years, until 2021. This will see the 50th anniversary since that very first time Scrooge visited the island. Whew!

Please note the early start times for performances at ArtSpring: Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 19-21, with shows at 7 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 22 the matinee starts at 1 p.m. and the evening show is at 6 p.m.

People are encouraged to arrive early for our outdoor scene and to please bring a donation for the food bank.

Now is the time to mail out your personalized calendars, cards and mugs!



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Mechanic

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



GYLE KEATING

All the regular things like snow tires, antifreeze, new wiper blades etc. are a top priority and should be checked before heading out on a holiday trip.

As well as all these things give some thought to a survival kit. No one wants to think about getting stuck in their vehicle in adverse conditions but it does happen and a small kit prepared ahead of time could make the difference between being uncomfortable and being dangerously hypothermic.

One website has a rather extensive list of materials for your survival kit and attached to it are a few paragraphs of excellent advice on what to do in case you are stranded in your vehicle. Check out <http://www.21stcenturyadventures.com/advice/lists/winterSurvivalChecklist.html>

Drive Safe, Gyle



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Real Estate

A Time For Thanks



JAN MACPHERSON

During this holiday season we are reminded of how blessed we are to live on this island, in this province and in this country.

To my clients, friends and colleagues in real estate, I continue to enjoy and appreciate working with you especially during these times of change.

In 2017 it is my hope that our sense of world community deepens and that we can work together to find creative solutions to address the many challenges ahead.

*Peace, Good Will, Prosperity,
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Financial Advice

A financial resolution for the new year



JEFF KNUTSON

Question: If I could only focus on one area of my finances in 2019, what would that be?

Nothing changes your financial situation like reducing debt. With interest rates trending upward in 2018, getting personal debt in a downward trend should be top of mind for British Columbians as they approach 2019.

Start by knowing your total debt. Do you really know how much debt you have? And how much of it is good debt and how much is bad debt? It's easy to lose sight of how much total debt you have if you don't take time to analyze it. At least a couple times of year, gather all your credit card and other loan statements to get a grip on how many loans you have and how much you owe.

Be strategic. Then, it's all about strategy—and sticking to it. Pay as much as you can toward high interest debt, but make sure to continue to pay minimum payments toward all other debt. Be absolutely sure to avoid taking on additional debt—this only sabotages your debt reduction objective.

Get advice. Seek help from a financial advisor if you feel overwhelmed with assessing your debt or creating a plan to manage it. A financial advisor can bring money management know-how into your debt situation and help you move toward solutions.

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JEFF KNUTSON
Branch Manager | Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union
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ISLAND LIFE

- Star of the Week
- Let's Talk
- Where/what is it?

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



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com

TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

The last week of the natural year cycle has arrived. Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the new cycle and it occurs on December 21st. While celebrating this annual and what many have traditionally deemed, sacred event, is not so common in our modern era, it could be made so, again. Yuletide is a 10-day festival that begins on December 21st and ends on January 1st. So, we can see where the celebration of Christmas and the turn of the New Year also find their origins: in this Pagan tradition. Much older than Christmas, its origins are Germanic, yet it spread throughout Europe and the British Isles. One thing is quite certain, this natural cycle of the sun's light based on the Sun/Earth relationship will continue, indefinitely. Astrologically, the beginning of each season is officiated by 0 degrees of the 4 Cardinal Signs: Capricorn, Aries, Cancer, and Libra. These are collectively referred to as the Aries Point.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Amidst a forefront feeling of inspiration to be adventurous, you are contending with a background theme of going within. This conflicting trend will continue for the next couple of weeks or so. If you can get away, striking the balance would look like traveling then going scuba diving or caving... Exercising a philosophical perspective is likely and ideal, either way.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Your ambition levels are rising steadily. You are receptive to what others can offer, especially in the practical sense, yet you may also feel rebellious regarding feeling obliged to reciprocate. Of course, this can be a source of problems. Friends may be a bit bewildered by the dilemma to help. It might work best to assure others that, while you are not ready now, you will balance the score soon.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Opportunities to increase your social outreach and engage in cultural interests should be apparent by now. Yet, you may also be feeling a bit dreamy and less inclined to socialize than you might usually. The solution might lie in low-key events and gatherings where you can be seen but not necessarily having to be heard.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) A health alert continues and is hopefully getting your attention. It may be nothing more than a reminder to boost your immune system. You are otherwise probably feeling quite strong and determined. Yet, this may be less linked to worldly ambition and more about achieving new levels of insight, illumination and realization.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) A creative cycle that began in late November has shifted into high gear. This new momentum began last week activated by the New Moon. Now it has arrived at its first quarter turn which is always about decisive action. You will at least feel inspired to enjoy this energy socially. Yet, it might prove more worthwhile to use it to achieve some goals.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) A busy cycle continues and is actually accelerating. Rising to the invitation to engage fully may feel challenging, however. It may seem like you are having to work harder to swim upstream. It is likely that this trend will not only continue but increase through until the end of the year, at least. If that saying, "if it doesn't kill me it will make me stronger" is true, you will be mighty as 2019 begins...

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Weaving ambition with play and fun could prove quite interesting and creative. This cycle began a few weeks ago and continues strong. It includes a healthy twist of mischief too, as in a provocative aspect. If handled well, you could entice others in just the right proportion as to activate the type of meaningful transformation that the higher reaches of your sign aspires for.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Sun, Mercury, and Jupiter remain in your sign synchronizing with the urge to reach beyond familiar or traditional boundaries. The Sun has only 1-week to go, though. Mercury will align with Jupiter on the very day the Sun enters Capricorn, marking the advent of Solstice. So, the energy is building and this is your opportunity to ride the year out on a big wave.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A deep dive into the unknown continues. You may wonder at moments if you are dreaming or perhaps even hallucinating. Positively, you are enjoying a deeply relaxing and meditative journey. It would probably prove even more satisfying if you felt carried on the wings of imagination. This represents an auspicious time to creatively visualize beyond your usual mode of perception.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your sights are set firmly on the future. It could be described as a visionary perspective. The prospect of exercising your intellectual abilities in new and creative ways spurs you on. To succeed, you have to swim steadily upstream against a persistent current. You will be ready for a break soon so weave that into your plans for the coming weeks.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

BOOK LOVERS' TREE: Hanging around this year's Christmas tree made from green and red books are library volunteers, from left, Barbara Van den Bosch, Bev Stewart, Sheila Spence, Sally Rycroft, Tony Dixon, Mary-Ellen Bartlett and Holly Ziwicki. This year's version is smaller than last year's creation, but chief library Karen Hudson said children are finding the shorter tree more to their liking. It can be seen in the lobby entranceway of the library.

WILDLIFE

Biologist discourages deer feeding

Animal health, ecology impacted

Although it is tempting to feed deer, a UBC professor and researcher explains that doing so can cause harm to the environment and to the deer themselves.

Tara Martin, a professor at the University of British Columbia, has spent years researching the impact of abundant deer populations on other biodiversity. She has found that the large population of deer in the Gulf Islands has had a negative impact on other plants and wildlife, and can contribute to diseases that spread from deer to deer and even to livestock.

"I don't think we should be feeding deer. On Salt Spring and on the islands in general we have an enormous deer overpopulation issue," Martin said. "We should not be feeding wildlife because of the issue of hyper-abundance and the impact on all of the

other plants and wildlife on Salt Spring."

Historically, deer were hunted by First Nations, settlers, wolves and cougars. Hunting has dropped off as the human population on the islands has grown, and the deer has become over abundant. More deer means more plants are being eaten, which contributes to a decrease in biodiversity.

"There's a big story about the impact of deer on all of the other biodiversity," Martin said. "We've lost many of our native shrubs, we've lost most of our native wildflowers like orchids and lilies. All of these incredibly gorgeous plants that used to be in abundance in these islands are virtually absent on all of the big islands that have deer. The only place that you'll find the plants now are on the little islands."

Martin said that the loss of these plants means some songbirds and pollinators no longer have food sources.

Deer themselves are impacted by the increased numbers. Whenever there are more individuals in a particular space, disease can spread more quickly. Martin explained that liver fluke, a parasitic worm, affects the deer population in the Gulf Islands. It can even be passed on to other livestock from infected deer.

"Liver fluke only reaches high numbers when you have a high density of host animals. On Salt Spring, as a result of the hyper abundance of deer, we have this very high prevalence of liver fluke within deer," Martin said.

Solutions to the overpopulation could be to "start hunting again," Martin explained.

"Many folks are looking for the organic free range local meat, and deer is a wonderful source of that."

A team from the university is working to manage the problem.

"Aside from clearing a for-

est, deer overabundance is probably the biggest issue we have on the island, which most people would never even know," she said. "It's really contributing to the loss of a huge proportion of our plant species and our songbird species."

The B.C. Conservation Office also advises against feeding deer.

"This does not help deer," states the wildsafebc.com website. "Deer have ample food supplies in the wilds and in fact supplementing that food supply can trigger an increase in population that is not sustainable in the wild, thereby potentially harming deer in the long term."

For people who are feeding deer, Martin recommends stopping the practice by first reducing the amount of feed over the course of a week.

"It's very tempting to want to feed deer, but in terms of the overall ecology of the island, it's not a good plan."

Stuart Channel views name roads and ridge

Original plan outlines street plan aesthetics

Channel Ridge Drive is one of the main roads in the 580-hectare (1,433-acre) area subdivision known as the Channel Ridge development due to its properties' expansive views of Stuart Channel. The road veers off to the left from Broadwell Road and ends at Sunset Drive.

Louis Lindholm, representing the company when the land development was working its way through the local government approval process in 1985, described the road access concept in correspondence



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF
**SALT
SPRING**

to the Islands Trust.

"In order to avoid unsightly driveway cuts on the uphill portion of the main road, access to almost all of the proposed properties will be gained by secondary roads running to uphill and downhill benches and connecting to the main road where

the site grades permit reasonable intersections."

Channel View Road is also part of the development, located off the end of Broadwell Road.

The original comprehensive development plan for Channel Ridge included 577 residential lots, a village and school site, parklands and protection of some 110 hectares (275 acres) of watershed lands above St. Mary Lake.

Channel Ridge was originally known as Broadwell's Mountain after pioneer Joel Broadwell.

Channel Ridge Properties Ltd. purchased the property from Mountain Park Farm Properties in the 1980s.

HOME ADVICE

Burn it Smart tips help save wood and lives

Workshop runs Dec. 12 at the library

BY MITCHELL SHERRIN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

"What could you possibly learn about wood heating if you've been using firewood for your entire life?"

That's what I thought before attending my first "Burn it Smart" workshop 18 years ago. But after attending this wood-burning information session, I learned a ton of little tricks that have increased my wood-heat efficiency, improved my fire safety and saved me a load of work and money.

The nationally recognized Burn it Smart program completely revo-

lutionized the way I heat my home. When I was a kid, I'd been taught to close the damper as soon as possible to conserve fuel. Boy was I wrong. Not only was I producing less heat and burning inefficiently, most of my wood was going up the chimney as useless smoke instead of heating my home, I was also coating my chimney with extra flammable creosote and causing the neighbours to cough.

Worse still, my parents didn't realize how critical it is to season wood before burning. Burning green or wet wood produces less heat and adds more creosote to the chimney. My family even (gasp) burned driftwood when times were tough. Little did we know, burning salty

driftwood releases chlorine in the form of toxic furans and dioxins; this deadly smoke also corrodes your chimney (sigh). Now I know to never burn garbage, driftwood or excessive paper or cardboard in my home.

I'd also been taught to burn continuously smouldering fires with big hunks of wood instead of small hot fires burning in cycles. Not only was I wasting wood, but when the house finally did get warm, it often got so hot that we'd have to open a window to cool off. What a waste. Now my home is consistently heated, I use less fuel and I produce almost no smoke when burning.

So yes, I learned a lot from Burn it Smart. But then I added another

level of understanding when I became a firefighter with Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR). On average, SSIFR attends 13 chimney fires a year and many of those fires evolve into catastrophic structure fires. We've seen many beautiful homes damaged or destroyed fires and we want to reduce that amount of destruction. Over and over again we've observed chimney fires caused by lack of maintenance, poor installation and/or faulty burning practices.

So that's why SSIFR is hosting its second annual Burn it Smart workshop at the Salt Spring Island Public Library Program Room on Wednesday, Dec. 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. We've invited a great

panel of speakers: Richard Elwell from the Home Design Centre to talk about appliances and installation, Cameron Sweet Chimney Sweep to chat about inspection and maintenance, and Ben Westlake from Salish Forestry Solutions to discuss wood selection and storage. SSIFR will also be there to talk about fire safety. Our partners from the SSI Conservancy will be there to support our environmental concerns. Last year, our workshop was standing room only, so come early.

If you have any questions about the Burn it Smart workshop or other safety issues, drop by the Ganges Fire Hall or give us a call at 250-537-2531.

READING

Non-fiction shelf offers excitement for readers

Pre-Christmas book reviews

BY MAGGIE WARBEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Reading time is one of the best presents around. Reading relaxes, stretches the imagination, informs, comforts, energizes. Reading is just good for what ails you; so this holiday time, sit back and pick up a good read. The New Shelves provide extra special presents no matter your taste.

For example, Sarah Morgan's novel *The Christmas Sisters* is a touching seasonal story that will bring sorrow and joy. The story takes place in the wonderland Christmas background of New York City and Scotland. It brings together three sisters who each face their own life dilemma as they prepare to celebrate the holidays with their Scottish family. Whether it's love, work or deeper secrets, each woman finds her

ON THE NEWSHELVES

better self in the fulfilment of Christmas wishes.

And the Non-Fiction Shelves offer much to excite readers, too. *Trudeaumania* is a theme that spoke to those of us living in Canada in the '60s and '70s. This volume brings to life that historic era in our lives as it recounts the meteoric rise of Pierre Trudeau and the Liberals from opposition to the government of Canada. The book looks at the phenomenon in all its hype, passion and ambition as well as its lasting effect on the modernization, unity, sovereignty of Canada and the differentiation between it and its southern neighbour. It is the epic story of how Canada became the Canada of today.

Gush: Menstrual Manifestos for Our Times is an enchanting collection of essays, poems, illustrations and thoughts on the physical manifestation of womanhood. From shame, hiding and hush, to a riotous acceptance that menstrual blood is life's blood, this volume speaks to the deepest fears and feeling of young girls and adult women as they face their monthly reality. But moving beyond the cultural taboos, difficulties and irritations, the book gives women something to think about and smile about and even be proud of. It is the one thing, along with child birth, that is clearly and purely, collectively theirs.

Matsuo Basho, the 17th-century Japanese poet and diarist is best known and loved for his perfectly crafted haiku poems. In *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches* the poet depicts his Zen Buddhist travels as he strips away the trappings of the material world and seeks spiri-

tual enlightenment. This translation, by Nobuyuki Yuasa, captures the lyrical qualities of the author's prose and poetry. It also includes maps and commentary relating to the texts, and an analysis of the haibun literary style. This book is a truly original find for those interested in Japanese literature and finely honed poetry.

Another rare find on the New Non-Fiction Shelf is Luo Guanzhong's *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, which has enthralled readers for more than 500 years. This may be the tale that inspired so many of our modern epic novels and movies. A story of warlords, schemers, heroes and villains battling for throne, wealth and power, this account brings together the legends, history, and events that shaped China yesterday and today. Indeed, it may be read as a cautionary tale that describes modern-day battles for the same ends around the globe.



Stocking Stuffers & Gift Ideas

New Stock in Weekly

- ❄️ LED Flashlights
- ❄️ Tire Chains
- ❄️ Winterization Items
- ❄️ Car Audio Accessories
- ❄️ Headlight Upgrades
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SALT SPRING **Star** of the **WEEK**

Mike Murphy



Mike Murphy volunteers both as a leader with the 2nd Vesuvius Scout Troop and as a member of Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25, based in Vesuvius.

He is known for his excellent BBQ skills and for getting things done. Mike has lived on Salt Spring for the past two and a half years, moving over from Surrey and after retiring as a bylaw enforcement officer.

What is this? Is it yours?



Did you lose this? An islander who found it brought it to the Driftwood office so we could publish this photo and find the owner. Call us at 250-537-9933 or drop in to the office at 328 Lower Ganges Rd. if it is yours!



LAST WEEK: No one could identify this float at the Ganges Coast Guard dock, perhaps because the photo was taken during a summer low tide?

READERS can also submit photos to put in this feature! Photos can be of mystery items or public places.

ADOPT A PET TODAY!



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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT: Helen Hinchliff puts on an elf hat to help illustrate the reading of one of her Driftwood columns at a book launch event in the library on Nov. 29. Hinchliff has compiled and updated her popular columns in a book called *Aging With Grace: Dispatches From the Front Lines*.

Out + ABOUT



Out + About is a compilation of items about upcoming events on Salt Spring Island.

Reef Creatures book signing

Salt Spring's Ann Donahue has just released her second children's book, with a signing event set for Wintercraft at Mahon Hall on Friday, Dec. 14.

From 2 to 3 p.m., Donahue will be available to meet with islanders and share the story of Reef Creatures - Weird and Wonderful.

While Donahue's first book, *Dive into Colours*, was for pre and beginner readers, she says this one is more suitable for six to 12 year olds and contains more detailed information about the featured creatures. There is also a section on different species of sharks and the important role they play in the reef ecosystem. The book includes photography by her husband Ken Sutherland. Both Sutherland and Donahue are divers and award-winning underwater photographers.

Community carol sing

Carols for Christmastide, the annual community carol sing held in All Saints by-the-Sea, is slated this year for Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

Hosted by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish for many years, the popularity of this hour-long afternoon event may be due to timing, which allows for daylight driving, together with the ambiance of candlelit intimacy, and the traditional sounds of the pipe organ in this acoustically excellent venue. It also offers islanders the opportunity to take a break from the Christmas rush and enjoy time together over delicious Christmas fare, including Sarah's superb Christmas cake, mince tarts, mulled apple juice and more.

Accompanied by choir director David Storm at the piano and organ, the All Saints' choir will be leading the familiar carols, with soloists performing seasonal gems that bring Christmas straight to the heart.

Admission is by donation, with all proceeds going to the Salt Spring Food Bank.

Remember WHEN

From the Driftwood newspaper during the week of Dec. 12 in years past:

Five years ago

• Salt Spring's only radio station was under scrutiny from the CRTC for failing to comply with radio regulations. Suhkdev Dhillon, a representative of station owner Satnam Media Group, was in Surrey for a hearing to explain why he did not comply with regulations to file requested program logs, tapes and music lists. He was also asked to explain why the station should retain its broadcasting licence. The owner had purchased the business earlier in the year from the founder of the station, Gary Brooks.

Ten years ago

• The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance incorporated as a not-for-profit society to oversee the implementation of the Area Farm Plan, as well as represent Salt Spring's agricultural interests on and off the island. One of its first recommendations was to establish a community farmland plot that would be farmed in a sustainable manner.

Twenty years ago

• A B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union strike continued, slowing ferry traffic through December to a near halt. A union representative said that travellers simply cancelled their plans to travel to the Gulf Islands rather than face uncertainty around their transportation. The strike had not completely affected the Gulf Islands, but the union had to give 24 hours strike notice if a work stoppage was planned.

Thirty years ago

• A day care facility was facing closure as a provincial government directive forced the operator to either keep to a maximum of seven children per centre or face prosecution. Sue Spencer, the owner of Busilyland Day Care Centre, said that she would rather close her doors than have to choose between the operation and the kids she looks after.

Forty years ago

• Sailor Darrell Georgeson's boat was burned to the waterline in Ganges Harbour. Georgeson lost most of his possessions in the fire, but islanders quickly rallied to help him out. Though the boat was severely damaged, a crew of volunteers determined that it was rebuildable. Businesses started a fundraiser to help Georgeson, and the rebuilding project began.

Fifty years ago

• A Salt Spring Island park was named after Peter Arnell, who was accidentally killed by a hunter's rifle shot earlier in 1968. Arnell was an avid promoter of parks on the island. A group of energetic high school students worked on the park site, located on Stewart Road. The land was donated by a B.C. forest company, but remained undeveloped for years.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Fulford Christmas ball rolls again

Community celebration brings many hands and hearts together

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Michael and Helga Bagnell are planning the sixth annual Fulford Hall Christmas Ball — also known as the “Freebedo” — and are inviting people to help out and donate food or toys to make the party as festive as possible.

Doors open at 11 a.m. with Helga’s legendary cheese scones and special oatmeal-dipped and fried French toast.

Games, live music and socializing take place all day, and turkey dinner is served at about 6 p.m. Gifts are available for all of the kids and probably the adults too.

It’s a free, all-ages, no-alcohol event, with the whole island invited to attend. People are welcome to bring food to share as well.

“The real spirit of Christmas is there because everyone is donating and sharing in the joy,” said Helga.

The tradition began in the late 1990s when Michael and Helga owned Rose’s Cafe in Fulford (where



PHOTO COURTESY HELGA BAGNELL

Helga Bagnell, left, and Mary Ann McColl in the Fulford Hall kitchen on Christmas Day in 2016. They will be back there again this year, along with a number of other volunteers, to put together a free Christmas gathering.

the Rock Salt is now located).

“Peter (Barney) Holmes went through town telling everyone that Michael and Helga were having a freebedo at the cafe, and it became a tradition,” said Helga.

Then about six years ago the couple decided to try getting the

community together once again on Christmas Day. The idea was an instant hit.

Memorable times included when some Fraggie puppets came for the day, thanks to their creator being present, and the incident they dub “The Miracle of the Green Pea Soup.” That’s the time 24 cans of peas were donated, but they turned out to be rock hard and needed to be soaked, pressure cooked and ground in order to be made into a delicious fluorescent green soup.

Fulford Community Hall donates the space for free, and Country Grocer provides funds for six turkeys, while another donor has offered a seventh turkey. Kitchen facilities at both the main hall and the seniors annex are used, and Helga credits Mary Ann McColl with being “the head kitchen elf.”

Volunteer help is always appreciated, both on Christmas Day and for preparations. Sessions for gift-wrapping and decorating will be held, for example.

Contact Michael or Helga at 250-653-9856 for more information, to volunteer or donate.

“It’s going to be a joyous time,” said Helga.

FAITH

Intimate service held at St. Mary’s Church

Readings and carols for entire community

Salt Spring Islanders are invited to deepen their spiritual experience of the Christmas Season by coming to the annual Southend Christmas at St. Mary’s Anglican Church in Fulford on Friday, Dec. 14.

The event, starting at 2 p.m., features Women of Note, a small women’s choir led by Patricia Flannagan, whose members have been singing together for 25 years on the island. Their concerts often feature a capella singing and unusual harmonies.

The choir’s musical offerings for the Southend Christmas often include both familiar

carols and lesser-known ones from across the centuries.

As the Anglican Parish explains, “‘Advent’ means ‘arrival’ and names the church season of waiting for the coming of the Prince of Peace, for the birth of the Christ-child — the Christ-mass.”

“This small intimate service gives the community an opportunity to both

be sung to and to join in on some of the beloved carols such as O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Silent Night,” said Rev. Gyllian Davies, priest for the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring.

“The carols will alternate with readings from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures and from spiritual writers from over the centuries.”

Genuine empathy comes easier with practice

The following is the third in a series of columns on how to communicate more effectively by Salt Spring’s Laura Dafoe. See www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for the previous two instalments.

“The greatest gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy.” — Meryl Streep

Empathy is the key to communication. When we truly feel what the other person is feeling, and do our best to understand their point of view, an important connection is made. This is the power of empathy and the framework from which communication can flourish.

When our feelings are acknowledged, and our thoughts understood, we experience a sense of calm. Science has shown that, in these moments, a biochemical reaction takes place that soothes neuron activity, helping us to relax.



Laura Dafoe
LET’S
TALK

From this place of stillness we are able to think more clearly and express our thoughts with composure.

It is important to remember that empathy is not the same as agreement. We can let someone know we hear what they are thinking and feeling, without agreeing with their opinion.

As listeners we also benefit from empathic listening. Our perspectives are widened and our thinking becomes more flexible and open to

new ideas. A relationship of trust and caring develops as we get to know the other person better.

Even though empathy comes naturally to us, sustaining it can be a challenge. As with all skills, we get better with practice. There is no particular way to “do” empathy other than having the intention to be truly present with the other person and letting them know you are there with them.

Examples of empathic responses: Would you like some acknowledgement for how hard you work?

I’m guessing you might have felt embarrassed or uncomfortable.

Is there anything I can do to help? Let me see if I’m understanding you?

“Empathy is patiently and sincerely seeing the world through the other person’s eyes. It is cultivated over a lifetime.” — Albert Einstein

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Festival OF TREES



PHOTOS BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

The annual Festival of Trees encourages charitable organizations and businesses to decorate Christmas trees and the public to vote for their favourites with food bank and Copper Kettle donations. This year the event is beautifully presented at the Harbour House Hotel in three different areas, with trees available for viewing daily through the holidays. The festival closes at 10 a.m. on Jan. 4, when the tree with the most donations stacked under its tree is announced.

Christmas Season ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Tuesday Dec 25.

Open for usual business hours on Wednesday Dec. 26.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE DEC. 26 PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 18, 4pm

Classified Display Deadline: Dec 18, 4pm

Classified Word Deadline: Dec 19, 10pm

Please note the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Tuesday Jan. 1.

Open for usual business hours on Wednesday Jan. 2.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE JAN. 2 PAPER:

Display Advertising Deadline: Dec 21, noon

Classified Display Deadline: Dec 21, noon

Classified Word Deadline: Dec 21, noon

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Spirit of Salt Spring



Stella Weinert, coordinator of Salt Spring Literacy, accepts a \$2,500 contribution from Tom Bremner of the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island, representing the club's sponsorship of the SS Literacy Society's Giant Book & Jewellery Sale held in November at the Farmers' Institute. It was the third year in a row that the local Rotary Club supported the sale with a \$2,500 donation towards expenses.

The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits. CALL DRIFTWOOD EDITOR GAIL SJUBERG FOR DETAILS.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Education/Trade Schools

DAWN LOUISE BRENNAN
(nee KYLER)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dawn on November 30, 2018 at Vernon Jubilee Hospital.

Dawn was born at the Lady Minto Hospital on December 17, 1952, raised in the Fulford Valley and graduated from Gulf Island Secondary in 1970. Following time in Kaslo and Edmonton, her family settled in Enderby, BC in 1993.

Dawn was predeceased by father Herschel "Pat" Kyler, and brothers Rick and Phillip.

She is deeply missed by her devoted husband John, daughter Shannon (Kiel), mother Lillie, sisters Diane (Ron) and Denise (Trevor), and brother Ken (Julie).

Dawn's compassionate nature, humour and laughter always brightened a room.

A celebration of life will be held in Enderby in the spring when the flowers are blooming and the garden is growing. Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded to the family at www.MyAlternatives.ca.

Arrangements entrusted to ALTERNATIVES FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES® Armstrong 250-546-7237 & Vernon 250-558-0866



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

MARY KATHLEEN AKEHURST



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mary Kathleen Akehurst, October 17, 2018. Born to Kathleen and Alfred Akehurst Oct. 28, 1940, Mary spent her childhood between Canada and Venezuela, eventually settling in Vancouver. Her colleagues at the Geological Survey of Canada, Vancouver

office referred to Mary as "legendary", and a fierce advocate for the geological community. As the librarian from 1972-2001, Mary's persistence and determination resulted in an impressive collection of reference books and maps, both Canadian and International, used by geologists, and geology students, as well as those in the mining and exploration community. In recognition of her career-long commitment, the library became known as the Mary Akehurst Geoscience Research Library. Upon her retirement she moved to Salt Spring Island to be closer to her parents. Mary will be remembered for her tales of adventures in South America, her independent nature, her love of dogs, her passion for growing roses, and her strong opinions on many topics. Pre-deceased by her parents, Mary leaves behind her brother John, sister-in-law, Kathryn, nephews Christopher, and Jamie, his wife, Robyn and their children, Annie and Fraser. Sincere thanks go to Sandi Muller of Heritage Place and Lorraine and Dave of Silver Shadow Taxi for their friendship in Mary's final years. A family memorial was held.

THOMAS GERALD GOSSEN

10 December 2018



Thomas Gerald Gossen, born 1934, Saskatoon, Canada Tom is an explorer of life. Borne of Northern Saskatchewan, the frontier was his doorstep as a young man. He is very good with numbers and accounting was an art form to him. He led a long and successful career consulting in financial matters to small businesses, farmers, and

governments in developing regions of Canada and Africa. He is an outdoorsman. He has many good stories of times in the bush of northern Saskatchewan, the arctic territories and remote parts of east Africa. He honed very fine skills as a bush pilot in northern Canada in the 50's and 60's and can fly anything. Proudly, he has crashed landed planes in the high arctic, and emergency landed in the sands of the Sahara, but still he loves graceful swooping loops in the silence of a glider. He turned his attentions later to sailing, but he can also ski, scuba dive, water ski, and surf. But all that remains of these pursuits is his trustworthiness Grumman aluminum canoe! He is a lover of the arts. He enjoyed the camaraderie of many great western Canadian artists in the 60's and 70's. He is also an accomplished piano player, able to make small children dance crazily to his ragtime recitals, and is not too bad at drawing and painting either. His homes were wonderfully decorated with works of art and designed sometimes by his own hand. These activities demonstrated a mind actively seeking the mysteries of life and the advancement of a global society. Tom dedicated much of his life to serving others through his skills and compassion. He provided valuable community services in Saskatoon and the surrounding native communities, and to the Inuit communities of Inuvik and the Northwest Territories, and his engrossing literacy program called UPLIFT that he co-founded in Uganda, which has helped thousands of impoverished people read, and it still operates today. Tom is follower of Baha'ullah and is a member of the Baha'i community. Tom's faith continues to deepen and shape his life in this world and he will happily pray, meditate, or consult with you along your spiritual journey. Tom had one younger brother, Bill, who passed several years ago. Tom has four children, Rhonda, Andrea, Lisa and David and is loving husband to Sylvia. He has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He is highly adored by his family, and has had a powerful influence on their lives.

The family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the Greenwoods staff for their loving care. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Greenwoods Foundation.



Gillian Leslie, (Jill) Evans
nee Murray



Jill passed away peacefully on November 14th, 2018 at The Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. She spent her last hours in the company of her loving family, reminiscing, sharing thoughts, and joking. She was her inimitable self until the end.

She had led an extraordinary life: a British Subject, born in China, who lived in Shanghai, England, New York, and finally Canada. All who knew her admired her intellect, gracious humour, and generosity of spirit. She was a devoted mother, a talented artist and writer, a breeder of Great Danes and a renowned historian of that breed. She had friends from all over the globe with whom she communicated extensively via social media. She loved her life on Saltspring Island and the many people she knew and cherished there. She volunteered at the library and was an avid bridge player who wrote a column on bridge for The Driftwood. Her unique soul will be sorely missed, and not soon forgotten.

She is survived by her son David, her daughter-in-law Gai, and her grandchildren, Taylor (Chelsea Rooney) and Lois (Parker Reid).

Thanks to Dr. Reznick, and the staff at the Lady Minto Hospital, and The Doctors and staff at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, who took such good care of her.

A Celebration of Life service is planned for 3:00 pm on January 5th, 2019 at the Lion's Hall in Ganges.

In Memoriam



Margaret Northeast
(nee Edwards)

1939 -
Dec. 14th, 2017

Lovingly remembered by her family

In Memoriam



Want to attend a Death Cafe?

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SPORTS + RECREATION

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

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



BASKETBALL

Junior basketball team takes two out of three

High school boys set to host mini-tourney this Saturday

The GISS Jr. Boys Basketball team began their 2018-19 season this past weekend with a positive showing at the Glenlyon Norfolk Ice-breaker Tournament in Victoria.

In pool play, the Scorpions had two convincing wins with all players making important contributions.

As coach Kim Chalmers reported, in the semi-final versus Brookes Westshore, Ben Shugar led the way with 16 points in the win, while Isaac Faulkner put immense pressure on the opponents' ball-handlers. Owen Norgard and Hudson Scheres were relentless when rebounding.

Chalmers said the Scorpions came up short in a hard-fought championship game, falling to the host team 50-41. Reuben Wright scored 16 points in the effort and was named a tournament MVP.

Next up the Scorpions are hosting a one-day mini-tournament on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the GISS gym.



PHOTO COURTESY GISS

GISS junior boys basketball team after finishing second in the Glenlyon Norfolk Icebreaker Tournament.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Old Boys slide their way to victory in Mill Bay

Holiday break on its way

BY FRASER HOPE

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Chess! Checkers! TiddlyWinks? Unfortunately the field surface at Frances Kelsey School in Mill Bay on Sunday made it more like a game of Snakes and Ladders between the Old Boys and Duncan as players slithered and slid on the greasy surface.

The Old Boys quickly adjusted to the conditions, however, and within the first five minutes, a full press attack had Dave Toynbee robbing the ball to cut an inside pass for Mike McCormick to have the easiest shots for a 1-0 lead.

But then a Duncan breakaway saw Donny Brown looking for a long "ladder" to climb as a chip shot went over his head from just over the half-way line for Duncan to equalize. PGDD (Post

Goalkeeper Distress Disorder) could easily have demoralized the Old Boys, but they shrugged it off with wry smiles: "That Donny Brown! What a card!" — and returned to lay siege to the Duncan goal.

Powerful runs from deep in defence by Cermak saw McCormick add to his goal tally with a shot that gave the Duncan keeper no chance.

Half time saw everyone pleased with their performance with the only goal against being an aberration. Teams were eager to begin the second half and once again superior fitness and the accurate passing game put pressure on the Duncan defence but slowly the effects of hash browns, pork sausages and a variety of egg combinations began to take their toll and Duncan forced themselves into the game with more success. They had noticed Brown's propensity to wander

far from goal and hoped to take advantage and "so it came to pass" that central defender Graham Tweddle was caught conversing with a colleague and an alert attacker once again found Brown more "downtown" than in his home domain and paid the price with a 2-2 tying goal.

Finally in the dying moments of the game, the pressure broke the dam and Aston managed to scramble the ball to McCormick, who found the net for his hat trick and the final winner of a hard-fought but entertaining game.

Old Boys could feel some pride in a three-game winning streak before the league goes to its winter break. Many of the team will be glad of the opportunity rest and recover from minor injuries secure in the knowledge a record of seven wins and only one losses augurs well for the upcoming spring session in January.

TENNIS

Island hosts U12 Tennis BC tournament

Twelve kids compete indoors

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A youth tennis tournament at the Salt Spring Tennis Centre over the weekend saw a rematch of the Gulf Islands Open played at Portlock Park in August.

In the boys final of the DCIS U12 tournament on Sunday, George Murray of Victoria narrowly defeated Scott Goddard of Salt Spring 5-3, 2-4 and 7-5 in the third-set tiebreaker.

"It was a well-played match with both boys hitting strong shots from the baseline, mixed in with a great variety of touch shots and net play," said tournament director Marjorie Blackwood.

Twelve players from Vancouver, Victoria and Salt Spring faced each other in the Dec. 8-9 Tennis BC 2-Star Series event. Local competitors Nate Kray-Gibson, Finn Hughes, Ronan Wardroper, Sisaye Patterson, Sam Barrett and Goddard played well, said Blackwood. The round-robin format meant that all entrants played at least three matches over the two days.

In the boys third and fourth-place playoff, Barrett



PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

From left, third-place winner Caden Steele, tourney director Marjorie Blackwood and fourth-place finisher Sam Barrett.

went down in a third set tiebreaker to Caden Steele of Victoria.

Blackwood thanked sponsor and Salt Spring Tennis Association member David Cummings, whose donation helped with entry fees and indoor court costs.

She also thanked all tournament volunteers and Penny's Pantry staff for their assistance.

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