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**DISASTER**

# Windstorm devastates island



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Alex Staicescu tries to stay in the Christmas spirit while surveying some of the damage at his family's home on Maple Ridge Drive. Multiple large trees came down on the property, ripping into the home's deck and roof as well as a camper parked outside.

## Massive tree damage throughout Salt Spring

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island looked like it was caught between a battle of the Titans and came out the loser on Friday morning as islanders assessed the damage wrought by the previous day's powerful windstorm.

Some areas had so many broken and smashed trees the damage could not have been worse if an actual battle of giants armed with hammers and maces had swept through.

BC Hydro reported the event was one of the most severe storms it had experienced in years, causing extensive damage to electrical infrastructure across Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley. As of Friday morning, 6,000 customers were still without power on Salt Spring.

"All available crews and resources will be working around the clock until all damage is repaired," a BC Hydro update from Friday stated. "Due to the extent of the damage, many customers will be without power overnight and for some customers it could be days."

The storm was the result of a powerful low-pressure system that started with south-east winds that gusted to 100 km per hour,

developed over the course of the morning and ramped up in the early afternoon. About 330,000 customers around the coastal region lost power at the peak of the outages, which started just before 11:30 a.m. on Salt Spring and soon impacted most of the island.

Fire Chief Arjuna George reported his organization responded to 133 calls on Thursday, covering everything from downed power lines to car crashes.

"We started off with a few calls that started coming in around 11:30," George said. "After that we soon realized it was going to be a chaotic day and the calls were starting to stack up, so we set up an area command post that allowed us to manage all the calls from one location. To manage that many calls is a very complex management."

Response was coordinated between the Salt Spring Emergency Operations Program and Salt Spring Fire Rescue, with the emergency operations base set up at the Ganges fire hall. The two organizations were assisted by Salt Spring Ground Search and Rescue, also working closely with BC Ambulance and the RCMP.

"It was a good team effort because we started at noon and we didn't close the cen-

tre until 10:30 that night," said emergency program coordinator Elizabeth Zook.

The island's response was put at risk because the CREST radio system based at the Central fire hall lost power. An electrician wired an emergency generator to the system, which had to be refuelled several times over Thursday night and Friday before power was restored.

"Because of the duration of the outage, we could have lost radio coms for the island," George said. "It was a first for us."

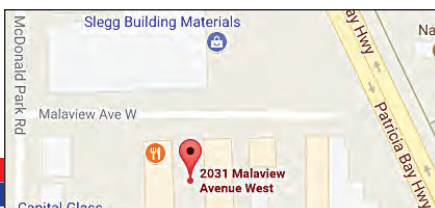
Various ferry sailings were cancelled Thursday.

By mid-day drivers were being warned not to attempt North End Road because of multiple fallen trees, debris and downed power lines, and the two possible south-end arteries were blocked on Fulford-Ganges Road and Stewart Road. All major island roads were closed at some point during the day.

The ferry routes were cleared by Friday morning but many blockages still remained. The Fernwood bus route was rerouted and passage on North End Road remained closed between Fernwood and Epron roads.

**STORM** continued on 3

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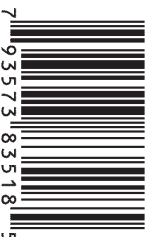


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SATURNA ISLAND

# BC Ferries water delivery aids Saturna Islanders

Pallets of water sent to district of 148 properties on long-term boil water advisory

BY MARC KITTERINHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saturna Islanders who have been under a boil water advisory since October got an early Christmas present in the form of 900 litres of bottled water from B.C. Ferries.

Residents of the Lyall Harbour Boot Cove Water Service Area have been advised to boil their water after a drier-than-normal summer.

On Saturday, residents received bottled water to help alleviate the stress of being under the advisory. During a boil water advisory, all water that is used for human consumption must be boiled at a rolling boil for one minute. Water used for drinking, preparing food, ice cubes, washing dishes and brushing teeth must be boiled.

Tessa Humphries, a spokesperson for B.C. Ferries, said that "it was a real team effort between our catering team, our Swartz Bay house team, the crews on board the ship and at the terminal on Saturna. We arranged very quickly to put it together and send it over and then volunteer firefighters were able to distribute it once it got to Saturna."

**"It's unfortunate that the advisory has extended as long as it has."**

TED ROBBINS

*CRD general manager of integrated water systems*

The area is serviced by two water sources. The main source is a groundwater well that normally produces clear water. However, that well ran dry earlier this year. The secondary source, Money Lake, has been experiencing higher levels of turbidity due to natural turnover and increased biological activity thanks to the warmer weather.

"It's unfortunate that the advisory has extended as long as it has. We recognize that the requirement to boil water is an inconvenience to those customers, but unfortunately it is necessary," said Ted Robbins, CRD general manager of integrated water systems. "We're monitoring the situation daily and we're hopeful that the turbidity levels decline and that the raw water and our filtration process is effective in dealing with that. Otherwise we'll have to take additional steps in the new year."

Rains in November helped replenish the groundwater spring, and on Nov. 23 the spring was re-activated as the main raw water source in the area. However, the water treatment plant is still being optimized to reduce the turbidity to the levels required for potable water. According to a notice posted by the CRD, the boil water advisory will continue until the levels decrease to acceptable and stable levels and the water is determined to be safe.

Robbins explained that if the turbidity levels do not decrease soon, they will be looking into adding additional filtration levels to the water treatment process.

"We're finding that raw water is containing a higher level of organic and inorganic fine materials which are passing through the filters," he said. "We may have to look at an additional treatment step which would potentially include the installation of finer cartridge filters to deal with these very fine sediments."

Upgrading the filters would come at a cost. The CRD would need to receive building permits from Island Health and it would take time to install any new filters. Robbins said though CRD staff are monitoring the situation daily, they are preparing to add new filters if the situation is not remedied by the end of the month.

Though not all water uses require boiling, any water that could end up consumed must be either boiled or from a secondary source.

"The organic and inorganic material in the water has the potential to render the disinfection process ineffective," Robbins said.

The pallets of water donated by B.C. Ferries will go towards helping out. The area affected contains 148 properties that are tied in to the



PHOTO COURTESY BC FERRIES

BC Ferries employees, from left, Heather McQuinn, Dennis Schmidt and Tony Sraw with bottled water sent to Saturna Island to assist residents of the Lyall Harbour Boot Cove Water District, which has been under a boil water advisory since October.

water system. The water was donated from the company's Swartz Bay warehouse.

"Once [BC Ferries CEO Mark Collins] got the request, he asked that our warehouse team look into it to see what we had on hand. We were able to put it together and send it over," Humphries said. "We're certainly happy to help our neighbours and community on Saturna . . . Our crew was really excited to be able to help as well. They live and work in this community, so it's nice to help out our neighbours."

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2019 PST Z+8							
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
26	0048	0.2	0.7	30	0412	1.8	5.9
	0858	3.7	12.1		1128	3.5	11.5
	WE 1445	2.6	8.5		SU 1855	1.3	4.3
	ME 1810	2.9	9.5		DI		
27	0135	0.5	1.6	31	0135	2.5	8.2
	0938	3.7	12.1		0520	2.2	7.2
	TH 1601	2.4	7.9		MO 1201	3.4	11.2
	JE 1927	2.6	8.5		LU 1938	1.0	3.3
28	0224	0.9	3.0	1	0309	2.8	9.2
	1017	3.7	12.1		0638	2.5	8.2
	FR 1709	2.0	6.6		TU 1233	3.3	10.8
	VE 2115	2.3	7.5		MA 2016	0.8	2.6
29	0315	1.3	4.3	2	0413	3.0	9.8
	1053	3.6	11.8		0759	2.7	8.9
	SA 1806	1.7	5.6		WE 1304	3.3	10.8
	SA 2328	2.3	7.5		ME 2052	0.6	2.0

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## PR REFERENDUM

# B.C. chooses status quo

Majority of local riding votes for proportional representation

BY MARC KITTERINHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The results for the Electoral Reform Referendum are in, with the current system of first past the post coming out on top.

The majority of ballots (61.3 per cent) chose first past the post, with 42.6 per cent of eligible voters returning ballots. Though the second question did not count due to the response to the first, had B.C. chosen proportional representation, mixed-member proportional would have been the winner, with 63.05 per cent of the vote after two rounds of voting.

Results for Saanich North and the Islands had proportional representation on top, with 51.38 per cent of the vote. Riding turnout was over 50 per cent, with 27,849 people voting. MMP was the most voted-for option, with 67 per cent of votes after two rounds.

A poll by Angus Reid after the election showed that one of the major causes for the result was political.

"The overwhelming support among past BC Liberal voters for their preferred choice – and more division among past BC NDP and BC Green Party voters – was a key driver of the result," an article detailing their findings read.

Since the results are to remain with the status quo, no further steps will be taken. This was B.C.'s third referendum on electoral reform. In 2005, 58 per cent of voters voted for a single transferable vote system, but the government had required a 60 per cent majority to make the result count. In 2009, only 39 per cent of people voted for a change.

# Hydro service restoration estimated to take days

**STORM**  
continued from 1

The entire Salt Spring Legion building was opened as a warming centre/reception centre on Thursday, with 73 people attending. CRD director Gary Holman was one of the people who couldn't get home and made use of the refuge, where coffee, tea and snacks were offered along with frequent information updates.

"It was a great experience for me personally while I was waiting for the roads to clear, and it was really great to see how quickly it came together and how well organized it was," Holman said. "But it also made it clear these designated centres need more support."

Holman said he will be looking into the possibilities in the upcoming budget as well as in future years.

All afternoon school buses were cancelled Thursday, meaning some children and teachers were left behind at their schools for a few hours because parents could not get to them.

"The emergency centre was really good at getting information out all across the island. It was impressive, and we were able to make the decision that it was better not to run the buses," said district superintendent Lisa Halstead.

Fortunately, the water taxis had not run during the morning so there were just a few students from the outer Gulf Islands on Salt Spring. However, some students from Crofton were stuck at Salt Spring Middle School with the combined ferry cancellations and road closures. On Pender Island, a downed tree blocked road access to the school. The staff and 24 students still there were relocated to the Magic Lake fire hall.

Halstead reported that the last Gulf Islands student was picked up at around 7 p.m. Students were released to friends and family members in some cases, and in others were taken home to their teachers' houses for the night.

"It really shows how a community pulls together," Halstead said.

The Capital Regional District issued notice Friday that most small water systems in the Southern Gulf Islands, Salt Spring Island



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Thistle Dew Cottage B&B is hit by three trees that fell on it Thursday. "It's unbelievable," said owner Pauline McDonald.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Jason Charlebois stands next to the massive root system of a tree down on North End Road north of Fernwood.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN TATONETTI

Little Red Schoolhouse outhouse structure destroyed by a fallen tree. The school itself was also damaged.

and the Juan de Fuca electoral areas were relying on limited emergency reservoir storage capacity, and asked users to limit water use. Highland-Fernwood Water Service Area residents were left without water after downed trees damaged infrastructure. Customers were issued a pre-emptive boil-water notice for when water service was restored. Beddis Water Service customers on Sky Valley Road and Lord Mike's Road also had reduced water, with a boil water notice issued upon service return.

Damage incurred during the

storm included a major blow to Little Red Schoolhouse, where a fallen tree crashed through the roof and tore through part of the building structure, as well as "obliterating" the outhouses, according to observer Christian Tatonetti. Several vehicles were crushed by cars, including one at Eagle Ridge Medical Clinic and another parked outside Gulf Islands Secondary School on Kanaka Drive.

See [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for more photos and an illustrated map of damage throughout the island.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY COMMAND

Michael Elsser drags a tree off Long Harbour Road after cutting it with his chainsaw on Thursday afternoon.



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Emergency crews respond to Beddis Road MVI. SS Fire Rescue responded to more than 130 calls.



PHOTO BY PAUL ZOLOB

Vehicles drive under a tree hanging on lines over Lower Ganges Road.

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DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTOS  
**WINNING WAYS:** Top prizes in the Driftwood's Christmas decorating contest were given out last week. At top, from left, Driftwood account manager Shirley Command gives the people's choice award and second overall awards to Kim Young of Moutat's and window creator Sharon Sykes. Above, Linda Koroscil, left, receives best overall and most creative awards for Love My Kitchen from Driftwood account manager Ashleigh Glonet. At left, Rotarian Doug Herbert accepts the best use of lights award for Rotary Marine Park.

HOUSING

# Abbeyfield society dissolves

Assets passed to IWAV

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Abbeyfield Housing Society has announced that dissolution of the organization for seniors housing is now complete and its assets dispersed to Island Women Against Violence for the Croftonbrook expansion project.

The island Abbeyfield group was established in 1992 according to the guidelines of a Canada-wide society that creates shared homes for independent seniors, run by a staff house coordinator. It grew out of the wish to give south-end seniors who wanted to downsize an opportunity to stay in their neighbourhood. Major funding support for the project came with a \$100,000 bequest from Ruby Alton.

"We wish to thank past and present Abbeyfield board members who for many years worked diligently to fulfill the society's mandate and to honour the terms of Ruby Alton's generous bequest to assist in housing seniors," a letter from the board to the community states.

"IWAV is really pleased to be asked to work with the Abbeyfield society for this positive outcome and to honour the bequest of Ruby Alton," said IWAV housing director Kisae Petersen. "Ultimately it will benefit south-end seniors who will move to Croftonbrook. It's a good solution and really honours Ruby Alton's intention."

The board explained it reached the "arduous decision to seek dissolution" after facing a number of challenges. Board retention was difficult, which in turn hampered fundraising campaigns. At one point the society actually lost its funding when the Alton bequest was misappropriated by lawyer Jonathan Oldroyd. Fortunately it was restored after court-ordered sales of Oldroyd's property in 2006.

The society thought it would meet its goal at last when a donation of land was offered through subdivision of a property in Fulford. The plan was withdrawn in 2010 due to the mismatched set of requirements that BC Housing wished to attach to the project at the time. Later attempts to find land in the south end, including an offer on the former Fulford Inn site, were not successful, while island property prices started to soar.

Olive Mann has been a member of the Abbeyfield society for 15 years and president of the board for the past seven. She said with the combination of issues, it made sense to help another project instead of continuing on alone.

"People had worked really really hard for a long time and hadn't seen a huge amount of results," Mann said. "When they first started the society, there was just very



Portrait of Ruby Alton, a Salt Spring Abbeyfield Housing Society benefactor, created by island artist Gabrielle Jensen.

little in terms of seniors housing on the island at that point. Things have really changed, although there is still need, especially at the lower income level."

After the decision to dissolve was reached, the board took another year to research and investigate all possible options on how to direct the Alton bequest funds. The society had partnered with IWAV in 2013 to build and run The Cedars, a complex for women that combines second-stage housing for families leaving abusive relationships and full-time housing for low-income seniors. The partnership, and the mandate to include low-income seniors housing in the Croftonbrook expansion, helped provide the path forward.

"We felt that group has good leadership and excellent paid staff, and they had the wherewithal to proceed. These projects are enormous, and they have the resources," Mann said.

Although the Alton bequest specifies a south-end location for seniors housing, that's one aspect the society had to let go of along with the divestment. However, Mann said surveys the society had done in the past found that old-time south-enders who moved to Ganges were mostly happy with the outcome as they became closer to services, shops and social opportunities.

"Now that there's kind of a community of seniors happening in the upper Ganges area, I think that sentiment is only becoming stronger," Mann said.

To permanently honour Alton, the Abbeyfield society commissioned island artist Gabrielle Jensen to create a portrait of the community benefactor. The portrait will hang in phase two of the Croftonbrook development along with a memorial inscription.

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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>

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NSSWD

# Becoming CRD utility only choice given to NSSWD

Trustees express frustration with ministry process

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The option for a non-CRD-led water authority has been taken off the table, after the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing informed North Salt Spring Waterworks District staff that the ministry would not include that option in their study of island water governance.

The ministry will be sending an official letter to the district to have the information in writing, explained environmental manager Meghan McKee at Thursday's meeting of trustees and staff. The development means that in the terms of reference for the upcoming study, there will be no option that does not include the Capital Regional District at the helm. NSSWD made news of the study public in November.

"The ministry staff made clear that they would not agree to [NSSWD's preference for a non-CRD option]. The ministry has committed to conduct a study of water management on Salt Spring Island to see how water can be managed better and they would like NSSWD to be part of that."

The plan to have a second option as part of the management study was preferred by the waterworks district because it would keep the decision-making power local.

"The best management for Salt Spring would be to have decisions made about Salt Spring made on Salt Spring," said trustee Michael McAllister.

Trustees considered the second draft of the terms of reference for the study. The study will look at what an island-wide water authority would look like with the CRD at the helm, but there is no commitment to adopt the findings of the study once it is complete.

An island-wide authority would be eligible for grant funding and be able to complete large capital projects like the needed Maxwell Lake water treatment plant without ratepayers having to pay the entire bill. However, the trustees still felt leery about giving decision-making power to a body based in Victoria.

Any change to the structure of the NSSWD needs to be decided by a referendum of the ratepayers.

NSSWD chair Marshall Heinekey said, "Our ratepayers need to understand what that process is. There is no commitment to the outcome of that report. What it does is lays out exactly what we could get under that particu-



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

St. Mary Lake treatment plant on Tripp Road, which is nearing final completion.

lar model. Then the ratepayers always have the last word on this thing . . . I would rather have a consultant look at it who is paid for by the government and where we sit at the table along with all of the other players that are involved in this thing and make our best shot there."

"We're on our own now. We can be on our own a year from now," he added.

The district still needs to see a completed terms of reference from the ministry before making any decisions as to whether to take part in the study or not. Staff recommended trying to keep a seat at that table, because it would be the best way to ensure that the district's voice is heard.

Trustee Chris Dixon said that he was frustrated with the process, saying, "They're not listening to us. So if they're not listening to us at this moment, are they going to listen to us when we're at the table?"

Since the finalized terms of reference are not complete, the board will wait to read them before making a final decision.

"It's too early to bail," said Heinekey. "I don't see walking before you know what the hell you're walking against. Salt Spring Islanders have a pretty good resilience to go against change."

## DAF plant update

The North Salt Spring Waterworks Treatment plant is 99.9 per cent complete, and is expected to be coming on line in January.

Though the project deadline has been extended, the project has remained on budget and is going through the final calibration stage. NSSWD manager Ron Stepaniuk explained that the final stages include calibrating all of the electronic equipment that ensures the processes are in sync and finishing the water chemistry and coagulation configuration.

"All the major components are in place, the building is complete," Stepaniuk said at the NSSWD trustee's meeting on Dec. 20. "What we've been working through since Dec. 10 are basically the brains of the operation."

The building uses a dissolved air filtration system, which cleans the water by pumping in a coagulant that sticks to any sediments and particles. The unwanted particles float to the top where they are skimmed off, leaving potable water. The system is much more effective than the previous St. Mary Lake treatment system, which was more of a physical filtration.

When the project is complete, NSSWD will hold an open house event for anyone interested in seeing the building.

"We're expecting somewhere around the middle of January to be making real water and to be contemplating going online," Stepaniuk said. "It'll be from the middle to the end, somewhere in there. We'll see how quickly people get back up to speed after the Christmas break."

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# OPINION



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Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan)  
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



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### EDITORIAL

# Storm heroes

Last Thursday's windstorm brought unprecedented damage to Salt Spring Island, and it will be weeks or even months before the resulting property losses are tallied.

The massive snowstorm of December 1996 may be remembered for bringing everything to a halt, and other storms have toppled trees all over the island, particularly due to the weight of heavy snow. But the wicked winds that came on Thursday were unlike past storms in terms of the volume of trees that fell due to wind alone.

Experts have in the past noted that dry summers combined with intense winter rains led to more trees falling, meaning we can likely expect more such episodes in the future.

### THE ISSUE: Windstorm fallout

### WE SAY: Kudos to all who helped

restore a semblance of normalcy as soon as possible.

All of the work done by Salt Spring Island Emergency Program staff and its many volunteers also pays off during times of devastation. Emergency centres and POD systems were activated to ensure people were warm, fed and safe. Thursday's events are a strong reminder that determining what POD one belongs to, registering and even volunteering in some capacity is the best way to create resilience for one's self and the community. All of the necessary information is available on the emergency program's website.

But as usual on Salt Spring, many kindnesses occurred between individuals, as those with means gave a hand to those who were trapped or frightened or hungry.

Coming as it did during the Christmas season, those acts of kindness and consideration were an especially poignant reminder of how fortunate we are to live in this community.

Let's make a point of thanking those who put themselves on the line during and after the storm, and finding ways to help both ourselves and others in future emergency situations.

During emergency situations like the one experienced on Thursday, we are reminded of the dangerous work that our emergency responders and BC Hydro workers and contractors are engaged to do. Everyone is grateful that they are willing and trained to respond to emergencies and to



# LNG battle now underway

BY JAN SLAKOV

It was bad enough learning that B.C. is providing big subsidies to LNG investors for a carbon-intensive industry that contaminates water.

Now the industry, with the help of the RCMP, is gearing up to violate Indigenous rights in a way that is totally unacceptable.

Although some Indian Act bands and corporations have signed agreements with the government of B.C. to allow pipeline construction and receive financial compensation, the Wet'suwet'en hereditary leadership, which has jurisdiction over 22,000 square kilometres of traditional territories, is strongly opposed to pipeline construction through their "yintah" or territory.

Given the genocidal conditions the Wet'suwet'en have endured since contact (disease epidemics, mass murder, racism, forcible removal of children to residential schools, starvation) it is impressive that the community has not retaliated in a violent way. Indeed, they went to court and won legal recognition of title to their yintah in the 1997 Delgamuukw/Gisdaywa vs. Queen case. Now, some leaders express

### VIEWPOINT

concern over the B.C. treaty process, which they see as dysfunctional and facilitating "exploitative plans to never-before-seen rates."

So, in 2009, the Unist'ot'en permaculture camp was established on part of their territory that stood in the path of proposed pipelines. A good number of people, including Gulf Islands residents, have travelled there to help with construction of a healing lodge and to learn.

Some may think it is unfair for a relatively small group of people to deny permission for a pipeline to be constructed on their land. Others see the actions of the Unist'ot'en as heroic — instead of signing on to some agreement in exchange for hundreds of thousands of government dollars, the Unist'ot'en and other clans insist on protecting land that they have stewarded for thousands of years. We know that protecting natural life systems is a key part of what is needed to prevent climate catastrophe. And learning from people who have such a deep connection to nature may well

be another important task for non-Indigenous people who wish to pass on a livable planet for future generations.

Ecological concerns and violating Indigenous rights are not the only problems with the pipeline proposal. Let's look at the record of some of the investors in this project: Shell, which paid \$15.5-million to settle a legal action accusing it of complicity in Nigerian human rights violations, is a member of groups involved in climate disinformation. Petro-China, through its majority shareholder China National Petroleum Co., has been linked to abuses in Sudan and Burma. Both commonsensecanadian.ca and thenahrwahl.ca have documented Petronas' human rights violations and corruption.

If you believe in peace, order and good government, please learn more and help out as you are able. May 2019 be a year of respect for first peoples and the land and waters they defend.

*The writer is a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, which supports these Unist'ot'en efforts.*

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Did you suffer property damage from the windstorm?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Did you donate to a local charity this year?  NO  YES

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

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"I don't see walking before you know what the hell you're walking against."**

MARSH HEINEKEY, NSSWD BOARD CHAIR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

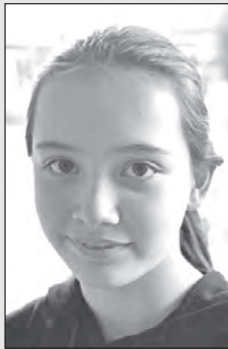
*What are you looking forward to doing over the holiday?*

#### ARTHUR LYONS



Going to Mt. Washington.

#### CHANTAL LAM



Spending time with my family.

#### ELISABETH INNES



Eating good food.

#### JACK FLYNN



Having a Christmas party.

#### LEILA SIKORA



Sleeping in.

## LETTERS to the editor

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

### Don't weaken laws

This is the time when even the most cynical and suspicious of us have come to accept that yes indeed there does appear to be an environmental crisis that human activity has created and which appears to be threatening our entire planet and all living creatures on it.

This is the time that the threat to our planet must be understood and accepted and solutions to help reverse this environmental crisis given top priority. We are all responsible without exception and we must all be accountable without exception.

There can no longer be "special cases" where questionable environmental practices with questionable or unknown environmental impacts will be accepted or tolerated. No matter how valid, there can be no "special cases" and no "entitlement situations" in a crisis so obviously serious that

international scientific communities warn we will not survive as a species if we continue as we are. That means guilt-driven "special cases" or legally sanctioned "entitlement arguments" have no bearing, no significance and no meaning, regardless of how fair, unfair, just or unjust, legal or illegal.

Our planet is dying and it does not matter who is right. We will all live in relative harmony or we will all die in greedy avariciousness. Therefore, environmental laws that can be weakened or reinterpreted to "give entitlement to" or "give exception to" one group, one multi-national company, one nation or one people over another and which places environmental protection second to the demands of those few have missed the point entirely.

We are together in this crisis and we must be together in its solution. Our survival demands we accept this reality even if we do not like it and even if it seems unfair.

**PATRI JANYK,**  
SALT SPRING

### Booth Bay is the wrong spot

Mr. Denning is absolutely right to have ecological concerns with the potential choice of Booth Bay as a commercial shellfish site ("Liberating dialogue possible over Booth Bay," Dec. 19 Driftwood). What were they?

If a group of Chinese, white, black or assorted people other than First Nations were behind this application, let me ask Mr. Denning, might his arguments be completely focused upon ecological sensitivity... and would they not be enough to end the dialogue he espouses? I think so.

A commercial shellfish site must be sheltered from open seas, yet offer good flow or tidal flushing. What you do not want is a site near a substantial, long-term population that has already polluted the silting-up bottom of a low-flush zone in a

tight inlet. You do not want a toxic soup or temperatures leading to other problems.

Actually, as a citizen of Canada, I count upon the governing bodies most concerned with such things (notably, my not being poisoned). I want them to review the impact/ likely result of proposed sites regardless of who might propose them. To me, that takes precedence over other hurt feelings any of us might have over not being allowed to operate in the free wheeling manner to which we were once accustomed.

As far as "where" is concerned; take out a stack of coastal charts of B.C. Look for any intersection of fresh water and the ocean where one might be able to beach a small craft. There are hundreds and perhaps, thousands of them. Chances are, they are marked with a black boundary noting "IR" for Indian Reserve. Just kayak out of Tofino in search of a campsite with fresh water.

**DAL BRICKENDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

## Climate: Some progress to report from Poland

BY GWYNNE DYER

Global warming is physics and chemistry, and you can't negotiate with science for more time to solve the problem: more emissions mean a hotter planet. Dealing with the problem, however, requires an international negotiation involving almost 200 countries. In big gatherings of that sort, the convoy always moves at the speed of the slowest ships.

That's why the reporting on the UN Climate Change Conference in Poland that ended on Saturday, two days later than planned, has been so downbeat. It didn't produce bold new commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. It saw the usual attempts by the biggest fossil fuel producers, the United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia, to stall the process. And in the end it just produced a "rulebook."

But that's all it was supposed to do, and it's not "just" a rulebook. The great breakthrough at the Paris conference three years ago saw every country finally agree to adopt a plan for emission reductions, but the Paris accord was a mere sketch, only 27 pages long.

Fleshing it out – what the plans should cover, how often they should be updated, how countries should measure and report their emissions, how much leeway should be given to poor countries with bad data – was left until later. Later is now, and in the end they did come up with a 256-page rulebook that fills in most of those blanks.

"We have a system of transparency, we have a system of reporting, we have rules to measure our emissions, we have a system to measure the impacts of our policies compared to what science recommends," said the European Union's Climate Commissioner, Miguel Arias Canete. It was an

### GUEST COLUMN

excruciating process, and it still leaves a few things out, but it settled a thousand details about how the Paris deal will really work.

Oh, and one big thing. China abandoned its claim that as a 'developing country' it should not be bound by the same rules as rich countries like the United States. There will only be one set of rules for both rich and poor countries, although the really poor ones will get a lot of financial and technical help in meeting their commitments.

This year's conference dealt with the details at ministerial level. Next year UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will host a summit of the biggest emitters to lay the groundwork for the key 2020 meeting. That's when countries will report if they have kept their 2015 promises on emissions cuts, and hopefully promise much bigger cuts for the next five years.

The rise of populist nationalists like Donald Trump and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro, both climate change deniers, will make future negotiations even harder. It's all moving far too slowly, but the human factor keeps getting in the way. For example, Bolsonaro wants Brazil to get extra carbon credits for protecting the Amazonian rain-forest, even as he plans to carve the forest up with big new roads and cut a lot of it down.

The Paris deal is important, but it has come far too late to stop the average global temperature from rising to the never-exceed target of +2 degrees Celsius that was adopted many years ago, let alone the lower target of +1.5 C that scientists now

believe is necessary.

We are already at +1 C, and current promises of emission cuts will take us up past +3 C. At the moment emissions are still going up (by three per cent this year). Even if countries make further major commitments to cut emissions in 2020, it's hard to believe that we can avoid devastating heat waves, droughts, floods and sea-level rise, and a sharp fall in global food production.

So while we are cutting emissions, we also need to be working on ways to remove some of the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases we have already put into the atmosphere. Various ideas for doing that are being worked on, but they will probably become available on a large scale too late to keep the temperature rise below +2 C.

So geo-engineering – direct intervention in the atmosphere to hold the temperature down while we work on getting emissions down – will probably be needed as well. Nobody really wants to do 'solar radiation management', but cutting the amount of sunlight reaching the planet's surface by just a small amount is technically feasible. It could temporarily halt the warming and give us the extra time we are probably going to need.

We are getting into very deep water here, but we may have no other options. If we had started cutting our emissions 20 years ago (when we already knew where they would eventually take us), such drastic measures would not be necessary. But that's not the human way, and so we'll have to take the risks or pay the price.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is *Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)*.



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**THEATRE REVIEW**

## Scrooge lives up to the legend

Sold-out run for the second year

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two women whose children are past the age of believing in Santa went to ArtSpring last week feeling a little overwhelmed and bothered by their seasonal obligations.

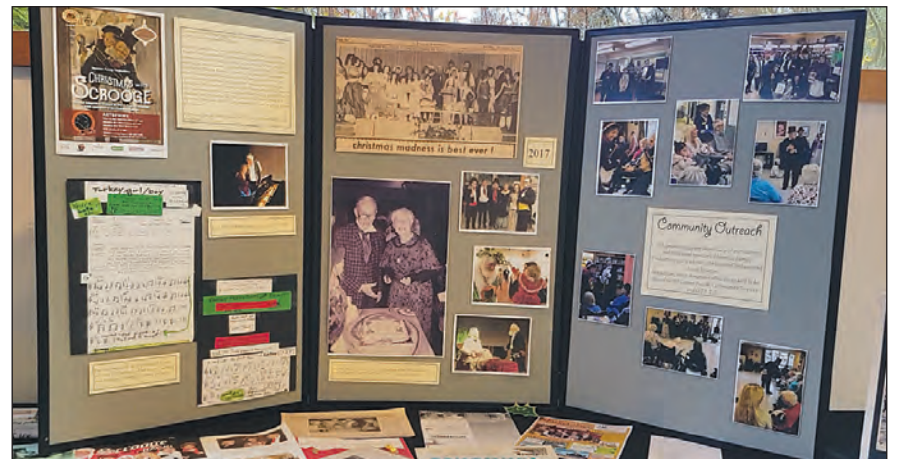
The island holiday tradition of seeing Christmas With Scrooge was not one they had experienced before. Although they surely found much to relate to in the character of Mrs. Cratchit and not so much with the rich but grumpy Scrooge, it may be fair to say there was a faint echo of "Bah! Humbug!" in their hearts.

Those women — and anyone else in the audience who may have been feeling more annoyance than bliss at the prospect of Christmas — received a positive attitude adjustment after seeing the cherished Newman Family Productions show. Not needing the complete transformation that Ebenezer Scrooge did, they went forward into the night with a new lightness of spirit, and renewed appreciation for the fine musical theatre tradition the Newmans have fostered on the island for close to 50 years.

Christmas With Scrooge had its debut in 1971 as Christmas Madness, a short musical adaptation of Dickens' classic story A Christmas Carol. A short video of the show's origin and evolution that opened last week's sold-out run was a delightful way to introduce that history, and to bring in the voice of Virginia Newman, who wrote much of the music that still appears in the show. The video also provided a lovely bridge between past and present: scenes of Sue Newman as a young girl dancing the part of the Christmas fairy on the screen led directly to her appearance on stage in that role, one she has resumed year after year.

Newman has reported that Christmas With Scrooge now has around 85 people involved, with about 50 onstage, representing an age demographic spanning single digits to octogenarians. This broadly inclusive slice of the community is a major part of what makes the show so special. The other part, of course, is the generous quantity of song, dance and sheer silliness interspersed with Scrooge's redemption journey.

Community inclusiveness is a hallmark of the show. There are traces of the original Christmas Madness to be seen in the cabaret/variety portions, which it appears could be shifted in or out of the script depending on who is available and what their particular strengths might be in a given year. This past production made good use of local



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

At top, costumed carollers entertain outside of ArtSpring before the opening night of Christmas With Scrooge. From left are Margo Milton, Keith Ollerenshaw, Caroni Young, Jekka Mack and Bo Curtis. Above is a lobby display of Scrooge history. The Newman Family Productions show was remounted last year for the first time in several years.

veterans of the stage for the key roles — such as Patrick Cassidy as delightfully expressive Scrooge and Kevin Wilkie as his hard-pressed employee Bob Cratchit. Bob Twaites transformed wonderfully from his full-time Christmas role to the Ghost of Christmas Past, in the perfect fur-trimmed green velvet robes and fairy light wreath. Kane O'Scalleigh did admirable double duty as two young women, going from slightly spoiled upper crust daughter to dutiful Cratchit girl with many younger siblings.

The variety show aspect comes to a frenzied head in a scene from a Christmas past when Scrooge was a young man. The Fezziwigs' ball is a delightfully frothy affair, with gorgeous satin costumes, tiny glasses of punch, dance sets and performances by different guests and members of the host family. This year the ball included a funny duet by Jo Twaites and Maggie O'Scalleigh as spinster sisters looking for the single men, and an over-the-top appearance by Jeffrey Renn as opera diva "Greta Van Wiener Schnitzel" in full Brunhild gear.

The ball is also the opportunity

to see the famous Spotty Dogs act. With a set of small children very much in character as dogs in spotted suits, this continues to be a heart-melting but funny skit that will win over any Scrooges that might be lingering in the audience.

The young children in the cast were the show stealers, in general, and were highly professional and accomplished whenever they appeared, whether as street urchins, dancers or the remarkable Tiny Tim (Ruby Williamson).

With much of the action carrying into the audience, carollers in full Victorian costume singing outside before the show and at intermission, and treats by donation that included roasted chestnuts and hot potatoes, Christmas With Scrooge is an immersive experience more than a show to watch.

Newman says the company is committed to carrying on the Christmas With Scrooge tradition for a few more years, at least until the 50th anniversary in 2021. Advice for next year is to book tickets as soon as they are available, because this is one holiday season tradition that meets the hype.

# Snowflake the Christmas Present

BY HANA ISHIKAWA

FIRST PLACE  
AGE 7-8 CATEGORY

Once upon a time, there was a kitten. Her name was Snowflake and she lived in the North Pole. One day she saw Santa with his sleigh. She hopped in his sleigh and then Santa took off with the kitten in his sleigh.

When she got to Santa's place she snuck into the factory. She saw many different kinds of toys. She saw robots, dolls, trains, stuffed animals and even some cat toys. Then all of a sudden, all the noise stopped and everything stopped moving in the factory. Santa rushed in and said, "Oh no. The factory has stopped working. We're never going to get the toys done on time for Christmas!"

"Meow," said Snowflake. "Sure," Santa said. "You can help."

Then Snowflake ran up one of the conveyor belts and then another trying to see what the problem was, but then she tripped on something and got her paw stuck. Suddenly the noise started up again and the conveyor belt started moving.

"Oh no," Snowflake thought to herself.

She saw a dark hole up ahead. She closed her eyes and when she opened them again, all she could see was black, but at least her foot was unstuck. She realized she was in a present box. The box started moving and shaking. Once the box stopped moving, she peeked out of the box and realized she was in Santa's present bag. The sleigh stopped and her box got picked up and put under a Christmas tree.

Snowflake waited for a long time and then she heard footsteps and talking. The lid of her box opened and she didn't know where she was. Then a human looked in at her.

"A kitten," said a girl. The girl picked Snowflake up out of the box and cuddled her. Snowflake decided she liked the girl and started to purr.

"Hi, I'm Mia," said the girl.

"Meow," said Snowflake.

"Your fur is as white as snow. I am going to call you Snowflake," said Mia.

Snowflake nodded yes and they lived happily ever after. The end.



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# The Red Panda Present



BY PASLEY HAYDEN

AGE 7-8 CATEGORY  
SECOND PLACE

Once there was a reindeer named Cucumber. Cucumber worked in a present factory. His job was reading letters and finding the presents.

One day Cucumber got a letter from a fox named Donut. Donut wanted a red panda. Cucumber didn't know where to find one so he looked it up and found out that they lived in China. Cucumber decided to go to China and find a red panda. But when he found one, she didn't want to leave her family or her

bamboo.

"Please come with me. If you don't, I'll get fired," said Cucumber.

"But if I do, I'll be sad," said the red panda.

So Cucumber went back on the plane. He was disappointed that the red panda didn't want to come with him but then he got a good idea.

On Christmas morning, the fox opened his present. It was writing paper, pencils, erasers, stamps, envelopes, a picture of the red panda and her address. The red panda and the fox became pen pals and one day the red panda came to visit on Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS STORY CONTEST WINNERS:** Last week's Driftwood contained eight first and second-place winners in our annual holiday season contest for youth. The remaining four are in this week's paper.

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# This Bunny Wishes He Had Christmas

BY KAI ISHIKAWA

AGE 4-6 CATEGORY  
SECOND PLACE

Once there was a bunny named Hoppy and he saw the villagers had Christmas and he wished he had Christmas too. The next day was Christmas so he waited for Santa Claus to come so that he could hop into Santa's bag of presents.

Then Santa went back to the North pole with Hoppy in his bag and Hoppy snuck into the workshop. Hoppy saw all the elves making gifts and he tried to make a gift to take home but the elves saw him and the elves said to Hoppy "bunnies can't make presents." Hoppy waited for a few days and he missed his family so he tried to hop to his family but he got lost. Santa found him and brought him back to his house and the elves made some toys for Hoppy to play with. He was bored of playing with the toys so he took a walk and the elves ran up to him and said, "We can teach you how to make toys." Hoppy learned how to make toys.

Hoppy waited for a year and then Christmas was coming next week and he was excited because he would get to go home. Santa was glad there was Hoppy to help make toys because he didn't have enough elves. They had just

enough toys when it was time to go and load the presents. Hoppy was one of the elves that helped load the presents. Even though Hoppy was small he could still jump up into the sled. They took off to give presents to the people who were sleeping. Hoppy helped deliver the present into people's houses. The last stop was Hoppy's house and he said goodbye to Santa and gave him a big hug. The last word Hoppy heard from Santa was "Happy Christmas."

The next day, Hoppy woke up with his brother and sister and his mom and his dad and Hoppy liked that his family got presents. Hoppy's brother got a gift from Santa and it was a remote-control toy of a bad guy stealing a carrot. Hoppy's sister got gems and Hoppy got a carrot stuffy. Hoppy and his family got presents every Christmas.



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# ISLAND LIFE

- Star of the Week
- What is it?
- Trail club schedule

**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



PHOTO BY CHARLEY MILLER

Salt Spring Singers choir members sing carols in Ganges on Dec. 17, led by Damian Inwood in a finely decorated top hat.

## HOLIDAY SPIRIT

# Happy holidays filled with 'Hygge'

BY FRANTS ATTORP  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

There is nothing in daily life more precious to the Danes than hygge. The word doesn't translate easily to English, but can be described as a general sense of coziness, comfort and contentment that comes from enjoying the simple things in life.

Hygge is a key part of Danish culture that has developed into an art form and is fast becoming a lifestyle trend across Europe and elsewhere. Some experts have speculated it is one of the reasons Denmark is consistently ranked among the happiest nations in the world.

**It is important to note that hygge doesn't just happen; it has to be created.**

There are a myriad of ways to experience hygge. It is the feeling you get when you settle by a fire on a cold, blustery day; enjoy a relaxing conversation with a friend; or spend a leisurely afternoon playing Scrabble. Having a purring cat by your side can only enhance the effect.

Hygge does not necessarily have to occur in the company of others. For example, you can find it by retreating to a quiet spot with a good book, playing your guitar, or soaking in a hot bath. In all cases, the

mood is what counts.

It is important to note that hygge doesn't just happen; it has to be created. In Denmark, during the long, dark winter months, a favourite way to cheer things up is to light candles. The Danes burn more candles than any other people in the world: a whopping 3.5 kg per person per year.

Hygge does not have to cost a lot of money, if any at all. Listening to old radio dramas on YouTube is a form of hygge, as are painting, knitting or going for a walk in the forest. Make sure your children and grandchildren understand that hygge does not involve acquiring more and more stuff!

If you are having company over the holidays, keep in mind that it's important to foster a julestemning or Christmas spirit. This does not necessarily mean steering clear of unpleasant realities or political shenanigans, but if you do touch on such topics, be sure to keep things light. Yes, the world has gone crazy and the future is uncertain, but that doesn't mean we can't take time out to connect with others and laugh at the absurdities of the human comedy.

As you've probably noticed, you don't have to be Danish to experience hygge. Here are some suggestions for capturing that special feeling here on Salt Spring:

- Meet up with an old friend for coffee. There are several great java shops to choose

from.

- Browse through the vast array of materials at our beautiful public library.

- Watch the comings and goings in Ganges Harbour.

- Enjoy a winter picnic in Ruckle Park.

- Invite your neighbours for tea or a glass of wine...and don't forget to light a candle or two.

You may say that this Danish phenomenon is an illusion, a fabrication of the mind, a human construct—and you would be absolutely right! It's all made up, a feeble attempt to warm the heart and fend off the darkness of night. But, hey, we are but mortals and what is life without a bit of hygge?

## ADOPT A PET TODAY!



**Eartha and Skye are a pair of 6 month old kittens** who are seeking a quiet, gentle home to help them get over their timid natures. They are a bonded pair and must be adopted together.

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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastrlogy.com | sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com

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

At the exact stroke of midnight 2019 begins, the planetary line-up is interesting, profound, powerful and somewhat complicated too. Sun and Saturn and Pluto and the Lunar South Node forming two close couplets in Capricorn, the waning Moon in Scorpio just a day behind conjunction with Venus there too, Mars at the critical 29th degree of Pisces, the last degree of the Zodiac and conjunct Chiron and Neptune is tow, Mercury and Jupiter in Sagittarius and Uranus the only planet still retrograde in Aries constitutes this complex array. Interpreting the 'influence' of the planets is an art. It must always be kept in mind, as well, that how the planets align with our own, or our own company, city, province, state and country are relative. In other words, every case has to be examined on its own ground. This week's Horoscope provides a glimpse at the year ahead for each sign.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Seeing a bigger and a deeper perspective on reality, that aligns with your personal needs and core sense of security, will take a center stage in 2019. With Mars in your sign as of New Year's Day, literally, you will feel determined to get an early start. This includes exploring new territory both within and without. Important changes in your social status are featured.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Changes in or simply an activation of your core philosophy, will become evident as 2019 gets underway. While you will reserve considerable creative licence, you are likely to seek out allies, who are sure to include people of means and influence. You will be required to undergo a process of learning and, in some cases, of unlearning. Either way, you will be a force.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Breaking with tradition is likely to be true for you and in more ways than one. Clearing the old to make way for the new will be a central theme. Creating a new sense of security is literally linked to your whole state of health. Whether physical, mental, emotional or habitual, this year will amount to various modes of cleansing and you are wise to participate consciously.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You can't please all the people and you are increasingly more aware of this and less interested in trying. Yet, knowing which relationships are important and focusing to nurture them, above all others, will take center stage. Nurturing a deeper and more wholesome sense of faith and confidence is linked directly to the quality of your lifestyle.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Creative opportunities are steadily rising. You may have to take a few risks to succeed however. These can include confronting fears of failure or rejection. This is not the year to play it safe or be too comfortable or resist change. Discipline is a keyword for everyone and for you includes knowing how, where and when to make key investments to build for your future.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

2019 for you includes answering the call. It includes rendering new modes of service to humanity. Incorporating your gifts and talents is the key to make your contributions truly meaningful both to you and others. In doing so, your confidence levels will rise. Practicality is a keyword so focus on what can prove useful to others and make a difference.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

New levels of responsibility in the world are having the effect of shaking things up close to home, and perhaps the other way around too. Expect to have more places to go, people to see, errands to run and responsibilities. The good news is that you are a born manager and tend to perform better as the challenge increases. Just remember, that sincere diplomacy works much better than dictatorship.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Changes in habitual modes of perception have and continue to get shaken and this trend will continue in 2019. Learning, unlearning and re-learning are all featured. Flexibility regarding what you deem important and to be priorities may prove necessary. You know the joke: 'if you want to make God laugh, tell her your plans.'

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Risk, expansive and increase are keywords for you in 2019. Negatively, your financial flow could take a hit or two. Changes in your lifestyle are also consequentially likely. Positively, these changes could amount to more, not less. In either case, you will be challenged to adapt and this will include knowing when to hold, fold, walk and run.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Who and how you are will undergo another level of change this year. You will be pushed to think more about the realities, needs, and concerns of significant others. Circumstances will push you to have more faith in yourself, others and the world in general, and this could prove quite challenging at times. Anticipate changes and look to the future.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

The time has come to bring it down to earth. Some of your dreams will undergo revision and this may be true of some of what you deem to be reality, as well. Positively, your social network is increasing, if not literally perhaps at least virtually. Circumstances will also push you to make some major moves again perhaps literally or figuratively, before summer.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Changes linked to your social network will become evident early in the year. These are linked to the scope and quality and ability to communicate and network with others. Jupiter in Sagittarius will help you to take risks in your public and professional life. Of course, you have to be willing to do the work required. In many respects, this is a follow through on existing momentums.

# what's on this week



## Wed. Dec. 26

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Coalition.**  
Live music at Moby's Pub for Boxing Day celebration. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

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

## Thu. Dec. 27

### 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.

## Fri. Dec. 28

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Fran's Retirement Party.**  
Everyone invited to celebrate iconic bartender Fran as she retires. With music provided by The Regulars. The Legion. 5:30 to 10 p.m.

**Rachelle Lee & The Mile Zero Club.**  
Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

## Fri. Dec. 28

### ACTIVITIES

Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society AGM. Annual general meeting at Portlock Park portable. 1 p.m.

## Sat. Dec. 29

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**250H.**  
Gulf Islands rap group has album release at Moby's. 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

## Sun. Dec. 30

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

**Worship Around the Breakfast Table.**  
Instead of regular service at SS United Church. 10 a.m.

## Mon. Dec. 31

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**New Year's Eve Parties at the Legion.**  
Newfie New Year with Valdy goes from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Then entertainment by Auntie Kate and the Uncles of Funk from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**New Year's Eve with Caleb Hart.**  
Moby's Pub. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. Party with midnight ballon drop, bubbles and appies starts at 9.

## Mon. Dec. 31

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

## Tue. Jan. 1

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

**New Year's Day Mass.**  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God mass at Our Lady of Grace Church. 10 a.m.

**Naming of Jesus.**  
Bring a bell to ring in the new year. All Saints Church. 12 noon.

## Tue. Jan. 1

### ACTIVITIES

**Vesuvius Beach Polar Bear Swim.**  
Jump in the water at Vesuvius Bay at 12 noon.

## Wed. Jan. 2

### ACTIVITIES

**Festival of Trees.**  
See Wednesday's listing.

**2019 Calendar available AT THE Driftwood office**

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• HAPPY NEW YEAR •

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Bohemian Rhapsody** – Final two shows on Dec. 26-27 at 7 p.m. A foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury.
- **Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindewald** – Friday, Dec. 28 to Thursday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Dec. 30. Rated PG 134 Minutes

**CLOSED NEW YEAR'S EVE!**

## EXHIBITIONS

- **Karin and John Millson** present DoubleVision's first exhibition of photographs, *Alight*, at Fernwood Road Cafe's opening hours until Jan. 1.

## 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**.
- **Gallery 8** holds its 10th annual **Christmas Exhibition of Small Works** by all gallery artists until Jan. 1.
- **A Celebration of Light: Solstice Show** of work by **Salt Spring Gallery** members & special guests runs until Dec. 29.

**Festival of Trees**

Display of trees continues in the Harbour House Hotel lobby until the winner is announced on Jan. 4th at 10 a.m.  
Food bank & Copper Kettle fundraiser

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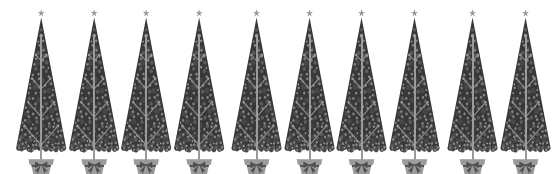




PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
**CHRISTMAS TEA:** Enjoying the Salt Spring Seniors Services Society Christmas party on Dec. 19 are, from left, Chris Sprague, Janette Grey, Lois Sprague, Gisela Welsh, Nel Meyer and Sandy Jones. The party is an annual event at the Seniors Centre on Lower Ganges Road.

GISS

# Students active on all stages

Sports and performing arts heat up



Reign Ackerley  
 THIS MONTH @  
**GISS**

Another month has gone by and there's been plenty brewing at GISS. From the stage adaptation of an iconic book to the start of the winter sports season, GISS is diving head first into the new year.

In sports, the end of two seasons concluded on a high note. The Junior Girls' Volleyball team made it to the Islands tournament, where they played a great game and won against Frances Kelsey, before falling to Brentwood.

This year GISS hosted the Senior Boys Volleyball Islands Championships. It was on the home court that they placed fourth, after a long game against St. Michael's University School.

In the water, the swim team made it to provincials and walked away with amazing results. Experienced swimmer Zoey Johnson placed third in her 100-m freestyle race. One relay team comprised of Johnson, Lily Armstrong, Joseph Schulze and Rylan Burnett brought home a silver medal. The volleyball

nets and swimming caps will be retired, as the basketball teams take over.

The junior boys basketball team's season is off to a solid start with a victory in their league game against one of their strongest competitors, Shawnigan. This year, the senior boys are in a tough league and have lots of strong competition. Both the junior and senior teams are working together, which benefits the entire program. The senior girls have also just started a season of league play.

The end of the semester has arrived, and the drama, dance and art classes have been working hard to put the finishing touches on their summation shows.

The acting class is busy rehearsing for their production of One

Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The story follows Randle McMurphy, who gets transferred from a prison farm to a mental institution, where he and other patients are treated brutally, and of course, rebellion and chaos ensue. The show will be taking place at ArtSpring on Jan. 9, 10 and 11. Tickets are on sale for \$15.

ArtSpring will also host the dance classes on Jan. 16 and 17. The dancers at GISS have been learning new techniques and fine-tuning old ones to present an end-of-semester show. Tickets are \$12.

Art class students are currently finishing up their art pieces for their exhibit called Please Touch the Art. The show will take place at Mahon Hall and run from Jan. 10 to 18. You can expect to see everything from clay masks to silk-screen prints to outfits made out of Yerba cans. The closing party starts at 7 p.m on Jan. 18, so be sure to stop by for some good music and the one-night-only fashion show.

There you have it. It's been a busy few months at GISS and from the looks of it, the new year will be just as busy, if not more so.

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See the **WHAT'S ON** page for our upcoming events

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SALT SPRING **Star** of the **WEEK**

**Aramis St. Gelais**

Aramis St. Gelais is in Grade 11 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. He is a part of the GISS Scorpions swim team, which recently went to provincial championships. It was there that he placed ninth in the boys 50-m butterfly.

Aramis is an integral part of the community, as he works at Rainbow Road pool and has worked at Mouat's Hardware for five years.

Swimming, soccer and painting are just some of Aramis' interests.

**What is this? Where is it?**

Can you identify what and where this is on Salt Spring Island? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop off a paper copy to the Driftwood office at 328 Lower Ganges Rd. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this column.

**LAST WEEK:** Maybe it's because we had a short week with a super early press deadline, but no one responded to our question about where this is by Friday. It's not too late to let us know if you know!

**READERS** can also submit photos to put in this feature! Photos can be of mystery items or public places or, like last week, found items.

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**RUNNING**

# Sneakers challenge predictions

Food bank benefits from running club members' largesse

BY ERIC ELLIS  
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday, Dec. 15, the Salt Spring Sneakers running group held its 10th Annual Prediction Run.

Unlike most competitions, the winners of this running event are not those who finish fastest, but those who finish closest to the time they predicted when they registered for the race. The challenge is made more difficult as watches are banned during the running of the race. The course is usually not identified until just prior to the race.

The race registration fee is a donation to the Salt Spring Food Bank. A trophy is awarded to the person who finishes closest to their predicted time, and to the person who is most "predictionally challenged," the person whose time is furthest away from their prediction.

In the 10th running of the Prediction Run, there were 27 participants, the majority of whom ran the 10-km course. The most significant exception was Emerson Hayden, who still ranks as a child and who managed to finish fourth among the otherwise adult participants in the 10k.

Winner of the closest prediction trophy was Greg Taylor of sailboat racing fame, having further distinguished himself by being the recipient of the predictionally challenged trophy in



Salt Spring Sneakers after completing their annual Prediction Run, a benefit for the Salt Spring Food Bank.

the first annual run in 2009. Taylor was seen to fall to his knees in joy or despair as he reached the turn-around point at the top of the 14 per cent North Beach Road hill grade, spawning speculation that this was the cause of his falling two and a half seconds short of a perfect prediction.

Winner of this year's predictionally challenged trophy was first-time participant Kat Suchy, who came last in predictive ability only because she ran so much faster than she predicted.

The other winner from this event was the Salt Spring Food Bank, which will receive \$700 donated by the participants. This amount sets a record for the largest amount raised in previous events. Over the 10 years running of the event, the Sneakers have donated \$4,595 for this worthy program.



This year's Prediction Run winner Greg Taylor, left, receives his trophy from Sneakers founder and race director Lynn Thompson.

**OUTDOORS**

# Wintertime January outings scheduled

Club activities resume after Christmas break

**Hikers**

**Jan. 8:** Kees will lead a zig-zagging hike up Mt. Maxwell. Meet at ArtSpring for carpooling at 9:45 or at the trail head on Armand way at 10 a.m.

**Jan. 15:** Ron Hawkins will lead us on a short but scenic hike from Old Divide Road, through Blackburn Reserve, a southerly arc below the yoga centre, then up Blackburn Road to Cranberry and back below towering ancient walls to Old Divide. No lunch stop. Back by noon. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or at the intersection of Old Divide and Salt Spring Way at 10 a.m.

**Jan. 22:** This hike, led by Al Lehmann, starts with a strenuous hike up (about 500 meters climb) through the forest for about 90 minutes followed by lunch on the open meadow with spectacular views. After lunch we will hike down the open meadow, down through the

forest on the west side, and finally back along Mountain Road to the cars. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 or Drummond Park at 10 a.m. to car pool. Park just past the No Exit sign, five km from the start of Mountain Road.

**Jan. 29:** Beth Hall will lead a hike off island to Cobble Hill, south of Duncan. We will hike up and over Cobble Hill Mountain, have lunch at Kingzette Lake, better known to locals as "The Quarry," and return over Cobble Hill by a different route. This is a moderate hike with some steep sections, and good views at the top. Note that the route after lunch also includes some uphill, as it's up and down one way and then up and down return. Meet at Portlock Park at 8:45 a.m. to carpool.

**Walkers**

**Jan. 8:** Let's start the New Year with a long but level and leisurely walk throughout the roads and pathways in and around Ganges, this time with a surprise turn. Lunch at Churchill beach. Meet your leader, Jenny, at ArtSpring at 10.

**Jan. 15:** Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to pick a leader and a walk.

**Jan. 22:** Join Kathleen Maser and Rob Mason for an off-island easy walk in Hemer Provincial Park south of Nanaimo. Bring your binoculars for spotting birds, and we will go to the Crow and Gate for lunch. Meet at Portlock Park to carpool at 8:30 and we will catch the 9:25 ferry at Vesuvius. We will plan to catch the 3:35 ferry back from Crofton.

**Jan. 29:** Jacqueline Thomas will lead a walk in Ruckle Park, combining several of the shorter walks, in and around the campsite and Isaac Point, etc. (about 1.5 hours) then lunch. Moderate walking but likely to be wet underfoot in many parts. Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to carpool or at 10:20 a.m. at the parking lot just after the farm buildings on the right.

**Ramblers**

**Jan. 8:** We'll meet as usual at 10 a.m. at Centennial Park to carpool to Portlock Park, where Jill Willmott will join us and lead one or maybe two short half-hour walks

through the woods at the top of Trincomali heights. Although the ground is not hilly it is uneven, so walking sticks are recommended. Lunch will either be at the Fernwood Cafe or the Seaside Restaurant, whichever gets the majority vote!

**Jan. 15:** Meet at Centennial Park to carpool to Drummond Park. Donna and Paul will take us on a ramble, finishing at the Rock Salt for lunch.

**Jan. 22:** Bryan Adderley will lead a ramble in the valley between Mount Belcher and Mount Erskine, lunch at Penny's on the Green. Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

**Jan. 29:** Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m. Kathy Darling will lead a ramble in the Ganges area, then a local lunch.

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

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

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

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In person at 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Ganges  
By telephone 250-537-9933 or fax 250-537-2613  
By email to [driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com)  
By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

**PAYMENT:**

By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.

**DEADLINES:**

Class. display deadline: **Monday 4pm**  
Word ad deadline: **Tuesday 9am**  
Too Late To Classify: **Tuesday 1pm**

**WHAT IT COSTS: 3 LINE CLASSIFIEDS:**

\$14.00 - additional lines \$1.00 ea

**EMPLOYMENT/ LEGAL ADS:**

3 line rate \$16.75 - additional lines \$1.00 ea

**DISPLAY ADS:**

\$14.00 per col. inch

**YOUR AD ON-LINE**

All liner ads booked in the Driftwood Classifieds appear on-line at [www.bcclassified.com](http://www.bcclassified.com)

Auto ads also listed on line at [www.bcautocentral.com](http://www.bcautocentral.com)

All ads are posted to [BCClassified.com](http://BCClassified.com)

**BOOK YOUR AD ON-LINE**

Book your classifieds online - open 24 hours a day  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or [bcclassified.com](http://bcclassified.com)

[bcclassified.com](http://bcclassified.com)

Please check your ad after the first insertion. Should an error appear in an advertisement, Driftwood Publishing Ltd. is only liable for the amount paid for the space occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Driftwood Publishing Ltd. will accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion.

**In Memoriam**

**Nairn Howe**  
April 30th, 1957 - December 25th, 2005 (48 years)

**13 YEARS AGO**  
CANCER IS NOT SO POWERFUL!  
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IT CANNOT DO...

*It cannot cripple love.  
It cannot shatter hope.  
It cannot corrode faith.  
It cannot destroy peace.  
It cannot kill friendship.  
It cannot suppress memories.  
It cannot silence courage.  
It cannot invade the soul.  
It cannot steal eternal life.  
It cannot conquer the spirit.*



NAINR HOWE

**Obituaries**

**Brian Robert Threadkell BA, MNRM**  
July 29, 1954 - December 15, 2018

Brian marched (quickly) to the beat of his own drum. Born in Teuton, MB to Marjorie Jean (Mader) and Rowland Threadkell, he grew up in Winnipeg. At 17 he ran away from home to work for the Hudson's Bay Co. on the reserve at Brochette in northern MB. When he realized that he'd do better with an education he returned to school - but not always to classes because he was making so much money moving pianos. One summer he solo backpacked from Banff to Jasper with his dog. After university he graded fur until he became allergic to lynx. Returning to the north, he worked in natural resource management in what is now Nunavut, developing commercial fishing and hunting strategies. He met his wife, Ida Marie Friesen, at the fish plant in Rankin Inlet. They made their first home in Winnipeg where he started his consulting business which focussed on implementing the Manitoba Northern Flood Agreement. He especially enjoyed working with the people of Nelson House First Nation and his favourite project was the development of a wilderness camp to teach traditional skills. He was always bringing visiting northerners home for dinner or the weekend. When he moved to Salt Spring in 1990 the commute just got longer but the northerners still visited. His last project was turning a cull into a commercial caribou harvest which employed almost all the hunters in Coral Harbour, NT. This came to an end when the herd went out onto an ice shelf which broke off and floated out into Hudson's Bay.

Brian could fix anything and he did so with a minimum of tools. With only a jigsaw he redid our entire house. He loved training his dogs and his daily hikes up and down Mt Erskine and Mt Maxwell. He loved playing the trumpet and the flute and stripping down his computer to make it do what he wanted. Perseverance, efficiency and the ability to quickly analyst systems and all things mechanical made him a gifted problem solver but not exactly a glad sufferer of fools.

He is survived by his wife, Ida Marie, his dog, Sophie, sister Janet (Doug), niece Heather (Bonnie) and nephew Graham (Deanna).

Safely home.

Memorial service to be held at All Saints Anglican Church at 2:00pm on Tuesday January 15, 2019.

Online condolences to be made at:  
[www.haywardsfuneral.com](http://www.haywardsfuneral.com)  
250-537-1022

**In Memoriam**



**Salt Spring Hospice**

*Your hospice:  
Revering life  
and honouring its  
endings.*

250-537-2770  
[saltspringhospice.org](http://saltspringhospice.org)



**Legal Notices**

1994 BMW Model 318is 2 door sedan, Owner Graham Bradley John of 3340 Departure Bay Road Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 1B4. Amount of debt is \$2518.10 Re: Joanne Windsor 625 Rainbow Road Ganges, B.C. V8K 2M6. You have 30 days to comply or this vehicle will be sold. WBABE6323RJC13705

**CRIMINAL RECORD?**  
Why suffer Employment/ Licensing loss? Travel/ Business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US Entry Waiver. Record Purge. File Destruction. Free Consultation 1-800-347-2540 [accesslegalmj.com](http://accesslegalmj.com)

**Business Opportunities**



**DAVISON INVENTORS WANTED!**  
Do you have a new product idea, but you're not sure where to start?

CALL DAVISON TODAY  
1-800-218-2909

OR VISIT US AT  
[Inventing.Davison.com/BC](http://Inventing.Davison.com/BC)

GET YOUR FREE INVENTOR'S GUIDE!

**Education/Trade Schools**

**MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION!**  
In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: [CareerStep.ca/MT](http://CareerStep.ca/MT) or 1-855-768-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

**Computer Services**

CALL BOB'S Computer Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. We do house calls. 250-537-2827 or cell 250-538-7017. Please back-up your important data now!

**Career Opportunities**



**Akisqnuq First Nation Sr. Administrative Officer**

The Akisqnuq First Nation (AFN) is an Indigenous organization committed to the development of the community members it serves on Windermere Lake in the Columbia Valley of south eastern BC.

We are currently recruiting for the senior most position to lead the organizational growth of our community including; Education, Health, Housing, Economic and Social development.

For qualifications, competencies and full position description, please visit: [www.akisqnuq.org](http://www.akisqnuq.org)

Apply with resume by Jan 11, 2019 to: **Karen Lillejord, Sr. Financial Officer.** 3050 Hwy 93/95 Windermere, BC V0B 2L2  
Fax: 250.342.9693 Email: [klillejord@akisqnuq.org](mailto:klillejord@akisqnuq.org)

**PROTECT OUR PLANET...**

**RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.**

**Rentals**

**Good tenant needs cabin to rent long term only.** Wood heat or fireplace preferred. Verifiable references, quiet, clean, healthy lifestyle, rent reliable. I try to be a considerate neighbour. [arose123@shaw.ca](mailto:arose123@shaw.ca) 250-931-4092

**Acreage for Sale**

**160 Acre Estate or 50 Potential View Lots**  
Located in the Village of Lumby. 2 springs on property. \$625,000  
Call 250-260-0217

[bcclassified.com](http://bcclassified.com)

**Medical Health**

Get up to \$50,000 from the Government of Canada. Do you or someone you know have any of these Conditions? ADHD, Anxiety, Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, COPD, Depression, Diabetes, Difficulty Walking, Fibromyalgia, Irritable Bowels, Overweight, Trouble Dressing...and Hundreds more. ALL Ages & Medical Conditions Quality. CALL THE BENEFITS PROGRAM 1-(800)-211-3550 For Your Free No Obligation Information Package TODAY.

**Concrete & Placing**



**GULF COAST MATERIALS**  
Serving the Gulf Islands

- Concrete
- Concrete Pumps
- Sand/Rock
- Rebar
- Bagged Cement
- Colour & Sealers

**Small Load Pick Ups Available at Yard**

345 Rainbow Road  
250-537-2611

**Drafting & Design**


**LET'S GET STARTED**

Bring your sketches & ideas and together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

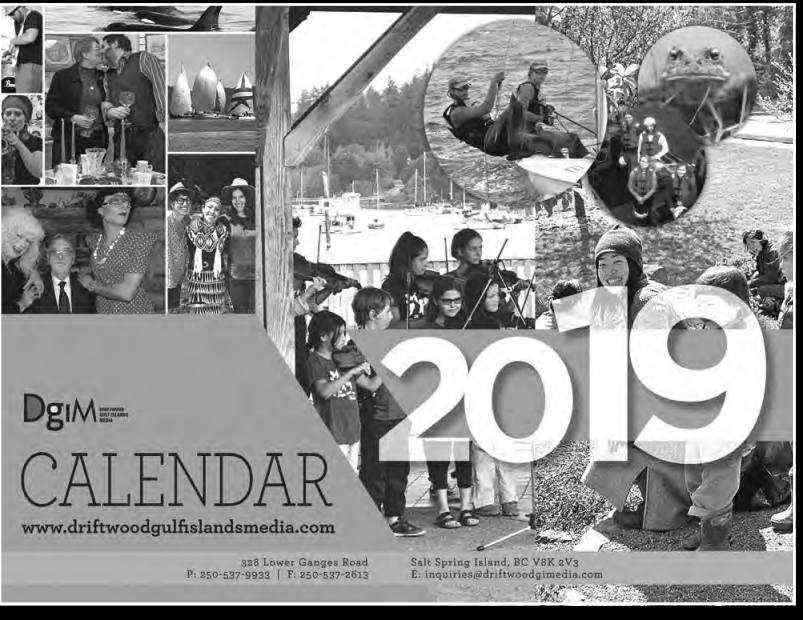
**HELSET DESIGN**  
250.537.1037  
Ask for Jim

**Need Packing Paper?  
Puppy Paper?  
Art Supply Paper?  
Paper Table Cloths?**

Why not stop by the Driftwood and buy a Roll End  
Prices \$5 and up.  
**CASH ONLY**



**2019 Calendar available AT THE Driftwood office**



**DgIM**  
CALENDAR  
[www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com](http://www.driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com)

328 Lower Ganges Road P. 250-537-9933 | F. 250-537-2613  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V3 E. [inquiries@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:inquiries@driftwoodgimedia.com)

# Firstborn of 2019 Contest

*We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!*

Several community sponsors are set to shower the first baby of 2019 with many generous gifts. Salt Spring Island's first tiny new resident of the year will enjoy these wonderful offerings, presented in a basket:

A \$25 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**. A \$50 Smile Card from **Thrifty Foods**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Natureworks**. A \$25 gift certificate and a toy from **Pharmasave**. A \$100 gift certificate for any department at **Mouat's Home Hardware**.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: a 1/8th page, colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!



*Salt Spring*  
**natureworks**  
*Congratulations!*




We are very happy to donate a \$50.00 gift certificate to the new baby and parents.

Congratulations to the family of Salt Spring's first baby of 2019!



LIVE WELL WITH  
**PHARMASAVE**

\$100  
Gift Certificate  
for the proud parents to be used in any department.



**MOUAT'S**  
**Here's How.**

SHOP 7 DAYS A WEEK  
250-537-5551

**Congratulations!**



We are excited to offer a \$50 Smile Card to the first New Salt Spring Islander of 2019.

**THRIFTY FOODS**  
Eat happy 

Salt Spring: 114 Purvis Lane • 250.537.1522



*West of the Moon*

Proudly donating \$25.00 Gift Certificate  
[www.westmoonkids.com](http://www.westmoonkids.com) 250-537-1966

