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FIRE

Suspicious blaze strikes vessel



PHOTO BY GARY BLAKE

Castle Finn houseboat burns last Wednesday at about 8:45 p.m. See gulfislandsdriftwood.com and our Facebook page for video footage of the event.

No one injured; cause under investigation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island RCMP are asking for the public's assistance in their investigation into the fire that destroyed the Castle Finn in Ganges Harbour last Wednesday evening.

While the cause of the fire is still unknown, police say it is being treated as suspicious. Salt Spring detachment officers are investigating in partnership with fire investigators from the Island District General Investigation Section. To date no arrests have been made.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue also attended the scene and were on site knocking down the fire until 1 a.m. on Thursday. They returned during the day to deal with hot spots once the tide receded, as the smouldering roof continued to flare up.

The boat's owner Dolores Seagrave-Peel was not harmed in the event as she was at

home in Ganges the evening of the fire. She said Thursday that two men who were on the Castle Finn to provide security and fix holes in the hull had also left the boat sometime in the early evening, arriving at her home around 7 p.m.

Seagrave-Peel had not been able to acquire insurance for the live-aboard vessel and now is at a loss for how she can be compensated.

"I've invested over \$20,000 into the boat," she said.

The Castle Finn has stirred controversy on Salt Spring ever since being towed to the Ganges Harbour beach last November, both as a potential environmental hazard and because of activity happening there. The boat had become a party spot, and RCMP were called out to the site several times before the fire.

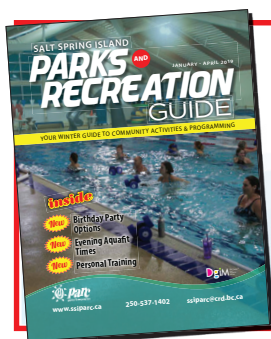
While Seagrave-Peel was not living on the Castle Finn herself, she said the trailer she rents with her son Donny is slated to be removed, so she fears becoming homeless as a result of the fire.

The Castle Finn is a ferro-cement hulled touring boat with a catamaran-style double-keel. It was moved from a mooring in Ganges Harbour after it hit some rocks and started taking on water. Seagrave-Peel said the Coast Guard assisted the tow to the beach and removed the fuel, giving her two months to make the necessary repairs. The Dec. 20 wind-storm pushed the boat further up the shore and potentially caused more damage.

According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Coast Guard is responsible for receiving, assessing and ensuring an appropriate response to all reports of marine pollution. Its responsibility toward the Castle Finn ended when the local Coast Guard crew removed the hydrocarbons in November.

"Currently, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development has the authority for its removal related to the riparian zone," an email from DFO stated.

FIRE continued on 2



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at Fulford Harbour

FEBRUARY 2019 PST Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
6	0716	3.3	10.8	10	0132	1.5	4.9
	1246	2.5	8.2		0842	3.3	10.8
	WE 1651	2.9	9.5		SU 1524	1.8	5.9
	ME 2357	0.8	2.6		DI 2053	2.4	7.9
7	0738	3.3	10.8	11	0207	1.8	5.9
	1322	2.4	7.9		0904	3.2	10.5
	TH 1738	2.8	9.2		MO 1609	1.6	5.2
	JE				LU 2233	2.4	7.9
8	0029	1.0	3.3	12	0248	2.1	6.9
	0759	3.3	10.8		0929	3.2	10.5
	FR 1401	2.2	7.2		TU 1657	1.3	4.3
	VE 1831	2.6	8.5		MA		
9	0100	1.3	4.3	13	0035	2.6	8.5
	0820	3.3	10.8		0343	2.5	8.2
	SA 1441	2.0	6.6		WE 0956	3.1	10.2
	SA 1933	2.5	8.2		ME 1748	1.1	3.6

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<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>



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Boat remains stuck in harbour

FIRE

continued from 1

Under B.C.'s Land Act, it is an offence to occupy, possess or use Crown land without lawful authority such as a license of tenure. Abandoning vehicles or vessels on Crown land is also an offence.

The ministry has stated the province is aware of the issue of the boat's grounding. It is investigating the potential unauthorized use of Crown land and will be assessing options once all information is known. Should any offences be found, penalties prescribed under the Land Act could be applied. These include possible property seizure and fines.

"Education and voluntary compliance of those involved are always the first consideration and option, where possible," an email from the ministry explained.

Efforts to tow the boat back out to water

that started on Jan. 24 were led by another of Seagrave-Peel's sons, Jay Seagrave, who had been living on the boat. Nearby Beachside property owners Jason and Anna Watkin provided financial and organizational support for the project, with hopes to get the boat floating and off the shore while winter's high tides were still available.

Seagrave-Peel had initially allowed the boat to be towed but revoked her permission for any activity after new holes were discovered in the hull on Jan. 26. New patching work was being done through Wednesday and was close to being complete just before the fire struck.

Security video footage from a business across the street caught the explosion that started the fire.

Anyone with any other information is asked to contact the Salt Spring RCMP Detachment at 250-537-5555 or CrimeStoppers.



TOP PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM; BOTTOM PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
From top, Salt Spring Fire-Rescue personnel on the beach by the Castle Finn after extinguishing the flames last Wednesday night; the still-smoking structure on Thursday morning.

FUNDRAISER

Community rallies behind cancer patient

Holistic treatment option sought for Cindy Skrivanek

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People whose lives have been touched by Country Grocer nutrition manager Cindy Skrivanek are being asked to return some of the healing that she has shared with the community through her work.

A fundraising campaign set up by friends on Salt Spring reveals that Skrivanek was diagnosed with endometrial cancer last year. As of January the diagnosis is the cancer is inoperable. She was given no option besides pain medication and palliative care.

As someone who has extensive knowledge of herbs, homeopathy, flower essences and holistic healing, Skrivanek has elected to fight the cancer instead, using alternative therapies. She is hoping to work with



CINDY SKRIVANEK

Ken W. Crawford, who is the author of Nu-Oncology; Cancer Prevention and Anti-Aging. He is dedicated to raising the survival rates of those diagnosed with metastatic cancer with methods including the use of Chinese herbs.

"Cindy has always believed in complementary and alternative medicine, the connection between mind, body and spirit. To compromise her principles is not in her nature and she has chosen to pursue a more holistic approach," wrote campaign co-organizer Kim Tebbutt.

Alternative cancer treatment is not covered by standard medical insurance, and can be very expensive. A six-month session through Dr. Crawford and other holistic health needs is expected to run to at least \$27,000.

"We can all agree that Cindy has been an angel of healing for so many

of us," Tebbutt wrote. "I know all her friends and all the people she has helped in her life would want to give support to someone who has dedicated her life to serving others. This would be an opportune time to come together and give back to someone who has tirelessly done so much for her community all over B.C. and beyond.

"Cindy is fighting for her life and I wish and hope we can make her dream of a happy and long life be her future. Her husband, children and all her friends will be better for it and an extra bit of light in the world can only do good in spreading the vibe of love."

There are several ways to contribute to Skrivanek's treatment. It is possible to donate Country Grocer receipts to the box marked Cindy Skrivanek, make deposits directly to her account at Island Savings, or donate to the GoFundMe Campaign called "Even Angels and Fairies Need Help Sometimes."



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NEWS BRIEFS

Prohibited drivers nabbed

Salt Spring RCMP business this week included several actions related to impairment, among 80 calls for service.

On Jan. 26, police who were conducting patrols observed a female who was known to be prohibited from driving operating a motor vehicle. The vehicle went off the road and into the ditch prior to the police being able to conduct the traffic stop. Upon arrival, it was determined that the female driver had switched seats with her male passenger, who had been driving at the time of the collision. Further checks determined that both were actually prohibited from driving. Both are scheduled to appear in provincial court at a later date.

• Also on Jan. 26, police responded to a report of a male intoxicated and lying in the middle of Churchill Road. When police arrived, the male became agitated and a struggle ensued. Once the male was in handcuffs and in the rear of the police vehicle, he began to kick at the doors and the window, causing significant damage. Charges of assaulting a police officer, uttering threats and mischief over \$5,000 are being recommended to Crown counsel. The male is to appear in court at a later date.

• Police came across a male on Jan. 31 who was believed to have several warrants for arrest from northern B.C. After confirming the warrants, the male was arrested and lodged in cells. The male was due to appear in Duncan Provincial Court on Feb. 1.

Wet'suwet'en live stream

Islanders are invited to stand with the Wet'suwet'en land defenders through a live streaming event set for Friday, Feb. 15 at GISS.

The schedule starts with having supporters sign letters to the prime minister and the B.C. premier from 6:30 to 7 p.m., calling on the federal and provincial governments to respect the rights, jurisdiction and laws of the Unist'ot'en and Gidimt'en clans of the Wet'suwet'en Nation on their unceded territories, as affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The live stream from Wet'suwet'en territory runs from 7 to 9 p.m. with a presentation from a Unist'ot'en/Gidimt'en spokesperson on the Coastal GasLink LNG pipeline, and video and photo updates on events at the Unist'ot'en and Gidimt'en camps.

For more information see <https://unistoten.camp> and <http://www.wetsuweten.com/>.

TRANSPORTATION

Transit costs up

Tax requisition increase expected by 2022

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Rising operating costs and a planned service addition will see Salt Spring taxpayers contributing a larger share to transit over the coming years, with a probable requisition increase required after 2021.

A three-year budget report provided by BC Transit to the Salt Spring Transportation Commission estimates the community's share at \$188,869 for 2018-19, rising to \$259,502 in 2021-22. Speaking at the commission's Jan. 28 meeting, Salt Spring's CRD manager Karla Campbell said that reserve funds will be adequate to cover the increase for the next couple of years, but not after that.

"The average household pays \$32 per year to subsidize the fare box," Campbell said, adding that Salt Spring has one of the more successful transit systems across the province.

Campbell said the commission will need to think about making a request soon in order to have greater funding after 2021, or else face a reduction in current transit service levels. Possibilities are to hold a community referendum or use the alternative approval process.

With the upcoming cost increase in mind, commissioners were divided during a discussion about whether to support extension of the Ganges Local transit route to the Croftonbrook housing development. Housing operators Island Women Against Violence made the request as part of the development's expansion project, which will include units specifically reserved for seniors, people with low income and people with disabilities.

BC Transit has said the extension does not meet its guidelines because there is an existing bus stop around 200 metres away at Crofton and Corbett Roads, while they require more than 400 metres between stops to consider a request.

SSITC had previously voted in October to support IWAV's request. They decided at the Jan. 28 meeting to ask BC Transit to come back with an analysis of the cost and scheduling impact of extending the Ganges route.

ISLANDS TRUST

Budget action urged

Public feedback open to Feb. 11

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A group of Salt Spring residents is urging the Islands Trust to do more to combat climate change and to reflect that in its upcoming budget.

"Islands Trust needs a wake-up call to put climate action on their agenda," states a letter signed by Elizabeth White and 15 other people.

They want the Trust to declare a "climate emergency," an action the Capital Regional District Board is seriously considering.

"If anyone needed a wake-up call to the realities of the climate crisis, the Dec. 20 windstorm should have provided it," they write. "Not to mention two summers of devastating wildfires in B.C. that severely impacted air quality in the Gulf Islands, and recent road washouts caused by unusually heavy rainfall events."

With the Islands Trust requesting public feedback on its 2019-20 budget and priorities until Feb. 11, the group is asking islanders to express their concerns about climate change through that forum.

The Trust has a 33-question survey on its islandstrust.com website, which canvases respondents' opinions about how Trust funds should be spent and related matters.

At a special Trust meeting held

on Salt Spring on Jan. 26, Trust Council chair Peter Luckham asked people attending to take the time to complete the survey so that trustees had more input to work with in advance of their next quarterly meeting in March when the final budget will be approved.

The Trust is proposing a \$7.89-million operating budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year, which is two per cent higher than the previous year.

Also signing the letter were Peter Lamb, Jean Gelwicks, Ann Wheeler, Geoff Bartol, David Denning, Simon Wheeler, Jane Squier, Maxine Leichter, Dion Hackett, Jim Standen, Barbara Dempster, Ron Watts, Dennis Lucarelli, Michael Bushby and John Borst.

They note that the Trust's 131-page 2018 annual report devotes just two pages to climate change action, focusing on reducing travel emissions by staff and trustees.

"In 2017-18, Trust Council received consultants' reports on climate change adaptation, and delegations from climate action groups. But as far as we can tell, not even one dollar has been specifically allocated for climate-related activity in the 2019-2020 budget," they state.

They add that "the good work undertaken by the Islands Trust and the Islands Trust Conservancy on freshwater resources, land stewardship, advocacy and other areas is important but not sufficient."



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

FILLING THE GAP: Machinery at work Friday repairing the roadbed at Stewart Road, where a major washout occurred on Jan. 4. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure says a new culvert has been installed and that work is on track to be completed by mid to late February.



School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
112 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2K3

SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 (GULF ISLANDS) REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR 2019/2020

Registration for all schools in School District 64 will take place February 1 to 28, 2019.

NEW REGISTRATIONS:

Kindergarten – For children who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2019, i.e., born in 2014, please register your child at the school in your residential catchment area.

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

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

At the time of registration, you will be asked to sign a consent for a student speech/language consultation.

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

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

Expressions of interest in specific programs can be found on the registration form at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/student-registration/>

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

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

Registration and water taxi transportation are subject to School District Policies and Procedures 410 and 525 available at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/policies-and-procedures/>. Program placement is subject to the availability of space in specialized programs.

STUDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED:

Expressions of interest in specific programs at your child's school should be made to the school principal. For additional information about high school programs available through Gulf Islands Secondary School contact the school's principal.

Note: Students will automatically be enrolled at their next catchment school as part of the normal prescribed grade to grade transition (unless the school is informed otherwise). No registration is required.

CROSS BOUNDARY TRANSFER REQUESTS:

Should you wish to enroll your child in a school outside of your catchment area, a cross boundary transfer request form must be completed **annually** (Policy and Procedure 525).

The request form can be found at: <https://sd64.bc.ca/student-registration/>

Prior to submitting the form to the School Board Office, parents must obtain signatures from the principal of the catchment area school and the principal of the receiving school. Upon receipt at the School Board Office the form will be time and date stamped. The deadline for accepting cross boundary request forms is **March 15**. Placement is subject to the availability of space. Transportation for out-of-catchment requests is not guaranteed.

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WATER RESOURCES

SSIWPA tax recommended by LTC

Taxation request left at current level

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee has decided to stick with the Salt Spring Island Watershed Alliance's current funding level and will be passing a \$98,500 special tax requisition request on to Islands Trust Council as part of the 2019-20 budget process.

Trustee Laura Patrick and LTC chair Peter Luckham voted Thursday to act on staff's recommendation to keep the funding level intact, despite some calls from the public to reduce the amount since the group's powers are mostly available for coordination rather than action. Trustee Peter Grove opposed the motion, stating he believed SSIWPA does important work but that other funding sources should be found.

"I think this would be moving in the wrong direction,"

said Patrick, who was assigned as the LTC's representative to SSIWPA in December and is co-chairing the group along with CRD director Gary Holman.

Patrick observed water is an important issue on Salt Spring and would feature in several of the land use applications coming up later on that day's meeting agenda. She had also favoured reducing SSIWPA spending, however, until she heard the results of a public consultation session that took place the previous weekend. The majority of the feedback gathered was to keep the funding.

"Yes, there's some uncertainty, but I think this is the prudent way forward, is the full requisition," Patrick said.

Luckham echoed the idea the body is doing important work, which is relevant to the entire Trust area. He also pointed out that while other funding sources might be available, at this point the tax requisition is the only guaranteed source.

SSIWPA was formed in 2013 in order to provide coordinated management between the agencies who have a responsibility for legislation and regulation of the island's watersheds and freshwater resources. In addition to the LTC and CRD, its steering committee currently includes the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development, Highland and Fernwood Water Service Commission and Beddis Water Service Commission.

As well, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Island Health have contributed to projects.

North Salt Spring Waterworks trustees chose to leave the steering committee last year.

A staff analysis of how the organization could reduce costs included cutting back meetings to quarterly sessions or every second month, but the potential savings were projected at \$14,000 at most. The bulk of the budget goes

to the paid coordinator's service contract. Grove suggested this contract is where savings could be found.

"I just don't think we need a full-time person doing that work. I am more comfortable asking for half the amount," he said.

Grove also gave the opinion that after five years in, it was not fair to ask the Islands Trust to shoulder the entire financial burden.

Speaking from the audience, Holman said CRD funding could potentially come from the budget line for stormwater management and an associated operating reserve. As well, important projects identified by SSIWPA could be considered for gas tax funds.

"It is important to continue. We do need more strategic focus, and we're working on that," Holman said.

While Grove voted against the recommendation he said he will support the LTC's decision when it comes to the Trust Council meeting.

GENDER DIVERSITY

Parents of gender-creative kids get support

Information shared in workshop at the library

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parents, caregivers and other adults who have a gender creative child or youth in their lives will have an opportunity to find support and become advocates during a free workshop taking place on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Ambit Gender Diversity consultant and Salt Spring community member Julian Paquette will be facilitating the workshop, which is sponsored by DAISSI (Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island) and the Salt Spring Public Library. The evening session will provide education, resource connections and space to explore questions about how best to support the gender creative children and youth in one's life.

"All children and youth deserve respect, care and equal opportunities to reach their full potential," Paquette said, explaining the workshop will discuss how to create safer spaces and experiences for youth who are exploring and expressing gender creative and diverse ways. It will also give adults who have trans children some much-needed care.

"Parents are probably really scared when it happens — scared for their kids — but there are a lot of trans people that are thriving," Paquette said. "So support is important. And parents need support too."

Children who are gender creative might be exploring a gender role outside the societal norm or they might be sure their birth-assigned sex does not align with their gender. Wherever they might land along the spectrum, having parent support is crucial to their well-being. A study of trans youth in Ontario covering people in the 15-24 age group found that depression, suicidal thoughts

and attempted suicide were dramatically higher among youth whose parents were not strongly supportive. Physical health, housing and access to adequate food were also affected.

Luis Araujo, a child/youth mental health clinician with Salt Spring Community Services, said that his work with local clients reinforces the statistical finding that trans youth are the most vulnerable sector. Youth he has treated have experienced depression, done self-harm and attempted suicide. They are at greater risk of substance abuse and homelessness.

"We need to really help support these kids before these bad things happen," Araujo said.

Together with his colleague Angela Koetzle, Araujo has run a trans youth support group on the island for the past year and a half, at the request of their youth clients. The group meets weekly for lunch at Gulf Islands Secondary School and once a month in the evening. They often include educators, speakers and other guests who can share information and support. So far, the group has involved 14 student members in total.

"A big issue from the beginning is talking to parents," Araujo said. "A lot of parents can be in denial, and also being in small community there can be stigma for being known as a parent of a trans child. [This workshop] will be a really great opportunity for people to come together to listen and learn to be there and help their kids and support their development and changes."

Kristan Huthmacher, a board member with DAISSI, agreed that there is a need for more awareness of diversity in the local community, as well as society in general. That's one reason why the group changed its name from the previous Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island.

As an advocacy group that embraces

the full spectrum of diversity, DAISSI was happy to sponsor the upcoming workshop, Huthmacher said.

"For kids, especially when they get to the teen years, having a supportive family is very important for their well-being. Often they have a lot of issues. If we can support the families, often that helps them support the children."

Getting started can be as simple as listening to youth and taking the cue from them around their gender expression.

"I think the first step is just an openness and a willingness to learn," Paquette said. "And also not being afraid of not knowing things. Sometimes people don't want to mess it up, but they should not be using that as a reason to avoid it."

Paquette observed that bullying tends to be directed at people who are perceived as being different from the norm, whether they happen to identify with a different gender or not. Having conversations about gender diversity that bring it into the mainstream and allow people to feel safer to explore can only benefit everyone in the end.

"It's not just about one small group in society. Even if trans people are a small part of the population, this liberates people on other levels. I think we all win when we do this kind of work," Paquette said.

While just one workshop is planned so far, the people involved with trans youth in the community hope it will be just the beginning. Huthmacher hopes that parents who attend will form their own peer group, as one outcome.

"This is an opportunity to meet and see if they can support each other. I think it will be worthwhile. I really do," Huthmacher said.

The workshop starts at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact jspa13@gmail.com.

WATERWORKS

NSSWD denies caretaker suite

Trustees sympathize with situation, but moratorium policy upheld

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An application to add a caretaker suite to the Creekhous building in Ganges was turned down by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board because it goes against the district's moratorium policy.

The suite was planned for the building to house an onsite caretaker whose job would include ensuring the building was kept safe and to deter vandalism. Multiple incidents of vandalism have occurred on the property.

"The merchants are concerned about the increase in vandalism. We felt that having a caretaker suite there would be a good idea," said Dorothy Murdoch, property manager for Hardal Management. "We understood about the moratorium, so we tried to show NSSWD that by doing some changes to the toilets, faucets and things, we could actually decrease the amount of water used and still put a suite in there and we would not be using any more water than we would have done beforehand."

The Pender Island company purchased the Creekhous building last year and planned to install water-conserving fixtures throughout the building to make up for the added water use a suite would bring. Murdoch and company owner Davie Rae presented their case to the water district board at the January meeting, but the board determined that the application was a violation of the moratorium as it would be considered a secondary suite.

Although the addition would use less water than the building already does, the district determined that the water usage did not factor into their decision. The moratorium policy applies to the service connections, not the actual use of the water once it is past the meter.

"We're limiting increases to demand on our system because

there have been numerous reports done that show that we just don't have the capacity," district manager Ron Stepaniuk said during the meeting.

Plans for the Creekhous building are based on the Driftwood Centre on Pender Island. LED lighting has already been installed outside to deter vandalism, and further lighting is planned for the parking lot behind the building. Other improvements will include fixing up the nearby planters.

"Over the next while, we're going to do everything that we can to make the place look better and reduce vandalism," Rae said during the meeting. "We had a terrible time with the Driftwood Centre and vandalism originally, the RCMP was involved and everything. Over time we've found things that work. Lighting is one, cleaning the place up is another and having someone present is a third. That's what we would like to do with downtown Ganges."

This was not the first such application after the moratorium was put in place. An application for a caretaker suite was made by Martin Ogilvie in 2015, which was denied because the new residential use represented a substantial increase in demand. The property is served by a three-quarter-inch pipe and part of the moratorium policy includes denying any increase in connection size. A second similar situation was that of the Harbour House Hotel, which proposed renovations that increased the number of rooms in the hotel but reduced the water usage. This property had a larger connection, and it was determined that the changes could be made without reducing the size of the service connection.

Trustees sympathized with the Creekhous applicants, but the moratorium policy was upheld. Trustee Michael McAllister said that the organization needed to review how they incentivized water conservation, and potentially a refinement to the moratorium.

"My advice is that if you don't get what you want today, come back in a year and ask again, because things are moving and shaking," said trustee Chris Dixon. "The answer today may not be the same answer next year."

ISLANDS TRUST

Clinic plan faces 'challenging path'

Beachside permits approved

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Applicants proposing to build a European-style alternative cancer clinic on Seymour Heights have been warned their rezoning request will face significant hurdles on the road to approval by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

The application to rezone a large acreage to permit commercial accommodation use had its first hearing by the LTC at their Jan. 29 meeting. While the motivation behind the project was praised, both staff and committee members voiced uncertainty about the location.

The applicants have been asked to come back with more information, including a water supply study, with no guarantee this will propel the application further, or else to consider withdrawing the plan.

"This would be a pretty exciting project for the island. The plans don't include chopping down a tree . . . but there are some big challenges to getting it to fit with the official community plan and bylaws," commented trustee Peter Grove.

"They have a good intention but the application challenges so many things here," added trustee Laura Patrick.

The original application presented by Lightdance Design included building a new 903-square-metre (9,717-square-foot) health clinic and 1,885 square metres (20,287 square feet) in commercial guest accommodation and facilities. The applicants decided to ask for just phase one of the project during the

Jan. 29 meeting. That would mean renovating the existing house, which has over 5,500 square feet on two floors, to become a guest house with six bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms.

Property owner Thomas Kefferputz explained the plan is to offer residential care for cancer patients in a tranquil setting for periods of one to three weeks. The model is common in places like Germany and Switzerland. Patients would receive naturopathic treatment from Kefferputz's son and learn to change their lifestyles and patterns.

Kefferputz said they settled on Salt Spring as having the right healing and spiritual environment and also necessary services, while being "tucked away" from the city.

The relatively remote nature of the property poses problems for its development, however. A staff report by Islands Trust planner Shelley Miller states "staff consider the application to have a challenging path forward given the various professional reports and covenants that would be required" for staff to consider recommending its advancement.

The Islands Trust holds a covenant on the 71-acre property that restricts development to the existing house and guest cottage. As well, it lies within a rural upland zone where large-scale development is not encouraged, and at the end of a road that is not maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The property is next to protected lands in Mount Maxwell Provincial Park and is home to areas of high biodiversity and a small environmentally sensitive area identified in OCP mapping. It also contains headwaters for Fulford Creek and is near the groundwater source

used by Salt Spring Water Co.

Speaking at Tuesday's meeting, Miller said the reduced project scale would remove some of the potential problems with the OCP, but more information would still be needed in any case.

LTC chair Peter Luckham noted that allowing a commercial accommodation use related to the clinic for the current property owners even just in phase one would mean future owners could offer other types of commercial accommodation there.

"We need to be sure this is what we want to have in the zoning," Luckham said.

In other application business on Jan. 29, the LTC approved a development permit and development variance permit for the Beachside business at 161 Fulford-Ganges Rd. The permits authorize the previously constructed concrete block wall within the setback from the natural boundary of Ganges Creek and the sea. A landscaping security of \$2,685 was required for revegetation of the creek bank using native plants.

• The LTC turned down the most recent development variance request for 185 Grantville St. Developer Eric Booth had asked for a relaxation of lot lines on two adjacent lots to give more flexibility in building sites. In exchange he offered to reduce the total lot coverage from the permitted 33 per cent to 10 per cent.

The trustees said they would not permit the change based on public feedback opposing the plan, especially in regard to how it would impact safety on Walker's Hook Road.

"I opposed the variance when the application last came to the LTC and I haven't been convinced to change my mind," Patrick said.



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



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EDITORIAL

Wasted water

When does the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's moratorium on new water connections not make sense?

When it results in more, not less, water being consumed by one of its customers.

Last week the NSSWD board turned down a moratorium-exemption request by owners of the Creekhous complex in Ganges for a caretaker suite to be added. Property owners feel an on-site resident would help deter vandalism.

Because studies have indicated the NSSWD cannot add to existing and committed-in-future demand for its water supplies, in 2015 the board declared a moratorium on new connections that would ultimately result in an increase in water use.

THE ISSUE: NSSWD moratorium

WE SAY: Creekhous denial rationale not logical

But the Creekhous owners' plan was to replace old plumbing fixtures with new, more efficient ones throughout the entire multi-suite commercial-retail building, which meant adding the suite would result in less water being used.

A change that results in a net reduction in water consumption should be a

good thing, right?

But NSSWD representatives will often state that promotion of water conservation is not their primary aim. Ensuring lake levels don't get too low in summer months is one matter, but since the NSSWD is in the business of selling water, it doesn't want to sell less of it year-round. If everyone in the district became ace water conservers, the NSSWD could run short of funds to operate. It's a contradiction that causes the NSSWD to send mixed messages and it's unfortunate that solutions to other community problems cannot be pursued as a result.

Increasing the number of people who live in the Ganges core has long been suggested as desirable for a number of reasons, and official community plan policies support the concept when demand for water can be met, as it would be in the Creekhous case.

Making an exception to the moratorium policy is not unprecedented. Last year the NSSWD approved water for increased Harbour House Hotel units in a case where changing to more efficient fixtures was to result in 10 to 15 per cent less water being consumed.

Having a caretaker suite at Creekhous would reduce water consumption in Ganges while providing housing for one individual and security services that could help the whole village. It's a shame that all of those benefits are being flushed away by NSSWD intransigence in this case.



Don't wait to take action

BY JIM STANDEN

Recently, we've seen climate scientists raise the warning to "crisis" or "emergency" level.

We are hitting and passing tipping points and unstoppable feedback loops. The term "extinction event" is now becoming common. Action to prevent irreversible damage must be taken immediately. In other words, an **EMERGENCY**. (Yes, in caps and in bold.)

Greta Thunberg in Europe sees the emergency. She is 16 and has been holding education strikes on Fridays. Other students have been joining her. They are on strike for their future and want immediate and decisive action.

So how does one act in an emergency? We should know. We were just there with our December storm. Crews were out all over the place with a "do or die" attitude. They came from far and away to ensure our roads, hospitals and grocery stores were available. They worked Christmas Day and had long shifts. They did what was required and they did it... NOW!

Were there meetings to produce studies, ask opinions, generate reports, create budgets and discuss budget cycles, find consensus? No. It was an emergency.

VIEWPOINT

Damn the torpedos, get the job done. Later, determine how much it cost. Write some post-event reports. Make better plans for the next event.

The climate change challenge is clear, folks. The studies have been done, the questions have been asked and the climate scientists have responded with hard facts. This is an EMERGENCY.

And we know that transportation is our biggest producer of greenhouse gases locally, so we islanders began taking action. We spent our own dollars. Over 200 of us already drive electric. And a team of smart, intelligent folks volunteered their own time to encourage the installation of 10 free public chargers on Salt Spring (providing 15 charging wands). Together with wise business owners, we have changed Salt Spring Island. We have lowered our greenhouse gas emissions, reduced the island needs for fuel, reduced the noise level and made the air better for our precious kids and pets. And we were happy to do so and are proud of our accomplishments.

What about government?

Action from the federal level? Precious little.

Action from our provincial government? Some nice assistance. Programs to reduce the cost of purchasing an electric car and/or scrapping your existing junker, installing chargers at multi-residences and providing subsidies for charging at home.

Action from the CRD? Gary Holman is supporting the declaration of a region-wide climate emergency and is looking for ways to support climate action on Salt Spring this year.

Action from the Islands Trust? Not much.

This is an emergency. So I am asking Gary and Islands Trust trustees Peter Grove and Laura Patrick the following question. Have you initiated projects to support lower transportation emissions from your organization on Salt Spring Island by 1) installing chargers at your business locations and 2) swapping out your fleet of vehicles for electric or plug-in hybrid equivalents? These actions will immediately lower your organization's emissions, and the results will be easily quantifiable.

The Transition Salt Spring EV Group is here to assist you. Please ask. And please take action (NOW).

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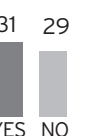
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the Islands Trust do more to tackle climate change?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Have you become more vigilant about home security in the past year?



Cast your ballot online at 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: }

“My advice is that if you don’t get what you want today, come back in a year and ask again, because things are moving and shaking.”

CHRIS DIXON, NSSWD TRUSTEE

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What do you think of the snow?

CHRISTIANNE WIIGS



It’s a challenge with a rear-wheel-drive vehicle, but other than that it’s fine.

CHRISTINE WITHERSPOON



I love the snow. I’m from Alberta, so it’s a pleasure when it snows here because it’s a break from the norm.

DANIEL MARGOLESE



It’s not that much. I don’t really like driving in it, but it’s pretty.

MARY LYNN HETHERINGTON



I love it. I did a bit of a happy dance. This isn’t real snow, though, it’s more like white dust.

PHIL GREGSON



It’s great. We finally get a bit of a winter.

LETTERS to the editor

Unwise fire comments

Regarding the burning of the houseboat at the beach in Ganges, I was sad to hear that it had belonged to someone I knew here on Salt Spring when I was younger and who was the mother of one of my friends.

Unfortunately, in private pages on social media there was quite a bit of bullying. Considering that fire is a serious matter, and it is not yet known whether it was deliberately set, I was disturbed at the tone and to read people laughing and saying things like “let’s get another burn going until it is to the ground, haha.”

I am just wondering if it is not time to reflect on this as a community. No one should be delighting in others’ misfortune. It is a cold world when people do that as a group.

I do appreciate that the frustrations of the situation were explained to me and that the intended outcome was meant to be quite positive with the boat being repaired. However, that was not the case and the fire is a tragedy all around, for the owner and for those who worked hard on this project.

It is no joking matter for people in this community to take as free entertainment.

If I knew that a fire had uncertain causes, and anyone was writing things like, “Yay, let’s do

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

it again,” I would consider that unwise.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

Feeling duped

I feel some contrition, a sense of having been duped. Even though I’ve seen plenty of propaganda over the years, I assumed the situation in Venezuela was not worth looking into. It was too hard to distinguish truth from fiction, too far away.

Thanks to friends, especially one who has been in Venezuela doing humanitarian work and another who is doing a doctorate in peace studies, I understand more now. I urge others to check out the excellent letter to the

leaders of Canada’s main political parties from the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace of Jan. 29, which links to several reputable statements. The Green Party’s Jan. 28 statement is also useful.

One of the themes of the recent town hall with Elizabeth May and Adam Olsen was truth in the media. How can we help ourselves and others figure out what’s really happening, whether it be locally or globally? How can we intervene, personally and through our governments, in constructive ways?

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

One man’s harrowing battle with a MRSA superbug

Look up in the sky. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it’s Superbug!

Superbug? Is this another of the Marvel Comics superheroes turned into a blockbuster box office smash?

No, actually, the superbug I refer to here is none other than MRSA, an acronym for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. To put it briefly, this potentially fatal menace is a bacterium that has grown resistant to many of our “go to” antibiotics. Although it is found almost everywhere, especially on skin and mucous membranes such as inside the nose and mouth, it can wreak havoc if it finds its way into your bloodstream and is allowed to multiply exponentially. If this happens, MRSA can cause serious infections and abscesses in the host body.

Why am I discussing such a morbid subject? It’s because I was struck down by this little MRSA vermin just before Christmas.

I know, I know, everybody has problems, so why do I have to publish mine in the Driftwood newspaper? I’ve already written extensively about my experiences with prostate cancer and the rare Sezary Syndrome lymphoma I have been struggling with for a few years. Couldn’t I just suffer in silence like everybody else without letting the whole island in on it? Don’t I realize that my reading audience is sick and tired of hearing about my physical ailments?

No. Apparently not. So to continue with my story, one day in late December my wife came home to find me doubled over the kitchen counter in abject back pain. We waited through a sleepless night and decided the next morning to drive to Lady Minto Hospital. I was kept overnight and the next day whisked into an ambulance and transported via the Fulford ferry to the Saanich hospital for a CT scan. The pain in my back was unbearable so I had been given narcotics to make the trip easier. Later that same day I was returned to Lady Minto. The CT scan had not been completely conclusive, but suspicions were now rising that I had been infected with MRSA.

I would need an MRI at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.

By this time, my back was hurting so badly that there was no way I could lie flat on the sliding table that would carry me into the vortex of the machine. I was supposed to keep still for the wicked 90 minutes that it would take to do a complete scan of my



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

spine, but I knew that I, a natural fidgeter at the best of times plus being claustrophobic, would not last five seconds on that table.

I convinced the lab techies that I could not go through with the scan unless they gave me something that would knock me out. They kindly gave me a shot of ketamine, a fairly common sedation drug, and I was out like a light in no time, and the MRI was completed successfully.

What no one knew at the time is that I was allergic to ketamine. Once I was returned to 5 North of the Patient Care Centre and started to come around, I went psychotic. And I mean out-of-control crazy. I surmised that I had been abducted by aliens and they were preparing to do brain probes on me. I tried to make my escape by staggering out of bed, but in the wretched shape I was in, I only managed to bounce my body off the hallway walls. Eventually, the nursing staff summoned security and two burly uniformed guards roped me back to my room. I still struggled to escape, but they made that impossible by anchoring each of my limbs to the bed frame using thick webbed straps. I was stuck. I fought those restraints for hours, calling out for my wife to help me, at the same time thinking she was in on the plot. The entire scene resembled that notorious acid trip clip from the ‘60s movie classic Easy Rider.

When my psychosis finally dissipated I returned to my old addled self. Blood tests confirmed that I had a superbug infection and that the bacteria had settled into a sticky abscess in my spine.

The course of action was obvious to the doctors. Hit the little suckers with every type of antibiotic ever discovered until they found one or more to which they weren’t resistant.

Every day, at three different times of the day, I was infused intravenously with several antibiotics. Most of them did little or nothing. One of them, moxifloxacin (sounds

like a good name for a pet cat), made me develop an allergic reaction and break out in hives.

I was poked with syringes several times a day and had test tubes of blood drawn from my veins, which started to close down in protest. I was told that they would consider me healed and the infection under control if I could produce blood samples that were sterile and had zero bacteria for five straight days.

The problem was that I couldn’t produce sterile blood. Some days the bacteria decreased to almost nothing, but then shot back up the very next day. The doctors shook their heads. I was sent for more X-rays, CT scans, ultrasounds, echocardiograms and MRI’s.

Days turned into weeks and slowly the tide turned. The specialists marvelled at how tough these specific bacteria were and they claimed they had never seen such specimens that were so hard to kill.

After five weeks confined to a single floor at the Royal Jubee, I finally passed the blood sterility test. I was told that I would be set free in the near future if all remained as was. But just as I was about to be discharged the very next day, a new complication arose. The platelet level in my blood, which had been one element of my body chemistry that had been quite normal, took a precipitous dive towards the danger zone. Next, my B12 level took a dive to the danger zone. It seemed like the separate elements in my blood were taking turns jumping off the chart!

As I write these words, a whole week has now gone by since my platelet and B12 scares and I have had the levels return to normal by stopping one of my antibiotics and replacing it with another. I am buoyed with the assurance that I will be discharged on Feb. 1 (the day before Groundhog Day, uh-oh).

Nobody asked me, but six weeks bed-ridden in a hospital with an infectious disease is nothing I want to experience ever again. Three more weeks of antibiotics treatment at home and I should be totally clear of the MRSA. Then it’s back to the challenge of seeing how long I can continue life in my sweet home on the rock, Salt Spring, while I dance with my old enemy, Sezary Syndrome.

And now that this superbug has stepped aside, I’ll be able to focus on the next arch villain. I’m sure you’ll be hearing about it.

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Walkers deserve courtesy and safety

BY MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE

In your Dec. 19, 2018 issue you published a Viewpoint by Hazel Gardner. I was surprised that you allowed it.

She begins with: "This is in response to the Dec. 5 front-page article regarding the pedestrian that was hit crossing Rainbow Road at the junction of Lower Ganges Road."

I was that pedestrian and I suffered a very severe concussion and badly damaged elbow as well as much trauma with continuing PTSD. I am now recovering enough to be able to respond to her point of view.

Ms. Gardner states: "So often in these pedestrian-vehicle accidents the driver of the vehicle is deemed to be in the wrong, but are pedestrians ever aware of how difficult it can be for the driver to stop in sometimes difficult situations that could be dangerous for others if one allows a lone pedestrian to amble across in front of you?"

Well, for your information, Ms. Gardner, there is a stop sign there. The truck was

IN RESPONSE

stopped with a few cars in line after it. I looked three ways to be sure it was safe to cross.

One expects a vehicle stopped at a stop sign to stay stopped as one crosses there.

Ms. Gardner continues: "There seems to be a huge lack of respect for drivers in this part of the world. People just step out into the road oblivious of cars and trucks, deeming that they are pedestrians and therefore have the right of way on the road. OK, so a crosswalk is a safe place to cross, but only if you have first stopped at the curb and looked to your left and right to make sure that nothing is coming in either direction . . . and then if there is a car, make eye contact with the driver to be assured he has seen you, and how about a nod or wave of gratitude?"

Ms. Gardner: On my way to the meeting I was attending at

4 p.m., I pressed the pedestrian traffic light on Lower Ganges Road to cross that busy road. I looked to see that it was flashing. It was, yet three cars, one after the other on my side, zipped through it, so I stepped out a bit and boldly gestured down and up to the flashing light uttering, "Hey! This is a crosswalk!"

When I entered the room at the school board office that day for the transportation commission meeting, I announced what I saw.

Since that dreadful traffic violation committed by the driver of the pickup truck at 6 p.m. as I was returning from the meeting, I have received many other residents' reports and tales of their life-threatening experiences while crossing streets in the Ganges area.

The crosswalk at the join of Crofton and Lower Ganges roads is another disturbing one. Even though the light is flashing, seniors especially are frightened to cross because drivers will zip through that

or only stop abruptly before it after approaching at a high speed for the concentrated seniors and hospital area.

In the town area, parents worry about their children crossing near Thrifty Foods and the Info Centre.

You know what I would like you to say when you mention how taxing it is for drivers, Ms. Gardner? I'd like you to say to drivers: "For goodness sakes, drivers, slow down!"

When you approach a crosswalk, slow down well before it and show courtesy to pedestrians. After all, while they are out there in the rain, sleet, windstorm or whatever, we are comfy and protected in our vehicles and surely can take the time to respect their presence and let them safely cross.

Yes, we can share the road and drive with care and kindness to others.

I will agree with your conclusion, though, Ms. Gardner. "Here's to safer road use for all this Christmas . . . and on and on into 2019 and beyond."

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

GISRA board members needed

We would like to take this opportunity to make readers more aware of the activities of the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association (GISRA).

Just about everyone interested in seniors housing is familiar with Meadowbrook, the first residence the association successfully built and manage. And now GISRA has made considerable progress in making its second housing initiative, Meadowlane, a reality.

The Meadowlane project will provide 48 additional units of "affordable supportive" seniors housing, which are already fully pre-booked, along with a significant waiting list. Current efforts are now focused on obtaining the various permits and approvals such a major project requires. We are expecting the Islands Trust zoning approval will be given in late March. The location chosen for Meadowlane on Kings Lane is convenient with two wells more than adequate to meet all Island Health water requirements. Overall, things are going well, though perhaps not quite as quickly as the board might have liked. If our September 2020 target date for completion cannot be met, we are confident construction will be well underway by then.

But while considerable progress is being made, much remains to be done.

Those of us charged with both managing Meadowbrook and building a new multi-million-dollar seniors residence could use some help. We are looking for additional members of our community with relevant skills and experience to help us make Meadowlane a reality. We have openings on the GISRA board in areas such as finance, communications and governance.

If you are interested, or think you might be, please let us know by e-mailing us at infogisra@gmail.com no later than Feb. 28. That email should briefly spell out the skills and past experience that you could bring to our team of volunteers. Current board members will respond to all emails and meet personally with those of you whose skills and strengths that seem to best meet our current needs.

GI SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

Town hall inadequate

Disturbing is how I describe the Local Trust Committee town hall held on Jan. 29 at the Harbour House.

Firstly, I turned up early, and was briskly turned away. Then 15 minutes later at 12:20 p.m., we the public were allowed to enter the room. Each citizen was given a mere two minutes to voice their opinion and share in a constructive manner. All islanders did so and spoke with respect.

What was shocking was the lack of response in particular from our own two trustees, Laura Patrick and Peter Grove,

who appeared to be muzzled by the chair, Peter Luckham. There was little consideration of what was suggested and certainly no encouragement to have a conversation.

The Islands Trust is one of our governing bodies, and as such functions within our democratic country. It is my belief that every citizen has the right to hear, has the right to give constructive criticisms, has the right to make suggestions, has the right to challenge the current thinking and has the right to speak from the heart.

In juxtaposition to the LTC meeting, we have all seen our Prime Minister conduct town hall meetings. He does not appear to be afraid of what he might hear, he gives us the impression he is eager to hear the thinking of all citizens and he appears to appreciate the diversity of perspectives.

The Participation Company has an excellent philosophy for meetings. "Everyone brings kernels of wisdom based on their own unique history and experiences. We can't know or understand what someone else thinks unless we listen to him or her. We cannot have a full picture until everyone has had a chance to contribute. All perspectives are valid. When someone says something that challenges your thinking, listen to understand why they think as they do."

With the great urgency of the environmental challenges affecting us all, we need to be heard. The Islands Trust must be responsive to its citizens.

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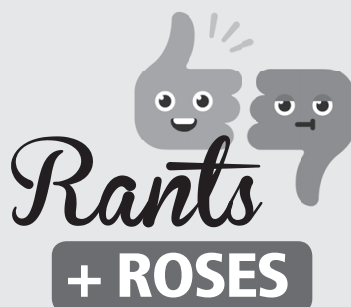
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an awareness that we are all connected.



Roses

A podium of red roses to the person who noticed my iPhone on the wet pavement of ArtSpring's parking lot after the Vetta concert. Thank you for taking the time to hand it in to staff the same night. With appreciation, Victoria Olchoweki

Thanks and yellow fragrant roses to chef Leeann and the fabulous Fulford Hall crew that served up a marvellous Robbie Burns meal to 129 happy haggis eaters. It is a pleasure to work with such a fine team.

Will the most kind lady who paid my bill at Country Grocer last Saturday afternoon please call 250-537-4520. Jill

emergency RESPONSE THESE PAGES PROVIDE EMERGENCY-RELATED TIPS AND A SEARCH & RESCUE SALUTE

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Emergency program holds POD storm debrief

Communications found to be biggest hurdle to overcome

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program's POD system met on Saturday to debrief after the windstorm that took place on Dec. 20, 2018.

Over 100 people from all over the island attended the meeting, where they discussed areas of success and areas that need work in Salt Spring's disaster management system. Emergency program coordinator Elizabeth Zook said it was the largest POD meeting that's ever happened on the island.

"What it shows for me is that the POD has moved to a different level. This was one of the best community meetings that I'd ever been to," she said. "What I'm impressed by is that these people are volunteering themselves and building teams of people in the community to help each other in a disaster or a major emergency."

The meeting, held at Meaden Hall, was a session for neighbourhood POD leaders to share their experiences of the storm and aftermath. SSIEP also distributed a new action plan to help with any concerns

that leaders might have had.

One of the major concerns brought up during the meeting was the loss of communications.

"Communication is the most important aspect in dealing with an emergency. That's what I see our focus being on right now," said meeting facilitator Amy MacLeod. "The type of situation we experienced as leaders was very unique because we lacked the various things we could do to communicate with and check on neighbours."

"People just couldn't even leave their driveways. It wasn't safe to go outside and they couldn't go down the roads because wires were down. We had no internet or power," she added.

The POD notification system relies on traditional methods of communication, as well as social media. Currently, it is only effective when hydro and wireless networks are still in place. As it was shown during the aftermath of the storm, communication can break down in the absence of these utilities.

After the storm, emails were sent out initially, and updates were posted to the SSIEP Facebook page. Other web-based channels were used, including updates on the Driftwood website for those who could still access the internet using their phones. SSIEP is working on bringing on a

two-way radio system to help with more direct communications. POD leaders have been encouraging people to keep a set of two-way radios on hand. Each POD has been issued its own channel and GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) testing has been occurring weekly.

"What was hard was just normal telecoms, like being able to talk to each other. That's still a challenge," MacLeod explained. "We're looking at how to deal with that using radio in terms of GMRS and amateur radio and how that works together."

The POD system currently has 45 amateur radio users who are volunteer POD relayers. Their responsibility is to send the POD situation report through to the Emergency Operations Centre with the POD leaders.

Zook explained that the POD program now was 400 people taking part. Two training sessions scheduled in February are nearly at full capacity.

"Now I feel after eight years that this program stands on its own. It's starting to pick up momentum," Zook said. "That's the program, that was why I was hired: to build community resilience . . . The outcome of this meeting was not just about building disaster resilience, but about building community. I'm very proud to be a Salt Springer."



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

Amy MacLeod of the 100 Hills neighbourhood POD and an active emergency program volunteer speaks at a debrief session held on Feb. 2 about the emergency and POD program response during and after the Dec. 20 windstorm.

EMERGENCY PREP

Radio communications crucial

New course for residents begins Feb. 17

SUBMITTED BY THE SALT SPRING AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

After the windstorm on Dec. 20, 2018, there has been a surge of interest in amateur radio. The windstorm severely damaged the electrical power grid and disabled most internet connections and landline phones for days. In a major catastrophe when landlines and cell phones may be inoperable for long periods, amateur radio will become the default communications technology.

The day following our big storm, amateur radio operators without power, telephone and internet were on the air, networking with others to get assistance for themselves and neighbours. Unlike other modern communication modes, amateur radio does not rely on a governmental or corporate infrastructure for good communication and transfer of information. Most amateur radio operators are prepared with backup power systems so they are not dependent on grid electricity.

In major disasters around the world, communities have been isolated and without communication until help finally arrives and infrastructure repaired. An immediately available local backup communications system provided by trained amateur radio operators has been shown to be invaluable in times of crisis. It has been proven time and again in disasters from Puerto Rico, Katrina, Fukushima Daiichi to the tornado that crippled Ottawa in September 2018.

Amateur radio is a communication mode that is licensed by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. All amateur radio operators (known also as "hams")

are required to pass a written test to demonstrate their knowledge and competency before they are permitted to operate a radio. Once a licence is obtained, a vast array of communication and information transmission options become available.

The Dec. 20 windstorm highlighted the need for a robust emergency communication network on Salt Spring Island. Among other functions, radio operators could facilitate residents needing generators, fuel, water, food and other necessities, including medical supplies. Most critical, operators could provide a direct communications link to authorities and emergency agencies. Ham radio operators assist and support emergency services and first responders to provide local, regional and long-distance communication capability when nothing else works.

An essential component of amateur radio is public service, including disaster communications. The Salt Spring Amateur Radio Society (SSARS) owns and operates two wide-coverage repeaters located on Bruce Peak that provide coverage for amateur radio operators throughout the Southern Gulf Islands, Lower Mainland, Southern Vancouver Island and Northern Washington State. It is a state-of-the-art installation and available for use by anyone with a licence without any fees or other regulatory requirements.

SSARS offers licensing courses periodically throughout the year. As a public service, it's offering a special four-Sunday course for residents starting Feb. 17 in conjunction with the Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society. A second course will be offered later to accommodate anyone missing out. For more information or to register, see the SSARS website at www.ssiarc.ca.

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Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office. Published in the first Driftwood of each month!

WEDNESDAY

SALT SPRING GENEALOGY GROUP meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Mormon church. Info: Email cloudie48@gmail.com
STITCH DIMENSION QUILT GUILD meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church, around the back.
SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Harbour House Hotel.
SOUTH SALT SPRING SENIORS meet on the last Wednesday of each month at Fulford Hall at 2 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

SRHYTHMS MOVEMENT & DANCE CLASS led by Shauna Devlin at All Saints By-the-Sea (downstairs). 9 to 10 a.m.
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at SS Seniors Centre board room. 10 to 11 a.m. Confidential, accurate, easy and convenient.
BOOMERFIT at Fulford Hall. On hiatus until mid-February. 9 to 10 a.m. Experience a variety of exercises that will awaken every muscle in your body. Stretch, strengthen, mobilize, BFit! Core strength, stabilization and injury prevention are a main focus. Info: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.
BRIDGE CLUB at the SS Library program room from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP for people caring for individuals with Alzheimers and others. Every Wednesday at Salt Spring Seniors (379 Lower Ganges Rd.) at 11 a.m. Info: Margaret Monro, 250-537-5004.
COMPUTER HELP — Free help with computer, tablet, smartphone issues at Salt Spring Literacy. By appointment at the literacy centre at 125B Rainbow Rd. or by calling 250-537-9717 or emailing coordinator@saltspringliteracy.org.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 12:45 p.m. (for 1 p.m. start).
FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY offers free access to premium genealogy websites at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 221 Vesuvius Bay Rd. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m.
HATHA FLOW YOGA with Dorothy Price at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m.
KIRTAN at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 7:30 p.m.
MEDITATION GROUP suitable for beginners meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10:10 to 11 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: Deb Stevenson, 250-930-5333.
MEDITATION MEETINGS and teachings with the Salt Spring Vipassana Society. The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. Offered by donation with Insight Meditation teacher Heather Martin. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
MEN'S BRIDGE at Salt Spring Seniors at 7 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SSI PAINTERS GUILD meets at ArtSpring. 9:30 a.m. For activities see website ssipaintersguild.ca.
SSI ROTARY CLUB meets each Wednesday for a deliciously prepared lunch with community focused speakers and presentations at the Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SWING DANCE at SS Elementary School gym. East-Coast, West-Coast, and Lindy Hop. Everyone welcome. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Larry Nelson or Wendy Hartnett at 250-537-4118.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
YOGA - Mixed levels with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. PLUS Chair Yoga (Seniors) from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
YOGA with Dorothy Price at The Gatehouse at Stowel Lake Farm. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Info: info@santasha-yoga-retreats.com, 250-537-7675
YOGA FLOW with Li Mei Wong at Duck Creek Farm resumes in warmer weather. Info: limei.wong1@gmail.com
ZEN MEDITATION at 210 Cedar Lane at 7:15 p.m. Call 250-537-2062 for details. Newcomers always welcome.
ZUMBA TONING with Lee Sigmund at SSI Wellness Centre. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m. Info: ljcharlton@shaw.ca
VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP meets on the first Thursday of the month at SS Seniors Centre, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Info: David at 250-537-8595 or Seniors Centre 250-537-4604.

EVERY THURSDAY

AIKIDO MARTIAL ARTS classes for kids and adults at the SSI Wellness Centre. Kids from 5 to 6 p.m., and adults from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Info: Alan, 250-538-5549; alanwardroper@gmail.com.
AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics holds an Easy Does It Lunch Bunch open meeting at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 12 to 1 p.m.
DANCE TEMPLE at Beaver Point Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.
LUNCH at Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
KUNDALINI YOGA - all levels with Shannon Cowan at the Wellness Centre. 8 to 9:15 a.m.
NIA — Discover the delicious music, mindful movement & healing magic of Nia, a fabulous, fun blend of dance, martial arts and yoga. Antler Ridge Dance Studio, 211 Horel Rd., 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
OPEN MIC NIGHT at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m.
SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 7:30 to 9 p.m.
STAY & PLAY DROP-IN at Family Place for ages 0 to 6 and caregivers. 12:30 to 3 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI for beginners at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
WOMEN'S YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
VIJNANA YOGA with Liz Young at Stowel Lake Farm. 6 to 7:30 p.m.
YOGA ALL LEVELS with Dorothy Price at SS Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
YOGA FOUNDATIONS with Li Mei Wong at Duck Creek Farm resumes in warmer weather. Info: limei.wong1@gmail.com

EVERY FRIDAY

COFFEE TIME for seniors is at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
DRUM CIRCLE meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 4 to 6 p.m.
ELEMENTARY BRIDGE COACHING. Beginning bridge lessons (but also with more advanced coaching available) at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE at the SS Public Library Program Room. 2:30 p.m. Check SS library for exact schedule.
STORYTIME at the SS Public Library in the children's corner at 11 a.m. Drop-in program best for kids ages 3-6 and their caregivers.
FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Anna Haltrecht at Cats Pajamas Studio, 104 Langs Rd., 10 to 11 a.m. Move with less pain and stress by learning how to make any activity more effective and more enjoyable. Info/register: anna@bonesforever.com.
GAMES NIGHT at the Salt Spring Library Program Room. Facilitator Bryan Dubien brings his vast collection of board games, or you can bring your own. 6 to 9 p.m.
MAH JONGG players gather at Salt Spring Seniors from 12:15 to 2 p.m.
MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.
MIXED LEVELS YOGA with John Howe at SSI Wellness Centre. 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE with Kaya Reiss at SSI Wellness Centre. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

DAD 'N' ME PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Family Place. For dads and kids aged 0 to 6. 8:30 to 10 a.m.
EFT TAPPING (Emotional Freedom Techniques) led by Judith Gane at SS Seniors. Call Judith at 250-537-5322 for time and info.
MEAT DRAW at the Legion. 5 to 6 p.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Open practice. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS with Lee Sigmund. SSI Wellness Centre. 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

KUNDALINI YOGA with Jaya Levesque at SSI Wellness Centre. 10 to 11:15 a.m.
PICKLEBALL runs at Salt Spring Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
RED BALL TENNIS. Indoors at the Salt Spring Island Tennis Centre behind the golf club for adults ages 16 and over. Two hours of fun, exercise and friendship. Mini-court tennis for 3 to 5 p.m. Info: Laura Moore, 250-537-0721.
SUNDAY SATSANG at the SS Centre of Yoga. 3:30 p.m.
YIN YOGA with Shelby Luffman at SS Wellness Centre. 12 to 1:15 p.m.

MONDAY

SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the Ganges Fire Hall at 7 p.m. See www.saltspringfire.com.
SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION usually meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the SS Public Library Program Room. 4 to 6 p.m.
YOUTH BOOK CLUB for ages 9 to 12 meets at the Salt Spring Public Library every other Monday beginning Jan. 7, except holidays. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Check the library for exact schedule.

EVERY MONDAY

ACTIVE LEARNING group meets at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 to 4 p.m.
BOOMERFIT at Beaver Point Hall. On hiatus until mid-February. 9 to 10 a.m. See Wednesday class description (but note different location). Contact: trisha.synergyfit@gmail.com, 250-653-4656.
CHESS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
DARTS at the Legion from 6 to 9 p.m.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE meets every Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Salt Spring Seniors Services. Info: George Laundry at 250-653-9095 or pastorale@shaw.ca.
EVERYBODY STRETCH class with Catherine Bennett at SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2 p.m.
FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT® CLASS with Alice Friedman at The Gatehouse, 9 a.m. Info: Alice Friedman, 250-653-4332, alicef@saltspring.com.
ISLAND INFANTS PARENT DISCUSSION GROUP at Family Place. A drop-in for parents of babies prenatal to 1 year with weekly speakers. Pre-register (familyplace@ssics.ca) for childcare. Lunch provided. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (No session on Feb. 12.)
NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church, downstairs hall. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
PICKLEBALL runs at Portlock Park from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SALT SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB holds casual coffee mornings for its members at Penny's on the Green at 10 a.m.
SALT SPRING SCOTTISH DANCERS meet at All Saints from 6 to 8 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. With beginners until 8 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
TECH TUTORING WITH CONRAD at the Salt Spring library. iPad, Tablet and eReader tutoring with Conrad Koke. Sign-up sheets are found in the Info Desk Programs binder. Sessions are available every Monday at 12 and 1 p.m.
THE CLINIC by OPT: Options for Sexual Health is open every Monday at the Core Inn 2nd floor. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 250-537-8786.
TOASTMASTERS, a dedicated band of public speaking learners and enthusiasts, meets at the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 9 p.m. Guests always welcome.
VIJNANA YOGA LEVEL 2 with Cathy Valentine at Stowel Lake Farm. 5:30 to 7 p.m.
YOGA with Celeste Mallett Jason at SSI Wellness Centre. Mixed Levels from both 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.; Level 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE for all levels at the Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 4:30 to 6 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

AL-ANON for friends and families of alcoholics meets at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church rear annex. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
ARGENTINE TANGO PRACTICE. All are welcome to join the tango group, Por el Amor del Tango, at weekly practicas. All Saints By-the-Sea. 8 to 10 p.m. Info: ssi.tango@gmail.com
ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP meets at Salt Spring Seniors from 1 to 3 p.m.
CHESS GROUP plays games at Salt Spring Seniors. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
CHOIR at Salt Spring Seniors. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
EFT TAPPING (Emotional Freedom Techniques) led by Judith Gane at Twisted Oak Studios. Call Judith at 250-537-5322 for time, address and info.
FLOOR HOCKEY at Fulford Hall at 7:30 p.m.
LIFE DRAWING GROUP meets at Lions Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. All welcome.
LOST CHORDS seniors choir meets at SS Seniors at 10:30 a.m.
NIA — See Thursday description, except the location is All Saints Church upper hall from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Info: arleensadler@shaw.ca.
MEN'S GROUP - A council of highly supportive men. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info: John, call/text 1-519-821-9703, reinless@mender.ca or meetup.com/reinless/



PICKLEBALL games are played at Fulford Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and at Fernwood Elementary School from 6 to 9 p.m. Instruction and equipment provided for beginners. Info: hafizbhimji@shaw.ca or 250-653-9579.
SALT SPRING IMPROV WORKSHOP: Free, drop-in improv theatre games for adults and teens 15 and up. Beginners welcome! SS Elementary multi-purpose room. 7 to 9 p.m. Info: sue.kernaghan@shaw.ca.
SQUASH - Have Fun Learning Squash introductory sessions at the squash court at the Salt Spring Golf Club. Bring clean non-marking shoes. First time is free. 10:30 a.m. to noon.
SS SEARCH & RESCUE - Learn ground survival, search and rescue techniques at the SAR Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.
STAY & PLAY DROP-IN for parents and caregivers and their children aged 0-6 at Family Place. 12 to 3 p.m.
TAOIST TAI CHI at All Saints By-the-Sea, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: Stephanie, 250-537-1721.
UBUNTU sacred chants with Barb Slater. SSI Wellness Centre. 1 to 2:30 p.m.
YOGA WITH DOROTHY PRICE — Slow Flow class at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.

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LIVE THEATRE

Monologues tackles timely themes

Feb. 14 event raises funds
for IWAV

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Valentine's Day 2019 will offer islanders the opportunity to see life through a different lens as a collective of local women eschew paper lace hearts for the more profound perspective of the vagina.

It will be exactly 17 years since *The Vagina Monologues* was last seen on Salt Spring, with a community-based production opening at ArtSpring on Valentine's Day 2002. While many things have changed in the world during that time, society still has much to improve on in terms of feminism, equality, freedom from sexual violence and body positivity.

A new production helmed by Loren "Lolo" Hendin and Andrea Thring that comes to ArtSpring on Feb. 14 promises to bring those important themes back to the forefront.

"It really feels like it's the right time," said Thring, who directs the play. "There's a bit of a hunger for it. And obviously with the #MeToo movement, it's become a new kind of current."

Playwright and activist Eve Ensler first wrote and performed *The Vagina Monologues* in 1994. Based on dozens of interviews Ensler conducted with women, the play addressed women's sexuality and the social stigma surrounding rape and abuse. The play ran off-Broadway for five years in New York before touring the United States.

The *Vagina Monologues* experience soon gave birth to V-Day, a global activist movement that Ensler founded to end violence against all women and girls (cisgender, transgender and those who hold fluid identities that are subject to gender-based violence). As part of the movement, Ensler gives groups the right to perform her play in February and use the proceeds for local projects and programs that further that work.

"I realized we needed a space where we can take over and say the word 'vagina' as much as we want."

LOLO HENDIN

Vagina Monologues producer

Hendin and Thring will be directing their production's proceeds to Island Women Against Violence, which runs the island's transition house, among other programs.

The idea to do the play this year arose indirectly out of Hendin's everyday activism. Her handmade leatherwork business Magical Vagina Creations focuses on female body parts for decor: pink vulvas, bare breasts and nudes. She also has a practice of sharing the ultimate feminist reading list, which she compiled and hands out



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vagina Monologues cast members take a break from rehearsal on Sunday. Standing, left to right are: Andrea Thring (director), Atiyeh Baradaran, Shamana Ali, Lolo Hendin (producer), Sharyn Carroll, Lara Doucette and Roxy Pouliot, and crouching are Cat Wilson, Sara Melo, Grace Jordan and Natalie Baack. Not pictured is cast member Sue Earle. The V-Day fundraiser performance will take place at ArtSpring on Feb. 14.

from her Saturday Market stall and to coffee shops.

One of the titles on the list is *Vagina* by Naomi Wolf. When a local artist named Rea Zogia created a mural project based on Hendin's reading list at Gasoline Alley, she was asked to remove Wolf's title from the bookshelf pictured because some local businesses weren't comfortable seeing the word. (Zogia compromised by writing it in Greek instead.)

"I was kind of angry and wondering how can we respond to that — but being angry wouldn't get the point across," Hendin said. "I realized we needed a space where we can take over and say the word 'vagina' as much as we want."

Hendin suggested putting on *The Vagina Monologues* to her friend Thring, a psychotherapist who shares the same feminist principles and has a background in theatre, including its social uses and theatre therapy. She first performed in the *Vagina Monologues* 20 years ago at Vancouver Island University and it has been important to her ever since.

"I said, 'I can do that,' and from there it's happened very easily. Everyone's come out from the woodwork to help us and support us," Thring said.

Auditions were done in December with submissions open to anyone who identi-

fied as female. The show includes 10 different monologues told in 10 different voices and in a variety of ways. Some can be screamingly funny while others are thought-provoking or troubling.

"The writing is so accessible; I think it's very easy to step into," Thring said. "It's nice to have well-crafted words that are feeling and meaningful and emotional."

Hendin said the cast has been amazing to watch as they delve into their roles. Some women saw the last local production and have been thinking about it ever since, and all of them are finding a deep experience within themselves.

"It's really powerful and it stays with you. If you've been in it or you've witnessed it I think it really makes an impact," Hendin said, adding she thinks more women and more communities should be putting on the play.

Hendin and Thring emphasize the show is for everyone and men don't need to be afraid to come.

"It's not about women hating on men. It's not about men at all," Thring explained.

In fact, seeing the play is an easy way for men to demonstrate being an ally while supporting important local programs. Both the producers' fathers will be in the audience.

Tickets are available at ArtSpring.



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what's on this week



Wed. Feb. 6 **Fri. Feb. 8** **Sat. Feb. 9** **Sun. Feb. 10** **Tues. Feb. 12** **Tues. Feb. 12** **Wed. Feb. 13**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea a Tempo: Sunny Siders Jazz Band.
Group marks Black History Month with songs by African American singers and composers. All Saints By-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Jazzuary 2019: Doxas Brothers Quartet.
Quartet with players from New York, Montreal and Vancouver bring their acclaimed brand of jazz to Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.
Join Nomi and Hannah on Wednesday mornings in the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For parents and children ages 0-6. Sign up at the info desk, by phone at 250-537-4666 or email to info@saltspringlibrary.com.

Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Thur. Feb. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Open Mic. With guest poet Christopher Levenson at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. Reader sign-up at 6:45 p.m. One poem per reader. Starts at 7 p.m. Guest poet at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



The Moaning Yoni

The Moaning Yoni.
A one-woman physical character comedy from Festival of Fools & Phylax Theatre. Mahon Hall. 8 p.m.

Buck Dodgers Band.
Folk-bluegrass at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryTime.
Stories, games and crafts for ages 3 to 6 and their caregivers on Fridays at the Salt Spring Public Library. 11 a.m.

Family Movie Matinee.
Salt Spring Public Library Program Room at 2:30 p.m. Today's movie is Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa.

Art Show Opening: Erotica.
Opening wine & cheese reception for Erotica exhibition. Salt Spring Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Forum: Tofino Mayor Josie Osborne. Topic is Life on the Edge: The Challenges of Small Communities With Tourist Economies. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

It's Trivia Time.
Trivia fun at the Legion. 7 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Moaning Yoni.
See Friday listing.

Knacker's Yard. Celtic band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Seedy Saturday.
Spring Seedy Saturday runs at the Farmers' Institute from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Famous seed swap and plant sale, free workshops, informative talks, farm and political advocacy, prepared food vendors, and kids table.

Art Makers Lab: Photography With Rainbow Light Silhouettes.
Weekly workshops to inspire and introduce new mediums to youth ages 6-12 years. Today's session is led by Salt Spring glass artist Mark Lauckner. Mahon Hall. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-register at ssartscouncil.com.

Demonstration Workshop with Artist in Residence Jessica Sallay-Carrington.
The artist will demonstrate sculpture-building techniques at #5 at Merchants Mews from 2 to 4 p.m. People must RSVP to reserve a spot with rosaliematchett@telus.net.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Clinton Fearon Solo Show. At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Seedy Saturday Weekend Sunday Workshops. At the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute. Integrating Livestock with Mixed Vegetable Systems: Delisa Lewis of Green Fire Farm from 10 a.m. to noon. Grafting Fruit Trees: Bre Quigley and Brandon Bauer from 10 a.m. to noon. Drought Proof Landscapes: Milo Stuart of Rainwalk Design from 1 to 3 p.m.

Visiting Artist's Talk: Noelle Hamlyn.
Mississauga artist with a background in craft, textiles, fine art and costuming gives a presentation at Mahon Hall. 2 to 4 p.m. Part of the Salt Spring Arts Council's Artists in Residence program.

Mon. Feb. 11

ACTIVITIES

Monday Night Darts.
Every Monday at the Legion. 6 p.m. (Sign-ups and warm-up starts at 5:30 p.m.) Drop-ins welcome.

Salt Spring Toastmasters. Group meets every Monday at Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m. Public welcome to attend and observe a meeting.

Salt Spring Fire Protection District.
Public board of trustees meeting at the Ganges Fire Hall training room. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Supporting Gender Creative Children and Youth.

Free workshop for parents, caregivers and loved ones presented by Ambit Gender Diversity Consulting at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: Julian Paquette at jsqaq13@gmail.com

100+ Women Who Care Salt Spring Island.
Meeting of philanthropic group at ArtSpring. Orientation and social from 6 to 7 p.m. Meeting from 7 to 8 p.m.

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

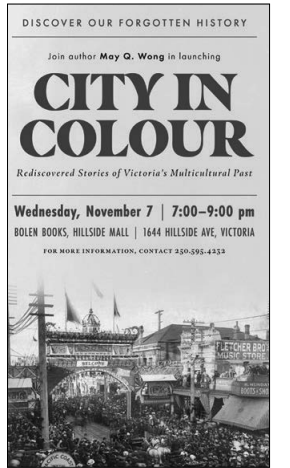
ACTIVITIES



Discussion Group on Spiritual Interests.
First in a once-a-month discussion group facilitated by Heather Martin that will see participants explore a variety of topics related to spiritual interests and practices. Topic is "What does 'spirituality' mean to you?" Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SS Historical Society: May Q. Wong.
The author of the new book called City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria's Multicultural Past gives a presentation and book signing to the SS Historical Society at Central Hall. 2 p.m. (Doors at 1:45 p.m.)



Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. See last Wednesday's listing.



get noticed board

Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop them off at the Driftwood office.

Published in the first Driftwood of each month!
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see horoscope on page 16

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Beautiful Boy** runs Wednesday-Thursday, Feb. 6-7 at 7 p.m.
- **Mary Queen of Scots** plays on Friday, Feb. 8 through Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.
- **National Theatre's Antony and Cleopatra** (Ralph Fiennes) is on Thursday, Feb. 14 only with shows at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Erotica** art show opens at **Salt Spring Gallery** on Friday, Feb. 8 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Erotica is a multi-artist sensuous art show about love, sexuality, pleasure & the body that runs until Feb. 27.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Margarite Sanchez** shows new work in an exhibit called **From Seed to Canvas** in the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** through February.
- Feb. 9 is the last day to see **Eidolon**, sculpture and paintings by **Michael Robb** and photographs of their creation by **Michael Wall**, at Fault Line Projects.
- **Looking Up 5**, a co-show of photography and art by **Bill Underwood** and **Suzanne Prendergast**, hangs in the **ArtSpring** lobby until Feb. 27.
- **Double Vision** exhibit of contemplative photography by Karin and John Millson shows at **Fernwood Road Cafe** until March 16.
- **Salt Spring Gallery artists** have work hanging in **Island Savings**.

Seedy Saturday
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MONEY MATTERS FIRST IN A FOUR PART SERIES

INCOME TAX

Medical expenses tips

Travel expenses also included in tallies

You may be able to reduce the amount of federal tax you pay by claiming a non-refundable tax credit on a wide variety of medical expenses.

You may be able to claim medical expenses for yourself, your spouse or common-law partner, your dependent children (under 18 years of age), and certain other dependants.

CONDITIONS FOR CLAIMING MEDICAL EXPENSES

To claim medical expenses, the expenses must:

- be eligible – the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has a list of common medical expenses that may qualify;
- have been paid by you or your spouse or common-law partner;
- have been paid within a 12-month period ending in 2018 and not claimed for 2017.

Before doing your taxes, make sure you are claiming eligible medical expenses. If you claim expenses that are not eligible (e.g., athletic or fitness club fees or over-the-counter medications), the CRA may adjust your return accordingly.

CLAIMING TRAVEL EXPENSES

Did you travel at least 40 kilometres one-way from your home to get medical services that were not available in your area? If so, you may be able to claim the public transportation expenses paid (e.g., taxi, bus or train). Where public transportation is not readily available, you may be able to claim vehicle expenses instead.

Did you travel at least 80 kilometres one-way from your home to get medical services that were not available in your area? If so, you may be able to claim accommodation, meal and parking expenses in addition to your transportation expenses.

Did someone travel with you? You may be able to claim that person's transportation

and travel expenses. To make that claim, a medical practitioner must certify in writing that you were not capable of travelling alone to get medical services.

ADDITIONAL HELP

If you have low employment or self-employment income and high medical expenses, you may be able to claim the refundable medical expense supplement, which may reduce the federal amount of tax you pay by up to \$1,222.

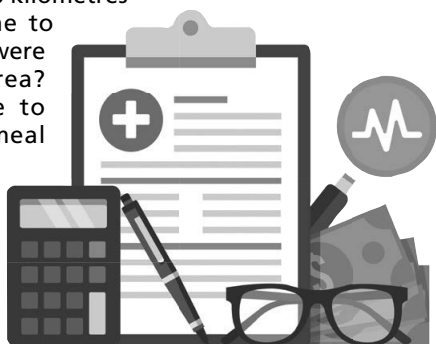
NEW THIS YEAR

The medical expense tax credit has been expanded to allow expenses related to service animals who are specially trained to perform specific tasks for a patient with a severe mental impairment that helps the patient cope with the impairment. Eligible expenses paid in 2018 include the cost of the animal, the care and maintenance of the animal (food and veterinary care), reasonable travel expenses paid for the patient to attend a school, institution, or other facility that trains in the handling of these animals, and reasonable board and lodging expenses paid for the patient's full-time attendance at a school, institution, or other facility that trains in the handling of such animals.

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- You can also watch our tax-related videos on YouTube.



SOURCE Canada Revenue Agency

RRSPS

RRSPs can positively impact home and mortgage details

Learn about benefits for home purchase and mortgage repayment

BY ARLENE MODDERMAN, AMP
MORTGAGE DEPOT

Contributing to your RRSP by the March 1, 2019 deadline goes towards your 2018 contributions. This can have great benefits when it comes to your taxes, your mortgage and your home.

• Contribute to your RRSP by the March 1, 2019 deadline and lower your tax bill for 2018. Every dollar you contribute will be reflected in tax savings according to your tax bracket.

Benefit — Your RRSP savings grow and your 2018 tax bill is lower.

• If you want to buy your first home, (or if you haven't owned for four or five years), after 90 days of depositing them, you can withdraw those funds from your RRSP, (along with previous RRSP contributions), and use it for the purchase of a home.

Benefit — You will have more money for your home purchase because of the tax savings from your recent contribution, which can be substantial. You can use these RRSP funds to boost your down payment, put towards closing costs, clear



debt, or put towards renovations your new home may need. This is the Canadian "Home Buyers Plan." See the details and policies at <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/rrsps-related-plans/what-home-buyers-plan>

• If you already own a home and will be getting a tax refund, you can use those funds to make a lump sum payment on your current mortgage.

Benefit — Not only do you reduce the principal amount of your mortgage, but you will also save all the years of amortized interest on that repayment and help pay your mortgage off faster!

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ARLENE



ISLAND LIFE

- Star of the Week
- Streets of SSI
- Remember When

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.

It is interesting that each year the New Moon in Aquarius the Water Bearer, an Air sign, by the way, determines the date of Chinese New Year. This year it is the Earth Boar. The waters Aquarius refers to are those of consciousness and not that of the literal liquid of H₂O. This year, Mercury is closely aligned and in the lead position to Sun and Moon making it the 'why planet', the reason and purpose of the focus, along with the core theme of the New Moon itself. It occurs at the 15th degree of Aquarius, a powerful degree that represents the mid-point of each season, in this case, winter. Mercury's exact degree speaks of thinking critically for the sake of constructive improvement. This aligns well with 2019 as a Universal 3-Year which includes the discipline required for breaking old patterns. This process begins with awareness and intention. Mars and Uranus moving towards conjunction in Aries adds fire to this equation.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You are on a roll now. Seeing yourself and the world and in the world in new ways is likely, and ideal. You are determined to forge a new reality. Semblances of the prior you will remain, but change is certain. This is where cooperation comes to the fore. It is not simply about self-determination. Tune-in and ask what your higher self has to say about your direction.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Changes in your public and professional life have been activated. These can manifest as promotions, but it could turn the other way according to outer circumstances and karmic conditions. Either way, you are busy behind the scenes which may include inner work. Overcoming fears and doubt demons are featured, but you may simply be revving your engines before the race.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Your worldview is expanding. You find yourself more open and receptive to think and interpret reality in new ways. Since 'right is relative', you might as well consider new perspectives. Besides, doing so will likely open new doors of opportunity and lead you to new relationship involvements as well. This is an invitation to play and includes stretching your mind.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A rather deep cycle continues. Whether you are digging deep and getting to the bottom of things, laying claim to your hidden power reserves, or feeling like you are in over your head somehow, is for you to determine. Whatever your circumstance, this deep dive is a feature of your destiny at this time and you are wise to engage it consciously and cooperatively.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

This New Moon occurred in your solar house of relationships. If you think that sounds special, then you are quite right. It marks the beginning of a new and powerful turn. You may notice that you feel confident and your resolve is strong and your energies are running high. Embrace this bit of good karma and show the world more of your true colors.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Changes in your lifestyle rhythms have been activated by the Aquarius New Moon. You will experience a rise in your ambitions. Mars in Aries supports a determined drive to make needed improvements. Becoming more aware of your power potential is featured. Expect to shake-it-up somehow or to be shaken and stirred.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A welcome bit of respite to play is yours to enjoy. However, it does come with some warning flags, especially on relationship fronts. It may feel as though you are fighting a battle these days. This may be especially evident close to home but is directly linked to your public and professional life. Fresh starts and initiatives are destined to occur now.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Activation of your core sense of individuality comes with this New Moon. By now, you may be noticing changes in your usual routine. You may feel inspired to work harder. This includes gaining new knowledge and skills. Yet, it also includes clearing the old to make way for the new. Whether literally or figuratively or both, clear the way.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

A busy, playful and exciting cycle is underway. It could also be described as dramatic. Sudden and unexpected turns are supporting you to feel optimistic and expansive. Yet, it is important that you trust the flow and let go of tendencies to try to control people and situations. Keep an open mind and acquire new skills and tools.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

The time has come to build upon new foundations. Yet, to do so, you may first have to tackle some needed renovations. These may be directed to your attitude and approach as well as your actual home. Cooperation is a major theme for you these days. Yet, you are still required to take the lead to initiate new alliances.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

You are in the mood to explore new territory. Your energy and/or enthusiasm levels are running high yet you also have some real work to do. You may also be dealing with inexplicable mood swings and possibly even depression. At worst, you are undergoing some form of an unraveling of what once was. The key is to focus to build for the future.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

You may still feel like you are in hibernation mode, or wish you were. However, you also feel the call to explore new possibilities in your public and professional life. This is probably more the planning stage, however. The more you can plan and prepare, the better. All the while, inspirations are percolating for you to lay claim to what makes you special.

NEW BOOKS

Multicultural history celebrated

May Q. Wong visits

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

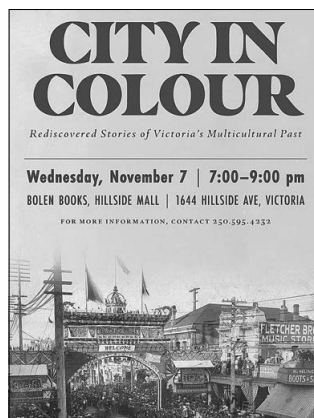
The author of a new book looking at cultural diversity in Victoria's early history will share some of her research at a Salt Spring Historical Society event at Central Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Doors open at Central Hall at 1:45 p.m. and the presentation runs from 2 to 3 p.m.

May Q. Wong has been a Victoria resident for 40 years and grew up in Montreal as the child of two Chinese immigrant parents. *City in Colour*, her new offering, upends the truism that the city of Victoria became "more British than the British" by uncovering forgotten stories of some of the people from outside the colonial class.

Wong has a natural interest in history and multiculturalism: her previous book examined the impact of the Canadian "head tax" on one Chinese family. Her decision to focus on multiculturalism in Victoria was made during a time when anti-immigrant and anti-refugee rhetoric was becoming alarmingly prolific — and not just south of the border.

"I hoped the book would add a positive note to society's growing fear and shed a light on our country's actual cultural and ethnic diversity, and encourage the celebration and acknowledgement of all those pioneers," Wong told the Driftwood.



Victoria got its start as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post and fort, founded in March 1843. It was incorporated as a city in 1862, but before that was already flooded by newcomers from all over the world as a consequence of the 1858 gold rush.

As B.C.'s celebration of Black History Month rolls on through February, it's fitting that May devotes space to the early black settlers who came north from California. She also looks at the Hawaiians who were once found at every Pacific Northwest HBC trading post, leaving the term "Kanaka" on place names from Salt Spring Island to the Lower Mainland. There are also stories about people who came from China and Japan, as well as Jewish community members.

Wong said one of the interesting things is how people of colour were treated differently. The black and Hawaiian settlers were welcomed and given full rights, while the

Japanese immigrants were afforded much more respect than Chinese immigrants were before World War II — possibly because their home country was viewed as being stronger.

"That's why it's so important to know history and understand why things happened, so you don't make the same mistakes," Wong said.

The Indigenous people who existed within colonialism are not forgotten. Wong includes the stories of three "Métis matriarchs" who made strong contributions to the new colony. Wong explains Amelia Connolly Douglas was famous for her generosity, her skills as a midwife, and teaching her children about their Indigenous heritage. She married James Douglas, who would be governor of the Colony of Vancouver Island and the first governor of the Colony of B.C. Isabella Ross, the first female land owner in the colony, Josette Work, an HBC wife, are also featured. Wong said although the women tend to be forgotten, their husbands' success in HBC roles was supported by their marriages.

"Their Métis wives really made a difference in how their men did because they had all these skills and knowledge an English wife wouldn't have."

Wong's use of primary sources includes research with the Salt Spring Archives, the BC Archives and the municipal archives of Victoria and Esquimalt. Stories from books, jour-

nals and newspapers of the time period helped inspire direction. The Jewish Museum & Archives of British Columbia was another great resource, she said.

Generally speaking, in all her chapters Wong wanted to include not just the "high and mighty" settlers and people who may have been a bit notorious. The people who were just striving to subsist off the land also hold appeal.

"Regular people's stories aren't remembered as much, and all these people faced challenges," Wong said. "That's why I like stories about ordinary people because everyone's lives have challenges and they all have different ways they overcome those challenges."

Wong's book contains some names that are familiar on Salt Spring, such as Maria Mahoi, who raised a large family of Hawaiian and Aboriginal descent and settled on Russell Island; and Sylvia Stark, who was born into slavery in Missouri and came to Salt Spring with her husband in 1860 as homesteaders.

"People on the island will probably know some of the stories," Wong said. "I hope some of the information will be new to them and hopefully it's told in an interesting way. And I hope people will pipe up and tell me about what they know. Maybe there's a second book available."

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Needs: our common ground

Having our needs met allows us to thrive as human beings. An awareness of how needs drive our behaviour is essential for understanding ourselves and others. When we are clear about our need for acceptance, equality, freedom, love and safety, and we have the ability to fulfill these needs, our lives are enriched.

Confusion about our needs can lead to lives hampered with conflict. For example, teenagers who may not yet recognize their growing need for independence can become rebellious. Parents, out of concern for safety, enforce greater restrictions, only making matters worse with no one getting their needs met. When parents understand that anger and frustration are expressions of unmet needs, they will reflect on their own teenage years and remember how the drive for independence affected their own behaviour. With this insight, a dialogue can take place where teen-



Laura Dafoe
LET'S
TALK

agers learn to express themselves in ways that will increase the likelihood of meeting their needs.

Other important aspects of needs:

- We all have the same needs but may differ in how we go about trying to fulfill them.
 - Needs vary in importance depending on a number of factors, including age, time of day and current culture.
 - It's important to value everyone's needs equally.
- When we focus on needs, we shift from divisive, judgmental thinking toward connection in our common humanity.

Remember

WHEN

Five years ago

• The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee took a giant leap towards the long-anticipated completion of the Ganges boardwalk. Though construction on the beleaguered "boardwalk to nowhere" was not about to begin, LTC members agreed to pay up to \$3,000 for conceptual drawings. Trustee Peter Grove said that drawings of the project would help people understand what it involves. Trust staff acknowledged a great deal of interest from the business community, and completion could occur in exchange for land-use agreements involving the LTC.

Ten years ago

• Mountain View Drive resident Audrey Denton was concerned when her normally responsive dog Fritz did not come when called. By 5 p.m., after darkness started to fall, her fears became a certainty when she realized her miniature schnauzer had gone under the fence and over the side of a cliff. Denton called the fire department, and captain Dale Lundy arrived to assess the situation. He was unable to do anything in the dark, and Fritz' rescue had to wait until the morning. A crew reached Fritz — who spent the night on the rock ledge — with a duffel bag and dog treats and carried the dog to safety. Fritz was uninjured in the incident.

Twenty years ago

• A meeting to prepare residents for the coming Y2K bug was held, featuring two speakers who had been researching the subject for a long time. Daryl Verville was part of a Y2K info and preparedness association and presented a video explaining potential problems and solutions. The other presenter, Guy Dauncey, was an expert on neighbourhood self-sufficiency and offered advice on how people can cope with the loss of technology.

Thirty years ago

• Farmers Gene Dryzmala and Sharon Hawke were helping pioneer a kiwi fruit industry on Salt Spring. The pair launched their farm in 1985, and four years later were still unsure if they would succeed. Kiwi plants do not mature for seven years, but Dryzmala said that it was exciting to be growing something out of its environment. "If it succeeds, that will be satisfying," he said. The couple learned about farming kiwis in Mexico, and were excited to bring the crop back to Canada. Though start-up costs were high, there was no holding them back.

Forty years ago

• Consultants vetoed plans for an ice rink and pool on Salt Spring due to the high costs of the projects. The firm backed the concept for additional tennis courts and boat launching facilities, but suggested that "despite the obvious demand for a swimming pool, one will not be built for at least five years." The firm did support the idea of a new recreation centre in Ganges, with the idea of it being the eventual replacement for Mahon Hall. Other recreation facilities that got backing from the consulting firm were a curling club adjacent to the golf course and upgrades to already existing facilities.

Fifty years ago

• A new ferry schedule designed to bring students in from the outer islands had an initial ridership of only three students. The majority of students followed the long-established pattern and travelled to Salt Spring the night before. Terminal agents were dismayed at the poor showing on Monday morning. The new sailings were put in place to let students spend one more night at home before coming to Salt Spring Island for the week of school.

NOTE: See the new Gulf Islands Real Estate guide for a Remember When Real Estate edition!



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
YES, IT'S COLD HERE TOO: A Salt Spring palm tree outside the Ganges Visitors Info Centre sports some snow after a few centimetres fell on the island and south coast from Sunday evening through Monday morning. Temperatures also plummeted to as low as -6.7 C overnight Monday, as recorded at the weather station at Salt Spring Elementary and Middle schools.

What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify where this is on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook, 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 space.



LAST WEEK: No one identified this spot until we put it up on Facebook on Tuesday morning, and then the answer from Dave French was almost instantaneous. It's the alley next to the Harbour Food Market on Fulford-Ganges Road in Ganges.

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Reg Aaftink



Reg is best known as the man who for years has kept the streets of Ganges free of litter by picking it up on a regular basis for donations.

Reg started the microbusiness as a public service and to create some income for himself. The whole community is grateful to him for his initiative and dedication to the task.

Reg has lived on Salt Spring Island since 2010.

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Obituaries Obituaries In Memoriam Coming Events Information Concrete & Placing Drafting & Design



JOHN ALLAN WOOD
 Aug. 20, 1958 – Jan. 14, 2019

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved dad. He had a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer and died peacefully at his home in Mill Bay with Shannon, Andrew and his wife, Alana Baker by his side. He is survived by his sister Jane (nieces Marion and Marley), his sister Marley (husband Bill and nephew Kurt) and our mom, Sandy McKee.


Born in Vancouver, his family soon moved to Tahsis, then Brentwood Bay and then Victoria. His mom and dad, Jack and Eileen Wood, were wonderfully supportive through the years and always had an open door for his many friends. Dad had a strong connection with Brentwood College as both a student and a treasured rowing coach. A champion rower himself, he spent most of his life near the water he loved.

In 1984, he married our mom, Sandy, and they lived in Victoria for a few years before moving to Salt Spring in 1989. Andrew was just a toddler and Shannon was born in Lady Minto a year later in 1990. Dad worked at Hastings House in the 90's and as a family we quickly developed lifelong friends on the island. These were golden years of preschool, picnics at Beddis Beach under the banana tree and family parties. Part of the Hornby Gang, Dad loved camping every summer and we could always depend upon him to bring an extra tarp or bungee cord to help someone weather a rain storm. He was the master of the feel-good hug and many people have said that they will always remember those big bear hugs that would lift them off the ground.

We would like to invite all our Salt Spring friends who wish to pay their respects to a memorial celebrating Dad's life. It will be held at Brentwood College School in Mill Bay on Saturday, February 16th at 2pm.



Information



Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY

is offering

2 Scholarships
 to students presently attending **Gulf Islands Secondary School**
 Completed applications must be submitted to GISS Counseling Department **by April 2, 2019**

 Additionally, LMHAS is offering **2 Continuing Education Bursaries** to GISS graduates who have completed at least one year of a healthcare course of study, continuing in a healthcare related field. Applications at GISS Counselling Department or www.lmhas.ca/bursaries
 Application deadline is April 2, 2019



Want to become a SSI Hospice volunteer?

Training starts in March. Register now by leaving your name and phone number at **250-537-2770**.

250-537-2770
saltspringhospice.org



*Words are few,
 thoughts are deep.
 Memories of you
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17th Annual "Support the Foodbank" STOREWIDE SALE
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Bring a donation for the Foodbank and get **25% off ONE item**
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West of the Moon 250-537-1966

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Information



Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY

is offering two

"Back to School" Bursaries

Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & application forms available at Thrift Shop and on our web-site. www.lmhas.ca/bursaries
 Application deadline is April 2, 2019.



The Outpatient Laboratory at Lady Minto Hospital

will be undergoing renovations **February 11 to 15.**

We will still be providing outpatient services but in a limited capacity so we are asking patients to postpone their bloodwork to the following week if possible.

Please contact the Laboratory at 250-538-4812 if you have any questions or concerns.

TROUBLE WALKING? HIP or KNEE REPLACEMENT, or other conditions causing restrictions in daily activities? \$2,000 tax credit. \$40,000 refund cheque/ rebates. Disability Tax Credit. 1-844-453-5372

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AGRICULTURE

Learning options flourish

Seedy Saturday weekend workshops offered

BY BEN CORNO + KALEIGH BARTON

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Salt Spring Island's annual Seedy Saturday event arrives this weekend with your favourite offerings: a generous seed and plant sale, food vendors, advocacy booths, free workshops and the heart of the event, the seed swap table.

Seedy Saturday will be held at the Farmers' Institute exhibition hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It is the first event before an abundant season unfolds for the island's farmers and gardeners. Please join us to reconnect, stock up, get inspired and dig deep into new farming and gardening knowledge. Prepare for two days of workshops, including four free talks on Saturday, and three in-depth workshops on Sunday.

Reflected in our workshop offerings this year is the desire to enrich our landscape and mitigate the forces that are acting upon it. Learn about self-sufficiency in a changing climate on both small and large scales: from growing our own climate-adapted food, fruit trees and seeds, to maintaining our soil's moisture and fertility, preventing forest fire, reducing the carbon footprint of backyard tidying and exploring the impact of our new food centre, The Root.

The first four workshops are offered free on Saturday. The remaining three are on Sunday with pre-registration requested.

Alternatives to Burning

The Salt Spring Island Committee on Invasive Species will present a panel discussion with cooperation from the Salt Spring Fire Department on alternatives to backyard burning. You'll take home valuable information about using berms or hügelkultur, producing biochar or chipping branches. It will be especially useful for those cleaning up storm debris and clearing invasives who want to use environmentally responsible, safe methods.

Climate Smart Gardening

Local seed-grower and author Dan Jason will lead us through a discussion on adapting our gardening to climate change, and how Salt Spring can move in the direction of more self-reliance, focusing on the best crops to grow and how we might grow food as a community.

Food Hub Update

Pat Reichert, local food systems specialist and president of the SSI Farmland Trust, will present the progress already underway for Salt Spring's unique local food centre, The Root. This is an innovative initiative that will provide new support for farming, agriculture, local food and climate action. Catch a sneak peek of what has already been accomplished and see plans for the future of local food.

Home Seed Growing

Kaleigh Barton, co-owner of Heavenly Roots Farm, shares the farmer's perspective on the production of seed crops from root vegetables such as beets,



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

A scene from last year's Seedy Saturday event at the Farmers' Institute.

carrots, parsnips and turnips. This will be a practical workshop where you will learn the basics around selection, storage, biennial plant lifecycles and the harvesting of quality seeds.

Drought-Proof Landscapes

Milo Stuart of Rainwalk Design will guide workshop participants through how to measure and construct water-harvesting earthworks to rehydrate their landscapes. Learn about how swales and pocket ponds can be built at any scale from small backyards to large farms to capture nutrient-rich water and keep landscapes moist and productive for longer into the summer. Consider the happy surprises that happen when water is held on landscapes and attract the birds and beasts that thrive within these systems.

Integrating Livestock with Mixed Vegetable Systems

In search of the Holy Grail of organic farming systems, Delisa Lewis shares lessons in progress from research and practice. Drawing from over 20 years' experience with organic vegetable and flower farming, and wielding a PhD in agroecology, Delisa will explore integrating livestock with the systems on a certified organic vegetables farm in the Cowichan Valley. Specific focuses will be on soil health and best practices, rotations, fencing and other practical considerations drawn from initial establishment of these mixed farming systems. Farmers interested in mixed operations and gardeners interested in soil health will enjoy the format of farmer-to-farmer discussion.

Grafting Fruit Trees

Brandon Bauer and Bre Quigley will demonstrate and discuss successful grafting techniques.

Brandon and Bre have successfully grafted over 12,000 fruit trees on Salt Spring Island, up to a 95 per cent success rate. In this hands-on workshop they will discuss what you can/cannot graft, what kind of rootstocks to select, how to access rootstock and how to care for grafted trees. Brandon has been teaching permaculture for over 10 years through the Shawnigan Lake O.U.R. Eco-village and Seven Ravens Permaculture Academy and helped establish the Practical Permaculture Institutes of East Africa.

LOCAL HISTORY

Churchill Road honours Great War soldiers

Brothers bought land

The history behind the name of Churchill Road took an unexpected turn for this reporter, who was somehow under the impression it was connected to Churchill Farm at Central.

While the farm name has to do with historic St. Mark's Church, Churchill Road owes its name to two pioneering brothers who operated a different farm in the early part of the 20th century on "Maple Bay," today's Churchill Beach.

Salt Spring Historical Society research reveals that Lieutenant Alfred Norton Hickling Churchill was born in 1891 in Somerset, England and killed in Belgium in 1915. His younger brother and farming partner Harold Archer H. Churchill, born in 1893, survived the war.

Canadian passenger lists record that Alfred and Harold arrived in Canada in 1913 aboard the Arabic, a Royal Mail steamer from the White Star Line that departed from Liverpool and arrived in Halifax. Harold's destination is listed as Salt Spring, so the brothers must have already purchased property or known someone on the island.

Back at home, Alfred was a member of the officers training corps at Clifton College. The two boys and a third brother, Francis David, all attended the college and were well known for their achievements on the rugby pitch.

The immigrants did not have much time to settle into their new Canadian life before world events pulled them back to Europe. Alfred enlisted right away when war broke out in 1914.

According to one of his obituaries, posted to Cliftonrhistory.



D.W. Salty

STREETS OF

SALT SPRING

co.uk: "He enlisted in the Victoria Brigade on the same day war was declared. Came over to England with the 1st Canadian contingent as a private in the Royal Canadian Dragoons. On 4th May 1915 he went to France with the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, who were hastily turned to infantry."

Alfred was subsequently selected to command the machine gun section, a very dangerous posting. Every officer who had commanded the machine gun section before him had been killed and he was not to escape the fate. Alfred was wounded from machine gun fire from German trenches while placing a machine gun on top of the parapet. He later died of his wounds, and was buried in Maple Leaf Cemetery, Belgium.

Another obituary posted to the college webpage records comments from Alfred's colonel and other fellow officers who commended his bravery and winning personality.

Younger brother Harold enlisted on April 26, 1915 in Vancouver. He returned to Canada after the Armistice, arriving in Halifax aboard the Baltic on July 4, 1919, but didn't stay on Salt Spring long. Information from the archives is that he sold the Churchill property to Richard Toynbee in 1922.

BC Family Day Event salt spring arts council

Anne Glover

Step into Anne's world of string stories. Monday, February 18. 1-4pm Mahon Hall. Free.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia. Presented by the Salt Spring Arts Council.

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As of April 1 (no fooling!) Jana's is available for custom orders only. Cafe Talia on Hereford Ave. and Bean Drinkin' Cafe in 'The Alley' by Centennial Park will now be taking care of your showcase favourites from Jana's.

Jana's new book available for purchase in bookstores & online late Feb 19

Unit 15-315 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2X4
janasbakeshop.ca

We want your input!

2019/20 Islands Trust Budget

The Islands Trust Council is looking for your input on the proposed 2019/20 budget. Your comments will help the trustees make their decision when they set the budget in March.

Learn more about the budget and how to express your opinions (including via our online survey) at:

islandstrust.bc.ca/budget

Deadline for comments is February 11th, 2019.

If you would like paper copies of the survey or any of the budget documentation, please call us at 250.405.5151 or via email, budget@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Preserving and protecting the islands in the Salish Sea. Learn more about what we do at islandstrust.bc.ca.



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



RUNNING

Sneakers improve times at Cobble Hill race

Vancouver Island Race Series continues in Cedar on Feb. 10

BY ERIC ELLIS
SS SNEAKERS

Salt Springers enjoyed near-ideal racing weather at Cobble Hill for the second race in the Island Race Series on Jan. 27.

Continuing to be plagued by injuries and winter travel overseas, the Sneakers mustered seven members while Salt Spring was also represented by an additional unaffiliated runner.

First Sneaker to cross the finish line was Pat Peron in 44:25 seconds, two minutes and 52 seconds better than his time on this course last year. This earned Peron a third among 26 men in his 60-64 age group.

Second non-Sneaker Salt Springer to finish was Halim Ouhammou, whose time was 44:25 in what according to local databases was his first 10K road race after several trail and mountain races. This time earned him 25th of 31 in his men's 45-49 age group.

Lise Fraser was the second Sneaker to finish. Her 46:32 earned her a second place among the 29 women in her 60-64 age group, including three other Sneakers.

Eric Ellis, the third Sneaker to cross the finish line, finished in a time of 49:29, 41 seconds better than his performance last year. This time earned him a second place (one second after the first-place finisher) among the 15 men in his 70-74 age group.

Marion Young was the fourth Sneaker to finish. Her time of 50:08 was 31 seconds better than last year, and earned her a seventh-place finish in the 60-64 age group.

Duncan Elsey, in his second race with the Sneakers, finished in 51:18, earning him an 18th place among the 23 men in his 50-54 age group.

Anna Ford, the third Salt Springer in the 60-64 age group, finished in a time of 57:33, nearly a minute better than her performance in this race last year. Her time earned her 18th place in her age group.

Doreen Peron, the fourth woman in her 60-64 age group, finished in a time of 1:00.10, which was 58 and a half seconds better than last year, earning her a 19th place in her age group.

Again, there were more women competitors in this race than men. The time improvements among five of the six runners who had run this course before belies the accepted wisdom that a runner's speed deteriorates on average one per cent a year as they age.



PHOTO BY LOIS DEELL

Salt Spring Sneakers member Marion Young, right, comes in to take seventh place in the women's 60-64 category at the Vancouver Island Race Series event at Cobble Hill on Jan. 27, while Kelly Schellenberg of Ceevacs Running Club, centre, arrives one second earlier to take sixth place in the same category. At left is Lisa Clarke of Island Striders.

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AQUATICS

Swimmers benefit Heart & Stroke cause

Swim-a-thon and Aquafit event at the pool

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Salt Spring PARC hosted a charity Aquafit class and swim-a-thon to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

Participants first took part in a by-donation Aquafit class led by instructor Brenda Akerman.

Following the class, teams of swimmers took to the lanes with the goal of swimming a combined 100 laps in under two hours.

PARC recreation programmer Stevie Freer said more than 30 community members attended the event and a grand total of \$2,570.40 was raised.

Freer thanked everyone who participated, donated funds and prizes, and otherwise supported the event.

"Special thanks to Aquafit instructor Brenda Akerman for her help in organizing the event and to Debbie



PHOTO BY STEVIE FREER

Participants in a PARC-initiated Heart & Stroke Foundation fundraiser at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre take part in an Aquafit class led by Brenda Akerman. The event raised more than \$2,500.

McNaughton, Frankie Johnstone and Laura Jean for their individual fundraising efforts," he said.

February is Heart Month, when various fitness-focused fundraising activities are held across the country.